

Lesson 44 and 45 Saratoga, Valley Forge and Monmouth

Battle of Saratoga (Actually two battles)

- A. The fear of Indian atrocities turns many people into Patriots. Militia are being formed and moving toward Albany and the British army.
- B. Patriots start burning bridges in front of the British advance. Also felling trees in the roads.
- C. Battle of Freeman's Farm 19 Sep 1777. British form three columns to attack the American army which has entrenched on Bemis Heights (a high hill near the Hudson River)
 1. Gen Benedict Arnold is under the overall command of Gen Gates. Personality problems.
 2. Arnold has American forces attack the middle British column. Each side continues to feed in more reinforcements as the battle see saws back and forth. At the end of the day the Patriots pull back and the British occupy the field for a short time, then they pull back.
 3. Results:
 - . Daniel Morgans Virginia Sharp shooters have killed many British officers.
 - . Though the British win a tactical victory, they suffer 1300 casualties. Am 330 K/W/C
 - . British made four large earth works and debate retreat. ½ rations
- D. Battle of Bemis Heights 7 Oct 1777
 1. British stay in place since Battle of Freeman's Farm. They are running out of supplies and becoming demoralized.
 2. Gates and Arnold are feuding and Arnold is sent to his tent and told not to leave.
 3. British decide to attack. They are beaten back and Patriots attack two of the earth works of the British. Arnold disobeys orders, gets a horse and rides into battle. He personally rallies the Patriots and leads them to attack a redoubt manned by German mercenaries. He is shot in the leg and his horse is killed with several hits. He is taken from the field.
 4. British lose another 1000 men, retreat and surrender on 17 Oct 1777.

British surrender 5900 soldiers, 600 women and children and much artillery.

5. Gates deprived Arnold of his much earned glory and credit. Arnold turns sour.
6. French form an alliance with the United Colonies of America
 - They hate the British and want revenge for the French and Indian War
 - In general, they have no love nor respect for Americans

American Army at Valley Forge

I. Condition of the Army

- A. Army moral was poor at first, but improved due to Gen Washington indefatigable leadership.
- B. Washington had the men construct about 2000 huts on well planed streets. Also constructed fortifications since the site was only 20 miles from the British army at Philadelphia.
- C. Very little food at first, but not as bad as the previous winter, cold cold winter. At first, poor clothing, but as the winter progressed supplies became much more regular.
- D. Almost 2000 men died of disease.

II. Baron von Steuben (a Prussian officer) worked hard to create a soldiers' manual and taught the men in standard European drill and tactics. He taught a group of 100 men and then they taught others. The winter was spent in drill and training. Moral improved greatly.

III. Washington appointed Gen Nathaniel Greene as Quartermaster General of the army and he did a good job of getting supplies.

British Reaction to the French Alliance

- I. They replace General Howe with General Clinton.
 - A. Clinton decides to abandon Philadelphia because of fear for the French navy.
 - B. British troops start marching to the New Jersey shore where the Royal Navy will pick them up and transport them to New York City.
- II. Battle of Monmouth Courthouse
 - A. Washington decides to attack the rear of the British column.
 - B. General Charles Lee is in charge of the attack.
 - C. Lee mishandles his troops and orders a retreat which becomes a route.
 - D. General Washington rides to the front and personally leads the soldiers back to fight the British.
 - E. The British attack stalls and then they retreat that night.
 - F. Gen Charles Lee is relieved of duty.
 - G. Battle proved that American forces could stand up to the British bayonet charge
 - H. The next three years are a stalemate between the British and the Patriots in the northern colonies.

US Naval Ventures

Depended mostly on privateers- these hurt British commerce- British businesses hurt & they put pressure on Parliament.

John Paul Jones-while captain of the *Providence* he captured 16 British ships and destroyed much of their fisheries in Nova Scotia. In command of the *Ranger* he raided around the British Isles. Given a small fleet of French and American ships on the *Bonhomme Richard*, he captured several British merchant ships and a 40 gun British warship.

The Betrayal of Benedict Arnold- very bad for American moral

His pride, his self centeredness, his blind ambition, his love of money, and his scheming wife were his downfall. Military governor of Philadelphia, then Commandant of West Point, then traitor to his country.

Lesson 45 On Your Own

Read the following:

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/saratoga>

<https://revolutionarywar.us/campaigns/1777-saratoga-campaign/>

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2015/02/you-may-expect-no-mercy-george-rogers-clark-at-vincennes/>

<https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/people/historical-figures/john-paul-jones.html>

Read Pp 201 to 174 in (you can download this book- free)

<https://ia802807.us.archive.org/7/items/historyofsouthca00simm/historyofsouthca00simm.pdf>