



# Battle of Kings Mountain: The Untold Story of Kings Mountain and Its Heroes

*U.S. Army War College*

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A thrilling account of one of the most inspiring, strangest - yet most decisive - battles in the course of the American Revolution.

The Battle of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, occurred on the 7th day of October, 1780, and resulted in the defeat of Lieutenant Colonel Ferguson, who commanded the royal forces, and the loss of his command, not one man escaping from the battle field.

This battle pitted two of the most unlikely foes in military history.

On one side, the elite British royal army commanded by Ferguson, a brave, highly decorated leader who was leading his forces to the subjugation of the Southern states.

On the other side, fiercely independent mountain men who until then had lived remote and isolated lives, hardly concerned with the events of the American Revolution.

These pioneers had two important attributes: enormous pride and uncanny shooting skills with which they secured much of their sustenance in the rugged highlands and backwaters in the valleys of the Holston, the Watauga, and the Nolichucky rivers.

These hardy men of the Blue Ridge and Alleghenies, of deep religious convictions, were accustomed to the hardships and independence of a pioneer life in their mountain homes but seldom were concerned with affairs beyond their borders or interfered with by Crown or colony.

When Ferguson approached their kingdom and threatened to invade their lands and lay waste their country with "fire and sword," and to "hang their leaders," he aroused their indignation and anger to such a degree that they determined to rid the country forever of this enemy, who menaced their independence and the safety of their homes and families.

Each man set out with a knapsack, blanket, and gun. Before starting out on the journey from which many would never return, the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian clergyman of the settlement invoked a blessing and besought divine protection and guidance for the army.

The highway of their great adventure followed the only roadway connecting the backwater country with the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge in North Carolina.

What happened next is a stunning series of events that forever shaped the course of America's character and history.

Get started and relive this landmark moment in American history as told in this historical account prepared by the U.S. Army War College.

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