



# Loose Files and American Scramble

Scenario for Andy Callan's  
*American War of Independence rules*

Fort Saint Jean  
17 September 1775

## Historical Background

After several futile attempts earlier in the month, a force of close to 2000 Americans, under the command of Brigadier Montgomery, has moved on Fort St. Jean which blocks their invasion route to Montreal.

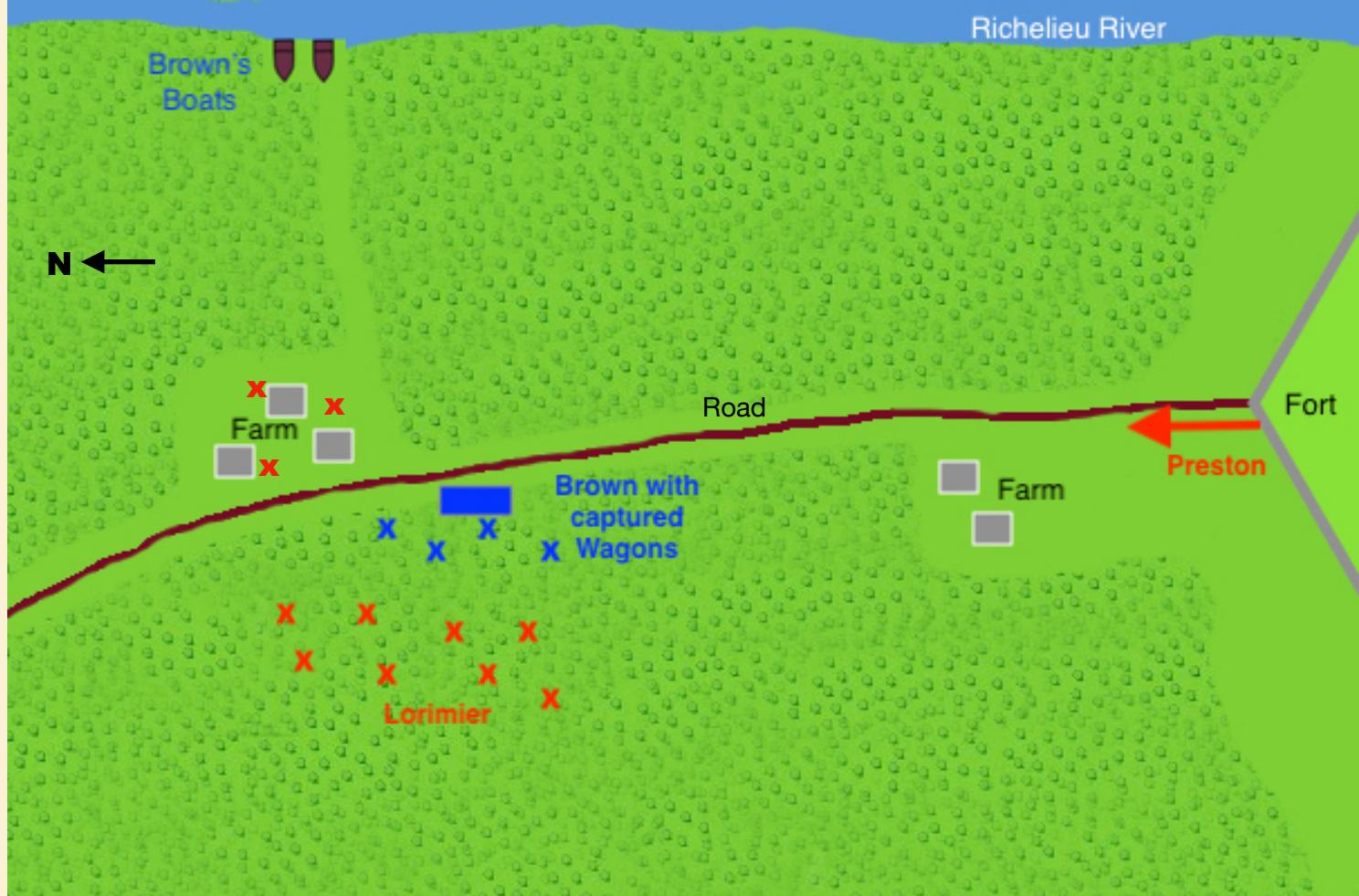
The fort garrison of 750 men is commanded by Major Charles Preston. He has had ample warning to provide for a siege, clearing fields of fire and stocking ammunition. The fort is situated on the west bank of the Richelieu River and has a landing dock. The river is patrolled by a schooner — The Royal Savage.

Guillaume, Chevalier de Lorimier, now a Major in the British army, has been influential in securing support from the Kahnawake Mohawks who know him as Teiohatekon. Lorimier led 100 Mohawks to drive off an American probe earlier in the month. Native support for the British has, however, been undermined by American diplomacy conducted by Ethan Allen and John Brown. Their diplomacy has also had an effect on the local French *habitants* although Major Preston has been able to raise some militia from amongst them.

Montgomery has sent John Brown with a boat-borne detachment to block the road going north from the fort to Montreal. Brown's men have succeeded in capturing a convoy of supplies destined for the fort. Major Preston is leading a sortie to recover the goods.

Lorimier, leading a small force of Mohawks and Habitants, has already started to engage Brown's men as British regulars and provincials advance north from the fort. Alerted by gunfire and a runner from Brown, Montgomery has sent Timothy Bedel with his New Hampshire men, by boat, to extricate Brown and the captured supplies.

## The Battlefield



The action takes place to the north of Fort St. Jean. There is a road between the fort and Montreal to the north. The Richelieu River is to the east, running from south to north.

The area around the fort has been cleared for several hundred paces. The area is heavily forested apart from the farm clearings and the sides of the road.

The west bank of the Richelieu is marshy. All movement beyond cleared areas will be very difficult without local knowledge.

**Scale:** 1 base (3 figures) = 10 men



*John Brown's men come under fire from Mohawks and Habitants as they secure the captured supplies.*

## American Order of Battle

### **John Brown:** 3 Command Points (CPs)

- 1 Company New York Militia (6 bases) 4th Class, may skirmish.
- 9 bases Skirmishers, 4th Class

Brown's men are on the Montreal road to the west of the Richelieu where his boats are beached. After successfully capturing a British supply convoy he has come under attack from Mohawks and Habitants hidden in the forest. He has formed a skirmish line to fend off the attack and protect the captured supplies.

### **Timothy Bedel:** 3 CPs

- 1 Company New Hampshire militia (8 bases), 4th Class
- 1 Company New Hampshire militia (8 bases), 4th Class
- 1 Company Continentals (6 bases), 3rd Class
- 1 Company Green Mountain Boys (6 bases), 3rd Class, may skirmish

Embarked on boats Bedel is attempting to extricate Brown's men and the captured supplies. The boats will land on the west bank of the river and then he must lead his men through the forest and swamp to reach Brown and to see off the British sortie. He may choose his landing place.



*Timothy Bedel's men advance through the forest to extricate Brown.*

# British Order of Battle



*The Royal Highland Emigrants*

**Guillaume de Lorimier:** 4 CPs

9 bases Mohawk skirmishers, 4th Class

9 bases French Habitants skirmishers, 5th Class

**Major Preston:** 3 CPs

1 Company (6 bases) 7th Foot, Royal Fusiliers, 2nd Class

1 Company (6 bases) 26th Foot, Cameronians, 2nd Class

1 Light Company (4 bases) drawn from both regiments, 1st Class, may skirmish

1 Company (4 bases) Royal Highland Emigrants, 3rd Class, may skirmish.

Lorimier's Mohawks are engaging the Americans from hidden positions in the forest as shown on the map. Some of the Habitants may be deployed defending the northern farm. Preston is marching from the fort along the road. Two medium guns from the fort ramparts may engage any enemy in sight and range.



*Major Preston advances*



*Major Guillaume, Chevalier de Lorimier*

## British Victory Conditions

Captured supplies brought back to the fort +20

The majority of Brown's men fail to escape +10

Each enemy leader killed +5

Each casualty -5

## American Victory Conditions

Each base of Brown's men extricated +3

Supplies kept out of enemy hands +10

Bonus if supplies successfully extricated +5

Each British Regular casualty +5

Each enemy leader killed +5

Each casualty from Bedel's force. -5

