

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Lesson 40 and Lesson 41

I. Washington is in a desperate condition. Most of his men's enlistments will run out on 31 Dec.

Food and supplies are scarce. Many men do not have adequate clothing. The weather is very cold. Discouragement is prevalent. Many believe that the revolution is over.

II. Battle of Trenton

A. Washington knows that most of the British army have gone to NY city to spend the winter.

B. Only scattered garrisons (mostly German) are located in New Jersey.

C. Washington sees as an attack on one of these isolated garrisons (winter traveling) as essential for getting supplies, encouraging his fellow countrymen, and lifting the moral of his army.

D. What are the risks? Destruction of the army. Losing the battle means losing the war. Crossing an icy river, marching down snow and ice covered roads in extremely cold weather.

E. His plan to attack on Christmas day is brilliant, it also shows his personal courage and audacity.

F. He plans on a two pronged attack on the Hessian garrison of Trenton, NJ

G. The execution: Delayed crossing, delayed marching due to weather and health of men.

He personally leads the attack on the Hessian outpost. The Hessians sleep fully clothed with their muskets loaded! They are not drunk as the liberal historian have said. They quickly form ranks and fire, but the American Patriots are fighting like furies! Hessian Col. Rall rallies his men but is shot & will die that night. German ranks break and finally they surrender in mass.

Am losses: few frozen to death, 5 wounded (among them James Monroe) Ger 22 K 83 w, 800 c

H. News of this victory electrifies the colonies.

III. Battle of Princeton

A. Washington gives orders to recross the Delaware once again and chance another attack on an isolated outpost.

B. But his men's enlistments are running out. He addresses his troops:

"My brave fellows, you have done all I asked you to do, and more than can be reasonably expected; but your country is at stake, your wives, your houses and all that you hold dear. You have worn yourselves out with fatigues and hardships, but we know not how to spare you. If you will consent to stay one month longer, you will render that service to the cause of liberty, and to your country, which you probably can never do under any other circumstances."

C. He arranges his army along the banks of Assunpink Creek. Lord Cornwallis marches a much larger force to the creek and attacks. American Patriots repel these attacks until nightfall.

D. Washington decides to march toward Princeton (Northward) and leaves big fires burning in his abandoned camp all night.

E. On the march to Princeton, his army is attacked. The fighting swings back and forth as each side sends in reinforcements. Just as the Patriots are retreating Washington comes up and personally leads them to victory. His army safely retires to Morristown, NJ.

F. His men continued to harass the squads of British soldiers sent into the countryside to steal victuals.

G. Many problems plagued the army in their winter quarters. Starvation, sickness

Lesson 41 On Your Own: view and take notes from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbGodj0IJ2Q>

Read carefully: <https://revolutionarywar.us/campaigns/1776-1777-newyork-newjersey/>

and <https://revolutionarywar.us/year-1777/battle-of-princeton/>