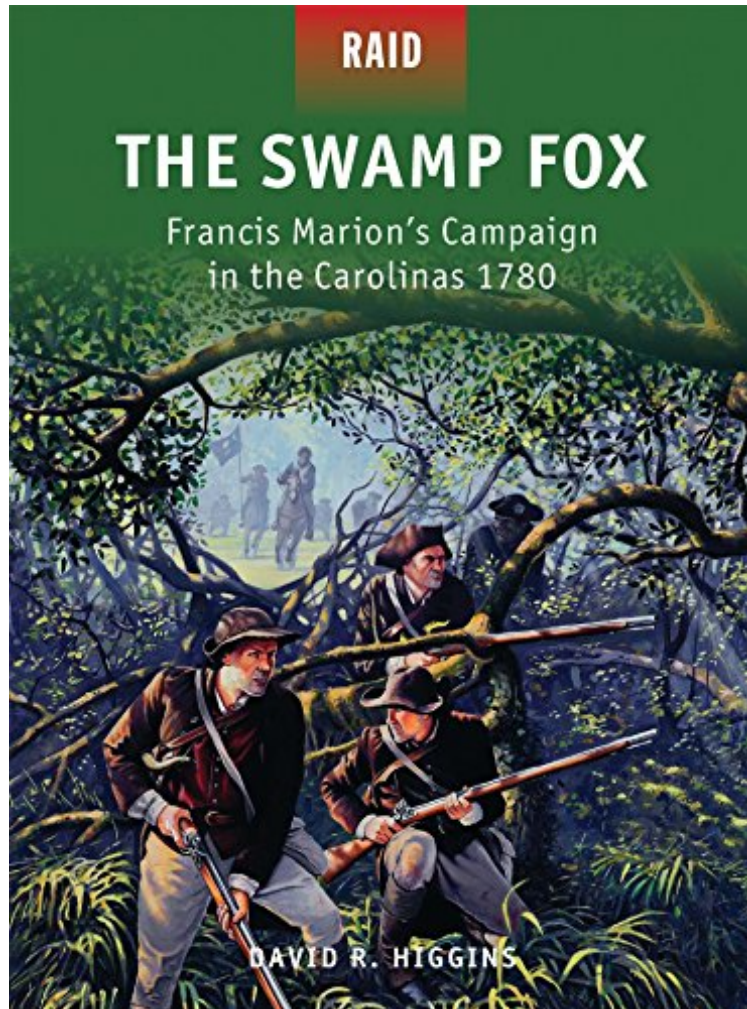


[Free and download] The Swamp Fox: Francis Marions Campaign in the Carolinas 1780 (Raid)

## The Swamp Fox: Francis Marions Campaign in the Carolinas 1780 (Raid)

*David R. Higgins*

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**David R. Higgins : The Swamp Fox: Francis Marions Campaign in the Carolinas 1780 (Raid)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Swamp Fox: Francis Marions Campaign in the Carolinas 1780 (Raid):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. My favorite hero of the American Revolution By Thomas S. Ingel was glad to discover a new book about the Swamp Fox and wonder if the author encountered any alligators or poisonous snakes while venturing through South Carolina's swampy terrain for the photographs he used to accompany the text. Being only 80 pages, the book is a quick read and has nice artwork, a map of Marion's battles and skirmishes, and a listing of the number of participants from both sides in these engagements as well as the figures of those killed,

wounded, captured, etc. I do feel that the author dwelled too much on Cowpens, where Marion did not fight, and left out interesting stories about the tower the rebels erected to capture Fort Watson and the sacrifice Mrs. Motte was willing to make in the capture of Fort Motte. Still, I am very pleased to add this to my collection of Swamp Fox books. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Not one of the better ones

By James D. Crabtree  
Francis Marion was an American guerrilla leader during the revolution, operating out of the swamps and forests of the South Carolina back country. His story is a fascinating but this book chooses to focus on other details. It does have some excellent insights into guerrilla warfare, but the book never really puts the raids conducted by Marion in relation to British deployments and concentrations in South Carolina, which I think is the most relevant point to his raids. I liked the artwork but I think this one could have been better. I'm not sorry I got it, but this is not one I'm going to go to time and again, as I do with some of the other Osprey books.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Swamp Fox...  
By HMS Warspite  
For an extended period of time following the Revolutionary War Battle of Camden in August 1780, guerilla leader Francis Marion's small band of irregulars were virtually the only rebel force disputing British control of South Carolina. Marion understood both the importance of his mission and the need to stay a force in being. His masterful campaign kept British regulars and loyalists off balance while buying time for the Continental Army to reconstitute a southern force. That campaign is explored in "The Swamp Fox", a new Osprey Raid Series book. Author David Higgins quickly sketches the American Revolution in South Carolina through the Battle of Camden, including Francis Marion's role. The bulk of the book is a tense narrative of Marion's raids and ambushes during a critical period extending into 1781. The author captures the vicious nature of what was essentially a civil war between rebels and loyalists, and Marion's challenges commanding a force of guerillas who came and went as their personal circumstances dictated. The narrative is accompanied by an excellent selection of illustrations, period images, and photographs. The book suffers from some annoying editing failures, and from a travelogue narrative that is difficult to follow from the book's one not very detailed map. It is however a decent introduction to the topic of Francis Marion and his brand of guerrilla warfare, and its importance to the outcome of the Revolutionary War.

Opposed by "Bloody" Tarleton's Raiders, American Revolution patriots under Francis Marion fought a brutal guerrilla war throughout South Carolina and North Carolina. The American Revolution was deadlocked in the north, and after the battle at Monmouth Courthouse in 1778 the focus of the conflict shifted south. Following-up on his decisive May 12, 1780 victory at Charleston, South Carolina, Cornwallis launched a campaign through the Carolinas that was designed to expel American Continental and militia forces from the southern theater. With a second British victory at Camden in August, conventional American forces adopted a policy of avoiding another large battle in favor of smaller, more limited operations. As regular forces were constrained by traditional logistics and organization, soldiers like Francis Marion were able to inflict numerous raids and skirmishes against British and Loyalist forces, after which they would dissolve to form and fight at a later time. Cornwallis subsequently directed contingents to secure the countryside and capture such leaders, but the Patriot victory at King's Mountain (October), forced him to withdraw into South Carolina in what was one of the turning points in the Revolutionary War. To the southeast, Francis Marion continued his hit-and-run operations in which his band rescued American prisoners at Nelson's Ferry, dispersed Loyalist forces at Blue Savannah (September), and defeated a British outpost at Black Mingo (September). When Marion defeated Loyalist militia at Tearcoat Swamp in October, Cornwallis responded to this string of raids across northeastern South Carolina by assigning his aggressive cavalry commander, Banastre Tarleton, to capture or kill the rebel guerrilla commander. What followed was an unsuccessful two-week pursuit of the elusive Marion, in which Tarleton practiced a scorched-earth policy that ultimately disillusioned Loyalist sympathizers and hurt the British cause in the Carolinas. Unlike much of the Revolutionary War in the north, the fighting in the Carolinas was generally less civilized and brutal, with Loyalists and Rebels in roughly equal numbers. Except for Cornwallis' British regulars and Greene's Continental army, militias and irregular forces were the norm. A Raid book covering the Marion/Tarleton (British) struggle would be used to showcase this style of frontier warfare, and how its combatants were supplied, organized, and operated. Although not a single, defined raid, the series of actions between August and November 1780 illustrate Marion's unconventional, yet successful, efforts to hinder their enemy's war effort in the south, and Tarleton's equally irregular efforts to counter it.

About the Author  
David R. Higgins attended the Columbus College of Art Design, and received a BFA from Ohio State University and an MISM from Keller. In addition to the Roer River Battles he has written over twenty articles for magazines such as Strategy Tactics, Armchair General, and World at War, as well as MCSGroup, a conflict simulation provider for the US Defense Department. He lives in Columbus, Ohio. The author lives in Columbus, Ohio.