

FRANCIS MARION “THE SWAMP FOX”

By: Jack Honkala



BRIEF HISTORY

- Francis Marion was a Militia commander in the American Revolution
- He led his troops in Guerilla style raids on the British supply lines, and ambushed any British troops in the surrounding area
- He and his troops were stationed on Snow's Island, South Carolina
- They were tasked with the orders to cause as much confusion and chaos as possible in the British lines, also to capture the supply lines, and to mount raids on any British encampments



EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Francis Marion was born in 1732 on a plantation in Berkeley County, South Carolina
- When he was 15 years old he joined the crew of a ship and sailed to the West Indies
- The ship he was on sank and he was stranded at sea for a week with the 7 man crew
- After the shipwreck, Marion decided to stick to land, managing his family's plantation until he joined the South Carolina militia at 25 to fight in the French and Indian War

RISE TO POWER

- After the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, the Provincial Congress voted to start 3 regiments, making Marion a captain in the second
- His first assignments involved guarding artillery and building Fort Sullivan, in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina
- For the next three years, he stayed at the fort, filling in the time by trying to discipline his troops, which he found to be a disorderly, drunken bunch



WHAT HE DID



- He had his first military success when he led 50 men in a raid against the British. Hiding in dense foliage of a swamp, the unit attacked an enemy camp from behind and rescued 150 American prisoners
- Marion got his nickname “The Swamp Fox” when British Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton, was told where Marion was hiding by an escaped prisoner, he then chased the American militia for seven hours, covering 26 miles. Marion escaped into a swamp, and Tarleton gave up
- He stayed in the swamps of South Carolina until the end of the war, harassing the British

AFTER THE WAR

- After the war, Marion went back to the quiet life of a gentleman farmer
- At 54, he finally married a 49-year old cousin, Mary Esther Videau
- He was in charge of a peacetime militia brigade and served in the South Carolina Assembly
- he opposed punishing Americans who had remained loyal to the British during the war



CONCLUSION

- Francis Marion was instrumental in the resistance against the British in the south, keeping them at bay and preventing them from going north and attacking the Continental Army
- He was one of the few commanders in the revolution to return to his home plantation and continue on with farming
- If it wasn't for him the British would have possibly defeated the Continental Army

