

Charlestown, July, 1781. Patriot Colonel Isaac Hayne, after being captured by British Major Thomas Fraser, is put on trial for violating his parole and joining the Patriot Army.

Hayne was not given a lawyer during the proceedings and argued it was not a fair trial. Despite his protest, he was sentenced to hang by Lieutenant Colonel Nisbet Balfour and Francis, Lord Rawdon.



Patriot leaders were shocked at the treatment of their popular officer. General Francis Marion had been instrumental in commissioning Isaac Hayne and was especially upset by this turn of events.

Patriot General Nathanael Greene, though angry, sought to calm the emotions of his commanders and keep them focused on the end game of the war.



Marion's camp at Peyre's Plantation, SC

BRATTA  
BAM BAM  
BAM

Left, face.  
Men! Listen to the drum  
beat so that you will know what  
to do when the fighting  
starts.

How're  
they doing,  
Jim?

Ram Lee  
and I are beating loud  
and they're learning  
just fine.

That's good.

BRATTA  
BAM BAM  
BAM

I'm counting  
on you to stand tall.  
These men look to you  
for confidence.

Yes, sir.

Do you  
think we'll be in a big  
battle like Savannah  
or Camden?

It does  
seem like we're heading  
for a showdown.

We'll be ready.

I'm counting on it.

Hugh, I don't  
like this business about Colonel Hayne.  
They shouldn't have hanged him. He  
was an officer.

You're dismissed.

But what  
are we going to do? General  
Greene has ordered us not  
to retaliate.







General Greene's HQ in the high hills of the Santee.

Where are you from, soldier?

Salisbury, North Carolina, sir.

Yes, sir.

Come back in an hour. I'll have a message for you to take back.

I just heard that North Carolina has sent some men.

Yes. Three small Continentals regiments, newly raised, and the Wilkes, Surry, and Mecklenburg militias are here. They finally answered my call for reinforcements.

Sir. From General Washington.

Thank you.

Sir, may I ask what it says?

Yes, but tell no one. General Washington is marching to attack Cornwallis in Virginia.

So, both our armies will be on the offensive. We will strike some serious blows to the enemy.

Yes. It's fortunate that Colonel Lee found the British army in such a bad position, far from Charlestown and other British troops.

Their new commander does not appear to be half as good an officer as Lord Rawdon was.





It looks like the British under Lieutenant Colonel Stewart are just fifteen miles from us.

Where?

William Thomson's farm, across the Congaree.



The river is still flooded from that storm we had.

What if we went up and around?

We could leave some men to keep the fires burning. That might buy some time.



We've got enough men.

And they know how to fight.



Most of them, anyway.

True enough.

Let us prepare to attack!