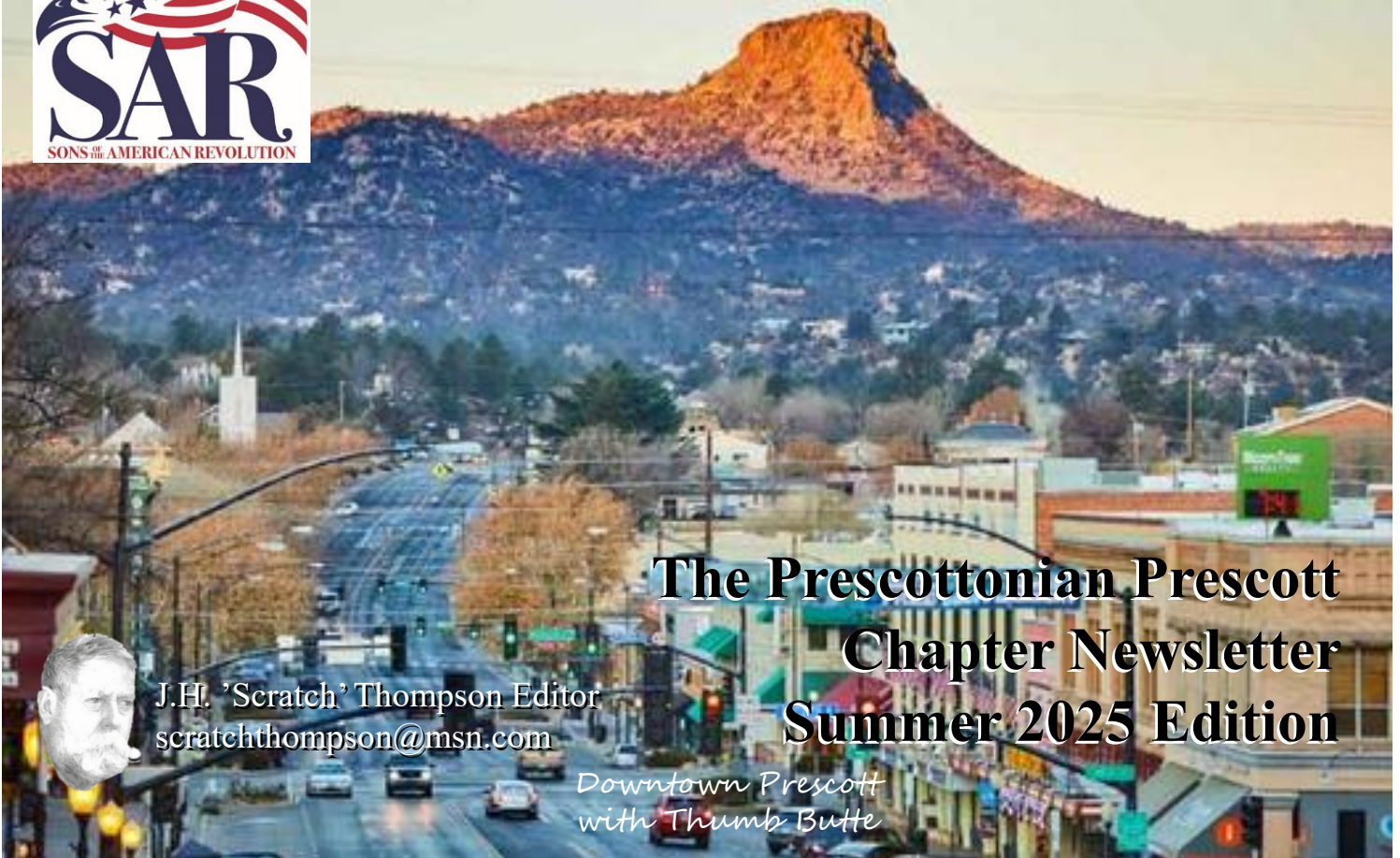




The Prescottonian Prescott Chapter Newsletter Summer 2025 Edition

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*Downtown Prescott
with Thumb Butte*

<https://www.facebook.com/PrescottChapterSAR>
<http://www.sarprescottaz.com/>

2025 Prescott Chapter Board Members:

President Jack Berry
Secretary/Treasure Ron Castle
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Info Officer Paul Kerper
ROTC Dick Melick & Bill Oden

Vice President Rob Berryman
Historian Bill Walters
Color Guard Captain Alan White
Chaplain Tim Prater
Genealogist Wayne Hallford

Chancellor & Eagle Scouts Hal Reniger

Lunch Meetings Calendar
and Guest Speakers



All Lunch Meetings held at
Hassayampa Inn at noon
122 E Gurley St, Prescott

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, October 11^h – Speaker Tom McColloch,

Topic 'History of Railroads in Prescott'

Saturday, November 8th Annual SAR/DAR Luncheon

with Battle of Lexington and Concord skit

Saturday, December 13th - No meeting scheduled

President's Corner by Jack Berry



Fellow compatriots:

Since being elected president of the Prescott Chapter in December 2020, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your president and representing our chapter at various events throughout the Arizona Society. I would like to thank all those chapter members who served on the board or a committee for their dedication, hard work, fellowship and support.

Over the past five years, the Prescott Chapter has exceeded expectations in terms of membership and financial growth. By participating in patriotic events throughout each year, the chapter also accomplished its mission of honoring our patriotic families, supporting the community, and honoring veterans.

It is now time for others to step up and lead this great chapter. In my parting farewell, my last official act will be to swear in the new president at the annual SAR/DAR luncheon on November 8, 2025. It will be a wonderful and entertaining event.

In Patriotism

Jack Berry



Annual SAR/DAR Luncheon

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Lunch begins at 11:00 a.m.

at the Marina Room of the Hassayampa Inn

Featuring:

‘The Battle of Lexington and Concord’ skit by SAR/DAR

Dennis De Atley, as Patrick Henry's address to the Second Virginia Convention, “Give me Liberty, or Give me Death!”

Chris Francis ‘with his rendition of the Minuet

The meal will be a choice between:

Salmon Beurre Blanc, Grilled Chicken Alfredo, or Angus beef tips

Cost is lunch is **\$45**, which is all inclusive No walk-ins

make checks payable to: **SAR Prescott Chapter**

mail to: **Ron Castle**

3529 N. Robert Rd.

Prescott Valley, 86314

Revolutionary Trivia

Which Treaty officially ended the war? Answer pg.17

September 13th Speaker Constable Ron Williams:
The Murder of Yavapai County Deputy Sheriff Johnny Murphy and the Hanging of Dennis W. "Gus" Dilda.



Ron Castle with Constable Ron Williams



Constable Ron Williams

Deputy Sheriff John Murphy was shot and killed in Walnut Creek by man he was questioning about the theft of a gold watch.

The man had previously murdered a prospector and thought that was why Deputy Murphy was coming to question him. He saw the deputy approaching, hid, and then shot him in the back.

The suspect then buried Deputy Murphy's body under his cabin and fled the area. The suspect's wife reported the murder to the county sheriff. The subject was later caught, convicted, and hanged on February 5th, 1886.

Deputy Murphy was interred in Citizens Cemetery in Prescott, Arizona.

September 13th Awards



Jack Berry presenting Supplemental Certificate to Roger Williams.



Jack Berry presenting Supplemental Certificate to Leo Scott.



Past Sons of the Union Veterans Department of the Southwest
Commander **Tim Prater** presenting **Ron Castle** with a Certificate of Commendation for his help in preserving the memory of soldiers and sailors of the Civil War.

New Member



Seth Peters

Seth who transferred from the Big Sandy Chapter in Prestonsburg, Kentucky to the Prescott Chapter. He is 19-year-old college student attending Yavapai College in Prescott.

July 6th Prescott Frontier Days Prescott Rodeo, Prescott SAR annual bartending fund raiser



left to right is Terry Williams, Lily Gannon, Hal Reniger, Steve Bigelow, Karon Larsen, and the cashier.

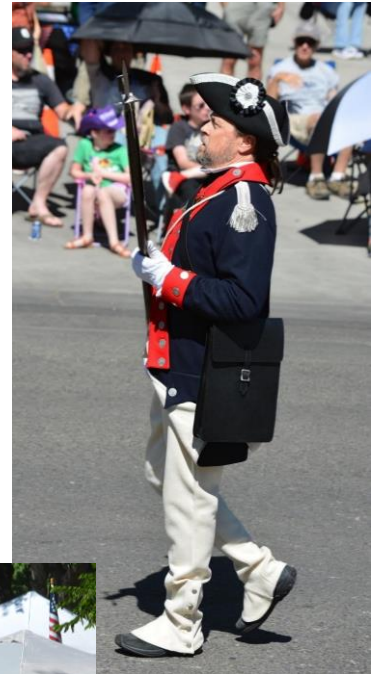


left to right is Bill Oden, Andi Castro, Tammy Boyer, Jack Berry and Lynne Cesena and Bill Walters

left to right is Alan White, Robyn White, Greg Valenti, Ron Castle and Joanne Haubrick.



4th of July Parade downtown Prescott



AZSAR Color
Guard Commander
Stu Morse



left to right: Mark Seifert, Barry Goldwater Chapter; AZSAR Color Guard Commander Stu Morse of the Barry Goldwater Chapter; Martin Bennett, Prescott Chapter; Prescott Chapter Color Guard Captain Alan White; Rob Berryman, Prescott Chapter; Christopher Francis, Tucson Chapter; Tom Chittenden, Prescott Chapter and Wayne Hood, Prescott Chapter. Kneeling is Ron Castle, Prescott Chapter and Brad Hopkins, Palo Verde Chapter.

Speaker Prescott Mayor Phil Goode, 'Origin of City of Prescott's Name', June 14, 2025.



Tim Prater presenting Phil Goode with a photo of Veterans taken at a chapter meeting in 2018

Phil Goode, who was the speaker at the chapter meeting on June 15, 2025. His topic was "Why we pronounce it Preskitt, not Prescott. The city's founding and connection to the Revolutionary War."



Celebration 250th Anniversary of U.S. Army at the Prescott Chapter meeting on June 14, 2025. Veterans of the chapter are left to right Jack Berry, Tom Chittenden, Steve Bigelow, Dick Melick, Bill Walters, Tim Prater, Ron Castle, Phil Goode, Chip Shay, Scratch Thompson, and Steve Monez.



Tim Prater

The battle of Bunker Hill

The **Battle of Bunker Hill** was fought on June 17, 1775, during the [Siege of Boston](#) in the first stage of the [American Revolutionary War](#).^[5] The battle is named after Bunker Hill in [Charlestown, Massachusetts](#), which was peripherally involved. It was the original objective of both the colonial and British troops, though the majority of combat took place on the adjacent hill, which became known as [Breed's Hill](#).^{[6][7]}

On June 13, 1775, the leaders of the colonial forces besieging Boston learned that the British were planning to send troops out from the city to fortify the unoccupied hills surrounding the city, which would give them control of Boston Harbor. In response, 1,200 colonial troops under the command of [William Prescott](#) stealthily occupied Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill. They constructed a strong [redoubt](#) on Breed's Hill overnight, as well as smaller fortified lines across the [Charlestown Peninsula](#).^[8]

By daybreak of June 17, the British became aware of the presence of colonial forces on the Peninsula and mounted an attack against them. Two assaults on the colonial positions were repulsed with significant British casualties but the redoubt was captured on their third assault, after the defenders ran out of ammunition. The colonists retreated over Bunker Hill, leaving the British^[9] in control of the Peninsula.^[10]

The battle was a tactical victory for the British,^{[11][12]} but it proved to be a sobering experience for them; they incurred many more casualties than the Americans had sustained, including many officers. The battle had demonstrated that inexperienced militia were able to stand up to regular army troops in battle. Subsequently, the battle discouraged the British from any further frontal attacks against well defended front lines. American casualties were much fewer, although their losses included General [Joseph Warren](#) and Major [Andrew McClary](#), the final casualty of the battle.^[13]

The battle led the British to adopt a more cautious planning and maneuver execution in future engagements, which was evident in the subsequent [New York and New Jersey campaign](#). The costly engagement also convinced the British of the need to hire substantial numbers of [Hessian auxiliaries](#) to bolster their strength in the face of the new and formidable [Continental Army](#).

[Boston](#) was situated on [a peninsula](#)^[a] at the time and was largely protected from close approach by the expanses of water surrounding it, which were dominated by British warships. In the aftermath of the [battles of Lexington and Concord](#) on April 19, 1775, the colonial militia of some 15,000 men^[14] had surrounded the town and besieged it under the command of [Artemas Ward](#). They controlled the only land access to Boston itself (the Roxbury Neck), but they were unable to contest British domination of the waters of the harbor. The British troops occupied the city, a force of about 6,000 under the command of General [Thomas Gage](#), and they were able to be resupplied and reinforced by sea.^[15] However, the land across the water from Boston contained a number of hills which could be used to advantage. Artillery could be placed on the hills and used to bombard the city until the occupying army evacuated it or surrendered. It was with this in mind that [Henry Knox](#) led the [noble train of artillery](#) to transport cannon from [Fort Ticonderoga](#).^[16]

The Charlestown Peninsula to the north of Boston started from a short, narrow isthmus known as the [Charlestown Neck](#) and extended about 1 mile (1.6 km) southeastward into Boston Harbor. Bunker Hill had an elevation of 110 feet (34 m) and lay at the northern end of the peninsula. Breed's Hill had a height of 62 feet (19 m) and was more southerly and nearer to Boston.^[17] The American soldiers were at an advantage due to the height of Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill, but it also essentially trapped them at the top.^{[18][19]} The settled part of the town of [Charlestown](#) occupied flats at the southern end of the peninsula. At its closest approach, less than 1,000 feet (300 m) separated the Charlestown Peninsula from the Boston Peninsula, where [Copp's Hill](#) was at about the same height as Breed's Hill. The British retreat from Concord had ended in Charlestown, but General Gage did not fortify the hills on the peninsula but instead withdrew his troops to Boston, turning the entire Charlestown Peninsula into a no man's land.^[20]

British planning

The British received reinforcements throughout May until they reached a strength of about 6,000 men. Generals [William Howe](#), [John Burgoyne](#), and [Henry Clinton](#) arrived on May 25 aboard [HMS Cerberus](#).

The battle of Bunker Hill

Gage began planning with them to break out of the city,^[21] finalizing a plan on June 12.^[22] This plan began with taking the Dorchester Neck, fortifying the [Dorchester Heights](#), and then marching on the colonial forces stationed in Roxbury. Once the southern flank had been secured, the Charlestown heights would be taken, and the forces in Cambridge driven away. The attack was set for June 18.^[23]

On June 13, the [Committee of Safety](#) in [Exeter, New Hampshire](#), notified the [Massachusetts Provincial Congress](#) that a New Hampshire gentleman "of undoubted veracity" had overheard the British commanders making plans to capture Dorchester and Charlestown.^[24] On June 15, the Massachusetts Committee of Safety decided that additional defenses needed to be erected.^[25] General Ward directed General [Israel Putnam](#) to set up defenses on the Charlestown Peninsula, specifically on Bunker Hill.^{[26][27]}



Prelude to battle

Fortification of Breed's Hill

On the night of June 16, colonial Colonel [William Prescott](#) led about 1,200 men onto the peninsula in order to set up positions from which artillery fire could be directed into Boston.^[28] This force was made up of men from the regiments of Prescott, Putnam (the unit was commanded by [Thomas Knowlton](#)), [James Frye](#), and Ebenezer Bridge.^[29] At first, Putnam, Prescott, and their engineer Captain [Richard Gridley](#) disagreed as to where they should locate their defense. Some work was performed on Bunker Hill, but Breed's Hill was closer to Boston and viewed as being more defensible, and they decided to build their primary redoubt there.^[30] Prescott and his men began digging a square fortification about 130 feet (40 m) on a side with ditches and earthen walls. The walls of the redoubt were about 6 feet (1.8 m) high, with a wooden platform inside on which men could stand and fire over the walls.^{[31][32]}

The works on Breed's Hill did not go unnoticed by the British. General Clinton was out on reconnaissance that night and was aware of them, and he tried to convince Gage and Howe that they needed to prepare to attack the position at daylight. British sentries were also aware of the activity, but most apparently did not think it cause for alarm.^[33] A sentry on board [HMS *Lively*](#) spotted the new

The battle of Bunker Hill

fortification around 4 a.m. and notified his captain. *Lively* opened fire, temporarily halting the colonists' work. Admiral [Samuel Graves](#) awoke aboard his flagship [HMS Somerset](#), irritated by the gunfire that he had not ordered.^[34] He stopped it, only to have General Gage countermand his decision when he became fully aware of the situation in the morning. He ordered all 128 guns in the harbor to fire on the colonial position, along with batteries atop Copp's Hill in Boston.^[35] The barrage had relatively little effect, as the hilltop fortifications were high enough to frustrate accurate aiming from the ships and far enough from Copp's Hill to render the batteries there ineffective. The shots that did manage to land, however, were able to kill one American soldier and damage the entire supply of water brought for the troops.^[36]

The rising sun also alerted Prescott to a significant problem with the location of the redoubt: it could easily be flanked on either side.^[33] He promptly ordered his men to begin constructing a [breastwork](#) running down the hill to the east, deciding that he did not have the manpower to also build additional defenses to the west of the redoubt.^[37]

British preparations

The British generals met to discuss their options. General Clinton had urged an attack as early as possible, and he preferred an attack beginning from the Charlestown Neck that would cut off the colonists' retreat, reducing the process of capturing the new redoubt to one of starving out its occupants. However, he was outvoted by the other three generals, who were concerned that his plan violated the convention of the time to not allow one's army to become trapped between enemy forces.^[38] Howe was the senior officer present and would lead the assault, and he was of the opinion that the hill was "open and easy of ascent and in short would be easily carried."^[39] General Burgoyne concurred, arguing that the "untrained rabble" would be no match for their "trained troops".^[40] Orders were then issued to prepare the expedition.^[41]

[General Gage](#) surveyed the works from Boston with his staff, and Loyalist Abijah Willard recognized his brother-in-law Colonel Prescott. "Will he fight?" asked Gage. "As to his men, I cannot answer for them," replied Willard, "but Colonel Prescott will fight you to the gates of hell."^[42] Prescott lived up to Willard's word, but his men were not so resolute. When the colonists suffered their first casualty, Prescott gave orders to bury the man quickly and quietly, but a large group of men gave him a solemn funeral instead, with several deserting shortly thereafter.^[42]

It took six hours for the British to organize an infantry force and to gather up and inspect the men on parade. General Howe was to lead the major assault, driving around the colonial left flank and taking them from the rear. Brigadier General [Robert Pigot](#) on the British left flank would lead the direct assault on the redoubt, and Major [John Pitcairn](#) would lead the flank or reserve force. It took several trips in longboats to transport Howe's initial forces (consisting of about 1,500 men) to the eastern corner of the peninsula, known as Moulton's Point.^{[43][44]} By 2 p.m., Howe's chosen force had landed.^[43] However, while crossing the river, Howe noted the large number of colonial troops on top of Bunker Hill. He believed these to be reinforcements and immediately sent a message to Gage, requesting additional troops. He then ordered some of the light infantry to take a forward position along the eastern side of the peninsula, alerting the colonists to his intended course of action. The troops then sat down to eat while they waited for the reinforcements.^[44]

Colonists reinforce their positions

Prescott saw the British preparations and called for reinforcements. Among the reinforcements were [Joseph Warren](#), the popular young leader of the Massachusetts Committee of Safety, and [Seth Pomeroy](#), an aging Massachusetts militia leader. Both of these men held commissions of rank, but chose to serve as infantry.^[43] Prescott ordered the [Connecticut](#) men under Captain Knowlton to defend the left flank, where they used a crude dirt wall as a breastwork and topped it with fence rails and hay. They also constructed three small v-shaped trenches between this dirt wall and Prescott's breastwork. Troops that arrived to reinforce this flank position included about 200 men from the [1st](#) and [3rd New Hampshire regiments](#) under Colonels [John Stark](#) and [James Reed](#). Stark's men did not arrive until after Howe landed his forces, and thus filled a gap in the defense that Howe could have taken advantage of, had he pressed his attack sooner.^[45] They took positions along the breastwork on the northern end of the colonia

The battle of Bunker Hill

the colonia position. Low tide opened a gap along the [Mystic River](#) to the north, so they quickly extended the fence with a short stone wall to the water's edge.^{[45][46]} Colonel Stark placed a stake about 100 feet (30 m) in front of the fence and ordered that no one fire until the British regulars passed it.^[47] Further reinforcements arrived just before the battle, including portions of Massachusetts regiments of Colonels Brewer, [Nixon](#), [Woodbridge](#), [Little](#), and Major Moore, as well as Callender's company of artillery.^[48]

Confusion reigned behind the Colonial lines. Many units sent toward the action stopped before crossing the Charlestown Neck from Cambridge, which was under constant fire from gun batteries to the south. Others reached Bunker Hill, but then were uncertain where to go from there and just milled around. One commentator wrote of the scene that "it appears to me there never was more confusion and less command."^[49] [General Putnam](#) was on the scene attempting to direct affairs, but unit commanders often misunderstood or even disobeyed orders.^{[49][50]}

British assault

By 3 p.m., the British reinforcements had arrived, which included the [47th Regiment of Foot](#) and the 1st Marines, and the British were ready to march.^[51] Brigadier General Pigot's force were gathering just south of Charlestown village, and they were already taking casualties from sniper fire from the settlement. Howe asked Admiral Graves for assistance in clearing out the snipers. Graves had planned for such a possibility and ordered a [carcass](#) fired into the village, and then sent a landing party to set fire to the town.^{[52][53]} The smoke billowing from Charlestown lent an almost surreal backdrop to the fighting, as the winds were such that the smoke was kept from the field of battle.^[54] General Howe led the light infantry companies and grenadiers in the assault on the American left flank along the rail fence, expecting an easy effort against Stark's recently arrived troops.^[55] His light infantry were set along the narrow beach, in column formation, in order to turn the far left flank of the colonial position.^[56] The grenadiers were deployed in the center, lining up four deep and several hundred across. Pigot was commanding the [5th](#), [38th](#), [43rd](#), 47th, and [52nd](#) regiments, as well as Major Pitcairn's Marines; they were to feint an assault on the redoubt. Just before the British advanced, the American position along the rail fence was reinforced by two pieces of artillery from Bunker Hill.^[57]



The battle of Bunker Hill

Howe had intended the advance to be preceded by an artillery bombardment from the field pieces present, but it was soon discovered that these cannon had been supplied with the wrong caliber of ammunition, delaying the assault. Attacking Breed's Hill presented an array of difficulties. The hay on the hillside had not been harvested, requiring that the regulars marched through waist-high grass which concealed the uneven terrain beneath. The pastureland of the hillside was covered with crisscrossing rail fences hampering the cohesion of marching formations. The regulars were loaded down with gear wholly unnecessary for the attack, and the British troops were overheating in their wool uniforms under the heat of the afternoon sun, compounded by the nearby inferno from Charlestown.^{[58][59]}

The colonists withheld their fire until the regulars were within at least 50 paces of their position. As the regulars closed in range, they suffered heavy casualties from colonial fire. The colonists benefited from the rail fence to steady and aim their muskets, and enjoyed a modicum of cover from return fire. Under this withering fire, the light companies melted away and retreated, some as far as their boats. [James Abercrombie](#), commanding the Grenadiers, was fatally wounded. Pigot's attacks on the redoubt and breastworks fared little better; by stopping and exchanging fire with the colonists, the regulars were fully exposed and suffered heavy losses. They continued to be harried by snipers in Charlestown, and Pigot ordered a retreat after seeing what happened to Howe's advance.^{[60][61][62]}

The regulars reformed on the field and marched out again, this time navigating a field strewn with dead and wounded comrades. This time, Pigot was not to feint; he was to assault the redoubt directly, possibly without the assistance of Howe's force. Howe advanced against Knowlton's position along the rail fence, instead of marching against Stark's position along the beach. The outcome of the second attack was very much the same as the first. One British observer wrote, "Most of our Grenadiers and Light-infantry, the moment of presenting themselves lost three-fourths, and many nine-tenths, of their men. Some had only eight or nine men a company left."^[63] Pigot's attack did not enjoy any greater success than Howe, and he ordered a retreat after almost 30 minutes of firing ineffective volleys at the colonial position.^{[64][65]} The second attack had failed.

Meanwhile, confusion continued in the rear of the colonial forces. General Putnam tried with limited success to send additional troops from Bunker Hill to the forward positions on Breed's Hill to support the embattled regiments.^{[66][67]} One colonial observer wrote to [Samuel Adams](#) afterwards, "it appears to me that there was never more confusion and less command". Some companies and leaderless groups of men moved toward the field; others retreated. They were running low on powder and ammunition, and the colonial regiments suffered from a hemorrhage of deserters. By the time that the third attack came, there were only 700–800 men left on Breed's Hill, with only 150 in the redoubt.^{[68][69]} Connecticut's Captain [John Chester](#) saw an entire company in retreat and ordered his company to aim muskets at them to halt the retreat; they turned about and headed back to the battlefield.^[70]

The British rear was also in disarray. Wounded soldiers that were mobile had made their way to the landing areas and were being ferried back to Boston, while the wounded lying on the field of battle were the source of moans and cries of pain.^[71] Howe sent word to Clinton in Boston for additional troops. Clinton had observed the first two attacks and sent around 400 men from the 2nd Marines and the [63rd Foot](#), and followed himself to help rally the troops. In addition to these reserves, he convinced around 200 walking wounded to form up for the third attack.^[72]

The third assault was to concentrate squarely on the redoubt, with only a feint on the colonists' flank. Howe ordered his men to remove their heavy packs and leave all unnecessary equipment behind. He arrayed his forces in column formation rather than the extended order of the first two assaults, exposing fewer men along the front to colonial fire.^[73] The third attack was made at the point of the bayonet and successfully carried the redoubt; however, the final volleys of fire from the colonists cost the life of Major Pitcairn.^[74] The defenders had run out of ammunition, reducing the battle to close combat. The advantage turned to the British, as their troops were equipped with bayonets on their muskets, while most of the colonists were not. Colonel Prescott, one of the last men to leave the redoubt, parried bayonet thrusts with his normally ceremonial sabre.^[75] It is during the retreat from the redoubt that Joseph Warren was killed.^[76]

The battle of Bunker Hill



The retreat of much of the colonial forces from the peninsula was made possible in part by the controlled withdrawal of the forces along the rail fence, led by John Stark and Thomas Knowlton, which prevented the encirclement of the hill. Burgoyne described their orderly retreat as "no flight; it was even covered with bravery and military skill". It was so effective that most of the wounded were saved;^[77] most of the prisoners taken by the British were mortally wounded.^[77] General Putnam attempted to reform the troops on Bunker Hill; however, the flight of the colonial forces was so rapid that artillery pieces and entrenching tools had to be abandoned. The colonists suffered most of their casualties during the retreat on Bunker Hill. By 5 p.m., the colonists had retreated over the Charlestown Neck to fortified positions in Cambridge, and the British were in control of the peninsula.^[78]

Aftermath

The British had taken the ground but at a great loss; they had suffered 1,054 casualties (226 dead and 828 wounded), and a disproportionate number of these were officers. The casualty count was the highest suffered by the British in any single encounter during the entire war.^[79] General Clinton echoed [Pyrrhus of Epirus](#), remarking in his diary that "A few more such victories would have shortly put an end to British dominion in America."^[11] British dead and wounded included 100 commissioned officers, a significant portion of the British officer corps in America.^[80] Much of General Howe's field staff was among the casualties.^[81] General Gage reported the following officer casualties in his report after the battle (listing lieutenants and above by name):^[82]

1 lieutenant colonel killed
2 majors killed, 3 wounded
7 captains killed, 27 wounded

9 lieutenants killed, 32 wounded
15 sergeants killed, 42 wounded

The battle of Bunker Hill

Colonial losses were about 450 in total, of whom 140 were killed. Most of the colonial losses came during the withdrawal. Major [Andrew McClary](#) was technically the highest ranking colonial officer to die in the battle; he was hit by cannon fire on Charlestown Neck, the last person to be killed in the battle. He was later commemorated by the dedication of [Fort McClary](#) in [Kittery, Maine](#).^[83] A serious loss to the Patriot cause, however, was the death of [Joseph Warren](#). He was the President of Massachusetts' Provincial Congress, and he had been appointed a Major General on June 14. His commission had not yet taken effect when he served as a volunteer private three days later at Bunker Hill.^[84] Only 30 men were captured by the British, most of them with grievous wounds; 20 died while held prisoner. The colonials also lost numerous shovels and other entrenching tools, as well as five out of the six cannons that they had brought to the peninsula.^{[85][86]}

Political consequences

When news of the battle spread through the colonies, it was reported as a colonial loss, as the ground had been taken by the enemy, and significant casualties were incurred. [George Washington](#) was on his way to Boston as the new commander of the [Continental Army](#), and he received news of the battle while in New York City. The report included casualty figures that were somewhat inaccurate, but it gave Washington hope that his army might prevail in the conflict.^[87] The Massachusetts Committee of Safety sought to repeat the sort of propaganda victory that it won following the battles at Lexington and Concord, so it commissioned a report of the battle to send to England. Their report, however, did not reach England before Gage's official account arrived on July 20. His report unsurprisingly caused friction and argument between the [Tories](#) and the [Whigs](#), but the casualty counts alarmed the military establishment, and forced many to rethink their views of colonial military capability.^[89] [King George](#)'s attitude hardened toward the colonies, and the news may have contributed to his rejection of the Continental Congress' [Olive Branch Petition](#), the last substantive political attempt at reconciliation. Sir [James Adolphus Oughton](#), part of the Tory majority, wrote to [Lord Dartmouth](#) of the colonies, "the sooner they are made to Taste Distress the sooner will [Crown control over them] be produced, and the Effusion of Blood be put a stop to."^[90] About a month after receiving Gage's report, the [Proclamation of Rebellion](#) was issued in response. This hardening of the British position also strengthened previously weak support for independence among Americans, especially in the southern colonies.^[90]

Gage's report had a more direct effect on his own career. He was dismissed from office just three days after his report was received, although General Howe did not replace him until October 1775.^[91] Gage wrote another report to the British Cabinet in which he repeated earlier warnings that "a large army must at length be employed to reduce these people" which would require "the hiring of [foreign troops](#)".^[92]

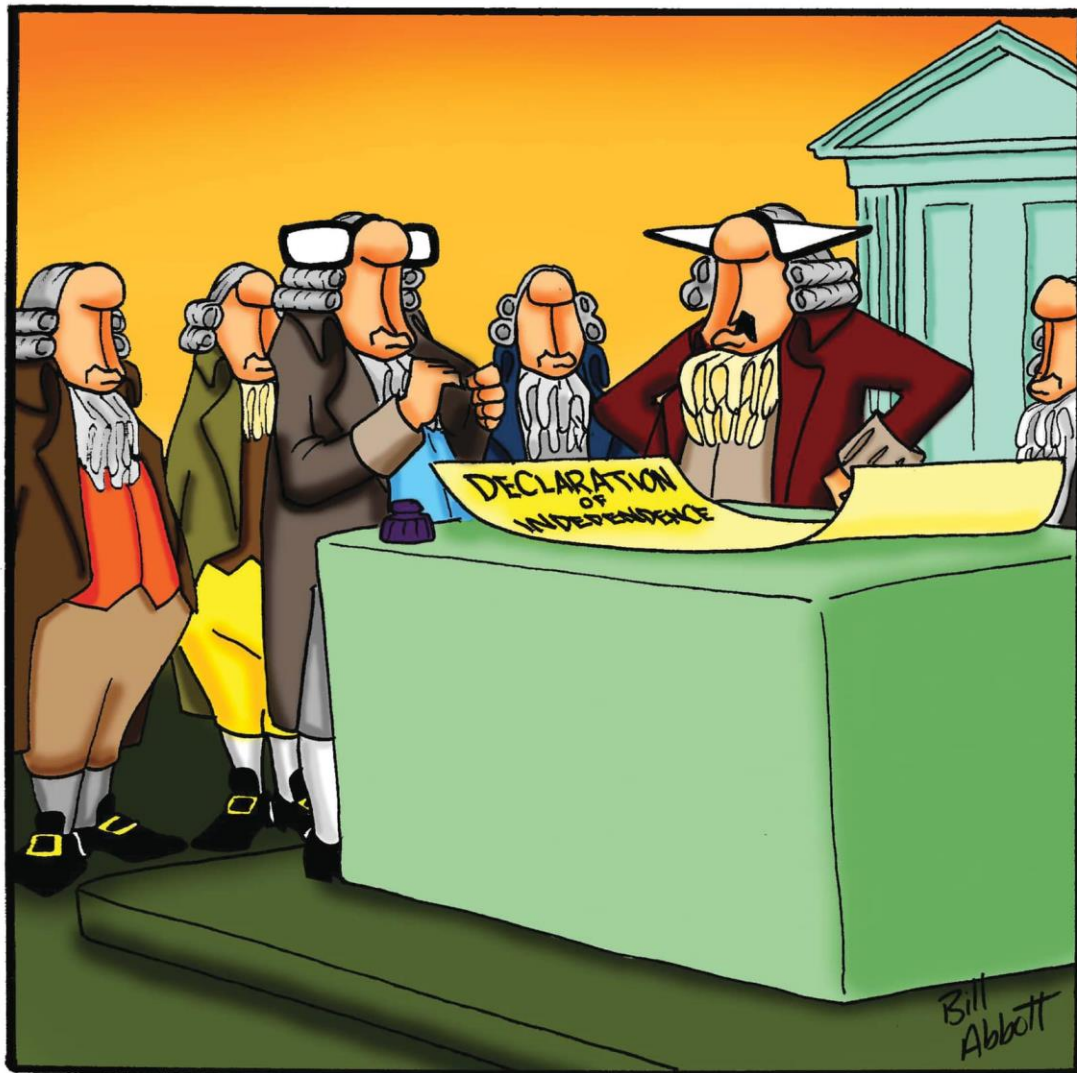
Analysis

General Dearborn published an account of the battle in [Port Folio](#) magazine years later, after Israel Putnam had died. Dearborn accused General Putnam of inaction, cowardly leadership, and failure to supply reinforcements during the battle, which subsequently sparked a [major controversy](#) among veterans of the war and historians.^{[93][b]} People were shocked by the rancor of the attack, and this prompted a forceful response from defenders of Putnam, including such notables as John and Abigail Adams. It also prompted Putnam's son Daniel Putnam to defend his father using a letter of thanks written by George Washington, and statements from Colonel John Trumbull and Judge Thomas Grosvenor in Putnam's defense.^[94] Historian Harold Murdock wrote that Dearborn's account "abounds in absurd misstatements and amazing flights of imagination." The Dearborn attack received considerable attention because at the time he was in the middle of considerable controversy himself. He had been relieved of one of the top commands in the War of 1812 due to his mistakes. He had also been nominated to serve as Secretary of War by President [James Monroe](#), but was rejected by the United States Senate (which was the first time that the Senate had voted against confirming a presidential cabinet choice).^{[95][96][97][98]}

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Prescott Evening
Lions Club



“Oh, come on! Nobody
brought a pen?”

Trivia answer: **Treaty of Paris**



Chaplin Chat with Tim Prater

The Prayer in the First Congress, A.D. 1774

O Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support, which Thou alone canst give. Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in Council and valor in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their Cause and if they persist in their sanguinary purposes, of own unerring justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle!

Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. That the scene of blood may be speedily closed; that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst the people. Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior.

Amen.

Reverend Jacob Duché

Rector of Christ Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

September 7, 1774, 9 o'clock a.m.

Chaplain Tim Prater

Prescott Chapter SAR

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