

THE BATTLE OF WAHOO SWAMP



One of the bloodiest battles of the Seminole War took place on November 21st, 1836 at Wahoo Swamp.

U.S. Army forces under the command of Governor Richard Call, looking for a dramatic victory to appease President Andrew Jackson who was questioning Call's command, struck into known Seminole territory.

After burning several abandoned towns, they began to get lost in the swamp, which was described by one officer as "the most gloomy dismal place that the imagination can conceive." Scouts spotted a group of Seminole across a small river, and called for reinforcements.

As the battle began, it soon became clear that the Seminole had chosen the area, utilizing the natural terrain to their advantage. Major David Moniac, a member of the Creek Confederacy and the first Indigenous graduate of West Point, attempted to lead a charge across the water, but was instantly and fatally shot. After numerous casualties on both sides, the army was forced into a retreat.

It was the most aggressive foray into Seminole territory, and one of the bloodiest battles for the Seminole. What Call didn't know was that the native defenders were protecting a nearby town where many of the women, children, and elders had taken shelter. Call was stripped of his command by President Jackson, leading to the rise of the soon to be infamous General Thomas Jesup.

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