

George Washington
on the Hudson

August 25th

The Battle of
Stony Point

Rob Pucke reporting from the field

PRESS-GANGED AT BOSCOBEL

It was a beautiful day for a re-enactment. First off--a lesson in 18th cent. ammo.

We roll the cartridges ourselves. Take a triangle of newsprint. Roll it so there's a pouch at one end. Fill it with gunpowder. Then crimp the other end.

JOE RYAN, PRESIDENT, LIVING HISTORY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

You need to have two teeth in your head to be in the Continental Army--one on the top and one on the bottom so you can bite your cartridge.

CHOMP

With that, the army began recruiting. Anyone with two or more teeth was a target. Some of the recruits were quite young.

They drilled and drilled--for 20 minutes!

They must've learned all they needed because I overheard Tom Conner say...

I'd take you into battle anytime.

You'll have to ask my parents.

George Washington, a man truly above all men, inspected the troops. He stood a head taller than the soldiers--in the case of the newest recruits, 2 heads taller!

GARY PETERLINE BG ANTHONY WARNE

JOHN KOOPMAN III GEORGE WASHINGTON

Then they all went off to war.

Our hearts were stirred by patriotic music sung to the harpsichord.

Here's a health to Old England, the King and the Church, our Army and Navy! May all contriving plotters be left in the lurch, ever victorious.

THE 6000 SUBJECTS published 1775, 3 Strand, London. Edited shortly thereafter by Anne

ELIZA VINCE

ERIK LUCHACK

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The 6th NY Independent Battery blasted off a 3 lb. Motts cannon, and a 12 lb. Napoleon. The battle was about to begin.

We, the audience, proceeded to the battlefield. There, without any allowance for personal preference, we were rounded up and told...

You are now British.

Don't worry, there's not going to be a sneak attack. But IF I'm wrong, hold the river and divide the country in two!

SEAN GRADY BRITISH LTC HENRY JOHNSON

Moments later, a column wobbly grasp on their...

of urchins with a steely look in their eyes and a guns marched over the horizon. They stopped every 20 paces or so to fire. It wasn't the least bit scary.

It's called Linear Warfare.

What?

Huh?

Suddenly, it hit us. The urchins were a fakeout. The real action was swooping in from either side.

Excuse us.

The fort is ours!

The fort is ours!

On a tactical level it's hard to gain the element of surprise. The center column was a diversion. To use a boxing analogy, the middle column was like a jab to the face. The other columns came in with a left hook and a right hook.

Col. Jim Johnson recapped for me:

LEFT HOOK

JAB

RIGHT HOOK

BRITISH CHIN

STONY POINT

The result was this: the British (who now included me!) were defeated.

General Washington read his letter to Congress.

The artillery and stores will be a valuable acquisition to us, especially in our scarcity of heavy cannons for the forts. The event will have a good effect on the minds of the people--give our troops greater confidence in themselves and depress the spirits of the enemy proportionately. Every officer and man of the corps deserves great credit.

JOHN KOOPMAN III AUTHOR: GEORGE WASHINGTON AT WAR-1776

We "Brits" had mixed feelings about the letter, but the Americans seemed to be moved...

...until they were paid for their efforts in worthless currency.

Just as it happened in history.

Additional Participants: Duryea Zouaves 5th NY Co. D, West Point Black Knights Rifle Drill Team, Brian Dennis, Luisa Mosteiro, Jonathan Krak, Robert Costello as President Lincoln, Larry and Connie Clowers as The Grants, Co. B 6th NY Volunteer Cavalry, Historic 15th NY Volunteer Cavalry Co. L, 3rd NY, Union Signal ©delucke2019

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