

## The Revolution in February.

### Hessians

February 5th 1776

The King of England and his nephew the Count of Hesse-Hanau agreed on the use of 600 Hessian troops in the American colonies. Before the revolution was over some 16,000 German troops would serve in the British Army in North America. So hated was the use of such Auxiliary troops it was listed as one of the 27 grievances in the Declaration of Independence.

### A Navy of Our Own

February 17th

Eight ships of the "American" navy set sail for the Bahamas. The goal was the seizure of gunpowder kept at the British armory in New Providence. Additional American ships were reported by British agents to have ported in Spain to acquire war material. On February 28<sup>th</sup> the Spanish crown gave orders to his fleet in the west indies to set up patrols so that British ship movements could be monitored. Said intelligence would then be given to the French and, through the French, to the Americans.



This painting represents the French fleet saluting the American ship Ranger in February 1778. The first American flag ship to be recognized by the French.

## Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge

February 27, 1776.

After a month of rumors that the British were to send a force to N. Carolina, Tory militia that had formed in the interior of the state began moving to the coastal cities. They would be blocked by Patriot militia at Moore's Creek bridge on the road to Wilmington. The resulting fight was bloody and decisive in the defeat of the Loyalists. It effectively broke N. Carolina loyalist sentiment for the remainder of the Revolution.



BARON STEUBEN DRILLING THE TROOPS.

February 23rd, 1778

The Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Von Steuben arrived at Washington's camp at Valley Forge. Yes, he was neither a Baron nor a General. But he had been the Aide-de-camp of Frederick the Great and had Prussian General Staff Training. In an American Army where many officers had virtually no military training, he stood out. He was the first truly effective inspector general for the US Army. He also authored the standard drill manual used by the US Army until the War of 1812.

## The Battle of Beaufort

**February 3rd, 1779:**

After taking Savannah, the British now eyed South Carolina as its next step in what was called the Southern Strategy. And the first target was Beaufort (or Port Royal Island). The British sent 200 regulars to seize the remains of the fort and the ferry connecting the island to the shore. The 300 American militia defending the island held their ground, forcing the British to withdraw with heavy casualties. Eleven days later Col Andrew Pickens defeated a large Tory force at Kettle Creek Georgia.

## Illinois Territory

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, 1779,**

Col George Rogers Clark takes the British Fort Sackville and the community of Vincennes. It put an end to British inspired Indian raids against outposts in Kentucky and western Virginia.



**Feb 29<sup>th</sup>, 1780**

Catherine the Great of Russia establishes the league of armed neutrality. The purpose was to halt Britain's interdiction of neutral merchant ships sailing to America. Eventually all of Scandinavia, Austria, Portugal and Prussia would be members against Britain.