

that retreat the Maryland Line bravely formed a rear guard to protect the army against the pursuing enemy.

The first phase of the war was fought in the North, but in 1778 the center of action moved to the South, where it was finally climaxed with the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown and independence for the United States. Smallwood's Maryland Line was sent to the South and fought valiantly in all the principal engagements—at Camden, at King's Mountain, at Cowpens (where "Old Glory" was a battle emblem), at Guilford Court House, at Eutaw Springs, and finally at Yorktown.

It was at Camden that the Marylanders first executed their deadly bayonet charge, a tactic which brought undying fame to the unit. Baron de Kalb, who led the charge, fell exhausted after receiving 11 wounds and died a prisoner of the British three days later. Marylanders, with a regiment, under Colonel Isaac Shelby, figured prominently in the contest at King's Mountain, where Cornwallis was driven from North Carolina. At Cowpens again, the famous charge with bayonets was used. This time, the hero of the day was Colonel John Eager Howard. In this charge, with "Old Glory" flying proudly, the British line was badly broken and the British troops scattered in wild disorder. In the battle of Guilford Court House, some two months later, one historian wrote of the Maryland contingent there:

"The First Regiment of Marylanders was the only body of men in the American army that could be compared to the enemy in discipline and experience, and it is with confidence that we challenge the modern world to produce an instance of better service performed by the same number of men in the same time."

The Marylanders again proved their skill with the bayonet charge at Eutaw Springs, and General Greene, in command of southern forces, had this to say about the Maryland Line: "Nothing could exceed the gallantry and firmness of both officers and soldiers on this occasion. They preserved their order, and pressed on with such unshaken resolution that they bore down all before them." He added that the bayonet charge of the Marylanders "exceeded anything I ever saw."

This string of victories, as we now know, broke the back of the British, so that the stand at Yorktown, where Cornwallis had retreated and fortified himself, was little more than a mopping up exercise. After the surrender there, on October 17, 1781, it was a Marylander Colonel Tench Tilghman, Washington's aide, who on horseback rode