

## November in the Revolution

1775

### Canada

November, 1775

General Montgomery captures St. John's Canada. But the victory is costly in that it has delayed the assault on Quebec. On Nov 10<sup>th</sup> Congress dispatches two agents to Nova Scotia to secure information on the sentiments of that populace and their state of military readiness. Nov 13<sup>th</sup> After an easy battle, American troops capture and occupy Montreal, Nov 16<sup>th</sup> in Quebec, a Council of War decides to defend the city by securing troops from naval vessels. Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, General Montgomery writes, "till Quebec is taken, Canada is unconquered." He concludes that an invasion of the city would be inevitable. On Nov 27<sup>th</sup> General Montgomery begins his move on Quebec.

### Boston



November 3, 1775

Washington mourns the destruction of "so many Valuable Plantations of Trees" by soldiers to be used for firewood. He writes that "from Fences to Forrest Trees, and from Forrest Trees to fruit Trees, is a Natural advance to houses, which must next follow. . . " The British within Boston are equally short of supplies as winter begins. On Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, at Phipp's Farm, Massachusetts (also know as Lechmere Point) Americans successfully drive off British soldiers seeking cattle to supply the Boston garrison.

### Essential Supplies

November 6, 1775

The Governor of Jamaica reports to London that "the North Americans are amply supplied with Gun powder and other Military Stores by the French in Hispanola; which is sold at an advanc'd price by the Inhabitants who I find import great quantitys from Old France, finding it such an advantageous article of

Commerce; But I do not learn that they get any out of the Royal Stores or Magazines." In America however, on Nov 10<sup>th</sup> Congress adopts a resolution to encourage the domestic production of saltpeter. Then on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress resolves to permit the colonies to export a fixed amount of provisions to Bermuda, where inhabitants faced starvation, in return for salt, which was badly needed in the colonies. Unlimited quantities of food could be exported if the return cargoes contained military supplies.

## **The Deep South**

### **November 4, 1775**

The Continental Congress agrees to underwrite the cost of raising three battalions for the defense of South Carolina and one for the colony of Georgia. The body also recommends that South Carolina create a new form of government, if necessary. In Britain however Lord Germain informs General Howe on November 18<sup>th</sup> that five regiments were to be sent to the Carolinas. In South Carolina a truce implemented on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> ended two days of fighting between loyalists and patriots at the fortified settlement of Ninety-six. Finally, on November 25<sup>th</sup> the South Carolina Congress resolves "the colony is in a state of actual alarm" and sends additional militia into the interior to reinforce those fighting against the loyalists: The start of the Snow campaign.

### **British Recruiting**

Thanks to the work of Lord North, on November 5<sup>th</sup> King George receives numerous expressions of support for his policies towards the American colonies from communities in England and Scotland. On November 14<sup>th</sup> The King informs Lord North that he has contracted for raising 4,000 German recruits for Great Britain. In Virginia on November 15<sup>th</sup> Lord Dunmore issues a proclamation offering freedom to "all indented Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to rebels,) . . . that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His Majesty's Troops."

## **1776**

### **Retreat Into New Jersey**

Following the Battle of White Plains Washington began a retreat towards New Jersey. The only chance now was to hold Forts Washington and Fort Mifflin on the Hudson River. Washington was of the view that Howe would now move his troops to New Jersey. Leaving three thousand men at Fort Mifflin to defend Albany, Washington would then abandon the forts and move south to defend Philadelphia.

But both General Lee and the commander of Fort Mifflin (General Greene) believed otherwise. Patriots had been coming to Fort Mifflin since Mid October and by November 7<sup>th</sup> close to 3,000 troops were there. Washington wrote General Greene on November 8<sup>th</sup>, "I am therefore inclined to think it will not be prudent to hazard the men and store at Fort Mifflin; but as you are on the spot, leave it to you to give such orders as to evacuate Fort Mifflin as you judge best. Greene chose to remain at Fort Mifflin.

In Philadelphia reports on the Battle of White Plains began to arrive on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The citizenry was in fear that Howe might march through New Jersey to Philadelphia: a fear amplified by a shortage of Salt in the city. The next day Congress ordered the Board of War to confer with the Council of Safety for Pennsylvania on plans to defend Philadelphia should it be attacked by General Howe.

Washington reached Fort Mifflin on Nov 13<sup>th</sup>, only to learn that the New Jersey militia was not coming out. Two days later General Howe's troops began erecting gun emplacements to cover the crossing of the Harlem River. The next morning Howe attacked the Fort on three sides with 8,000 men. In short order the Fort fell, with nearly 3,000 prisoners taken and nearly 35 cannons lost. 2/3 of the prisoners would die in British custody.

Howe stripped the Fort of supplies and then on Nov 18 he renamed the Fort for the Hessian commander, General Kuyphausen. He then ordered a bombardment of Fort Mifflin and landings on

the New Jersey shore. Cornwallis led the unopposed landings on November 20<sup>th</sup>. On hearing of the landings Washington wrote General Lee, ordering him to join him in New Jersey. Lee however stayed in New York. Washington then reported to Congress that he had 5,400 troops but half would leave on December 1<sup>st</sup> when their enlistment expired.

## 1777

### The High Seas



#### November 2, 1777

The USS Ranger, under the command of John Paul Jones, leaves Portsmouth, New Hampshire for France. On November 9<sup>th</sup> a British fleet of 250 ships begins a six-day bombardment of Fort Mifflin to clear the sea approach to Philadelphia. The Americans evacuate on November 15<sup>th</sup> after suffering over 50% casualties. Five days later Fort Mercer on the New Jersey side of the Delaware evacuates in the face of a naval bombardment and 2,000 British troops under Cornwallis.

#### Philadelphia

With Fort Mifflin and Fort Mercer in British hands it was no longer possible to starve the British out of Philadelphia. But the movement of 2,000 troops under Cornwallis to Gloucester New Jersey had given Washington a target.

He detached some troops under General Greene to recon the British lines. Assisting Greene was the Marquis de Lafayette, recently released from hospital after his wounding at Brandywine River. On November 25<sup>th</sup> Lafayette took 350 men and attacked a Hessian force of 400 men. The Hessians were caught completely by surprise and driven back towards Cornwallis main force. Lafayette then returned to Green with only one man killed and five wounded.

## 1778

#### November 11, 1778

Cherry Valley Massacre, New York

A combined Loyalist and Indian force descended on Cherry Valley New York with the goal of destroying as many farms and supplies as possible. Col. Ichabod Alden, in charge of the Fort refuses to believe intelligence about an approaching hostile force of British, Seneca and Mohawks. He would not even move into the Fort, but remained housed outside in the nicer Well's house. Attacking in the snow, the Loyalists and Indians catch the Patriots by surprise, killing Alden as he tried to reach the Fort. 40 colonials are killed, 70 more made prisoners and every home around the Fort is burned before the raiders move on.



## 1780

### The Carolina Game Cock

General Cornwallis has had enough of the attacks by rebels like Thomas Sumter and Francis Marion. As he dispatches Tarleton against Marion, he sends Major James Wemyss after Sumter. Wemyss, "the second most hated man in the British army," locates Sumter's camp at Fishdam Ford in early November. He commands 250 men to Sumter's believed 300 and thus he believes he can capture the game-cock easily in a surprise attack on **November 9, 1780**.

But Sumter is both aware of Wemyss presence and has just over 500 men. When Wemyss attacks, Sumter's men do not panic, drawing up their lines and fighting back. Wemyss suffers 10% casualties, including himself who is wounded twice and captured.

With Wemyss defeated Cornwallis recalls Tarleton and sends him after Sumter. He catches up with the patriot General at Blackstocks Farm by the Tyger River on November 20<sup>th</sup>. but he too under estimates Sumter who is actually waiting for him with now close to 1,000 men. Tarleton legion is badly mauled and forced to retreat: but Sumter is also wounded and forced to relinquish command to General Greene. With Sumter's forces added to his own Greene is now a major force in the Carolinas.

### Raid on Long Island New York,

#### November 21-23, 1780

Known more for his leadership of the Culpeper Spy ring, Benjamin Tallmadge was also a major in the Army. On November 21<sup>st</sup> he landed a force of 300 Continentals from Connecticut at Mount Sinai and moved south to burn Fort St. George. He then stops at Coram to burn over 300 tons of hay and supplies the British were stockpiling for winter. The raid a success, Tallmadge then returned to Connecticut on November 23rd.

## 1781

### The Carolinas

#### November 7, 1781

Turncoat William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham leads 300 Tories against 30 Patriots commanded by Captain George Turner at Cloud Creek, South Carolina. All but two Patriots are killed in the ensuing massacre. This starts a two month long rampage by Cunningham which only ends when Andrew Pickens goes after him in late December.

#### November 18, 1781

While patriots chase Cunningham, British Major James H. Craig, commanding 400 to 450 British regulars, has been ordered to evacuate Wilmington North Carolina. The British only captured the harbor town on February 1, before the battle at Guilford Courthouse. Now with Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, large numbers of patriot forces were moving to reinforce Nathanael Greene in South Carolina. Craig takes with him any Loyalists who wish to leave the town and leaves by ship to Charleston. Patriots re-enter the city by the following morning.

## 1783

November 3, 1783

The Continental Army disbands.

November 25, 1783

The British army evacuates from New York City, their last military position in the United States during the war.