

BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BATTLE OF TRENTON

The Battle of Trenton was fought on December 26, 1776. This battle encouraged the American forces at an important time in the American Revolution.

The winter of 1776 had been difficult for the young U.S. army. They had lost several battles in New York and had been forced to retreat to Pennsylvania. The soldiers were discouraged. General George Washington, commander in chief of the U.S. forces, planned a surprise attack on the Hessians. The Hessians were German soldiers hired to fight by the British.

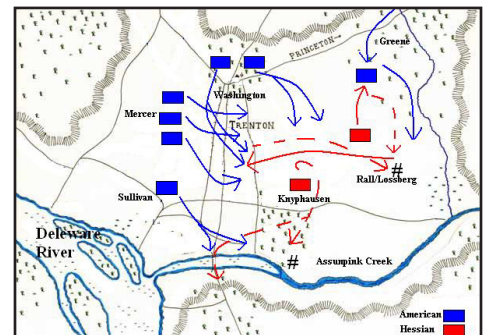
General Washington's plan was to go from Pennsylvania to New Jersey on Christmas night, December 25, 1776. This was a dangerous plan, since the American troops would have to cross the Delaware River in bad winter weather. Only part of the American troops, about 2,400, were able to cross the river.

The Hessians stationed at Trenton, New Jersey, had celebrated Christmas with a large feast. They did not think the Americans would attack, so they did not assign any guards on Christmas night. The Americans were able to get into place for the attack without being seen. The next morning, December 26, the Americans surprised the Hessians, taking most of them as prisoners.

The American victory at the Battle of Trenton changed the course of the American Revolution. It raised the spirits of the American soldiers and more men volunteered for the army.



General Washington preparing to cross the Delaware River.



Map of the Battle of Trenton



General Washington inspecting the captured flags after the Battle of Trenton

QUICK QUIZ

What was the date of the Battle of Trenton?

December 26, 1776

What is the name of the German troops hired by the British?

Hessians

What river did the American troops cross to reach Trenton?

The Delaware River

How did the Battle of Trenton affect the U.S. soldiers?

It raised their spirits.