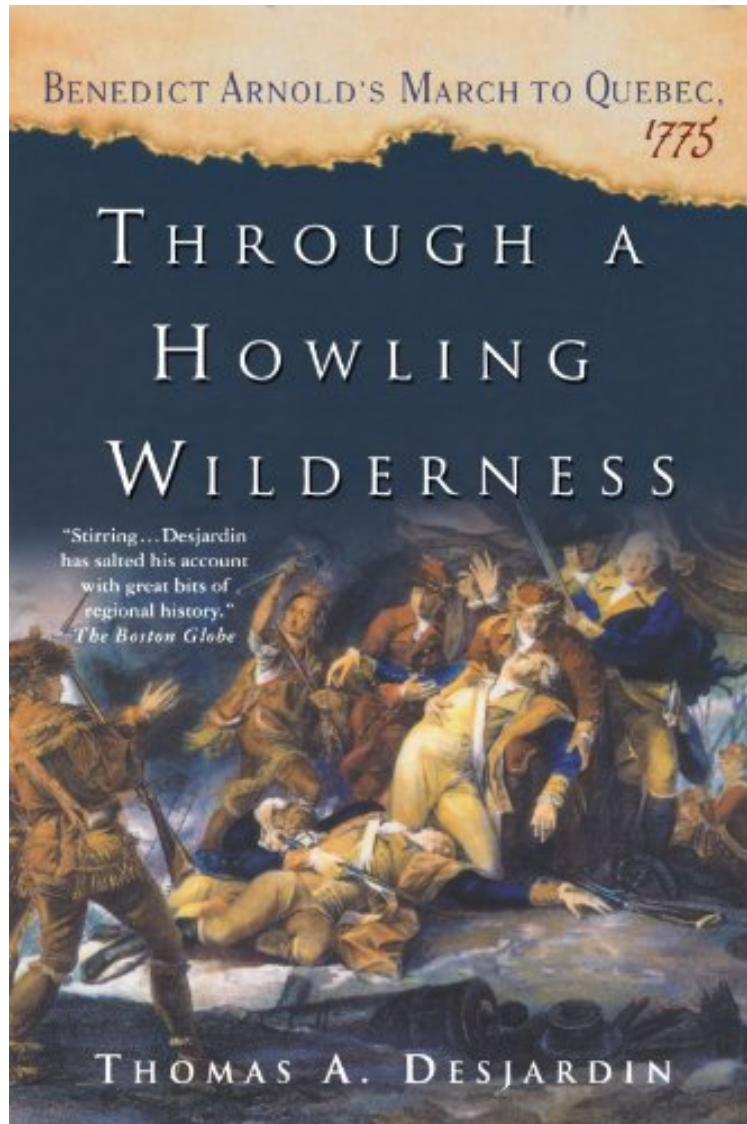


[Get free] Through a Howling Wilderness: Benedict Arnold's March to Quebec, 1775

## Through a Howling Wilderness: Benedict Arnold's March to Quebec, 1775

Thomas A. Desjardin

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#719460 in Books Thomas A Desjardin 2007-11-13 2007-11-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .58 x 5.50l, .75 #File Name: 0312339054256 pages Through a Howling Wilderness Benedict Arnold s March to Quebec 1775 | File size: 44.Mb

**Thomas A. Desjardin : Through a Howling Wilderness: Benedict Arnold's March to Quebec, 1775** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Through a Howling Wilderness: Benedict Arnold's March to Quebec, 1775:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. American Fortitude Defined By Mimi Coffey This unbelievable trek

through the wilderness of Canada and Maine has reached almost mythical dimensions. There were times in the book where I had to put it down because I was so upset and disappointed at the near misses which could have turned the tide of the Battle of Quebec. What if they had just launched the attack once they reached Quebec without delay? What if Enos had not retreated with 100 men? What if it had been a dry night and their muskets had all fired? The end of the book gives some solace as to how (even though a defeat) this trek can be calculated into the overall equation of contributing to the American Revolution victory. Men eating shoe leather, dying from frostbite, wading through icy waters carrying hundreds of pounds above their shoulders (their bateauxs), wasting time and precious energy on unproductive trails,.... This book is a triumph of the human spirit. It really makes you proud of our men who really gave it their all in the name of American Independence.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Makes my teeth shiver

By Cabin Dweller

The march, as can be seen through Thomas A. Desjardins title, was the battle. The romanticism of New England in the fall, starting actually in mid-September, is mixed and then overwhelmed by food spoiled in nautical difficulties, exposure, and geographical uncertainty. Benedict Arnold and the confidence George Washington had in him would be the least of the worries. This was over three years before Arnolds July, 1779 plan to give away Westpoint. The British troops guarding Quebec were limited and the French-speaking inhabitants were non-committal or pro-American. The aloofness of Guy Carleton foreshadows the other British leaders who always read as if they will take their brandy now. The Native Americans discussed in Arnolds, and vicariously by his subordinates, plans never became much of a factor, friend or foe, although a figure named Sabatis played some intriguing role as the warring parties came closer to conflict. The march ultimately proved unsuccessful, many of Arnolds men taken captive. The Battle of Saratoga that followed showed that an army of Continental soldiers could stand and fight with the British. As it turned out, however, the failure of Arnolds men to seize the citadel of Quebec probably played a significant role in helping the colonials gain their ultimate goal of independence, says page 197. Desjardin argues that the British would have responded forcefully to Canada and Washington would have diverted his own plans away from the colonies themselves. Arnold is shot and relieved twice in the narrative, once pertaining to Quebec. He relinquishes to Colonel Campbell after being shot in the leg on page 179, and in the Epilogue General Gates takes command at Saratoga, where Arnolds horse rears, collapses on him, and Arnold claims he wished he had been shot through the heart instead. I did mark three anecdotes of the gentlemanly and nave nature of warfare, which also marked in the book the first of gruesome warfare. On page 142: Ogden took a drummer along on his delivery errand [of a letter from Arnold asking proposing British surrender] When he was about 250 yards from the Saint John Gate, the defenders made their intentions clear by means of an eighteen-pound cannonball that belched forth from atop the walls. The next day, Ogden went to clarify any potential misunderstanding, this time the drummer begging off, and the same ball came flying. On page 145, a Continental Sergeant named Dixon was shot below the knee. During and after surgery for the fatal wound, Dixon refused to drink tea, a product whose taxation had helped launch the sentiments that led to the war. It was an abomination and the ruin of my country. There is also the other folly in military matters. After months of arduous, death-defying travel, many of the expedition arrived to a point that had also consumed over 130 pages of the book. Desjardin seems to write the chagrined sentences with a wry, apologetic grin: With Montgomery just a few days march away, every man now had to contemplate the fact that they could have avoided all their wretched struggles had they reached Quebec by the same route that the general had taken.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Pain and Suffering in the Maine Wilderness

By Bill Emblom

The name Benedict Arnold immediately brings to mind the word "traitor". However, before his treason Arnold was a great asset in America's war for independence from England. This book details the great suffering Arnold and his men endured on their march through the Maine wilderness on their way to assault the fortified city of Quebec, Canada. General Montgomery's early death in the battle in addition to Arnold's leg injury played significant roles in the attack's failure. However, as author Thomas Desjardin points out, an American victory at Quebec would have made it necessary for America to commit troops to Canada in its defense thereby weakening the American force at Boston. Failure at Quebec led to a victory at Saratoga which weakened the British in America and convinced the French to enter the war in support of America. If Arnold felt unappreciated by the military it was because he was. A jealous Horatio Gates, the leader at Saratoga, ignored Arnold's efforts at Saratoga while gentleman Johnny Burgoyne of the British praised him. The book is interesting reading and the title is certainly is appropriate given the difficulty of the march to Quebec.

Before Benedict Arnold was branded a traitor, he was one of the colonies' most valuable leaders. In September 1775, eleven hundred soldiers boarded ships in Massachusetts, bound for the Maine wilderness. They had volunteered for a secret mission, under Arnold's command to march and paddle nearly two hundred miles and seize British Quebec. Before they reached the Canadian border, hundreds died, a hurricane destroyed canoes and equipment and many deserted. In the midst of a howling blizzard, the remaining troops attacked Quebec and almost took Canada from the British simultaneously weakening the British hand against Washington. With the enigmatic Benedict Arnold at its center, Tom Desjardin has written one of the great American adventure stories.

From Publishers Weekly

In June 1775, Benedict Arnold having not yet turned traitor, and, indeed, lionized as one of the

13 colonies' great military hopes proposed an invasion of Quebec. He thought a successful attack might dispose King George to redress the colonists' grievances. With General Washington's approval, Arnold gathered together a group of soldiers and headed north. Desjardin (*These Honored Dead: How the Story of Gettysburg Shaped American Memory*) describes the grueling expedition. The soldiers quickly ran low on food, and, among other disasters, a canoe was ripped apart by a tree branch, almost costing half the men their lives. Eventually, some of the troops made it to Canada, and after backup arrived, they attacked Quebec. Though the attempt was unsuccessful and Arnold was wounded, he was praised for simply having made it from Maine to Canada. Desjardin's account is able, though at times melodramatic ("Thousands of issues must have weighed heavily upon Arnold's mind") and cute (two centuries before Dr. Atkins, Arnold's men "discovered the weight-loss capacities" of low-carb eating). Perhaps the most important section is the epilogue, in which Desjardin suggests that a successful attack on Quebec might actually have hampered the fight for American independence. (Jan. 8) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Rather too late in 1775, American generals Benedict Arnold and Richard Montgomery set off to assault Quebec, the main fortress of British Canada, at the head of an exceedingly modest force of Continental soldiers. They faced grueling portages, swamps, insects, trackless forests, hostile Indians, Quebecois not eager to be liberated by the staunchly Protestant New Englanders, and supply shortages of every conceivable kind. They finally reached Quebec in the dead of winter, to find it desperately defended by the British. After attempting a siege, they assaulted the walled city. The assault failed, with Montgomery killed and Arnold wounded, which Desjardin, state historian of Maine, suggests may have been a fatal blow to the campaign. The survivors retreated even more precariously than they had advanced. Thoroughly researched and well written, this is likely to be the standard history of the campaign for some time to come. Roland Green Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. Desjardin is able to portray fascinating, vivid characters, more human and more credible than the leaders who organized the expedition. Associated Press [A] stirring account... Desjardin has salted his account with great bits of regional history. The Boston Globe In an age of bloated, overstuffed history books... Desjardin has pulled off this feat in just 240 pages of terse, well-hewn prose. The Bangor Daily News Thoroughly researched and well written, this is likely to be the standard history of the campaign for some time to come. Booklist Desjardin recounts the march in descriptive, detailed prose studded with visceral imagery . . . A vivid narrative of a vital American event.' Kirkus s [A] highly readable book. The Journal Star One of the great adventure sagas in American history . . . This is a story that helped shape the American Revolution, dramatically told in this highly readable new book. James Kirby Martin, author of the award-winning *Benedict Arnold, Revolutionary Hero: An American Warrior Reconsidered* A model of accessible, vigorous narrative history, *Through a Howling Wilderness* re-creates an important but largely forgotten episode in early American history and tells a fascinating story in the bargain. Jackson Lears, Board of Governors Professor of History, Rutgers University