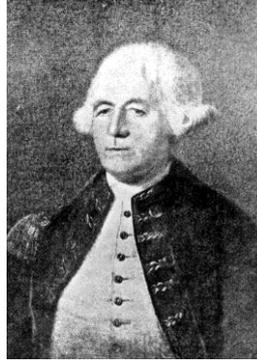


More details of the British military campaign in Florida from 1776

Augustin Prevost became the British Commandant of East Florida, accompanied by the Royal American Regiment. He had fought under General Wolfe at the Battle of Quebec, and recognised that his men could less readily be seen if they did not wear red.

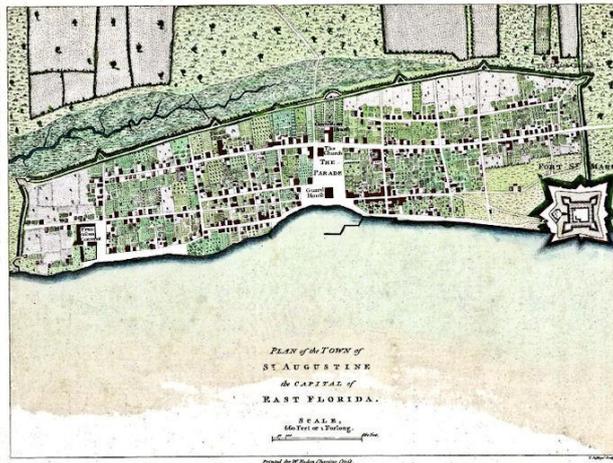


Governor Patrick Tonyn



Augustin Prevost

Hence, the regimental uniform was of neutral colours instead of the red coats. Starting in the spring of 1778, large groups of Loyalist exiles from South Carolina had arrived in Florida, and St. Augustine became crowded with Loyalist refugees. The men formed two small regiments - the South Carolina Royalists and the Royal North Carolina Regiment. Other men enlisted in the Florida Rangers. The British and Loyalist units from Florida performed well against the rebels in battle, mostly winning. By 1779, they had taken most of Georgia.



Governor Patrick Tonyn ordered heavy fortification of the captal, St. Augustine.

However, the rebels requested and invited help from their old enemies, the French and Spanish, as well as the Dutch. Eager to exploit an opportunity for revenge at losing the Seven Years War, these countries obliged. Their intervention made a difference. Now Spanish troops from Louisiana could attack from the West. The prize for Spain was to regain Florida.

British Floridans were shocked by the unfavourable terms of the Treaty between Britain and the new United States, France and Spain. This was a disaster for loyal British Floridan settlers, who were faced with becoming homeless or perhaps staying and being forced to convert to Catholicism under the Spanish Inquisition.

So Florida was ceded back to Spain as a result of the Second Treaty of Paris in 1783, and this resulted in about 20,000 British planters leaving Florida. Some returned to England, while others migrated to the Bahamas and Jamaica or went North to Canada.

But while most moved out, a few did stay, and when the Americans subsequently took control of Florida from the Spanish, ended up becoming part of the Republic of the USA, something which most had previously fought to avoid.