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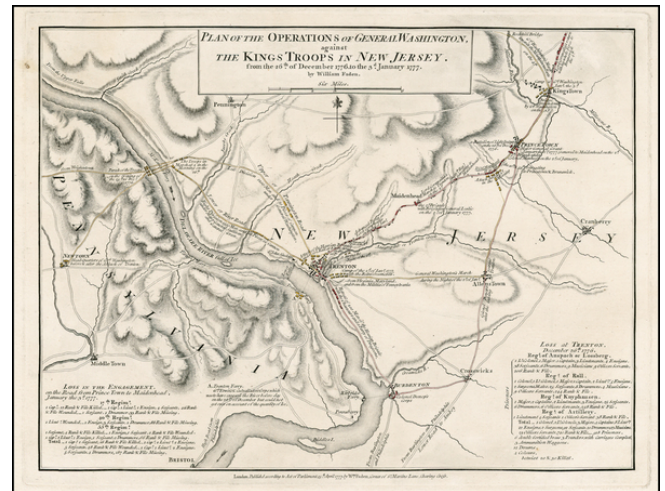
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Plan of the Operations of General Washington, against the King's Troops in New Jersey, from the 26th of December 1776, to the 3d. January 1777, by William Faden

Stock#: 23891
Map Maker: Faden
Date: 1777
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 16 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine example of Faden's plan of the Battles of December 1776 and January 1777, including Washington's crossing of the Delaware River, on Christmas Day, 1776, one of the most important early battles of the American Revolution.

Detailed map illustrating the Theater of War northeast of the Delaware River, illustrating two important early American victories, which helped gain critical support and momentum for the American Revolution.

By late 1776, Washington's forces had been defeated in Boston and overwhelmed in New York by the British Navy, whose massive invasion of the city forced the Americans on the defensive. In December, 1776, the British had seized Newport, Rhode Island. By this time, the British Commander-in-Chief, Sir William Howe, had launched a successful invasion of New Jersey, which forced Washington to retreat to his winter quarters at Newtown, Pennsylvania, shown on the left side of Faden's map.

Washington realized that many troops would not renew their service contracts which were set to expire at year's end and that dramatic action was required to turn the tide. On Christmas Day, while the British troops and Hessian mercenaries were celebrating the holiday, Washington, as noted by Faden's annotation "parade of the troops on the evening of the 25th of Decr. 1776," marched his troops to the banks of the Delaware River and in a scene immortalized in Emanuel Leutze's iconic painting Washington Crossing the Delaware (1851), led his force of 2,400 across the river at "McKenky's Ferry," near Trenton, which was held by a force of 1,400 Hessians under Col. Johann Rall.



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As illustrated by Faden, Washington divided his force into two prongs, one commanded by John Sullivan and the other by Nathaniel Greene. The two forces attacked and defeated the Hessians, with Faden noting the casualties by regiment, rank and role in the table "Loss of Trenton."

On December 30th, a British force under Lord Cornwallis attacked the Americans at Trenton, but failed to retake the town. Washington left a token force in the town to light numerous campfires, fooling Cornwallis into thinking that Washington had decided to make a stand in Trenton. In reality, over the next couple of days the Americans stealthily moved most of their forces around the British positions. Washington dispatched a force under Greene to proceed up the main highway leading into Princeton, with the objective of diverting the British from being able to check a larger force under Sullivan which was to attack the town from the west.

In all 4,600 American troops were to advance upon a British force. Greene's advance brigade under Col. Hugh Mercer encountered formidable resistance from a British line under Col. Charles Mawhood. While Mercer was killed and Mawhood broke the American lines, the British were unable to hold the town from Sullivan's force. On January 3, 1777, the American's seized the British headquarters at Nassau Hall at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton). The Princeton to Maidenhead battle casualties are noted by Faden.

Cornwallis realized that he had been tricked and tried to move his force towards Princeton, but was delayed as the key bridge over Stoney Creek had been sabotaged by the Americans. The Americans withdrew from Princeton to Somerset Courthouse (now Millstone), while the British retreated through a deserted Princeton to the relative security of New Brunswick. In sum, Washington's bold strategy had succeeded in restoring the morale of his force, who had survived the massive British invasion to carry the Revolution into the next campaign season and preserved the cause long enough to demonstrate allow the Americans to continue appealing to the French for support during 1777, which would lead to France's recognition of the United States in February 1778 and Britain's declaration of War on France in March 1778.

Detailed Condition:

Wide margins.