

EXTRACTS FROM "THE GREEN DRAGON"- MEMOIRS OF LORD CORNWALLIS AND BANASTRE
TARLETON (BRITISH SOURCE MATERIAL)

BY ROBERT BASS

TAKEN FROM PAGE 88

Sumter established a camp at Clem's Creek on the east of the Catawba and began calling the militia colonels to his standard. To him William Bratton, William Hill, Edward Lacey, Thomas Tylor, and Richard Winn.

TAKEN FROM PAGE 116

When Wemyss fell from his saddle, Lieutenant Stark, not knowing the instructions of Cornwallis, led a cavalry charge along the road into Sumter's camp. The silhouettes of the horsemen made excellent targets, and Colonel Winn's marksmen drove them back in disorder. There followed confused fighting in the dark. Neither could tell who had the advantage, so both sides withdrew.

TAKEN FROM PAGE 118

That evening Tarleton received intelligence that General Sumter, with about 1,000 men under their militia colonels Brandon, Bratton, Clarke, Few, Hill, Lacey, Myddleton, Taylor, Twiggs, and Winn, was marching toward the house of Colonel James Williams. This was a fortified post on Little River, about fifteen miles above Ninety-Six. It was held by Loyalist militia under the renegade Colonel Moses Kirkland.

TAKEN FROM PAGE 142

There was consternation at British headquarters in the mansion of Colonel Richard Winn. McArthur's report crushed all hope for an effective Loyalist militia. Colonel Washington, operating in the van of Morgan's Corps, had decided to strike at William's and for that purpose he had sent forward a troop of forty dragoons under Colonel Joseph Hayes. Upon hearing rumors of their approach, Cunningham's militia had fled.

TAKEN FROM PAGE 150

Then, on the eve of the battle of Cowpens, at Hillhouse plantation on Turkey Creek some aide wrote a memorandum, made many duplicate copies, and broadcast them wholesale above the signature of Lord Cornwallis. Among other gems was this brilliant nonsense: "The banditte under the chiefs, who style themselves Colonels, such as Braton, Brannon, Wynn, Clarke, Few, etc. etc., have betaken themselves to their hiding places & the power is now totally in our hands.

TAKEN FROM PAGE 153 & 154

Morgan called in everyone who could give him personal observation of the tactics of the Green Dragoon. He asked Colonel Winn, who had commanded Sumter's reserve at Blackstock's: "Can you inform me of the manner Colonel Tarleton brings on his attacks?"

"I can. Tarleton never brings on the attack himself. His mode of fighting is surprise. By doing this he sends two or three troops of horse, and if he can throw the party in confusion, with his reserve he falls on and outs them to pieces."

Turning from Winn, the veteran with the inflamed sciatic nerve pointed to the wooded eminence known as the Cowpens. "On this ground," he said, "I will defeat the British or lay my bones."

TAKEN FROM PAGE 109

From Camden on November 1 Turnbull wrote Tarleton to bring his dragoons from Winnsboro and drive off Marion.

TAKEN FROM PAGE 115

In early October, Major Wemyss had ended his burning, plundering foray into the Pedee country and had returned to Camden. Later he had joined Cornwallis at Winnsboro, and when Tarleton rode off after Marion, his

Lordship began using the mounted infantry of Wemyss' 63rd as if they were dragoons. In his sweeps on November 7 Wemyss discovered that General Sumter had encamped at Moore's house about thirty miles above Winnsboro.

From Singleton's Mills the green horsemen of the British Legion had started racing toward Winnsboro.

TAKEN FROM PAGE 140

From Charlotte on December 20 Greene marched his army in two divisions. The main body moved to Haley's Ferry on the Pedee, crossed, and on December 26 encamped on Hicks Creek, nearly opposite Cheraw. The detachment under Morgan moved into the country between the Broad and Pacolet rivers. By means of these pincers Greene hoped to pin Cornwallis in Winnsboro by threatening both Camden and Ninety-Six.

TAKEN FROM PAGE 141

On December 27 Lieutenant Haldane wrote Tarleton: "If it would not be inconvenient, His Lordship would wish to see you tomorrow." Next day Colonel Tarleton rode twenty miles across the rolling hills of Fairfield to visit the commander in chief at Winnsboro.

The British army remained at the Catawba settlement for a week, for Lord Cornwallis was now too ill of fever to be moved. The command fell upon Lord Rawdon. He led the army across the Catawba, near Twelve Mile Creek, on October 21, without difficulty or opposition. Then he sent Banastre and his dragoons to scout the country between the Broad and the Catawba rivers.

After riding through the territory. Tarleton recommended Winnsboro as the site for the winter camp. Later he wrote: "Wynnesborough presented the most numerous advantages. Its spacious plantations yielded a tolerable post; its central situation between the Broad river and the Wateree

afforded protection to Ninety-Six and Camden; and its vicinity to the Dutch fork, and a rich country in the rear, promised abundant supplies of flour, forage and cattle."

As soon as the army had encamped on the high, rolling grounds of the Mount Zion Academy and his officers had settled in the mansions of the Winns, Lord Cornwallis turned his attention to suppressing the Partisans of South Carolina. Among the most troublesome was Colonel Marion. "Mr. Marion, by his zeal and abilities, showed himself capable of the trust committed to his charge," wrote Tarleton. "He collected his adherents at the shortest notice, in the neighborhood of Black river, and, after making incursions to the friendly districts, or threatening the communications, to avoid pursuit, he disbanded his followers."