



National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Boston Support Office News Release

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Public Meetings for the Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Study

BOSTON, MA—The National Park Service is planning to hold three regional public meetings for the study of the Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route. At the meetings, the NPS project team will explain the purpose and process of the study and interested parties can express concerns, make suggestions and raise issues concerning the future direction and development of the study. The meetings are as follows:

Hartford, Connecticut on Thursday March 14, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Stanley Room of the South Congregational Church, 277 South Main Street.

Yorktown, Virginia on Saturday, March 16, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Theater 2 of the Yorktown Visitor Center, Colonial National Historical Park, located at the intersection of Route 238 and Colonial Parkway.

Trenton, New Jersey on Saturday, April 6, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Old Barracks Museum, on Barrack Street.

Those persons who cannot attend, yet wish to comment, or who require further information, are invited to contact Brian Aviles, Project Manager, at the National Park Service's Boston Support Office, 15 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572, (617) 223-5319, -5164 fax, or via email at Brian_Aviles@nps.gov.

Additional meetings will be held in other locations over the course of the study. In May, for instance, the NPS is planning to hold a seminar for scholarly review of the historical significance of the 1781 march. Tentative plans are to hold this in New York State. Future project updates will provide information about this event. Please continue to utilize the NPS website, www.nps.gov/revwar/links.htm for additional information.

French General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, sailed into Newport in July of 1780 with an army of 5,000 officers and men. After wintering in Newport, Rochambeau's army marched through Rhode Island and Connecticut, in June and July of 1781, and joined General George Washington's Continental Army in Phillipsburg, New York. Abandoning the idea of attacking New York, held by the British under General Clinton, they devised instead a southern campaign to attack General Cornwallis in Virginia. In August and September, Washington's and Rochambeau's armies marched through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, reaching Williamsburg in late September. Together they attacked and held under siege the British-fortified town of Yorktown. A French fleet under the command of Admiral De Grasse blocked the Chesapeake Bay to either reinforcement from New York or sea escape from Yorktown. On October 19, 1781, after three weeks of siege, General Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington, marking Yorktown as one of the most decisive American victories in the War for Independence. Rochambeau and his army wintered in Williamsburg, then marched back in the summer of 1782. While small contingents stayed in different ports and left for France the following year, the bulk of Rochambeau's army sailed from Boston on Christmas Eve 1782. In all, nine colonies formed the route and supported the march, providing ports, roads, camp sites, officers' lodging, provisions of food and supplies. These colonies are today the states of Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Massachusetts.

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