

columns.

Washington's left flanking column was composed of Maryland and New Jersey militiamen under the command of Generals William Smallwood and David Forman. Their instructions, personally drafted by General Washington, explicate one of the problems the Americans faced in their effort to defeat the British at Germantown. During the night of October 3 they were to march their men over unfamiliar terrain according to the following instructions:

pass down the road by a mill formerly Danl. Morris and Jacob Edges mill into White marsh road at the Sandy run: thence to white marsh Church, where take the left hand road, which leads to Jenkins tavern, on the old york road, below Armitages, beyond the seven mile stone half a mile from which turns off short to the right hand, fenced on both sides, which leads through The enemys incampment to Germantown market houses.

Smallwood, Forman, and their men ultimately did reach Germantown, despite Washington's confused instructions, but only in time to join in what was by then was a general and confused retreat by the Americans.

Although the Maryland militiamen played no role in the Battle of Germantown, Continental line soldiers from the state played a significant role and bore the brunt of the enemy's fire in the assault on the town. The seven Maryland regiments were in Gen. John Sullivan's Division, which was to take the road from Reading, cross Chestnut Hill, and continue on this road, which led directly into Germantown. Perhaps to placate the Marylanders in Sullivan's Division, or at least to demonstrate to Congress his support of the general, Washington personally accompanied the division, leaving General Nathaniel Greene in charge of the entire left of the advancing troops.

According to the plan, all four columns were to embark at 2 a.m., arrive at their respective destinations, just in front of the British outposts, pause for an hour's rest, assail the pickets at exactly 5 a.m., and then proceed to assault the main British army--which was supposed to be sleeping, or at best, just rising.

A good plan, but it did not work. The American Army was not yet sufficiently sophisticated to execute the complex