

25 AUGUST 1778: THE AMERICANS DECIDED TO RETREAT.

28 AUGUST 1778: THE SIEGE OF NEWPORT WAS OVER.

29 AUGUST 1778: BATTLE OF RHODE ISLAND. BLACK REGIMENT DISTINGUISHES ITSELF IN BATTLE.

31 AUGUST 1778: AMERICANS MAKE A SUCCESSFUL RETREAT.

25 October 1779: British garrison evacuated Newport.

## BATTLE HEADS SOUTH

14 MAY 1781: COL. CHRISTOPHER GREENE KILLED IN A BATTLE NEAR FISHKILL, NY.

10 JUNE 1781: FRENCH ARMY STARTS ITS TRAIL TO YORKTOWN.

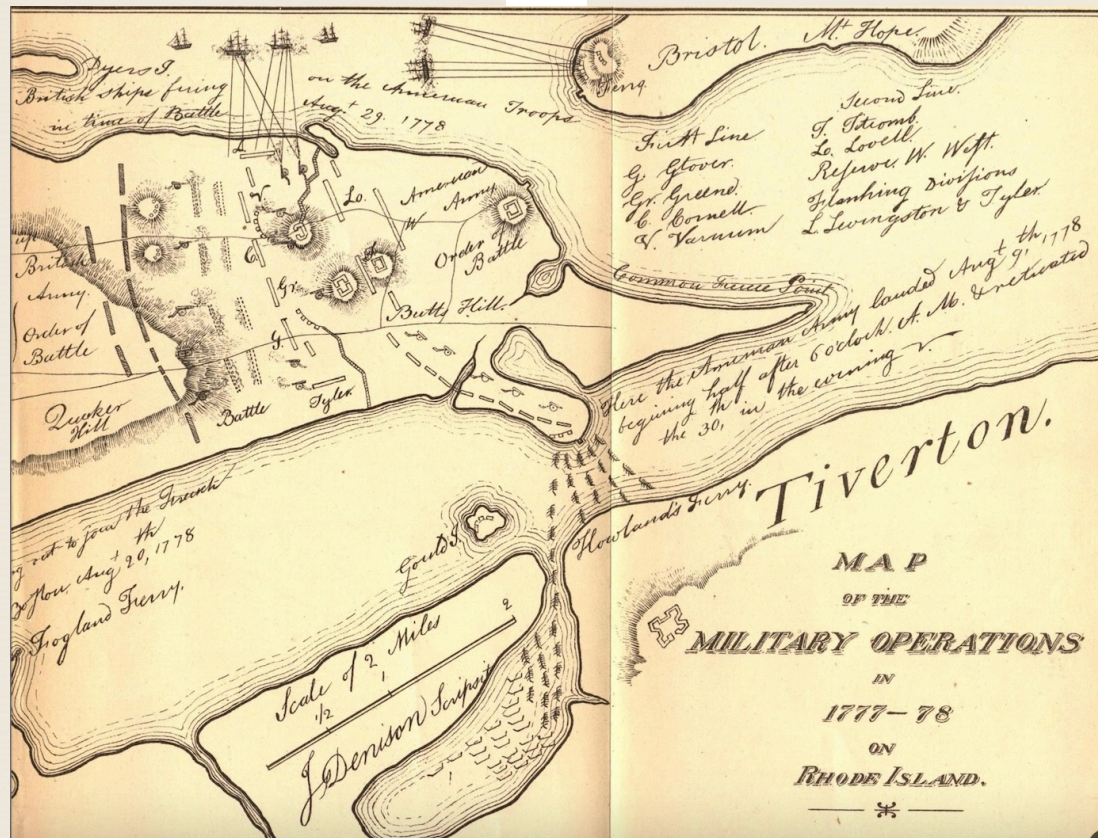
14 OCTOBER 1781: STEPHEN OLNEY OF PROVIDENCE LEADS THE FINAL CHARGE IN THE BATTLE OF YORKTOWN.

3 SEPTEMBER 1783: FINAL PEACE TREATY SIGNED IN PARIS.

# REVOLUTIONARY RHODE ISLAND TIMELINE



Prepared by Gloria Schmidt for  
the Battle of Rhode Island  
Association 2025  
RI 250



Front map: PLAN of RHODE ISLAND, the HARBOUR, Fage, 1778. Battle of Rhode Island Map: J. Denison

Battle Map: J. Denison

Timeline Based on the Work of John Fitzhugh Millar and Rhode Island Campaign by Christian McBurney



## Prelude to War

**DECEMBER 1764:** STEPHEN HOPKINS PUBLISHES RIGHTS OF COLONIES EXAMINED

**27 AUGUST 1765:** STAMP ACT RIOTS BEGIN. HANGING IN EFFIGY, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, NEWPORT RIOTS WERE THE MOST VIOLENT IN THE COLONIES.

**4 MARCH 1766:** DAUGHTERS OF LIBERTY ESTABLISHED IN NEWPORT - FIRST IN THE COLONIES.

**19 JULY, 1768:** BRITISH CUSTOMS SCHOONER LIBERTY DESTROYED AND BURNED IN NEWPORT HARBOR.

**10 JUNE 1772:** BRITISH CUSTOM SHIP GASPEE WAS RUN AGROUND AND BURNED OFF PAWTUXET.

**22 APRIL 1775:** 1500 TROOPS RAISED IN RHODE ISLAND TO ASSIST MASSACHUSETTS AFTER LEXINGTON.

**12 JUNE 1775:** RHODE ISLAND BECOMES THE FIRST COLONY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN NAVY.

**13 OCTOBER 1775:** CONTINENTAL CONGRESS PASSES RHODE ISLAND'S RESOLUTION TO CREATE A CONTINENTAL NAVY.

**12-13 JANUARY 1776:** RAIDS ON PRUDENCE ISLAND.

**4 MAY 1776:** RI LEGISLATURE BREAKS ALLEGIANCE TO KING GEORGE III.. FIRST DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN THE COLONIES.



RI 1st Regiment Flag

### OCCUPATION OF AQUIDNECK ISLAND

**8 DECEMBER 1776:** BRITISH ARMY ARRIVES TO OCCUPY AQUIDNECK ISLAND

**9 JULY 1777:** BRITISH GENERAL PRESCOTT CAPTURED BY COL. BARTON AT OVERING FARM IN PORTSMOUTH.

**9 FEBRUARY 1778:** RI LEGISLATURE AUTHORIZES RAISING A REGIMENT OF BLACK AND INDIGENOUS TROOPS.

**25 MAY 1778:** BRITISH FORCES RAID BRISTOL - WARREN

**31 MAY 1778:** BRITISH RAID TIVERTON AND FALL RIVER



Rhode Island Regiment Flag  
Was the Flag of RI 2nd Regiment

## RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN BEGINS

**29 JULY, 1778:** FRENCH FORCES UNDER D'ESTAING ARRIVE AT NEWPORT - BRITISH DIG IN FOR SIEGE.

**5 AUGUST 1778:** BRITISH FRIGATES ARE PURPOSELY SUNK IN HARBOR TO HINDER FRENCH AND TO AVOID THEIR CAPTURE BY THE FRENCH.

### SIEGE OF NEWPORT

**9 AUGUST 1778:** FEARING AN ATTACK, BRITISH FORCES ABANDONED BUTTS HILL AND GENERAL PIGOT WITHDREW HIS FORCES TO NEWPORT

**11 AUGUST 1778:** MOST OF THE AMERICAN TROOPS WERE CAMPED AROUND BUTTS HILL.“

**11-13 AUGUST 1778** A “GREAT STORM” HIT THAT DESTROYED MEN, HORSES, CAMPS AND SUPPLIES ON BOTH THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN SIDES. BRITISH AND FRENCH FLEETS BATTERED BY HURRICANE

**16 AUGUST 1778:** AMERICANS BUILT EARTHWORKS AND DUG TRENCHES TOWARD NEWPORT.

**17 AUGUST 1778:** SULLIVAN CALLS A COUNCIL OF WAR. ALL OFFICERS RECOMMEND HOLDING POSITIONS UNTIL THEY COULD BE REINFORCED BY THE FRENCH.

**20 AUGUST 1778:** FRENCH FLEET REAPPEARED OFF NEWPORT WITH 12 BATTERED SHIPS. HE INFORMED GENERAL SULLIVAN THAT HIS FLEET NEEDED REPAIRS AND HE WOULD BE SAILING IMMEDIATELY FOR BOSTON.