

Chapter Contacts

Please forward to your members!

IPMS PATRIOT

BILLERICA, MA



The first thing you'll encounter on opening this newsletter is a great photo of beautiful model: a 1/48th Fw 190A-4 from the Hasegawa kit by Patriot member David Hamel. There is no point in my telling you about the model: you can check that out yourself. So I'll concentrate on the pilot connected with this particular "Butcher Bird", and in a real sense, that word describes the air war for a successful ace like Luftwaffe ace Major Egon Mayeruntil the laws of probability caught up with him.



His name hasn't been as prominent in the literature as other, higher scoring aces, but there is one VERY important difference: all ONE HUNDRED AND TWO of his victories were "in the west": NONE on the Eastern Front.

Born during WWI in 1917, Mayer began flying in gliders as a teenager. Turning twenty in 1937, he volunteered for the Luftwaffe in 1937 at twenty, and by the beginning of the war was posted to Jagdgeschwader 2 Richthofen in 1939. Scoring steadily, by November 1942 he was a major commanding Gruppe 3 of JG 2.



Unlike the U.S., the aces of most WWII powers (especially including Germany) stayed in combat until they were killed or incapacitated. When Mayer was shot down and killed by the Thunderbolt of USAAF Lt Walter Gresham (358th F.S., 355 FtrWg) on March 2nd at age 26,

this GROUP COMMANDER's 102 victories included fifty-one Spitfires, twelve P-47 Thunderbolts, and twenty-six four engine bombers.

He is buried in the German cemetery at St. Desiré de [Lisieux](#), France. For more info, check out these links...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egon_Mayer

<http://www.luftwaffe.cz/mayer.html>

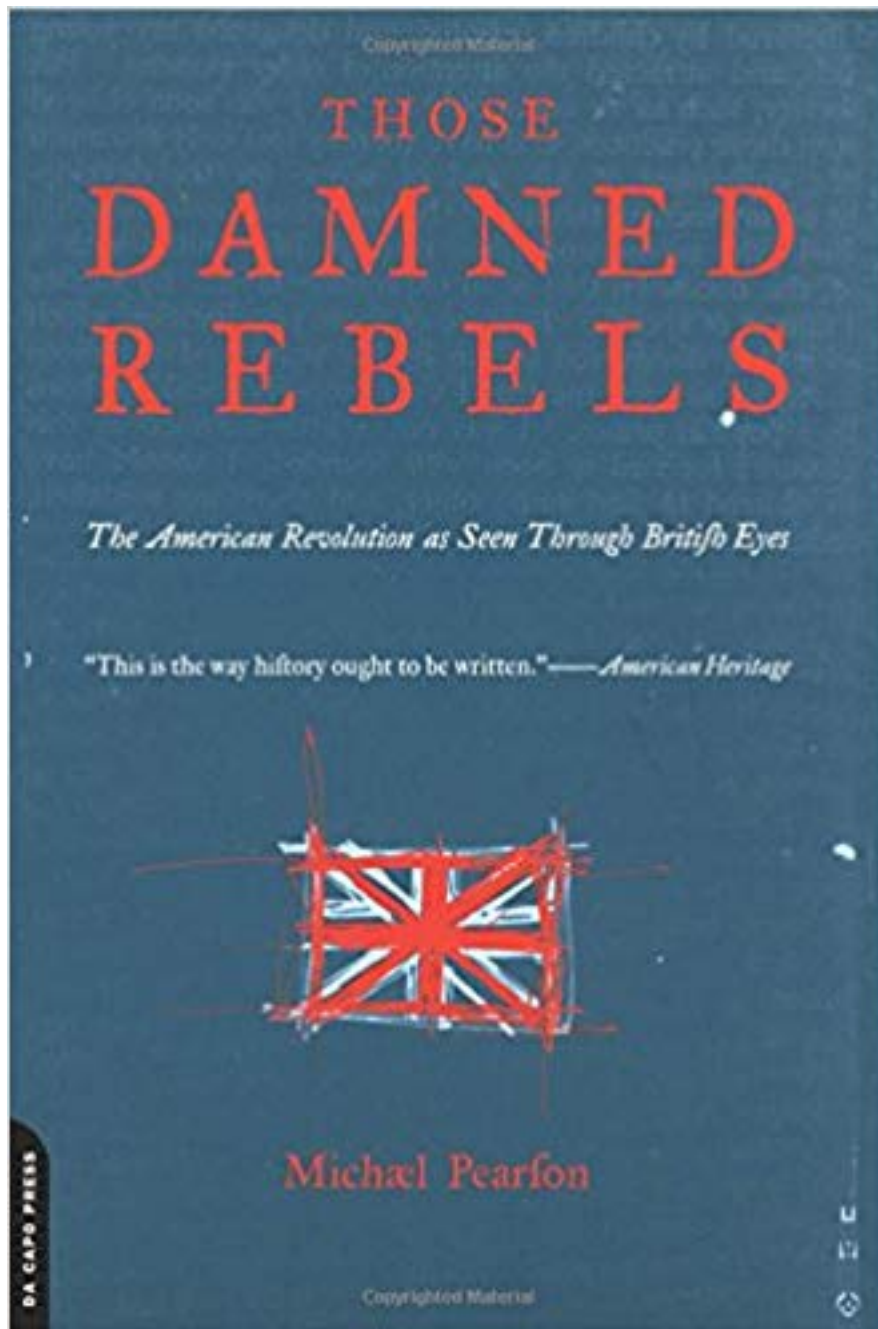
<http://ww2gravestone.com/people/mayer-egon/>

New Region 1 Coordinator [Dave Schwab](#) introduces himself with a brief R-1 report, which includes a little personal introduction to everyone plus a rundown on upcoming events. [Welcome aboard, Dave](#), and let me know if you would like to be added to the mail list for this informal IPMS chapter newsletter clearing house. There is no obligation: if you don't want to continue just ask and I'll take you off the list. Everything is always forwarded "BCC" (blind copy) to protect email addresses.

Jim Qualey's presents TWO neat models of early Navy Korean war-era jets, both in 1/72nd: the Grumman F9F-2 Panther (Hasegawa); and the Airfix McDonnell F2H-2 Banshee (Airfix)the "Banjo", to use the Navy's nickname for the Banshee. John Walker has also been busy: besides a very well done job on an obscure military vehicle, the Hungarian 39M Casaba armored scout car; he presents a very nicely done pair of figures.



Both are Revolutionary War: one an American rebel; the other the British Grenadier above. This figure immediately reminded me of a book I finished just this week: **“Those Damned Rebels”** by Michael Pearson. The subtitle amplifies that for a full understanding: **“The American Revolution as Seen Through British Eyes”**.



Pearson has studied the entire war from beginning to end from the viewpoint of BRITISH official documents, diaries, reports, newspaper articles, treaty negotiations, etc. Especially important is his study of world events, as how the revolt affected Britain's pre-existing, long-running rivalry with France, eager to redeem its losses in the Seven Years war (French and Indian War in our history) which had ended

only a dozen years earlier. The book was thus very, very illuminating for this American reader. All the military actions are covered in some detail ...again, from the British view ...but the internal deliberations of the king and his ministers and bureaucrats were the most interesting to me.

The hostilities began with the disastrous British effort beginning the night of April 18/19, 1775 (misprinted as 1755 in the newsletter) to seize military stores collected by the aroused colonials at Lexington and Concord. The operation is described in great detail ...from the British side ...and is the action which the above Grenadier figure represents. I would say that the clean uniform on John's figure shows him early in the operation, not (if he survived) near the end of a very, very long nearly two days as his unit struggled to get back to the safety of their base in Boston. The heavy casualties shocked everybody, most especially the King's government back in London.

The war dragged on for years, with mostly British victories, but without the King's forces ever really gaining control of the countryside. The book will definitely give an understanding of why many historians today term our Revolution as "Britain's Vietnam".

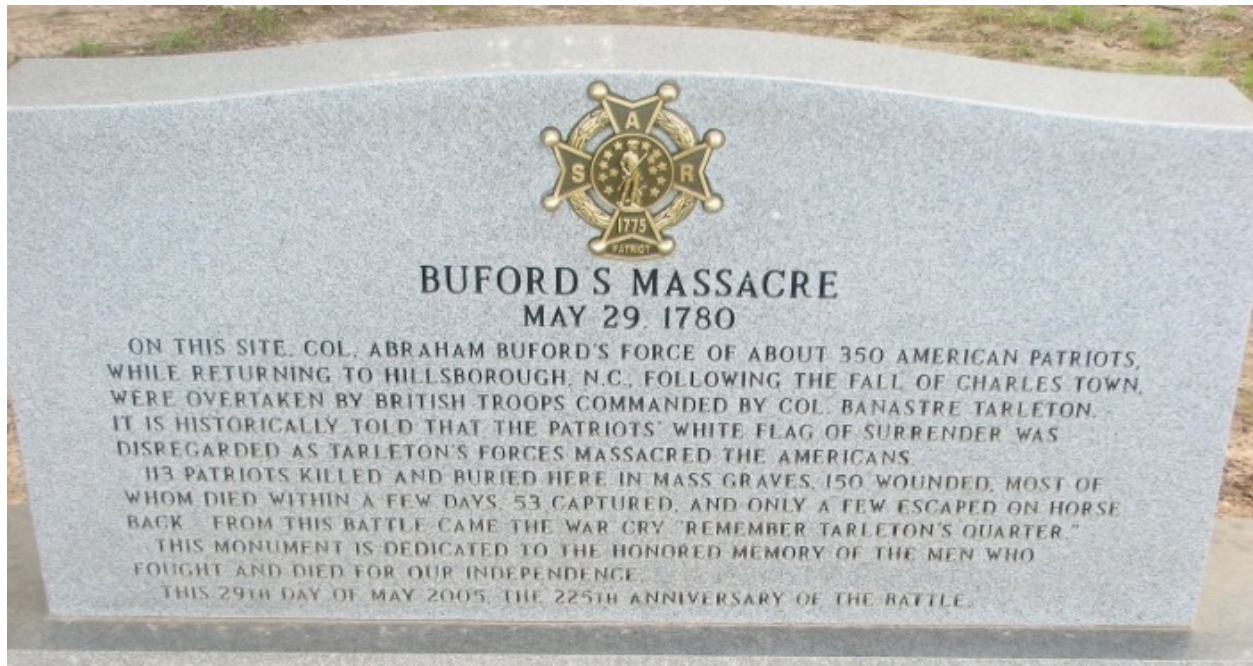
The book is not new (1972), but highly recommended. http://search.half.ebay.com/those-damned-rebels_W0QQmZbooksQQ_trksidZp2682Q2em1447Q2el2686

Perhaps predictably, on the subject of LtCol Banastre Tarleton, author Pearson espouses the views of British historians ever since the Revolution; that the English officer's actions had been within the accepted standards of warfare.



(Actor Jason Isaacs)

Admittedly a brilliant and audacious cavalry commander, his reputation here in “the colonies” is still exactly the opposite: that he was a vicious leader who did all (or most) of the things ascribed to “Tavington” (above) in Mel Gibson’s movie “Patriot”. Remember him? (With reason, the Brits are still angry at the over-the-top portrayal of the fictitious “Tavington”!)



An example of rebel attitudes still prevalent is the above marker next to the mass grave (below) of Continental infantry slashed to death by Tarleton's cavalry, reportedly as they tried to surrender. The location is only about twenty miles from my house, just across the border in South Carolina. Depending which side of the Atlantic you're on, opinions vary widely as to what actually HAPPENED here. What is agreed is that Rebel attitudes CHANGED here were a key to the eventual patriot victory. <http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/lancaster/S10817729019/>

Among local citizens who helped bury the dead and care for the wounded were the widow Mrs. Andrew Jackson, and her sons Andrew (age 13) and Robert. The incident was one of many in the revolutionincluding in a separate incident Jackson's face being scarred for life by a British officer's sword, for refusing to clean his bootsthat set in stone the future president's hatred for the British.



Probably because it was a defeat for the rebels, the location remains an obscure, little known Lancaster County historical site outside metro Charlotte. I doubt if 1% of the the metro area's population knows what happened here, much less could find it. (On my first visit, I stopped to ask directions at the county sheriff's headquarters which turned out to be five miles down the road from their office to the site: the staff on duty didn't know what I was talking about.)



On the other hand, the sites of two other Revolutionary battlefields, both rebel VICTORIES at King's Mountain and Cowpens, a little farther away and both also in South Carolina, received the full national battlefield treatment from the Park Service, complete with interpretive rangers in Smokey the Bear hats.

It's always better to win.