

# One Soldier's Journey

## Captain Robert Kirkwood of the Continental Army in the Campaign of 1777

During the American Revolution, George Washington's Continental Army faced continuous shortages of trained soldiers. To make up for scarce manpower, Washington relied on his army's ability to move rapidly by foot to counter the British. The 1777 Campaign exemplifies this use of mobility. Faced with numerous British threats to include: a possible move up the Hudson, an overland attack through New Jersey, and the landing of enemy forces in the Chesapeake Bay, Washington kept his army moving. One of the soldiers in this army was Captain Robert Kirkwood who kept a journal of his activities in 1777. This map chronicles his journey.

**3 Defending the Delaware River: (June 12, 1777)**  
As British forces demonstrate near Brunswick, and Washington defends Bound Brook, Sullivan's Division maneuvers between Coryell's Ferry and the Sourland Mountains to defend against any British advance toward the Delaware River.

**2 Arrival at Princeton: (May 19, 1777)**  
After marching through Philadelphia and Trenton, Kirkwood's company joins General John Sullivan's Division at Princeton.

**10 Germantown to Valley Forge: (October 4 - December 19, 1777)**  
Washington attacks the British at Germantown but is defeated. After the subsequent, indecisive Battle of Red Bank, the Continental Army moves to winter quarters at Valley Forge.

**1 Recruitment in Delaware: (December 1776 - Spring 1777)**  
Captain Robert Kirkwood raises an infantry company for service in the Continental Army. In early spring, he marches it north to join Washington's forces in central New Jersey, stopping in Philadelphia on the way to equip his men.

**4 To the Hudson Highlands: (June 30, 1777)**  
As the British abandon New Jersey, Sullivan's Division moves through Morristown to the Hudson Highlands to reinforce the Hudson River defenses.

**5 Crossing the Hudson: (July 16, 1777)**  
Sullivan's Division crosses the Hudson River at Newburgh and marches to the Fishkill supply depot.

**6 Recrossing the Hudson: (16 July, 1777)**  
Sullivan's men recross the River and move to Haverstraw.

**7 Rejoining Washington: (July 28 - August 29, 1777)**  
Sullivan's Division marches through Paramus, Springfield, Westfield, Brunswick, Princeton, and Trenton as it moves to rejoin Washington's army.

**8 March through Philadelphia: (August 31, 1777)**  
Sullivan's Division marches through Philadelphia enroute to link up with Washington, who has moved to Chesapeake Bay where British forces have landed.

**9 Defeat at Brandywine: (September 11, 1777)**  
The British defeat the Continentals at Brandywine and occupy Philadelphia twelve days later. Washington retreats to Chester, across the Schuylkill, and northwest to Reading.

**11 Winter Quarters: (December 21, 1777)**  
While most of the Continental Army encamps at Valley Forge, the Delaware troops move to Wilmington for the winter. Upon arriving in Wilmington, Kirkwood calculates that he has marched 796 miles in 1777.

British forces occupied Brunswick and Amboy at the start of 1777 but abandoned New Jersey in late June.



Map Author: Thomas Rider  
Projection: North American Albers Equal Area Conic  
Central Meridian: -75.1667 Latitude of Origin: 39.9500  
Data Sources: Natural Earth Data Base and ESRI Data Bank  
Historical Data: Boatner, Mark M. *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*. Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Books, 1994; Turner, Joseph B. ed., *The Journal and Order Book of Captain Robert Kirkwood of the Delaware Regiment of the Continental Line*. Port Washington: Kennikat Press, 1970; Faden, William. "The Province of New Jersey, divided into East and West, commonly called the Jerseys." Map published by the author, 1777; Cook, James. "A Map of the Province of South Carolina with all the Rivers, Creeks, Bays, Inlets, Islands, Inland Navigation, Soundings, Time of High Water on the Sea Coast, Roads, Marshes, Ferrys, Bridges, Swamps, Parishes, Churches, Towns, Townships; County Parish District and Provincial Lines." Map published by the Province of South Carolina, 1773.