

U. S. ARMY CHAPLAIN CENTER & SCHOOL
FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29207

LESSON PLAN

TITLE: Cowpens Staff Ride

LEARNING

OBJECTIVE: ACTION : The students will be able to discuss the dynamics of battle, the face of battle, the principles of war, combined arms operations, and leadership factors.

CONDITIONS: Given the opportunity to visit the Cowpens Battlefield.

STANDARDS: Standards will be achieved when the student is able to discuss the Battle of Cowpens in detail, understand the flow of events, and be familiar with the tactical decisions made.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS: THERE IS NO RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PORTION OF TRAINING.

RESOURCE NEEDS/

REFERENCES: Transportation to the Battlefield.

METHOD OF

INSTRUCTION: Field Trip accomplished by Small Group Instruction.

TIME: 8 HOURS

ENVIRONMENTAL

CONSIDERATIONS: There are no environmental considerations for this lesson.

4-11-C22/B04-LP2

SLD APPROVED: _____
STAFF PROPONENT: _____

REVIEWED: _____

DATE: _____

INTRODUCTION:

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The Staff Ride is a versatile educational tool. In a general sense its sole purpose is to further the professional development of US Army leaders. Specifically, it may be designed to achieve one or many objectives depending upon the needs of the students and the circumstances under which it is conducted. The work you have accomplished prior to this class has given you a perspective of why and how this battle took place. Your knowledge of the events that took place on the battlefield will be enhanced by traversing the terrain and gaining an appreciation for the human dimension of the conflict.

NOTE: Administrative instructions (listed below) for the Staff Ride will be given to the students no later than 1 day prior to the staff ride.

- A. The uniform for the staff ride is appropriate civilian attire. The student will be walking and should wear a comfortable pair of shoes. Warn the student of any impending, forecasted inclement weather and advise them to dress accordingly.
- B. Inform the students of the location, and time to assemble at the departure point.
- C. Students are responsible for providing money with which they may purchase breakfast and lunch. In addition, the student will need 50 cents for admission to the show at the visitor center on the battlefield.

ODY:

- A. Upon arrival at the battlefield, break the class into their small groups and turn them over to their small group leaders. Give the SGL's the packet with the briefing assignment's and scoring sheets.
 1. A Staff Ride consists of three phases: Preliminary Study Phase, Field Study Phase, and Integration Phase. The first phase has been accomplished through your completion of the study assignments as given during the Battle Analysis block of instruction.
 2. The Field Study Phase will have all staff ride participants play an active part by giving briefings (as assigned) on the battlefield. Personnel who have been assigned battlefield briefings will provide them when the SGL instructs them to do so. From time to time the Instructor will solicit comments or ask questions to stimulate discussion.
 3. The Integration Phase will be conducted on the Battlefield site after the Field Study Phase. The Instructor will solicit comments

on the experience through which all have just passed.

NOTE: The following sequence of events will be accomplished by the persons responsible for giving the battlefield briefings.

B. STOP #1: Mill Gap Road/Green River Road:

1. Discuss the causes of the American Revolution.
2. Discuss the reasons for the main emphasis of the war shifting to the Southern Department, and discuss the major events that occurred in the Southern Department from 1778 to 20 Dec 1780, when Greene split his Army. NOTE: Do not go past 20 Dec 1780. State the mission of each side.
3. Brief background of Tarleton and his activity (after Dec 20, 1780) prior to battle.
4. Brief background of Morgan and his activity (after Dec 20, 1780) prior to battle.

C. Stop #2: British Line of battle.

5. Describe the weather prior to and on the day of battle, and describe the terrain as it appeared on the day of battle. Discuss the impact of both on operations.
6. Describe the weapons, and their capabilities, that were used in this battle.
7. Discuss British units (size and composition) previous experience, and initial deployment on the battlefield.

D. Stop #3: Skirmish Line.

8. Discuss Morgan's troop positions prior to battle. (same as above in #7).
9. Discuss opening moves by the participants. Describe Patriot and British activity after initial shots had been fired. (stop after briefing point where the skirmishers retreat to the militia line).

E. Stop #4: Pickens Militia, 2nd Line of defense.

10. Brief background Pickens, Washington, and describe the action that took place here.

F. Stop #5: Howards Continentals; 3rd Line of defense.

11. Brief background Howard, describe the action that took place here.

Stop briefing after the point when Picken's Militia attacks the Highlanders.

12. Describe the conclusion of the battle and casualties. Start briefing at the point where Question #10 ends).

13. Discuss the significance of the battle and lessons learned.

G. At this time the SGL will perform the Integration Phase by having a discussion of the event just completed. Ask questions and solicit comments pertaining to the staff ride.

H. Move class to the Visitor Center and have them seated in the theater to view the show.

I. The SGL will assign a grade and provide an AAR to the persons doing the briefings. Turn the grades in to the Primary Instructor. Grades are assigned as indicated below.

S+	=	100
S	=	90
S-	=	80
U/S	=	70

A lower score may be assigned if the SGL believes it is warranted.

J. Return to buses and depart for lunch and return to Ft. Gordon.

UMMARY:

Staff rides aid the participants in gaining a better understanding of the "who, and why" of the battle. It enables the participant to examine the underlying causes of conflicts and provides knowledge that a "historical tour" cannot provide. It exposes the student to the terrain and provides an appreciation for why the leaders and soldiers acted, reacted, or made the decisions that were made during the course of the battle.

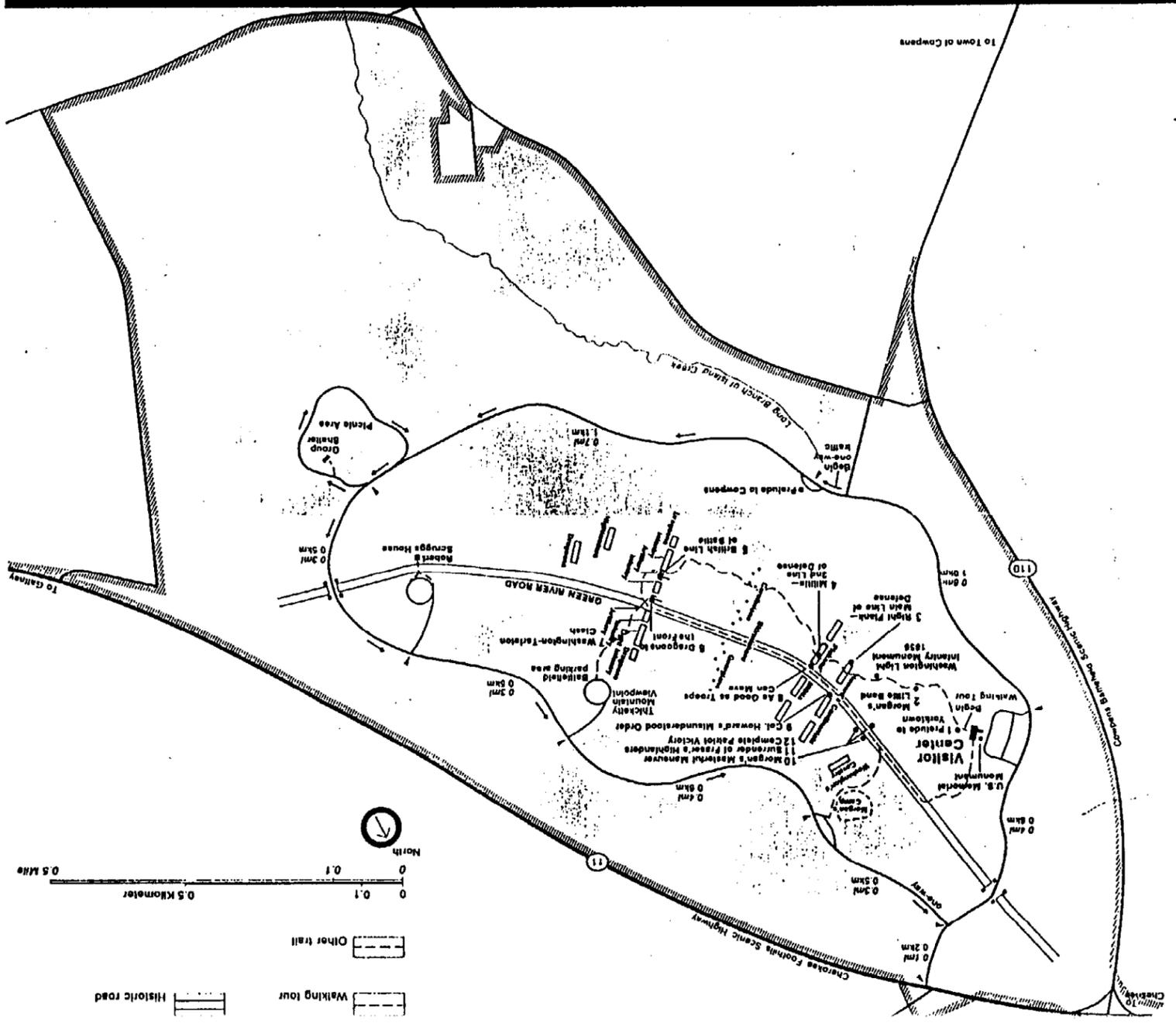
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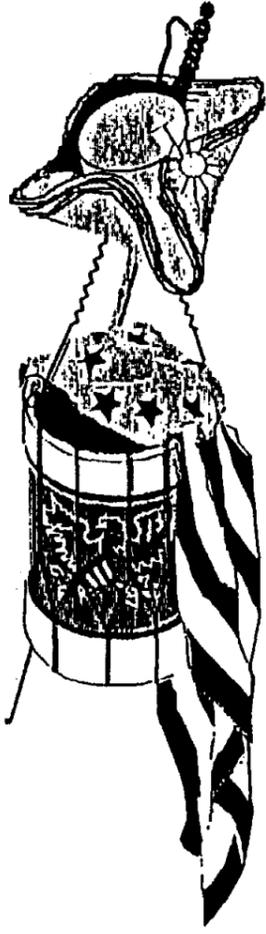
his lesson plan supports the requirements as set forth by TRADOC Reg 350-13.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR THE BATTLE ANALYSIS
AND STAFF RIDE TO THE BATTLE OF COWPENS.

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THE BATTLE OF
COWPENS

9200153-01-2

TOP #1: Mill Gap Road/Green River Road:

1. Discuss the causes of the American Revolution.

Causes: The seeds of revolution can be traced back primarily to to the closing years of the French and Indian War, and events in general between 1660 and 1763. The Pilgrims, in 1620, were not a result of natural expansion out of Great Britain, but were emigrating to the New World to escape religious and political persecution. The British Crown had little to do with the colonies at this time, and only began to show interest after trading companies were formed in the colonies. At this time the Crown began to govern and regulate the colonies for economic reasons. Initially the colonies were governed by an appointed governor, paid for by the colonists. They elected their own assemblies and exercised almost complete control over their internal political and domestic affairs (approved by the governor, Crown) making them one of the freest people in the world. This led to a feeling of independence, to trade their goods w/England and other countries. These economic and political freedoms were seen by most colonists as their right. Prior to and during the French and Indian War, England began to take a renewed interest in the colonies and some of the most important factors which fanned the flames of war are listed below.

- a. British unhappy with the colonists minimal support of the F&I war, and the fact that some colonists were openly trading with the enemy while the war was in progress.
- b. British want colonists to help pay for the cost of the war.
- c. British have a huge frontier to control and protect, and want the colonists to pay for the army needed to manage the colonies. England passes the Proclamation of 1763, forbidding expansion past the Appalachian mountains.
- d. In an effort to extract more monies from the colonies a series of acts were introduced requiring more taxes and imposing trade restrictions on the colonists. Of the many acts, the most important were the Sugar Act-1764 , Stamp Act -1765 and the Townshend Duties Acts 1767, Tea Act - 1773.
- e. England views the political and economic freedoms as signs that they had lost control of the colonies, and felt that the colonists had too much freedom. England wanted the colonists to be under tighter control of the Crown. London begins to disallow some measures passed by colonial assemblies. Governors salaries now paid by the British so they have "influence" with the governors.
- f. Colonies felt they were being treated unfairly, were being denied their rights as Englishmen, and not being represented fairly in Parliament.
- g. Colonists felt that the series of Regulations and taxes imposed by the British were no more than "economic punishments" and a way of imposing British "will".
- h. The colonists felt they had the "right" to govern themselves in the colonies.

Discuss the reasons for the main emphasis of the war shifting to the Southern Department, and discuss the major events that occurred in the Southern Department from 1778 to 20 Dec 1780, when Greene split his Army. NOTE!!! Do not go past 20 Dec 1780. State the mission of each side.

Major events: War stalemated in the North after the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. British shift focus of the war to the Southern Theater in an attempt to pick up Loyalist support, control the southern resources, and defeat the Patriot forces in the south. Then they would drive northward to Virginia and engage Washington's Army, bringing the war to an end.

- 1778 Dec - Savannah captured by British.
- 1779 Oct - French and Patriot force defeated in attempt to retake Savannah.
- 1780 May - Gen Lincoln surrenders Charleston to British along with 5,000 men and equipment.
- Aug - Gen Gates surrenders at Camden SC w/ 4,000 men.
- Oct - Patriot victory at Kings Mountain
- Dec - Gen Greene given command of the American Army (2,400 men) Greene splits his force giving half to Gen Daniel Morgan.

Morgan's mission - To operate on Cornwallis' left flank and rear, threaten enemy outposts, disrupt communications, and encourage the militia of western SC to return to the fight.

Cornwallis learns of the divided American Army, dispatches Tarleton to pursue Morgan.

Tarleton's Mission - Destroy Morgan or chase him back across the Broad River into the reach of Gen Cornwallis' forces.

Brief background of Tarleton and his activity prior to battle.

- a. Described as a redheaded, short but strongly built man, and very active. He tended to be insolent and domineering toward his subordinates. He was probably the most feared and hated British soldier in the south, but Cornwallis felt that he was the only officer he had capable of coping with the partisans.
- b. Born August, 1754, in Liverpool, England, to a wealthy family. Attended the Universities of Liverpool and Oxford, and in Apr 1775 purchased a 2LT's commission in the First Regiment of the King's Dragoon Guards and was sent to America. Later assigned to the 16th Light Dragoons and took part in the capture of Gen Charles Lee (2nd in Cmd to Washington) at Basking Ridge, NJ in 1776. Promoted to CPT in Harcourt's cavalry and soon after promoted to Brigade Major of the 16th Dragoons in 1778. At the age of 23 he was promoted to LTC and given command of the British Legion of both infantry and dragoons. Served with distinction in the Northern Theater. Transferred to the Southern theater, participated in the capture of Charleston. Waged a successful campaign against the partisans throughout SC including Waxhaws, SC, Camden, SC, Fishing Creek, SC, where he earned the reputation of being ruthless, giving no quarter, and taking no prisoners.
- c. 1 Jan 1781, Tarleton's force moves north up the west bank of the Broad River to find and destroy Morgan's force, or drive it into Cornwallis's force which was moving north along the east bank of the Broad River in an effort to cut off Morgan's force.

9 Jan Tarleton reaches the Enoree River, 12 miles from Morgan's force at Grindalls Shoals on the Pacolet Riv. Cornwallis's force lags well behind.

16 Jan Cornwallis reaches Turkey Creek, 25 miles from Cowpens. Tarleton has not heard from him since 13 Jan and is not aware Cornwallis is so far behind. Tarlton sends advance elements across the Pacolet River about six miles from Gen Morgan's encampment. Morgan retreats towards Thicketty Creek. Tarleton camps at Grindalls shoals.

17 Jan 0200, Tarleton moves his force and arrives at Thicketty Creek before dawn, clashes with a rebel patrol. He receives word from his scouts that they have seen Morgan's campfires at Cowpens. Tarleton advances. Arrives at battlefield approx. 0800.

Brief background of Morgan and his activity prior to battle.

- a. Born in 1736 somewhere along the Delaware River, in the New Jersey, Pennsylvania region. Early years spent farming with his father and as a teenager traveled south to western Virginia doing odd jobs along the way. Worked as a sawmill operator and finally was a wagoner hauling supplies in the Shenandoah Valley.

Morgan began his career in the military as a teenaged wagoneer with Braddocks army in the French and Indian War and participated in the ill-fated expedition to capture Fort Duquesne in 1755. In 1756 he received 500 lashes for striking a British officer who had slapped him with the flat of his sword. He returned to VA and was appointed an ensign. During this time he was wounded by Indians, and lost all his teeth on one side of his mouth as a bullet passed through his neck and mouth. Participated in the police action against the Indians in PA, Va. known as Lord Dunsmore's War. He joined the Patriots cause in 1775. Raised a company of expert riflemen in VA. Served under Benedict Arnold in the Quebec campaign where he was captured and later exchanged. In 1776 he was commissioned a Col of a regiment of Continental troops from VA called Morgan's Rangers and served with distinction under Gen. George Washington in NJ and PA. In 1777 he organized a rifle corps for the Continental Army. He played a major role at the battle of Saratoga in 1777, served at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778, and fought at the battle of Monmouth, NJ in June, 1778. Disappointed at not being promoted to Brigadier General, and suffering from arthritis, he requested furlough, resigned, and went home to VA in July 1779. After the Americans were routed at Camden SC, Washington requested Greene and Morgan take command in the Southern theater. He joined Gen Gates in Sept 1780, was promoted to BG in October 1780 in command of a light infantry corps. Gen Greene assumed command of the American Army in the South on 3 Dec 1780.

- b. Activity Prior to battle at Cowpens.

1. 20 Dec 1780. Greene divides his army, giving approx: 600 men to Morgan. Both forces leave Charlotte . Morgan marches southwest to operate between the Broad and Pacolet rivers in northwestern SC. Morgan is marching towards the British garrison at Ninety-Six SC and enroute picks up other militia units. He camps on the north bank of the Pacolet River on Christmas day. He dispatches Washington's dragoons and mounted militia to defeat a Loyalist force at Hammond's Store, near Ninety-Six. The British now know where he is located and Cornwallis dispatches Tarleton to find and destroy Morgan.
2. Morgan knows Tarleton is after him and moves northeast of Ninety-Six, arriving at Burr's Mill on Thicketty Creek on 15 Jan, 1781, with Tarleton only a few hours behind him.
3. Morgan decides to fight Tarleton and moves to Hannáhs Cowpens to prepare for battle.

Stop #2: British Line of battle.

Describe the weather prior to and on the day of battle, and describe the terrain as it appeared on the day of battle. Discuss the impact of both on operations.

- a. Weather: Had previously been raining, the rivers were running high, or flooding, making fording more difficult. The ground was wet, muddy, and this caused difficulty in troop movements, and supply wagon movements. The flooded Enoree River slowed Tarleton down considerably on 16 Jan 81 allowing Morgan to retreat to Thicketty Creek. The weather caused Cornwallis to lag way behind, and not in position on the day of battle. The swollen Broad River at Morgan's back was a major factor in Morgan's decision to fight at Cowpens. He did not think he could cross the river before Tarleton arrived, and he decided to use the river at his back to impede the retreat of his militia forces. The weather on the day of battle was cold, clear and damp.
- b. Terrain: The Broad River was approx: 5 miles to the north of Hannah's Cowpens, which was a grazing area for cattle. The land sloped gradually down towards the south and was an open field with scattered trees and no underbrush. There were two small hills, roughly 70 feet in elevation in the middle ground of the field. The hills were roughly 600 yards apart. The Green River Road runs the length of the clearing generally in a southeast direction through the center of the clearing. The terrain between the two hills formed a gentle saddle, known as the swale, provided some cover from observation from Tarleton's avenue of approach from the south. This helped Morgan by keeping most of his force hidden from immediate view. The Southernmost hill (Hayes Rise) overlooked the entrance to the field and the Green River Road. The northernmost hill (Morgan Hill), a few yards higher than Hayes Rise, overlooked the entire clearing with the exception of a few dead zones created by scattered trees. This terrain provided Morgan the opportunity to deploy his forces in a way that concealed his intentions, and denied Tarleton the ability to see the main Patriot force.

Describe the weapons and their capabilities used in this battle.

- a. Primary weapon for both American and British was the smooth bore musket.

Long barrel (40-60 inches); .65 - .80 cal; 8-12 lbs; flintlock; smooth bore; single shot; equipped with bayonet 14-19 inches; rounds would carry for about 300 yards, but were not accurate beyond 50-60 yards. Rate of fire was 3-5 rounds per min; and was not effective at long range. It was employed in formations firing volleys into enemy formations, inflicting casualties and causing confusion, allowing the infantry to close and finish with the bayonet. This weapon did not have sights for aimed fire.

- (1) British Brown Bess. .75 cal.; 42 in. barrel. 4'10".
- (2) French Musket: Used by American troops; .69 cal.
- (3) British dragoon carbine.
- (4) Militiaman's Fowler.

- b. American Rifle - Pennsylvania or Kentucky Rifle. Handmade, Spiraled grooves in the barrel. Approx: 5 feet long with 39-49 inch barrel; 40-60 cal; Accurate up to 300 ygrds. Slow rate of fire, 1-2 times per minute. Did not have the capability to attach a bayonet.
- c. Pistols - British used single shot, muzzle loading, flintlock. Americans used whatever they could find or capture. Short range, poor accuracy, used primarily by officers and cavalry.
- d. Swords were primarily a cavalry arm. Officers, foot and mounted, carried swords for fighting. Some foot officers carried spontoons, a spear like weapon which was also a badge of rank.
- e. Artillery: Americans had no artillery at Cowpens, the British had 2, three pound cannon known as "grasshoppers" because they tended to jump around when fired.

Discuss British units (size and composition) previous experience, and initial deployment on the battlefield.

Commander: LTC Banastre Tarleton

Infantry:

7th Regiment of Foot - MAJ Timothy Newmarsh (170 men).
Were experienced in fighting in America since the beginning of the war. Some new replacements in ranks.

71st Regiment of Foot - MAJ Arthur MacArthur (249 men).
Had distinguished themselves in numerous conflicts including Savannah and Charleston.

British Legion Infantry - ? - (250 men).
Made up of both professional British soldiers as well as professional Loyalists soldiers.

Light Infantry:

16th Foot Regiment (41 men).
1st Battalion 71st Regiment (35 men).
2nd Battalion 71st Regiment (34 men).
Prince of Wales American Regiment (40 men).

Cavalry:

17th Light Dragoons - 1 Troop Lt. Nettles (50 men).
British Legion Dragoons - MAJ Ogilivy (250 men).
Tory Scouts/Guides - Alexander Chesnee (50 men).

Artillery:

2 - 3 Pounder field pieces (36 men).

Overall, Tarleton's forces were experienced and battle hardened.

Troop Disposition: See Cowpens brochure.

Stop #3: Skirmish line.

Discuss Morgan's troop positions prior to battle. (same as above).

The Flying Army - BG Daniel Morgan

Headquarters - Flying Army

Brigade Major - CPT Benjamin Brookes
Aide de Camp - MAJ Edward Giles; Baron de Glaubeck
Commissary - CPT Edward Chitty
Morgan's Life Guard (10 men)

"REGULAR" INFANTRY - LTC John Eager Howard

Continental Infantry

Delaware Company - CPT Robert Kirkwood (60 men)
1/7 Maryland Company - CPT Richard Anderson (60 men)
3/5 Maryland Company - LT Nicholas Mangers (60 men)
2/4/6 Maryland Company - CPT Henry Dobson (60 men)
Virginia Company - CPT Andrew Wallace (60 men)
North Carolina Company - CPT Henry Connelly (30 men)
Virginia State Company - CPT John Lawson (50 men)
South Carolina State Troops - MAJ Samuel Hammond (60 men)

Virginia Militia - MAJ Francis Triplett

Fauquier Company - CPT John Combs (40+ men)
Augusta Company - CPT James Tate (40+ men)
Rockbridge Company - CPT James Gilmore (45 men)
Burke County, NC, Company - (25 men)

MILITIA - Gen Andrew Pickens

Brigade Major - James Jackson

1st Spartan Regiment

1st Bn - Col John Thomas (150 men)
2nd Bn - LTC Benjamin Roebuck (150 men)

2nd Spartan Regiment

1st Bn - Col Thomas Brandon (100 men)
2nd Bn - LTC William Farr (100 men)

Little River Regiment - LTC Joseph Hayes (180 men)
North Carolina Battalion - LTC Joseph McDowell (180 men)
Georgia Refugees - MAJ John Cunningham (75 men)
Virginia Militia - MAJ Thomas Posey (100men)

CAVALRY

Continental Light Dragoons - LTC William Washington (82 men)
South Carolina State Troops - Major James McCall (45 men)
Virginia State Dragoons - (15 men)
North Carolina State Dragoons - (15 men)

South Carolina "Guides" - (15 men)

Militia Volunteers - Benjamin Jolley

North Carolina - CPT Mordecai Clark (20 men)

South Carolina - Thomas Young (25 men)

Most were veterans of numerous skirmishes with the British, about 1/3 of the militia were untested.

Troop Dispositions: See Cowpens brochure.

Discuss opening moves by the participants. Describe Patriot and British activity after initial shots had been fired.

- a. Tarleton arrived at the American position after dawn, and sent 50 dragoons to charge up the slope and drive back the skirmishers.
- b. The dragoons suffered 15 casualties and retreated back to their lines.
- c. The British artillery opened fire on the skirmishers causing them to retreat up the slope and join Pickens men. Some remain on the slope.
- d. Col Tarleton deployed his troops on a single line about 300 yds from Picken's militia and attacked.
- e. The skirmishers that had stayed on line shot into the attacking force from about 50 yds, the British fired a volley and the skirmishers retreated to the militia line.
- f. Pickens ordered the militia not to fire until they could "see the whites of their eyes".

Stop #4: Pickens Militia, 2nd Line of defense.

1. Brief background Pickens, Washington, and describe the Action that took place here.

Pickens:

- a. Born near Paxtang, PA., settled as a boy with his parents in SC.
- b. At the outbreak of the revolution he was a successful planter and Justice of the Peace. He was a deeply religious Presbyterian who was said to seldom smile or laugh, talked very guardedly, was slow to anger, and was greatly respected by both sides.
- c. He worked his way through the ranks of the militia and had become a Captain. He took part in several lengthy campaigns against the Cherokee Indians and the Loyalists, and during these campaigns, he learned about the art of guerilla fighting. He was promoted to Major and then Colonel. Some of the more notable campaigns were at Ninety-Six, and the Battle of Kettle Creek where he defeated a larger Loyalist force in Feb 1779.
- d. When Charleston fell to the British in May 1780, He surrendered with his men and was paroled on the terms that he would remain neutral. This was done in an attempt to protect their families and farms in what seemed like a hopeless cause to many. The British offered him money and a commission in the Royal Militia, which he refused. He intended to maintain his neutral status. The Continentals threatened to courtmartial and hang him but he swore to remain neutral even if it meant he would be hung.
- e. Cornwallis issued a proclamation that no one would be permitted to remain neutral. That, along with a loyalist attack on his plantation, according to Pickens, violated the terms of his parole, and released him from his obligation to remain neutral.
- f. He reformed the 96th Militia, and at the request of Gen Morgan, joined his forces prior to the Battle of Cowpens.

William Washington:

- a. William Washington was a distant cousin of George Washington, and was studying for the ministry at the outbreak of the Revolution. He was said to be of stout frame, good tempered, bold, in control, and persevering. It was also said he was kind to his soldiers to a fault and was lax when it came to their discipline.
- b. He received a commission as a Captain in 1776 and served in the 3rd VA. Continentals. He was a veteran of many battles in the NY and NJ campaigns, and was severely wounded at Long Island.
- c. During this time he had become a cavalry officer and distinguished himself as a leader of the dragoons.
- d. He was promoted to LTC in 1780 and operated throughout the southern department. The most recent action he had been in was the fighting at Charleston.

Describe the Action that took place here.

- a. Picken's Militia began firing as soon as Col Tarleton's troops came within range, hitting a number of British officers and sergeants as they had been instructed.
- b. The militia delivered a second volley, slowing the enemy advance, and then began an orderly withdrawal to the east around the left flank of the Continental line.
- c. Tarleton, believing the militia had been routed, ordered the 17th Dragoons to charge the retreating men. Seeing the dragoons bearing down on them, some of the patriots ran and the panic spread through the militia as they attempted to get off the field.
- d. Col Washington seeing this, charged with his cavalry from his place of concealment behind the ridge, and attacked the charging dragoons. They hit with such shock and surprise that they overwhelmed the British dragoons, causing them to turn and retreat to their lines.
- e. Col Washington then retreated back to his position behind the ridge. Meanwhile, Gen Morgan, Col Pickens, and South Carolina militiaman Lt Joseph Hughes were regrouping the militia behind the main American line (Howard's Continentals).

Stop #5: Howards Continentals; 3rd Line of defense.

1. Brief background Howard, describe the action that took place here. Stop briefing after the point when Picken's Militia attacks Highlanders.

Howard:

- a. Born in Maryland to a rich planter, he was brought up in comfort and well educated. Was said to be mild tempered and reserved.
- b. He was commissioned as a Captain in the 2nd Maryland at the outbreak of the Revolution.
- c. Saw action in White Plains 1776.
- d. He led the 4th Maryland Bn at Germantown in 1777.
- e. Participated in the Monmouth Campaign in 1778.
- f. Participated in many battles, skirmishes, most recent was at Camden SC where his soldiers fought with great courage.

Action that took place here.

- a. Howard's Continentals and VA militiamen, on the heights in the 3rd line of defense, waited until Col Picken's men cleared the slope and then began a slow but accurate volley fire at the onrushing infantry.
- b. Loyalist and British forces were disorganized, but both sides continued to fire at each other at point blank range for about ten minutes, with the British taking the heavier losses. The attack stalled.
- c. Tarleton ordered the 71st Highlanders, under Maj Arthur MacArthur, to attack Morgan's right flank. Seeing this new threat, Col Howard ordered the Virginia and Georgia militia on his right, to face west and meet the onslaught. This order was misunderstood and the militiamen turned and retreated up the slope.
- d. The Continentals saw the militia marching towards the rear and thought an order for retreat had been given so they started a retreat as well. Morgan allowed the withdrawal to continue, but told Howard to have his men ready to turn and fire when he gave the order. Tarleton saw the retreating Americans and felt they were defeated. The British line mounted a bayonet charge to finish the routed Americans.
- e. When Howard's continental's and militia reached the depression behind the first knoll and had started up the lower ridge, Morgan ordered Howard to turn and fire a volley. They turned and fired into the British from 10 to 30 yards away, killing and wounding many. The Americans then mounted a bayonet charge of their own, Tarleton's line then broke and retreated back to their initial position.
- f. Tarleton tried in vain to rally his infantry, and then his 200 British Legion cavalrymen in reserve to reinforce the highlanders who were making a stand on the American right flank. Most refused. Washington, uncontested by British cavalry, entered the fight, killing and capturing many running British. Tarleton, with about 50 men, tried to save his artillery, but was too late. The cannon were captured, the crews killed, wounded, or captured.
- g. Meanwhile, Col Picken's militia had come from behind the slope on Gen Morgan's right flank and attacked the Highlanders.

12. Describe the conclusion of the battle and casualties. (start briefing at the point where Question #10 leaves off).

- a. After many casualties had been suffered by the Highlanders, many of the Highlanders started to throw down their weapons and flee the field. After Howard yelled that quarter would be given, Maj MacArthur ordered his soldiers to drop their weapons, and surrendered his sword to Col. Pickens.
- b. Col. Tarleton, with 50 cavalry, fled the field with Col Washington in pursuit. After a brief skirmish, Tarleton fired a shot, wounding Washington's horse. Washington was unable to continue the pursuit and Tarleton was able to escape.
- c. Casualties:

BRITISH

110 KIA (39 officers)
229 WIA
500-600 Prisoners (27 officers)
60 slaves.
800 muskets.
100 horses captured.
35 wagons captured.
2 Artillery pieces captured.
the 7th Regiments Colors.
All their musical instruments.

AMERICAN

12 KIA
60 WIA

3. Discuss the significance of the battle and lessons learned.

- a. The Patriot victory at Cowpens raised the patriot morale because they now knew they could meet and defeat British regulars on the battlefield fighting on equal terms. This helped in rallying others to the Patriot cause while decreasing Loyalist support.
- b. The British did not achieve their military objectives, the interior of SC was virtually lost to them, and more importantly, they could not replace the men and equipment that they had lost in the battle.
- c. Cornwallis had to rethink his strategy, he gave up the fight for the backcountry and returned to the coast, on to VA and defeat at Yorktown.

NOTE: The significance of the battle and lessons learned have been debated many times with many different conclusions drawn by historians. To grade this question, determine the briefers conclusions, and grade them on their performance in justifying and defending their statements.



THE BATTLE OF
COWPENS

9200153-01-2



BATTLE OF COWPENS

**ON JANUARY 17, 1781, DANIEL MORGAN
LED HIS ARMY OF CONTINENTALS AND
BACKWOODS MILITIA TO A BRILLIANT
VICTORY OVER BANASTRE TARLETON'S
LARGER FORCE OF BRITISH REGULARS**

9200153-02-2

PATRIOTS

GENERAL DANIEL MORGAN

- **COLONEL J. HOWARD**
- **COLONEL A. PICKENS**
- **COLONEL WILLIAM WASHINGTON**
- **MAJOR CHARLES McDOWELL (NC)**
- **MAJOR JOHN CUNNINGHAM (GA)**

BRITISH

LTC BANASTRE TARLETON

- **MAJOR TIMOTHY NEWMARSH**
- **MAJOR ARCHIBALD MacARTHUR**

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STRATEGIC SETTING (1)

BRITISH CONTROL COASTAL AREAS

- **CAPTURE SAVANNAH IN DEC 1778**
- **CAPTURE CHARLESTON IN MAY 1780**

**PATRIOTS HAVE PARTIAL CONTROL
OF THE BACKCOUNTRY**

STRATEGIC SETTING (2)

SOUTHERN STRATEGY

- **BRITISH CONTROL OF THE NORTHERN STATES WITH A NAVAL BLOCKADE AND THE CONSTANT THREAT OF INVASION FROM CANADA OR NEW YORK**
- **THIS ALLOWED FOR A TRANSFER OF TROOPS TO SUB-DUE THE SOUTHERN STATES OF VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND GEORGIA**

PATRIOT OPERATIONS (2.1)

- **GENERAL LINCOLN SURRENDERS CHARLESTON, S.C. IN MAY 1780**
- **GENERAL GATES DEFEATED AT CAMDEN, S.C. IN AUGUST 1780**
- **GENERAL GREEN GIVEN COMMAND IN DEC 1780**

PATRIOT OPERATIONS (2.2)

- **GENERAL GREEN DIVIDES HIS 2,400 MAN FORCE TO ENHANCE MOBILITY AND EXPAND THE AREA OF OPERATIONS**
- **MORGAN'S MISSION: TO OPERATE ON CORNWALLIS' LEFT FLANK AND REAR, THREATEN ENEMY OUTPOSTS, DISRUPT COMMUNICATIONS, AND ENCOURAGE THE MILITIA OF WESTERN S.C. TO RETURN TO THE FIGHT**

STRATEGIC SETTING (3)

BRITISH OPERATIONS:

- **CORNWALLIS' MISSION WAS TO SUBDUE THE SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT**
- **CORNWALLIS REACTS TO NEWS THAT MORGAN IS MARCHING ON NINETY-SIX**
- **CORNWALLIS DISPATCHES TARLETON**

STRATEGIC SETTING (4)

TARLETON'S MISSION:

"IF MORGAN IS ... ANY WHERE WITHIN YOUR REACH, I SHOULD WISH YOU TO PUSH HIM TO THE UTMOST."

Lord Cornwallis

TACTICAL SETTING (1)

- **TARLETON GATHERS HIS FORCE AND LEAVES WINNSBOROUGH**
- **MORGAN IS SOUTH OF THE BROAD RIVER URGING MILITIA TO JOIN HIM**
- **TARLETON ASKS CORNWALLIS FOR ADDITIONAL TROOPS AND FOR PERMISSION TO PURSUE MORGAN**

TACTICAL SETTING (2)

TARLETON'S NEW MISSION:

- **DESTROY MORGAN OR ...**
- **CHASE HIM BACK ACROSS THE BROAD RIVER AND INTO THE REACH OF GENERAL CORNWALLIS' FORCES**

TACTICAL SETTING (4)

- **MORGAN MUST FIND FORAGE FOR HIS ANIMALS AND FOOD FOR HIS MEN**
- **MORGAN SENDS HIS QUARTERMASTER ACROSS THE BROAD RIVER TO SET UP MAGAZINES OF SUPPLIES IN CASE A RETREAT IS NECESSARY**
- **MORGAN RETREATS FROM THE PACOLET TO THICKETTY CREEK ON JANUARY 15, 1781**
- **LTC WILLIAM WASHINGTON JOINS MORGAN AT THICKETTY CREEK**

TACTICAL SETTING (5)

- **TARLETON'S 550 MAN LEGION IS SUPPLEMENTED WITH REGULARS. HIS FORCE NOW NUMBERS APPROXIMATELY 1,100 MEN**
- **MORGAN FEELS HE MUST RETREAT OR FIND A PLACE TO FIGHT**
- **MILITIA LEADERS MENTION COWPENS AS A GOOD PLACE TO FIGHT SOUTH OF THE BROAD RIVER. MORGAN ALSO CONSIDERS KINGS MOUNTAIN**

TACTICAL SETTING (6)

- **TARLETON CROSSES THE PACOLET ON THE NIGHT OF THE 15TH/16TH OF JANUARY AND CLOSES TO WITHIN SIX MILES OF MORGAN**
- **MORGAN BREAKS CAMP ON JANUARY 16, 1781, AND HEADS FOR COWPENS AND THE BROAD RIVER**
- **MORGAN ELECTS NOT TO TRY AND CROSS THE BROAD RIVER AT NIGHT. THE RIVER WAS RISING; HIS ARMY WAS TRAPPED. IT WAS TIME TO FIGHT**

TACTICAL SETTING (7)

- **A CAPTURED MILITIA COLONEL TELLS TARLETON THAT MORGAN IS GATHERING MILITIA AT COWPENS, AND THAT MORGAN INTENDS TO CROSS THE BROAD RIVER TO SAFETY**
- **AROUND MIDNIGHT, LOYALIST SCOUTS INFORM TARLETON THAT A "CORPS OF MOUNTAINEERS" HAD JOINED MORGAN**
- **TARLETON RESOLVES TO ATTACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ROUSES HIS MEN AT 3AM AND STARTS THE MARCH TO MORGAN'S CAMP**

SIGNIFICANCE

**THE STALEMATE IN THE NORTH HAD BEEN
REPLACED BY 18 MONTHS OF SAVAGE FIGHTING IN
THE SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT - MAY 1780 TO OCT 1781**

- **CORNWALLIS' MISSION TO SECURE THE CAROLINAS IS IRREPAIRABLY DAMAGED**
- **THERE IS AN INCREASE IN PATRIOT MORALE AND A CORRESPONDING DECREASE IN LOYALIST SUPPORT**
- **CORNWALLIS WILL GIVE UP THE CHASE IN THE BACK-COUNTRY, HEAD FOR THE COAST, AND THEN ON TO VIRGINIA AND YORKTOWN**
- **AND THE BAND WILL PLAY, "THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN"**