

LEQ: What American victory was the “turning point” of the American Revolution because it inspired France to help the United States?



This image shows the surrender of the British army under General John Burgoyne to the Americans commanded by Horatio Gates at Saratoga, New York on October 17, 1777. This image is courtesy of Architect of the Capitol.

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American Revolution Northern Battles



This image shows the Delaware Regiment at the Battle of Long Island, which was fought on August 27, 1776. This image is courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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In the fall of 1775, the Continental Army moved into Canada hoping to win support from the French Canadians.



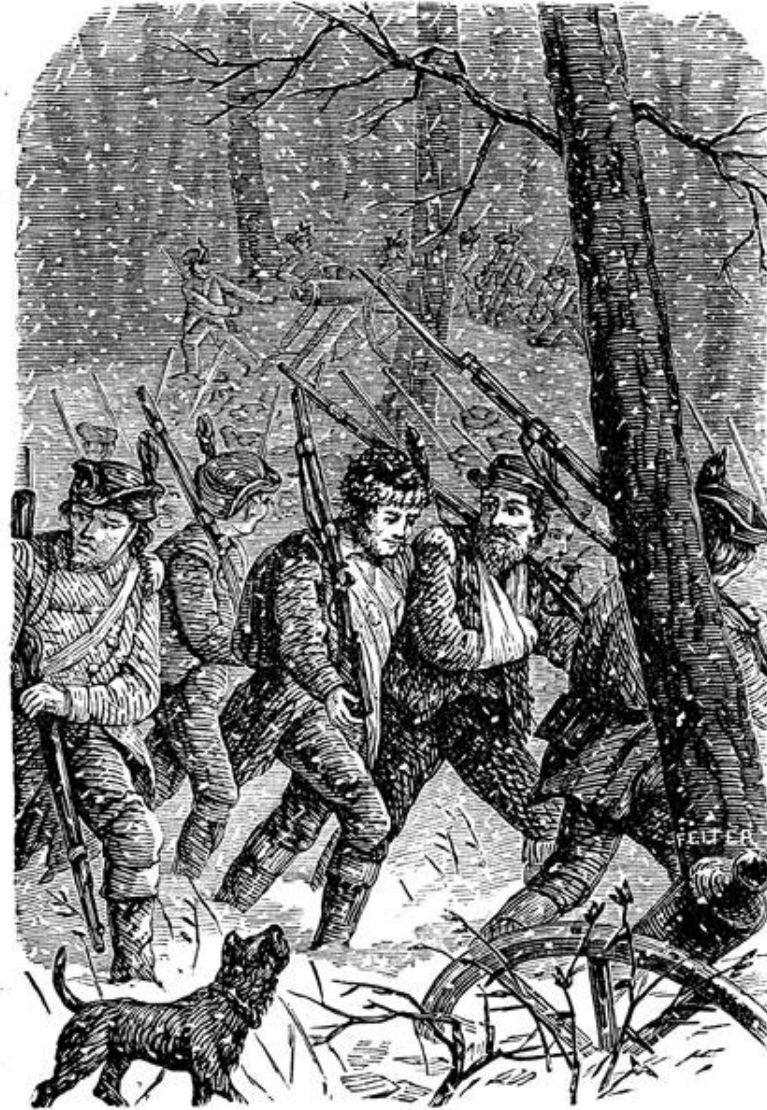
Forces under Richard Montgomery are the dotted blue line. Benedict Arnold's forces are the solid blue line. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

American General Richard Montgomery's forces marched from Fort Ticonderoga into Canada and captured Montreal in November 1775.



This image shows soldiers under American General Richard Montgomery loading ships near Crown Point, New York as they prepare to invade Canada. This image, titled *The Embarkation of Montgomery's Troops at Crown Point* was drawn by Sydney Adamson in 1902. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Benedict Arnold led his troops through the wilderness of Maine, where they encountered blizzards and freezing temperatures.



Supplies were short and they survived by eating anything they could find.— bark, candles, and even shoe leather. This image was created for Alex H. Stephens' *A Comprehensive and Popular History of the United States*, published in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1882. It is also courtesy of ushistoryimages.com.

Still they continued on to Quebec and stormed the walled city on New Year's Eve, 1775. The attack failed.



Montgomery was killed and Arnold was wounded. This painting, *The Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec, December 31, 1775* was created by John Trumbull (1756-1843) in 1786. This image is courtesy of the Yale University Art Gallery.

Not willing to give up the siege, Arnold's troops remained outside Quebec for the next few months.



While the harsh winter continued, many soldiers died of starvation and disease. When the long winter ended and spring arrived at last, Arnold's soldiers were tired, hungry, sick, and depressed. This image, titled *Defending Quebec from an American Attack, December 1775* was created by F.H. Wellington in 1860. This image is courtesy of the New York Public Library.

When British reinforcements arrived at Quebec in May, 1776, the Americans admitted defeat.



This painting shows Canadian militia and British soldiers repulsing the American assault at Sault-au-Matelot. It is titled *Arnold's Column is Shattered in Fierce Street Fighting During the Battle of Quebec*. This painting was created by Charles William Jefferys (1869-1951) in 1916. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Canada would remain in British hands.



This is the Saint-Jean Gate at Quebec, Canada. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

After the Battle of Bunker Hill, the British were in Boston during the summer of 1775.



Boston is shown in red. Dorchester Heights is south of the town of Boston. This image was created by Richard Whitworth on July 29, 1775. It is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

General George Washington reached Boston in mid-summer in 1775 and began to train his troops.



This image is titled *Washington Taking Command of the American Army*. This image is courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

On March 4, 1776, he placed the cannons captured at Fort Ticonderoga on Dorchester Heights and aimed them at Boston.



British General William Howe realized he could not force the Americans to leave. This painting is titled Washington at Dorchester Heights. It was created by Emanuel Leutze (1816-1868). This image is courtesy of fineartamericacom.

Two weeks later, the entire British army and 1500 Loyalists evacuated Boston by ship.



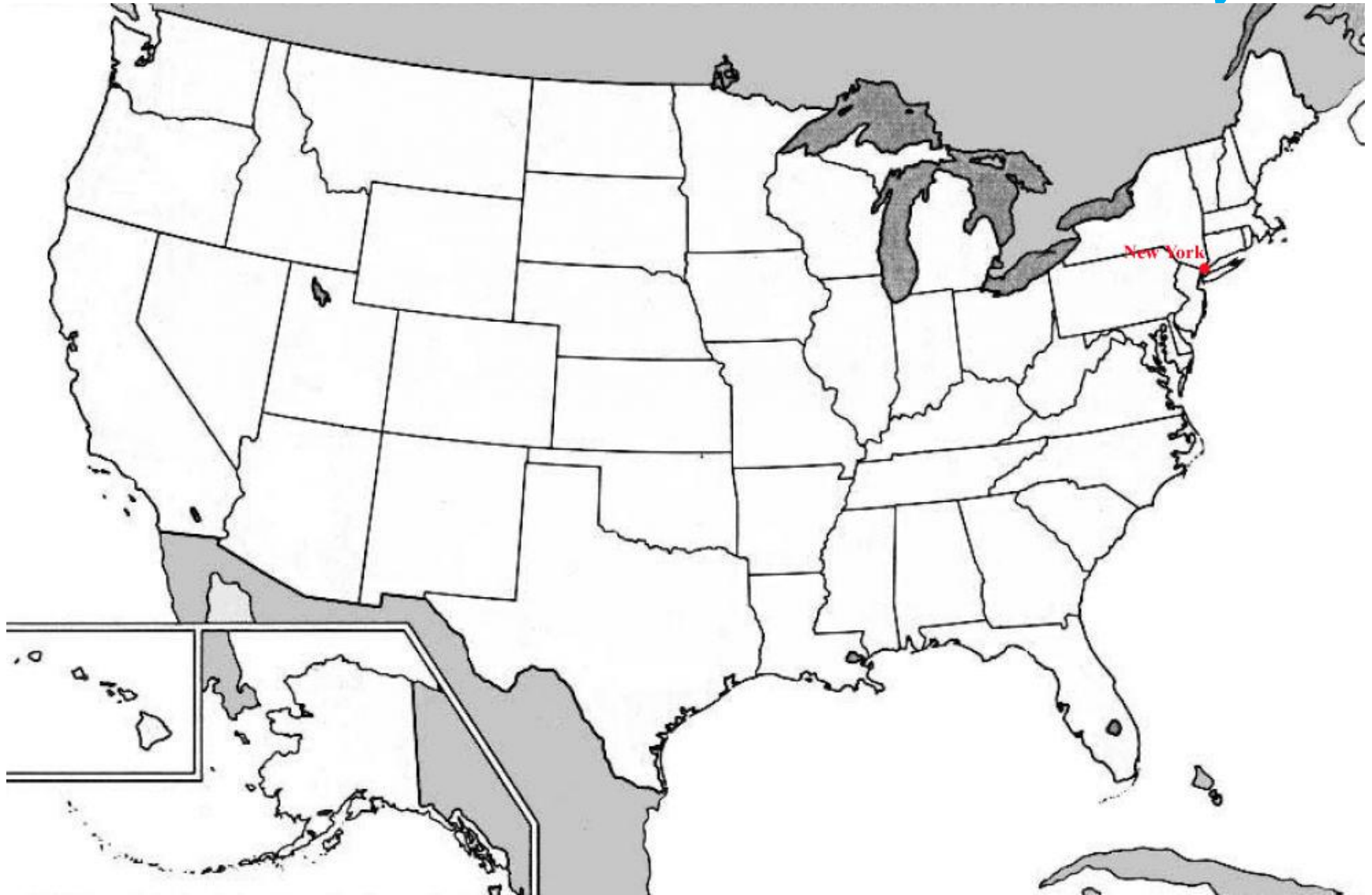
General Howe moved his troops north to Halifax, Canada, leaving Boston under American control. This painting titled *The British Evacuation of Boston, March 17, 1776* is courtesy of historicaldigression.com.

After the British retreated to Canada, King George set up a **blockade** of all the ports in the colonies to prevent goods and people from moving in and out of the area.



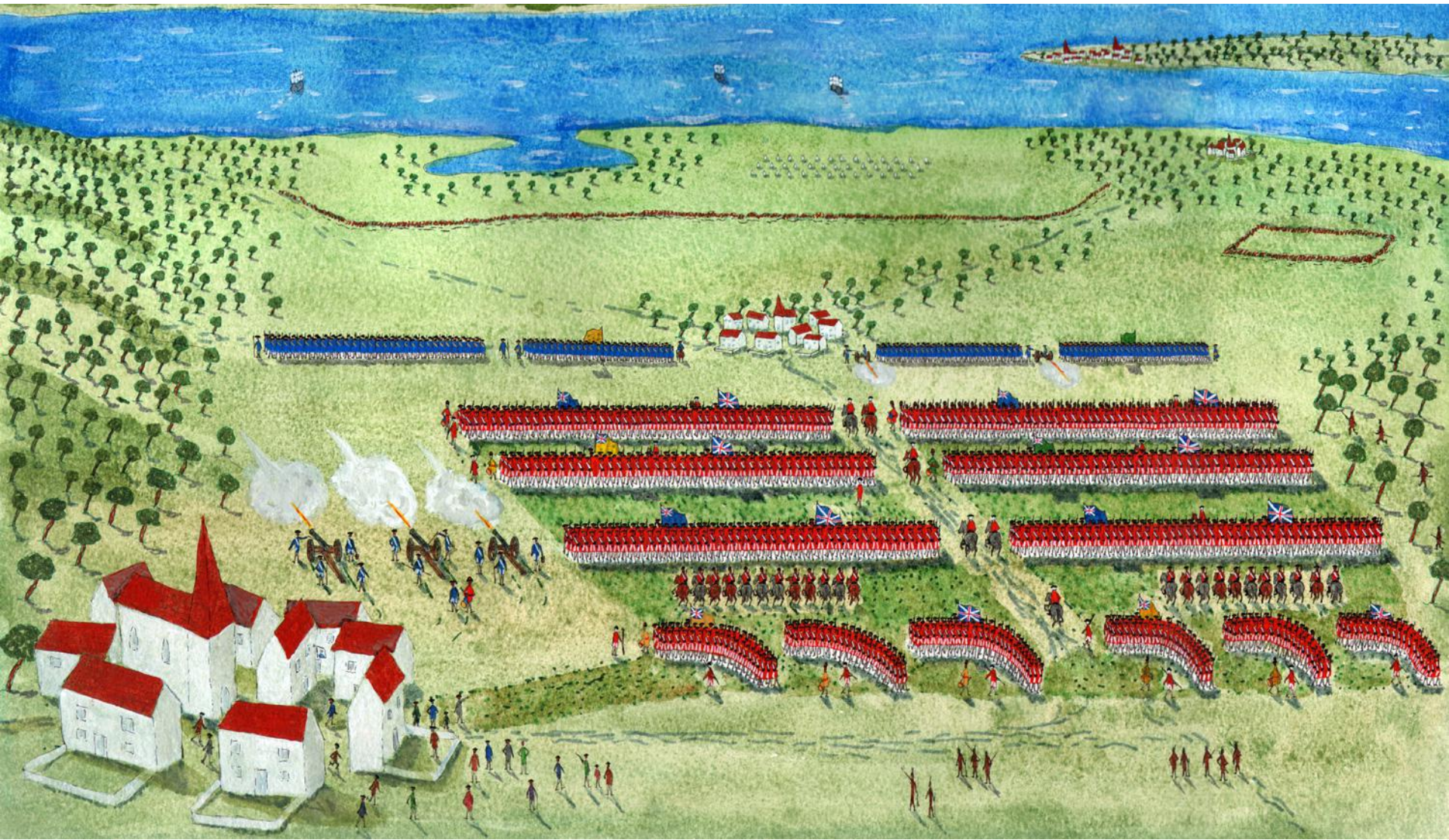
This image shows the British warship *H.M.S. (His Majesty's Ship) Somerset*. It ran aground off the New England coast in 1778. This image is courtesy of historylecture.org.

In June 1776, General Howe and his British troops left Canada and moved towards New York City.



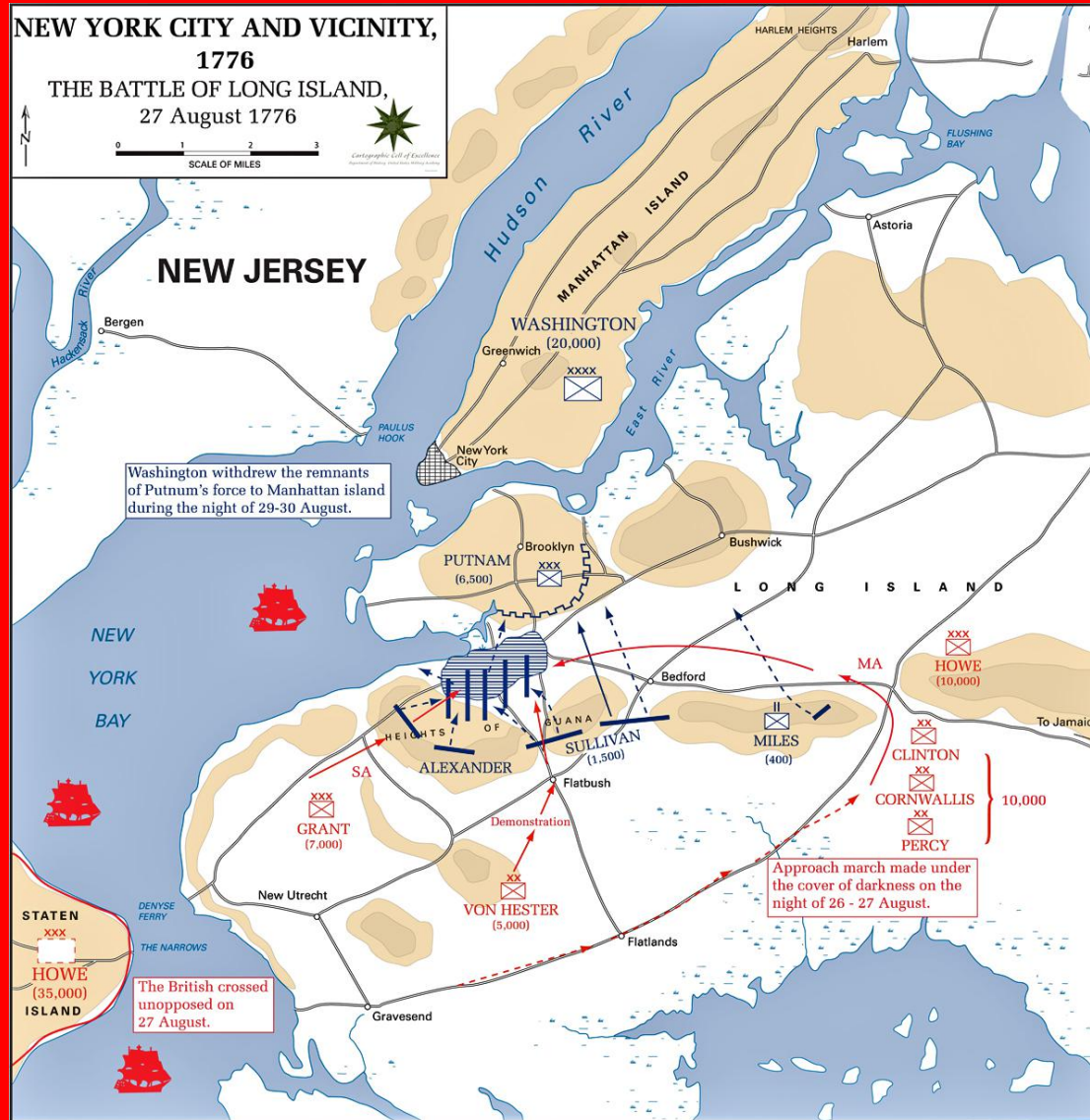
Howe viewed this as a good location because he could easily march soldiers south to Philadelphia or north to New England. This image shows the British fleet off Staten Island near New York City in 1776. This image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

Washington moved about 19,000 troops south from Boston to New York to defend the area.



The untrained recruits proved no match for Howe's professional soldiers. To make matters worse, Washington had no navy to challenge the British in New York Harbor. This image by John Mackenzie is courtesy of britishbattles.com.

Washington tried to predict where the British troops would come ashore in the New York City area.



He divided his army, sending 10,000 soldiers to Long Island and the rest to Manhattan. In August of 1776, Howe chose to land at Long Island. This image is courtesy of emersonkent.com.

During the Battle of Long Island, Washington's troops fought bravely, but at least 1500 were killed, injured, or taken prisoner.



The Americans were not able to hold New York, and for many weeks, Washington himself was in danger of being captured. This image shows Americans leading an attack against the British in order to allow the rest of the American army to escape New York. This image was created by Alonzo Chappel (1828-1887) in 1858. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Finally, Washington led his army on a retreat into New Jersey. He then crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania.



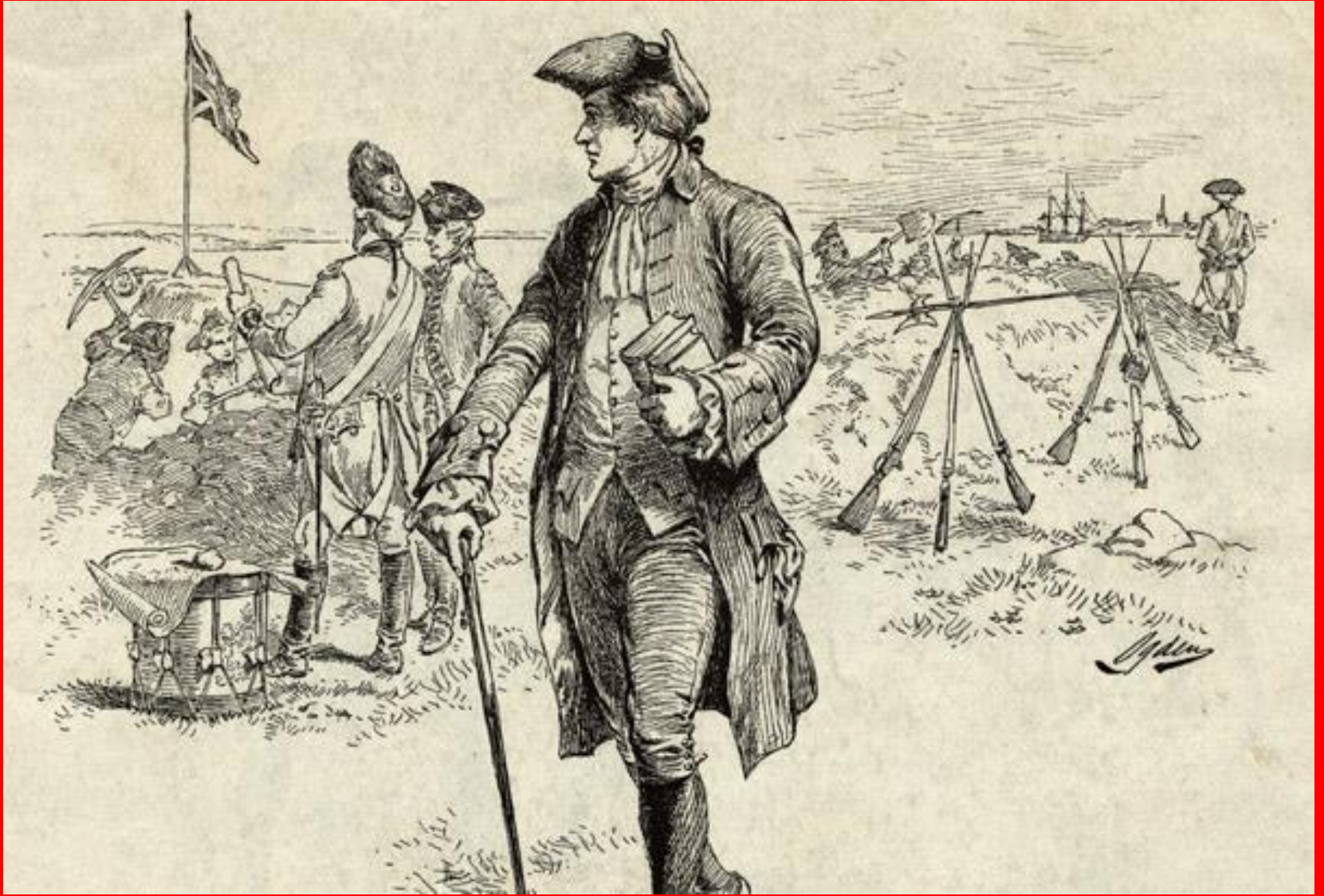
In the end Washington lost New York City, but he was not captured by the British. The British held New York City until the war ended seven years later. This image titled U.S. Army-Artillery Retreat from Long Island-1776 was created in 1899. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Spying was common during the war.



When captured, spies were labeled as traitors and typically sentenced to death by hanging. The threat of death did not prevent some Loyalists and Patriots from spying for their country. This image shows American spy Nathan Hale being captured. This image was created for Edward S. Ellis' *The History of Our Country: From the Discovery of America to the Present Time*. It was printed in 1910. This image is courtesy of ushistoryimages.com.

Nathan Hale, a 24-year-old American lieutenant, spied for George Washington during the New York City campaign.



Nathan Hale (1755-1776) disguised himself, slipped behind enemy lines, and returned with information. This image is courtesy of history.com.

The British eventually caught him, and swiftly condemned him to death.



Nathan Hale was hanged on September 22, 1776. This image is courtesy of ushistoryimages.com.

As the British prepared to hang him, he said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."



This painting shows Nathan Hale before he was hanged. This image is courtesy of jaypay.com.

When Washington and his troops retreated from New York and crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania, they were in desperate shape.



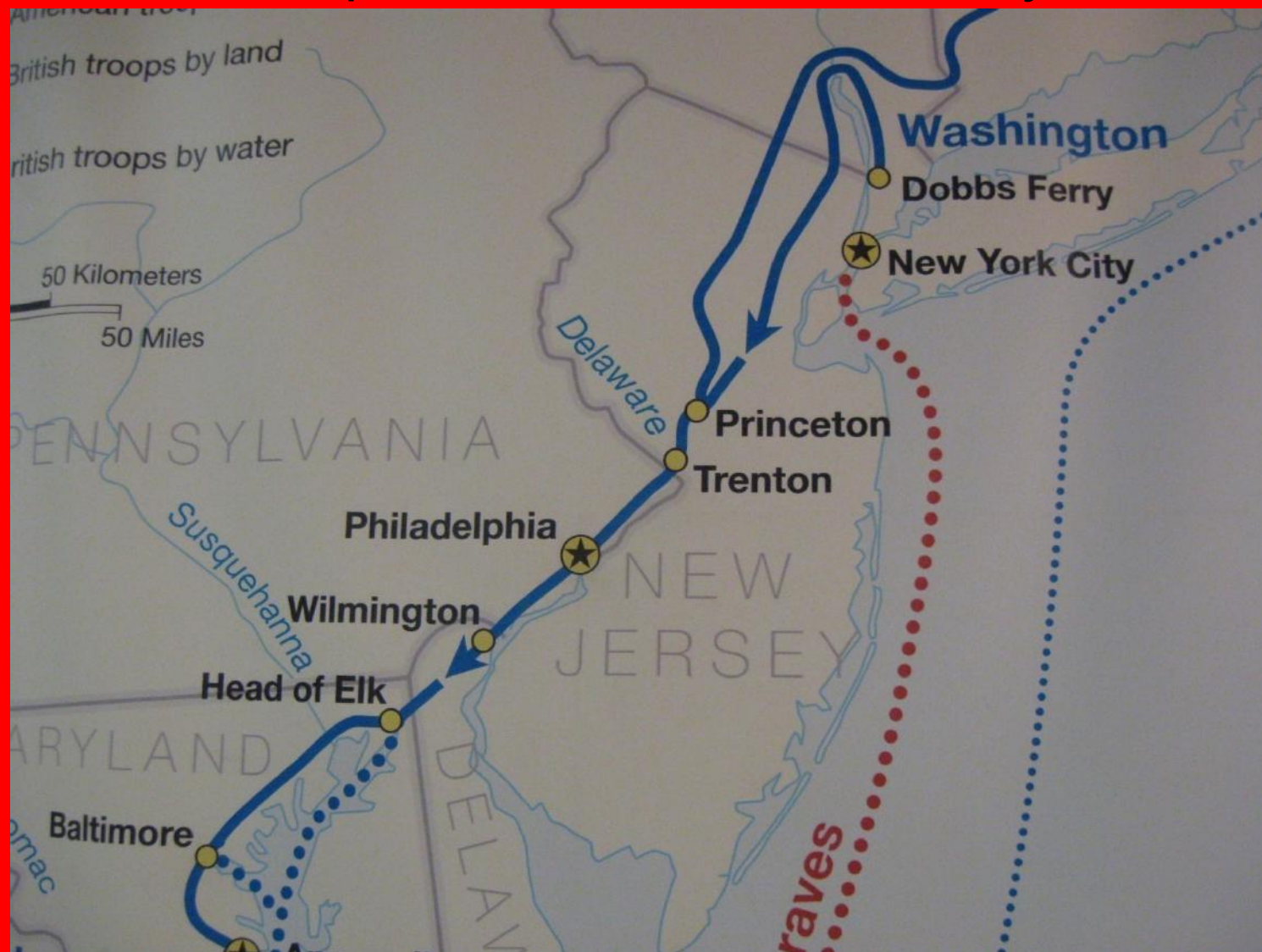
Washington was so depressed that he wrote to his brother, "I think the game is pretty near up." His soldiers were tired and hungry. Some sensing defeat gave up and left for home. For the remaining soldiers, the food was terrible and not healthy. This painting shows George Washington Rallying His Troops at the Battle of Princeton. This image was created by William T. Ranney in 1848. This image is courtesy of the Princeton University Museum.

In his despair, Washington came up with a daring strategy.



This is one of three tents made for General Washington and his staff in 1776 by a Philadelphia upholsterer. Washington's adopted grandson, George Washington Parke Custis, hosted dinner parties in this tent at his home at Arlington, Virginia in the early 1800s. This image is courtesy of smithsonianlegacies.si.edu.

He planned to launch a surprise attack on the British camp at Trenton, New Jersey.



This map shows Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey. This map was displayed on a National Park Service exhibit at Valley Forge National Historic Park. This image was taken by Robert Housch on November 28, 2011.

As his troops prepared for battle, Washington ordered Thomas Paine's new pamphlet *The Crisis* to be read to them.

The *American* CRISIS.

NUMBER I.

By the Author of COMMON SENSE.

THESSE are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly:—'Tis dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to set a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange, indeed, if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated. Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared, that she has a right (*not only to TAX, but*) "to BIND us in ALL CASES WHATSOEVER," and if being bound in that manner is not slavery, then is there not such a thing as slavery upon earth. Even the expression is impious, for so unlimited a power can belong only to God.

WHETHER the Independence of the Continent was declared too soon, or delayed too long, I will not now enter into as an argument; my own simple opinion is, that had it been eight months earlier, it would have been much better. We did not make a proper use of last winter, neither could we, while we were in a dependent state. However, the fault, if it were one, was all our own; we have none to blame but ourselves*. But no great deal is lost yet; all that Howe has been doing for this month past is rather a ravage than a conquest, which the spirit of the Jerseys a year ago would have quickly repulsed, and which time and a little resolution will soon recover.

I have as little superstition in me as any man living, but

* "The present winter" (meaning the last) "is worth an age if rightly employed, but if lost, or neglected, the whole Continent will partake of the evil; and there is no punishment that man does not deserve, be he who, or what, or where he will, that may be the means of sacrificing a season so precious and useful." COMMON SENSE.

Thomas Paine's *The Crisis*, offered these words of encouragement to Washington's soldiers: This image is courtesy of thomas-paine-friends.org.

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The **summer soldiers** and the **sunshine patriot** will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country;



This painting shows American soldiers marching past George Washington. This image is on display at the National Park Service Visitors Center at Valley Forge National Historic Park. This image was taken by Robert Housch on November 28, 2011.

“...but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of every man and woman.”



This painting shows George Washington and the Continental Army marching towards Trenton, New Jersey. This image is titled Hour of Victory. It was created by Edward Percy Moran (1862-1935). This image is courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

On Christmas Day, 1776, the British soldiers, consisting mostly of Hessians, had gathered in their camps at Trenton to celebrate the Christmas holiday.



This image is a group of British officers, not Hessian officers at a celebration. This image is courtesy of puertoricanguy.com.

That cold and stormy Christmas night Washington led 2400 soldiers across the icy Delaware River.



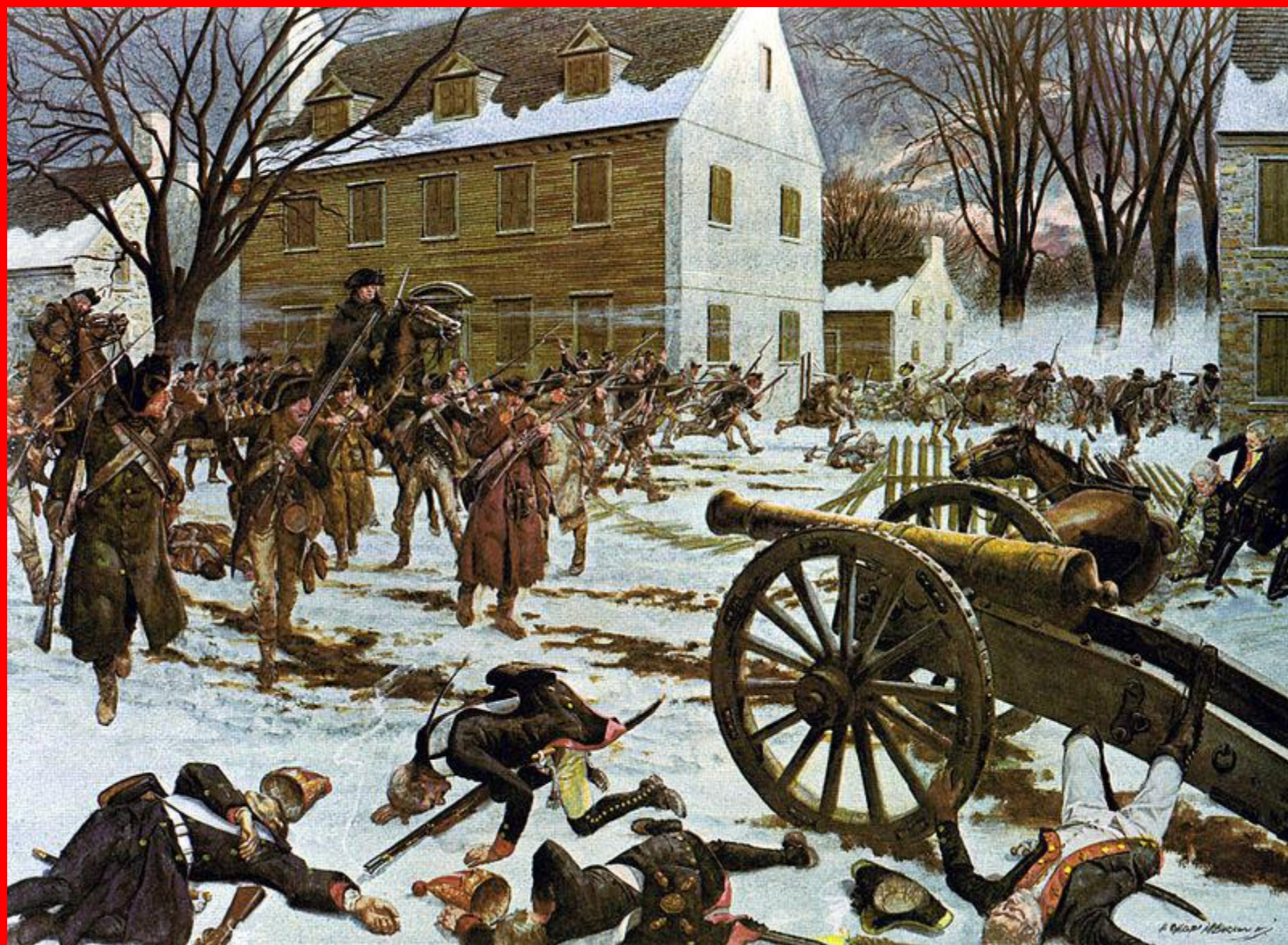
This romantic painting, *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, was created by Emanuel Leutze (1816-1868) in 1851. This image is courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Under cover of darkness, many of Washington's men managed to cross the river without being seen by the British or the Hessians.



The next morning, Washington and his troops swept down on the sleeping Hessians. This hand-colored lithograph is titled "Washington Crossing the Delaware—Evening Previous to the Battle of Trenton, December 25th, 1776." This image was created by Nathaniel Currier. This image is courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Within an hour and a half, the Hessians surrendered.



When British General Howe learned of the defeat at Trenton, he sent General Charles Cornwallis to pursue Washington and his troops. This painting, titled the Battle of Trenton was painted by Charles McBarron in 1975. This image is courtesy of the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Washington, however, turned the situation to his advantage and defeated the British at Princeton, New Jersey, on January 3, 1777.



Achieving the victories at Trenton and Princeton gave the Continental Army hope and confidence. This painting titled *The Death of General Mercer at the Battle of Princeton January 3, 1777* was created by John Trumbull (1756-1843) circa 1789-1831. General Hugh Mercer was a personal friend of Washington. This image is courtesy of the Yale University Art Gallery.

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Great Britain's losses left that country's officials puzzled and embarrassed by its mistakes. The British military asked General John Burgoyne to stop the Americans.



This cartoon titled "The State Tinkers" makes fun of British leaders, including King George III on the far left, trying to repair the "National Kettle" (Great Britain). This image was created by James Gillray (1756-1815) in 1780. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress and of Wikimedia Commons.

Burgoyne drew up a plan to gain control of the Hudson River Valley in New York.



If successful, the strategy would benefit the British by cutting New England off from the rest of the colonies. The Hudson River is colored blue. This image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

According to the plan, three British armies would move towards Albany, New York, at the same time.



General Burgoyne would lead an army south from Montreal, Canada, into New York. General Howe's army would sail up the Hudson River from New York City. Colonel Barry St. Leger would move his forces from Lake Ontario eastward across the Mohawk Valley. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

Although well-planned, the British campaign failed miserably, largely because the three commanders neglected to notify each other of changes in the original attack strategy.



British General Howe decided to attack Philadelphia rather than meet Burgoyne at Albany. American General Benedict Arnold and his men stopped St. Leger at Fort Stanwix and turned him back. This image is courtesy of the u-s-history.com.

Burgoyne's troops were the only British forces to reach the Hudson River Valley near Albany.



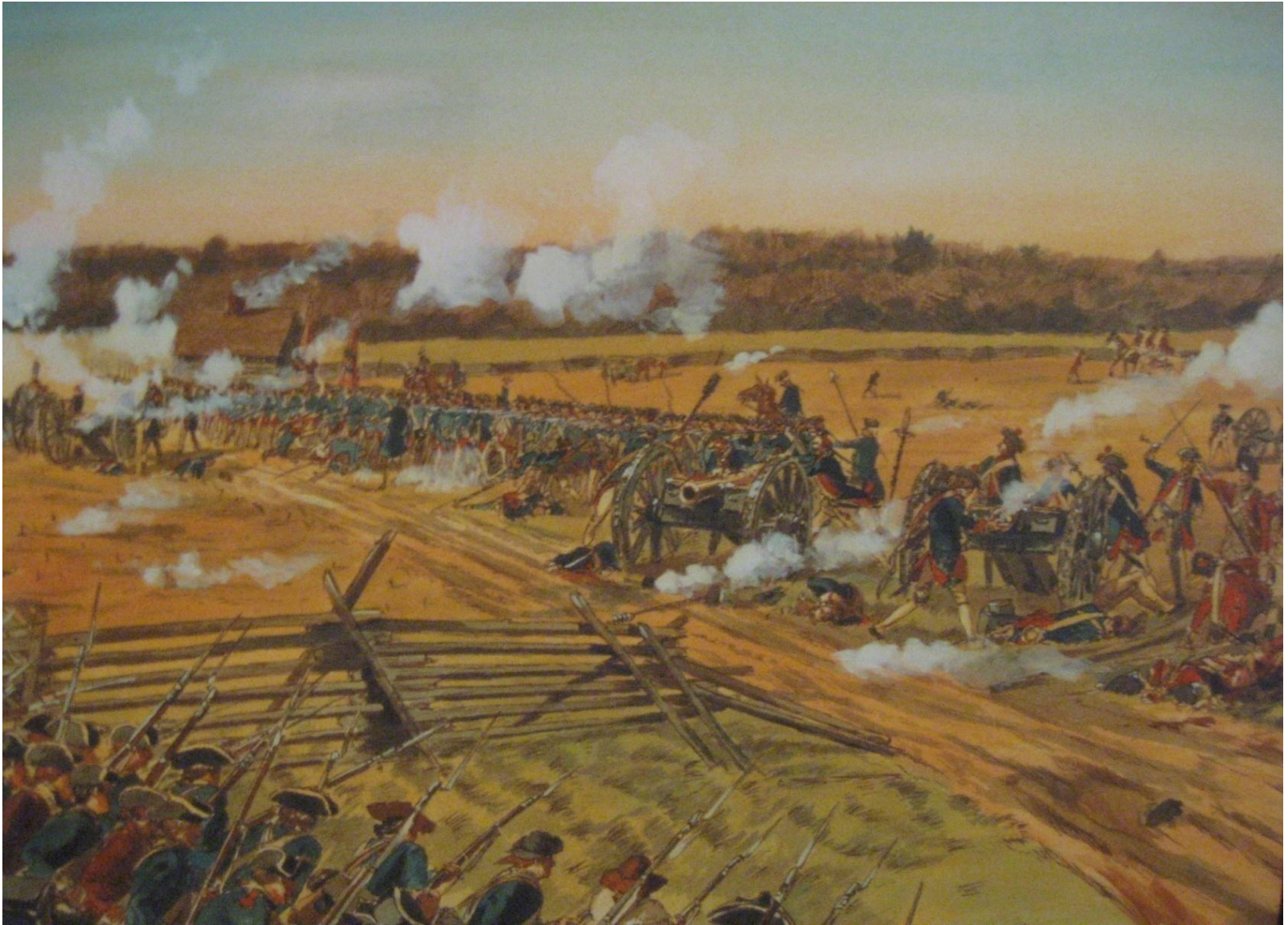
Not until Burgoyne reached the town of Saratoga, New York, did he learn that the other British commanders would not be there to assist him. On the way to Saratoga, Burgoyne recaptured Fort Ticonderoga and fought other small battles, losing close to 1000 soldiers. This painting of British General John Burgoyne (1722-1792) was created by Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792) circa 1766. This image is courtesy of the Frick Museum.

Three weeks later, the Americans attacked Burgoyne in the Battle of Saratoga.



The Americans blocked every possible path to safety. This image was created for Mara L. Pratt's *American's Story for America's Children: The Early Colonies* in 1901. This image is courtesy of ushistoryimages.com.

The British army lost hundreds of soldiers. When they tried to retreat to Canada, Americans surrounded them.



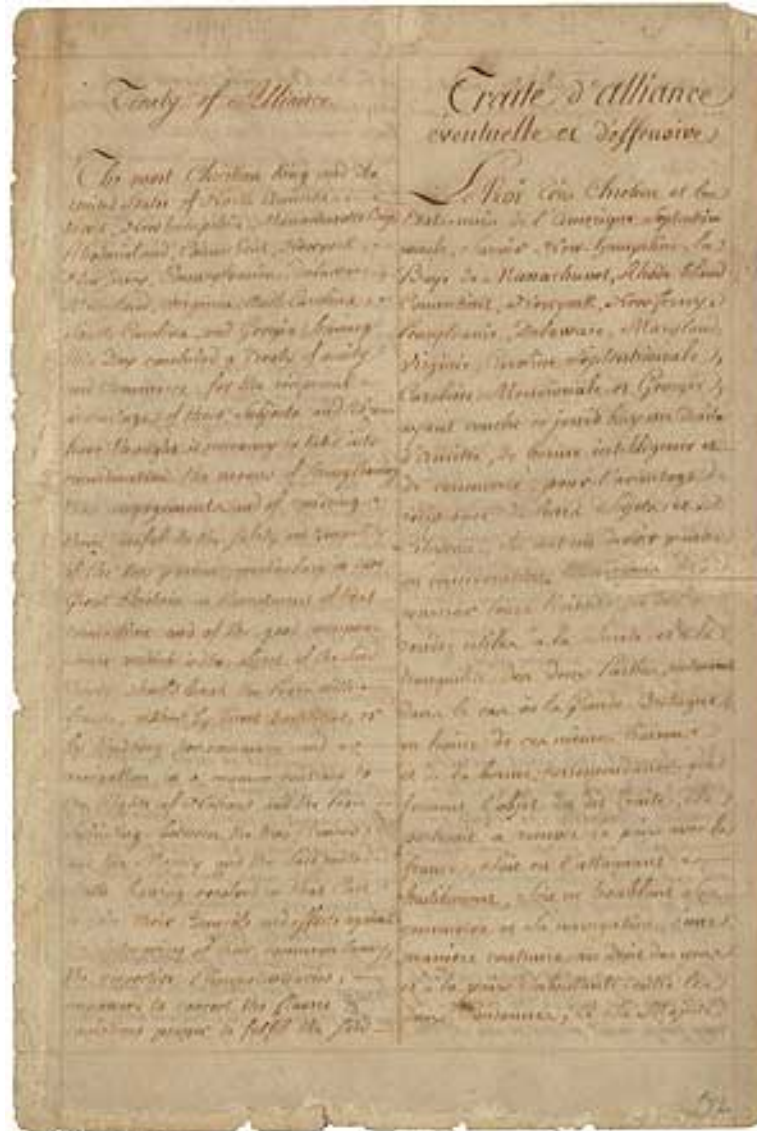
This painting by Don Troiani is part of a National Park Service exhibit at Valley Forge National Historic Park. This image was taken by Robert Housch on November 28, 2011.

On October 17, 1777, Burgoyne was forced to surrender, reporting the first major defeat of the British army.



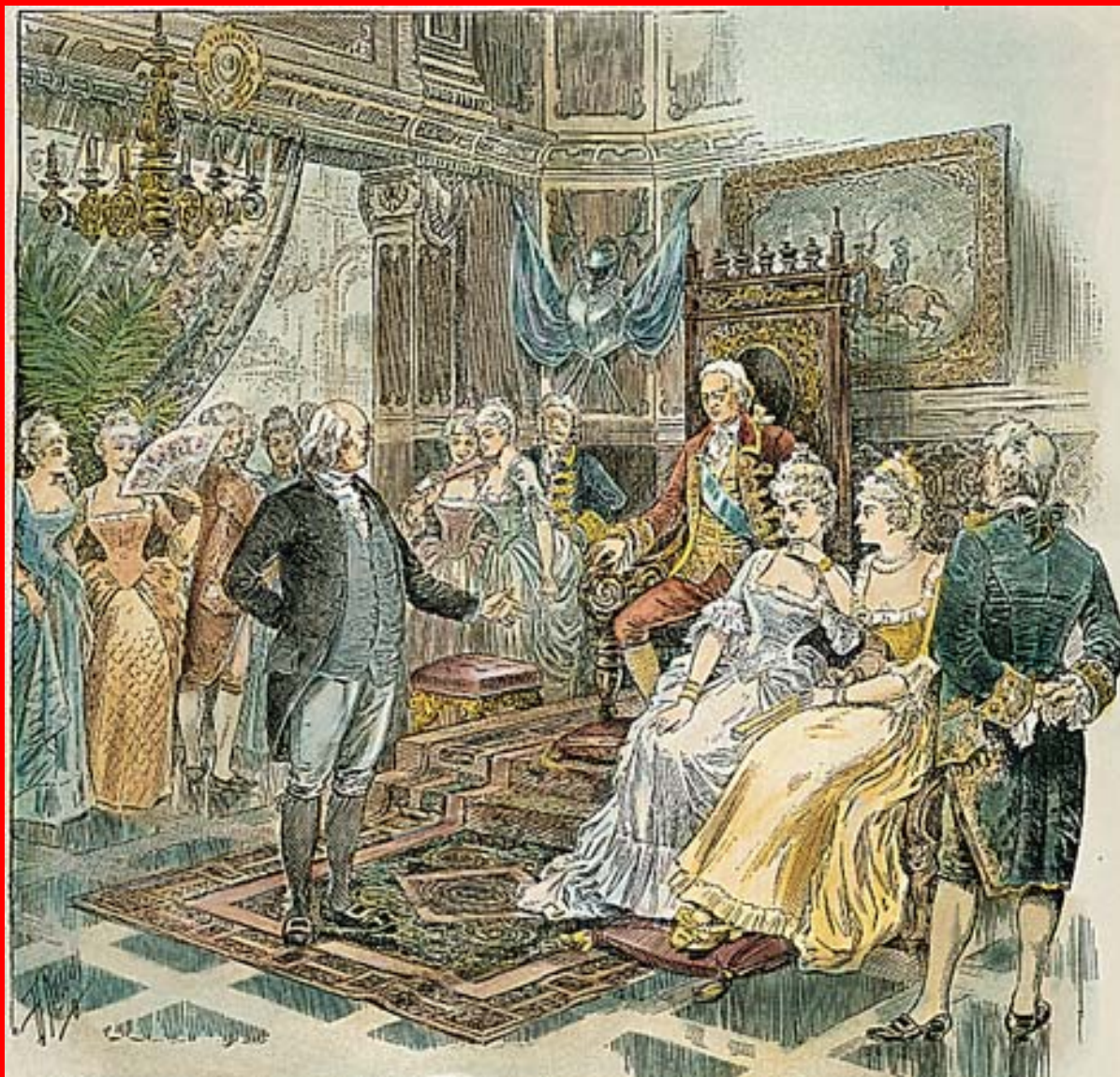
The Americans took at least 6000 British soldiers as prisoners. This painting, titled *Surrender of General Burgoyne* was created by John Trumbull (1756-1843) in 1822. It shows American General Horatio Gates instructing British General John Burgoyne not to surrender his sword, and to be a guest in Gate's tent. This image is courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

Until the American victory at Saratoga, neither France nor any other country had been willing to openly support the colonists.



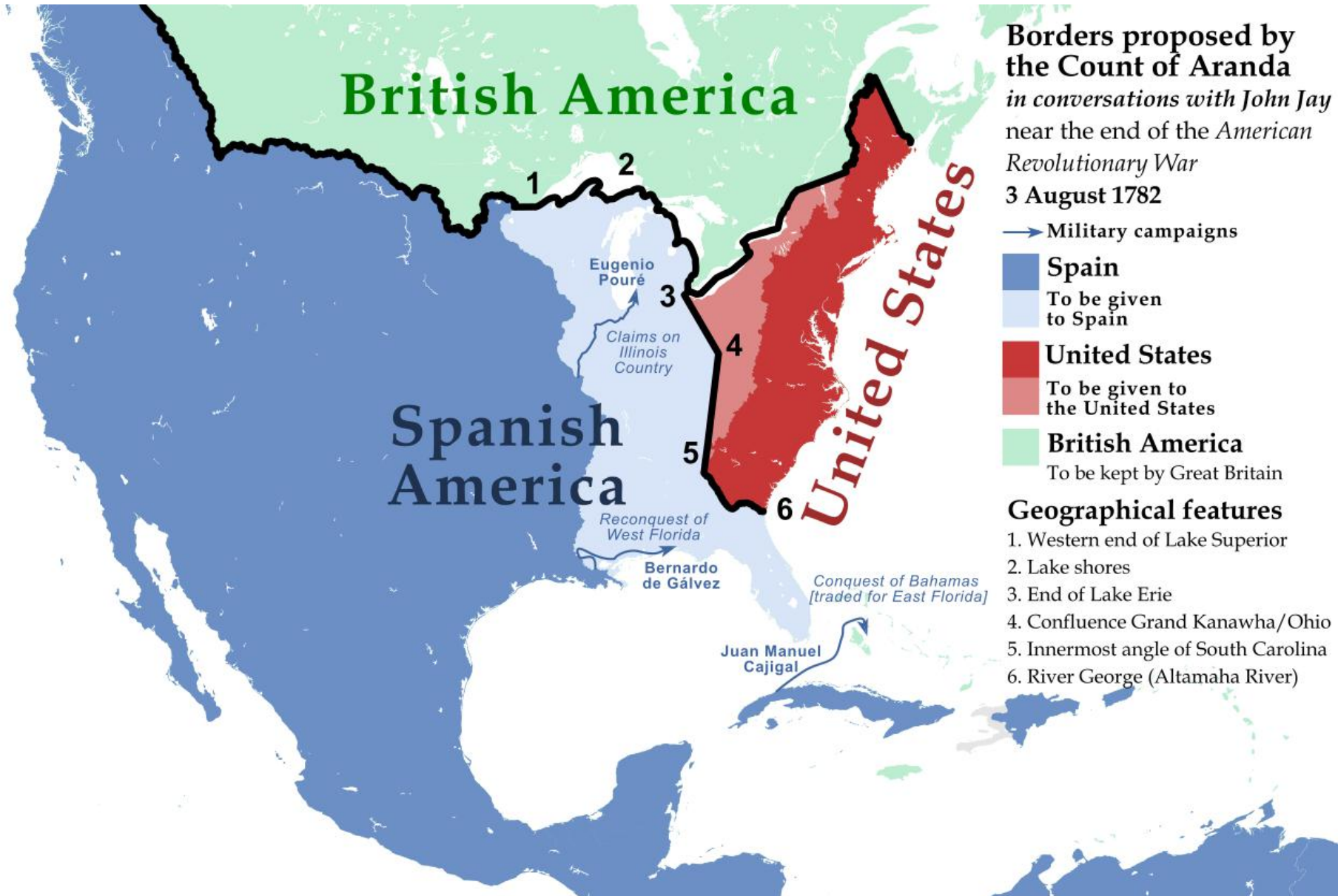
The victory at Saratoga made it clear that it was possible for the Americans to succeed. This image shows the Treaty of Alliance, signed in 1778 between France and the United States. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In February 1778, French King Louis XVI (16th) signed the Treaty of Alliance, assuring the Americans of the support they desperately needed.



This image shows Benjamin Franklin at the Court of Louis XVI. Franklin was instrumental in acquiring France's assistance to the United States. This image is courtesy of *American History the Early Years*, page 231.

Because France joined the Americans, the Spanish also joined the Americans because they had a treaty with France saying they would help.



In blue is Spanish America which had been known as New Spain. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Before French and Spanish aid reached America, Washington's army had to endure the harsh winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.



Valley Forge is outside of Philadelphia, which at that time was occupied by the British. This image is courtesy of valley.forge.national-park.com.

The American soldiers had little protection from the freezing temperatures.



Shoeless and dressed in rags, they huddled together inside flimsy tents until they could build small log huts. This image is was taken from a wayside exhibit at Valley Forge National Historic Park. This image was taken by Robert Housch on November 28, 2011.

When complete, each dirt-floor hut measured about 14 feet by 16 feet.



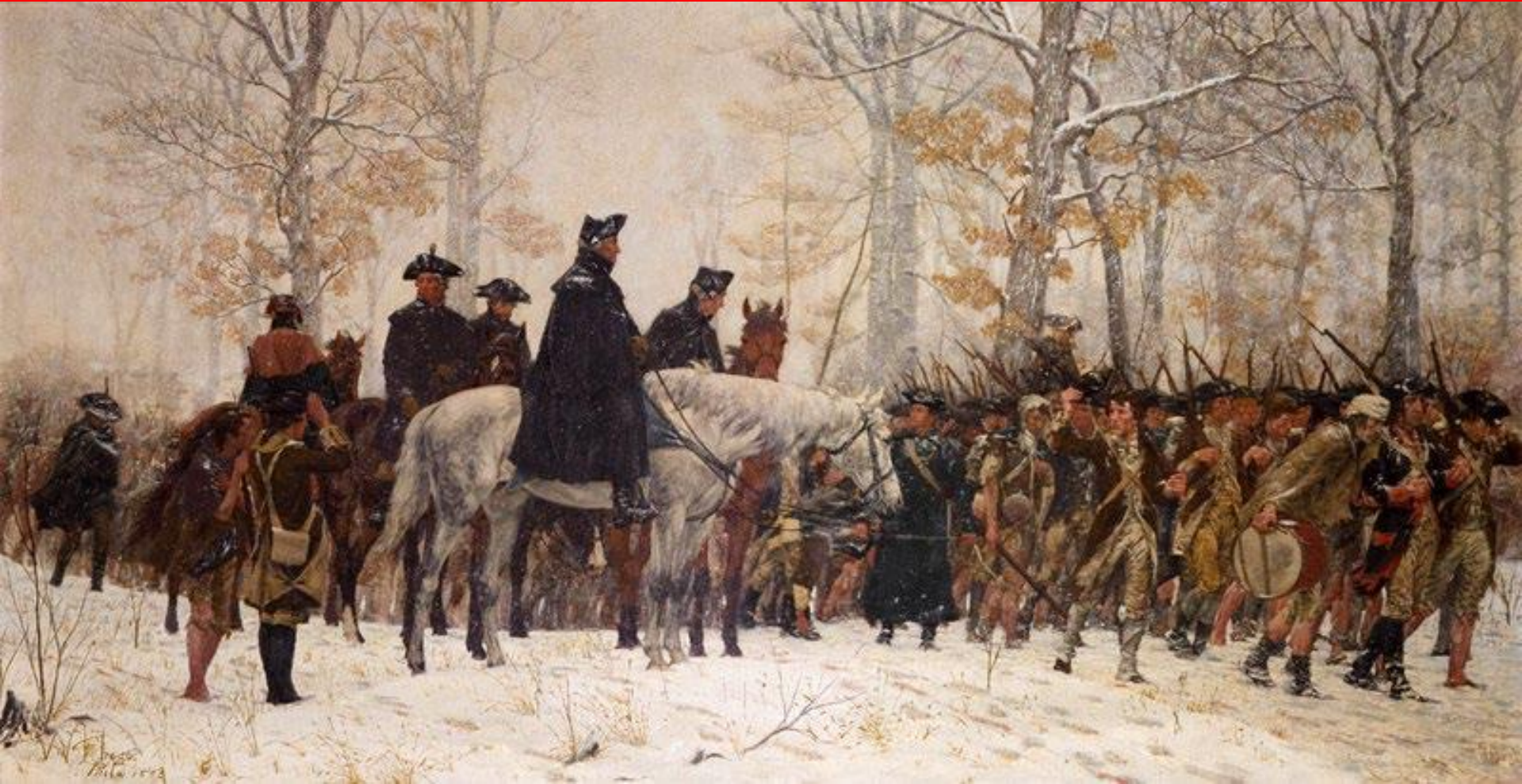
This area at Valley Forge was occupied by Peter Muhlenberg's Brigade of Nathaniel Greene's Division. This brigade was made up of Pennsylvania and Virginia soldiers. This image was taken by Robert Housch on November 28, 2011.

Approximately 12 soldiers were packed in each hut.



The soldiers slept on either the cold muddy hut floors or the straw mattresses that were usually crawling with lice. Food consisted mostly of firecakes, which were thin strips of dough made from a mixture of flour and water. Soldiers suffered from disease and frostbite. This image was taken by Robert Housch on November 28, 2011.

One soldier commented that the barefoot troops “might be tracked by their blood upon the rough, frozen ground.”



This image depicts George Washington leading the Continental Army to Valley Forge in 1777. This painting was created by William B.T. Trego (1858-1909) in 1883. The artist was inspired by a passage from Washington Irving's *Life of George Washington*: "Sad and dreary was the march to Valley Forge..." This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

By spring, as many as 2500 American soldiers had died from disease, exposure to the cold, and lack of food.



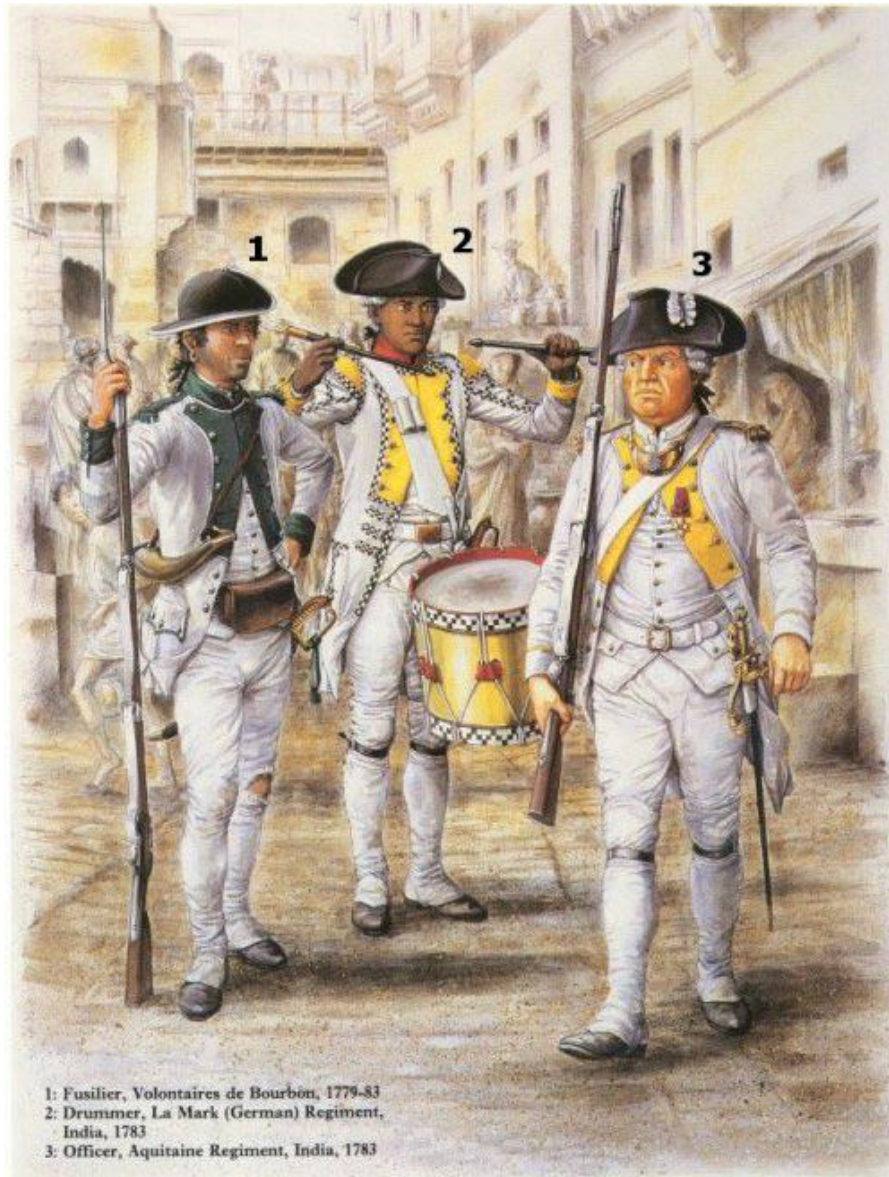
This image is titled "Officer Inspecting the Sick." The officer certainly has a resemblance to George Washington. This is a nineteenth century engraving on display at Valley Forge National Historic Park. This image was taken by Robert Housch on November 28, 2011.

When spring arrived the American soldiers caught fish swimming in the river and streams, and many soldiers who had left camp sick, now returned healthy.



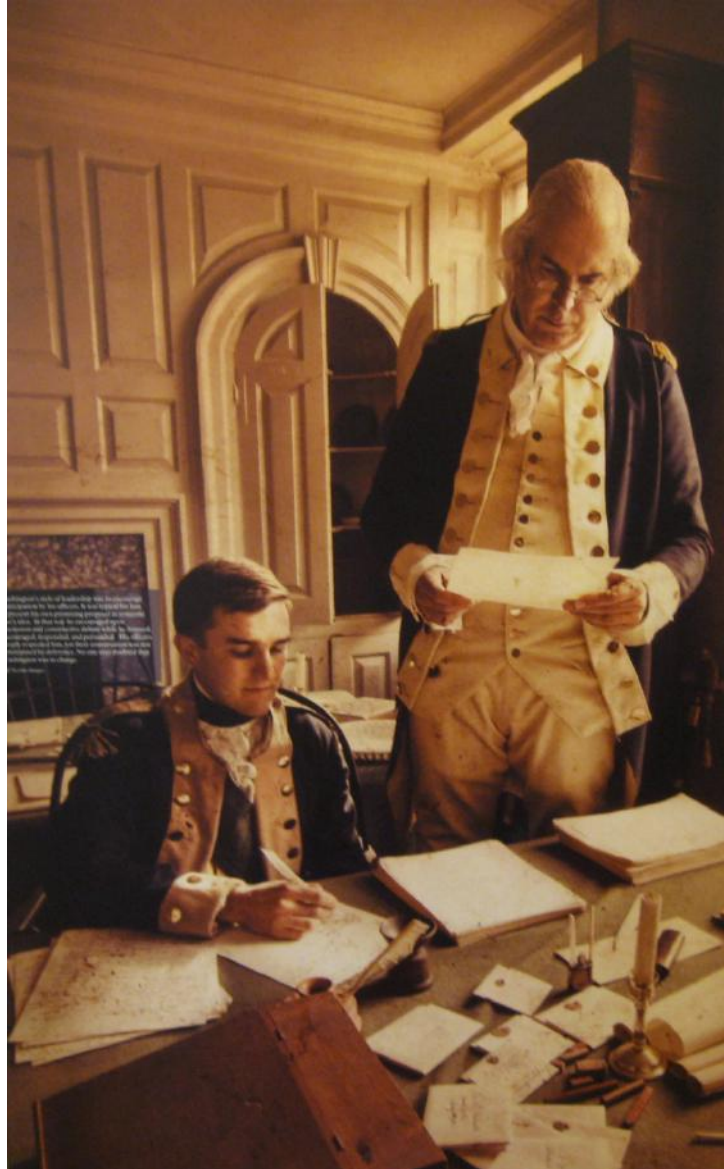
The Schuylkill River was a waterway that provided supplies for Valley Forge from throughout the region. This image is on a display at a wayside at Valley Forge National Historical Park. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on November 28, 2011.

When spring finally came, so did aid from the French.



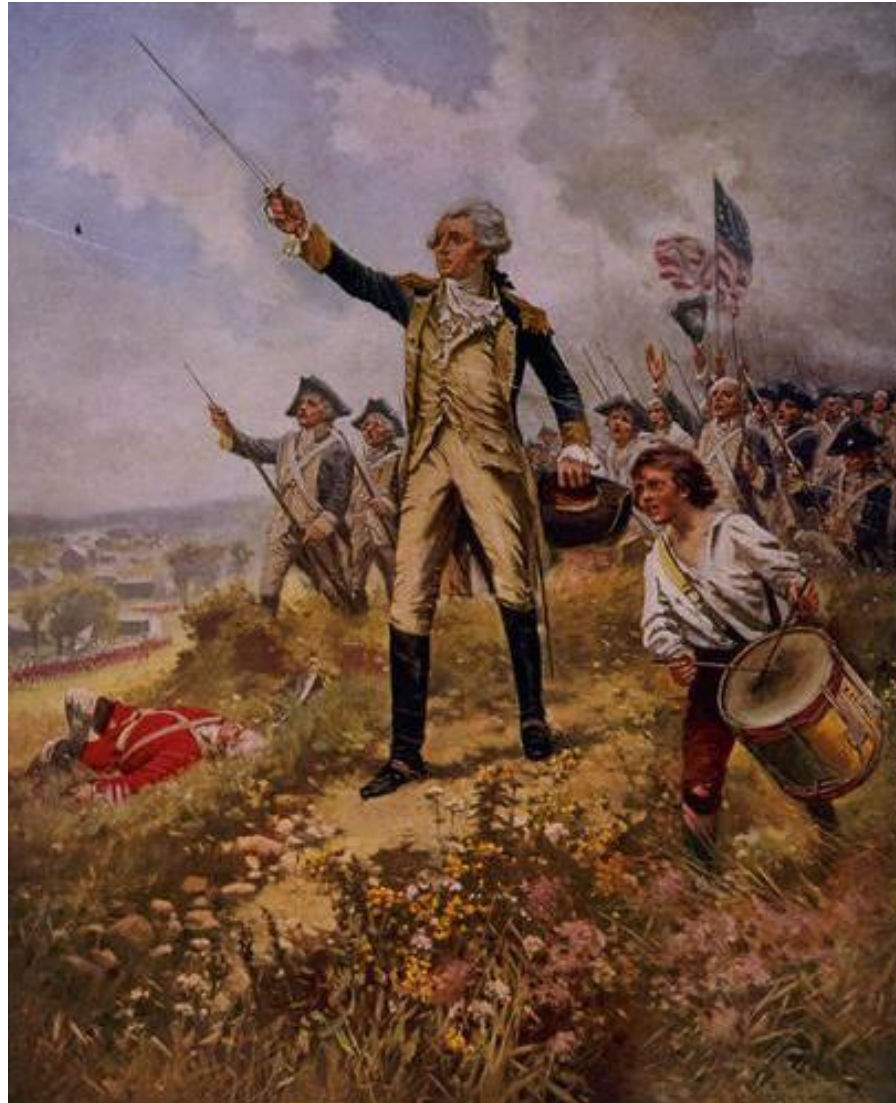
It is estimated that France spent the equivalent of \$200 million fighting Great Britain not only in America, but at other locations around the world. Approximately 9000 French soldiers fought in America, and the French Navy sent 24 “ships of the line” carrying over 1500 cannon. This image is courtesy srcalifornia.com.

General Washington began to make battle plans.



Washington encouraged his officers to participate in discussions about military strategy. He encouraged open discussion and constructive debate. This image is on display at Valley Forge National Historical Park. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on November 28, 2011.

Throughout the American Revolution, Europeans provided help in the form of money and military expertise.



The Marquis de Lafayette was a young French nobleman who came to America to assist the United States. This painting, *Lafayette's Baptism of Fire* was created by Edward Percy Moran (1862-1935) in 1909. It depicts Lafayette at the Battle of Brandywine. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Baron Friedrich von Steuben, a Prussian soldier spent the winter at Valley Forge helping Washington train the troops.



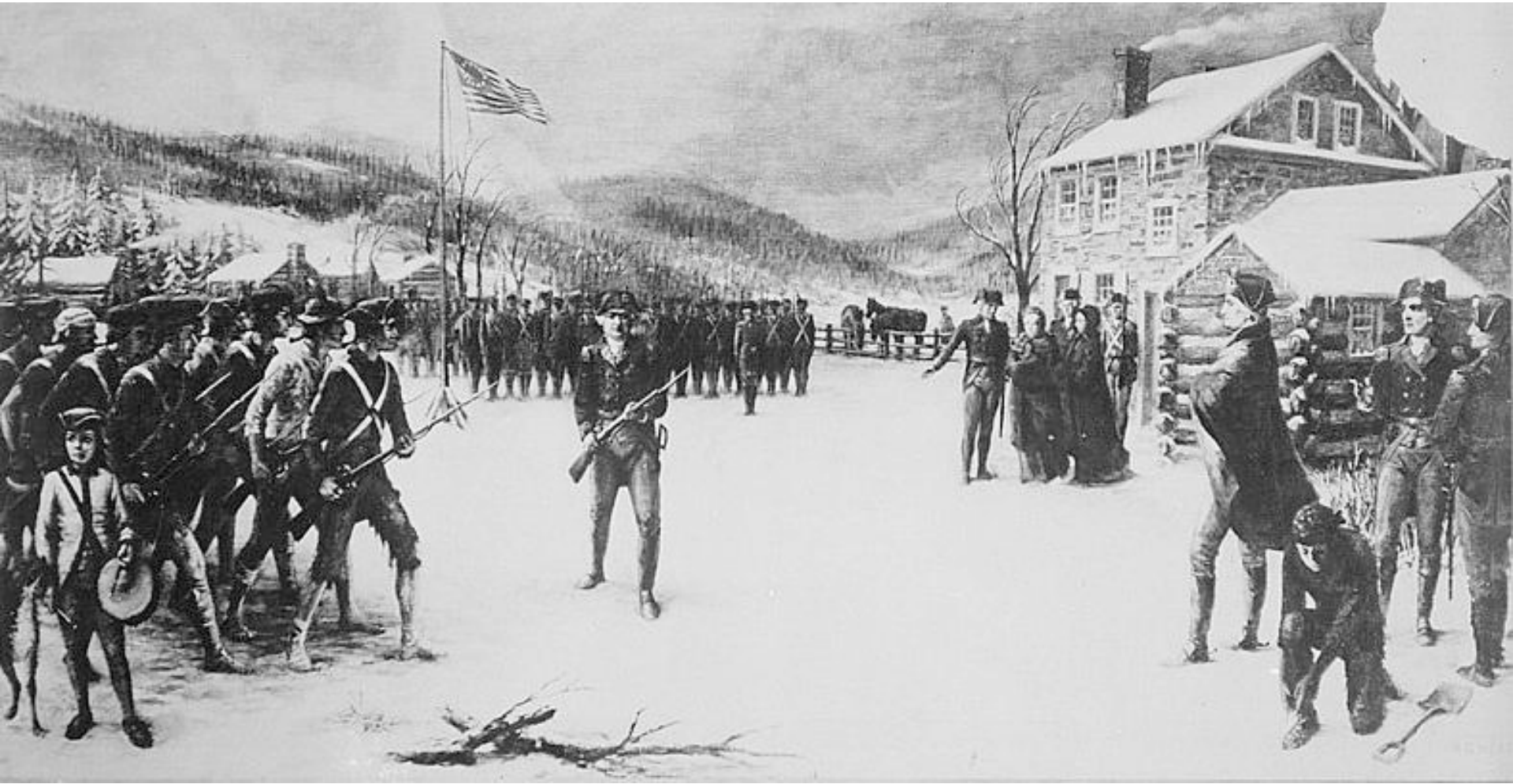
Major General Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus Baron von Steuben (1730-1794) used his military experience to teach the Continental soldiers how to work together as a unit. From him, the soldiers learned how to make advances, how to retreat, how to carry their weapons, and how to use their bayonets. Von Steuben's great sense of humor helped keep the troops in good spirits. This painting was created by Ralph Earl (1751-1801) circa 1786. This image is courtesy of the Yale University Art Gallery.

Baron von Steuben at first taught 100 hand picked men how to become model soldiers in battle and in camp.



This painting by Edwin Austin Abbey (1852-1911) is titled *The Camp of the American Army at Valley Forge, February, 1778*. It shows Prussian drillmaster, Baron Friedrich von Steuben, instructing the American troops. This painting is part of an exhibit at Valley Forge National Historic Park. This picture was taken by Robert Housch on November 28, 2011.

Those 100 soldiers would then go and train 100 other soldiers. Those 100 soldiers would train 100 other soldiers and so on and so forth until Washington's army was well trained.



This painting is titled "Baron von Steuben at Valley Forge." The artist is unknown. This image is courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration and of Wikimedia Commons.

The Marquis de Lafayette, a young French soldier, fought with Washington in Pennsylvania and other areas during the war.



Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) became an American general at the age of 19. He enthusiastically supported the American cause. He received no payment for his military service. He became almost like a son to Washington. During the French Revolution Lafayette would bring his ideas of the American Revolution to the French people. This painting was created by Joseph Desire Court (1797-1865) in 1834. It depicts Lafayette as a Major General in 1791. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

While Washington and his troops fought in the East, the British recruited Native Americans to help them in their frontier campaigns in the West.



At first, Native Americans did not want to take sides. Later, however, most joined the British, believing an alliance with them would help to turn back the Americans moving onto their land. This image shows the six nations of the Iroquois League negotiating with British General John Burgoyne. This image is courtesy of emaze.com.

Fighting broke out in the Ohio Valley as British and Native American forces attacked American frontier settlements.



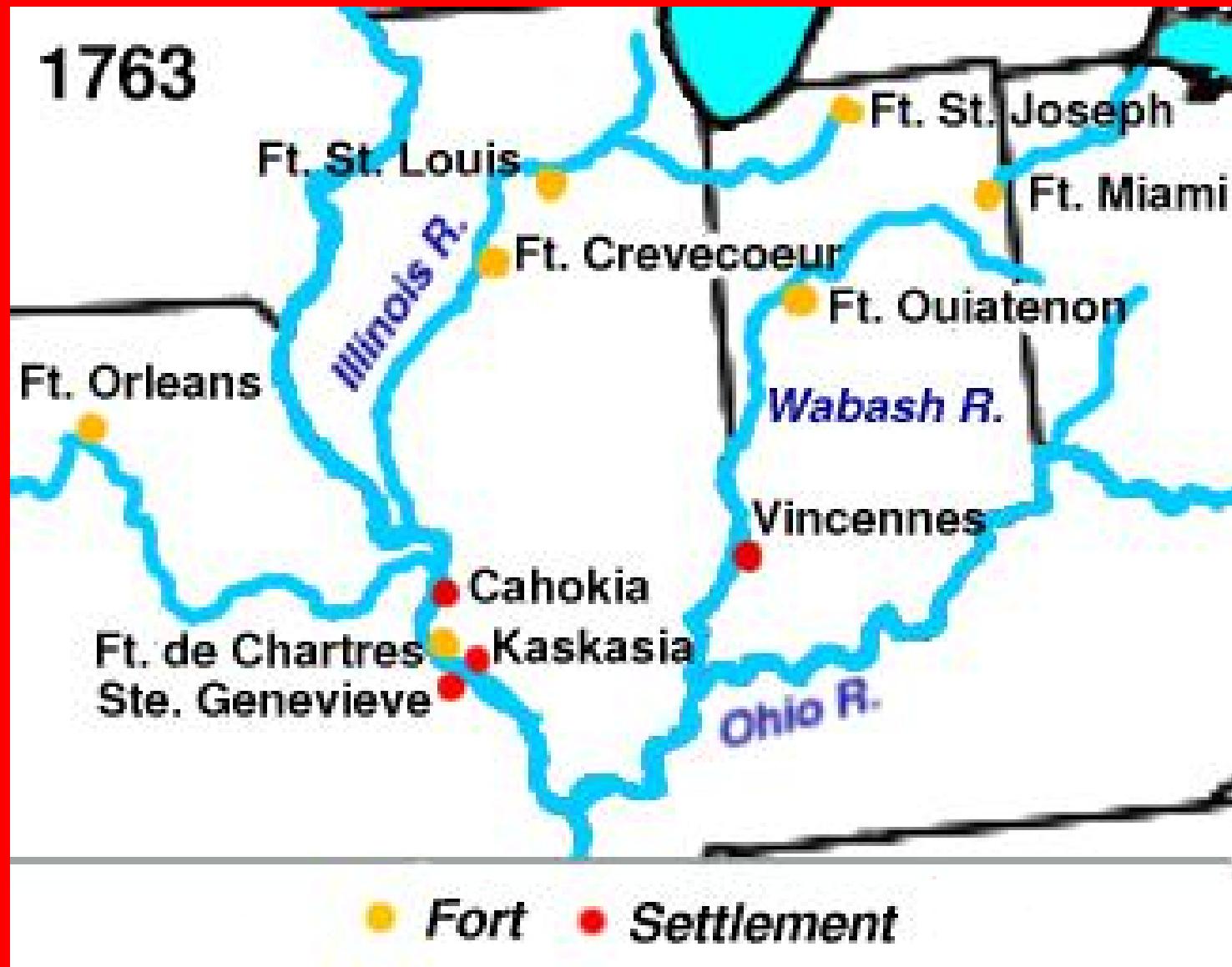
This image is titled "Indian Attack on the Village of Saint Louis, 1780." This image was created by Oscar E. Berninghaus (1874-1952). This image is on display in the Missouri State Capitol. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In 1778 George Rogers Clark of Virginia led 175 American volunteers on a raid against the British in the Ohio Valley.



This image is titled "Cahokia: Peace or War with the Indians." This painting depicts George Rogers Clark enlisting the help of the Native Americans near Cahokia in present day Illinois. He is holding out a red and white piece of cloth. If they chose Peace with the Americans, they would take the white cloth. If they chose War, they would take the red cloth. This image is on display at George Rogers Clark National Historical Park. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

He captured British forts at Kaskasia and Cahokia with the help of Native Americans known as the Miami.



This map shows the route taken by Clark and his men. They left Kentucky, and went north to Kaskaskia and Cahokia. They then moved northeast towards Vincennes. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Then Clark made a surprise winter march towards a British fort at Vincennes, in present-day Indiana.



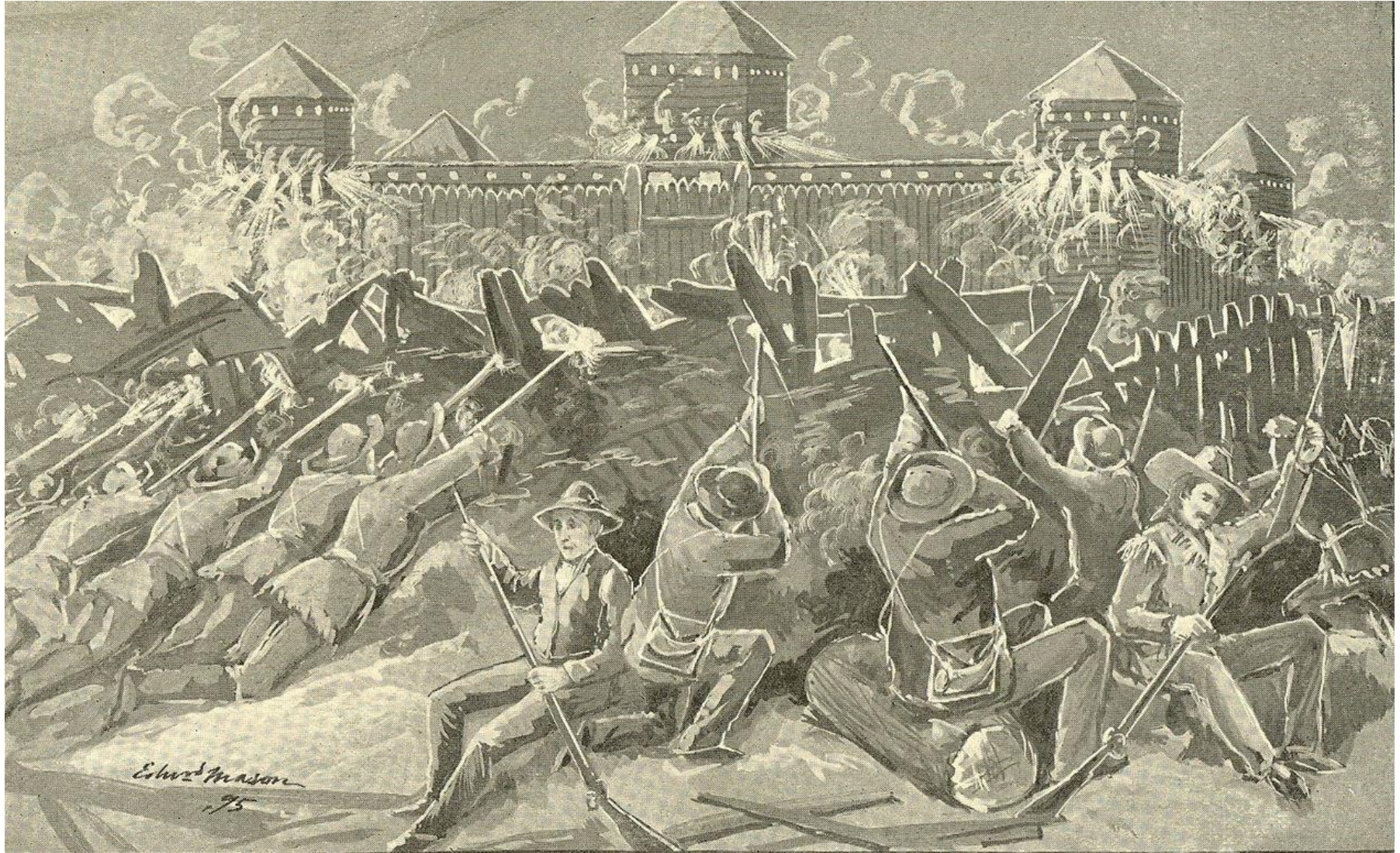
This image shows George Rogers Clark leading his men across the Wabash River. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

In February 1779, after marching more than 100 miles through rain and icy weather, Clarke's forces arrived at Vincennes.



This image shows George Rogers Clark and his men making their way to Vincennes. This image was created in 1929 by Frederick Coffay Yohn (1875-1933) for *The Hero of Vincennes: The Story of George Rogers Clark*. It was published by Lowell Thomas in 1929.

Clark marched his men around the Fort, pretending like he had 1000 men, instead of less than 200, and his men fired from multiple locations.



Clark arrived as it was getting dark, and the attack took place in the evening. Clark then sent a message to the British, demanding their surrender. This image is titled "The Night Attack on Fort Sackville, February 23, 1779." This image was created by Edward Mason in 1895 for *Conquest of the Country Northwest of the River Ohio* by William English.

After two days of negotiations, the British commander agreed to surrender the Fort.



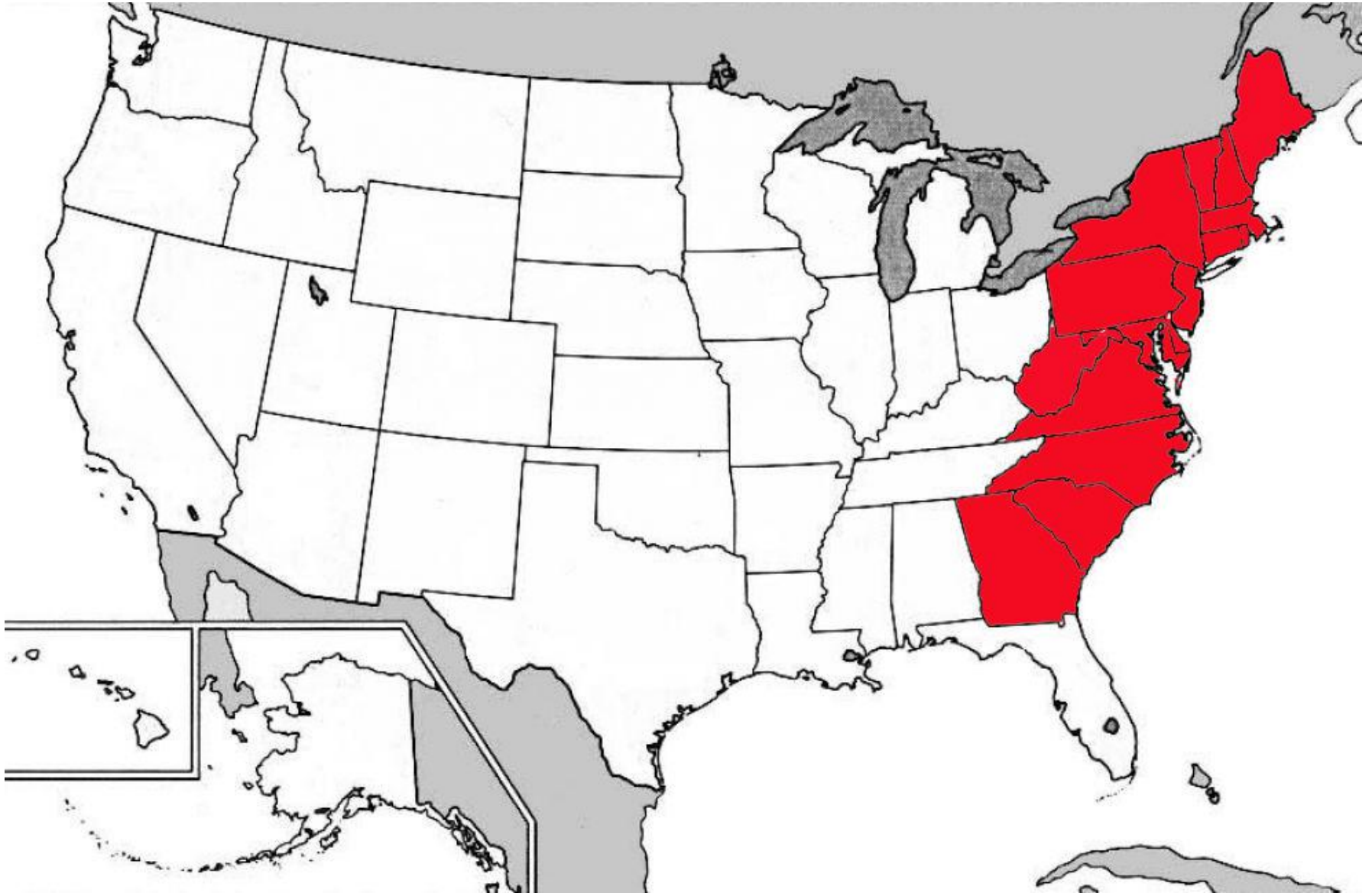
This image shows Clark and British General Henry Hamilton. This image is titled *Vincennes, 24 February 1779*. This image is courtesy of history.army.mil.

When the British commander surrendered, he was surprised by how few men Clark actually had.



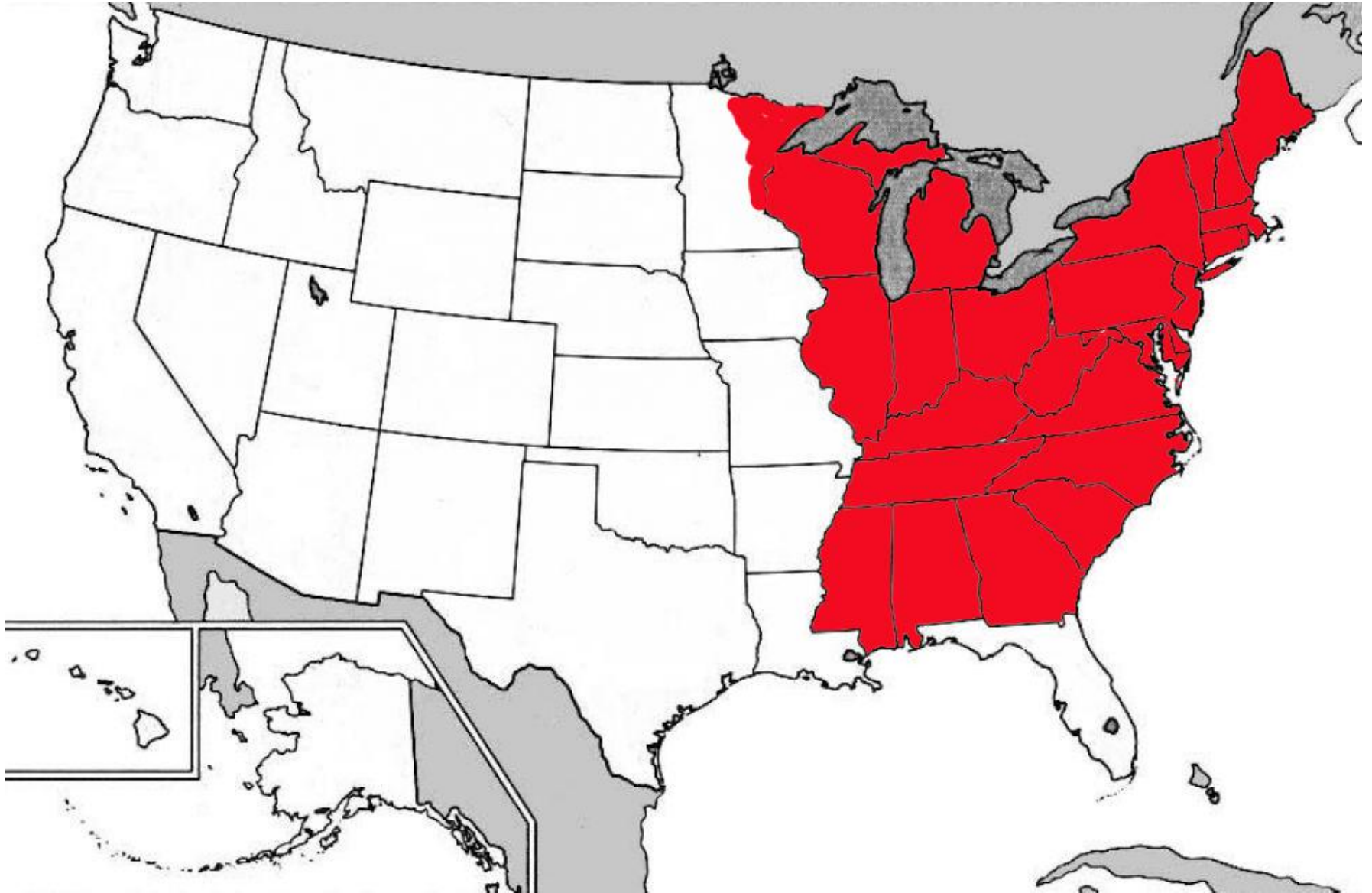
This image is titled the Capture of Fort Sackville. This image was created by Frederick C. Yohn (1875-1933). This image is courtesy of the Indiana Historical Bureau and of Wikimedia Commons.

Clark's Northwest Campaign was important because of the amount of land the United States received at the end of the war.



This image shows the land controlled by the 13 English colonies before the American Revolution. This image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

This is the amount of land controlled by the 13 original states after the efforts of George Rogers Clark and his men.



After the American Revolution, the 13 original states controlled most of the land east of the Mississippi River. This image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

Congress established the Continental Navy in 1775.



Its few ships, 31 at the beginning of the war, and 64 at the end of the war, had little effect on the outcome of the war. This is an engraving from a painting titled *Action Between the Serapis and Bonhomme Richard* by Richard Patton. This engraving was published in 1780. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

To protect their ports, the colonists were forced to rely on what would eventually be 449 armed private ships called privateers.



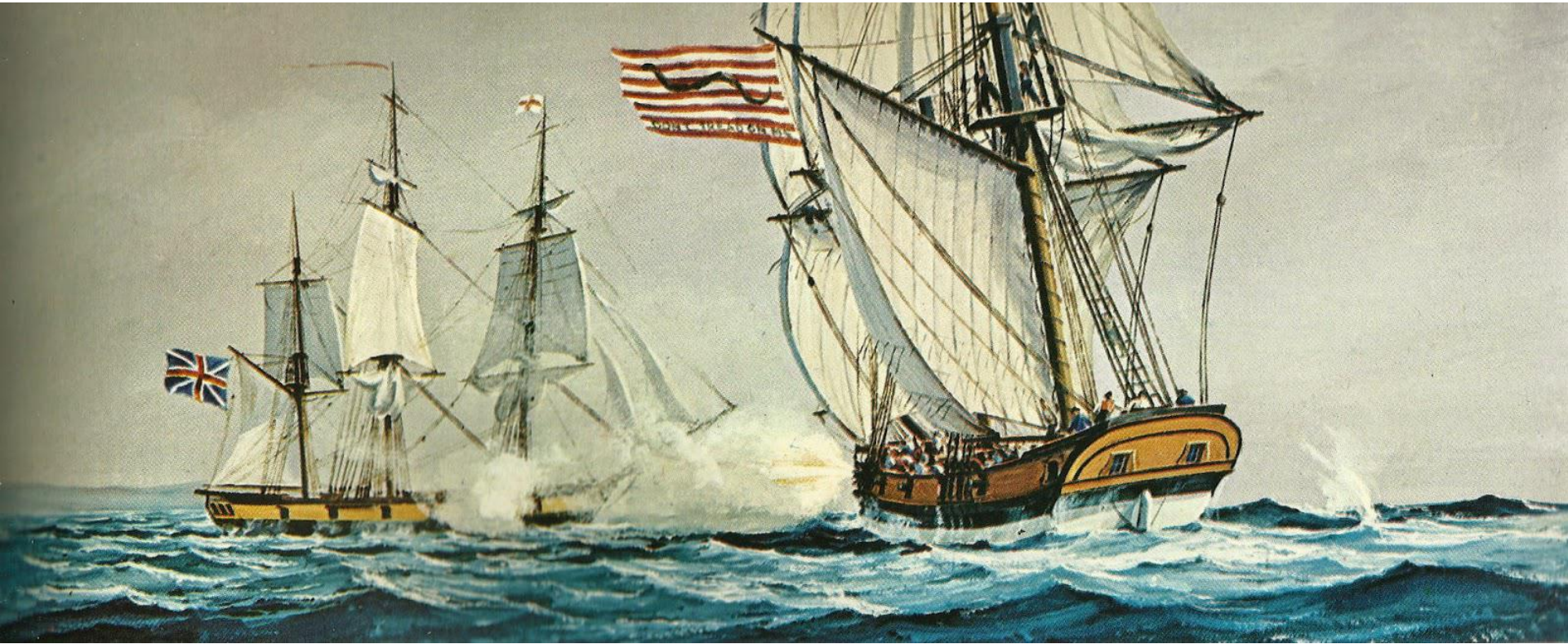
This painting is titled *A View of His Majesty's Brigg Observer, Commanded by Lieut. John Crymes Engaging the American Privateer ship Jack John Ropes (commander by Night on the 29th of May 1782 Off the Harbour of Halifax, Nova Scotia.* It was created by Robert Dodd in 1784. This image is courtesy of awiatsea.com.

Privateering encouraged private citizens to harass British shipping while risking their lives, ships, and other resources in order to make money.



A privateer had written authorization, called a Letter of Marque, from the American government to attack private shipping. Without this authorization, a “privateer” would be considered to be a “pirate.” This painting is titled *Bonhomme Richard Engaging the Serapis*. This image is courtesy of massar.org.

It is estimated that American privateers damaged British shipping by over \$300 million in today's money.



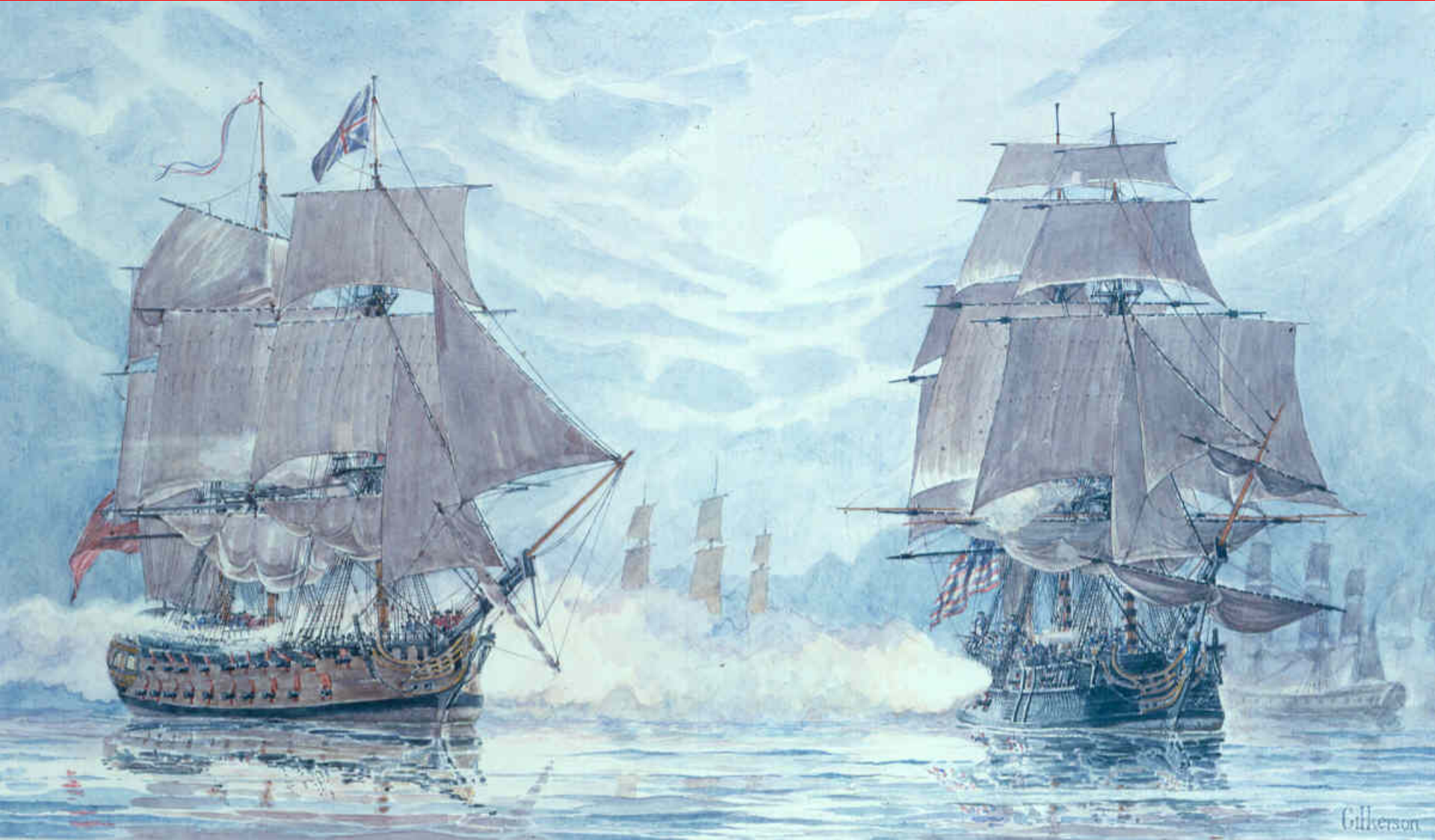
It was \$18 million at the time. This painting shows the American privateer *General Montgomery* battling an English ship, the *Millern*. This image was created by Nowland Van Powell. This image is courtesy of awiatsea.com.

In 1779 an American warship, the *Bonhomme Richard* (Good Man Richard, named after Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac), won a surprising victory in one of the war's most famous sea battles.



This painting is titled *Bonhomme Richard Engaging the Serapis*. This image is courtesy of fineartamerica.com.

The conflict began when the ship's daring captain, John Paul Jones, sailed to the coast of Great Britain and attacked the British warship *Serapis* in the North Sea.



This image is titled *Bonhomme Richard and Serapis* by William Gilkerson. This image is courtesy of the United States Naval Academy Museum.

At first it looked as though Jones and his crew would be lost. In the fierce battle, cannonballs tore through the *Bonhomme Richard*.



This image depicts the *USS Bonhomme Richard*, center, fighting the *HMS Serapis*, off Flamborough Head, England. Firing at right is the *USS Alliance*. This painting was created by Thomas Mitchell (1735-1790). This image is courtesy of the United States Naval History and Heritage Command.

Seeing that the heavily damaged American ship had caught fire, the British commander demanded that Jones surrender.



The American captain's reply was strong and determined. This painting by Anton Otto Fischer (1882-1962) is titled *The Ordeal of John Paul Jones crew of the Bonhomme Richard Repelling Boarders from HMS Serapis, September 23, 1779*. This image is courtesy of navalwarfare.blogspot.com.

“I have not yet begun to fight!” Jones replied.



This painting by Paul Moran shows John Paul Jones yelling his answer to the *HMS Serapis*. This image is courtesy of crashmacduff.wordpress.com.

Jones and his men were able to use grappling hooks to pull the two ships closely together while the American ship was on fire.



This image shows the Bonhomme Richard on the left against the HMS Serapis. This image was created by Anton Otto Fischer (1882-1962). This image is courtesy of pinterest.com.

Jones' attempt to board the *Serapis* failed, and the British failed to board the *Bonhomme Richard*.



This image first appeared in Benjamin J. Lossing's *Our Country* in 1895. This image is courtesy of ushistoryimages.com.

Eventually another American ship showed up, and the British ship had to surrender.



This painting by Warren shows the *USS Bonhomme Richard* on the left and the *HMS Serapis* in the center. The arriving ship on the right is the *USS Alliance*. The *Bonhomme Richard* sank within 36 hours, and John Paul Jones took over the *Serapis*. This image is courtesy of crashmacduff.wordpress.com.

John Paul Jones became known as the “Father of the American Navy.”



His heroism in the face of a bigger and better-equipped British fleet inspired Americans. This painting by Charles Wilson Peale (1741-1827) was created circa 1781. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

LEQ: What American victory was the “turning point” of the American Revolution because it inspired France to help the United States?



This image shows the surrender of the British army under General John Burgoyne to the Americans commanded by Horatio Gates at Saratoga, New York on October 17, 1777. This image is courtesy of Architect of the Capitol.

LEQ: What American victory was the “turning point” of the American Revolution because it inspired France to help the United States?

The Battle of Saratoga



This image shows the surrender of the British army under General John Burgoyne to the Americans commanded by Horatio Gates at Saratoga, New York on October 17, 1777. This image is courtesy of Architect of the Capitol.