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When General George Washington learned that General Benedict Arnold had turned traitor, he was devastated. Washington was anguished at Arnold's treachery because Arnold had played such a valuable role in the Revolution. Arnold had led the expedition into Canada, stopped the British at Valcour Bay, and led the daring attack at Saratoga. Washington was also shocked because Arnold had been so dedicated to the patriotic cause. Arnold's dedication was shown when he left his successful business, spent his own money to help the cause and even came back to the fighting when congress passed over him for promotions. For a man so dedicated to the cause to turn traitor, was a serious blow to American morale.

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Benedict Arnold, the Fighting General, was probably one of the most famous people in the American Revolution. He was arguably the best military leader on the American side, so it's easy to see why Washington would be so disappointed that he went traitor. Arnold had led the brave campaign into Canada to Quebec where he was wounded in the leg. Arnold soon became well known for his bravery and bold fighting style.

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Before the battle of Valcour Bay, General Gates had told Arnold to build a fleet to protect Fort Ticonderoga from the British and Arnold using the very few supplies he had as well as could have been hoped. General Gates had also told Arnold that he was to position his fleet in front of the fort and if he wasn't able to hold off the British to sail back to the fort. But instead Arnold decided that he should attack the British, at a better place than in front of the fort. So he sailed his fleet north to Valcour Bay where he waited for the British fleet. The wind that day was blowing hard south, so he decided to wait for the British to pass by him so that he could have the advantage of the wind being behind him.

Even with his small fleet, Arnold had managed to hurt the British quite badly, but as night fell, the British trapped him in the bay. The British planned to finish him off in the morning, but in the middle of the night Arnold managed to slip right between the British ships and escape. The British, having been held up for a long time, were unable to continue on to Fort Ticonderoga and sailed away. Arnold had held off the British, and was acclaimed a hero, even though he had very plainly disobeyed Gates orders.

Arnold was also the hero of the Battle of Saratoga. He came up with the brilliant way to trick the Indians into leaving the British army, so that they wouldn't fight the Americans. To scare the Indians into leaving he had a man who was a little mentally retarded go to the Indians camp and say that Benedict Arnold was coming with a huge force and that the Indians should leave. The Indians, who thought mentally retarded people might be some connected to the Great Spirit, believed him, and tried to warn St. Leger. But, when he wouldn't listen, the Indians went into a rage and started grabbing all the guns and supplies they could. In the commotion, British soldiers came out of their tents and the Indians started attacking them before running away. So Leger decided to turn back because he no longer had any Indian help and a lot of supplies had been taken.

After Arnold's quick victory over Leger, he went back to help Gates. He had a large argument with Gates though and was relieved of his command, but he decided to keep

fighting. In one of the battles he <sup>led</sup> led a very brave attack through the British lines winning a huge victory for the Americans, but in the battle his leg was seriously injured. He was again praised for his heroism, but was unable to continue fighting because of his leg.

Arnold was not only very useful to the cause but he was also one of the most dedicated to it. He had left his profitable business to start fighting, and had even spent his own money for supplies and artillery. He spent a lot of money buying supplies to build ships to defend Fort Ticonderoga because Congress couldn't pay for it. He had also spent a lot of money buying artillery for a company in Connecticut, which had come in very handy. He had given everything he had to the Patriot cause, and even when Congress insulted him by passing him over in promotions, he had still come back to continue fighting.

Arnold was a brave and very good military commander whose victories may very well have saved the Revolution. He seemed one of the most dedicated to the cause, and him going over to the British really surprised Washington. Washington lost one of his best military leaders but was also worried about whom else as dedicated as Arnold would simply give up on the cause and go over to the British.

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