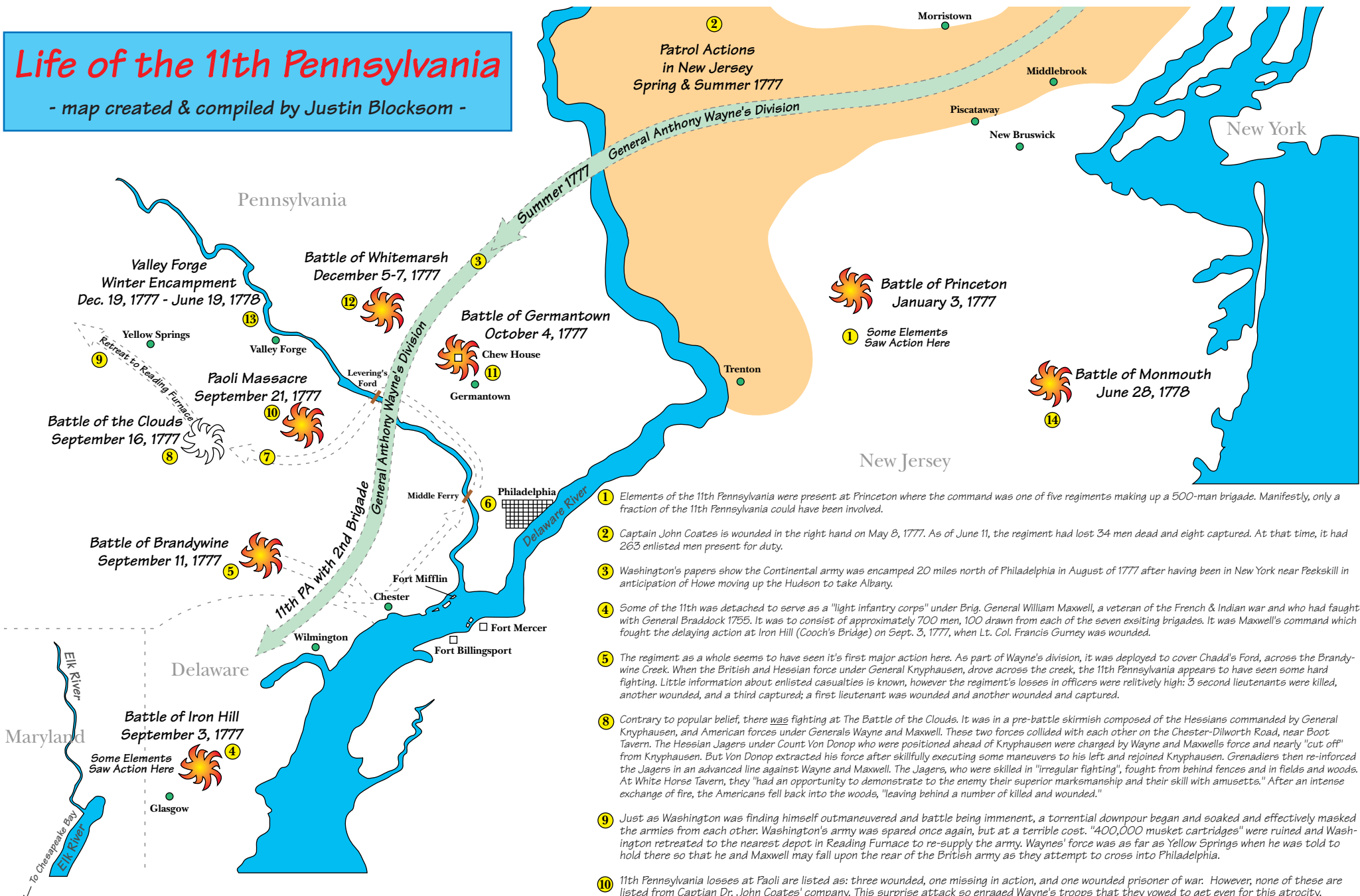


# Life of the 11th Pennsylvania

- map created & compiled by Justin Blocksom -



- 1 Elements of the 11th Pennsylvania were present at Princeton where the command was one of five regiments making up a 500-man brigade. Manifestly, only a fraction of the 11th Pennsylvania could have been involved.
- 2 Captain John Coates is wounded in the right hand on May 8, 1777. As of June 11, the regiment had lost 34 men dead and eight captured. At that time, it had 263 enlisted men present for duty.
- 3 Washington's papers show the Continental army was encamped 20 miles north of Philadelphia in August of 1777 after having been in New York near Peekskill in anticipation of Howe moving up the Hudson to take Albany.
- 4 Some of the 11th was detached to serve as a "light infantry corps" under Brig. General William Maxwell, a veteran of the French & Indian war and who had fought with General Braddock 1755. It was to consist of approximately 700 men, 100 drawn from each of the seven existing brigades. It was Maxwell's command which fought the delaying action at Iron Hill (Cooch's Bridge) on Sept. 3, 1777, when Lt. Col. Francis Gurney was wounded.
- 5 The regiment as a whole seems to have seen it's first major action here. As part of Wayne's division, it was deployed to cover Chadd's Ford, across the Brandywine Creek. When the British and Hessian force under General Knyphausen, drove across the creek, the 11th Pennsylvania appears to have seen some hard fighting. Little information about enlisted casualties is known, however the regiment's losses in officers were relatively high: 3 second lieutenants were killed, another wounded, and a third captured; a first lieutenant was wounded and another wounded and captured.
- 8 Contrary to popular belief, there was fighting at The Battle of the Clouds. It was in a pre-battle skirmish composed of the Hessians commanded by General Knyphausen, and American forces under Generals Wayne and Maxwell. These two forces collided with each other on the Chester-Dilworth Road, near Boot Tavern. The Hessian Jagers under Count Von Donop who were positioned ahead of Knyphausen were charged by Wayne and Maxwells force and nearly "cut off" from Knyphausen. But Von Donop extracted his force after skillfully executing some maneuvers to his left and rejoined Knyphausen. Grenadiers then re-inforced the Jagers in an advanced line against Wayne and Maxwell. The Jagers, who were skilled in "irregular fighting", fought from behind fences and in fields and woods. At White Horse Tavern, they "had an opportunity to demonstrate to the enemy their superior marksmanship and their skill with amusetts." After an intense exchange of fire, the Americans fell back into the woods, "leaving behind a number of killed and wounded."
- 9 Just as Washington was finding himself outmaneuvered and battle being imminent, a torrential downpour began and soaked and effectively masked the armies from each other. Washington's army was spared once again, but at a terrible cost. "400,000 musket cartridges" were ruined and Washington retreated to the nearest depot in Reading Furnace to re-supply the army. Waynes' force was as far as Yellow Springs when he was told to hold there so that he and Maxwell may fall upon the rear of the British army as they attempt to cross into Philadelphia.
- 10 11th Pennsylvania losses at Paoli are listed as: three wounded, one missing in action, and one wounded prisoner of war. However, none of these are listed from Captain Dr. John Coates' company. This surprise attack so enraged Wayne's troops that they vowed to get even for this atrocity.
- 11 It was here that Wayne's forces spooked the British Light Infantry with calls of "Revenge Wayne's affair" and "No quarter for bloodhounds." This engagement, in which the 11th helped assault the center of the British position, it's only known casualties were it's adjutant, 1st Lt. Thomas Lucas, who was killed, and two privates wounded. It's total losses during the campaign, however, must have been substantial, for by November 1, 1777, it had present for duty only eight officers and eighty enlisted men. Another sixty-six enlisted men were sick, and thirty one on detached service.
- 12 The 11th had no opportunity to do any fighting here. It was present, however, holding a portion of the first line, just to the right of center.
- 14 Following the winter at Valley Forge, the 11th was probably with Aaron Burr when he led a late-afternoon assault on the flank of a British counter-attacking column. The only casualty was an enlisted man. One week later, on July 1, the rest of the enlisted 11th was merged with the 10th Pennsylvania. The officers were then assigned to other regiments.

**KEY:**

- towns/places
- fortifications
- bridges/fords
- ☀ battles
- ① order of movement & corresponding info
- area of patrol
- movement

\*map not drawn to exact scale

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