

retreat actually cut off his communications and prevented assistance reaching him. The confusion of the times had brought out in full force the border *scoundrels* described in "The Campaigns of 1754-64"—ever ready to profit by the calamity of friend or foe—they now assembled in great force under Boone and Colonel Campbell having learned that a valuable lot of presents were deposited at Augusta for the Creek and Chorokoo Indians under a slight guard, they resolved to attempt the capture of the post, and had arrived in the neighborhood of Gilberttown before they learned that Clark had been repulsed; while still debating what to do they were joined by some battalions of militia under Colonels Cleveland, Shelby and others which brought their numbers up to 3000 men, and were persuaded to attack Ferguson by a Colonel Williams who pointed out to them the necessity of removing such a serious impediment to their predatory excursions. That officer when apprised of his danger at once despatched messengers to Lord Cornwallis (but they were intercepted by Clark) and commenced a rapid retreat. The borderers finding they could not overtake him despatched 1500 picked men on horseback who overtook him on the 9th of October at King's Mountain, and after a smart engagement, in which Major Ferguson was killed, captured and dispersed his whole detachment, of which they hung ten men immediately after the action. Emboldened by this they made an attack on Polk's Mill, near Charlotte, where a small detachment of the 23rd Regiment was posted, under a Lieutenant Greyson, a very young man, who repulsed them with severe loss, on which they were disbanded as quickly as they were brought together.

Lord Cornwallis's retreat on Wynnsborough was marked by extraordinary hardships. It was the worst season of the year and rained incessantly. The soldiers were without tents; the roads ankle deep in mud, and the army was obliged to camp out in the swamps; for days they had no bread, and when that was supplied there was no beef. For *five days* there was no provisions but Indian corn, which was collected as it stood in the ear—five ears was the allowance for two men for twenty-four hours. The water drunk was as thick as puddle, and to crown all the militia soldiers who did the foraging and provided all the food, actually dragged the waggons through the rivers and creeks, were maltreated by abusive language and actually beaten by the officers of the Quarter-Master General's department. Little surprise will be felt at their desertion by sections, nor of the hardships of the troops. In fact if the retreat had to be continued much longer the total destruction of the army would have ensued, so contemptible had they become and so detested that partisans of Congress began to appear on every side. Marion, with a number of followers, traversed the country between the Rivers

Pedee and Santee, and threatened the communications with Camden and Charlestown, but Tarleton being sent against him he found the better part of valour to be prudence, and retreated to the swamps where he could neither do mischief nor suffer harm.

About the same time Sumpter again made his appearance with the intention of attacking the post at Ninety-Six. A plan was laid for surprising the post at Fish Dam, on the Broad River, but the attacking party were repulsed with a loss of 20 men, and immediately afterwards Sumpter effected a junction with some other partisans, while Cornwallis, seriously alarmed for Ninety-Six, re-called Tarleton, who was ordered at once to march by the nearest route to the threatened post. The Sixty Third Regiment (being that repulsed in the former attack) was sent forward to join him on his march, while the 71st advanced to his support. Meanwhile Sumpter, confident that all opposition had been overcome, marched forward with great hopes of success, so that Tarleton had nearly succeeded in getting in his rear before Sumpter was aware of his presence. A deserter of the 63rd Regiment apprised him of his danger and he commenced at once a rapid retreat. At a ford on the Enoree Tarleton came up with and cut to pieces his rear guard. It now became of the utmost importance to prevent the United States troops from crossing the River Tyger as their escape would be certain. Tarleton with 80 mounted men of the 63rd Regiment and 170 Cavalry pressed forward in pursuit leaving the infantry to come on at their leisure, and on the 23rd of November, after a rapid march, came up with Sumpter's force, amounting to 700 men, advantageously posted on Blackstock Hill near the Tybee. As it was no part of Tarleton's tactics to take mere numbers into account a precipitate attack was at once made, and after a hard fight of several hours' duration in which the 63rd behaved badly, Sumpter being badly wounded, and knowing that Tarleton would be reinforced, retreated, carrying off his wounded. His force, after conveying him to a place of safety, disbanded.

As far as active operations were concerned this action closed the campaign of 1780 in South Carolina. Gen. Gates had begun to assemble an army at Hillsborough in North Carolina, and finally transferred his headquarters to Salisbury, where he was superseded by Gen. Green on the 3rd December.

Great exertions had been made by the British General to overcome all the difficulties of his position, but the plan of campaign was false from the beginning and plainly showed that sins against strategy cannot be committed without impunity. The folly of landing troops in a country intersected with deep and impassible rivers, without adequate means of transport and dependent alone on the *natural roads* of the country for communication, was only equalled by the fatuity which governed the Generals commanding

and led them to divide a force which could if properly handled have rendered resistance impossible.

The campaign in the Eastern States was managed or mismanaged in similar fashion—the season immediately after Sir H. Clinton sailed with the expedition to Charleston became one of the most severe on record—all the rivers from Virginia northwards were frozen over for *three months*, and nearly all the estuaries, the Hudson River and the harbour of New York being completely frozen over, all communication cut off by sea and the garrison was deprived of the aid which could be afforded in defending the town by the men of war; the troops were suffering from want of provisions and fuel, and had Washington chosen to attack, or been able to do so, he might have succeeded in ruining what remained there of the British troops; but he foolishly allowed his army to be weakened by detachments which were either captured at, or destroyed in the vicinity of Charleston; he had also lost the only General in that army when Lee retired after the battle of Monmouth. The destruction of magazines during the summer and autumn had been most injurious, and the rapid depreciation of the paper money issued by Congress added to his difficulties; the soldiers were sometime for days without bread, and a chronic spirit of mutiny kept alive by the hardships endured began to display itself. No offensive movement could be undertaken with the exception of an attempt on the part of Lord Stirling, about the middle of January, to surprise a small post on Staten Island, in which he took some prisoners and was obliged to retreat with the loss of an equal number.

The American troops had established a post at Young's house in the neighborhood of White Plains, for the purpose of interrupting supplies to the New York market, and it became an object of importance to dislodge this force which amounted to 300 men. As the exigencies of the times demanded that this force should be dislodged, and as it was 20 miles from the outposts of the British army considerable difficulty was anticipated. At length, on the 2nd February, 1780, a force under Lieut. Colonel Norton, of the Guards, was detached for the purpose: after a fatiguing night march through snow two feet deep they arrived at the post two hours after sunrise and captured it by a precipitate attack, killing 40 men of the garrison and making 97 prisoners, with a loss of two killed and 20 wounded. The troops returned to King's Bridge the same day reaching it at 9 o'clock, P. M.

Nothing of importance appears to have occurred till the 7th of June, when a considerable force landed at Elizabethtown, in Jersey, it being supposed that the inhabitants were desirous of throwing off the yoke of Congress; and to enable them to do so with effect as well as to strike a blow at Washington whose troops were known to be in a state of mutiny the expedition was designed, but