



THE ARNOLD/ANDRÉ STORY TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK OUR COUNTRY

Follow the final fateful days of British Major John André through the Hudson River Valley to his capture and execution 225 years ago.

21 September 1780

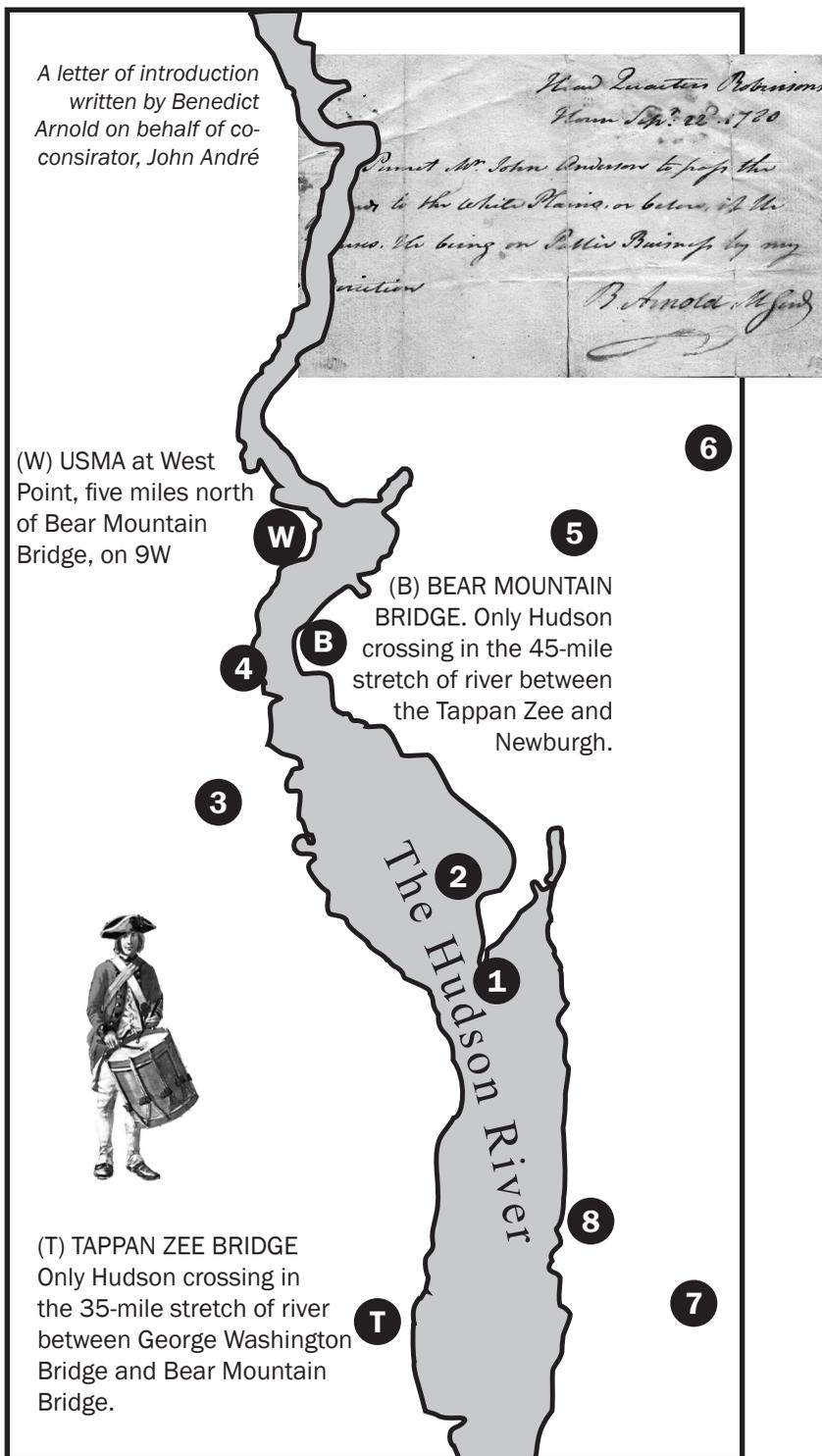
1 HAVERSTRAW BAY, off TELLER'S (Croton) POINT.

On Royal Navy's HMS *Vulture*, British Major John André, adjutant general to General Sir Henry Clinton commanding the King's forces in North America, arrives for a nighttime rendezvous ashore with American Major General Benedict Arnold to affirm personally his agreement to sell out West Point. In return Arnold will receive: a general's rank in the British Army; adequate compensation for the loss of his Connecticut real estate; and the equivalent of \$200,000 in cash.

2 HAVERSTRAW BEACH.

André is rowed ashore by Joshua Hett Smith, of Haverstraw, the "Third Man" in Arnold's treason plot. The discussion proves too long, forcing him to spend the night at the Treason House.

R. M. Stagg's "The Capture of Major John André," courtesy of the Historical Society, Inc. Serving Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown



22 September 1780

3 THE HAVERSTRAW "TREASON HOUSE," (Helen Hayes Hospital).

Mounting a spare horse André conceals his British major's uniform. The party passes American lines on its way to Smith's "safe" farmhouse. Later, the conspirators are awakened by the boom of a pair of cannons across the river. They watch with fear from an upstairs window as the *Vulture*, under fire from a Patriot battery on Teller's Point, cuts her cables and drifts out of sight. André has to find a new route back to New York City.

4 KING'S FERRY.

Shaken, Arnold rides off to his command at the Robinson House near West Point. First, he persuades André to replace his uniform with some of Smith's old clothes, hiding the espionage documents in his boots. Smith guides André to the ferry crossing from Stony Point to Verplanck (and Fort Lafayette).

5 CROM-POND ROAD.

Smith and André ride through the outskirts of Peekskill on the Crom-Pond Road. They bed down overnight at a friendly farmhouse.

23 September 1780

6 UNDERHILL HOUSE.

Breakfasting at another farmhouse, Smith tells André that this is as far as he can go. He gives him a special pass, signed by Arnold, for a "John Anderson," and rides off. The soldiers guarding Pine's Bridge pay little attention to "Anderson" or his pass. For the first time, André feels as free as a bird.

7 MILLER FARMHOUSE.

Choosing the road to White Plains, André stops for a drink of water and learns of American military activity below. He reverses his route, down Hardscrabble and Gorey Brook Roads, coming out on the Albany Post Road at a point south of Philipse's Upper Mills at Sleepy Hollow.

8 (NORTH) TARRYTOWN.

Posted behind a screen of bushes, three American militiamen are whiling away the late summer afternoon. One of them, John Paulding, wears a cast-off British military coat; only a week before he had escaped from a New York City prison. Springing into the road with a cry of "Halt!," Paulding draws a bead on André and orders him off his horse. André dismounts and the militiamen search him. Nervous and confused, André gives himself away, believing that the men he faces are Loyalists. The militia leader

takes his pass and shoves it in his pocket. Turning down Andre's gold watch, the militiaman responds by pulling off Andre's new boots, discovering Arnold's plans. The party immediately heads for Sand's Mill (now Armonk), the nearest American headquarters.

9 THOMAS WRIGHT'S MILL (Sand's Mill).

The American commander, Colonel John Jameson, puzzles over Andre's pass. The next morning he decides to send him to the commanding general at West Point, Benedict Arnold.

24 September 1780

10 ON THE ROAD.

On routine patrol, Major Benjamin Talmadge arrives at Sand's Mill. Learning of Jameson's curious prisoner, Talmadge persuades Jameson to recall Andre and his guards. But the confused messenger continues towards the Robinson House, Arnold's headquarters, with the incriminating documents.

11 SOUTH SALEM JAIL.

Talmadge recognizes contradictions in Andre's declaration of innocence and shifts him 11 miles northeast to Bouton Road in South Salem, where Andre is held for a second night.

25 September 1780

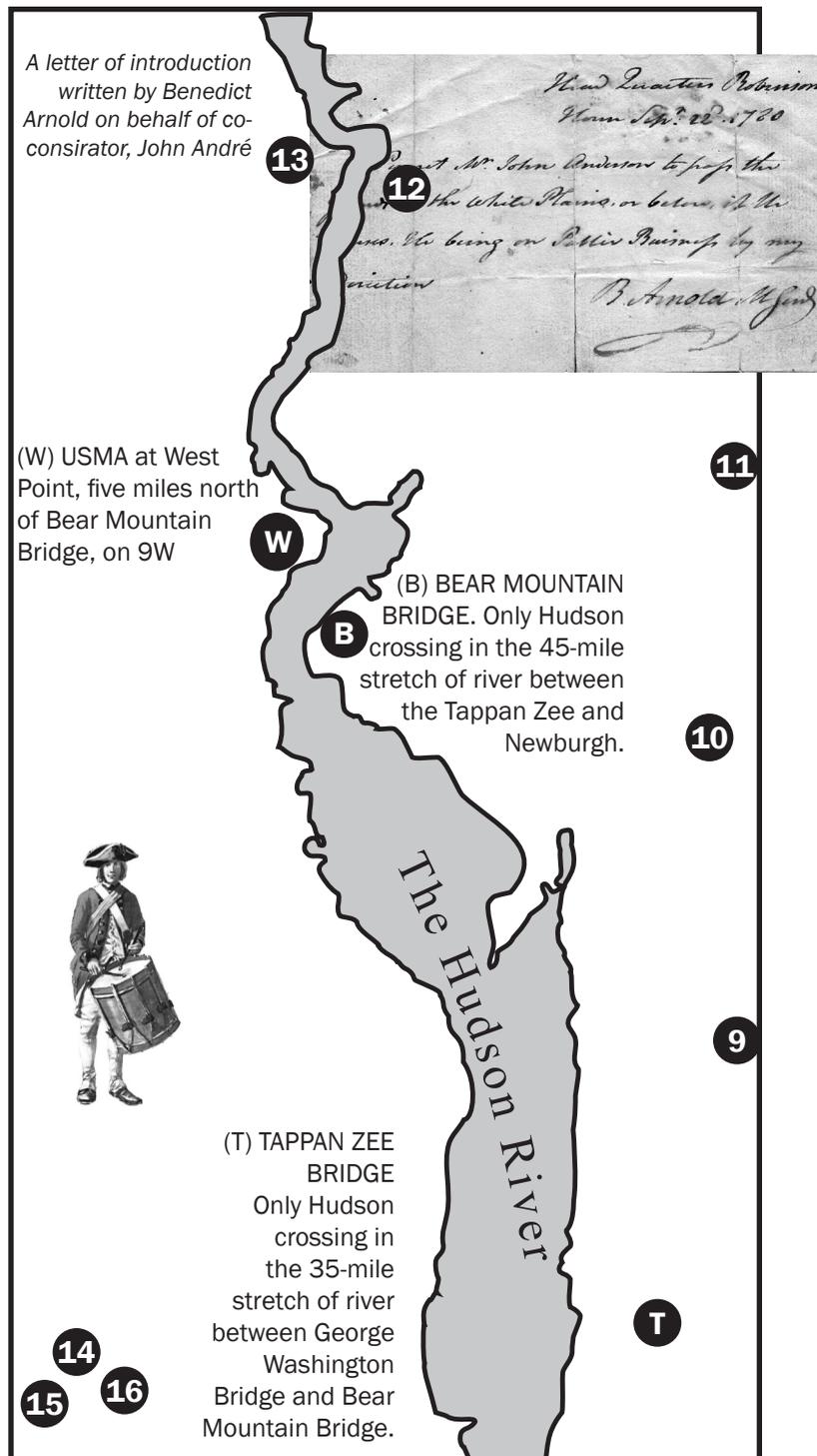
12 ROBINSON HOUSE.

Andre realizes he will soon be unmasked and writes a personal letter to Washington revealing his identity. He implicates Arnold but says nothing about Smith (who is later arrested). Meanwhile, Jameson's "missing" messenger with the written details of Arnold's plot reaches the General's headquarters. Arnold, thunderstruck, races upstairs for the briefest of farewells to his wife. He jumps on a horse and flees to his barge at a dock on the Hudson River. He orders the eight surprised oarsmen to row him down river past Teller's Point to the *Vulture*. Washington arrives at the Robinson House from Hartford and finds his trusted general's absence inexplicable. As he studies the proofs of Arnold's treachery, another messenger arrives with Andre's personal letter. Washington immediately dispatches Alexander Hamilton with orders to cannonade Arnold's barge as it passes King's Ferry and fort Lafayette. The commander in chief also takes steps to transfer Andre to West Point and then to Tappan, New York, near his headquarters.

28 September 1780

13 MABIE TAVERN. (The Old '76 House Restaurant)

Carefully guarded, Andre is lodged in a makeshift jail in Tappan.



29 September 1780

14 TAPPAN DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH.

Washington convenes a court martial of 14 of his leading generals and officers, with General Nathanael Greene presiding. Its purpose was to determine whether Andre--no matter under whose orders he was operating--went behind the American lines at Haverstraw concealing his British uniform under a cloak. Under the rules of war, this simple fact made him a spy, and subject to be hanged. The court finds Andre guilty of espionage.

1 October 1780

15 DE WINT HOUSE.

Official letters and surreptitious notes fly back and forth between British headquarters in New York City and Washington's headquarters at the de Wint House in Tappan. Andre will hang unless he can be exchanged for Arnold. This the British would never do. Andre writes to Washington asking that he be shot, rather than hanged. Washington concedes a single day's delay in the sentence. The execution is rescheduled for 2 October.

2 October 1780

16 GALLOWS HILL.

Final exchanges between the two commanders in chief prove fruitless. At noon, Andre, flanked by two American officers, walks half a mile to the gallows on a hill west of town, and is hanged. He will eventually be buried in Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey.

LINCOLN DIAMANT
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