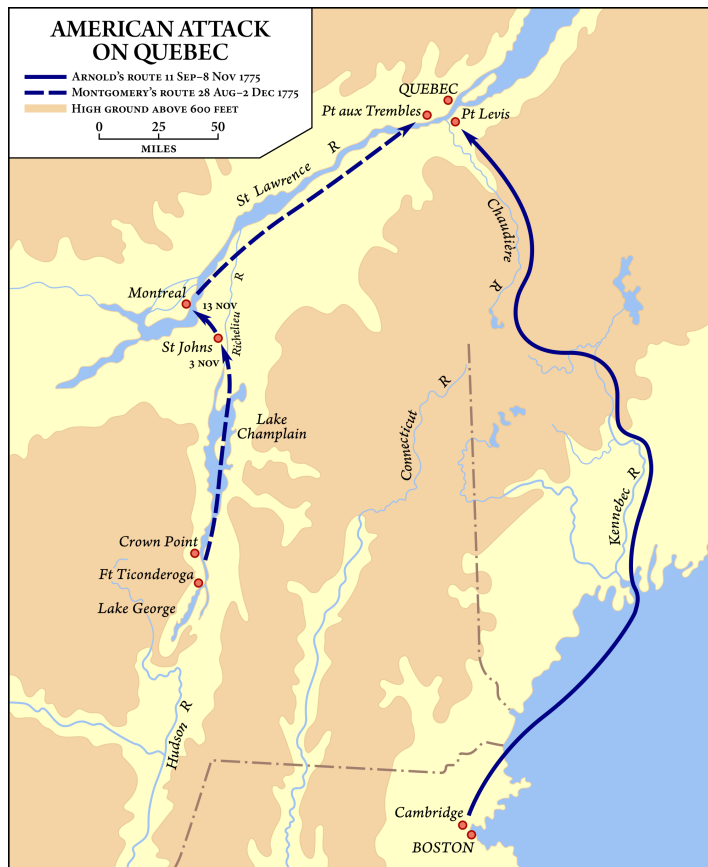


Primary Source  
March to Quebec

## ACCOUNT OF THE MARCH OF GEN. ARNOLD'S ARMY TO QUEBEC

Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1775: All things being in readiness for our departure, we set out from Cambridge...at sunset...We were all in high spirits, intending to endure with (courage) all the...hardships that we might meet...on our march to Quebec.



**September 14:** ...The weather through the day was ...humid and hot for the season...The country through which we passed appeared barren and...thinly inhabited.

**September 6:** Zealous<sup>1</sup> in the cause, and not knowing the hardships and distresses we were to encounter, we...began our march very early... (when) we arrived at Newbury Port where we were to (stay for) several days... We were here to go on board vessels, which we found lying ready to receive us and carry us to the mouth of the Kennebeck River...

**September 17:** ...We passed the review with much honor to ourselves...The spectators...appeared much affected. They probably thought we had many hardships to encounter and many of us should

never return to our parents and families.

**September 18:** We...embarked at 6 o'clock in the afternoon. Our fleet consisted of 11 (boats). Our whole number of troops was 1100 (troops)...

**September 19:** This morning we got under way...our drums beating, fifes playing and colors<sup>2</sup> flying.... Many pretty girls stood upon the shore... weeping for the departure of their sweethearts...At 11...we left the entrance of the harbor...for (the) Kennebeck River. In the...night, there came on a thick fog and our fleet was separated. At break of day we found ourselves in a most dangerous situation, very near a reef of rocks...We were brought

<sup>1</sup> Zealous: enthusiastic or passionate

<sup>2</sup> Colors: flag

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into this deplorable<sup>3</sup> situation (because) of liquor being dealt out too freely to our pilots<sup>4</sup>...but through the blessing of God we all arrived safe in Kennebeck River.

**September 21:** ...we arrived at Fort Western, where we tarried<sup>5</sup> until the 25th in order to make farther preparation for our voyage up the river, and our march through the wilderness....

**September 25:** Early this morning, we embarked on board our (boats)...We labored hard through the day and found ourselves at night...about 7 miles from the place of our departure...

**September 27:** This day we carried our (boats) and baggage (a)round Ticonnick Falls. The land carriage was only about 40 rods (220 yards). After launching in again and getting our provisions and baggage on board, we pushed against' the stream on our way...

**September 28:** This day we proceeded...with great difficulty. The stream was in some places very rapid...and in others so deep...We encountered these hardships and fatigues with great courage and perseverance from the zeal we felt in the cause. When night came on... we had to encamp on the cold ground...

**September 29:** ...we arrived...at Skowhegan Falls....

**September 30:** ...We proceeded...and at sundown encamped in a most delightful wood...I thought that though we were in a thick wilderness, uninhabited by human beings, yet we were as much in the immediate presence of our divine protector as when in the crowded city.

**October 2:** This day we proceeded with unusual perseverance, but as the water was exceedingly rapid, we could advance but slowly. It was but a small part of the way that any thing could be done by rowing or setting...Thus our fatigues seemed (to increase) daily. But what we most dreaded was the frost and cold from which we began to suffer...

**October 3:** This day we carried over Norridgewock Falls...At night we encamped at a place formerly inhabited by the natives and afterwards by the French and Indians... A few inhabitants were now living here, who rendered us some assistance. The temple of worship contained some curiosities, such as crosses, etc. We took up our lodgings here for the night and were much pleased with our accommodations...Having had some better refreshment than usual, we pushed on our way with increased resolution. We had now taken leave of the last inhabitants. The remainder of our route was to be through a trackless wilderness. We now entered a doleful barren woods...

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<sup>3</sup> Deplorable: awful or terrible

<sup>4</sup> Pilots: captains

<sup>5</sup> Tarried: remained or stayed