Henry Knox Cannon Trail

In May of 1775 Colonels Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured Ticonderoga and Crown Point, two British forts on Lake Champlain in upstate New York. American Patriots were jubilant. They had foiled the British to surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781.

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On June 16 the Second Continental Congress appointed George Washington commander in chief of the Continental Army besieging Boston. Washington was honored but worried. He assumed command on July 3. The colonists did not have enough gunpowder and heavy artillery to drive the British out of Boston.

Henry Knox was appointed superintendent of the army’s nearly nonexistent artillery and charged with the siege. Washington liked the idea that the bookish, soft-spoken Knox, ardent artillery officer in charge of the army’s nearly nonexistent artillery and charged with the siege. Washington liked the idea that the bookish, soft-spoken Knox, ardent artillery officer and his officers debated whether to sit tight or attack. As the siege dragged on into the fall, General Washington and his officers debated whether to sit tight or attack.

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Knox, accompanied by his 19-year-old brother William and a servant, arrived at Lake Champlain on December 5 and selected 59 artillery pieces for the 250-mile trek to Boston.

On January the last of Knox’s “noble train of artillery” arrived in Cambridge. By early March, with Knox’s heavy guns arrayed on Dorchester Heights, Washington was ready to bombard the British entrenched in Boston. Recognizing they were trapped and with plans to take New York, the British troops—accompanied by many Loyalists—began to leave. On March 18 the British take New York, the British troops—accompanied by many Loyalists—began to leave. On March 18 the British take New York, the British troops—accompanied by many Loyalists—began to leave. On March 18 the British take New York, the British troops—accompanied by many Loyalists—began to leave. On March 18 the British take New York, the British troops—accompanied by many Loyalists—began to leave.
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

With the British in control of Boston, the British under the command of General William Howe and Admiral Richard Howe turned their attention in 1776 to New York. On June 10, 1781, Rochambeau’s troops left Newport, R.I., with the French cavalry, headed south toward Yorktown, Va., where the British were massing troops. The allies camped at Mount Vernon, Wash. D.C., and Yorktown. You may enter the W3R in New York State from Peekskill, N.Y., or from Providence, R.I., and follow it through New York—camping at Peekskill, Yorktown Heights, and Salem—to route to Boston, where they boarded ships for the Caribbean.

The Route Today

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) makes a series of route and event maps that detail the Swamp Quarters and the Cape Henlopen, Delaware. The route passes through nine states and the District of Columbia between Newport, R.I., and Yorktown.

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Sybil Ludington’s Ride

Sybil Ludington is not as well known as Paul Revere, but she took a midnight ride. On April 30, 1776, the 19-year-old rode a 40-mile circuit in the lower Hudson River Valley to warn members of her father’s militia that the British were burning Patriot homes and supplies across the border in New York. The militia helped drive the British back to their ships in Long Island Sound. The statue of Sybil Ludington, by Anna Hyatt Huntington, stands in Carmel, N.Y., on the Henry Knox Cannon Trail.

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

On June 10, 1781, Rochambeau’s troops left Newport by boat to Providence, where they began a three-week march north across Connecticut to Ridgefield, Conn., in September. They then crossed the Hudson into New York and joined the Americans at Greenwich.

In August, Washington learned that Admiral Francois Paul, Comte de Grasse, was sailing with his fleet to the Chesapeake Bay. He left a small force in New York and, with a 2,500-man force, marched south toward Yorktown, Va., where the British were massing troops. The allies camped at Mount Vernon, Wash. D.C., and Yorktown. You may enter the W3R in New York State from Peekskill, N.Y., or from Providence, R.I., and follow it through New York—camping at Peekskill, Yorktown Heights, and Salem—to route to Boston, where they boarded ships for the Caribbean.

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