

GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS CATCH BRITISH SLEEPING AT TICONDEROGA!



NEW YORK – Yesterday, Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, with the aid of Gen. Benedict Arnold, caught the British sleeping at Fort Ticonderoga and gave the patriots their first victory over the Red Coats.

The patriots were able to capture all of the fort's supplies and block any potential British invasion from Canada.

Marching through the cover of night on May 9, Allen and Arnold led their men across Lake Champlain and prepared for the attack. As daylight broke, Allen said to his men, "Friends and fellow soldiers, you have, for a number of years past, been a scourge and terror to (undemocratic) power... I now propose to advance before you, and, in person, conduct you through the gate; for we must this morning either quit our pretensions to valor, or possess ourselves of this fortress in a few minutes..."

Not long after hearing these brave words, the patriots rushed the fort and found the British completely unprepared and unaware of the fate that would befall them. "The garrison being asleep, except the sentries, we gave three (hoorays), which greatly surprised them," Allen said.

After entering the fort, Allen recounts, "The Captain came immediately to the door (in his) breeches, when I ordered him to deliver me the fort...he asked me by what authority...I answered him, 'In the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress.' After little compulsion, the British surrendered the fort and the patriots captured the day.

According to Allen, "the sun seemed to rise that morning with a superior luster, and Ticonderoga and its dependencies smiled to its conquerors..."