

The American Military Experience

The Continental Army, 1775-1783



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Why were the Americans willing to fight?

Taxation with out representation ???

French & Indian War (Seven Years War)
Proclamation of 1763

1763
Oct. 7, 1763

Rise of Liberalism and Republicanism
John Locke and Enlightenment writers

Stamp Act (1765), Townshend Acts (1767)
Boston Massacre

March 5, 1770

Boston Tea Party

May 10, 1773

First Continental Congress

Sept. 5, 1774



**Protest, Rebellion, Civil War, Insurgency, or Treason?
Lexington, Massachusetts, 19 April 1775**



The Minutemen

An Old English Tradition

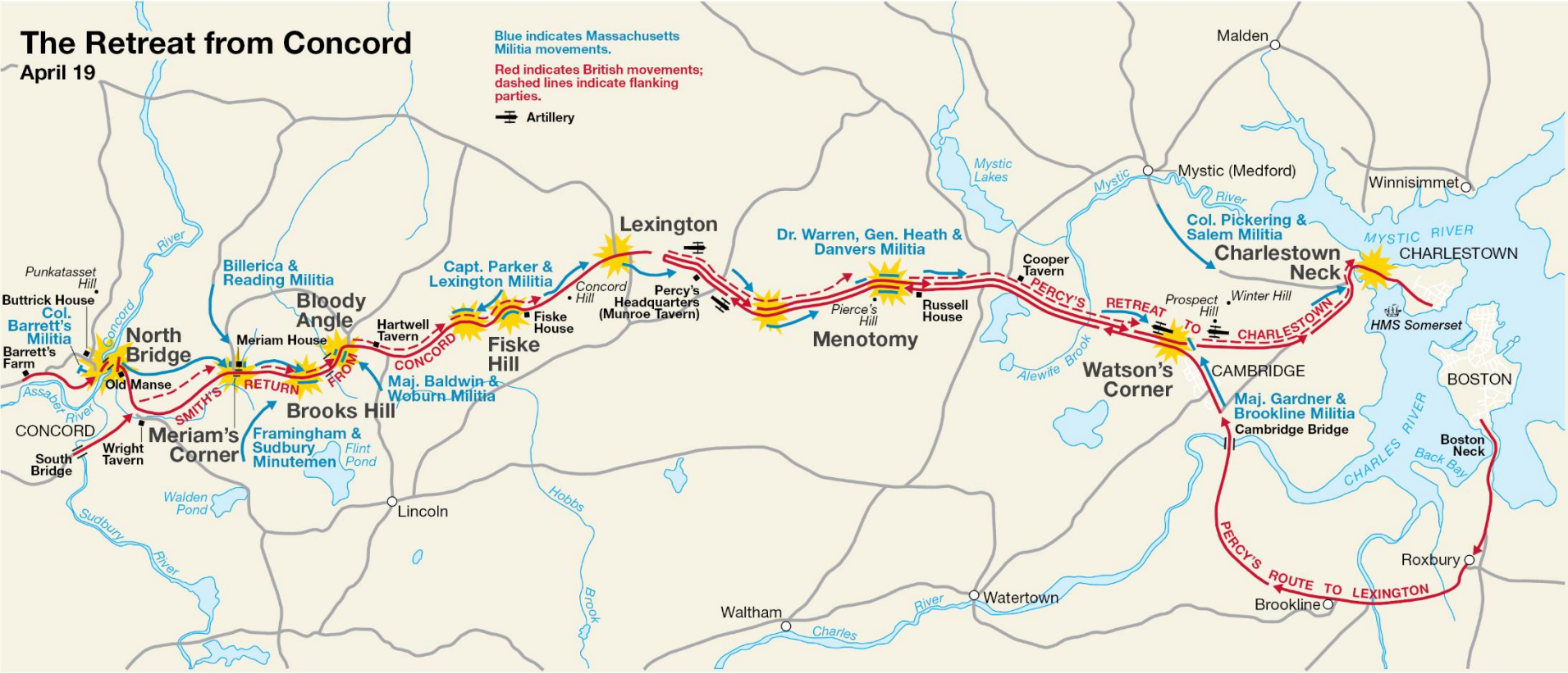
Posse Comitatus – temporary, shires, (shire-reeve = sheriff)

Fyrd – local defense, permanent organization



The Minutemen

An Old English Tradition



**Continental
Line**
27,000

**Militia
Forces**
10,000



•1777: The Revolution Becomes a Wider War

•Unity of Command

- American: Washington, but Deferring to Congress**

- British: Lord North, Prime Minister; Lord Germain, Secretary of State; General Howe; General Burgoyne; General Clinton**

•Burgoyne's Expedition

- Bennington, 15 August 1777**

- Saratoga, 17 October 1777**

- Treaties of Amity and Commerce, 6 February 1778**

- French War with Britain, June 1778; Spain Joins as French Ally, April 1779**

•Howe's Philadelphia Campaign

- Brandywine, 11 September 1777**

- Germantown, 4 October 1777**

- Valley Forge: Building an Army and a Legend, or How to Manipulate Congress**

•1778-81: Britain's Southern Strategy

- Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief, March 1778**

- Wider War: Protect West Indies & Florida**

 - Philadelphia Abandoned, June 1778**

 - Monmouth, 28 June 1778**

- Mobilization of Royal Navy**

- Why the South?**

 - Loyalists**

 - Wealth**

 - Base for Future Operations**

- Southern Campaign**

 - Savannah, 29 December 1779**

 - Charleston, 12 May 1780: Declare for Crown or be Treated as Rebels**

 - Camden, 16 August 1780**

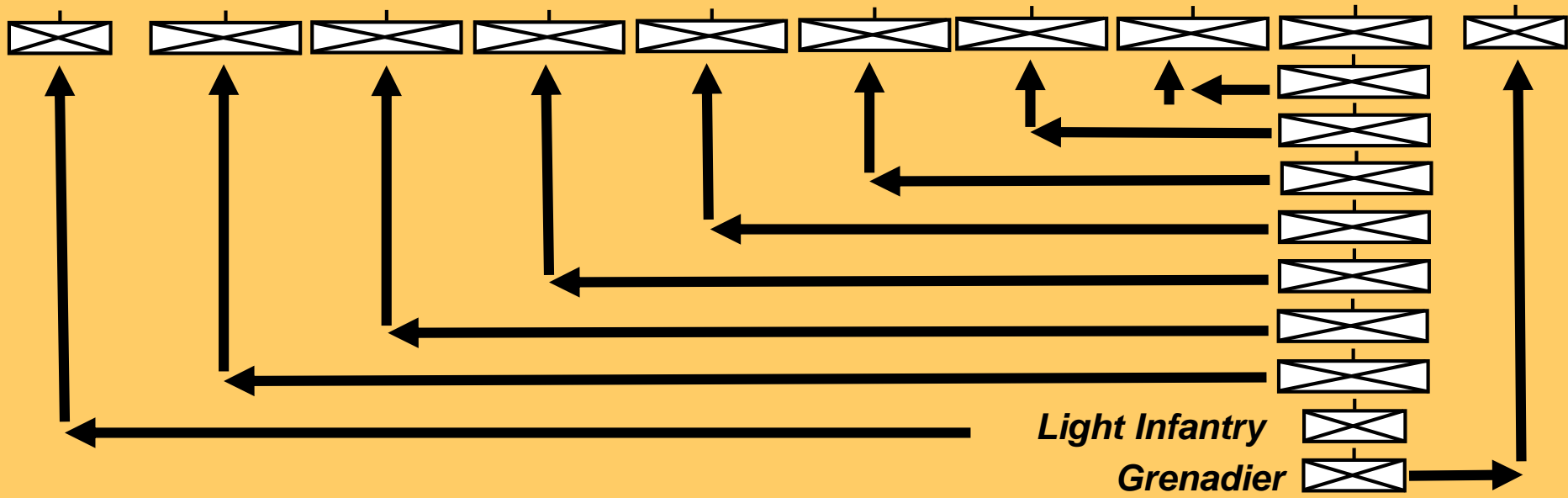
 - Backcountry Partisan War**

 - Kings Mountain, 7 October 1780**

 - Nathanael Greene, Southern Department, October 1780**

 - Cowpens, 17 January 1781**

 - Guilford Courthouse, 15 March 1781**



Ten-Company British Infantry Regiment Deploying from Column of March to Line of Battle (1764 Manual)

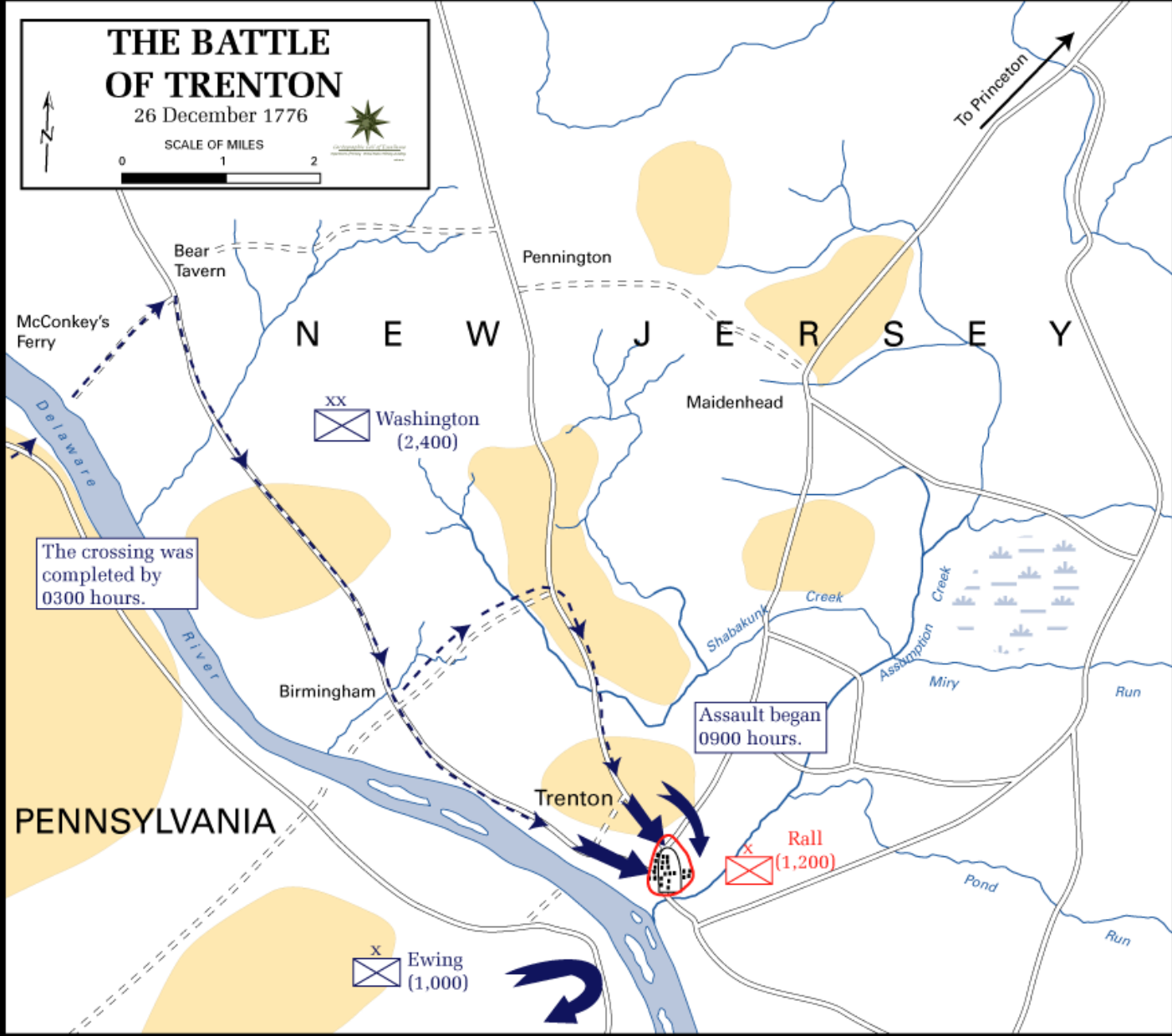
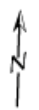
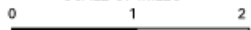


Linear Tactics

THE BATTLE OF TRENTON

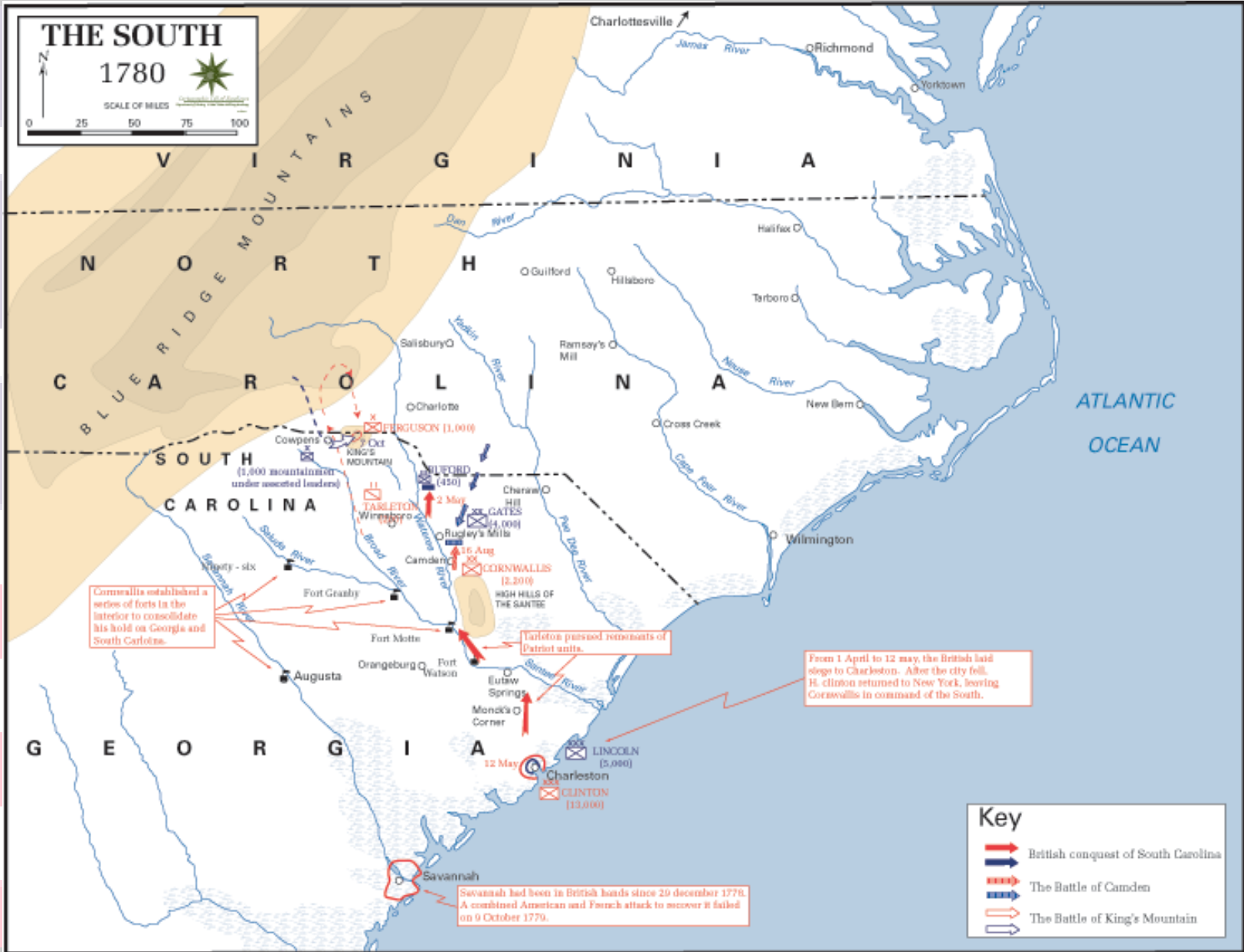
26 December 1776

SCALE OF MILES



Trenton, 26 December 1776

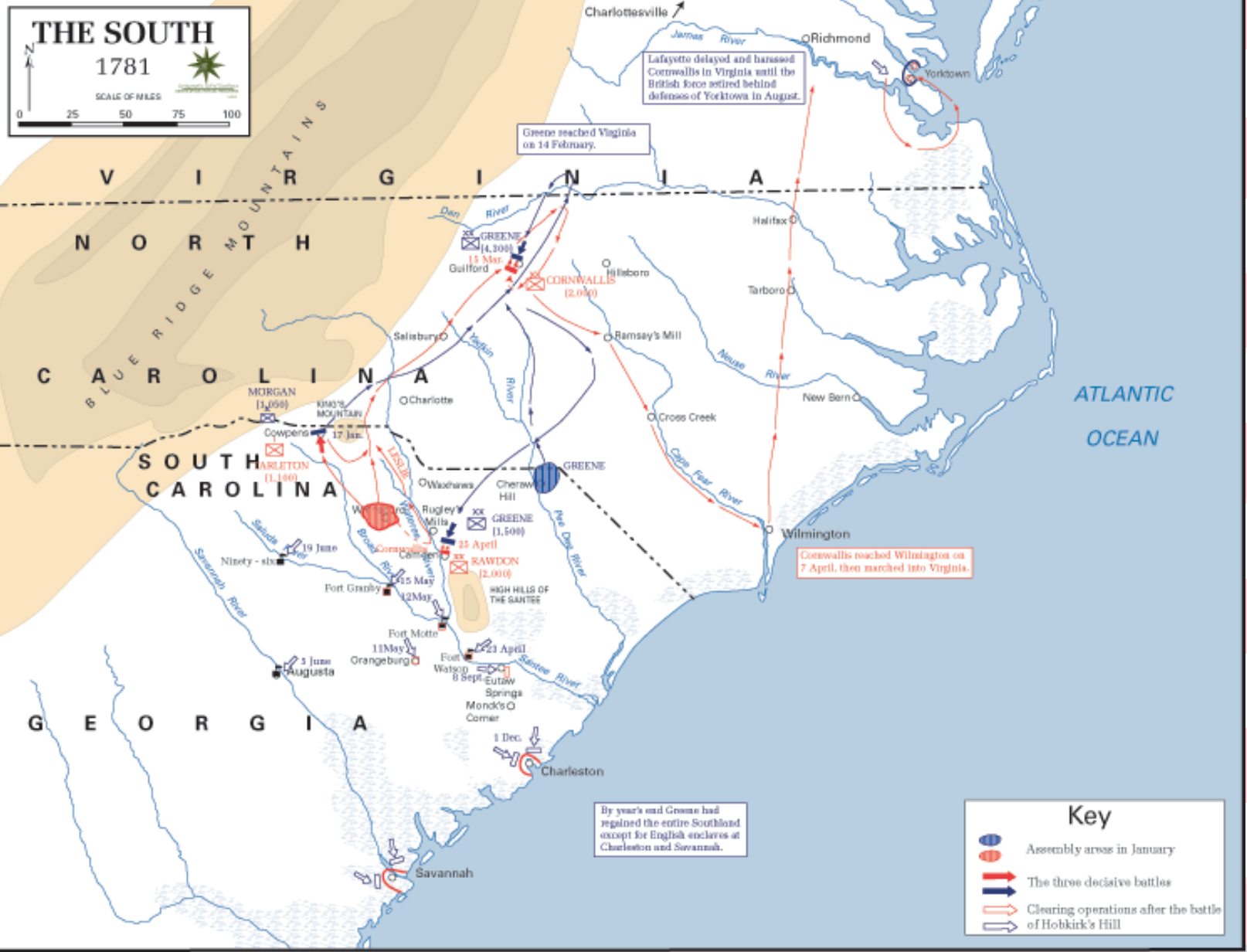




The South, 1780



THE SOUTH
1781
SCALE OF MILES
0 25 50 75 100



The South, 1781

THE SOUTH

1780



SCALE OF MILES

0 25 50 75 100

VIRGINIA

NORTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA

GEORGIA

Charlottesville

Richmond

Yorktown

Halifax

Guilford

Hillsboro

Tarboro

Salisbury

Ramsay's Mill

Charlotte

Cross Creek

New Bern

SOUTH

CAROLINA

Cherohill

Wilmington

Windsor

Camden

Rugley's Mills

Fort Granby

Fort Motte

Orangeburg

Fort Watson

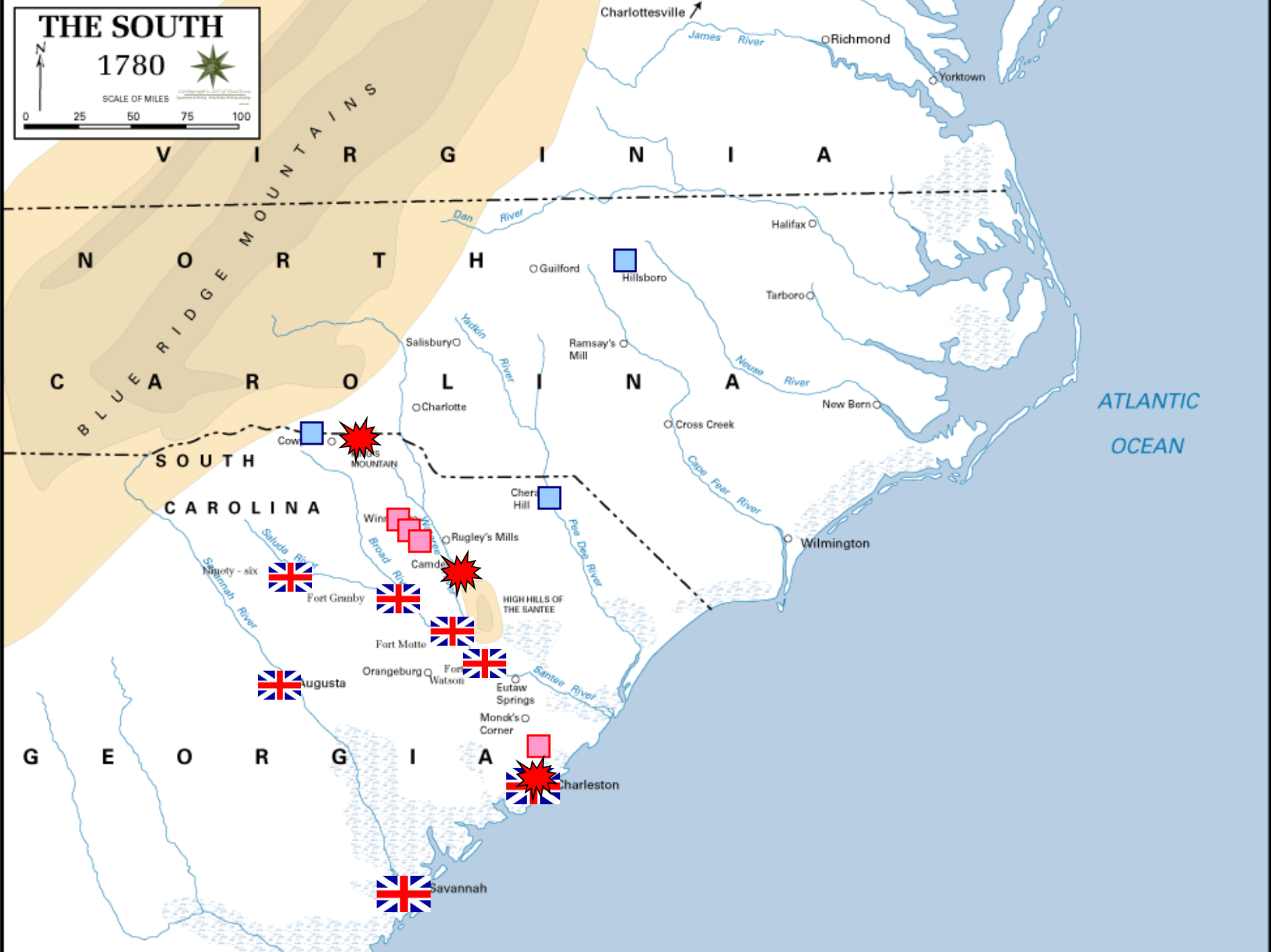
Eutaw Springs

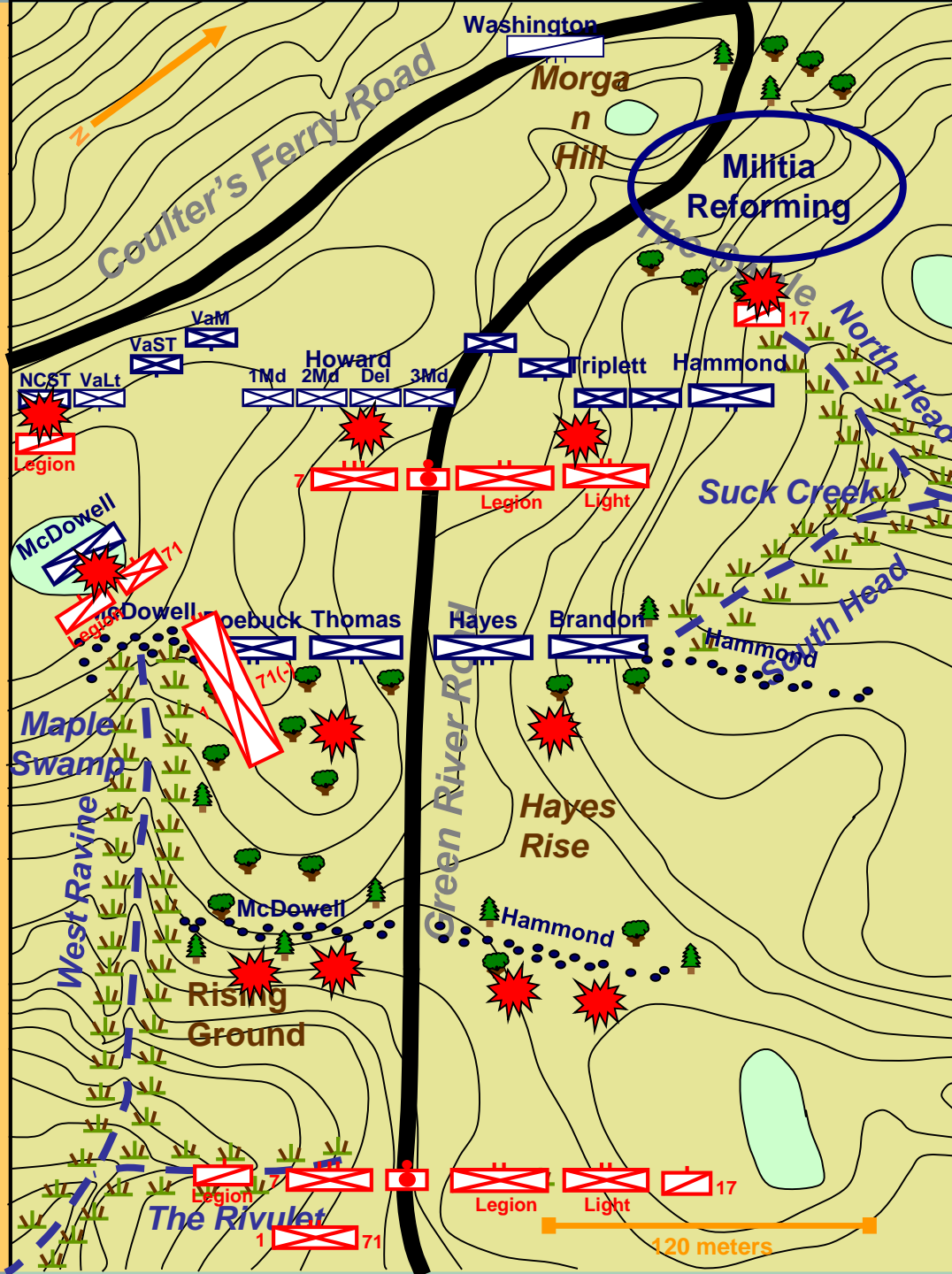
Mondk's Corner

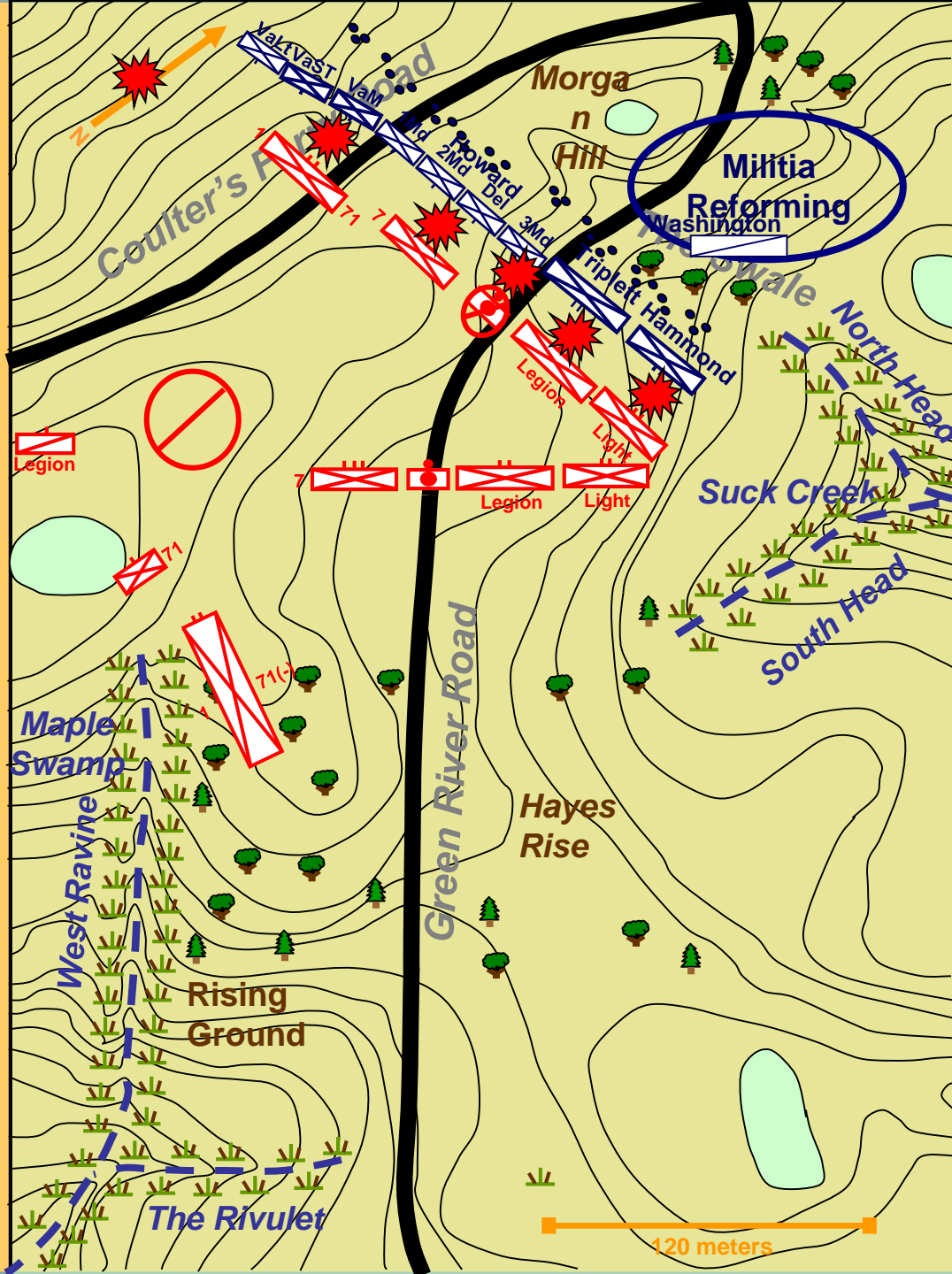
Charleston

Savannah

ATLANTIC OCEAN







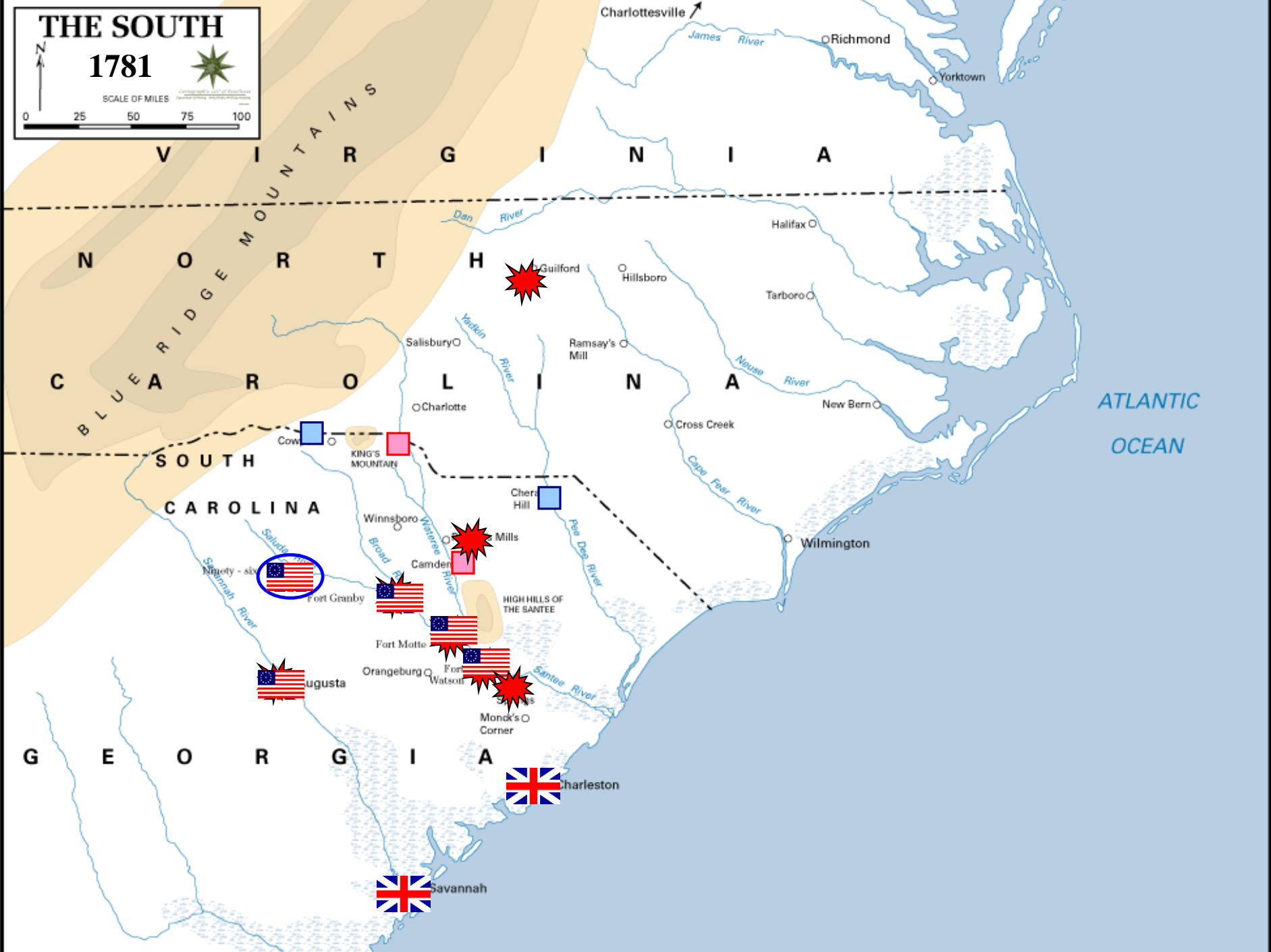
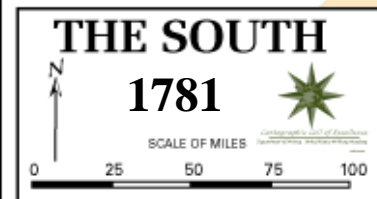
THE SOUTH

1781



SCALE OF MILES

0 25 50 75 100



Charlottesville

Richmond

Yorktown

VIRGINIA

NORTH CAROLINA

GEORGIA

SOUTH CAROLINA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS



Dan River

Yadkin River

Neuse River

Cape Fear River

Savannah River

Broad River

Watauga River

Pee Dee River

Santee River

James River

Guilford

Hillsboro

Halifax

Tarboro

Salisbury

Ramsay's Mill

Charlotte

Cross Creek

New Bern

Ninety-Six

Fort Granby

Winnboro

Camden

Cherohill

Wilmington

Fort Mifflin

Fort Mouton

Orangeburg

Fort Watson

Fort Mifflin

Fort Mifflin

Fort Mifflin

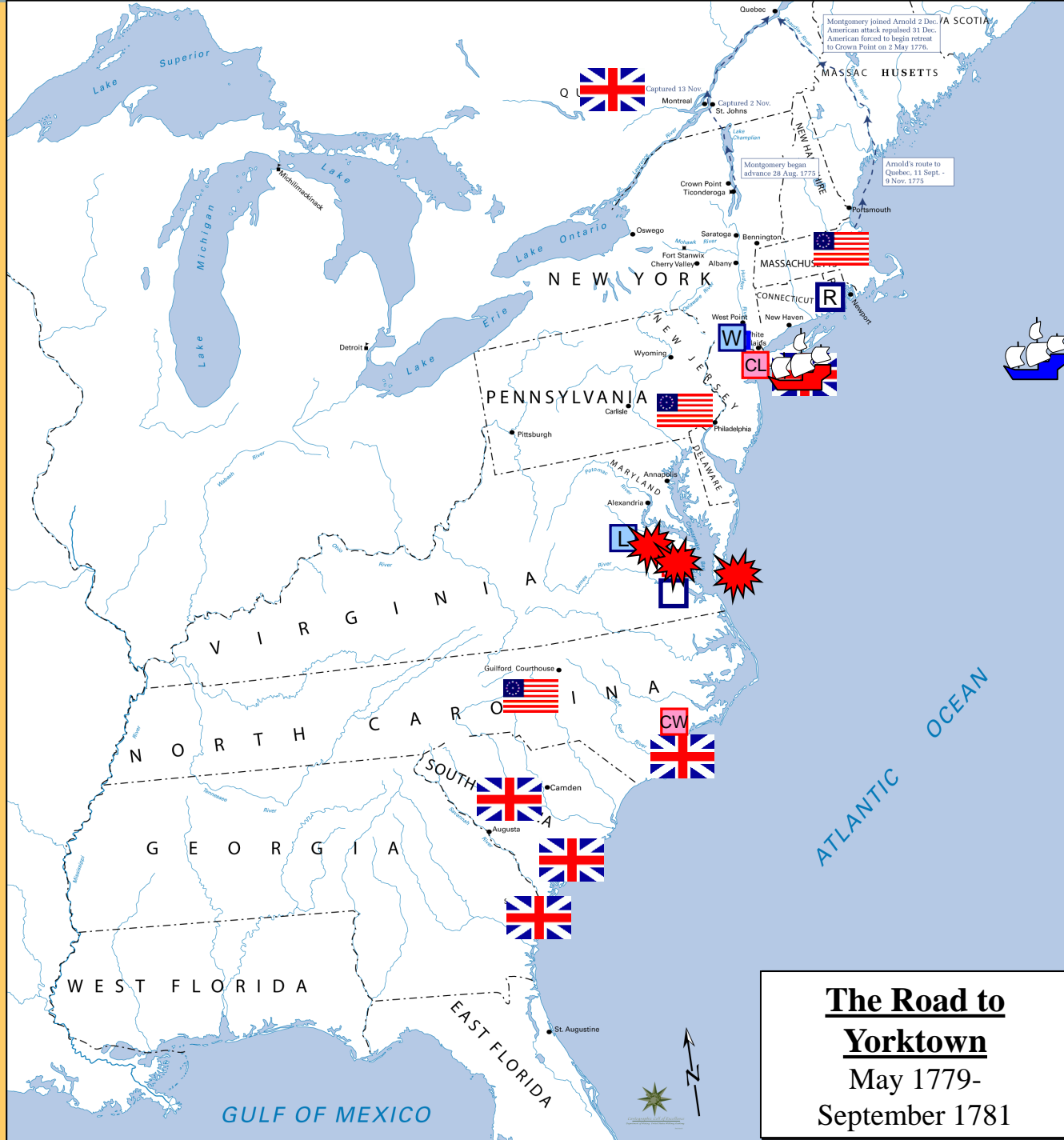
Mond's Corner

Charleston

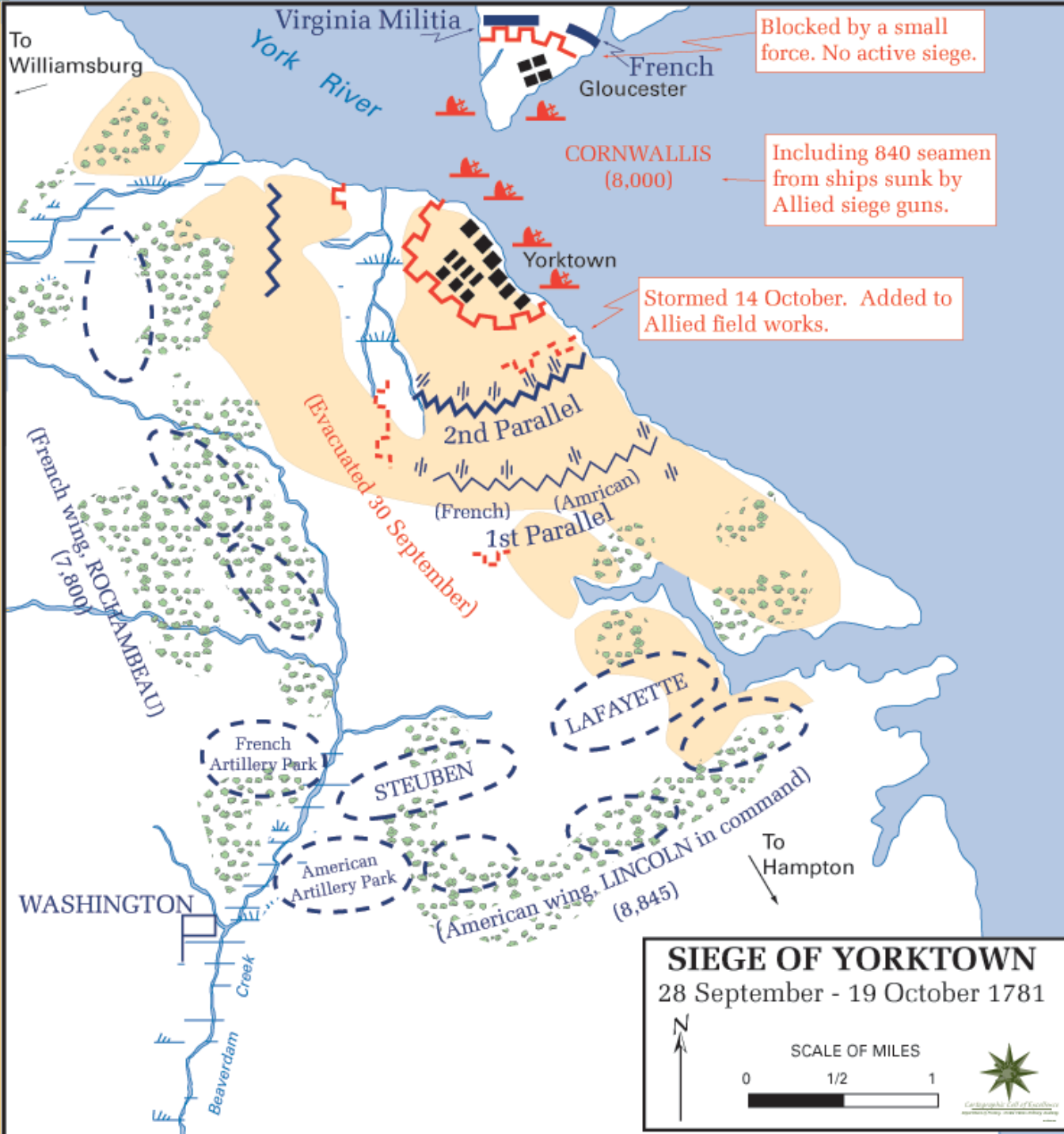
Savannah

HIGH HILLS OF THE SANTEE

KING'S MOUNTAIN



The Road to Yorktown
 May 1779-
 September 1781



SIEGE OF YORKTOWN
 28 September - 19 October 1781

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SCALE OF MILES

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Geological Survey of England