

Overhead Notes – Important Battles of the American Revolution

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<http://www.history.com/news/9-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-declaration-of-independence>

Background:

After the **Battles of Lexington and Concord** started in April of 1775, the 13 “united” States were in open rebellion against Britain and King George III. The American Revolution was underway. The surrender of British troops would take place in October of 1781 after the Battle of Yorktown in Virginia.

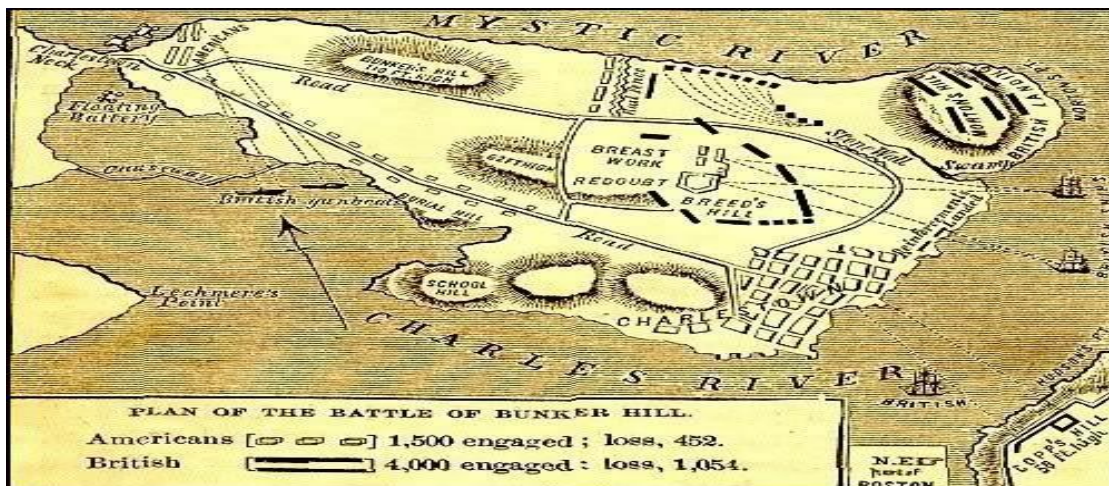
By the summer of 1776, there had been 6 “battles” between the 2 sides. The **Battle of Bunker Hill** (June, 1775) and the **Battle of Quebec City** (December, 1775) were both victories for the British. 56 men met and sent the Declaration of Independence back to King George III later during the summer...

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Important Battles of American Revolution

- **Battle of Bunker Hill** (Charlestown, MA – June 1775) British troops wanted to gain control of the Charles and Mystic Rivers that lead to the Boston Harbor and out to the Atlantic. Bunker Hill was a perfect vantage point to see everything along the rivers. **General Prescott (US)** stationed 1200 men on the hill the night before the battle. **General Thomas Gage (British)** had 2300 men march the hill, only to be surprised that the 1200 soldiers US were already there and were told not to “shoot until they see the whites of their eyes”. The British took the hill, but the Colonists showed they were not going to give up and that the war effort would continue...



- Battle of Trenton (Trenton, NJ – December 1776) – After a resounding defeat at Fort Mifflin in PA in November, **General George Washington's** men were wounded, hungry, cold and ready to desert the army. On Christmas Night, under cover of darkness, Washington's men came across the Delaware River into Trenton and caught the Hessian (German mercenaries) and **Colonel Johann Rall (Germans)** off guard. The Continentals will take almost 900 hostages...
<http://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/american-revolution-history/videos/george-washington-makes-surprise-attack-on-trenton>



- Battle of Saratoga (Saratoga, NY – September 1777) – England thought that by sending troops from Canada down into New York, they would control the waterways between the Atlantic and the U.K. as well as taking NYC. So under the control of **General John Burgoyne (British)**, they bring 7200 soldiers to Saratoga where they are met by **Benedict Arnold and Horatio Gates (US)** and 6600 soldiers. After forcing the British to surrender, the French, Spanish and Dutch will join on the side of the Colonists and this becomes known as the “turning point of the American Revolution”.



- Battle of Yorktown (Yorktown, VA – October 1781) – After leaving S/N Carolina, British forces under the command of **Charles Cornwallis** marched to Yorktown, VA (near the Chesapeake Bay) to meet **George Washington's** troops marching down from Rhode Island. Washington had 7,000 men (French and US), the **Marquis De Lafayette** (French General) had 5,000 American troops, and the **Count De Grasse** (French sea captain) had the ships to block the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. After 2 weeks of “siege warfare”, the British and Charles Cornwallis will surrender to George Washington and the Revolutionary War will be over!!
<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/battle-of-yorktown-begins>
<http://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/siege-of-yorktown/videos/yorktown>

