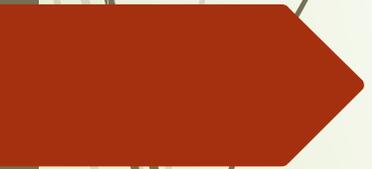


American History

Talk 6: Revolutionary War 1775-1783



Overview

- 
- Opening rounds
 - Declaration of Independence
 - The first campaign 1776/1777
 - War on the Frontier
 - The second campaign 1777/78
 - Southern campaign and loyalists
 - Endgame

Opening Rounds

- Invasion of Canada
- Collapse of British Governance
- Evacuation of Boston

American Invasion of Canada

November –December 1775



Congress develops complex plan involving two armies totalling 10,000 men assume Quebecois will rise up against British and join revolution

Quebecois remain neutral,

British secure alliances with Indians and receive reinforcements to 4,000 men

American armies decimated by small pox, Indian, ambushes, lack of food and clothing, and desertion. Army divides. Force of 2,000 decide to attack Quebec

Battle of Quebec December 1775

4



Night attack during snow storm

Americans defeated, General + 500 killed and wounded, British lose 20

Patriot army retreats to New York, small pox outbreak, 1,500 die during retreat

British anticipate future attack and keep troops in Canada in case Americans invade again

No attempt to relieve siege of Boston

Collapse of British America

5



PULLING DOWN THE STATUE OF GEORGE III.

BY THE ORDER OF PARLIAMENT

Wm. Woodcut, 1766

Continental Congress evangelise Revolution across colonies via 'Committees of Correspondence' & 'Sons of Liberty'

Patriot attack loyalists across the colonies and seize properties

George 3rd statue in New York destroyed

Loyalists (10%-20% population) disorganised, passive, law abiding and helpless....

Many flee to British bases or hide in fear of lives and worse

Collapse of Order

Rioting common event in 18th Century England, violent, Gordon Riots 1780 in London...900 killed when government propose giving Catholics the vote, “tar and feathering” ceased 1600’s

Sons of Liberty use “tar and feathering” to humiliate and terrorise Loyalists....succeed

“First strip a person naked, then heat the tar until it is thin, and pour it upon the naked flesh, or rub it over with a tar brush, quantum sufficit. After which, sprinkle decently upon the tar, whilst it is yet warm, as many feathers as will stick to it. Then hold a lighted candle to the feathers and try to set it all on fire.... Take also a halter, and put it around the person’s neck and then cart them the rounds” (Peter Oliver Loyalist 1781 from Tars and Feathering Barry Levy, Historical Society 2011)

British response hardens.... "I can only say from the short acquaintance I have with the holy men of Massachusetts, I firmly believe that so execrable a set of sanctified villains never before disgraced the human species

..Captain Evelyn, 4th Regiment of Foot 1775,(same source as above)

175 years of British Authority disappears

7



Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia takes a stand

13 Governors and staff flee to British army , 17 documented tar and feather incidents many unreported, few killings

Loyalist Susannah Marshall manages Home alone. Threatened with tar And feathering. Forced to board Patriots in her home (Declaration of Independence Claim vs British quartering of soldiers)

“I should have told you Walker some time ago was tarred and feathered and carted about the town for speaking his mind too freely, a punishment inflicted on every one who dares speak a word against the glorious cause of freedom, or the proceedings of the Patriots (Charleston Gazette Loyalist 1775)

Lord Dunmore (1730-1809)

8



Aristocratic son of Lord
Pardoned from Jacobite
Rising Scottish lord,

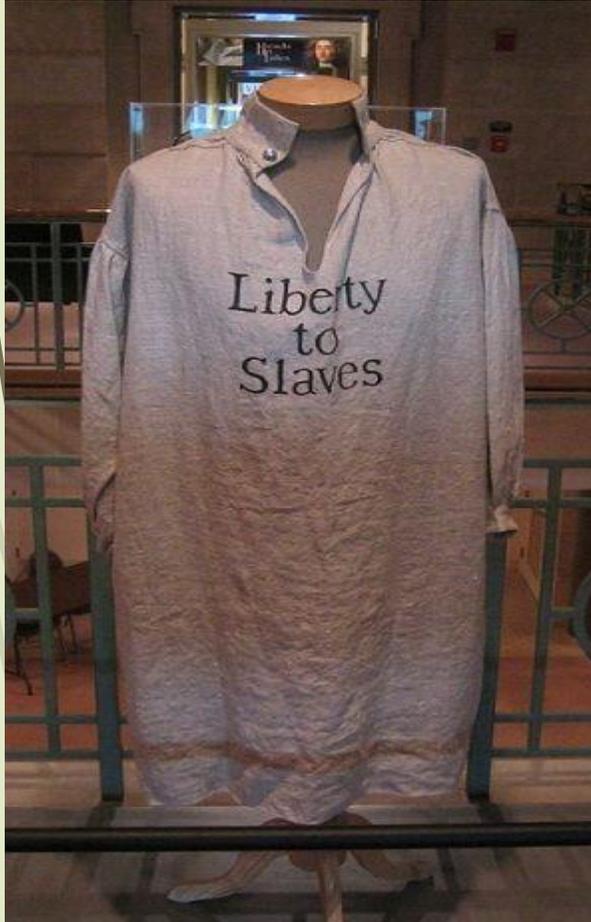
Appointed Governor of
Virginia 1772, zero
diplomatic skills

Driven out Governor's
Mansion October 1775

Issues Proclamation
Slaves joining British
Army decreed free

Lord Dunmore's Ethiopians

9



1,500 slaves join British by November 1775...chaotic, no training,

December...Dunmore's army attack Patriot army and defeated at 'battle of Great Bridge' ...100 killed, 1 Patriot wounded

Navy evacuates survivors to Canada

800 die from pox en route

Regiment disbanded...Dunmore returns to England

Legacy of Lord Dunmore's Ethiopians

10

Survivors join Pioneers

British extend offer to all slaves in 1779 100,000 slaves escape masters, 25,000 join British Army, most as Pioneers

Black Battalion formed 1779

Some integrated into army

'Colonel Tye's Raiders set up, raid coast throughout rest of war'



Black Battalion at battle of Monmouth
Court House 1781

Patriot response...

Horrified!...some moderates join Patriots fearing loss of slaves (property)

Continental Congress Response: “WHEREAS Lord Dunmore, by his proclamation, dated on board the ship William, off Norfolk, the 7th day of November 1775, hath offered freedom to such able-bodied slaves as are willing to join him, and take up arms, against the good people of this colony,,,,,,by an act of the General Assembly now in force in this colony, it is enacted, that all negro or other slaves, conspiring to rebel or make insurrection, shall suffer death, and be excluded all benefit of clergy:

Washington authorises use of slaves in army, most returned to slavery at war's end. Master's send slaves...and re-enslave them at wars end.

Most 'free Black's' supported Patriots...up to 5,000 blacks join fight for independence

Evacuation of Boston April 1776

12



GENERAL WASHINGTON'S ENTRANCE INTO BOSTON, FOLLOWING ITS EVACUATION BY BRITISH TROOPS UNDER GENERAL HOWE, MARCH 17, 1776

Washington takes over army increased
Size to 15,000 deploys cannons
Seized from British forts on frontier

British General Gage realises
position hopeless without
reinforcements and cannot
repeat Bunker Hill...decides to
evacuate

Navy takes Army to Halifax
Nova Scotia to await arrival of
new army...and to get
fired...and re-join his wife back
in England



Declaration of Independence

Thomas Paine (1737-1809)

14



- ▶ Born in Norfolk, Quaker family, grammar school, self taught, privateer, teacher, corset maker, architect, tax collector,
- ▶ Becomes political agitator and writer of pamphlets for higher wages, meets Franklin, emigrates to America 1774
- ▶ Joins Franklin's newspaper, writes "Common Sense, published January 1776

Thomas Paine, professional revolutionary

Common Sense 47 pages distributed and read across the Colonies sells 500,000 copies...destroy' King's reputation:

“One of the strongest natural proofs of the folly of hereditary right in kings, is that nature disapproves it, otherwise, she would not so frequently turn it into ridicule by giving mankind an ass for a lion.”

A Revolutionary Life....

Advises Congress, contributes to Declaration of Independence, designs bridges,
To England, writes “Rights of Man” pursued for libel and flees to France
To France, joins revolution, opposes execution of King, nearly executed..,
Returns to America, writes “Age of Reason” ostracised for atheism
Dies alone: “The World is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion.”

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) aged 30

16



- ▶ Born Virginia to wealthy planter, 'home Schooled', classical scholar, graduates William and Mary College, becomes lawyer specialising in divorce
- ▶ Man of contradictions: inherits 135 slaves, defends slaves in court thought it a temporary necessity argues blacks and whites incompatible, Indians equals,
- ▶ Selected as Virginia delegate to Continental Congress 1776, poor Speaker, brilliant writer

John Adams (1736-1826)



Father Deacon, grammar school, classical scholar, Harvard Graduate, cousin of Samuel Adams, becomes lawyer

Defends and represents British soldiers from 'Boston Massacre', secures acquittal of 9, 3 guilty of manslaughter

Conservative, strong speaker, awkward writer, supports sending "Petition," to King while working with Jefferson on Declaration, becomes Secretary for War, attempts to secure alliance with France

Feels unappreciated, overshadowed by Jefferson and Washington

Declaration of Independence

- ▶ Submitted by Representatives of 'these united States' (not the **United States**)
- ▶ References "God of Nature", and "Divine Providence" ..no mention of Jesus or Christianity
- ▶ Accuses King and Parliament of numerous crimes including:
 - ▶ Inciting domestic unrest; (Lord Dunmore reference?)and
 - ▶ inciting 'merciless and savage' Indians to attack settlers (rubbish)
 - ▶ Others, quartering troops in homes (not true), unfair trials (partially true), unfair taxes without representation (partially true)

Common thread...outrage at being treated as 'colonial subjects'
.....instead of equals....all out war the only remedy...



Britain versus the Colonies 1776

British Position

- Big navy, small army (50,000 dispersed across Empire)
- Reliance on 'impressed volunteers' and mercenaries and small aristocratic officer class
- Lessons learned from Bunker Hill, seek to avoid losses
- Significant logistical issues:
 - 800,000 square miles of territory, much of it uncharted
 - 6-12 weeks trans Atlantic communications

Confident 'Loyalists' intimidated and will rise up in support

American Position

22

- ▶ Well armed population accustomed to war, 200 000 men available
- ▶ Internal communications, dispersed power, no one strategic centre'
- ▶ Control of media with compelling message
- ▶ Wide merit based officer pool highly motivated...avoid getting hanged
- ▶ Competent Leadership in George Washington

Americans 'win' by avoiding defeat, Britain cannot replace losses



The New York Campaign 1776/1777

George Washington

24



Assumes command at aged 42,
experienced, tenacious, unflappable,
decisive and flexible

Major land owner with high prestige
Unchallenged and trusted by leadership

Mediocre battlefield commander
But strategically brilliant and excellent
selector of talent, trusted by officers,
Men, and allies.

General Howe

25



The HON^{BLE} SR W^M HOWE.

Knight of the Bath, & Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces in America.

LONDON: Published as the Act directs, 10th Nov^r 1777, by JOHN MORRIS, Rathbone Place.

63-MP1777.M451

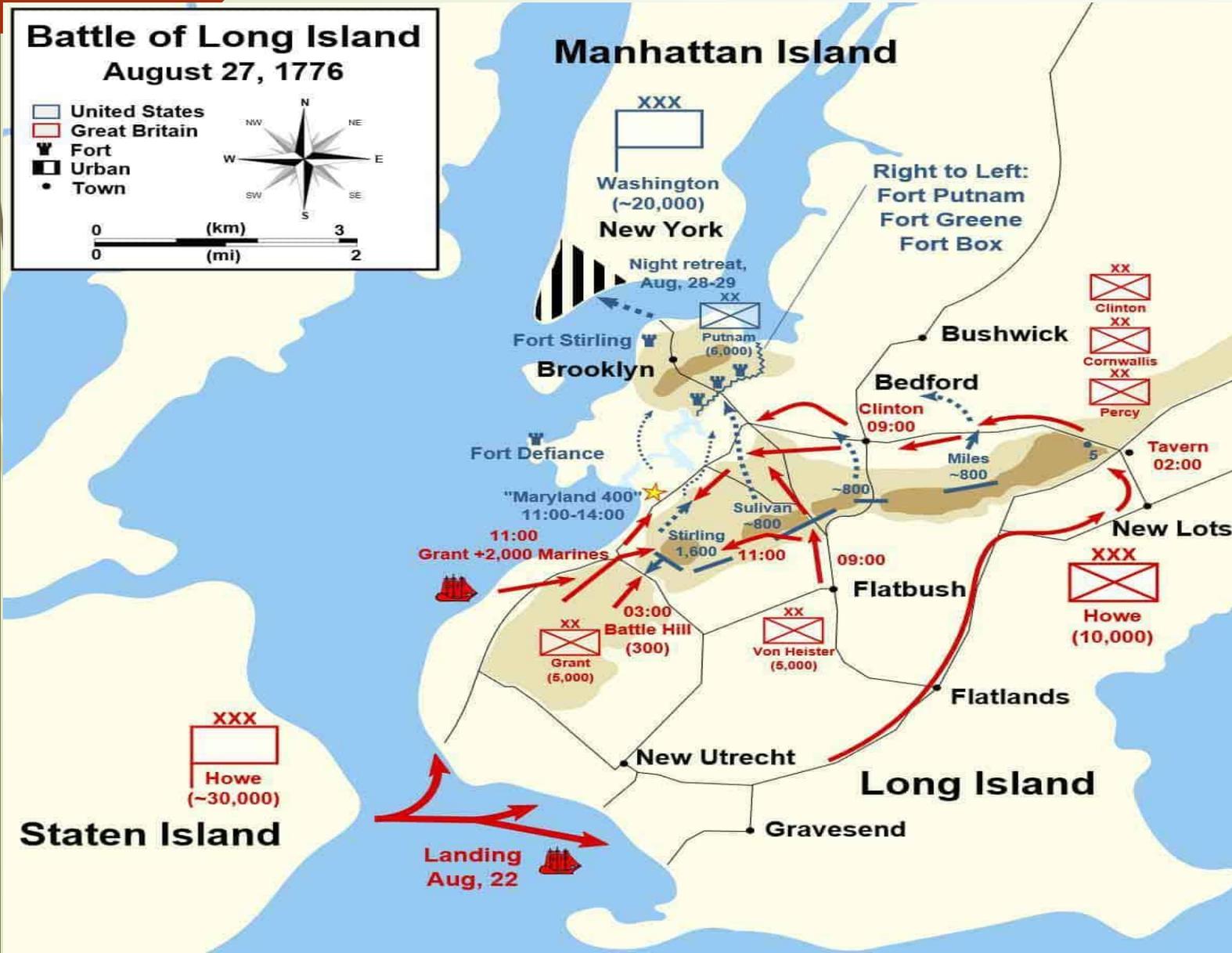
Aristocrat valiant professional soldier, older brother killed at battle of Carillon,

Whig Politician opposed to war, but 'does his duty'

Leads final assault at Bunker Hill, confidence shaken by losses

Inclined to elaborate plans, lack of killer instinct

Battle of Long Island August 1776



Army lands at Staten Island
Howe delays attack to achieve
Overwhelming strength while
Washington entrenches

Howe avoids a 'Bunker Hill'
by amphibious landing of
30,000 men to attack flank
of Washington's
entrenched 20,000

Divides army, multiple
Simultaneous attacks

Battle of Long Island, Americans on the run

27



American's surprised and routed, 2,000 killed, wounded Or captured, British lose 400

Howe does not Pursue.
This was moment the war could have been won

Howe occupies New York, chases Washington across Colony through autumn, wins Battles and take 1000's of prisoners

British go into winter quarters expecting Americans to Surrender, sets up outposts

Crossing the Delaware December 1776

27



Washington's army
Begins to disintegrate,
British and Hessians
Settle down for holidays

Washington learns British
Outposts Isolated,
moves army of 3,000
along river

Attacks Hessians day
after Christmas....

Battle of Trenton December 26, 1776



1,500 British Hessians
Sleeping and/or hung over
200 killed or wounded,
800 captured, Americans
10.

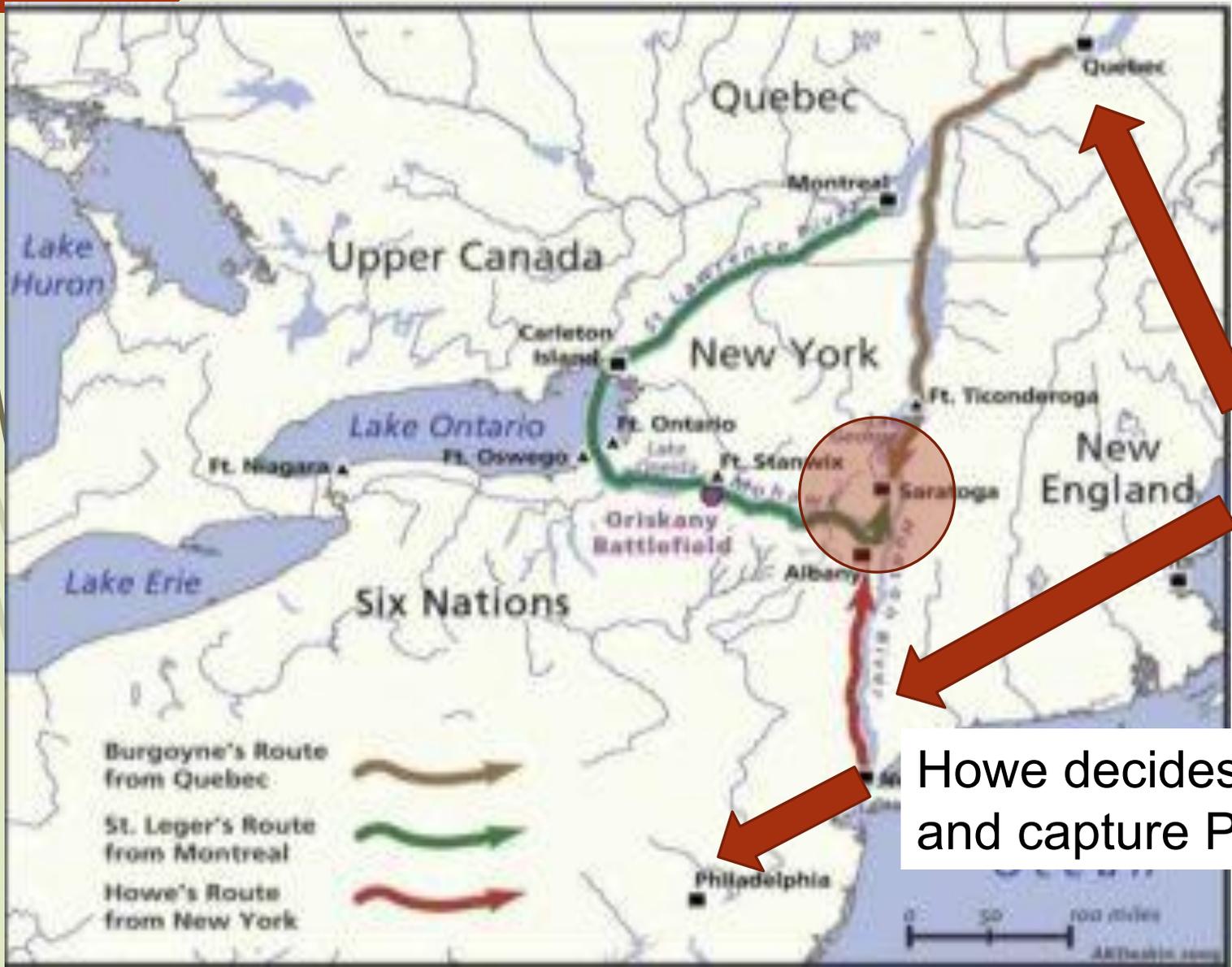
Jan 3rd army of 4,000
attacks 1,000 British
at Princeton, British
routed

Howe stays in New York
and awaits instructions for
next campaign



Campaign of 1777/1778

Campaign of 1777/1778



London Headquarters
Plans to consolidate Army to
separate New England from
other colonies. Then retake
Boston

Army in Canada under
General Burgoyne to unite
with Howe moving north from
New York and together crush
New England

Howe decides to 'go for glory'
and capture Philadelphia

Battle of Brandywine Creek

31



Washington sets
Up entrenchments
Outside Philadelphia

Howe with 15,000 men
outflanks Washington
Army of same size

Americans lose 1,000,
British 500. British take
Philadelphia

British occupy Philadelphia Sept 1777

32



Second Continental Congress flees the city...avoid getting hanged

British occupy city, celebrate and expect to be joined by Loyalists and Americans surrender, Quaker Residents complain of drunken soldiers

Few Loyalists appear,

Washington counterattacks but is defeated at Germantown

British go into 'winter quarters', Washington's Army goes to hills and freezes

Valley Forge 1777/1778

33



Washington sets up camp at Valley Forge, sends half of army to stop British Canadian army's move South

American army reduced from 10,000 to 5,000 by desertion and small pox (Washington immune)

Congress considers removing Washington (Conway Cabal)

Washington rebuilds army waits for news from New York

General Burgoyne (1722-1792)

34



Aristocrat experienced soldier and amateur
Dramatist, strong Tory, defeated American
Invasion of Canada

Popular with troops 'Gentleman Johnny'
Leads army of 7,000 from Canada into
New York

Unaware Howe will not join him, over
Confident, reliant on Indians and Loyalists

Jane McCrea Incident

35



Jane, American born, married to Loyalist Officer in Burgoyne's army

Follows army, moves in with Wife of British arm officer

Murdered by Indian allies

Burgoyne demands Indians hand over killers, Indians claim 'it wasn't us' Burgoyne gives up...Indians leave, rumours spread...discrediting British

Battles of Saratoga September- October 1777

36



British army of 6,000 enter forest
...without scouts.(Indians go)
...few loyalists join

British army wins battles but
losses high

American army grows
to 18,000 and British
surrounded and without
food and losing men..

Surrender at Saratoga, October 1777

37



British surrender.. 'with honours' ..Congress rejects agreed terms and army imprisoned till end of war

France declares war on Britain March 1778

Howe resigns, British Abandon Philadelphia April 1778 and retreat to New York. Offer

British offer 'United Kingdom of Britain and America to Congress. Congress rejects and waits for French



War on the Frontier

Loyalist and Indian alliance

39



British assume Americans will invade Canada after Saratoga defeat and Arrival of French.. No army to resist

New York Loyalist and large landown Johnathan Butler recruit locals and form Alliance with Iroquois

Patriot Army of 400 wiped out at Wyoming Ohio...no quarter ...settlements raided, massacres both sides...rumours and press spreads news increases Patriot recruitment

Washington sends army of 5,000 to destroy Iroquois

Sullivan's Raid

40



Washington instructions “The immediate objects are the total destruction and devastation of their settlements....It will be essential to ruin their crops now in the ground and prevent their planting more.”

Army of 4,000 defeat Butler Ranger & Indian Army of 1,200 and set out about total Destruction of all Iroquois settlements and Poison crops

5,000 Iroquois starve to death, Patriots return to New York...Iroquois Confederation destroyed

Frontier wars...continued

41



Patriot army moves west to clear Indians from west Ohio

Army of 500 wiped out....Seneca Indians ritually execute captured General Crawford...by ritually cooking him

Butlers Rangers return....lay waste to settlements in New York, Pennsylvania and Kentucky

Defeats Patriot army at battle of Blue Lick 1782 and run rampant, learn war over and return to Canada....given land grants

Washington and Congress determined to remove Indians from territory.....but not now



The Southern Campaigns of 1779-1781

British Strategy

American war considered a 'holding operation' due to fears of French Invasion (French army 200,000 plus)

- Hold New York and await arrival of French Army in America
- Change leadership to more aggressive commanders and attack Patriots where they were weakest: The South
- Secure Best terms possible
 - Use light cavalry and raids to destabilise Patriot army
 - Secure 'Loyalists' support

America Loyalists

44

- Government officials, tax collectors, judges, administrators
- Southern planters with interests in the West Indies and Bermuda
- New emigrants with close ties to homeland and Empire,
- Slaves offered freedom by British army
- American Indians ...Iroquois (Great Lakes, Creeks (South East))

Estimated at 20% of population in 1775 but numbers decline as war progresses....lack of unity & effective Patriot propaganda

The new 'team'

45

Sir Henry Clinton (1730-1795)

Edward Cornwallis (1738-1805)



Two aristocratic gentlemen , experienced with two things in common:
duty to Empire and loathing of each other

Siege of Charleston: May 1780

46



British army of 14,000
Invades South

Clinton issues
Proclamation freeing
All slaves joining British

Charleston besieged
And surrenders 5,000
Patriots captured

French army arrives
In New York, Clinton
hands over South
to Cornwallis

Battle of Camden August 1780

47



Cornwallis with 2,000 men seeks American army,

Destroys American army
Of 4,000 at Camden

Light cavalry led by
General Tarleton
lead Loyalists to
victories

South conquered,
Britain on track to
victory?

Banastre Tarleton (1754-1833)

48



Son of a merchant, Oxford
Educated inherited fortune,
gambler, buys commission
in army

Valiant and impetuous, leads light
Cavalry on multiple raids

Wins multiple battles reputation
of 'no surrender Tarleton' at
battle of Waxhaws May 1780

Britain looks set for victory by Autumn 1780

Battle of Kings Mountain October 1780

49



Loyalist versus Patriot
battle In hill country
of North Carolina

Both armies entirely
American apart from
Scot Loyalist Commande

Loyalists army of 1,000
Destroyed. Many
survivors executed in
revenge for Tarleton's
'no surrender' reputation

Battle of Cowpens January 1781

50



Tarleton trusted by Cornwallis to destroy Patriot division

Charges Patriot army without scouts

Discovers himself out
Numbered 800 out
of 1,000 Cavalry
Lost... Southern
Loyalists... "done"

Cornwallis abandons
Southern campaign,

End Game

Situation January 1781

52

- ▶ British navy focused on potential French invasion of Britain and Do not intercept French fleet carrying army to America
- ▶ French army of 15,000 arrives, attacks Savannah but defeated, moves north and lands near New York...Washington moves army to join it
- ▶ Clinton orders Cornwallis to defeat Patriot Southern Army then join him in New York to meet French and do battle outside New York

Nathaniel Greene (1742-1786)

53



Son of Quaker farmer, tutor taught, builds library of war.

Too young for French & Indian war, joins Washington staff, given commands and proves abilities

Strategy: wear down British army

“We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again.”

Battle of Guildford Court House (March 1781)⁵⁴



Cornwallis with 2,500 men
Defeats Greene's army
Of 4,500

British lose 500 men
versus American loss
Of 1,000

More battles...Cornwallis
realises he cannot destroy
Greene...moves to Yorktown
to await reinforcements and
Embarkation to join Clinton in
New York

Siege of Yorktown 1781



Cornwallis entrenches at Yorktown, reinforced to 8,000

Washington rushes 3,000 French troops to encircle

Cornwallis thinks he is outnumbered and does not attack....

French and Continental Army march south. 20,000 surrounds Yorktown by September

Battle of Chesapeake Bay

56



France sends main fleet
To America, British navy
Dispersed. France has
Local superiority

British fleet of 19
engage French 24
off coast of Yorktown

British withdraw

Washington decides to
attack Yorktown

Yorktown: storming of the redoubt

57



Malaria outbreak in Yorktown, 50% British ill

French & Americans
Seize first line of defence

Cornwallis sends message to Clinton, no reply or sign of navy, running out of food

Concludes position hopeless

The surrender



Cornwallis does not attend. Says he is ill

British try to surrender to French, do not succeed

British play “world made Upside down” and agree to dinner party with French that evening.
Americans not invited



Aftermath of Yorktown

- British recognise war over
- War continues on frontier...but irrelevant
- British America is finished.

The story of the “United States” is about to begin