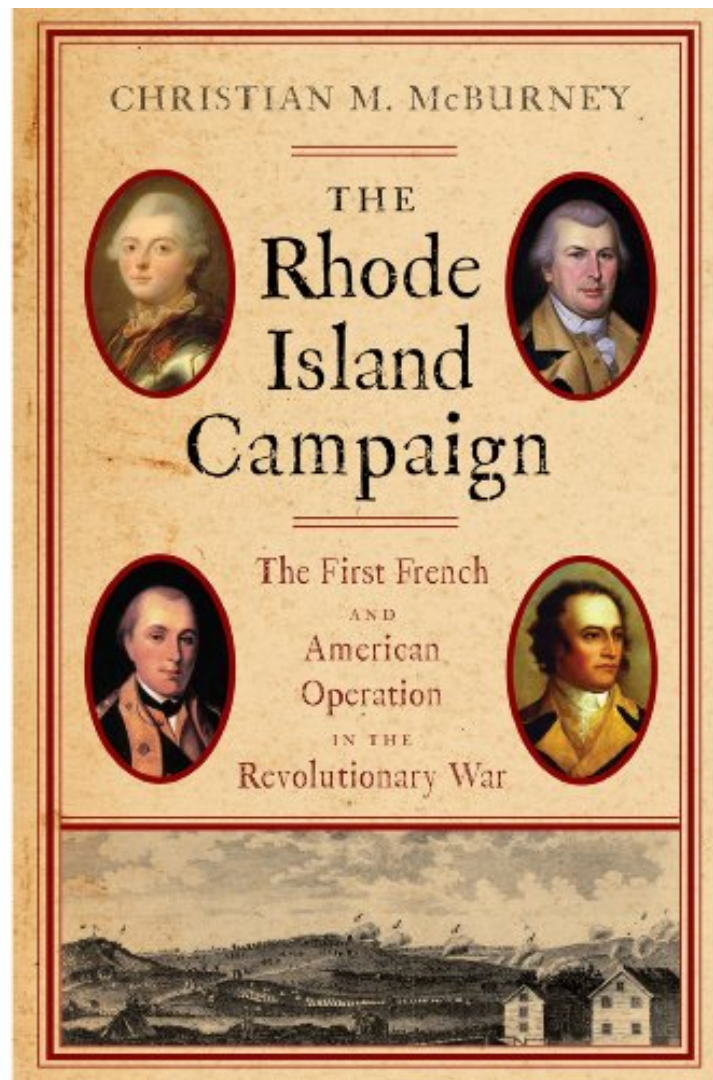


(Free download) The Rhode Island Campaign: The First French and American Operation in the Revolutionary War

The Rhode Island Campaign: The First French and American Operation in the Revolutionary War

Christian M. McBurney

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Christian M. McBurney : The Rhode Island Campaign: The First French and American Operation in the Revolutionary War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rhode Island Campaign: The First French and American Operation in the Revolutionary War:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Smart, Well-Written HistoryBy Jane Comins McCordWhen I picked this up, I expected it to be dry and obscure. But "The Rhode Island Campaign" is not only meticulously

researched and annotated, but well-written and very readable as well--a combination not often found in scholarly works. Although the events of this Revolutionary War campaign are not well known, many of the participants are-- Benedict Arnold, the Marquis de Lafayette, British Admiral Richard Howe, and American General Nathaniel Greene. And the events of the campaign are varied and interesting: privateering, raiding parties, a naval fleet engagement, and ultimately the 17th largest battle of the entire war. The description of the climactic battle is tautly delivered, and the author's concluding assessment of the leaders on each side is backed up by his review of original documentation. This book is a great read whether or not you are a New Englander or student of Revolutionary War history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Masterfully Told Tale of Disastrous Misfortune in the Rhode Island Campaign By Robert D. Remmick This military history is a first rate study, excellently documented and engagingly written. Mr. McBurney described the background of the battle for Newport in detail and even-handedly recorded the battle strategy of Sullivan, the concerns of his erstwhile ally d'Estaing, and the dire consequences of the Great Storm upon the island of Aquidneck. The author gives credit where it is due and places a deserving share of negligence upon the individual state's belated sending of militia forces to the battle site. It is easy in hindsight to blame Sullivan, d'Estaing, or the weather, but McBurney masterfully tells the tale of all three making a genuinely unfortunate set of military circumstances against which no one might have saved the day. In addition, intriguing descriptions of civilian tragedies capture the reader's attention amid the military action. [This book was read by and this review has been written by Helene-Carol Brown, MA, who is considering writing a historical novel about the battle.] The book was purchased by Mr. Remmick for her. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Definitive By Charles T. Loveridge Very detailed but easy to read account of a little known battle. I am new to Rhode Island and wanted to know more about local history. I was able to visit many of the significant battle sites.

On July 29, 1778, a powerful French naval squadron sailed confidently to the entrance of Narragansett Bay. Its appearance commenced the first joint French and American campaign of the Revolutionary War. The new allies' goal was to capture the British garrison at Newport, Rhode Island. With British resolve reeling from the striking patriot victory at Saratoga the previous autumn, this French and American effort might just end the war. As the French moved into the bay, surprised British captains scuttled or burned many of their vessels rather than risk capture, resulting in the most significant loss of warships suffered by the British navy during the war. French Admiral Comte d'Estaing then turned to sea to engage the main British fleet but his ships were scattered and damaged by a huge storm. After his flagship and two other ships were attacked, d'Estaing's squadron was taken out of the campaign. The American army under General John Sullivan, meanwhile, was stranded on a small island near Newport without the expected French naval support. When they tried to retreat off the island, British and Hessian regulars were sent to destroy Sullivan's army; instead of a rout, a running battle ensued that lasted for more than six hours. Continentals, brimming with confidence after their training during the winter of Valley Forge, once more proved that they were an effective fighting force. While the Rhode Island Campaign ended in failure for the Americans and French, there were positive signs for the future of the alliance and the Revolution.

"McBurney has written an important book. Using sources that have heretofore overlooked, he provides a fresh, nuanced, and compelling reinterpretation of the United States's first joint operation. Moreover, he does it with readable style. This work will be the standard for years to come." Dennis Conrad, editor, *Naval Documents of the American Revolution and Papers of General Nathaniel Greene* "The book's success hinges on the personalities, events and local color that marked this particular conflict, which featured warfare on land and sea, and participation from prominent patriots such as John Hancock, Paul Revere and Rhode Island's Nathanael Greene, among others. Colorful descriptions and disagreements and outright insubordination abound, woven into in-depth accounts of military strategy and action, including vivid mentions of dummy soldiers on Butts Hill and fire ships lurking in the bay." Doug Norris, *South County Independent* "[McBurney] gives us a sophisticated maritime history that cannot be detached from events on land... [He] does a deft and thorough job of examining this significant theater of the revolutionary war, and of making his case that it was significant." Patricia Behre, professor, Fairfield University **From the Back Cover** "McBurney has written an important book. Using sources that have heretofore overlooked, he provides a fresh, nuanced, and compelling reinterpretation of the United States's first joint operation. Moreover, he does it with readable style. This work will be the standard for years to come." Dennis Conrad, editor, *Naval Documents of the American Revolution and Papers of General Nathaniel Greene* **About the Author** Christian M. McBurney, a graduate of Brown University, is a partner in a Washington, DC, law firm. He is also the author of another book on the Revolutionary War, the recently-released *Kidnapping the Enemy: the Special Operations to Capture Generals Charles Lee and Richard Prescott* (Westholme, 2014).