

# Americans Take Fort Ticonderoga, Gaining Cannons for Boston Siege

## "Shot Heard Round the World"

Offered here is the historic June, 1775 issue of *Gentleman's Magazine*, disbound, 48 pp., without the [map of 100 miles round Boston](#). This issue is chock full of contemporaneous accounts of the revolutionary agitation in America, with the highlights being the first accurate and complete reports on the battles of Lexington and Concord and the first report of the American seizure of Fort Ticonderoga and the cannons that would be critical to chasing the British out of Boston in 1776. Also included in this historic issue are the following:

The full text of a letter by Connecticut Governor Trumbull demanding answers from General Gage on the unprovoked atrocities committed by his troops at Lexington and Concord.

The full text of the reply of General Gage to Governor Trumbull asserting that his troops are merely on the defensive and that his troops acted properly at Lexington and Concord and suggesting that the British offer to let the American colonies tax themselves may be a basis for resolving the conflict.

Speculation that Americans are to appoint Generals Washington, Lee or Putnam as commander in chief of continental army

"Gen. Gage has given positive orders that no person shall go out of Boston."

"All the colleges in New England, having been voluntarily resigned by the students, are turned into barracks for the Provincial troops."

Several reports of the increasingly restive state of the American colonies following the reports of the battle at Lexington and Concord, including an insurrection in New York City.

A description of town of Boston in 1775.

Below are some pictures of those topics starting with the index on the title page showing the extensive coverage of the American conflict.

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Below are three excerpts from the British report of what happened at Lexington and Concord.

ACCOUNT of the PROCEEDINGS of  
the AMERICAN COLONISTS, since  
the passing the Boston Port-Bill.  
Continued from p. 230.

**I**N our last Magazine we gave an imperfect account of a skirmish that happened between a detachment of the King's troops, and a body of the Provincials, who had assembled to oppose their designs.—The following particulars of that affair have since been published by authority in the London Gazette.

“General Gage, having received intelligence of a large quantity of military stores being collected at Concord, for the avowed purpose of supplying a body of troops to act in opposition to his Majesty's government, detached, on the 18th of April, at night, the grenadiers of his army and the light infantry, under the command of Lieut. Colonel Smith, of the 10th regiment, and Major Pitcairne, of the marines, with orders to destroy the said stores; and the next morning eight companies of the 4th, the same number of the 23d, and 49th, and some marines, marched under the command of Lord Percy, to support the other detach-

“ Lieut. Col. Smith, finding, after he had advanced some miles on his march, that the country had been alarmed by the firing of guns and ringing of bells, dispatched six companies of light infantry, in order to secure two bridges on different roads beyond Concord, who, upon their arrival at Lexington, found a body of the country people drawn up under arms on a green close to the road; and upon the King's troops marching up to them, in order to enquire the reason of their being so assembled, they went off in great confusion, and several guns were fired upon the King's troops from behind a stone wall, and also from the meeting-house and other houses, by which one man was wounded, and Major Pitcairne's horse shot in two places. In consequence of this attack by the rebels, the troops returned the fire, and killed several of them; after which the detachment marched on to Concord, without any thing

cord, they were very much annoyed, and had several men killed and wounded, by the rebels firing from behind walls, ditches, trees, and other ambushes; but the brigade under the command of Lord Percy having joined them at Lexington, with two pieces of cannon, the rebels were for a while dispersed: but as soon as the troops resumed their march, they began again to fire upon them from behind stone walls and houses, and kept up in that manner a scattering fire during the whole of their march of 15 miles, by which means several were killed and wounded; and such was the cruelty and barbarity of the rebels, that they scalped and cut off the ears of some of the wounded men, who fell into their hands.

Included in the issue, shown in part below, is the full text of an affidavit by a British soldier captured at Concord, that was used as evidence of the American view of the conflict.

hill to disperse them. On our approach they retreated towards Concord. The grenadiers continued the road under the hill towards the town. Six companies of light infantry were ordered down to take possession of the bridge, which the Provincials retreated over. The company I commanded was one. Three companies of the above detachment went forwards about two miles; in the mean time the Provincial troops returned, to the number of about three or four hundred. We drew up on the Concord side of the bridge. The Provincials came down upon us, upon which we engaged, and gave the first fire. This was the first engagement after the one at Lexington: a continued firing from both parties lasted through the whole day. I myself was wounded at the attack of the bridge, and am now treated with the greatest humanity, and taken all possible care of, by the Provincials, at Medford.

*Edward Thoroton Gould,*  
Lieut. of the King's own regiment.  
*Medford, April 25, 1775."*

Below is a portion of the letter from Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut to General Gage and the start of Gen. Gage's reply.

tions. We wish not to exaggerate; we are not sure of every part of our information; but, by the best intelligence that we have yet been able to obtain, the late transaction was a most unprovoked attack upon the lives and property of his Majesty's subjects; and it is represented to us, that such outrages have been committed, as would disgrace even barbarians, and much more Britons, so highly famed for humanity as well as bravery. It is feared, therefore, that we are devoted to destruction, and that you have it in command and intention to savage and desolate

tion will, we doubt not, sufficiently apologize for the earnestness with which we address you, and any seeming impropriety which may attend it, as well as induce you to give us the most explicit and favourable answer in your power. I am, &c. &c.

JONATH. TRUMBULL.

*His Excellency Gen. GAGE's Answer to the foregoing Letter.*

SIR, Boston, May 3, 1775.

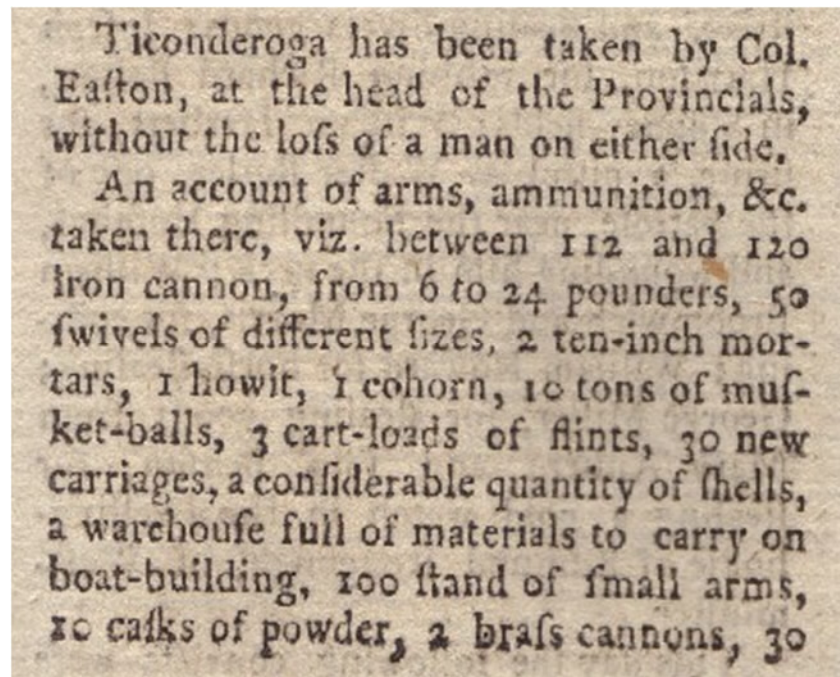
I AM to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th of April last, in behalf of the General Assembly of

Below is a report on the impact of reports of Lexington and Concord, including an armed insurrection in New York City which resulted in the capture of British cannons.

This unhappy affair has had amazing effect throughout every part of America. The city of New-York, which was looked upon as the most moderate, is now become the most violent: the inhabitants have had recourse to arms, and surrounded the few King's troops that were posted there for the protection of the well-affected, in such a manner, that they expect to be cut to pieces, unless they deliver up their arms; and when the letters came from thence the Provincials were removing the cannon to a strong pass, about 18 miles off, where a camp was then forming, with tents and all military requisites. Many families were, at the same time, retiring into the country, some returning to England, all business at a stand, the port stopt up, and, in short, the whole city in the utmost confusion.

Below is an excerpt from the first report of the capture of Fort Ticonderoga by Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys and Benedict Arnold. The seizure of Ticonderoga was later critical to kicking the British out of Boston after young Henry Knox (later General Knox) conceived of and executed a bold plan to drag the cannon across New York and Massachusetts in the middle of winter to invest Dorchester Heights.

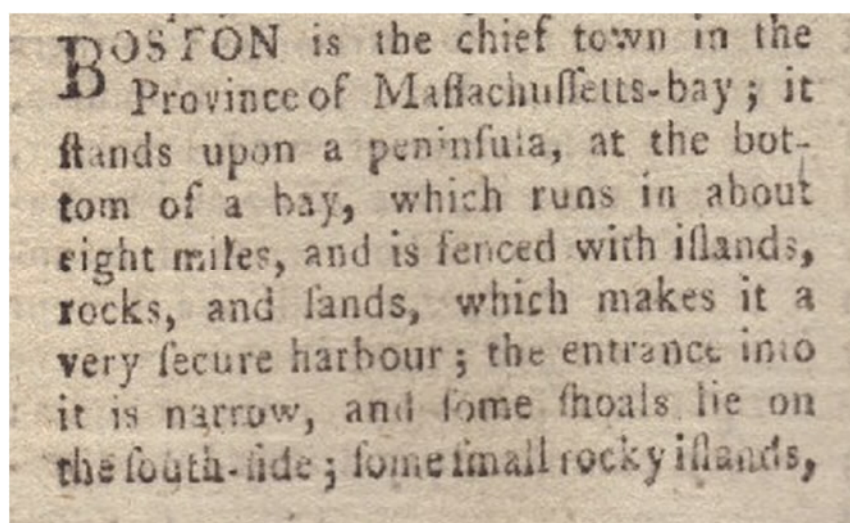
(see next article in the [southbostonparade.org/history](http://southbostonparade.org/history) section)



Ticonderoga has been taken by Col. Easton, at the head of the Provincials, without the loss of a man on either side.

An account of arms, ammunition, &c. taken there, viz. between 112 and 120 iron cannon, from 6 to 24 pounders, 50 swivels of different sizes, 2 ten-inch mortars, 1 howit, 1 cohorn, 10 tons of musket-balls, 3 cart-loads of flints, 30 new carriages, a considerable quantity of shells, a warehouse full of materials to carry on boat-building, 100 stand of small arms, 10 casks of powder, 2 brass cannons, 30

Below is the start of the description of Boston in 1775.



**B**OSTON is the chief town in the Province of Massachusetts-bay; it stands upon a peninsula, at the bottom of a bay, which runs in about eight miles, and is fenced with islands, rocks, and sands, which makes it a very secure harbour; the entrance into it is narrow, and some shoals lie on the south-side; some small rocky islands,

The events at Lexington and Concord were memorialized by Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1836 in his poem "Concord Hymn" in 1836 for the dedication of the Obelisk, a battle monument in Concord, Massachusetts that commemorated the contributions of area citizens at the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;  
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;  
And Time the ruined bridge has swept  
Down the dark stream that seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,  
We set to-day a votive stone;  
That memory may their deeds redeem,  
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare  
To die, and leave their children free,  
Bid Time and Nature gently spare  
The shaft we raise to them and thee.

This wonderful issue gives rich full text of reports, letters and accounts of the Battle of Lexington and Concord and the impact of the battle in energizing opposition to British rule throughout the American colonies.