

DOWNLOAD PDF WASHINGTON AND THE GENERALS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

Chapter 1 : Washington and the Generals of the American Revolution - Rufus Wilmot Griswold - Google Books

George Washington is, of course, the most famous of Revolutionary War generals and was commander-in-chief of the colonial forces. Anthony Wayne was an American Statesman, who became a general and fought in the Revolutionary War.

Visit Website Washington Crosses the Delaware Washington realized that without a decisive action, the Continental Army was likely doomed, so he planned a daring assault on the Hessian garrison at Trenton. In the end, neither Cadwalader nor Ewing were able to carry out their parts of the plan. As he approached the town, Washington divided his men, sending flanking columns under General Nathaniel Greene and General John Sullivan. Rall attempted to rally his troops but was never able to establish a defensive perimeter, and was shot from his horse and fatally wounded. The Hessians quickly surrendered. All told, 22 were killed, 92 wounded, captured and escaped. The Americans suffered two frozen to death and five wounded. Between Trenton and Princeton Realizing his men could not hold Trenton against British reinforcements, Washington withdrew across the Delaware. However, on December 30 he crossed back into New Jersey with an army of 2, Informed that 8, British troops under Generals Charles Cornwallis and James Grant were marching south from Princeton, Washington worked quickly to supplement his numbers, urging militiamen whose terms had expired to stay on for six weeks. The next day Cornwallis arrived with an army 5, After skirmishes at the American lines and three attempts to cross the bridge at Assunpink Creek, Cornwallis relented for the day, assuming he had Washington trapped. That night, Washington deployed men to keep the campfires going while the rest of his troops made a nighttime march north to Princeton. To keep their movement secret, torches were extinguished and wagon wheels muffled in heavy cloth. Washington sent a small force under General Hugh Mercer to destroy a bridge. Charles Mawhood and Mercer was killed in the fighting. Arriving militiamen under Col. Cadwalader had little effect. Then Washington arrived, riding between the firing lines until his terrified horse refused to go on. After the Battles of Trenton and Princeton As at Trenton, the Americans took prisoners, arms and supplies but quickly withdrew after winning the Battle of Princeton. The Continental Army basked in its achievementsâ€”at Princeton they had defeated a regular British army in the field. Moreover, Washington had shown that he could unite soldiers from all the colonies into an effective national force.

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Chapter 2 : The Most Complete Guide to American Revolutionary War Generals

General Washington in the American Revolution. George Washington was appointed commander of the Continental Army in

United States[edit] When the war began, the American colonists did not have a regular army also known as a " standing army " , each colony had traditionally provided its own defense through the use of local militia. Each of which had their own command hierarchy. Some states, most notably Pennsylvania and Massachusetts , also had their own navies. Seeking to coordinate military efforts, the Continental Congress established on paper a regular army—the Continental Army —in June , and appointed George Washington as commander-in-chief. The development of the Continental Army was always a work in progress, and Washington reluctantly augmented the regular troops with militia throughout the war. Commander-in-Chief[edit] Washington in his uniform George Washington was the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army , reporting to the Second Continental Congress. His activities, including command of the Main Army, direction of the overall war effort on behalf of the United States, and administration of the entire army, were overseen by the Board of War , established in June He held the rank of General during the war. He was subsequently appointed Lieutenant General in , and was posthumously promoted to General of the Armies of the United States in Continental Army[edit] Detail from Washington and his generals at Yorktown c. He was captured during the Battle of Long Island in and not long after that, he was exchanged for Montfort Browne. He also served with distinction in numerous battles in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He died in shortly before the end of the war. Benedict Arnold was a leading force in the early days of the war, participating in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and the invasion of Quebec. He played a crucial role in the Battles of Saratoga , in which he was severely wounded. In he acquired command of the Highlands Department with the intent of surrendering West Point to the British. The plot was uncovered and he fled to join the British, for whom he served until the end of as a brigadier general. James Clinton was active in his native New York , and was a leading figure of the Sullivan Expedition to destroy Iroquois settlements in that state. He also served in Quebec and at Yorktown, and commanded American troops at Fort Clinton in their defeat. He oversaw the improvement of defences throughout the states, and directed the engineering efforts at Yorktown. He was a brigadier general until November , when he received a brevet promotion to major general. He was in command during the pivotal battle at Saratoga in , following which he lobbied Congress as a potential replacement for Washington. He was afterward given command of the Southern Department, where his army was disastrously defeated at Camden in , ending his field leadership. Nathanael Greene was one of the best strategists in the Continental Army. Shortly before the Battle of Yorktown, Washington changed his mind and gave Hamilton his commission as a Major General. Hamilton only held the rank for the Battle of Yorktown and resigned shortly afterwards, many people think that he did this for his wife, Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton , who was pregnant at the time with their first child and because he wanted to have a larger say in the Congress of the Confederation when it convened in Edward Hand spent much of the war defending Pennsylvania, serving as the commander at Fort Pitt for a time. He was present at Yorktown, and was given a brevet promotion to major general as the war was coming to an end in William Heath was a Massachusetts general with a prominent role training troops in the early days of the war at the Siege of Boston. He spent most of the war leading the Highland Department, since Washington was apparently not confident of his ability in the field. Robert Howe was a major general from North Carolina. As commander of the Southern Department, he led a campaign against East Florida that failed due to disagreements with state militia commanders, and was forced to surrender Savannah. He then served under Anthony Wayne in the Highlands Department, seeing action at Stony Point , and under Washington in the Main Army, where he put down a mutiny in He served under Washington at Valley Forge, and was sent to the Southern Department with Horatio Gates when he took over that department. De Kalb was killed in the Battle of Camden in August Henry Knox was the chief artillery officer

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of the Continental Army. He oversaw the creation of an artillery training centre that was a precursor to the United States Military Academy , and later served as the first United States Secretary of War. He served with Washington in the Philadelphia campaign, fought in the Battle of Rhode Island , and successfully resisted significant engagements with British forces in Virginia before the armies of Washington and Rochambeau arrived. Charles Lee was an experienced British military officer who had hoped to be appointed commander-in-chief instead of Washington. Quickly exchanged, he participated in the Philadelphia campaign. After he was convicted by a court martial for disobeying orders during the Battle of Monmouth , he resigned from the army in Benjamin Lincoln was a major general from Massachusetts, who was present at three major surrenders during the war. Next he was put in command of the Southern Department, he was forced to surrender his army to Sir Henry Clinton when they were surrounded in Charleston in From to he served as Secretary of War. Lachlan McIntosh was a Georgia general. Injured in a duel with Button Gwinnett in , he served as head of the Western Department in and before returning to the South. He was captured in the siege of Charleston, and was not released until after hostilities had effectively ended in Alexander McDougall was a major general from New York. He led the Invasion of Canada in as a brigadier, and was killed in the Battle of Quebec , without knowing that he had been promoted to major general following the Siege of Fort St. Peter. Peter Muhlenberg was a Virginia general who led the 8th Virginia Regiment. First assigned to coastal defenses in the South, he also saw action in the Philadelphia campaign. He was then sent to lead the defence of Virginia , leading mainly militia forces, but then led forward light infantry companies at Yorktown under Lafayette. John Paterson was a Massachusetts general active in the most of the early northern campaigns, from Quebec to Philadelphia. He received a brevet promotion to major general in Israel Putnam was the most senior general in the Continental Army, only outranked by Washington. Active from the first days of the revolution, he led the forces in the field at the Battle of Bunker Hill. After performing poorly in the Battle of Long Island , Washington assigned him to do primarily recruiting in the Highlands Department. He suffered a stroke in , which ended his military career. Philip Schuyler was a New York major general. As head of the Northern Department, he planned the invasion of Quebec , but was prevented from leading it by an illness. He was active in the defence of New York in , but the withdrawal from Ticonderoga led Congress to replace him with Horatio Gates. He was also active in Indian relations, cultivating the neutrality or support of tribes in New York. William Smallwood led forces from Maryland in the war. He served with distinction in the New York campaign, and was twice wounded at White Plains. He then served in the Philadelphia campaign , and was in the debacle at Camden in Clair was a large landholder in western Pennsylvania when the war began. Publicly criticized for this step, which saved his army, he held no more field commands, but served as an aide to Washington for the rest of the war. Following a misstep in the Battle of Germantown in which, against orders, he advanced his troops to a point where they accidentally exchanged friendly fire with forces of Anthony Wayne, Stephen was court martialed and cashiered out of the army. Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben was a Prussian aristocrat and military officer. His military drills and instruction, especially at Valley Forge , are generally credited with significantly improving the performance of the Continental Army. John Sullivan was from New Hampshire. Active from the first days of the war, he led a relief column and ended up in command of the invasion of Quebec during its final weeks in John Thomas was a Massachusetts general active from the beginning of the war in Boston where he commanded the besieging forces at Roxbury. Artemas Ward was the first overall leader of the assembled militia forces outside Boston after the war began, and ranked second in seniority to Washington in the Continental Army. He commanded the Eastern Department, which was largely responsible for containing the British at Newport, until , when he resigned due to poor health. Active in the Quebec invasion, he was stationed at Fort Ticonderoga during the winter of He then participated in the Philadelphia campaign, playing a key role in the Battle of Monmouth. He held a variety of commands thereafter, and negotiated peace agreements with Indians along the southern frontiers. He was promoted to major general in He was given the nickname "Mad" Anthony because of his military achievements and his exuberant personality. He led the Canadian Department after the death of Richard Montgomery. Following the

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retreat from Quebec, he returned to his native Connecticut, where he led the state militia. He was killed in the Battle of Ridgefield.

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Chapter 3 : George Washington: The Commander in Chief

George Washington was the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, reporting to the Second Continental Congress, including command of the Main Army, direction of the overall war effort on behalf of the United States, and administration of the entire army, were overseen by the Board of War, established in June

General George Washington at Trenton John Trumbull, George Washington is best remembered as the first President of the United States, but there might not ever have been a United States, had Washington not so ably performed in the role for which he seemed to have been born: Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. His experiences in the French and Indian War were invaluable in teaching him the subtleties of warfare on the American continent. Serving the British crown in their war against the French in the 1750s would prepare him for the conflict that emerged two decades later: Fighting for Independence from the crown he once served, in alliance with the French he once fought against. Asked to name the greatest man in the Congress, Patrick Henry replied: Rutledge of South Carolina is by far the greatest orator; but if you speak of solid information and sound judgement, Colonel Washington is unquestionably the greatest man on the floor. Speaking before a meeting of that body soon after the Boston Tea Party, after the British closed the port of Boston Washington asserted: The American Revolution was underway. Militia groups from throughout the colonies made their way to Boston. John Adams, of Massachusetts, nominated Washington, then a colonel in the Virginia militia, to serve as commander-in-chief of the army, recording in his diary: I had no hesitation to declare that I had but one gentleman in my mind for that important command and that was a gentleman from Virginia, who was among us and very well known to all of us; a gentleman, whose skill and experience as an officer, whose independent fortune, great talents and excellent universal character would command the approbation of all America, and unite the cordial exertions of all the colonies better than any other person in the Union. Adams was persuasive, and Congress concurred with his recommendation. Washington accepted the appointment, but it was the standard practice to make a great show of humility when thus honored. Washington did so in his acceptance speech: I beg they will accept my cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation. But lest some unlucky event should happen, unfavorable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room that I this day declare with the utmost sincerity I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with. As to pay, Sir, I beg leave to assure the Congress that as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment at the expense of my domestic ease and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact account of my expenses. Those I doubt not they will discharge, and that is all I desire. Eight brigadier generals were also commissioned.

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Chapter 4 : Washington and the Generals of the American Revolution . | UVA Library | Virgo

George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring that Saved the American Revolution (Penguin,). Mahoney, Harry Thayer, and Marjorie Locke Mahoney. *Gallantry in action: A biographic dictionary of espionage in the American revolutionary war* (University Press of America,).

The early death of his father when he was 11 eliminated the possibility of schooling in England, and his mother rejected attempts to place him in the Royal Navy. Washington played a key role in the outbreak of the French and Indian War , and then led the defense of Virginia between and as colonel of the Virginia Regiment. Although Washington never received a commission in the British Army, he gained valuable military, political, and leadership skills, [5] and received significant public exposure in the colonies and abroad. He demonstrated his toughness and courage in the most difficult situations, including disasters and retreats. He developed a command presence—given his size, strength, stamina, and bravery in battle, he appeared to soldiers to be a natural leader and they followed him without question. From his observations, readings and conversations with professional officers, he learned the basics of battlefield tactics, as well as a good understanding of problems of organization and logistics. Although he expressed opposition to the Stamp Act , the first direct tax on the colonies, he did not take a leading role in the growing colonial resistance until protests of the Townshend Acts enacted in became widespread. In May , Washington introduced a proposal, drafted by his friend George Mason , calling for Virginia to boycott British goods until the Acts were repealed. However, Washington regarded the passage of the Intolerable Acts in as "an Invasion of our Rights and Privileges". The goal was always independence. When France entered the war, he worked closely with the soldiers it sent—they were decisive in the great victory at Yorktown in . Washington worked hard to develop a successful espionage system to detect British locations and plans. In it discovered Benedict Arnold was a traitor. In June , Congress made its first attempt at running the war effort with the committee known as "Board of War and Ordnance", succeeded by the Board of War in July , a committee which eventually included members of the military. The results of his general staff were mixed, as some of his favorites never mastered the art of command, such as John Sullivan. Eventually, he found capable officers such as Nathanael Greene , Daniel Morgan , Henry Knox chief of artillery , and Alexander Hamilton chief of staff. The American officers never equaled their opponents in tactics and maneuver, and they lost most of the pitched battles. The great successes at Boston , Saratoga , and Yorktown came from trapping the British far from base with much larger numbers of troops. There was never nearly enough. His long-term strategy was to maintain an army in the field at all times, and eventually this strategy worked. His enormous personal and political stature and his political skills kept Congress, the army, the French, the militias, and the states all pointed toward a common goal. Furthermore, he permanently established the principle of civilian supremacy in military affairs by voluntarily resigning his commission and disbanding his army when the war was won, rather than declaring himself monarch. He also helped to overcome the distrust of a standing army by his constant reiteration that well-disciplined professional soldiers counted for twice as much as poorly trained and led militias. He utilized agents behind enemy lines, recruited both Tory and Patriot sources, interrogated travelers for intelligence information, and launched scores of agents on both intelligence and counterintelligence missions. He was adept at deception operations and tradecraft and was a skilled propagandist. He also practiced sound operational security. He emphasized his desire for receiving written, rather than verbal, reports. He demanded repeatedly that intelligence reports be expedited, reminding his officers of those bits of intelligence he had received which had become valueless because of delay in getting them to him. He also recognized the need for developing many different sources so that their reports could be cross-checked, and so that the compromise of one source would not cut off the flow of intelligence from an important area. In accounting for the sums in his journals, he did not identify the recipients: Washington appeared at the Second Continental Congress in a military uniform, signaling that he was prepared for war. Washington had the prestige, military experience, charisma and military bearing of a

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military leader and was known as a strong patriot; he was also popular in his home province. There was no other serious competition for the post, although Washington did nothing to actively pursue the appointment. Massachusetts delegate John Adams nominated Washington, believing that appointing a southerner to lead what was then primarily an army of northerners would help unite the colonies. Washington reluctantly accepted, declaring "with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the Command I [am] honored with. Washington assumed command of the colonial forces outside Boston on July 3, , during the ongoing siege of Boston , after stopping in New York City to begin organizing military companies for its defense. British arsenals were raided including some in the West Indies and some manufacturing was attempted; a barely adequate supply about 2. The establishment of the Continental Army only had enlistment terms of one year, a matter that would again be a problem in late Somewhat surprised that regional differences would be a problem, on August 1 he read a speech to the army, in which he threatened to punish "any officers or soldiers so lost to virtue and a love of their country" that might exacerbate the regional differences. New England troops serving in northern New York under General Philip Schuyler , a scion of an old patroon family of New York, objected to his aristocratic style, and their Congressional representatives lobbied Washington to replace Schuyler with General Gates. Washington tried to resolve the issue by giving Gates command of the forces in Quebec, but the collapse of the Quebec expedition brought renewed complaints. To avoid a potentially messy situation, General Washington gave Schuyler overall command of the northern department, but assigned Gates as second in command with combat authority. General Howe refused to act on a significant tactical advantage that could have resulted in the capture of the remaining Continental troops on Long Island, but he chose instead to besiege the fortified positions to which they had retreated. In what some historians call one of his greatest military feats, he executed a nighttime withdrawal from Long Island across the East River to Manhattan to save those troops and materiel. Four days later the British landed on Manhattan , a bombardment from the river scattering inexperienced militia into a panicked retreat, and forcing Washington to retreat further. To defend against this move, Washington withdrew most of his army to White Plains , where after a short battle on October 28 he retreated further north. This isolated the remaining Continental Army troops in upper Manhattan, so Howe returned to Manhattan and captured Fort Mifflin in mid November, taking almost 3, prisoners. Washington brought much of his army across the Hudson into New Jersey, but was immediately forced to retreat by the aggressive British advance. When Lee strayed too far from his army on December 12, his exposed position was betrayed by Loyalists, and a British company led by Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton surrounded the inn where he was staying and took him prisoner. Since Lee had previously served in the British Army, he was treated as a deserter , and threatened with military punishments appropriate to that charge. Even though he and Lee did not get on well, Washington threatened to treat captured British officers in the same manner Lee and other high-profile prisoners were treated. He reassembled an army of more than 6, men, and marched most of them against a position Washington had taken south of Trenton. The British troops engaged Mercer and in the ensuing battle , Mercer was mortally wounded. Washington sent reinforcements under General John Cadwalader , which were successful in driving Mawhood and the British from Princeton, with many of them fleeing to Cornwallis in Trenton. The British lost more than one quarter of their force in the battle, and American morale rose with the victory. Frederick the Great , one of the greatest military minds, wrote that "the achievements of Washington [at Trenton and Princeton] were the most brilliant of any recorded in the history of military achievements. When Howe then moved his army southwest from New Brunswick, Washington correctly interpreted this as a move to draw him out of his strong position, and refused to move. Concerned that Howe was heading up the Hudson, he ordered Arnold, [95] along with Daniel Morgan and his corps of riflemen, north to assist General Gates with the defense of the Hudson. Congress had adopted a per-state scheme for the promotion of general officers, which resulted in the promotion of several officers to major general ahead of other officers with more experience or seniority. Combined with the commissioning of foreign officers to high ranks, this had led to the resignation of John Stark. Arnold, who had distinguished himself in the Canadian campaign, had also threatened to resign.

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Washington had also laid the seeds for conflict between Arnold and Gates when he gave Arnold command of forces in Rhode Island in late ; because of this move Gates came to view Arnold as a competitor for advancement, and the previously positive relationship between Gates and Arnold cooled. In part to silence his critics, Washington planned an elaborate assault on an exposed British base in Germantown. Historian Robert Leckie observes that the battle was a near thing, and that a small number of changes might have resulted in a decisive victory for Washington. Congress authorized Washington to seize supplies needed for the army, but he was reluctant to use such authority, since it smacked of the tyranny the war was supposedly being fought over. His loss of Philadelphia prompted some members of Congress to discuss removing him from command. French entry into the war changed its dynamics, for the British were no longer sure of command of the seas and had to worry about an invasion of their home islands and other colonial territories across the globe. The British, now under the command of General Sir Henry Clinton , evacuated Philadelphia in and returned to New York City, with Washington attacking them along the way at the Battle of Monmouth ; this was the last major battle in the north. Prior to the battle Washington gave command of the advance forces to Charles Lee, who had been exchanged earlier in the year. When Washington arrived at the head of the main army, he and Lee had an angry exchange of words, and Washington ordered Lee off the command. Lee was court martialed and eventually dismissed from the army. This was approved, and in the summer of a sizable force under Major General John Sullivan made a major expedition into the northwestern frontier of New York in reprisal for the frontier raids. When Clinton weakened the garrison there to provide men for raiding expeditions, Washington organized a counterstrike. General Anthony Wayne led a force that, solely using the bayonet, recaptured Stony Point. American morale was dealt a blow later in the year, when the second major attempt at Franco-American cooperation, an attempt to retake Savannah , failed with heavy casualties. New York Harbor froze over, and the winter camps of the Continental Army were deluged with snow, resulting in hardships exceeding those experienced at Valley Forge. General Clinton withdrew the British garrison from Newport, and marshalled a force of more than 10, men that in the first half of successfully besieged Charleston, South Carolina. In June he captured over 5, Continental soldiers and militia in the single worst defeat of the war for the Americans. Knowledge of discontent within the ranks in New Jersey prompted the British in New York to make two attempts to reach the principal army base at Morristown. These attempts were defeated, with significant militia support, in battles at Connecticut Farms and Springfield. Washington then made one of the worst decisions of his career, appointing Arnold as military governor of the rich, politically divided city. No one could have been less qualified for the position. Arnold had amply demonstrated his tendency to become embroiled in disputes, as well as his lack of political sense. Above all, he needed tact, patience, and fairness in dealing with a people deeply marked by months of enemy occupation. Arnold in began secret negotiations with General Clinton. Arnold pleaded with Washington, who appointed him commander of West Point, the major Patriot strong point in New York.

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Chapter 5 : Battles of Trenton and Princeton - HISTORY

The American Generals, From the Founding of the Republic to the Present Time Comprising Lives of the Great Commanders, and Other Distinguished Officers Who Have Acted in the Service of the United States; And Embracing a Complete Military History of the Country by John Frost.

It was here that the American forces became a true fighting unit. Valley Forge is often called the birthplace of the American Army. Where is Valley Forge? Valley Forge is located in the southeastern corner of Pennsylvania around 25 miles northwest of Philadelphia. Why did they camp there? George Washington chose to make the winter camp at Valley Forge for several reasons. First, it was close to Philadelphia where the British were camping for the winter. He could keep an eye on the British and protect the people of Pennsylvania. At the same time it was far enough from the British so that he would have plenty of warning if they decided to attack. Valley Forge was also a good place to defend if the army was attacked. There were high areas in Mount Joy and Mount Misery to make fortifications. There also was a river, the Schuylkill River, that served as a barrier to the north. Who were the American leaders? It was at Valley Forge where the Continental Army turned into a trained fighting force. There were three leaders in particular who played a key role in building the army. His leadership and resolve played a big part in the United States gaining its independence from Britain. General Friedrich von Steuben - Friedrich von Steuben was a Prussian born military leader who served as the inspector general under Washington. He took on the task of training the Continental Army. Lafayette would later become an important commander at several key battles. The conditions that the soldiers had to endure at Valley Forge were horrible. They had to deal with cold, wet, and snowy weather. They were often hungry, as food was scarce. There were few blankets as well. Living in cold, damp, and crowded log cabins made matters even worse because it allowed disease and sickness to spread quickly throughout the camp. Diseases such as typhoid fever, pneumonia, and smallpox took the lives of many soldiers. Of the 10, men who began the winter at Valley Forge, around 2, died before the spring. The area was named after an iron forge located at nearby Valley Creek. Some families of the soldiers including wives, sisters, and children made camp near the soldiers and helped them survive the winter. They were called Camp Followers. His energy and knowledge of training and drilling men made an immediate impact on the soldiers at the camp. Martha Washington stayed at the camp as well. She would bring baskets of food and socks to the soldiers who needed them the most. Activities Take a ten question quiz about this page. Listen to a recorded reading of this page: Your browser does not support the audio element. Learn more about the Revolutionary War:

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Chapter 6 : American Revolution for Kids: Generals and Military Leaders

In addition to George Washington, during the course of the American Revolution, the Continental Congress commissioned seventy-seven other men as general officers, with four â€” Seth Pomeroy, John Whetcomb, John Cadwalader, and Joseph Reed â€” declining the honor.

The French were allies with the Americans and some French officers are listed under the United States. Nathanael Greene - Nathanael Greene served under Washington at the start of the war and then took over the Southern Theatre of the war where he successfully defeated the British in the South. Henry Knox - Knox was a bookstore owner in Boston who quickly rose to the rank of chief artillery officer under George Washington. He fought in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. Jean Baptiste de Rochambeau - Rochambeau was the commander of the French forces in the war. His main action was at the end of the war at the Siege of Yorktown. He played an important role fighting the British fleet at the Battle of the Chesapeake and at Yorktown. Horatio Gates - Gates was a controversial figure during the war. He led the Continental Army to a key victory at Saratoga, but also suffered a major defeat at Camden. He once tried to get Congress to make him commander over George Washington. Daniel Morgan - Morgan led at a number of important battles including the invasion of Canada and Saratoga. He is most known for his decisive victory at the Battle of Cowpens. Marquis de Lafayette - Lafayette was a French commander who served under George Washington during much of the war. He participated in several battles including the Siege of Yorktown. John Paul Jones - Jones was a naval commander who captured several British ships. He is sometimes called the "Father of the United States Navy. He was given command of the army in the Southern theatre in He was successful at first, but eventually ran out of resources and troops and was forced to surrender at Yorktown. John Burgoyne - Burgoyne is most famous for his defeat at Saratoga where he surrendered his army to the Americans. Guy Carleton - Carleton began the war as governor of Quebec. He took over as lead commander for the British at the end of the war. He was replaced by Howe after the Battle of Bunker Hill. He later became a traitor and changed sides. He served as a brigadier general for the British. Activities Take a ten question quiz about this page. Listen to a recorded reading of this page: Your browser does not support the audio element. Learn more about the Revolutionary War:

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Chapter 7 : American Revolution for Kids: Valley Forge

In June , Congress ordered General George Washington to take command of the Continental Army besieging the British in Boston. Despite having little practical experience in managing large, conventional armies, Washington proved to be a capable and resilient leader of the American military forces during the war.

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Chapter 8 : Washington's General: Nathanael Greene and the Triumph of the American Revolution by Terr

George Washington served as commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and later was the first President of the United States. American Revolution: General George Washington, A Military Profile.

Visit Website Did you know? Now most famous as a traitor to the American cause, General Benedict Arnold began the Revolutionary War as one of its earliest heroes, helping lead rebel forces in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga in May. This First Continental Congress did not go so far as to demand independence from Britain, but it denounced taxation without representation, as well as the maintenance of the British army in the colonies without their consent, and issued a declaration of the rights due every citizen, including life, liberty, property, assembly and trial by jury. The Continental Congress voted to meet again in May to consider further action, but by that time violence had already broken out. On April 19, local militiamen clashed with British soldiers in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, marking the first shots fired in the Revolutionary War.

Declaring Independence When the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia, delegates—including new additions Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson—voted to form a Continental Army, with Washington as its commander in chief. The engagement known as the Battle of Bunker Hill ended in British victory, but lent encouragement to the revolutionary cause. The British evacuated the city in March, with Howe and his men retreating to Canada to prepare a major invasion of New York. By June, with the Revolutionary War in full swing, a growing majority of the colonists had come to favor independence from Britain. On July 4, the Continental Congress voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence, drafted by a five-man committee including Franklin and John Adams but written mainly by Jefferson. That same month, determined to crush the rebellion, the British government sent a large fleet, along with more than 34,000 troops to New York.

Revolutionary War Turning Point British strategy in involved two main prongs of attack, aimed at separating New England where the rebellion enjoyed the most popular support from the other colonies. Washington rebounded to strike Germantown in early October before withdrawing to winter quarters near Valley Forge. The American victory at Saratoga would prove to be a turning point of the American Revolution, as it prompted France which had been secretly aiding the rebels since to enter the war openly on the American side, though it would not formally declare war on Great Britain until June. The American Revolution, which had begun as a civil conflict between Britain and its colonies, had become a world war. The battle effectively ended in a draw, as the Americans held their ground, but Clinton was able to get his army and supplies safely to New York. A joint attack on the British at Newport, Rhode Island, in late July failed, and for the most part the war settled into a stalemate phase in the North. The Americans suffered a number of setbacks from 1777 to 1780, including the defection of General Benedict Arnold to the British and the first serious mutinies within the Continental Army. Supported by a French army commanded by General Jean Baptiste de Rochambeau, Washington moved against Yorktown with a total of around 14,000 soldiers, while a fleet of 36 French warships offshore prevented British reinforcement or evacuation. Trapped and overpowered, Cornwallis was forced to surrender his entire army on October 19, 1781. Though the movement for American independence effectively triumphed at Yorktown, contemporary observers did not see that as the decisive victory yet. British forces remained stationed around Charleston, and the powerful main army still resided in New York. Though neither side would take decisive action over the better part of the next two years, the British removal of their troops from Charleston and Savannah in late 1782 finally pointed to the end of the conflict. British and American negotiators in Paris signed preliminary peace terms in Paris late that November, and on September 3, 1783, Great Britain formally recognized the independence of the United States in the Treaty of Paris. At the same time, Britain signed separate peace treaties with France and Spain which had entered the conflict in 1763, bringing the American Revolution to a close after eight long years. Start your free trial today.

Chapter 9 : Washington the general

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