

# The History of the USS Cowpens

USS COWPENS (CG 63) is named to commemorate the Revolutionary war battle fought January 17, 1781 at the "COWPENS" South Carolina. Brigadier General Daniel Morgan with his experienced yet untrained militia with 300 Colonial Army soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John Eager Howard engaged and defeated the stronger, better trained force of British Army regulars under Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Victory provided the morale building catalyst needed to defeat the British at Yorktown nine months later.

The first ship to be named COWPENS was an Independence - class light aircraft carrier during World War II. Initially, when her keel was laid in November 1941, she was to become the HUNTINGTON (CL 107). The country's need for carriers prevailed however, following the owner from Cowpens, South Carolina had written a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, suggesting that a carrier be named in honor of the famous nearby Revolutionary war battle. Carriers at the time were named after battles (as cruisers are now), and the ship was

reclassified USS COWPENS (CVL 25). Her crew affectionately knew her as the "Mighty Moo". Throughout World War II, the COWPENS went on to earn twelve battle stars and the Navy Unit Commendation for her exemplary service. She was also the first light carrier to enter Tokyo Bay and from her decks the crew witnessed the signing of the Japanese surrender onboard the USS MISSOURI "The Mighty Mo", bringing an end to World War II.

