

1 JUNE 16, 1775 - LATER - GEN. ARTEMAS WARD of Massachusetts ORDERS COL. WM. PRESCOTT with 1000 MINUTE-MEN and MILITIA from Massachusetts and Connecticut to MARCH from CAMBRIDGE to BUNKER HILL (4 miles) and to FORTIFY that POINT against anticipated BRITISH OFFENSIVE - 9 PM - THE COLONIALS later JOINED by GEN. ISRAEL PUTNAM of Connecticut, CROSS CHARLESTOWN NECK, where CAPT. NUTTING'S COMMAND IS DETACHED to PATROL the TOWN and BEACH, while MAIN FORCE CLIMBS BUNKER HILL - Here a COUNCIL of WAR (Gen. Putnam prevailing), IT IS DECIDED to FORTIFY BREED'S HILL instead of BUNKER, as more EFFECTIVE against SHIPPING in the RIVER as well as BEARING (at small cannon range) upon BRITISH ENCAMPMENT in BOSTON.



A Chart of the Action of June 17th 1775

between his Britannic Majesty's Troops garrisoned at Boston, and American Colonial Volunteers of Massachusetts, Connecticut & New Hampshire, on the Heights of Charlestown at Breed's Hill and known as the

Battle of Bunker Hill

designed after sketch made on the field by Lieut. Henry DeBerniere 2^d H.B.M. 14th Regiment of Infantry

EXPLANATION

BRITISH TROOPS & ACTION... RED
COLONIALS... BLUE

ARROWS MARK DIRECTIONS OF MOVEMENTS

STATISTICS

TROOPS ENGAGED	
BRITISH (rank & file)	about 2200
COLONIALS	1500
Although about 2200 Colonials were on the field and in reserve on Bunker Hill, not more than 1500 of them participated in action at any time	

CASUALTIES

	KILLED	WOUNDED	TOTAL
BRITISH	226	828	1054
COLONIALS	140	271	411
	CAPTURED	432	
	TOTAL	442	

Note: While the sequences of action as here given are authentic, the chronologies are merely a careful approximation, all within 15 minutes of accuracy.

The Battle of Bunker Hill

(On page one of the picture section of this issue is a reproduction of Trumbull's famous painting of the battle of Bunker Hill.)

By JOHN A. MENAUGH

A BLAST of withering fire poured from the muzzles of flintlock muskets over and out from a crude barricade. Brightness of day made the flashes from slow-burning powder almost indiscernible. A cloud of smoke billowed up from the ground the instant the muskets spoke.

To more than a few of the advancing redcoats, marching smartly to deliver an attack with bayonets, this volley from the barrier brought death. The British van appeared to shudder and melt away. Light infantrymen and fusiliers, under cocked hats and shakos, the crossed white belts on their scarlet breasts offering excellent targets to Yankee marksmen, tumbled right and left. Some pitched forward

on their faces. Others crumpled and sagged to earth as their knees gave way. Still others reeled and fell clumsily.

Company lines were broken by this shower of American musket balls. Front lines gave way, and companies from behind pressed forward, only to be riddled in turn by the fire from farmers and little tradesmen in homespun breeches and shirt sleeves. Officers cursed and shouted and begged their men to charge the barricade. But the fire they faced was too

intense. They wavered. Then they broke and ran back along the beach upon which they had marched so confidently.

Thus in the early afternoon of June 17, 1775—161 years ago next Wednesday—was delivered the initial assault of the British, and thus was the attack repulsed by the Americans at the battle of Bunker Hill, an engagement that has gone down in American history as one of great importance.

Compared with many great and decisive battles of history

Bunker Hill was a minor affair. Relatively few men were engaged in it, and the casualties, although extremely heavy in proportion to the total of those taking part, were counted in the hundreds rather than in the thousands. But Bunker Hill was of vast importance in these respects: It taught the Americans, who up to that time had been engaged in war in a half-hearted way, that they could stand up against the best of European armies. It gave them confidence in their ability. It taught the British a wholesome respect for the fighting qualities of the Yankees. Throughout the remainder of the Revolutionary war the trained soldiers of King George showed extreme hesitancy in attacking Americans in defended positions. This caution on the [Continued on page eight.]