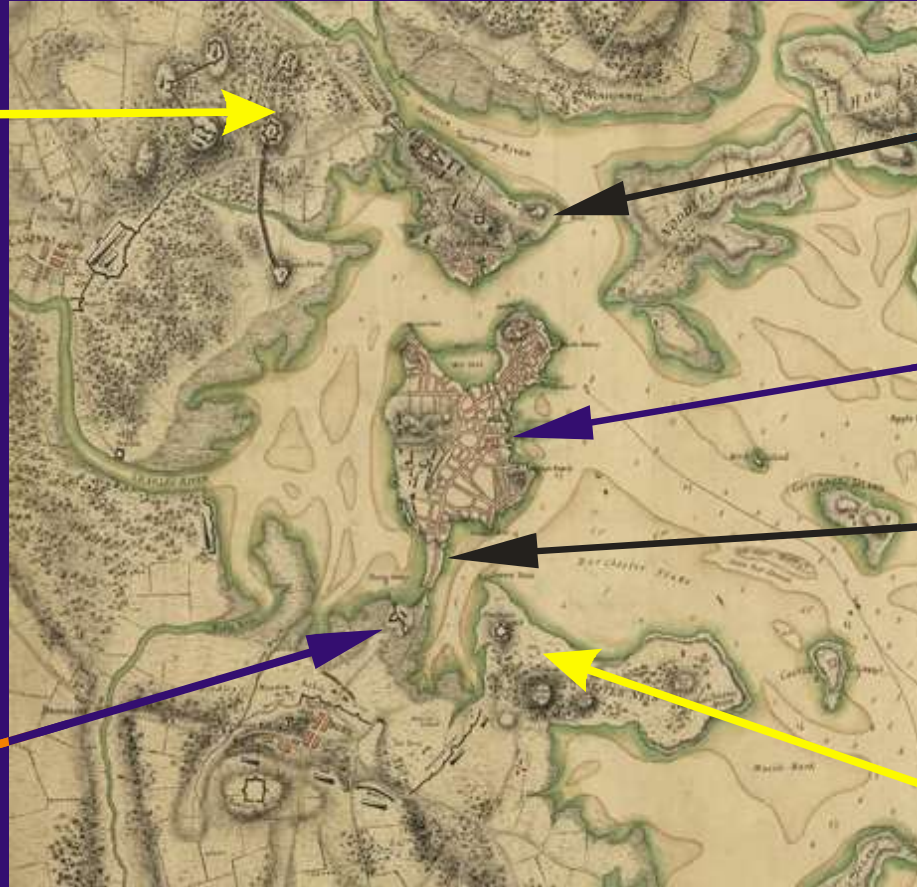


The Siege of Boston

Boston Region 1775

Cambridge



Charlestown Peninsula

Boston

Boston Neck

Roxbury

Dorchester Heights

Boston Region 1775



Situation: 20 April 1775
After Lexington & Concord

Impact of Lexington & Concord

- 10,000 Armed New Englanders Besiege Boston
 - New England in Rebellion, at War with England
 - Continental Congress 10 May 1775
- Boston Cut-Off from New England
 - No Fresh Food
 - Movement of People Restricted
 - Port of Boston Act – No Commerce
- British Government
 - Policy Shift: Legal => Military Solution
 - Sudden Demand for Army Reinforcements

New England Strength – Spring 1775

- Superior Numbers
- Highly Motivated Volunteers
 - Fought with Neighbors in Companies
 - Understood Political Situation
- Individual Militia
 - Engineering Skills
 - Skilled with Musket

New England Weakness – Spring 1775

- Not an Army, Regimental Structure Weak
- Divided Command
 - Massachusetts with New Hampshire
 - Connecticut
 - Rhode Island
- Minimal Artillery
- Severe **Shortage of Gunpowder**
 - Aggravated by Individual Usage
- Unskilled with Bayonet

British Strength – Spring 1775

- Army Structure
- Artillery: Numbers & Training
- Soldiers
 - Volunteers
 - Long-Term Enlistments
 - Infantry Skilled with Bayonet
- Royal Navy Support
- Munitions

British Weakness – Spring 1775

- Inferior Numbers
 - Aggravated by Need to Secure Boston
- Lack of Musket-Shooting Skill & Training
- No Indigenous New England Support
 - Auxiliary Loyalist Support Only
- Poor Coordination with Royal Navy
- No Winning Strategy

Spring 1775

Second Continental Congress – 1775

19 April: Lexington and Concord

10 May: Congress Convenes

24 May: John Hancock Appointed President

14 June: Continental Army Authorized

17 June: Battle of Bunker Hill

19 June: George Washington Appointed
Commander in Chief, Continental Army

Second Continental Congress



- John Adams: Proponent of Independence
Advocate for George Washington
- John Hancock: President from 24 May 1775

Before Bunker Hill

- Provincials Attack Islands in Boston Harbor
- HMS *Diana* Captured, Burned
 - 28 May 1775
 - General Israel Putnam
- British Reinforcements Arrive
 - 25 May 1775
 - 3+ Regiments
 - 3 Major Generals



British Command



Thomas
Gage



William
Howe



Henry
Clinton



John
Burgoyne

Burgoyne: What! 10,000 peasants keep 5,000 king's troops shut up?
Well, let us get in, and we'll soon find elbow room!

Bunker Hill

17 June 1775

British Amphibious Operation

- Objective:
 - Phase 1: Destroy Provincial Forces Opposite Boston Neck
 - Phase 2: Destroy Provincial Forces in Cambridge
- Start Date: Later Half of June 1775
- Phase 1 Plan
 - Howe's Force Invades Dorchester Heights
 - Lord Percy's Force Attacks Across Boston Neck
 - Clinton's Force Attacks Near Mouth of Charles River

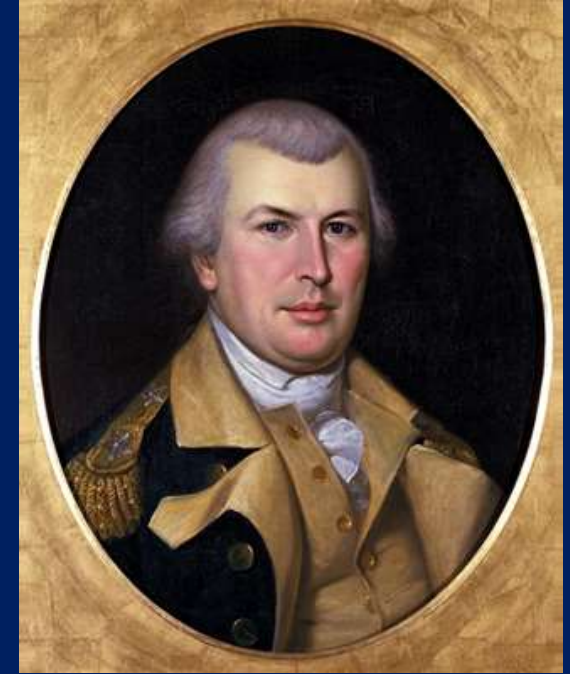
Provincial General Officers



Artemas Ward
Massachusetts
New Hampshire



Israel Putnam
Connecticut



Nathanael Greene
Rhode Island

British Amphibious Operation

- Provincials Aware of British Plan
 - 13 June 1775
 - Gen. Artemas Ward – Strengthen Defenses
- Connecticut General Israel Putnam
 - Proposes Counter Operation
 - Occupy Bunker Hill
 - Occupy Charlestown Peninsula?
- Massachusetts Provincial Congress:
 - Lukewarm Support
 - Do Not to Provoke British



Fortifying Bunker Hill

- Night of 16 – 17 June 1775
- Colonel William Prescott & Colonel Richard Gridley
 - Approximately 1,000 Men
- Location: Southern Shoulder of Bunker Hill
 - Later Known as Breeds Hill
- Earthen Redoubt
 - Built in One Night
 - Minimal Noise

Fortifying Bunker Hill



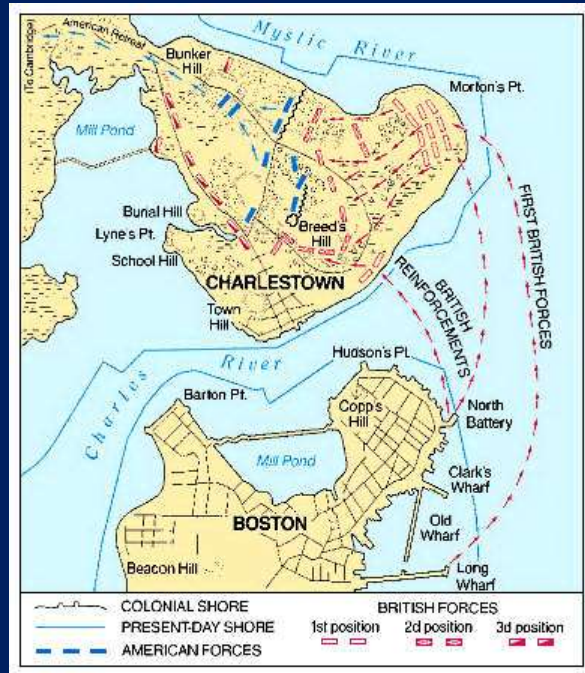
William Prescott



Richard Gridley

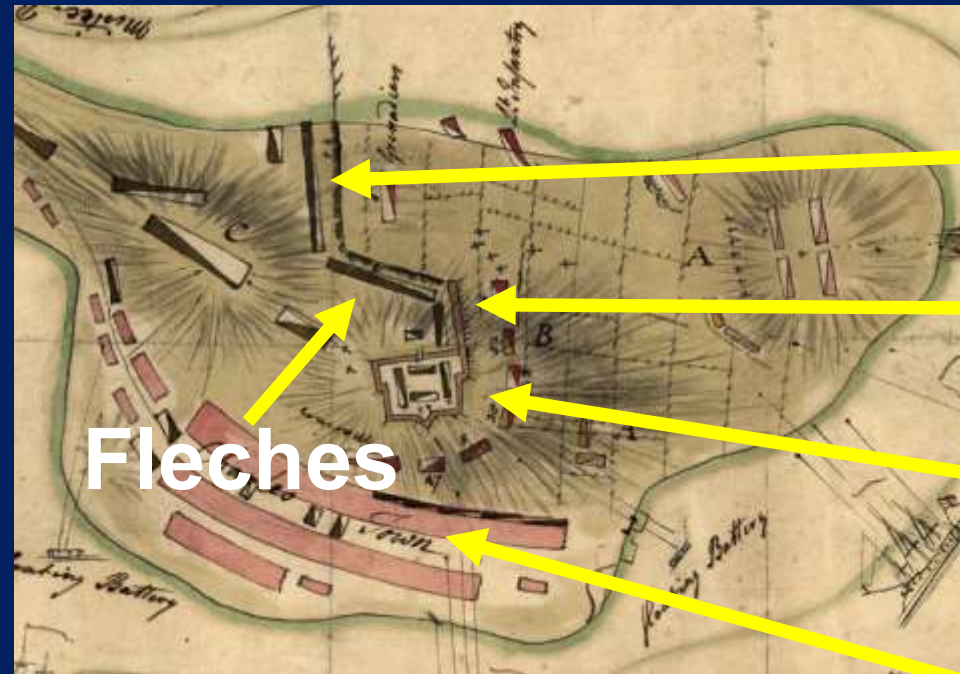
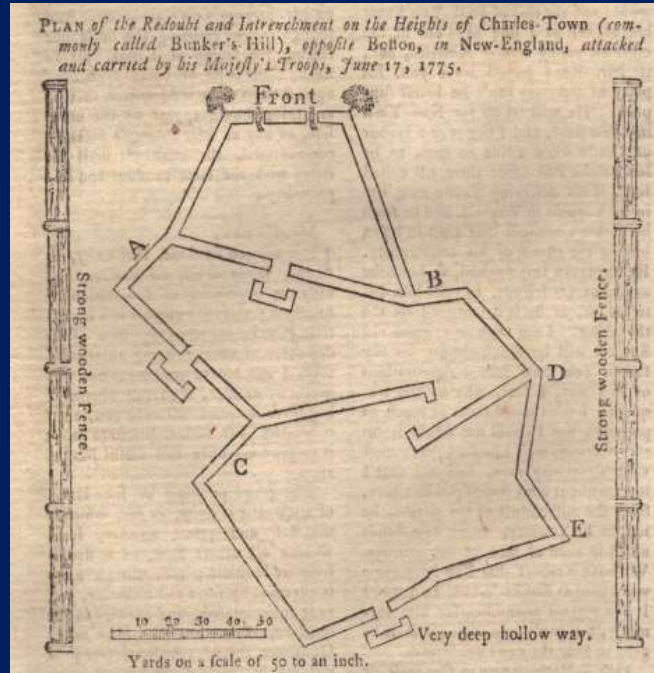
?

Fortifying Bunker Hill



• Charlestown Peninsula

Fortifying Bunker Hill



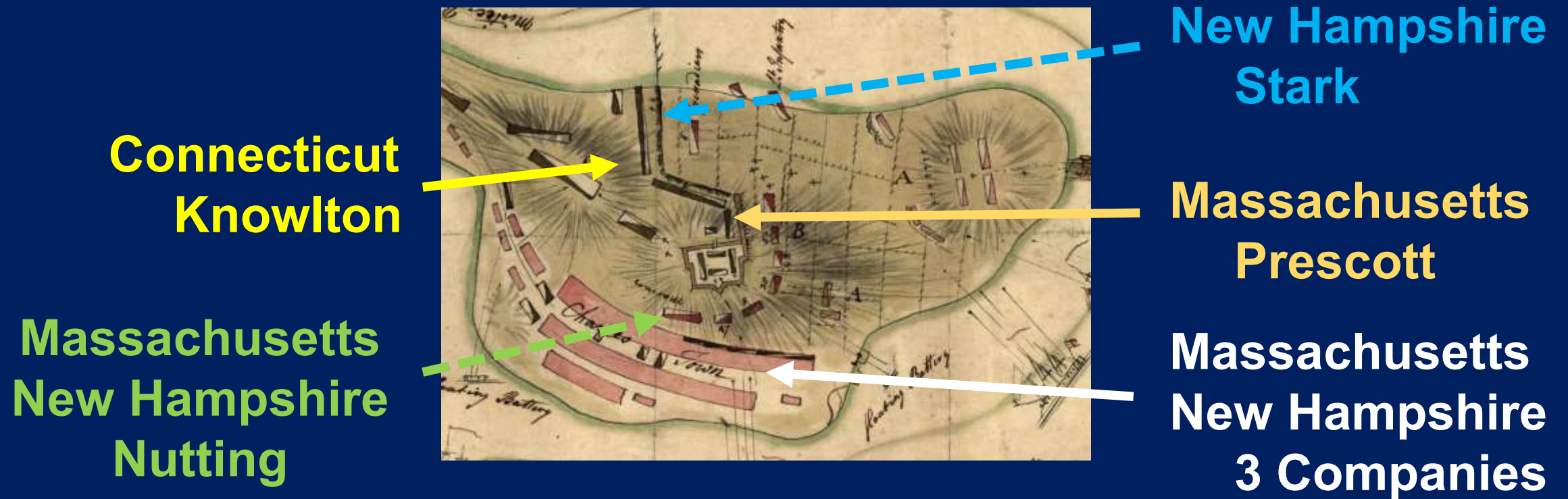
Bunker Hill Defenses

Fortifying Bunker Hill



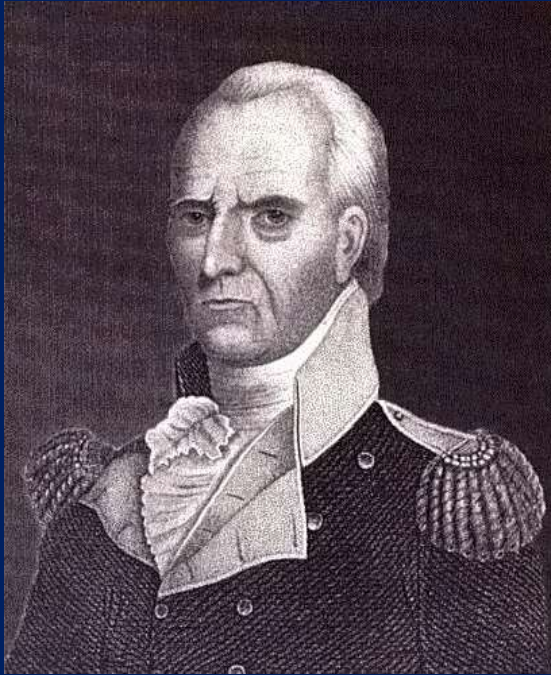
Building the Redoubt

Bunker Hill Deployments



Provincial Deployments

Bunker Hill Deployments



John Stark



William Knowlton

Provincial Regiments Engaged – Bunker Hill

Redoubt: 9th – 200 (Prescott) – 200

Charlestown: 18th, 22nd, 3rd (NH) – 300

Right Flank of Redoubt: 24th, 9th, 1st (NH) – 400

Breastwork: 10th & 11th – 606

Fleches: 16th, 18th, 19th, 22nd & 24th – 700

Rail Fence: 3rd (CT), 3rd (NH), 1st (NH) – 1050

Total Infantry: 3,256 approx

British Units Engaged – Bunker Hill

Maj. Gen. Howe -- Light Infantry & Grenadiers:

4th, 5th, 10th, 18th, 23rd, 35th, 38th, 43rd, 47th, 52nd, 59th & 65th

Brig. Pigot – Regular Infantry:

38th, 43rd, 47th, 52nd

Brig. Pigot & Maj. Pitcairn (Final Attack)

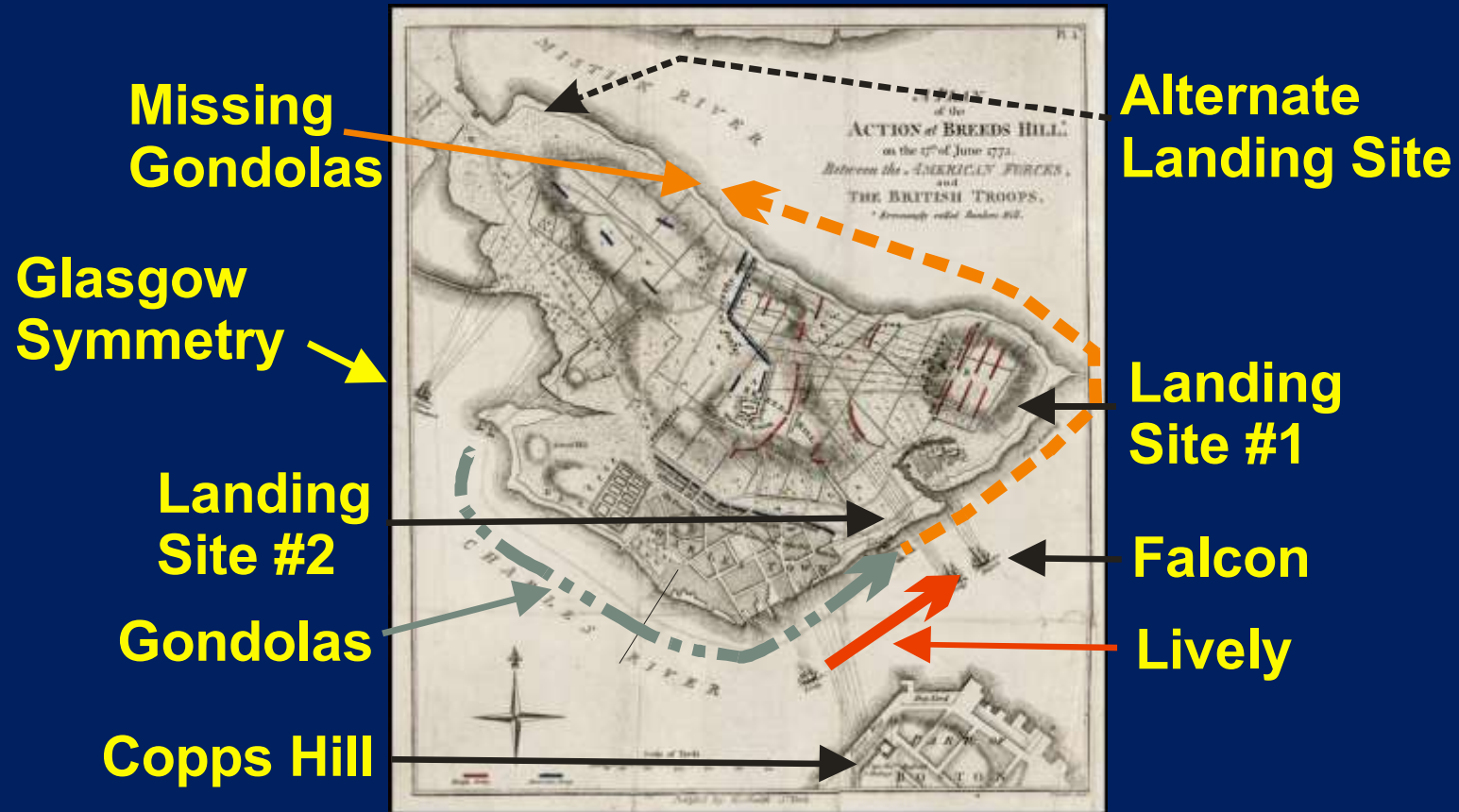
63rd + 500 Marines

Men Engaged: 2,500 approx.

GOC: Maj. General William Howe

Preliminary to Bunker Hill

Artillery Support & Landing Sites

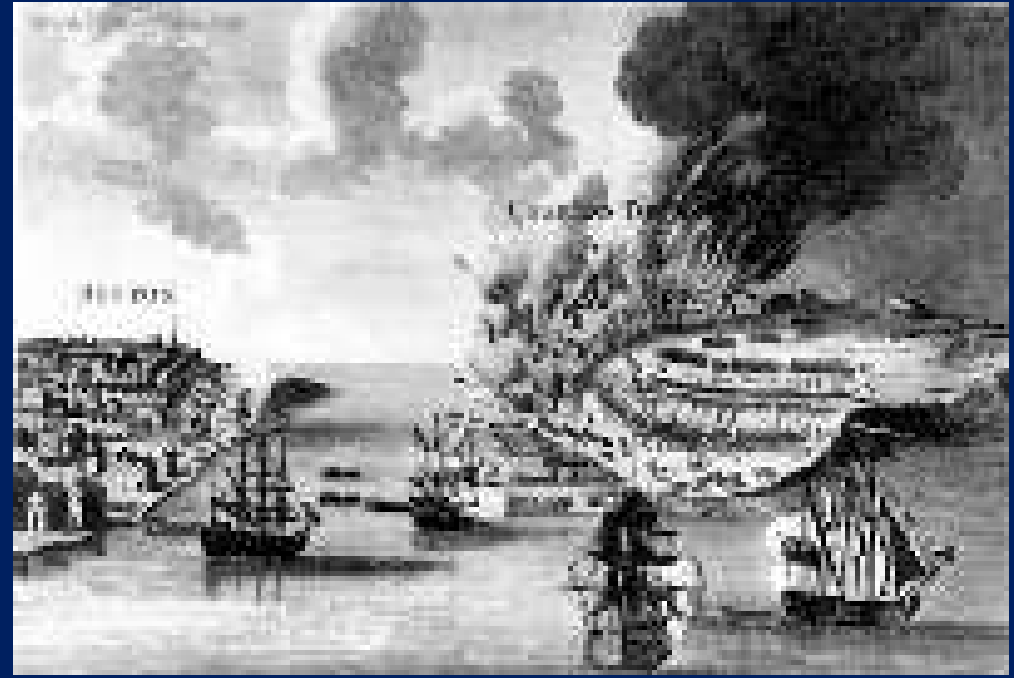


Royal Navy & Boston Batteries

Artillery Support & Landing



HMS Lively



Charlestown Set Ablaze
by Hot Shot

Barges Approaching
Moulton's Point

Battle of Bunker Hill

British Landing

- Barges Carry British Soldiers
 - Land at Moulton's Point
 - 28 Barges – 2 Trips
 - 1 PM Arrival – 3 PM Troops Disembarked
 - Artillery Positioned on Moulton's Hill
- British Infantry
 - Howe's Force – Assembles Along Mystic River
 - Pigot's Force -- Assembles in Front of Redoubt



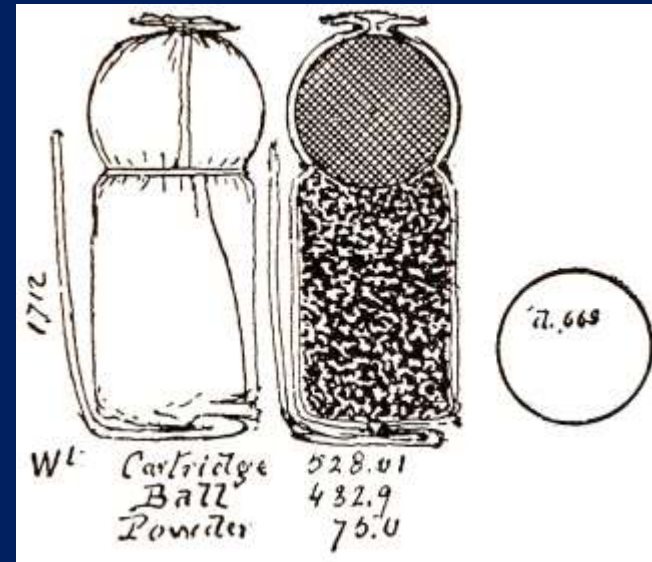
Robert Pigot

**The Musket
Becomes
Dominate**

Expanded Musket Usage

- Europeans – Musket: a Pike that fires One Round
- Provincials – Musket: a Firearm that is the Infantry's Primary Weapon

Brown Bess, Cartridge, Bayonet & Scabbard



Soldier's Equipment: 1775

Weapons:

Brown Bess – musket

14 lbs. / .75 in. bore / .69 in. ball

Bayonet – 14 in. length, 1 lbs.

Ammunition:

36 Cartridges / Soldier, 1 oz. each
Cartridge box

Musket Shortcomings – June 1775

- Rapid Loading is Incompatible with Bayonet
- Complicated Reload → Slow Rate of Fire → Firing Tactics
- Incomplete Gunpowder Burn → Fouls the Barrel →
Undersized Musket Ball → Uncertain Ball Trajectory
- Musket Weight & Length → 'Barrel Heavy' → Difficult to Aim
- Subsonic Gunpowder + Long Discharge Time → Target Shift
- Variations in Balls & Gunpowder → Uncertain Ball Trajectory

Bunker Hill: Provincial Commitment

Gen. Gage (Referring to Col. Prescott): Will he fight?

Col. Prescott's Brother-in-Law: [A]s to his men, I cannot answer
for them; but Colonel Prescott will fight you to the gates of hell.

Joseph Warren: These fellows say we wont fight. By Heaven, I hope I
shall die up to my knees in blood.

Major General Howe's Instructions

I shall not desire one of you to go a step farther than where I go myself at your head.

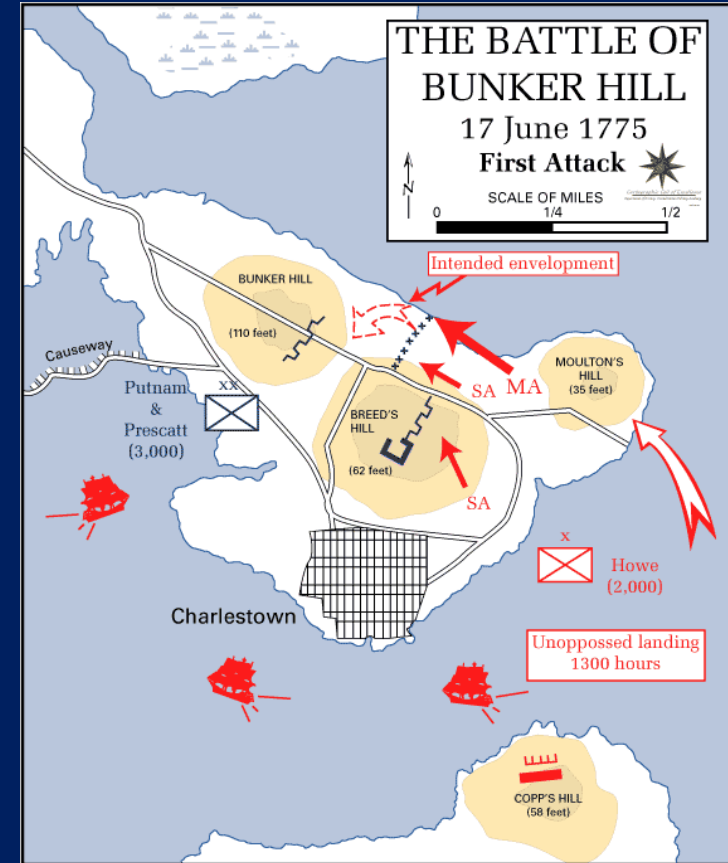
Remember gentlemen, we have no recourse to any other resources if we lose Boston but to go on board our ships, which will be very disagreeable to us all.

General Putnam's Instructions

- Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes.
- Powder is scarce and must not be wasted
- Fire Low
- Take aim at the waistbands.
- Aim at the handsome coats.
- You are all marksmen and could kill a squirrel at 100 yards.
- Reserve your fire and the enemy will all be destroyed.
- Pick off the officers.

Bunker Hill: First Attack

- Primary Attack
 - Along Mystic River Bank
 - Beneath Bluff
 - Narrow Front Channels Attack
 - Howe's Light Infantry
 - Stark's Deployment
- Secondary Attacks
 - Howe's Grenadiers – Rail Fence
 - Pigot's Demonstration – Redoubt



Bunker Hill: First Attack

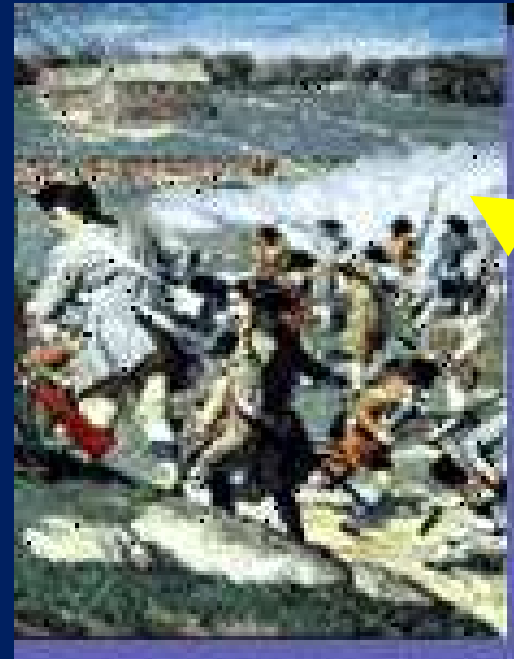


Light Infantry

Bunker Hill: First Attack



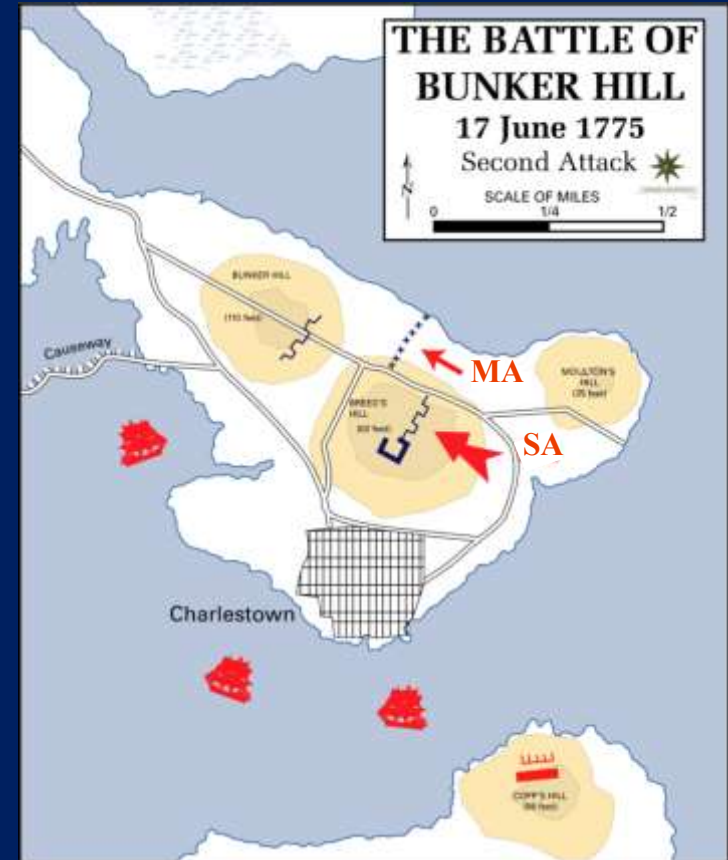
Light Infantry
Attack



Bluff on
River Bank

Bunker Hill: Second Attack

- Primary Attack
 - Against Rail Fence
 - Howe's Grenadiers
 - Knowlton & Stark's Defense
- Secondary Attacks
 - Pigot Attacks Redoubt
 - Marines (Maj. Pitcairn)
 - Turn Provincial's Right
 - Nutting's Defense



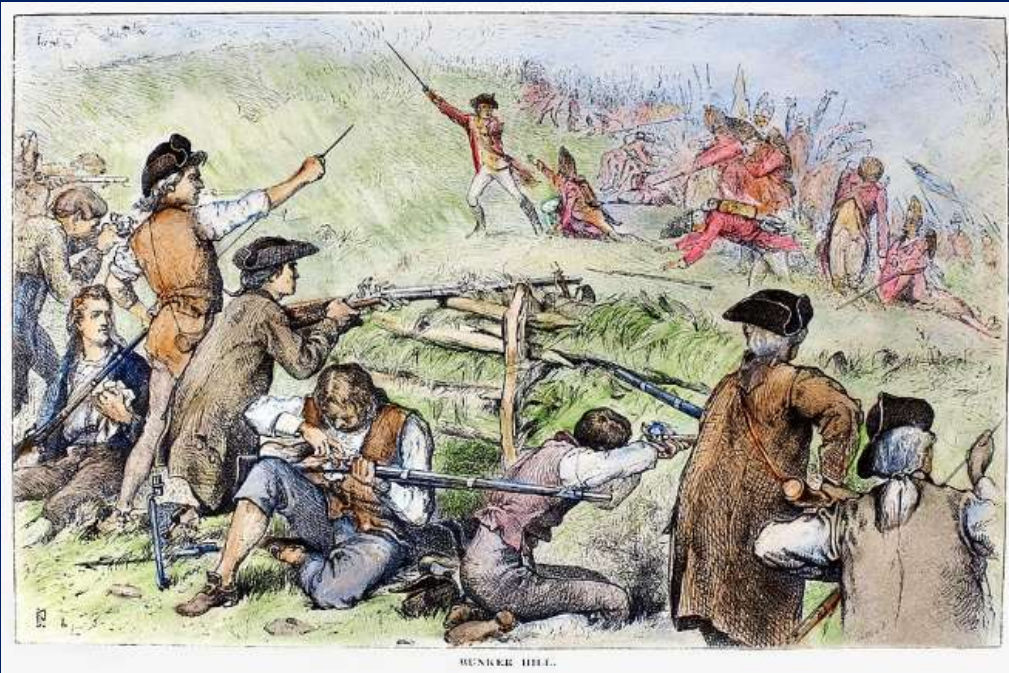
Bunker Hill: Second Attack



Grenadiers

Bunker Hill: Second Attack

Rail Fence



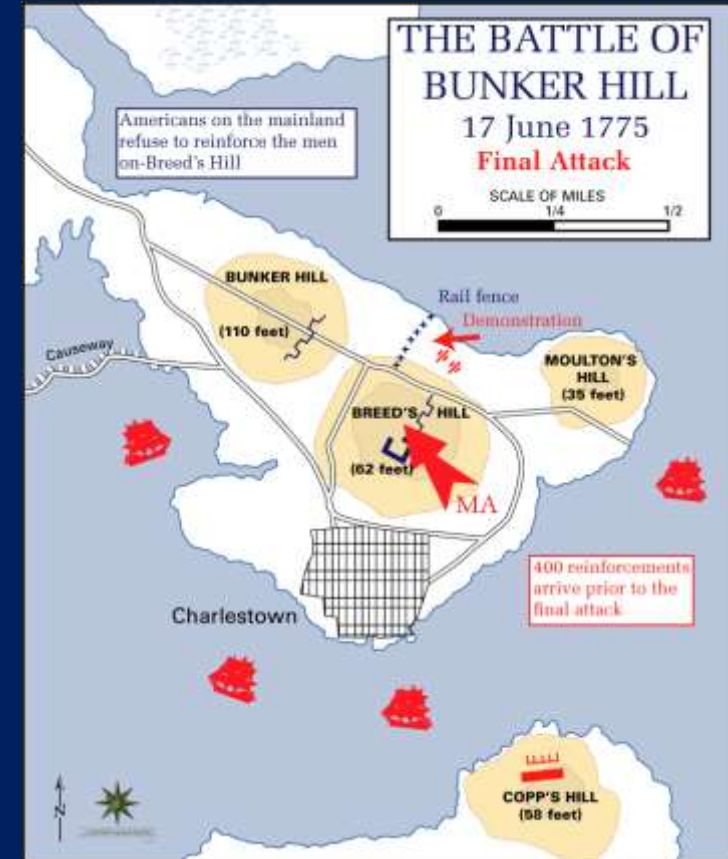
Provincials



Grenadiers

Bunker Hill: Final Attack

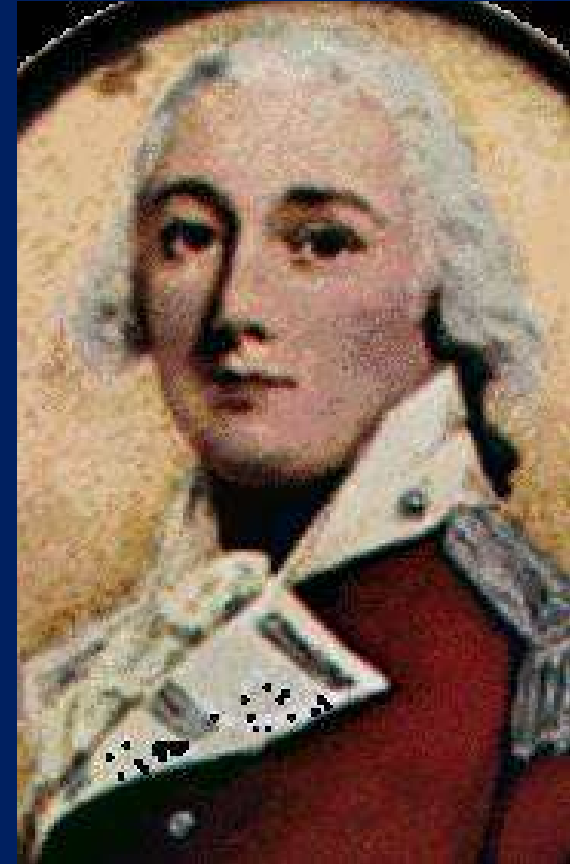
- British Regroup
- Primary Attack
 - Pigot Attacks Redoubt
 - Pitcairn's Marines Reinforce
 - Clinton's Wounded Reinforce
- Secondary Attack
 - Against Fleches
 - Howe's Remaining Troops
 - Artillery Support



Bunker Hill: Final Attack



Royal Marines



Major John Pitcairn

Bunker Hill: Final Attack

- Prescott's Situation
 - Minimal Gunpowder
 - Some Provincials Retire
 - Call for Support
- Failure of Support
 - Putnam: Popular, Individualistic, & No Organizer
 - Gerrish & Scammon Regiments Fail to Participate
 - Subsequent Court Martials

Bunker Hill: Final Attack



Infantry in Attack
Formation



6 Pounders Fire on
Redoubt & Fleches

Bunker Hill: Final Attack

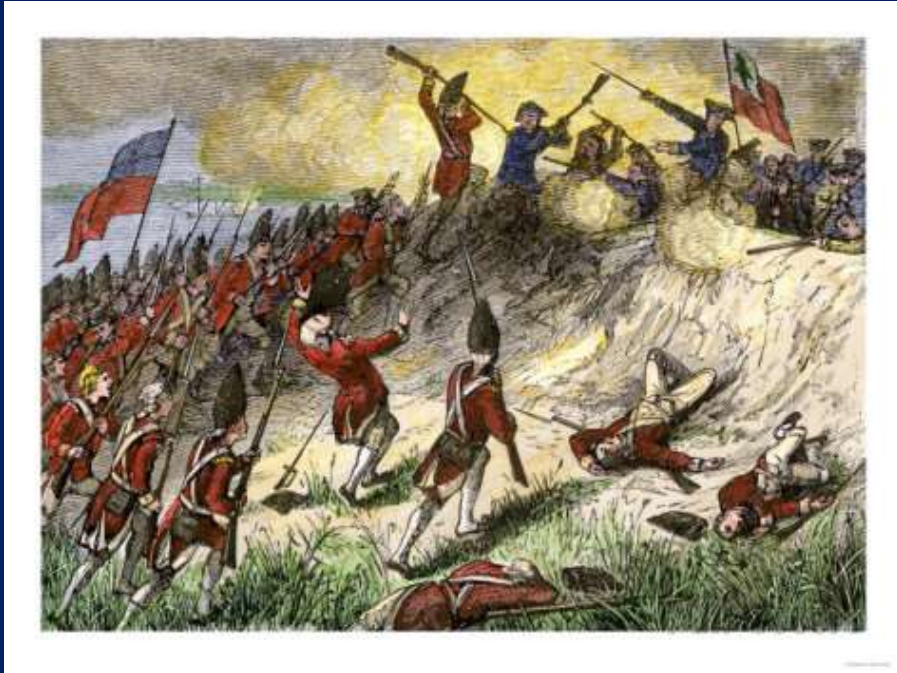


Prescott's Men
Await Attack



British Approach
Redoubt

Bunker Hill: Final Attack



Storming the Redoubt

Bunker Hill: Final Attack



Joseph Warren
Volunteering to Serve
as a Private



*Death of General Warren
at the Battle of Bunker Hill*
by John Trumbull

Bunker Hill: Casualties

British

Dead	226
Wounded	<u>858</u>
Total	1,084

Provincial

Dead	140
Wounded	<u>301</u>
Total	441



Quotes After Bunker Hill

Henry Clinton: *A dear bought victory, another such would have ruined US.*

Lord Rawdon: *The rebels rose up and poured in so heavy a fire upon us that the oldest officers say they never saw a sharper action.*

Nathanael Green: *I wish we could sell them another hill at the same price.*

Thomas Gage to Lord Barrington, Secretary of State for War: *The loss we have sustained is greater that we can bear. ... I wish this cursed place was burned. It's only use is its harbour....*

British Soldier: *We have got a little elbow room, but I think we have paid too dearly for it.*

Quotes After Bunker Hill

- **Abigail Adams:** I have just heard that our dear friend, **Doctor Warren**, fell gloriously fighting for his country. Great is our loss. Almighty God, cover the heads of our countrymen. May we be supported and sustained in the dreadful conflict. **I cannot compose myself to write further.**
- **Abigail Adams:** Not all the havoc and devastation they have made has wounded me like the death of **Warren**. We want him in the Senate; we want him in his profession; we want him in the field. We mourn for the citizen, the Senator, the Physician and the warrior. **When he fell, Liberty wept.**

Second Continental Congress Impact

- 3 July: George Washington Arrives in Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 6 July: Declaration of Causes – Blames Parliament
- 8 July: Olive Branch Petition – Castigates Government Ministers

George Washington's Challenge

- Convert Provincial Militia Into Continental Army
- Continental Army: Human Resources Challenges
 - Officer Corps (Appointed by Congress, Not Elected by Soldiery)
 - Legal, Army Discipline in Addition to Personal Motivation
 - Regimental Structure Replaces Independent Companies
 - Long Term Enlistments, Not Personal Commitments
 - Infantry Must Learn How to Attack; Take and Hold Positions
 - Establish Artillery Corps (Officers & Troops)
 - Establish Quartermaster Corps

George Washington's Challenge

- Continental Army: Supply Challenges
 - Gunpowder Shortage
 - No Artillery
 - Informal Resupply Mechanism
 - Construction of Fortifications
 - Non-Existent Munitions Fabrication Base
 - Lack of a National Currency & Hard, Foreign Funding
 - No Formal Arrangements with Foreign Suppliers

Officer Corps

- Appointed by Act of Congress
- Officer Uniforms and Insignia
- Paid by Congress
- Challenges
 - Competency
 - Unpopular, Unknown
 - No Combat Doctrine

Army Discipline

- Formal, Written Laws and Procedures
- Formal Court Martials
- Real Discipline
 - Public Humiliation
 - Cashiering of Officers
 - Flogging of Enlisted Personnel
- George Washington: An army without order, regularity, or discipline is no better than a commissioned mob.

Regimental Structure

- Large, Actual Compliment
 - Total = 728, Combat Troops = 640, Staff = 88
 - 8 Companies, 4 Squads / Company
- Substantial Organic Staff
- All Enlisted Personnel (Volunteers) from a Single State
- National Officers Appointed by Congress
- Imaginative Solution: Continental Line
 - National Army
 - State Quota for Regiments

Enlistment Challenge

- Militia
 - 44 Year, Compulsory Obligation
 - Entirely Local Service
 - Uncompensated
- Continental Army
 - National Service, Likely Far From Home
 - Multi-Year Commitment
 - Compensated

Gunpowder Challenge

- Pre-War British Policy
 - Mercantilism
 - Suppression of Colonial Independence
- Continental Army's Reliance on Musket
 - Unprecedented Need for Gunpowder
 - Training vs Combat Operations
- Gunpowder Supply
 - National Production Just Beginning, Inadequate
 - Foreign Supply => Black Market
 - Privateers Capture British Supply Ships

Artillery Challenge

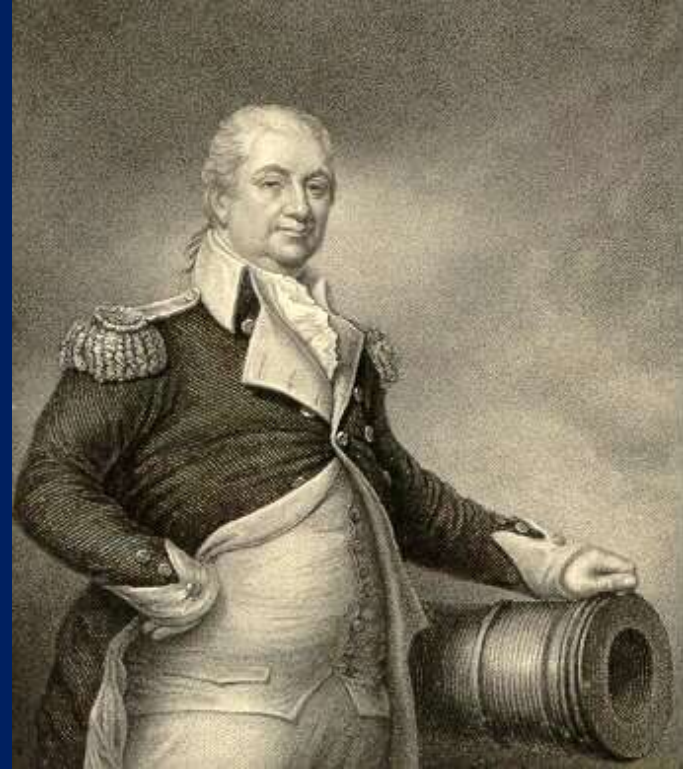
- Pre-War British Policy
 - Mercantilism
 - Suppression of Colonial Independence
- Continental Army's Reliance on Musket
 - Artillery Useless Against Indians
- National Production Just Beginning, **Inadequate**
- No Gunners or Artillery Officers

Henry Knox
and the
Noble Train of Artillery

Henry Knox



1784



Later

Henry Knox

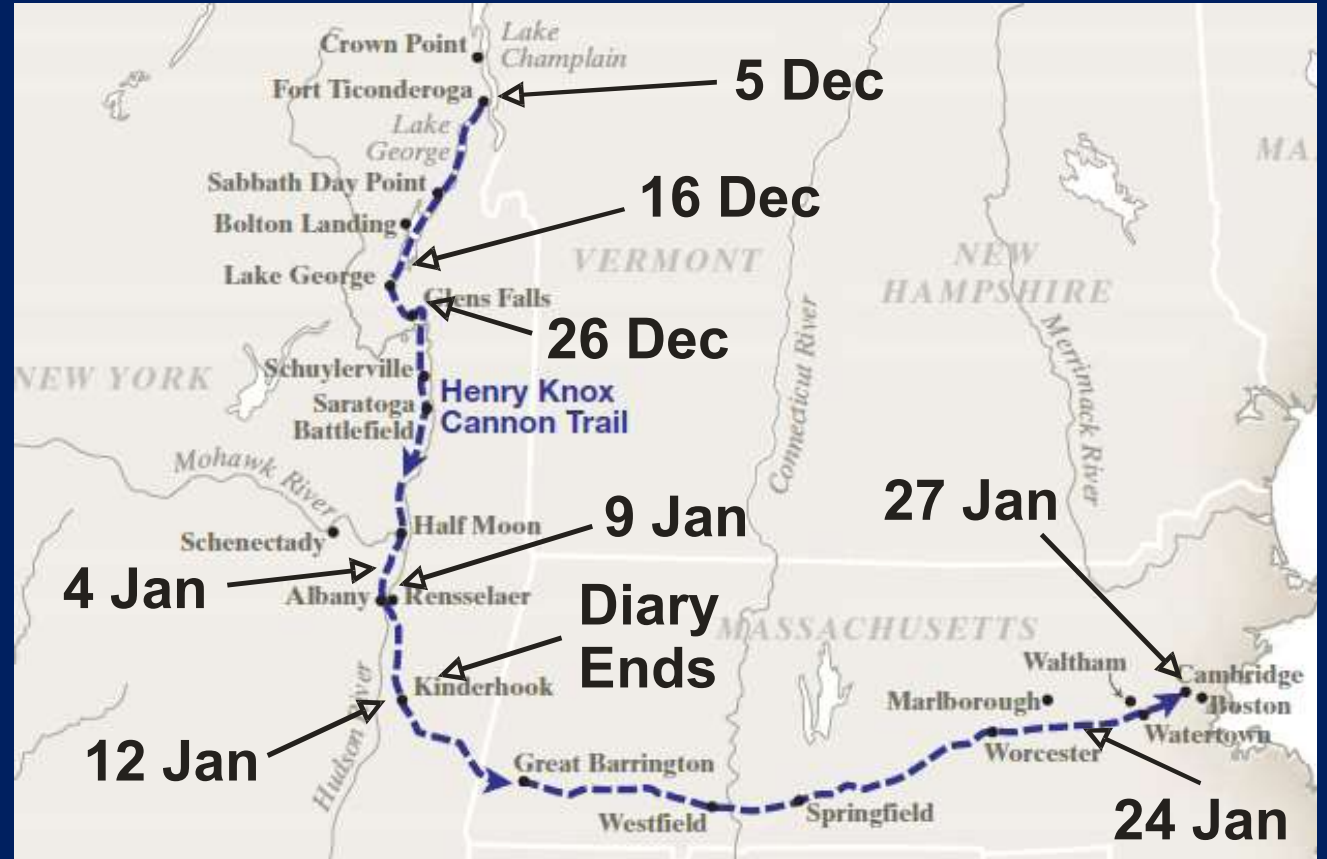
- Background
 - Bookseller – Reader of Military Texts
 - 25 Year-Old Civilian
 - Planning / Directing Construction of Roxbury Fortifications
- Advocates
 - George Washington
 - John Adams
 - Colonel of the Artillery Regiment

Noble Train of Artillery

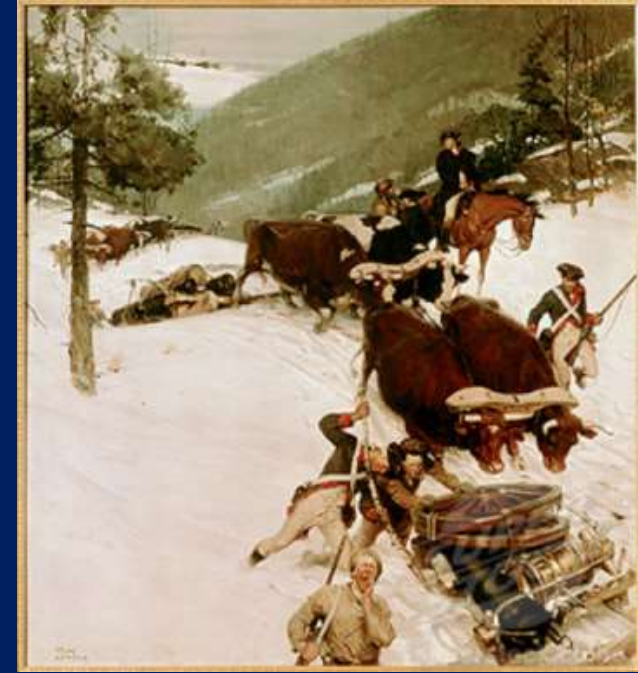
- Fort Ticonderoga
 - Numerous Large Cannons, Mortars & Howitzers
 - Captured by Arnold & Allen – 10 May
 - 300 Miles of Bad Roads to Boston
- George Washington
 - Artillery Essential to End Siege
 - Knox Ordered to Transport Ticonderoga's Guns
 - 16 November – Knox Receives his Orders
 - ... no trouble or expense must be spared to obtain them (artillery) ...

Noble Train of Artillery

- 5 – 16 Dec: Lake George
 - Ice & Leaky Boats
- 16 – 26 Dec:
 - Stopped by Warm Weather
- 26 Dec – 4 Jan: Heavy Snow
- 4 – 9 Jan: Thin Ice Slows Hudson River Crossing
- 13 Jan: Start to Traverse Berkshires
- Westfield: NY = > MA Drivers
- 24 Jan: Framingham (J. Adams)



Noble Train of Artillery

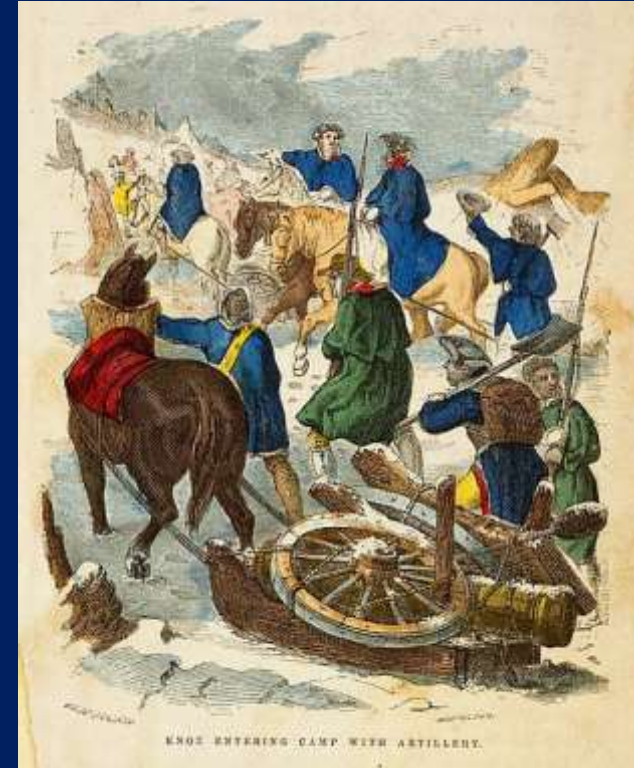


Oxen Pulling Sleds Carrying Disassembled Artillery

Noble Train of Artillery

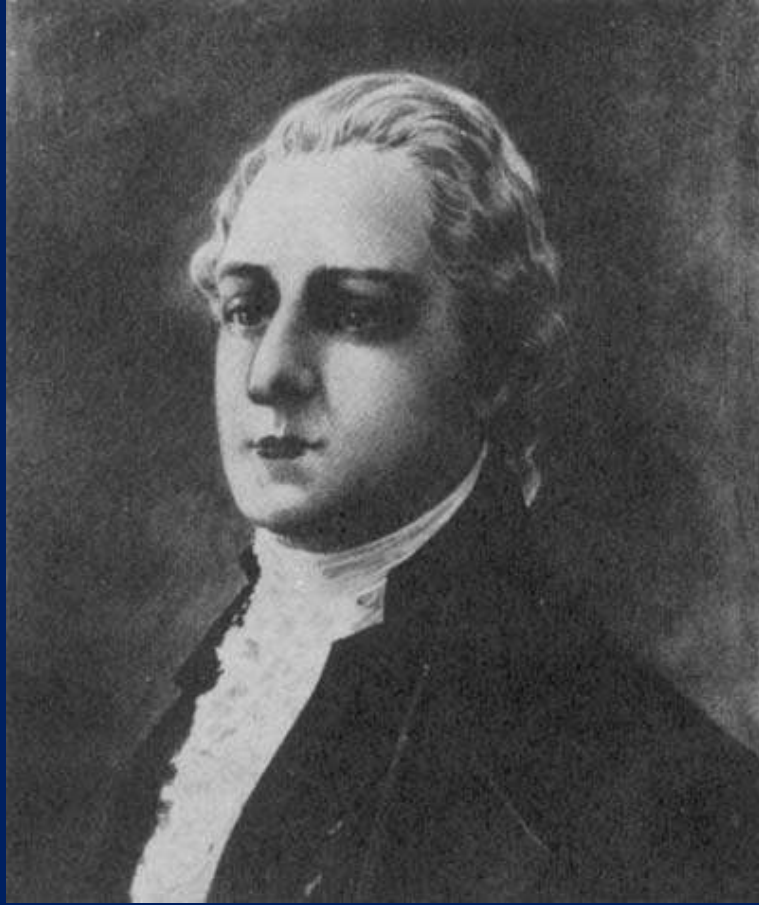


Oxen Pulling Sleds
in Berkshires



Arrival in
Cambridge

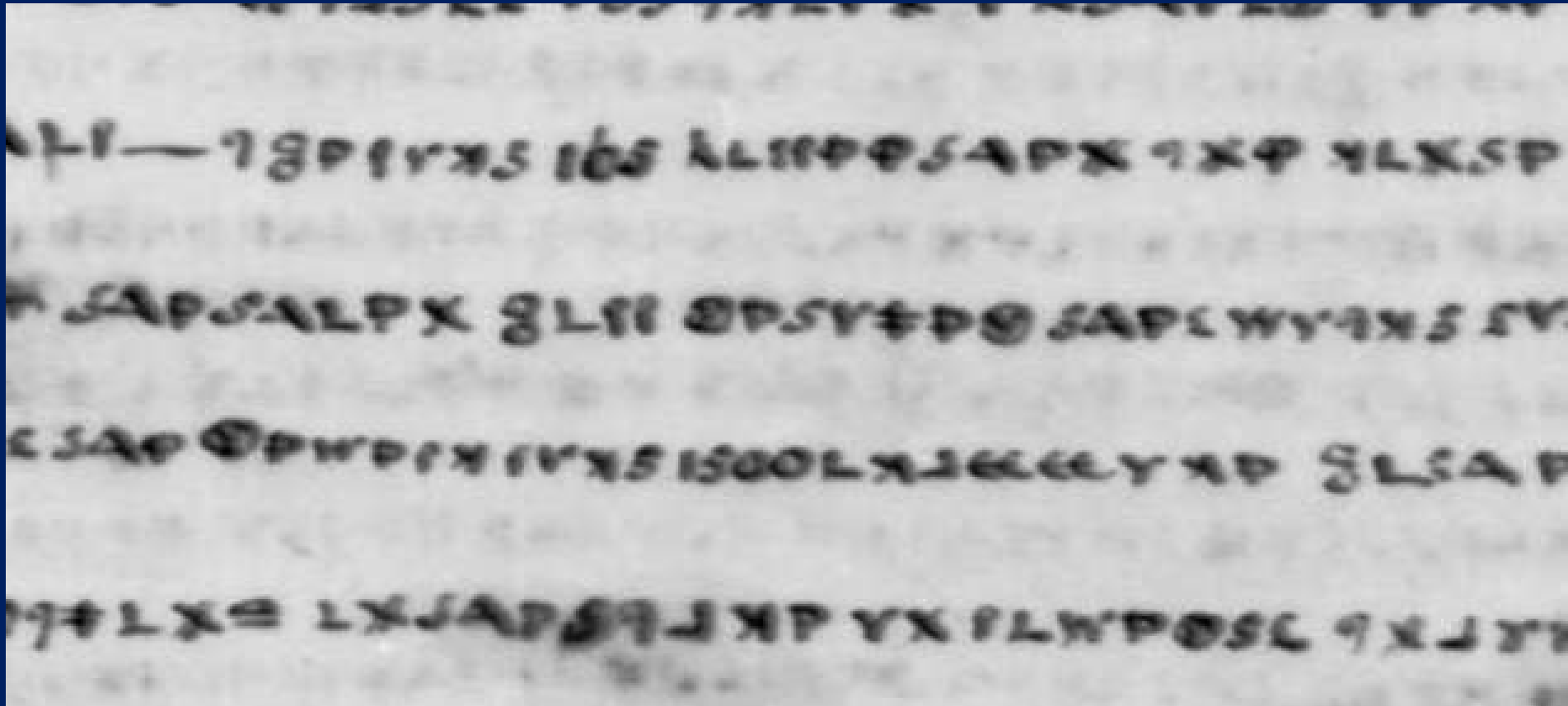
Dr. Benjamin Church: Spy



Discovery Dr. Benjamin Church's Treachery

- Committee of Safety & Continental Army's Chief Medical Officer
- British Spy since 1772
- After 19 April 1775 Cannot Communicate with Boston
- Tries to Send Coded Message to Boston Via Ex-Mistress
- Ex-Mistress Asks Wainwood, an Ex-Lover, to Deliver Message
- Letter Redirected to Gen. Greene – 17 Sep 1775
- Reverend Samuel West Decodes Letter
- Ex-Mistress Interrogated; Gives up Church – 4 Oct 1775
- Washington & Generals Cashier Church – 17 Oct 1775
- Dismissed, Imprisoned, Released, Dies at Sea

Dr. Benjamin Church's Letter



Dr. Benjamin Church's Letter

To Major Cane in Boston,

... the man was discovered in attempting his escape ... He was confined a few days during which time you may guess my feelings. But a little art and a little cash settled the matter.

... they had formed the resolution as I before hinted of fortifying Bunker's Hill ...

... I write you fully, it being scarcely possible to escape discovery. I am ... out of pay, ... I wish you could contrive to write me largely in cypher, ... Sign some fictitious name. ... Make use of every precaution or I perish.

George Washington's Impact

19 Aug: Washington Renumbers Provincial Army

29 Sep: Congressional Committee to Discuss Army Structure

8 Oct: Washington Proposes a 27 Regiment, 20,000 Man Army

2 Nov: Field Officers Selected

13 Nov: Enlisting in Continental Army Begins

1 Jan: Provincial Army Disbanded => Continental Army Activated

Goal: 27 Regiments, 20,000 Men

16 Jan: Negro Enlistees Accepted

16 Jan: Boston Attack => Call for Militia

Continental Army



Washington Reviews the Continental Army

Continental vs British

Continental: 10,202 8,797 + 1,405 on command

Militia Regiments: 7 MA; 4 CT; 2 RI

Militia: 7,820

Total: 17,000

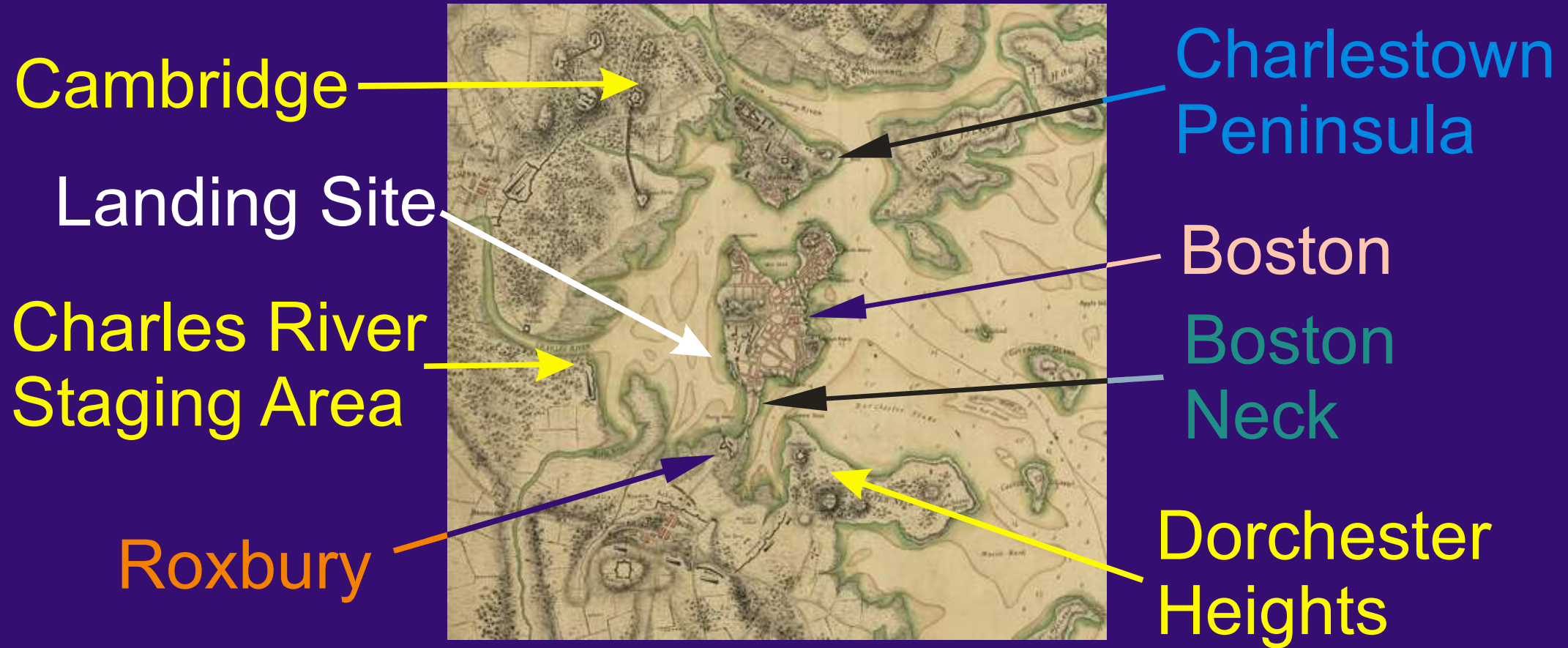
British: 11,000 Includes Royal Navy + Admin

Army Effectives 5,000

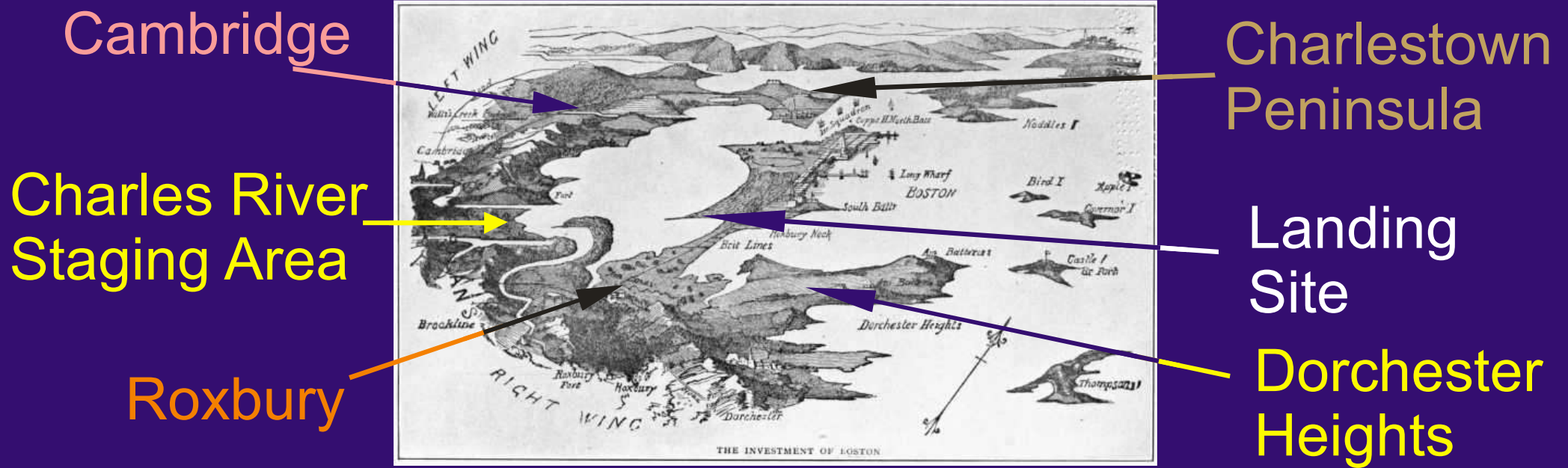
Continental Army's First Mission

- Preparations for Invading Boston
 - Secure Adequate Gunpowder
 - Position the Knox-Transported Artillery
 - Assemble 45 Barges – 80 Man Capacity Each
 - Prepare Firing Sites for Artillery
 - Prepare to Take, then Fortify the Dorchester Heights

Ending the Siege of Boston



Ending the Siege of Boston



Attack on Boston

Ending the Siege of Boston

- 26 Feb: Attack Authorized
- 28 Feb: Bombardment Begins
- 4 March: Continentals Invade & Seize Dorchester Heights
 - Erect Two Fortifications & Artillery Batteries
 - Threat to Royal Navy, Town of Boston
- 5 March: Howe Authorizes Taking of Dorchester Heights
- 5 March: Gale Delays Operation
- 6 March: Adverse Wind Again Postpones Operation

Ending the Siege of Boston



- Fortifying Dorchester Heights

Ending the Siege of Boston

- 7 March: General Howe Decides to Evacuate
 - Threatens to Destroy Boston if Continentals Interfere
- Prominent Boston Citizens
 - Appeal to Howe to Seek an Accommodation
 - Howe Refuses to Acknowledge Washington
 - Boston Citizens Allowed to Write Washington
 - Washington Will Not Receive Letter
 - Continental Army Permits British to Leave
- 17 March: Evacuation Day

Ending the Siege



Evacuation of Boston

Ending the Siege of Boston



The British Sail Away



Washington Triumphant

Impact of Victory at Boston

- Cleared British from New England
- Prerequisite for Declaration of Independence
- Created an American Military
- Established Musket as the Infantry's Preeminent Weapon
- Destroyed Credibility of British Government with Parliamentary Opposition