



Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

British Army

The British Army of the late 18th century was a volunteer force.

Unlike the navy, there was no impressment or conscription into the army, a point of pride for most British subjects.

The majority of men who volunteered for service were farm laborers or tradesmen who were out of work.

Life in the army promised steady pay, regular meals, and a way to escape grinding poverty.

By the eve of the American Revolution, the majority of the men in the ranks had never seen active military service and were not battle hardened veterans.

As the war in America dragged on the British Army expanded rapidly.

Up until the Revolutionary War, the British army had only fought European-style warfare on an open battlefield.

The British army didn't know the local terrain as well as the Continental Army did and weren't trained to fight guerrilla-style warfare in the wilderness.

Until early-1778 the conflict was a civil war within the British Empire.

It later became an international war as France (1778) and Spain (1779) joined the colonies against Britain.

The British government, following a traditional policy, purchased about 30,000 Hessian troops from various German princes to assist them in America.

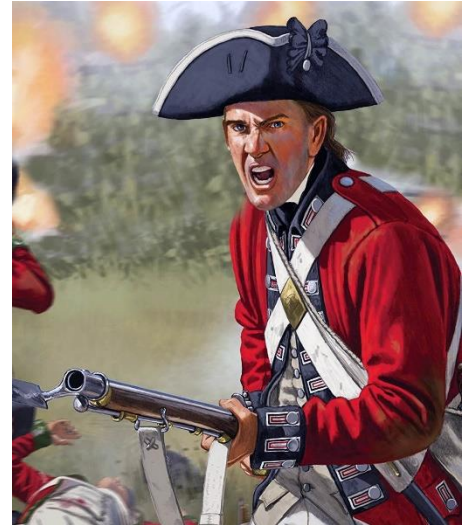
From the beginning, sea power was vital in determining the course of the war.

This lent to a strategy of flexibility that helped compensate for the comparatively small numbers of troops sent to America.

At least 50,000 soldiers fought in America, with many more serving in the West Indies, Europe, and India.

Britain struggled to meet these manpower needs with volunteer enlistments and soon turned to other means.

An estimated 6,800 Americans were killed in action, 6,100 wounded, and upwards of 20,000 were taken prisoner. Historians believe that at least an additional 17,000 deaths were the result of disease, including about 8,000–12,000 who died while prisoners of war.



Unreliable data places the total casualties of British regulars in the Revolutionary War at 24,000 men.

This total number includes battlefield deaths and injuries, deaths from disease, men taken prisoner, and those who remained missing.

Approximately 1,200 Hessian soldiers were killed, 6,354 died of disease and another 5,500 deserted and settled in America afterward.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: www.sar.org

Presented by: The Hawaii Society Sons of the American Revolution

<https://hawaiisar.org/> For more:
<https://bit.ly/3oYiEgM>