

= James Hogun =

James Hogun (died January 4 , 1781) was an Irish @-@ American military officer who was as one of five generals from North Carolina to serve with the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War . Born in Ireland , Hogan migrated to North Carolina ? then a British colony ? in 1751 . Settling in Halifax County , he raised a family and established himself as a prominent local figure .

A member of the county 's Committee of Safety , he represented it at the North Carolina Provincial Congress and helped to draft the first Constitution of North Carolina . Initially a major in the 7th North Carolina Regiment , Hogun advanced quickly in rank during 1776 to become the unit 's commanding officer . He participated in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown in 1777 . The Continental Congress promoted Hogun to brigadier general in 1779 , although several congressmen and the North Carolina General Assembly wished to see Thomas Clark of North Carolina promoted instead .

Hogun was in command of North Carolina 's line brigade during the Siege of Charleston in the spring of 1780 , which ended in the surrender of all but one of North Carolina 's regiments of regular infantry as well as more than 5 @,@ 000 Patriot soldiers under Major General Benjamin Lincoln . Hogun was the highest @-@ ranking officer from North Carolina to be captured and imprisoned after the surrender of Charleston , and despite being offered the opportunity to leave internment under a parole that was generally extended to other captured Continental officers , he remained in a British prisoner @-@ of @-@ war camp near Charleston . Hogun likely chose imprisonment in order to prevent the British Army from recruiting Continental soldiers for its campaign in the West Indies . He became ill and died in the prison on Haddrel 's Point , a peninsula in Charleston 's harbor .

= = Early life = =

Much of Hogun 's early life remains unknown , due to his relative obscurity until the American Revolutionary War . He immigrated to North Carolina from Ireland , his place of birth , in 1751 , and on October 3 that year he married Ruth Norfleet . The couple had a son , Lemuel . Hogun made his home near the modern @-@ day community of Hobgood in Halifax County .

In 1774 , Hogun became a member of the Halifax County Committee of Safety , which indicated his rise to prominence since arriving in the colony 23 years prior . Between August , 1775 , and November , 1776 , Hogun represented Halifax County in the Third , Fourth , and Fifth North Carolina Provincial Congresses , and demonstrated an interest in military matters . As a delegate , Hogun assisted in drafting the first Constitution of North Carolina .

= = American Revolutionary War = =

= = = Initial command = = =

Hogun was named a major in the 7th North Carolina Regiment in April 1776 , and was given command of the unit on November 26 , 1776 . Initially , the regiment had some difficulty organizing after several of the officers delayed their military work in order to take care of their personal affairs . Hogun was forced to reprimand his officers sharply , threatening them with the loss of their commissions . At the same time , currents of doubt ran through North Carolina , as Loyalists attempted to hinder enlistment of Patriots by spreading rumors about the imminent demise of the Patriot army in the north , and disease that was allegedly ravaging that force .

While commanding his regiment , Hogun fought against the British Army in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown , and was present at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777 ? 78 . In 1778 , Hogun was given orders to assist in recruiting the so @-@ called " additional regiments " requested by the Continental Congress from North Carolina , and afterwards was ordered to West Point with the first regiment so recruited . After his arrival , and throughout the late autumn and

winter of 1778 ? 79 , Hogun 's regiment served on a work detail tasked with building up the fortifications at West Point . Hogun was not satisfied with this task , but his men lacked sufficient weapons to allow them to serve as a combat unit at that time . Approximately 400 muskets had to be requisitioned for the regiment to be fully armed .

= = = Promotion and Philadelphia = = =

In early 1779 , Major General Benedict Arnold , then Commandant of Philadelphia , Pennsylvania , requested that General George Washington send him an additional regiment of Continental soldiers to guard the Patriot stores in Philadelphia . Hogun was sent to Arnold with his newly recruited regiment , arriving on or before January 19 , 1779 .

On January 9 , 1779 , while en route to Philadelphia , Hogun was promoted to brigadier general by the Continental Congress . His promotion came about in part as a result of what Thomas Burke , a delegate to the Continental Congress from North Carolina , and a fellow Irishman , termed the " distinguished intrepidity " Hogun had exhibited at Germantown . This caused some controversy , as the North Carolina General Assembly , which was customarily consulted for the promotion of generals from that state , had already nominated Thomas Clark and Jethro Sumner for promotion to the rank of brigadier general . Sumner was promoted , but Clark was passed over in favor of Hogun , who received the support of nine of the thirteen states . Hogun 's surprising victory was due in large part Burke 's lobbying efforts among his colleagues in the Continental Congress . By political conventions governing such matters , Burke was bound by the vote of the North Carolina General Assembly to support the state legislature 's recommendations of Clark and Sumner , but he worked to convince other Congressmen to vote for Hogun over Clark . Hogun was appointed to succeed Arnold as Commandant of Philadelphia on March 19 , 1779 , serving until November 22 that year .

= = = Charleston campaign = = =

In November 1779 , Hogun took command of the North Carolina Brigade , composed of the 1st , 2nd , 3rd , and 4th North Carolina Regiments of the North Carolina Line . Through the winter of 1779 ? 80 , Hogun led the brigade of about 700 men from Philadelphia to Charleston , South Carolina , where he was placed under the command of Major General Benjamin Lincoln . The march was arduous , and Hogun 's brigade endured one of the coldest , harshest winters in years .

Hogun 's command arrived at Charleston on March 13 , 1780 , which according to Lincoln gave " great spirit to the Town , and confidence to the Army . " The North Carolinians were immediately put to the task of defending the city , which was threatened with a siege by British General Henry Clinton in early March . Shortly after Hogun 's arrival , many of North Carolina 's militia present in the city began to return home because their enlistment terms ended on or about March 24 . The militiamen had only agreed to serve limited terms , and as they were not under Hogun 's direct command he was powerless to stop them leaving .

Charleston was principally located on a peninsula , and so Lincoln aligned his Continental units in defensive works that barricaded the " neck " of the peninsula , using a line of redoubts , redans , and batteries . These defensive works were connected by a parapet , and commanded from a concrete hornwork jutting out from the defensive line . In front of the fortifications , the Patriot forces dug an 18 @-@ foot @-@ wide moat , and between the moat and parapet they constructed a line of abatis to stall any British assault . When the siege by the British Army began in earnest on April 1 , Hogun and his men were positioned on the right of the Continental Army 's lines , near the Cooper River .

Hogun participated in a council of war on April 20 , 1780 . Several members of the South Carolina Privy Council , a part of the civilian government , threatened to block the Continental Army 's attempts to withdraw from Charleston , if the council of war voted to do so . Although the defending army had only eight to ten days worth of provisions , Lincoln bowed to pressure from civil authorities and delayed evacuation . On April 26 , another council of war at which Hogun was present determined that the British presence on all sides of the city prevented the army 's escape . For the next two weeks , the British and Patriot forces exchanged artillery and rifle fire at all times of day ,

and the British bombardment whittled down the American breastworks .

On May 8 , Lincoln called another council of war with all his army 's general and field officers and ships ' captains to discuss terms of surrender that had been proposed by Clinton . Of the 61 officers in attendance at that council , 49 , including Hogun , voted to offer terms of capitulation with the British commander . When these were rejected , hostilities continued , and Lincoln called another council of war on May 11 to further discuss terms of capitulation . The council voted to present further terms to Clinton , which he accepted . On May 12 , 1780 , Hogun was among the officers under Lincoln who formally surrendered to the British Army , along with approximately 5 @, @ 000 Continental and militia soldiers . The surrender led to the loss of all but one of the regiments of the North Carolina Line then in existence , depriving the state of all regular , non @- @ militia soldiers . As a brigadier general , Hogun held the highest rank of the approximately 814 Continental soldiers from North Carolina who capitulated at Charleston .

= = Imprisonment and death = =

Rather than allowing himself to be paroled , Hogun requested he be taken prisoner , and was interned at the British prison camp at Haddrel 's Point on Point Pleasant , located in what is now Mount Pleasant , South Carolina , across from Sullivan 's Island . Hogun 's decision was based , in part , on his desire to stifle the recruiting efforts of the British , who sought to enlist captured Continental soldiers to serve in the British West Indies . The British , however , held only the officers at Haddrel 's Point , deciding to house the enlisted men in barracks in Charleston .

Officers at Haddrel 's Point were subjected to harsh treatment , barred from fishing to catch much @- @ needed food , and threatened with deportation from South Carolina . Approximately 3 @, @ 300 Patriot soldiers were confined in prison camps around Charleston that were similar to the one at Haddrel 's Point , and many were destined for cramped , unsanitary prison ships . Because of the conditions , many Continental soldiers agreed to join Loyalist regiments , but Hogun and other officers set up courts martial in the camps and attempted to maintain a dignified military structure . Hogun 's health soon declined , and he died in the prison camp on January 4 , 1781 . He was buried in an unmarked grave .

= = Legacy = =

On March 14 , 1786 , the North Carolina legislature granted Hogun 's son , Lemuel , a 12 @, @ 000 @- @ acre (4 @, @ 900 ha ; 19 sq mi) tract near modern @- @ day Nashville , Tennessee , in recognition of his father 's service . The elder Hogun was one of twenty @- @ two Patriot generals who perished during the American Revolutionary War , and one of twelve who died from disease or other non @- @ combat causes . In the early 20th century , North Carolina jurist and historian Walter Clark noted that while the careers of three of North Carolina 's other generals ? Brigadier Generals Francis Nash and James Moore , and Major General Robert Howe ? were well known to contemporary historians , the story of Hogun 's career as well as that of Jethro Sumner had been neglected .

Hogun 's personal papers appear to have been destroyed while in the possession of his descendants in Alabama during the American Civil War , leaving virtually no surviving correspondence that would shed further light on his life . In 1954 , the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program , a division of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources , erected a historical marker in Hogun 's honor near his former home in Halifax County .

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