

Print

Mort de Montgomery devant Québec

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This black ink print depicts a battle scene. In the foreground, soldiers are carrying gaggled rifles. In the background, a group of people hold a collapsed man in their arms. Flags fly in the background.

Accession Number 2022.40.110

Date 1837

Medium and Support ink, paper

Technique engraving

Historical context

During the American War of Independence (1775-1783), the Americans wanted to seize the province of Quebec to avoid the arrival of British reinforcements. They laid siege to Fort Saint-Jean south of Montreal from September 18, 1775, which surrendered on November 3. Montreal was occupied on November 13. American soldiers under the command of General Richard Montgomery (1736-1775) then left to join Benedict Arnold's (1741-1801) troops in laying siege to Quebec City. Faced with the arrival of British reinforcements in Quebec in May 1776, the American army, severely weakened by epidemics, retreated and left Montreal in June.

This print depicts Montgomery's death during an American assault on Quebec City on the night of December 31, 1775. It was taken from a painting by American painter John Trumbull (1756-1843) in 1786. Vernier's print appeared in the book *United States of America* by Frenchman Jean-Baptiste-Gaspard Roux de Rochelle, published in Paris in 1837.