A Game of Hare & Hounds

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The following glossary is not comprehensive, but it is intended to briefly define military-specific or archaic terms used in the body of the text.

**Abatis**: a field obstacle made of sharpened tree branches oriented toward the enemy.

**Area defense**: a defensive task by which a unit focuses on denying enemy forces access to designated terrain for a specific period of time instead of trying to destroy the enemy.

**Artificer**: a skilled craftsman employed to make or repair military equipment and weapons.

**Bateau/bateaux**: a small flat-bottomed wood boat, double-ended and of shallow draft construction that made it useful for carrying heavy cargo and supplies.

**Bayonet**: a long stabbing blade affixed, usually by a metal socket, to the muzzle of a military musket.

**Case shot**: antipersonnel munition fired from a muzzle-loaded cannon. Case shot consisted of small golf ball-size projectiles loaded in an iron or tin canister, which, when fired, would fragment at the muzzle to produce a shotgun-like blast.

**Chevaux-de-frise**: a series of anticavalry obstacles, made of wooden logs with projecting wood spikes.

**Commissary**: a military officer in charge of the procurement, delivery, and distribution of provisions, rations for soldiers, and fodder and forage for animals.

**Delay**: a type of defense where a unit under pressure trades terrain for time, slowing down the enemy force and inflicting maximum damage while avoiding a decisive engagement.

**Doctrine**: fundamental principles, including tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP), and a common language by which a military force guides its actions in support of national objectives.

**Dragoon**: a mounted fighting soldier. Unlike cavalry, which were trained to fight from horseback, dragoons were originally intended as mounted infantry, riding to maneuver then dismounting to fight. By the revolution, dragoons were employed as conventional cavalry, generally fighting from horseback with the saber as primary weapon.

**Fascines**: a bundle of sticks or branches tied together, used to fill in swampy ground, or to reinforce the side of an entrenchment.

**Flintlock**: a firearm ignited by a spark from a lock mounted flint.

**Flying army**: a term first used by General Greene in a letter to George Washington to describe General Daniel Morgan's corps of light infantry and dragoons. The flying army was expected to draw provisions from the countryside, and thereby unburdened by supply wagons, the unit was capable of rapidly outrunning all enemy formations with the exception of Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton’s British Legion.

**Forage**: 1) bulk food for horses and cattle, usually grass or hay; 2) the act of searching for food.

**Grapeshot**: an antipersonnel munition, consisting of large iron balls contained in a canvas bag held together by rope, metal bands, or wood.

**Guard**: a security task in which a unit protects the main force by fighting to gain time and reporting information about the enemy, while preventing the enemy from directly observing or engaging the main body.

**Hessian**: German auxiliary units contracted for military service by the British. Commonly named for the German states of Hesse-Kassel and Hesse-Hanau but recruited from other German states.
**Jäger:** literally, a hunter; jäger were German light infantry, recruited from gamekeepers and hunters who worked for noble landholders. The jäger were armed with light muzzle-loading rifles and trained to fight as individual skirmishers.

**Legion:** a mixed-arm regiment, usually of dragoons and infantry, possibly including artillery.

**Logistics:** the art and science of moving, feeding, clothing, housing, and resupplying military units.

**Loyalist:** American colonists loyal to the British monarchy during the Revolution; sometimes called Loyal Americans.

**Lunette:** a minor fortification with two faces forming a projecting angle.

**Magazine:** a building or structure designed to segregate gunpowder and cartridges in isolation from other military stores, lessening collateral damage from an explosion. During the American Revolution, magazine denoted an intermediate logistics node, a location where bulk commodities were shipped in by river and distributed to the tactical units by wagon or cart.

**Militia:** a military force raised from a civilian population for short-term service.

**Musket:** a muzzle-loaded smoothbore firearm. During the revolution, muskets were ignited by a flintlock firing system.

**Operation:** the coordinated military actions of a state, operating according to a plan, to meet a specific strategic goal.

**Ordnance:** military-specific equipment and materiel, to include weapons, cannons, and munitions.

**Patriot:** to Britons, the term *patriot* was disparaging, describing a deluded, rebellious fool. In America, the label *Patriot* was adopted as a mark of honor for a person advocating American independence from British rule.

**Provincials:** a practice dating back to the French and Indian Wars (1754–63), British governors and department commanders organized short-service provincial Loyalist regiments to augment regular British units. Officers and soldiers were mustered only for the duration of the conflict and were not entitled to pensions or other benefits enjoyed by establishment units.

**Pursuit:** an offensive military task designed to overtake or cut off an enemy force attempting to escape, with the intent of destroying the enemy.

**Quartermaster:** a military officer, or appointed civilian, responsible for procurement and distribution of supplies such as clothing, coordination of transportation, and construction of troop housing in camps.

**Reconnaissance:** a mission to obtain information about the activities and state of an enemy force. Done by visual means, interrogation of civilians or enemy prisoners, and analysis of information.

**Redan:** a V-shaped salient angle pointed toward the expected enemy approach. Used to allow defenders to enfilade an enemy attacker with fire.

**Regiment:** the highest permanent tactical unit employed during the revolution. Led by a colonel, assisted by a lieutenant colonel and major, a regiment could have between 5 and 10 subordinate companies. Regiments were normally of a single arm, usually infantry or dragoons.

**Saber:** a heavy sword with a curved blade and single cutting edge, usually used by mounted troops.

**Strategy:** planning, coordination, and general direction of military operations to meet national objectives.

**Tactics:** the employment and deliberate arrangement of combat forces in relation to each other to accomplish a military objective.

**Tory/Tories:** Patriot Americans co-opted the political term *Tory* from its original usage to describe the political party that supported royal policies. The Irish roots of *Tory* denoted an outlaw or criminal; so, the term was adopted as a derogatory label for supporter of the king.
**Vanguard, or Van:** a detachment of light infantry and dragoons marching in the advance of a large body of infantry. The vanguard performed intelligence gathering and screened the main body from surprise attack.

**Withdrawal:** a force in combat breaks contact and moves out of range of the enemy force.

**Whig/Whigs:** American revolutionaries were sometimes described as Whigs, a disparaging term (country bumpkin) used from the mid-seventeenth century to describe the English political opponents of the king.