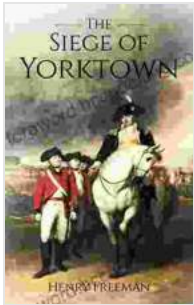


# The Last Major Land Battle Of The American Revolutionary War: Battle Of Yorktown



## Siege of Yorktown: The Last Major Land Battle of the American Revolutionary War (Battle of Yorktown - Surrender at Yorktown - Siege of Little York)

by Henry Freeman

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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In the annals of the American Revolutionary War, the Battle of Yorktown stands as a pivotal moment that sealed the fate of the young nation. This fiercely contested land battle, fought from September 28 to October 19, 1781, brought together a formidable alliance of American and French forces against the entrenched British army under General Charles Cornwallis.

### The Prelude: A Siege in the Making

After enduring a string of setbacks in the Southern campaign, British General Cornwallis retreated to the coastal town of Yorktown in Virginia in

August 1781. Seeking refuge in the fortified peninsula, Cornwallis hoped to regroup and await reinforcements from British-held New York City.

However, unbeknownst to Cornwallis, a powerful Franco-American army was rapidly approaching. Led by General George Washington and French General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, this combined force of over 17,000 troops marched south from New York, determined to trap the British at Yorktown.

### **The Siege Begins: A Clash of Titans**

On September 28, 1781, the Franco-American army arrived at Yorktown and began encircling the British position. Cornwallis, with his army of approximately 9,000 troops, found himself trapped on the peninsula, with the York River to his back and the Allied forces closing in.

The siege that ensued was a relentless bombardment of artillery fire. The Franco-American forces, with their superior firepower and naval support, unleashed a devastating barrage on the British defenses. Allied warships patrolled the York River, preventing the British from receiving reinforcements or supplies by sea.

### **Desperate Defiance: British Resilience**

Despite the overwhelming odds, the British fought back with unwavering determination. They constructed a series of earthworks and fortifications, repelling repeated attacks by the Allied forces. Cornwallis, realizing his situation was dire, attempted to break out of the siege on October 16, but his efforts were thwarted by the vigilant Allied troops.

As the siege dragged on, the British soldiers endured extreme hardship. Food supplies dwindled, diseases ravaged the ranks, and morale plummeted. With no hope of relief in sight, Cornwallis finally acknowledged the futility of his position.

### **Surrender and Victory: A Momentous Outcome**

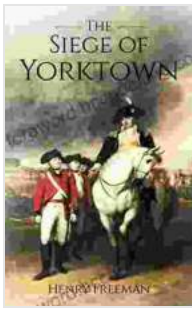
On the morning of October 19, 1781, British General Charles Cornwallis formally surrendered his army to General George Washington. The Articles of Capitulation were signed at the Moore House, marking the end of the last major land battle of the American Revolutionary War.

The victory at Yorktown was a decisive turning point in the conflict. It shattered the British resolve to continue the war and accelerated the recognition of American independence. The French alliance had proved invaluable, providing crucial financial, military, and naval support.

### **Legacy of Yorktown: A Pivotal Chapter**

The Battle of Yorktown stands as a testament to the courage, determination, and resilience of the American and French forces. It was a battle that not only won a war but also forged a new nation. The principles of liberty, equality, and self-determination that guided the American Revolution found their fullest expression in the victory at Yorktown.

Today, the Yorktown battlefield is preserved as a National Historical Park. Visitors can explore the historic sites, learn about the pivotal events that transpired there, and experience the legacy of the battle that shaped the destiny of the United States.

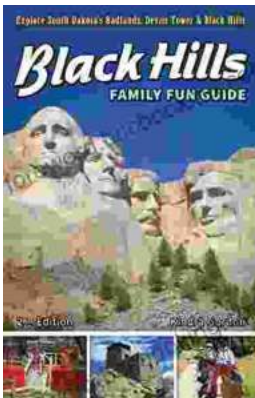


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