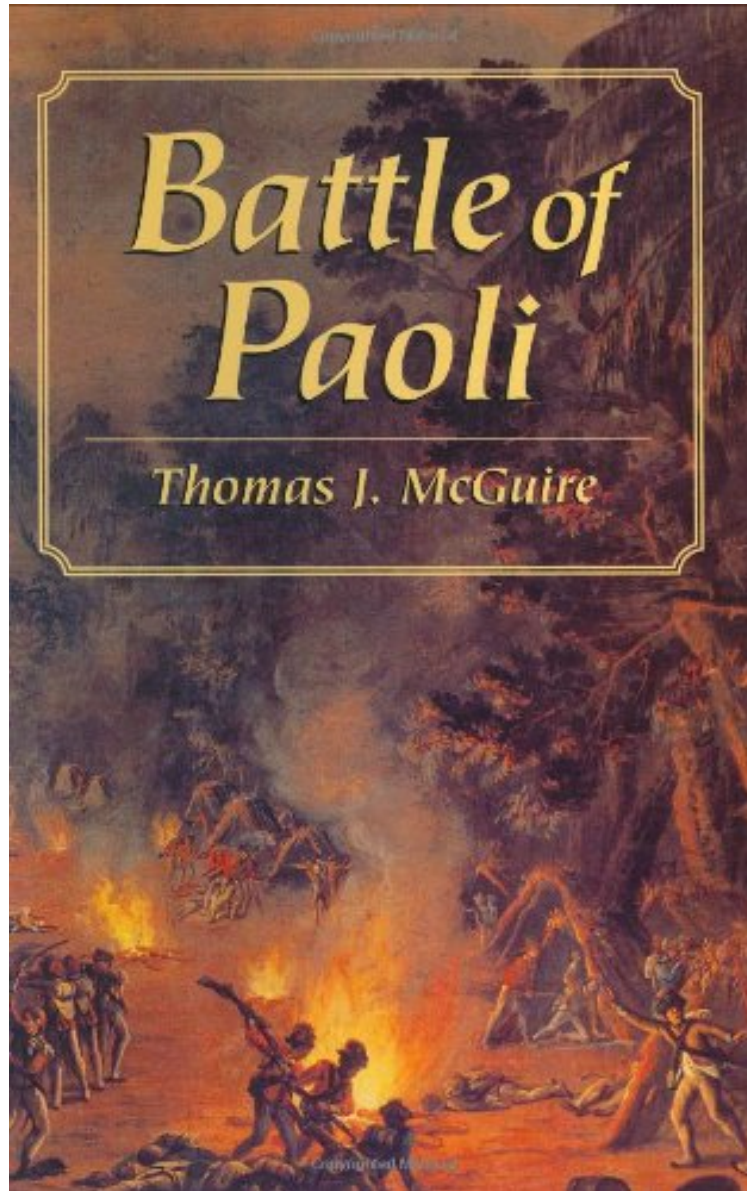


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## Battle of Paoli (Stackpole Military History Series)

*Thomas J. McGuire*

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**Thomas J. McGuire : Battle of Paoli (Stackpole Military History Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Battle of Paoli (Stackpole Military History Series):

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Important Treatment of Relatively Obscure BattleBy David M. DoughertyThe author is to be commended for writing this book and lifting the veil of obscurity that has relegated the

"Paoli Massacre" to a few lines in most works on the Revolutionary War. McGuire isn't an accomplished writer and some parts are disjointed, but the nuggets contained are worth the mining. McGuire accurately plays up the important aspects of this battle. First, the British were able to surprise Wayne's Pennsylvania troops who were on their home turf. This was due to the dark and rainy night, the fact that the British moved forward without flints so there would be no firing from the British side, and the Pennsylvanians were silhouetted against their campfires while the British were almost invisible in the dark woods. Secondly, it was only due to good fortune that Wayne's entire command was not annihilated. Third, the case can be made that Wayne should never have been in the exposed position he was in without some form of cavalry cover. Fourth, this battle "made" Wayne in that he learned from his mistakes and was able to turn the tables on the British later at Stony Point. And last, the survivors were energized to greater efforts and became better soldiers as a result. Although the Court of Inquiry's findings concerned with the Paoli battle have been lost, Wayne was obviously not exonerated at the inquiry, and at least four of the sixteen officers who testified criticized him. Wayne was then brought up on charges at a court-martial and acquitted. About one-half of the book covers events before the battle and supplies a great deal of information on the units, dispositions and movements preceding the night of battle. The battle itself takes up less than fifty pages. One of the best features about this book is the detail it goes into debunking the many myths concerning the battle and putting the event in proper context. The British possessed an excellent plan that was not executed well in its entirety, but nevertheless inflicted a crushing defeat on good soldiers and competent officers. On the American side there is confusion, mistakes, and an inability to adapt at all levels. It could have been worse, but Howe's thought that the Americans had been sufficiently humbled so as to pose little threat to his army was roundly shown to be in error only two weeks later at Germantown. In short, this is a specialist's book, well worth reading. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Balanced, Scholarly Examination of the "Paoli Massacre" By ZeldockI was delighted to find that "Battle of Paoli" -- a fairly specialized work on a secondary engagement in the Revolution -- is available as a Kindle book. The author has reviewed a massive amount of primary sources in tracing the movements of the forces of Washington and Howe after the Battle of the Brandywine on Sept. 11, 1777, and in reconstructing what actually happened in the so-called Paoli Massacre on the night of Sept. 19-20. The narrative he tells, with the help of letters, memoirs, and inquiry transcripts, is very different from the version commonly offered in histories of the American Revolution. The Continentals were not completely surprised, were not bayoneted in their sleep, and were not fatally silhouetted against their campfires. The Kindle formatting is about standard for non-fiction books. As I've come to expect, the illustrations are murky and the maps illegible. The table of contents is linked, but the footnotes are not (the one significant flaw). The book also includes the complete surviving transcript of the court of inquiry that was held after the battle and lists of the men known to be in the Continental forces, with indications of those killed and wounded. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books on a Revolutionary war battle. By FirelockLoved this book. Amazing detail for a Revolutionary account. Wish there were more books like this on other battles.

The first-ever in-depth look at the Revolutionary War's Battle of Paoli.

From Publishers WeeklyEngaged on September 21, 1777, Paoli was a night attack on a division of George Washington's army, the Pennsylvania Continentals under Anthony Wayne. The senior officer of the British strike force, Gen. Charles Grey, ordered his men to go in with the bayonet, either unloading their muskets or removing the flints. The Americans were overrun and forced to retreat, with losses surprisingly low. No more than 60 killed in the kind of close-quarter fighting that frequently produced much heavier casualties. Nevertheless, the British use of the bayonet generated a massacre myth that still endures. McGuire, a preparatory school teacher, argues that while some atrocities did occur during the fighting, the Americans were surprised only in a general sense; they were not caught in their blankets. In the aftermath of Paoli, Washington was constrained to abandon Philadelphia. On October 4, when he attacked the British occupiers at Germantown, it was Wayne's division that achieved surprise, taking no prisoners as it charged through the fog, defending a fortified house to the end and finally seizing victory from apparent defeat. If there is a moral here regarding the laws of war, McGuire does not develop it. But his well-written, well-researched case study is a model of local military history. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From BooklistOn September 21, 1777, colonial rebels defending Philadelphia from British troops camped outside Paoli, Pennsylvania. In a surprise attack, the British under General Charles Grey overwhelmed the sleeping colonial platoons, and a general slaughter of the Americans ensued. In the drizzly darkness, British bayonets repeatedly demonstrated their deadly efficiency. The vicious, hand-to-hand combat quickly passed into infamy as the "Paoli Massacre." General Anthony Wayne's troops were decimated, and Wayne soon faced a court of inquiry for having allowed British troops to come so near his own. Wayne went on to triumph in the Revolution and afterward showed particular talent in battling Native Americans and their allies in the Northwest Territory. Military historian McGuire has researched original sources and shows how propaganda, myth, and legend have obscured the events at Paoli. For military history and regional American Revolution collections. Mark Knoblauch Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "It will be required reading for a long time to come." -- Thomas Fleming, author of Washington's Secret WarThe

important Battle of Paoli has a vivid chronicler at last. -- David McCullough, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *John Adams and 1776*