

Parkers Ferry August 30, 1781

Location: Parkers Ferry Road, about 30 miles north-northwest of Charleston

Commanders: Americans - Brigadier General Francis Marion

 Loyalists: Thomas Fraser

Casualties: Americas: 1 killed, 3 wounded

 Loyalists: Many killed, unknown number

 Many Wounded, unknown number

In early August of 1781, Major General Nathanael Greene sent Brigadier General Francis Marion and a force of 200 soldiers to Parkers Ferry to reinforce Col. William Harden. About 450 local Tories were creating an uprising in the area. Marion had to march over 100 miles to get to Parker's Ferry.

When Marion joined Harden, they brilliantly set up an ambush on the causeway that led to Parker's Ferry, lining both sides of the road with riflemen hidden among the trees. He sent his fastest cavalry as decoys to lure Fraser into the trap. As Fraser ordered his men to charge the Americans, they were wedged onto the narrow road. Marion allowed the Tories to proceed a distance, then gave the order to fire. As they ran straight into the ambush, they were forced to "run the gauntlet" to either pass through or retreat. As they entered the killing zone, they had only one direction to go. Being too narrow to turn around, they could only go forward, passing through a barrage of buckshot. Although being wounded, Fraser rallied his men and launched an attack. He was soon hit two more times by the Americans. The Tories soon had no choice but to retreat with their few remaining forces back to Parkers Ferry. Fraser's horse was shot out from under him, and he was greatly bruised as his own men ran over him.

Marion and Harden's men could not pursue the Tories because of a lack of ammunition.

Sources

https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_parkers_ferry_2.html

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