

Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park



Siege of Charleston

Four years after failing to capture Charleston, British forces returned. Under British Commander-in-Chief Sir Henry Clinton, the Siege of Charleston began on March 29, 1780.

For six weeks, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln's patriot forces resisted as the British surrounded and steadily bombarded the city. Maj. Gen. Lincoln surrendered on May 12, with over 5,000 patriot troops being captured.

This was the largest surrender of American troops to a foreign power until the Battle of Bataan in 1942. British forces occupied Charleston until December 14, 1782.