



GOOSE GREEN: 2 PARA'S FIGHT FOR THE FALKLANDS

HISTORY *of* WAR



"I SURVIVED BECAUSE OF LUCK"

ONE RIFLEMAN'S JOURNEY FROM ALAMEIN TO DRESDEN


SECRETS OF THE FOREIGN LEGION

1916-2016

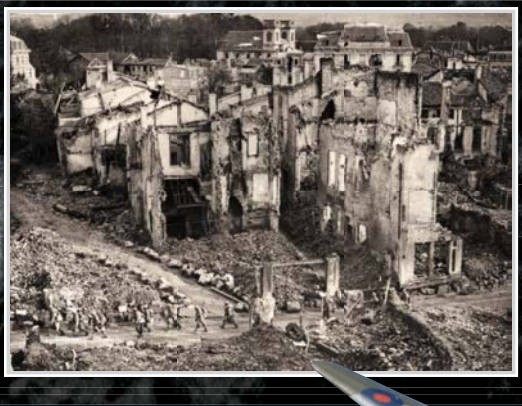
100 YEARS ON, WE REMEMBER

VERDUN

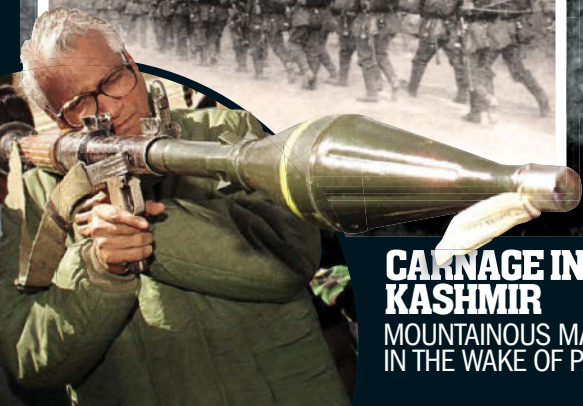
Discover the bold strategy and incredible sacrifice that saved France from annihilation



CARNAGE IN KASHMIR
MOUNTAINOUS MAYHEM IN THE WAKE OF PARTITION



DE HAVILLAND MOSQUITO
GET INSIDE THE RAF'S WOODEN NIGHT FIGHTER



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Welcome

“Ils n’ont pas passé”

(English: They did not pass)

– Inscription at the Mort-Homme memorial, Verdun

This year is set to mark a number of sobering WWI centenaries, bringing an extra poignancy to annual commemorations the world over.

While many in the UK will be looking to the anniversary of the Somme, across the Channel a different battlefield, no less mournful and tragic, will be in the minds of many: Verdun.

It was here in 1916 that the longest and among the bloodiest battles raged on, as the French and German armies mauled each other relentlessly.

This issue explores the background to this brutal campaign, from the details of

Erich von Falkenhayn’s terrifying strategy, to the formidable forts designed to save France from invasion and utter defeat.



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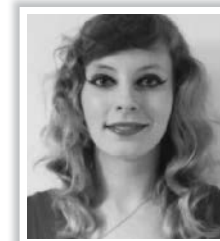
TOM GARNER

Placing both feet firmly in the 20th century this month, Tom sat down with WWII veteran Victor Gregg, who fought from Alamein to Market Garden (page 58) and Falklands veteran Philip Neame, who led D Company at Goose Green (page 26).



JONATHAN KRAUSE

Jonathan is an Oxford University Research Associate and author with an expertise in the French army during WWI. In this first of a two-part series, he unpacks the decisions and strategies on the path towards the Battle of Verdun (page 38).



ALICE BARNES-BROWN

In the War of 1812 against the USA, Britain allied itself with a confederation of Native American tribes, waging their own war against the States. This issue, Alice recounts the story of this rebellion’s largely forgotten leader, Tecumseh (page 50).

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During the Battle of Verdun, French soldiers move in for the attack. Read more on page 38

BRITAIN'S TOMAHAWK WARRIORS

WORDS ALICE BARNES-BROWN

As Great Britain once again became embroiled in a struggle with its former colony, an unlikely ally would appear, eager to take the fight to the USA

The Battle of Tippecanoe was an American victory and further fuelled the tensions between the United States and Britain



Folk heroes, especially underdogs, are immortalised in tales told by generations of admirers. Many of these stories that are passed down embellish the truth considerably, but the legend remains a powerful image and an inspiration to all. In Native American culture, where oral history takes on a far more vital role than in our own, Shawnee chief Tecumseh is remembered as one of the truly great resistance leaders in the fight against the white American settlers and their 'manifest destiny'.

In the US, Tecumseh's legacy is one of reverence for a formidable foe. He is also commemorated in Canadian folklore as a man that fought hard to defend Canada against US invasion in the War of 1812. However, this was not his main intention; his aim was to defend the native peoples residing across the border from harm by white settlers. In Britain, he is barely remembered at all. As arguably the most famous Native American warrior in history, he ought to be given his due as a powerful ally, one who combined his own method of warfare with British instruction to create innovative and ingenious strategies.

Born for war

Tecumseh, a member of the Shawnee tribe in Ohio, grew up around war. His father, Pucksinwah, had fought in the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) alongside the French, in order to prevent British settlers from gaining further territory in the region. Shortly after Tecumseh's birth in 1768, Pucksinwah was murdered at the Battle of Point Pleasant, during Lord Dunmore's War in 1774. Tecumseh took it upon himself to fight using whatever means necessary to stop his people falling prey to the onslaught of white settlers. He began by disrupting trade routes along the Ohio River, which briefly grounded passing boats to a halt.

Soon afterwards, Tecumseh set his sights much higher, and aimed to expel settlers from his region entirely. In previous decades, the Shawnees had been deliberately isolated from other tribes in the region, so Tecumseh decided to rebuild the trust and solidarity that had been lost in order to effectively fight against the Americans.

He and his brother, Tenskwatawa (also known as 'the Shawnee Prophet'), sought to revive traditional Native religion as a unifying force, raising enthusiasm for battle. Tenskwatawa had already accumulated a considerable support base by prophesying that an apocalypse would destroy the white settlers. What became known as Tecumseh's Confederation had members from tribes all across the region, including the large Iroquois and Wyandot groups. Most were concentrated around the Tippecanoe River, in modern-day Indiana. The main settlement here was named Prophetstown, a centre of Native culture and administration, named after its founder, Tenskwatawa.

After his work at home was done, Tecumseh travelled south to try and recruit the 'Five Civilised Tribes', who had the potential to strengthen the pan-Indian movement enormously: the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole people. These groups were held in relatively good regard by the US, because they had adopted Euro-American ways and were used as an example to other tribes. By gaining crucial allies in this group, Tecumseh knew he would be a formidable force, as they possessed greater influence and resources than any other Native group.

Tecumseh was a fantastic orator, and his speeches were very well attended. In a council with Choctaws and Chickasaws in 1811, he cried, "The annihilation of our race is at hand unless we unite in one common cause against the common foe." He warned against their appeasement tactics, stating, "You are among the few of our race who sit indolently at ease." However, he found it difficult to gain much traction further south, as the Five Tribes had their own ideas about how best to win back (or at least, stay on) Native lands. Pushmataha, a regional Choctaw power-holder, had this to say in response: "Our people have no undue

friction with the whites. Why? Because we have had no leaders stirring up strife to serve their selfish, personal ambitions”.

The confederacy was always intended to be a military alliance, even if it masqueraded as a cultural and religious revival movement. Tecumseh was a warrior at heart, but many of his contemporaries, such as Black Hoof (another Shawnee leader), preferred to go down the diplomatic route to try and win favour with the whites.

Rebellion begins

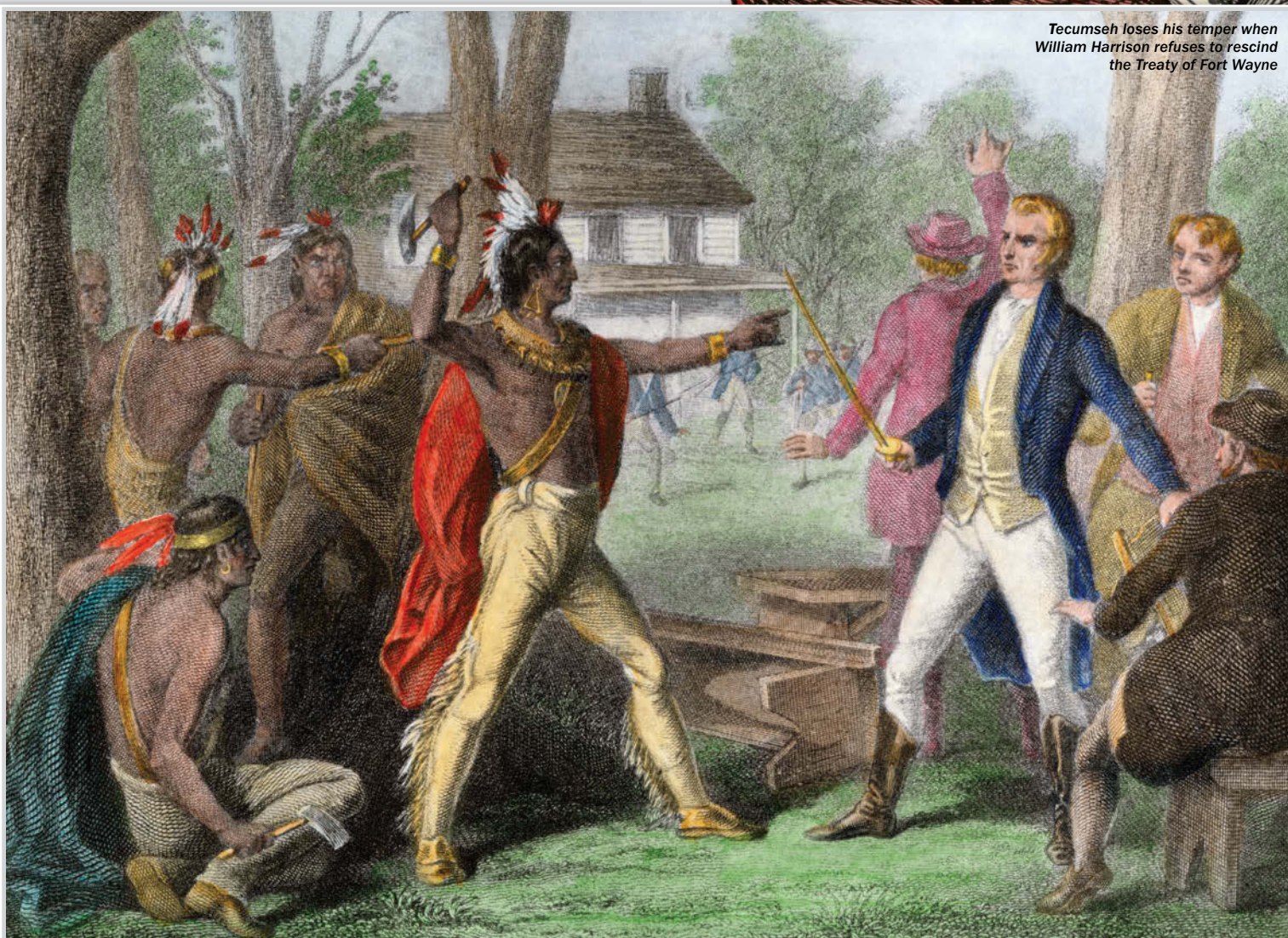
Tecumseh's finest hour came with his namesake rebellion, which lasted from 1810 and continued during the War of 1812. Tensions had begun to rise between him and local governor William Henry Harrison, the future president of the US. Harrison had refused to nullify the Treaty of Fort Wayne, ceding millions of acres of Native land to the US government, which Tecumseh believed was invalid. In protest, he led a band of 400 warriors to Harrison's house. A particularly heated negotiation escalated when Tecumseh raised his tomahawk and Harrison drew his sword. Chief Winamac, a Potawatomi chief also in attendance, intervened and urged Tecumseh and his band to leave in peace.

As he was departing, Tecumseh threatened to look to the British for support. He talked

of victory, making the tomahawk “fat with the blood of white men”. His developing confederacy was reassured of the success the war would bring, because, according to Tecumseh, the British King would send “brave warriors against them; he will send us rifles, and whatever else we want”. Strange as it is to believe, he talked favourably of the King and in a speech to the Osage tribe called him the ‘Great Father’, saying that he was angry with the Americans. This statement had some truth to it, as the King wanted to reassert British dominance over the American economy. He was willing to ally with Tecumseh to stop Americans encroaching on Canada, which at the time was still a British possession.

While Tecumseh was away making speeches and trying to encourage different tribes to join him, Tenskwatawa was left in charge in Prophetstown. The US army set up an encampment close by, and the battle of Tippecanoe began overnight. Tecumseh returned to find his brother in disgrace and his followers disillusioned. Enraged, he started to rebuild Prophetstown and his shattered Confederacy, preparing his people for the oncoming war.

Right: A stylised portrait of Tecumseh in uniform based on a mistaken belief he was a British general



Tecumseh loses his temper when William Harrison refuses to rescind the Treaty of Fort Wayne

“HEREIN LIES AN EXAMPLE OF THE LIMITATIONS OF BRITISH-NATIVE CO-OPERATION; NO MATTER WHAT TECUMSEH DID, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SHAKE OFF THE STEREOTYPICAL VIEW THAT TRIBESPEOPLE WERE FUNDAMENTALLY SAVAGES”

War of 1812

After the defeat at Tippecanoe, Tecumseh drew closer to the British, as they were less interested in conquering territory and more concerned with maintaining a trade monopoly with the US. For Native Americans, this was the lesser of two evils, and as the war raged on, the British would assist Tecumseh by providing weapons, soldiers and strategic advice. They realised the importance of Native Americans as valuable assets in a battle for territory they had known for millennia. During the American War of Independence (1775-1783), the Shawnee tribe had allied with the British and fought against the US many times. In the eyes of the British, they were a tribe that could be counted upon. The British were happy to supply Tecumseh's men with weapons as long as they continued to harass US supply lines.

Tecumseh aligned himself with Major-General Isaac Brock, a man with substantial vigour, and together they took the fight to US troops in

Detroit, on 16 August 1812. While outside the fort, British troops placed themselves within easy view of the Americans, marched out of sight and repeated the procedure again. As visibility was poor, the Americans were fooled by this roleplay, believing there were more British troops than were actually present. From the other side of the fort, Tecumseh's warriors would do the same thing in a visible clearing of the nearby woods, making a great deal of noise to maximise the illusion and amplify the sense of fear.

In spite of the fact there were only about 600 of Tecumseh's warriors, this repetitive procedure led the American garrison to conclude that there were as many as 3,000 of them. Brock also sent a threatening letter to the US leader, Hull, forewarning that he would not be able to keep the Native Americans under control once the battle had commenced. Since there was a widespread fear of Native savagery and brutality, this threat was taken

very seriously. Hull hoisted a white flag, fearing a massacre by Tecumseh, and around 2,500 Americans were captured by almost a thousand less British and Native American soldiers.

A year later, word got out that the Americans were planning on reclaiming Detroit. Brock had been killed and was replaced by Major-General Procter, a man with little practical experience of battle. On the American side, the aforementioned William Henry Harrison had taken over from Hull, and had constructed a defence on the road to Detroit at Fort Meigs.

Procter resolved to attack this position, in order to prevent the Americans from having the strength to recapture Detroit, as well as to disrupt supply lines. On 1 May 1813, the British opened fire on the fort. Over 450 men from the Canadian militia joined regular units armed with two 24-pounder guns – captured from the last battle at Detroit – two gunboats and nine lighter pieces of artillery. However, Native American troops made up the majority of the invading force, with 1,250 men led by both Tecumseh and Wyandot chief, Roundhead.

After leading a significant number of the US Kentucky regiment into a nearby forest, they were able to inflict a great number of casualties on the American side. In the frenzy, a small number of Native warriors began killing prisoners before Tecumseh persuaded them to stop. As Procter was in command at the time,

SHOWDOWN AT TIPPECANOE

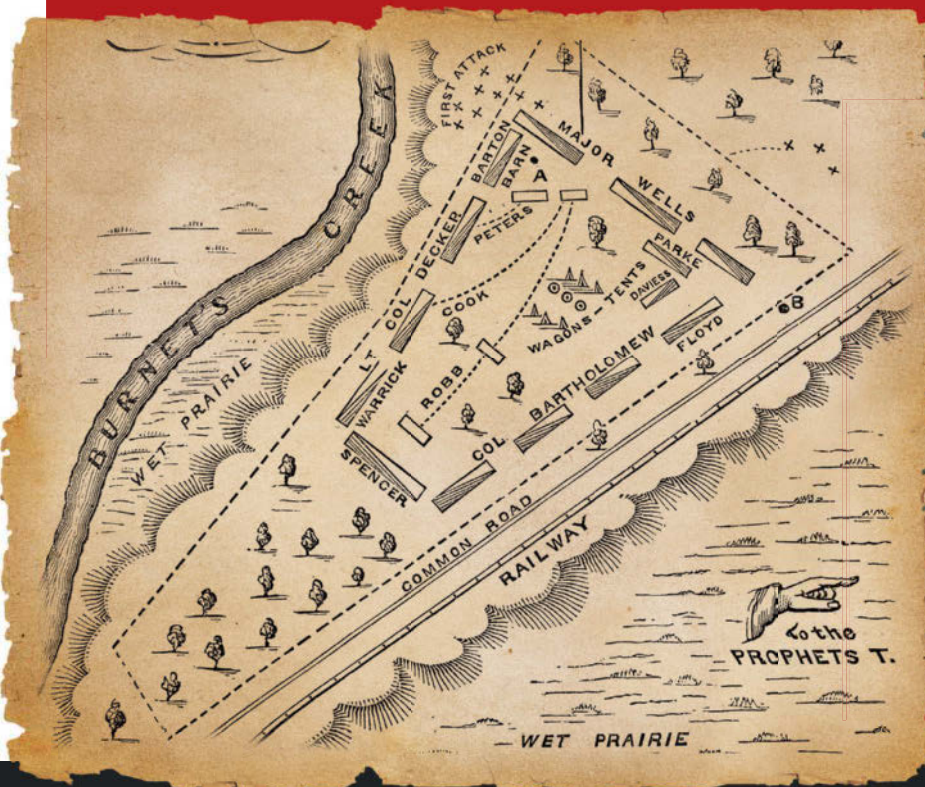
IN NOVEMBER 1811, THE US DECIDED TO LAUNCH A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE AGAINST TECUMSEH'S CONFEDERACY

The US marched on Tippecanoe in modern-day Iowa to attack Prophetstown and the centre of Tecumseh's rebellion. After numerous attempts to organise a ceasefire with William Henry Harrison, 600-700 anxious Confederacy tribesmen led by Tenskwatawa grew restless. They attacked the US encampment from the exposed north and south perimeters at approximately 4.30am. The east was protected by a steep slope, and the west by a small river. Harrison, leading the US troops, relied too heavily on the terrain and had used a standard, weakened, rectangle camp formation. The attack came as a total surprise, and although the

sleeping soldiers were initially startled, they managed to reinforce their position by working with local militia to repel the attacks from the north and south flanks.

As the fight wore on, Tenskwatawa's warriors grew weary, low on both ammunition and morale. They retreated, and in retaliation the US army destroyed the nearby Prophetstown, delivering a harsh blow to the already fractured Confederation. Although the battle was technically a draw, William Henry Harrison used the slogan 'Tippecanoe and Tyler Too' during his presidential campaign in 1840 to remind voters of his military prowess.

Left: This sketch shows the location of personnel in the US encampment. Tenskwatawa's warriors attacked from woodland to the north and south. Below: A music sheet cover for the 'Tippecanoe Quick Step' arranged some 30 years after the battle had taken place



Tecumseh furiously questioned why he had not stopped them, to which he retorted that the Natives could not be controlled. Herein lies an example of the limitations of British-Native cooperation; no matter what Tecumseh did, it was impossible to shake off the stereotypical view that tribespeople were fundamentally savages.

The Battle of the Thames

At this point in the war Tecumseh was rapidly losing faith in the British and he and Procter disagreed over potential retreat. The latter wished to return to the safety of Canada, to resume fighting after the winter had weakened the US army, whereas the former was eager to regain land for his people. Tecumseh followed Procter's forces in late September 1813 until he reached Moraviantown, Canada – 50 miles east of Detroit.

Tecumseh announced here that they would go no further with the British forces, and delivered a moving speech which reveals his mounting distrust. "We are much astonished to see our father [Procter]... preparing to run away without letting his red children know what his intentions are," said Tecumseh. "The Americans have not yet defeated us... and we therefore wish to remain here." To Procter, he said, "You have the arms and ammunition which our great father [the King] has sent for his red children. If you have an idea of going away, give them to us." The oncoming battle would be Tecumseh's last stand. After his death, the alliance of tribes he had toiled hard to create would completely disintegrate.

Artistic depictions of the Battle of the Thames show Tecumseh's warriors fighting with tomahawks, and the US army with rifles and muskets. However, it is more likely that Native warriors used a combination of traditional weapons and those provided by the British. They had supplied over 25,000 guns for approximately 10,000 auxiliary troops Tecumseh had recruited. It is said Tecumseh himself traded one of these weapons for a Kentucky rifle just days before the Battle of the Thames on 5 October 1813, at which he died defending Native troops against all odds. It is said he even had premonitions of his own death, and painted his face black that day in preparation to meet his end.

Death and legacy

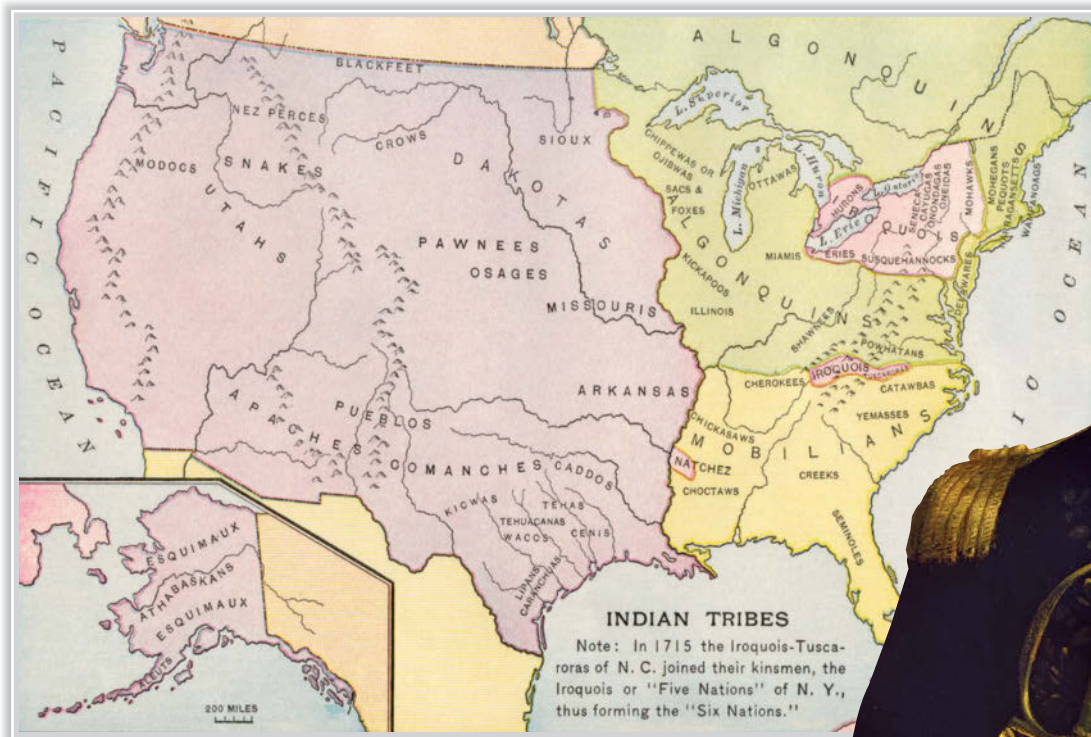
With Tecumseh gone, his Confederacy fell, and Native Americans lost one of their greatest leaders. Procter was eventually court-martialled for the poor leadership he had shown during the battle. However, his temporary suspension was little consolation for Tecumseh's men, who had lost more than just a commander. The breakdown of the British-Native alliance meant that neither party could put up any meaningful resistance to increased US settlement, so Natives were forced off their historic homelands. The repercussion of this is still discernible today; tribes that once lived far and wide on rich soil have been reduced to small, barren, desert reservations in the West.

Some of the Confederacy tribes agreed to a truce only a week after Tecumseh's death, as the removal of British protection made them prey to American aggression. Tecumseh had been the man that inspired them to keep fighting, keep pushing for their independence, so today is remembered as a formidable opponent, even by white American citizens. The man believed to have killed him, Richard Johnson, was later made Vice President of the US, due to the respect garnered from the incident. The Battle of the Thames also dramatically increased William Henry Harrison's popularity, and aided his presidential campaign.

Many towns in the American Midwest and southern Canada are named after Tecumseh. Even the renowned Union Civil War general, William Tecumseh Sherman, had to live up to the legend that gave him his middle name. A warship built by the Canadian Navy in 1815, to defend against the Americans, was named HMS Tecumseh, in memoriam of the recently deceased Canadian folk hero. Likewise, in the US, four ships have been named after him since his death.

The fact that Tecumseh, in spite of his deplored ethnicity, has inspired such recognition is a testament to the success of Native American tribal warfare. It serves as an important reminder that British military history is not always composed of men from high society, and that indigenous peoples played a far larger role than much historical writing would suggest.

Below: A map depicting the broad territories held by 18th-century Native American tribes



Right: After his military career, William Henry Harrison would go on to become the Ninth President of the United States



“NEITHER PARTY COULD PUT UP ANY MEANINGFUL RESISTANCE TO INCREASED US SETTLEMENT, SO NATIVES WERE FORCED OFF THEIR HISTORIC HOMELANDS”

DOWNFALL AT THE THAMES

AT TECUMSEH'S LAST STAND, THE BRITISH AND THE NATIVE AMERICANS WERE OUTNUMBERED ALMOST 3 TO 1

William Henry Harrison's men gave chase as Procter retreated into Canada. Tecumseh's men attempted to slow them, but a confrontation eventually came at Moraviantown, a settlement of Christian

Native Americans. Procter set up a line of British troops, with only one cannon to protect them. Tecumseh's warriors flanked the Americans to the left, with the river to their right. However, when the cannon failed to fire, Harrison's troops

broke through. Procter fled and Tecumseh's warriors continued to fight to the end. Despite the fact the residents of Moraviantown had not taken part in the fighting, their village was burned by the US army in reprisal.

1. HARRISON'S FORCE

The 3,500 Americans led by Harrison were much better prepared for battle than the British or Native troops, having captured further weapons and supplies. The British soldiers also had serious doubts about Procter's leadership, so Harrison's main focus was to scupper British forces, giving the Americans the upper hand.

2. TECUMSEH'S FORCE

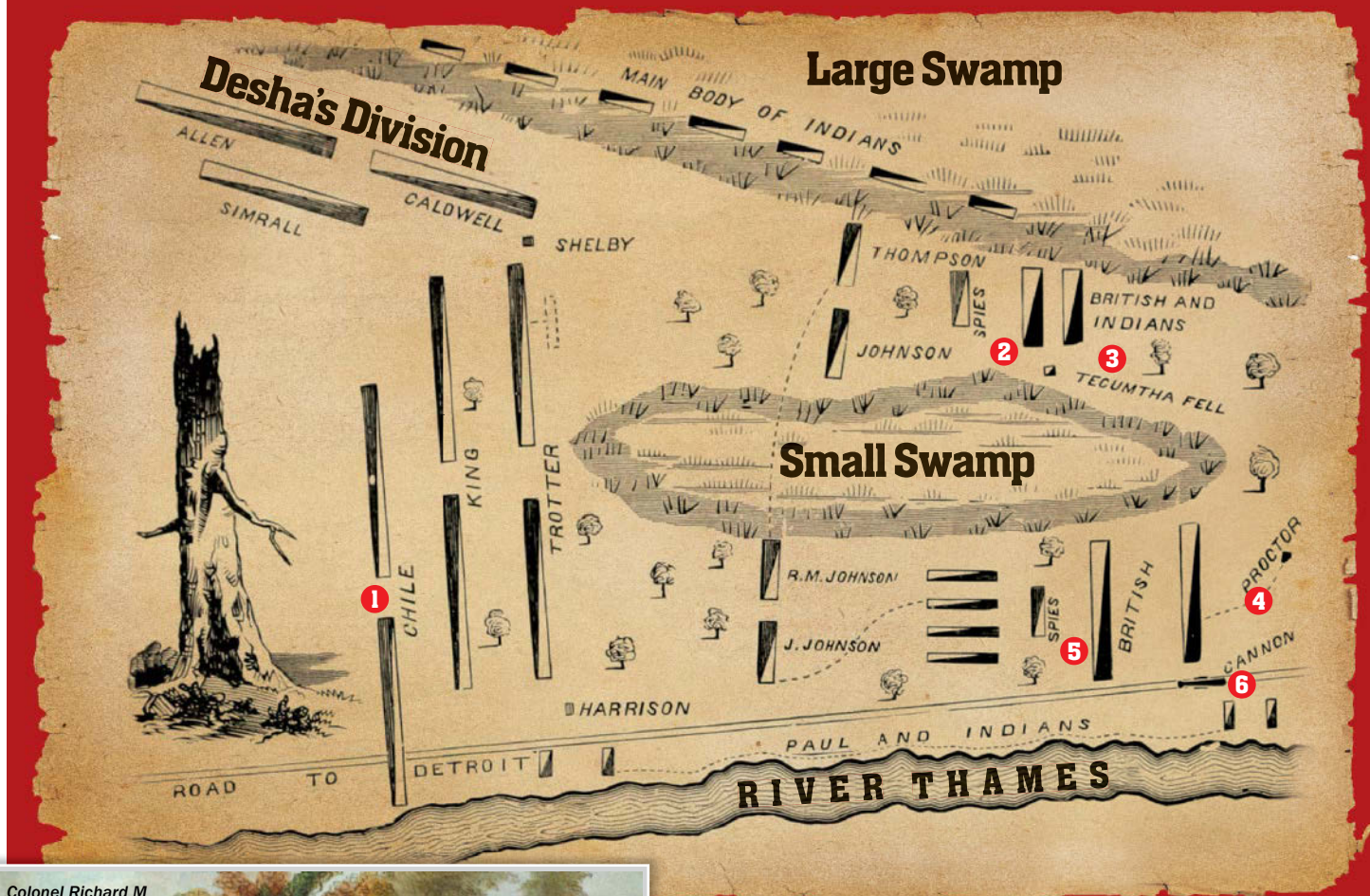
The Confederation army numbered about 500 at this point. Armed with a combination of guns and tomahawks, they were distracted by a smaller unit and could not reach the bulk of the enemy. However, both forces got bogged down in the swamp and had to dismount.

3. BRITISH ARMY

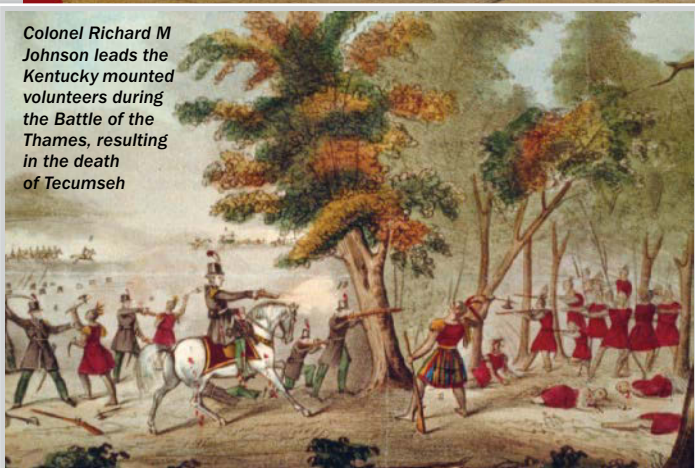
Procter's plan was to isolate the US troops on the banks of the river and force a surrender. By having the Native Americans flank them to the north and 800 British troops directly ahead of them, theoretically there would be nowhere else for them to go.

4. BROKEN CANNON

This six-pounder cannon was virtually the only piece of artillery available to Procter after his retreat. It was supposed to drive the US army off the road, but the dilapidated weapon failed to fire. At this point, the Americans broke through the British line.



Colonel Richard M Johnson leads the Kentucky mounted volunteers during the Battle of the Thames, resulting in the death of Tecumseh



5. BRITISH RETREAT

Having made a final attempt to fire one more round at the US troops, Procter and a number of his men fled after less than ten minutes of fighting. The remainder surrendered, leaving the Americans free to deal with Tecumseh and his warriors.

6. TECUMSEH KILLED

After American reinforcements arrived, Tecumseh's warriors did not stand a chance, armed only with axes, knives, as well as a few guns. It is not known exactly who killed Tecumseh, as many claim to have done so. His Wyandot deputy, Roundhead, was also killed in the fighting.

"AFTER AMERICAN REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED, TECUMSEH'S WARRIORS DID NOT STAND A CHANCE"