



Catalina Mountains Patriot

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Interim Editor
Marlon Ruiz

PREAMBLE

“...To transmit all these ideals to posterity;
under God and for our country...”



Commander:

Jean Nelson



Adjutant:

Lt Col Richard Nelson



Treasurer:

CWO4 Robert Ozier



Asst. Treasurer:

COL Pedro Najera



Chaplain:

Jean Nelson



Judge Advocate:

COL Pedro Najera

Commander's Comments:

When we last met on February 1, little did we know what was in store for us as individuals and as a chapter. We shut down, cancelled events, shopped on line, and had groceries delivered.

Summer arrived and with it high hopes for getting back to normalcy. Things didn't work out as we had hoped, so for September and October instead of face to face meetings we elected to go to Zoom. The meetings went fairly well with some business handled. Pat and Marlon brought us up to date on Region XIII business. It is not a perfect solution but it is better than nothing.

We are still encouraging recruitment, so if anyone has eligible friends or family, please consider asking one or more to join.

We are still grieving the loss of our dear friend and editor of the newsletter, Jim McArthur. With his passing, we are in need of someone to consider taking the reins of the publication. For now, Joe Harris and Marlon Ruiz are helping get this out. I am sure there is someone out there who would like to try their hand at publishing I am planning another Zoom meeting on November 7 at 1:00 since we had to cancel the MOC.

Please let me know if you would like to attend and I will send the invitation. I would like to see as many as can attend. As soon as we are able, we will start in person meetings again. In the meantime, stay safe, follow the CDC's guidelines and we will hope to be together soon.

Commander Jean



Chaplain's Corner

Psalm 91:1-2-9-10-14-15-16

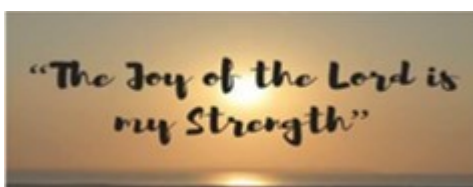
You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will
say to the Lord,

*"My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I
trust." Because you have made the Lord your
refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no
evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your
tent. "I will protect those who know my
name. When they call to me, I will answer
them; I will be with them in trouble, I will res-
cue them and honor them. With long life I will
satisfy them, and show them my salvation."*

It has been a long year and we have been
through many trials and experiences. We con-
tinue to pray for guidance as we travel these
unfamiliar paths. The Psalm tells us to trust in
God to deliver us and protect us. While we
don't know what the future holds, we know for
sure who holds the future. So let us walk in
faith with the Lord at our side.

God is with us. We must keep praying for the
doctors and scientists as the search for a vac-
cine and treatment.

Chaplain Jean



OCTOBER VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING



The Catalina Mountains Chapter hosted its first
monthly Chapter meeting for the 2020-2021
MOWW Activity Season on Saturday, the 12th of
September. It also marked the Chapter's first-ever
online video conferencing call (VCC) meeting as
well. After repeated attempts to wait out the cur-
rent COVID-19 pandemic, the Chapter leadership
made the decision to venture hosting an online
VCC activity with the assistance of fellow com-
panions from the Santa Cruz Valley Chapter in
Green Valley. The first attempted online meeting
session was a resounding success and we hope
other fellow companions will join in as we all
become more comfortable with this new online
computer communication technology. Regardless
of the pandemic outcome, such online meeting
formats are "here to stay." Thanking all those fel-
low companions who participated and "Kudos" to
all who helped make this first online Chapter
meeting possible.



RACE TO THE DAN

Story written by Companion Joe Harris, Catalina Mountains Chapter, Department of AZ

INTRODUCTION

Initially the Revolutionary War in the southern states did not go well for the Americans. Four years into the war, a British army invaded Charleston, South Carolina in late March of 1780 and lay siege around the city. Six weeks later the Americans surrendered. This was the worse defeat of the American Revolution. After capturing the American garrison, it marched inland to Camden, South Carolina where it was victorious again against the Americans on August 16, 1780. From Camden, the British marched deeper into the Carolinas stopping at Charlotte, North Carolina.

In a surprising turn, militia called over-the-mountain men surrounded and whipped the British on October 7, 1780 atop Kings Mountain, South Carolina, west of Charlotte. With the British defeat, the Americans vowed to rid the Brits from their farms, villages and countryside.

A few months later the Brits were routed at the Battle of Cowpens, South Carolina. American resistance for British occupation and authority in the backcountry was intense. The Americans were adopting a new tactic against a professional army. It was the beginning of a “fight—run—fight” warfare.

Most stories written about the Revolutionary War focus upon its battles. In “Race to the Dan,” the focus is on the run aspect of an emerging American tactic.

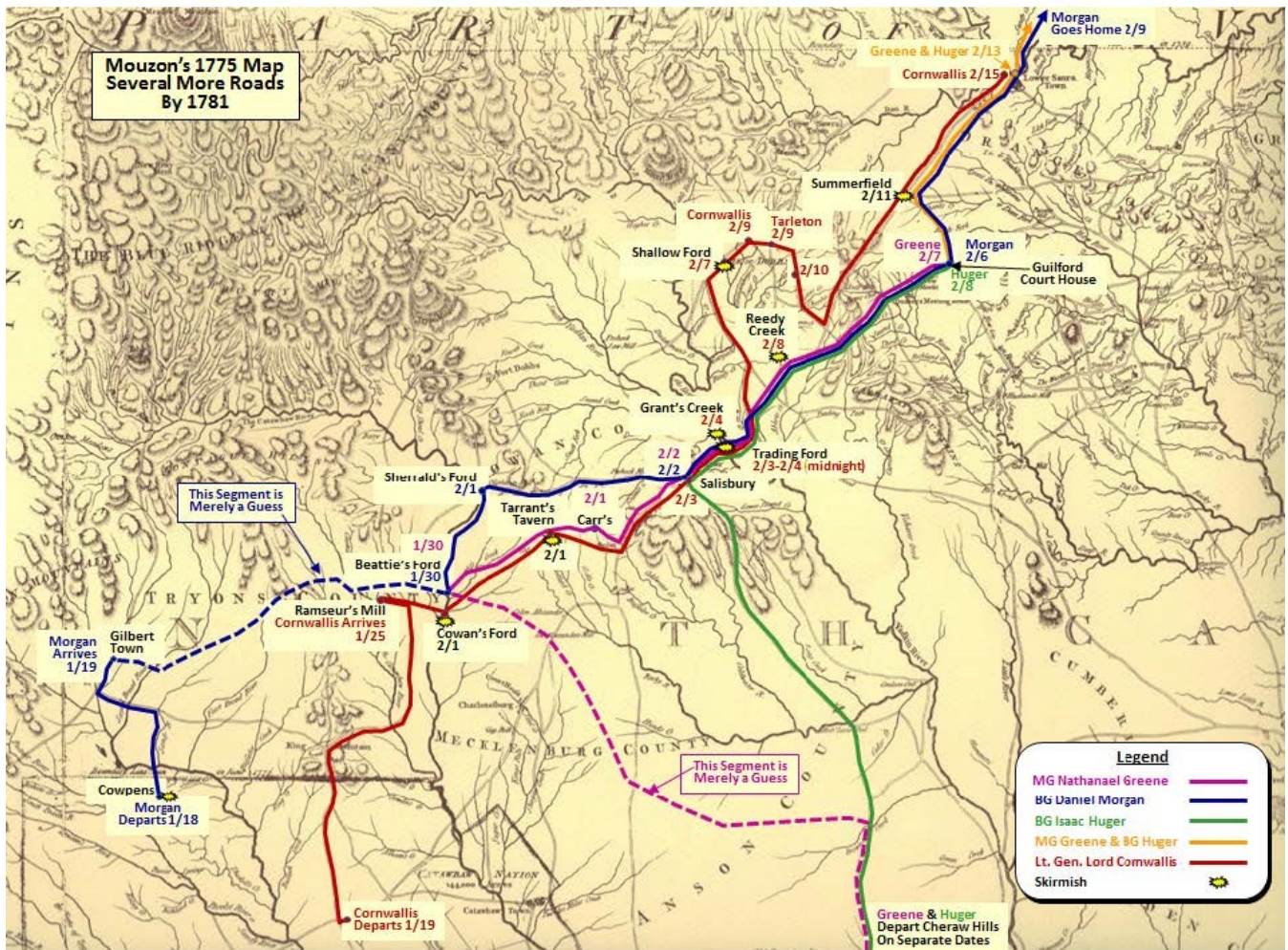
FIGHT—RUN—FIGHT

Tactically, the Battle of Cowpens is one of the world’s most studied ground engagements in all of military history. Military tacticians study the various components of it; historians continue to write about its significance in winning the American Revolution; visual artists paint it and monuments memorialize it. No doubt, Cowpens, South Carolina was another stunning American victory. It provided much needed hope for future battles in the British southern campaign.

If depicted on a chessboard, the battle was another strategic move. The American commander, Brigadier General Daniel Morgan, knew that with the capture of hundreds of British troops at Cowpens, his rival would seek retribution. Enraged by the defeat at Hannah’s Cow-pens, Lieutenant General Charles Lord Cornwallis, without careful thought or detailed analysis, embarked on a chase to recover his captured troops and destroy the American southern army that had just embarrassed and disgraced the most professional military force in the world.

Cornwallis was not deterred. Obsessed with catching the Americans, Lord Cornwallis ordered most of his supply wagons burned in order to travel faster. Hubris caused him to maneuver a superior force in the middle of winter through the North Carolina piedmont to track down General Morgan.

General Morgan commanded only a portion of the overall southern army. Major General Nathanael Greene, commander of General George Washington's southern army, upon learning of General Morgan's victory, rode quickly through the South Carolina backcountry to rendezvous with his venerable commander. They met above Charlotte, North Carolina at a Catawba River crossing site, Beattie's Ford.



General Greene instructed Brigadier General Isaac Huger, who commanded the other half of the southern army, to march his continentals to Salisbury, North Carolina while he rode to intercept General Morgan. Meanwhile, Generals Greene's and Morgan and several other subordinate commanders conducted their own estimate of the enemy situation.

Understanding that if encountered by Lord Cornwallis, an ensuing fight would squash the tattered American southern army. Instead, they selected to withdraw to stretch the British line of supplies and to avoid direct contact until reinforcements arrived from North Carolina and Virginia. They agreed that the Dan River just inside Virginia would be the fallback line. Thus the race to the Dan River began at Beattie's Ford on January 30, 1781.

Realizing that they had the upper hand against a superior force, the Americans skillfully began to use rainy weather and sloppy road conditions to their advantage. Road conditions were horrible. Freezing by night and thawing by day created misery for foot soldiers as well as for supply wagons and horse-drawn artillery. It rained off and on throughout the chase causing the rivers to rise and move swifter. General Morgan's delay tactics at fording sites impeded the enemy's advance. Choke points for the British line of march almost always encountered resistance at crossing points. The British moved as fast as possible, but the Americans were always a step ahead.

A few days into the chase, Generals Greene and Morgan met again in Salisbury, North Carolina to reassess the enemy's situation. General Huger's command had not arrived yet from South Carolina, and Lord Cornwallis quickly continued the chase after crossing the Catawba River. The Americans had to keep moving north.

General Greene's next stop was the Guilford Court House at Guilford, North Carolina. He and General Morgan reached the town despite a steady rain in only two days. A dispatch was sent by courier to General Huger revising the rendezvous location from Salisbury to Guilford Court House. In anticipation of the Dan River crossing, a military engineer was sent ahead to organize and construct defensive positions at several fording sites.

Lord Cornwallis continued marching his army to a Yadkin River crossing site at Shallow Ford, North Carolina. It was slow, tough marching in miserable, cold, and wet conditions. The river was swift, the water high. Man and beast suffered every step of the way.

General Greene divided his army, deploying a small force to act as decoys at shallow places along the Dan River. The main body of his command continued to the crossing sites where earthworks had been constructed, and bateau boats were waiting for wagons, artillery and troops. The crossing began on February 14, 1781. As the river crossing operation was completed, the first British regulars arrived to find entrenched Americans defending the river's opposite side.

Our southern army enjoyed a week of rest on the north side of the Dan River. Reinforcements and supplies arrived with fresh provisions. General Greene briefly contemplated an attack on the British now massed on the other side.



Major General Nathanael Greene crossing the Dan River

Lord Cornwallis, humbled by the American's race to the Dan River, considered his options. Beyond supply lines with exhausted troops and many in need of medical attention, Lord Cornwallis wisely chose to withdraw. In frustration to capture and annihilate General Greene's southern army, the British ultimately pulled back and regrouped in Hillsborough, North Carolina to fight another day.

FINALE


The next month both field forces finally met at the Battle of Guilford Court House. It was a slugfest between armies. Eventually General Greene withdrew from the battlefield. Lord Cornwallis claimed a Pyrrhic victory. The American victories at the Battle of Kings Mountain and the Cowpens and the near-victory at Guilford Court House attrited British strength to the point that it caused Lord Cornwallis to limp southeast to British occupied Wilmington, North Carolina for resupply and much needed medical attention. He had had enough of the Carolina's "hornets nest" as he put it. From Wilmington the Brits marched north to Yorktown, Virginia in hopes of meeting their navy. That was a failure too. Hopelessly surrounded by American continentals and with their backs to the wide York River, Lord Cornwallis capitulated to General Washington on October 19, 1781.

Sources:

1. US Army Infantry. National Infantry Association.
2. The American Revolution in North Carolina.
3. The Prizery. Significance of the Crossing of the Dan.
4. Mouzon's 1775 Map
5. Major General Nathanael Greene crossing the Dan River

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH – NOVEMBER 2020

Elderly, Family, Health, Parents



NOVEMBER

[Home](#) / [U.S.](#) / National Family Caregivers Month

Caregiving is a tough job. This November, we remember the people who lovingly give baths, clean houses, shop for, and comfort the millions of elderly and ill people who are friends and loved ones. November is National Family Caregivers Month and this year's theme is "Caregiving Around the Clock." Check out the latest helpful hints and community resources because if you don't take care of yourself, you can't take care of anyone else.

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-family-caregivers-month/>

Ted's Page

Better Than a Red Convertible



Many rural boys and girls during the Great Depression would have wished their parents would trade in the old Model A or other make of family car for a red convertible. But even if the parents could afford it, a red convertible was then thought too pretentious. I admired parental teachings and carried the negative appraisal of a red convertible into adulthood. Then, one day, in retirement here in Tucson, I thought: "Who cares?" I got a red convertible. You have to know the geography of Tucson to appreciate how much I loved driving it on the curves and hills of River Road or, especially, on Roller Coaster (true to its name) Road. You may think that was the only thrilling ride this white-haired old soldier ever had. It wasn't. At Phu Bai, in my second Vietnam tour, I had use of a Cayuse, an LOH-6, called a



"Loach." I had ridden in several UH-1 choppers, Hueys; but the Loach, then a new bird, was much different. I often took it to look in on the seven meteorology sections under my operational control. They were located at far-ranging sites in the Corps Area of Operations, near the DMZ. One day, on the way to Camp J.J. Carroll which I will describe in another article, I had a wild ride in one.

The Loach's shape was aerodynamic. Small and fast, looking more like a child's toy than a wartime vehicle, it has been described as egg-shaped. I have read that in concert with a gunship it roved hills and valleys, hunting the enemy. But when I was in it, the pilot and I, with only .45 pistols as weapons, wanted to avoid enemy notice. In the photo (above) the little hole in the plexiglass may have been for ventilation or perhaps was a bullet hole, or both. Down on the skid, that black rectangular object is the brief case Marie gave me before I left the home fires. I thought that when I dropped in at the meteorology sections they'd laugh at me for carrying that decorative container for my papers, so out of place in a combat area. They didn't. In addition to being the best meteorology sections in my admittedly biased view, they were unexplainably loyal.

With two warrant officers, the only ones in it, the pilot and I, we were overflying the Hue area one day when we ran into rain, not a thunderstorm, just a mild rain but enough for raindrops to collect on the plexiglass front. It was the first time I had flown in the Loach during rain. Raindrops soon were lowering visibility, to me, in a sort of alarming way. The pilot looked at me, sensing an unspoken question. "I just increase the speed to 60 mph," he said. "Sixty mph is my windshield wiper." He did it and the rain simply rolled away from the canopy as if an invisible hand wiped it off, while it was still raining.



When things were not too exciting, there was time to be filled with something. For some of the XXIVth Corps staff at Phu Bai, that something seemed to be a visit with the chief of the team working on that mysterious thing, meteorology. In the photo at left, two lawyers, Capt. Jim Moody and seven-foot-tall Lt. Jack Spears stand under the sign: *XXIVth Corps Artillery/ Metro Quality Control*). In the photo below it, Jim Moody sits on our plotting table with a major whose job was so important I shouldn't have committed his name to memory.

A Red Cross civilian also often visited. They all became good friends. To keep from disturbing my research on studies of better methods, or from work on my newsletters to the sections, only two at a time would pop in. I would look up from my desk and engage in conversation, always about meteorology. They were serious, eager to learn more about meteorology, and that pleased me. Meanwhile, my expert assistants, two specialists and a sergeant, busy checking the seven sections' radiosonde calculations on plotting tables or proofreading my typed work, would overhear the conversations and ignore them in a proper military way. When I was not there, I was often in the Loach on my way to a section.

One day, while going to Quang Tri, the pilot and I spotted a downed chopper. We dropped low for a closer look. It was a Loach, obviously disabled, sitting in a rice field. The Loach's pilot and others in fatigues stood beside the bird. Vietnamese civilians gathering near them appeared to be friendly, but one could never be sure. We landed in the rice. I jumped out to see what was happening. What a surprise! The major from Phu Bai with the very important job greeted me. "Is everything under control?" I asked. It was. He said he had help, (the others in fatigues) and more was on its way. Satisfied they didn't need us, we left. A few weeks later, at Phu Bai, he came into my office and quickly brought up that rice-field day. In mock seriousness, laughing wholeheartedly at the sheer unlikelihood of our meeting in a rice field among uncertain Vietnamese, he said, "I thought we were in real trouble. But when I saw you, chief, hopping out of that Loach, I knew everything was going to be OK."



NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

YOU CAN EITHER CALL IN BY PHONE OR LOGIN USING YOUR COMPUTER BY JUST PLACING YOUR COMPUTER MOUSE POINTER OVER THE BLUE LINK PROVIDED BELOW AND “LEFT CLICK” ONCE

Jean Nelson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MOWW Nov Meeting

Time: Nov 7, 2020 01:00 PM Arizona Local Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83665279861?pwd=YXFMM3R0VUJ5TzRnL2V0aXppbTMwQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 6527 9861

Passcode: 995325

One tap mobile

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Passcode: 995325

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kfTospVJA>