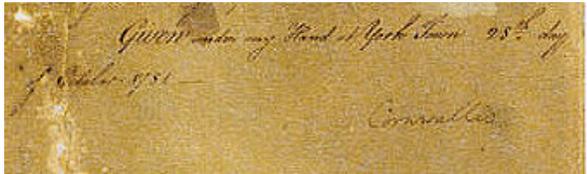


Timeline of Events: The Battle of Yorktown

- February, 1781** The Major General Marquis de Lafayette was ordered to take his Continental troops to Virginia.
- May 10, 1781** British General Charles Cornwallis, earl Cornwallis, and his army entered Virginia. Cornwallis believed that American resistance would fail if he defeated Virginia.
- August 1–2, 1781** Cornwallis and his army encamped at Yorktown and across the York River at Gloucester Point. Lafayette's spies overheard Cornwallis's plans to use the port as a base of supply and Lafayette relayed word to General George Washington in New York.
- August 14, 1781** Washington found out that French Admiral de Grasse was sailing for the Chesapeake Bay with a large battle fleet and army.
- August 19, 1781** Washington began to move the allied army south secretly.
- September 5, 1781** The French fleet under Admiral de Grasse defeated a British fleet under Admiral Thomas Graves in the Battle of the Capes, leaving the British army isolated and without a prospect of reinforcement at Yorktown.
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- September 14, 1781** The British navy withdrew from the Virginia coast.
- September 14, 1781** Washington and French General Rochambeau arrived in Williamsburg.
- October 14, 1781** In the night, 400 French soldiers stormed British Redoubt No. 9 and 400 American soldiers under the command of Lafayette and Alexander Hamilton stormed Redoubt No. 10.
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- October 16–17, 1781** Under heavy bombardment from the allied army, Cornwallis realized that reinforcements would not reach him in time. He decided to escape from Yorktown, but a sudden storm ruined evacuation attempts.
- October 19, 1781** British troops under Cornwallis surrendered to Washington's combined American and French forces, effectively ending major military operations in the American Revolution.
- October 21, 1781** British troops were sent to Winchester, Virginia; Frederick, Maryland; and Lancaster, Pennsylvania for imprisonment.
- October 28, 1781** Cornwallis signed a parole agreeing to stop fighting the Americans.
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- November 25, 1781** Prime Minister Lord North exclaimed, "Oh God, it is all over" when news of the Yorktown defeat reached London.
- September 3, 1783** By the terms of the Treaty of Paris, Great Britain recognized the independence of the United States. Congress ratified the treaty on January 14, 1784.