

TIMELINE

France and the American War of Independence

- 1763 10 February. First Treaty of Paris ends the French and Indian War. France cedes Canada and territories east of the Mississippi to Britain.
- 1764 5 April. British Parliament passes the Sugar Act.
- 1765 22 March. British Parliament passes the Stamp Act.
24 March. British Parliament passes the Quartering Act.
- 1767 29 June. British Parliament passes the Townshend Act imposing duties on tea, paper, and other items imported into the colonies.
- 1770 5 March. British troops in Boston fire on rioters. The event becomes known as the Boston Massacre.
12 April. Repeal of most of the Townshend Act duties.
- 1772 9 June. The British revenue schooner *Gaspée* runs aground off Warwick and is looted and burned to the waterline the following day
- 1773 16 December. Boston Tea Party.
- 1774 31 March. British Parliament shuts down Boston Harbor under what the British call the Coercive Acts and colonists call the Intolerable Acts.
20 May. British Parliament passes the Quebec Act, sharpening the divide between Canada and the lower 13 colonies.
5 September. First session of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. It will adjourn in October.
- 1775 9 February. British Parliament declares Massachusetts to be in rebellion.
19 April. Battles of Lexington and Concord.
10 May. First session of the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.
14 June. Congress establishes the Continental Army and appoints George Washington its commander-in-chief the following day.
- 1776 April. Silas Deane sent to Paris to obtain military supplies and skilled military engineers for the Continental Army.
June. Hortalez & Cie. receives an initial one million *livres* from French

- Government, and another million from Spain, via the French Minister.
 4 July. Congress ratifies the Declaration of Independence.
- 1777 February. Duportail, first of about 100 French volunteers, joins the Continental Army.
 31 July. Congress appoints the *marquis* de Lafayette a major-general.
 12 October. British forces under General John Burgoyne are surrounded at Saratoga. They surrender within a week.
- 1778 6 February. French-American treaty of Amity and Friendship and a secret Treaty of Military Alliance signed.
 4 May. French treaty recognizing American independence ratified by Continental Congress.
 17 June. First naval engagement of the war between French and British.
 12 May. Charleston, South Carolina, falls to the British.
 27 June. Naval battle off Ile d'Ouessant [Ushant] -- indecisive engagement between France and Great Britain (English Channel)
 28 June. Following the Battle of Monmouth, Lafayette returns to France and requests more assistance from the king.
 11 July -31 August. French Admiral D'Estaing's unsuccessful naval operations at New York and at Newport.
 7 September. French capture Dominica (West Indies).
 14 September. British capture St. Pierre-et-Miquelon Islands
 1 October. British capture Pondichery (India).
 9 October. Franco-American forces are defeated at Savannah, Georgia.
 13 December. British capture St. Lucia (West Indies).
 13 December. French under *duc* de Lauzun capture St. Louis (Senegal).
- 1779 5 April. An *Acte Royal* sets 17 June 1778 as starting date of hostilities with Great Britain.
 1 May. Unsuccessful French raid on Jersey Islands. (English Channel)
 18 June. French capture St. Vincent (West Indies).
 4 July. French capture Grenada (West Indies).
 23 September -20 October. D'Estaing and Americans conduct unsuccessful siege of Savannah (Georgia).
 23 September. French troops at naval battle of Flambourgh Head (English Channel) -- (*Bonhomme Richard* vs *HMS Serapis*)
- 1780 21 February -12 May. French troops at failed defense of Charleston, SC.
 17 April, 15 & 19 May. British and French forces engage in naval battles

- off Martinique (West Indies).
 - 27 April. Lafayette returns from France with the promise of more support.
 - 10 July. Commanded by Admiral de Ternay, a fleet carrying some 450 officers and 5,300 men under the *comte* de Rochambeau sails into Narragansett Bay in Newport.
 - 21 September. Generals Washington and Rochambeau meet at the Hartford Conference.
 - 25 September. Benedict Arnold's attempt to hand West Point over to the British fails.
- 1781
- 5 January. Unsuccessful French raid on Jersey Island. (English Channel). British capture Dutch possessions in West Indies, South America, Ceylon and India.
 - 16 March. British and French naval battle off the Chesapeake Bay (1st 'Battle of the Virginia Capes').
 - 16 May. British and French naval battle of Porto Praya (Cape Verde)
 - 10-12 May. French raid on St. Lucia (West Indies).
 - 22-24 May. Washington and Rochambeau meet at Wethersfield, Connecticut, to discuss their strategy for the upcoming campaign.
 - 26 May. Spanish and French capture Pensacola (Florida).
 - 4 June. French forces capture Tobago (West Indies).
 - 10 June. The French infantry leaves its winter quarters in Newport.
 - 19 June. The Regiment Bourbonnois is the first French unit to cross into Connecticut from winter quarters in Rhode Island on its way to Philipsburg, New York.
 - 21 June. Lauzun's Legion leaves Lebanon, Connecticut, for Philipsburg, New York, on a route covering the left flank of the French infantry.
 - 6 July. French forces join the Continental Army near Philipsburg, NY.
 - 18 August. The Franco-American armies depart Philipsburg for Virginia.
 - 19 August. Brigadier General Moses Hazen's Canadian Regiment (Congress' Own) and the combined New Jersey regiments cross the Hudson at Sneed's Landing and march to Paramus.
 - 21 August. The two regiments reach Springfield.
 - 24 August. Major Sebastian Baumann's detachment encamps at Pompton.
 - 25 August. Coming from Suffern, New York American forces under Generals Washington and Lincoln enter New Jersey.
 - 26 August. The First Brigade of French forces enters New Jersey.
 - 27-28 August. The Continental Army is encamped on the heights between Springfield and Chatham.
 - 31 August. First elements of the Continental Army reach Trenton.

- 1 September. The first elements of the Continental Army embark in Trenton and/or cross the Delaware at Trenton for Philadelphia.
 - 2 September. The Continental Army parades before Congress.
 - 3 September. The First French Brigade parades before Congress.
 - 4 September. The Second French Brigade parades before Congress.
 - 4 September. The last elements of the Continental Army have crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania.
 - 5 September. At Marcus Hook, Washington receives news of the arrival of Admiral de Grasse in the Chesapeake Bay.
 - 5 September. British and French naval battle off the Chesapeake Bay (2nd 'Battle of the Virginia Capes').
 - 9 September. The first elements of the Continental Army and parts of the French army embark at Elkton and sail two days later. The remainder begins its march to Baltimore.
 - 12 September. The flotilla reaches Annapolis.
 - 19-21 September. French army embarks in Annapolis.
 - 26 September. The allied forces are re-united in Williamsburg.
 - 28 September - 19 October. American and French siege of Yorktown, VA
 - 19 October. Cornwallis' troops march out of Yorktown.
 - 1 November. The first detachments of the Continental Army begin the march north to winter quarters. French forces will spend the winter of 1781-82 in and around Williamsburg.
 - 4 November. Admiral de Grasse sails from Yorktown for Martinique.
 - 26 November. French capture St. Eustatius (West Indies).
 - November- December. Continental Army troops march into and through Pennsylvania for their winter quarters in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.
 - December. Lafayette sails back to France.
- 1782
- 6 January - 5 February. French and Spanish forces capture Fort St. Philip in Minorca.
 - 25-26 January French capture St. Kitts (West Indies).
 - 18 February. British and French naval battle off Madras (India).
 - 20 February. French capture island of Nevis (West Indies).
 - 22 February. French capture Monserrat (West Indies).
 - 12 April. Royal Navy under Admiral Rodney destroys French naval squadron under Admiral de Grasse in Battle of the Saints
 - 1 July. Rochambeau's infantry begins its march north to Boston.
 - 6 July. British and French naval battle off Negapatan (India).
 - July through March 1783. Unsuccessful Spanish and French blockade

of Gibraltar.

14-24 July. Washington and Rochambeau meet in Philadelphia to discuss plans for the campaign of 1782.

17-20 July. French forces are encamped in Alexandria, Virginia.

24 July-23 August. French forces are encamped in Baltimore.

28 July. Rochambeau rejoins his forces in Baltimore.

8-31 August. French capture and destroy Fort Prince of Wales in Hudson Bay (Canada).

25-28 August. French besiege and capture Trincomalee (Ceylon).

28 August. Lauzun's Legion departs from Baltimore.

29 August. Coming from Wilmington, Lauzun's Legion is the first French unit to enter Pennsylvania and encamps in Chester

30 August. Lauzun's Legion camps in Philadelphia. The Bourbonnois Regiment camps in Chester.

31 August. With Rochambeau at its head, the Bourbonnois parades through Philadelphia before Congress and President Thomas McKean. Lauzun's Legion rests in Philadelphia.

1 September. The Bourbonnois rests in Philadelphia. The Royal Deux-Ponts parades through Philadelphia before Congress and McKean. The Soissonnois camps in Chester.

Lauzun's Legion leaves Philadelphia for Red Lion.

2 September. The Saintonge camps in Chester. The Soissonnois parades through Philadelphia before Congress and McKean.

The Royal Deux-Ponts rests in Philadelphia. Rochambeau and Bourbonnois leave for Red Lion.

Lauzun's Legion rests at Red Lion.

3 September. The Saintonge parades through Philadelphia before Congress and McKean. The Soissonnois rests in Philadelphia.

The Royal Deux Ponts leaves for Red Lion. The Bourbonnois leaves Red Lion for Trenton. Lauzun's Legion in Trenton.

6 September. The last French forces cross the Delaware into New Jersey.

4-13 September. French forces cross New Jersey on the way to Boston.

25 October - 22 December. Lauzun's Legion crosses New Jersey on its way to winter quarters in Wilmington.

30 November. Preliminaries of Peace between the United States and Great Britain signed in Paris.

9-11 December. Coming from Newburgh, New York, Rochambeau crosses New Jersey on his way to Philadelphia.

12 December. Rochambeau and his staff arrive in Philadelphia on the way to Baltimore. They stay until 2 January 1783.

- 21-23 December. Lauzun's Legion passes through Philadelphia on its way to winter quarters in Wilmington, Delaware.
- 25 December. French infantry sails from Boston for the Caribbean.
- 1783 20 January. Preliminaries of Peace are signed in Paris
- 10 February. Rochambeau arrives in Saint-Nazaire
- March - July. French participate in capture of Voloze; siege of Mangalore
- 3 April. Hostilities end in the territory of the United States.
- 16 April. Peace is proclaimed in Philadelphia.
- 11 May. Lauzun's Legion sails out of Philadelphia for France.
- 20 June. British and French naval battle off Cuddalore (India).
- 3 September. Second Peace of Paris signed. Britain acknowledges the independence of the United States of America.
- 5 October. A final transport of 85 soldiers under Captain François Xavier Christophe *baron* de Hell of Lauzun's Legion sails from Baltimore on the *Pintade* and enters Brest on 10 November
- 2 November. Congress disbands the Continental Army.
- 1784 14 January. Congress ratifies the Treaty of Paris.
- 1785 20 May. Land Ordinance adopted by the United States Congress of the Confederation.
- 1786 29 August. Shay's Rebellion begins in Massachusetts against perceived economic and civil rights injustices.
- 1787 7 December. Delaware is the first state to ratify the Constitution.
- 1788 21 June. New Hampshire becomes the ninth state to ratify the Constitution. With this ratification the constitution officially goes into force.
- 1789 4 February. George Washington is elected first president of the United States of America.
- 30 April. George Washington is sworn in as first president of the United States of America.
- 1790 29 May. Rhode Island becomes the last of the original 13 states to ratify the Constitution.