

# AUGUST 19, 1781: Continental Army breaks camp and begins the march to Virginia

*"August 20th, 1781"*

According to orders, we commenced our line of march yesterday, a party of pioneers being sent forward to clear the road towards King's-bridge [bridge to Manhattan], and we expected immediately to follow in that direction; but an army is a machine, whose motions are directed by its chief. When the troops were paraded for the march, they were ordered to the right about, and, making a retrograde movement up the side of the North [Hudson] river, we have reached King's-ferry [at Verplanck], and are preparing to cross the Hudson at this ferry."

*Military Journal of the American Revolution*

by Dr. James Thacher, surgeon assigned to Col. Alexander Scammel's light infantry

