

Chain of Command



Daniel Morgan

The Commanders

Morgan was a frontiersman, a teamster by trade, experienced at fighting Indians, and a genius at leading men in battle. When at age 45 he took command of Nathanael Greene's light troops in 1780, he was well-known for his military abilities, having fought with distinction at Quebec in 1775 and at Saratoga in 1777. After Morgan left the army in February 1781 due to illness, Greene remarked: "Great generals are scarce—there are few Morgans to be found."

Tarleton had a reputation as being ruthless and fearless in battle. An offspring of British gentry, he purchased his commission in the British Army, and at 21 became an officer of dragoons. He volunteered to fight in America, serving with distinction in the North. In his mid-20s Tarleton became commander of the British Legion, a mobile force of cavalry and infantry. American propagandists vilified him. Decades after the war American writers called him "Bloody Tarleton."



Banastre Tarleton

Morgan's Army



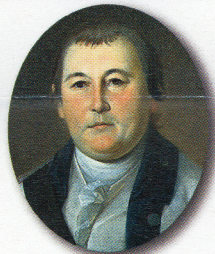
Andrew Pickens
Militia Commander

Militia
Morgan's militia were tough and experienced. Some 200 were ex-Continentalists from Virginia under Maj. Francis Triplet. Others were recruits from Georgia and the Carolinas commanded by the wily partisan Col. Andrew Pickens. Morgan knew their worth and deployed them to make the most of their strengths and minimize their weaknesses. They rewarded him with a victory still marveled at over 200 years later.



John Eager Howard
Continental Commander

Continentalists
Lt. Col. John Eager Howard's battalion of Maryland and Delaware Continentalists fought courageously at Cowpens and afterwards. Nathanael Greene called Howard "as good an officer as the world affords." The Maryland unit was one of the few regiments to fight in both the Northern and Southern campaigns. By war's end the Delaware Continentalists were considered one of the elite light infantry units of the Southern Army.



William Washington
Cavalry Commander

Cavalry
Few officers saw more combat than Lt. Col. William Washington, a second cousin of George Washington, the commanding general. A veteran of many battles and skirmishes, he and his Third Continental Dragoons were the main reserve at Cowpens. Hidden by terrain behind the Continental line, they were close enough "as to be able to charge the enemy, should they be broken."

Tarleton's Army

Legion Cavalry
This green-uniformed unit was the mounted arm of Tarleton's British Legion. At Cowpens, it was a mixture of loyalists and American prisoners of war from Camden, S.C., armed with sabers, pistols—and attitude.

16th Light Infantry
This detachment from the 16th Regiment of Foot was composed of men selected for their agility and endurance. These were crack troops, most of whom had been fighting in America since the war began.

7th Royal Fusiliers
Although drawn from the 7th Regiment of Foot, one of the oldest regiments in the British Army, this battalion was composed of untested new recruits only partially trained.

Legion Cavalry



Light Infantry



Royal Fusilier



Royal Artillery



Highlander



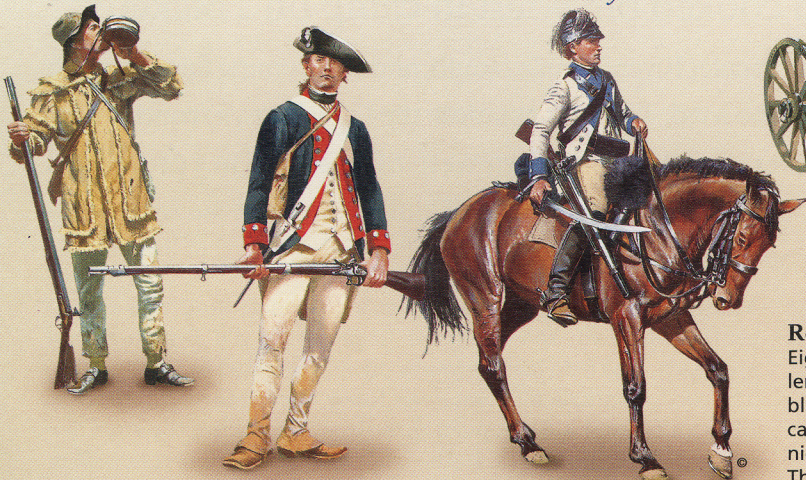
Dragoon



Militia

Continental

Cavalry



Royal Artillery
Eighteen royal artillerymen were responsible for the two light cannon that accompanied Tarleton's force. These guns, which may have been captured from the patriots at the Battle of Camden, helped boost Tarleton's confidence in confronting Morgan at Cowpens.

71st Highlanders
Known as Fraser's Highlanders, this elite regiment was raised for duty in America and saw extensive service in the Northern Theater before being transferred to the South in 1780. The regiment fought valiantly at the Siege of Savannah and in later operations in South Carolina.

17th Light Dragoons
The excellence of this regiment made it the first cavalry corps selected for service in America in 1775. Detachments were present in most of the important engagements throughout the war. The men were a model of discipline for other cavalry troops raised by the British in America during the war.

MORGAN: INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
TARLETON: NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, LONDON
PICKENS: NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, WASHINGTON, D.C.
HOWARD: MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WASHINGTON: INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
ALL SOLDIERS: DON TROIANI