

Historical Sketch

This is the story of an independent company by the name of the Pulaski Cadets. The time was shortly after the war of 1812. The origin of the unit actually is rooted in the famous Pulaski's Legion of 1778.



General Washington standing with Johann De Kalb, Baron von Steuben, Kazimierz Pulaski, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Lafayette, John Muhlenberg, and other officers during the Revolutionary War. Artist: Frederick Girsch, 1821-1895.

Kazimierz Pulaski, recommended by Benjamin Franklin, arrived in America on July 23, 1777, landing at Marblehead near Boston. After reporting to the headquarters of George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, and offering his services to the Continental Congress, Pulaski threw himself into the first battle on American soil near Brandywine Creek. On September 15th, Pulaski was nominated to the rank of a General of Cavalry and the Commander in Chief of the American Cavalry. He fought at Germantown covering Washington's retreat, patrolled the area around Valley Forge during the winter, moved to Trenton and then, under Gen. Anthony Wayne, he fought the British at Haddonsfield, New Jersey. His deputy at that time was Col. Michael Kovats de Fabriezy.

In March of 1778, while at Yorktown, Virginia, Pulaski presented to Congress and received permission to form an independent Legion. The headquarters of the Legion was established in Baltimore and in May the Legion received its banner made by Moravian nuns. On September 15, 1778, General Pulaski reported to Washington ready for action with his Legion.

At Egg Harbor, the Legion suffered serious losses. The Legion moved to Trenton, and then to Minisink to carry out action against the Indians. In February 1779, Washington ordered the Legion to proceed from Yorktown in the direction of Savannah. In May, the Legion took part in the battle for the city. On October 9th, General Pulaski was mortally wounded in action and died on the brig Wasp. His body was buried at sea. On October 21st, a symbolic funeral was conducted in Charlestown.