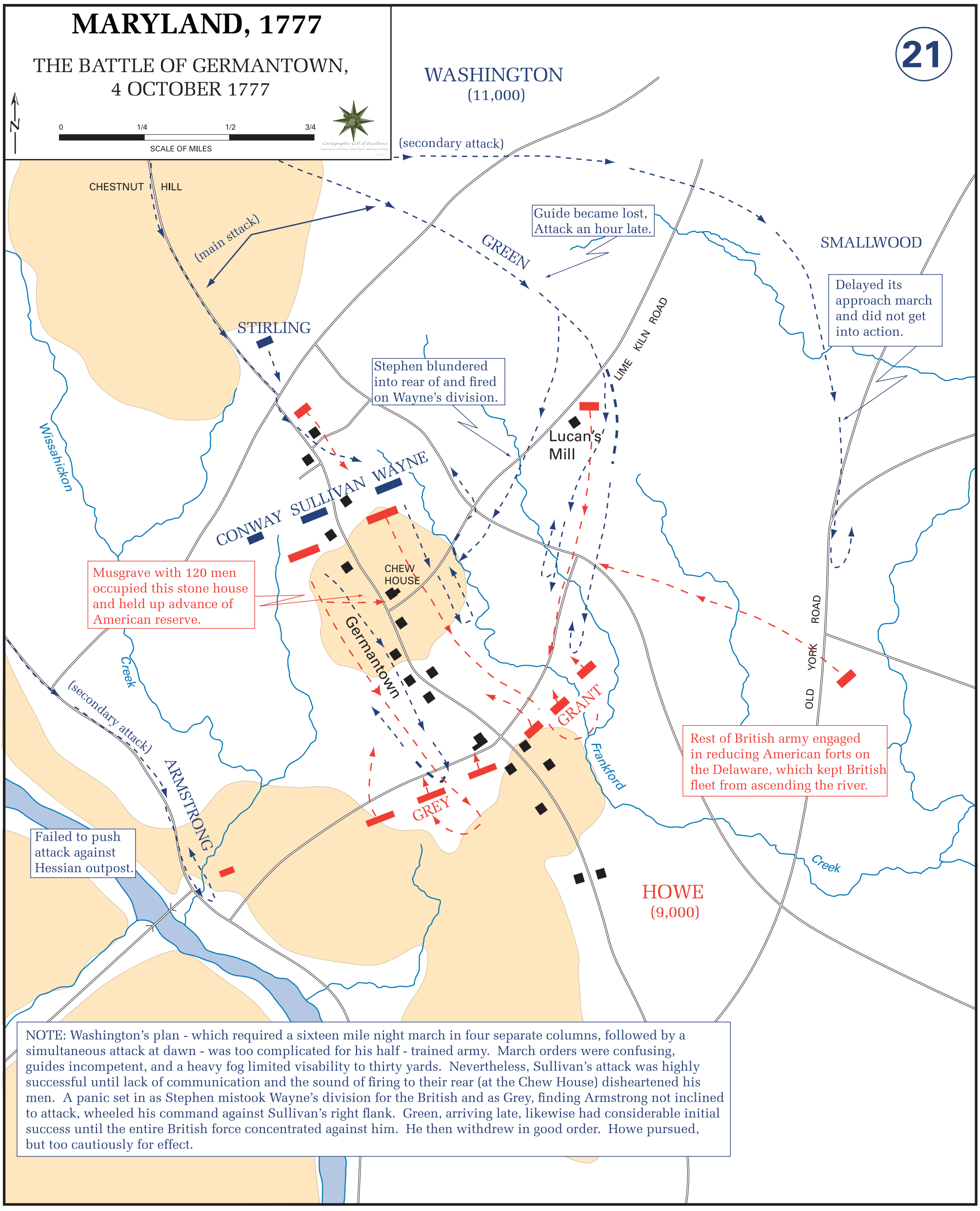
MARYLAND, 1777

THE BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN, 4 OCTOBER 1777



NOTE: Washington's plan - which required a sixteen mile night march in four separate columns, followed by a simultaneous attack at dawn - was too complicated for his half - trained army. March orders were confusing, guides incompetent, and a heavy fog limited visability to thirty yards. Nevertheless, Sullivan's attack was highly successful until lack of communication and the sound of firing to their rear (at the Chew House) disheartened his men. A panic set in as Stephen mistook Wayne's division for the British and as Grey, finding Armstrong not inclined to attack, wheeled his command against Sullivan's right flank. Green, arriving late, likewise had considerable initial success until the entire British force concentrated against him. He then withdrew in good order. Howe pursued, but too cautiously for effect.