

0. PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION - Story Preface

1. PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION

2. FAILURE TO ATTACK

3. WAS IT COWARDICE?

4. MORE ABOUT REVERE and THE EXPEDITION



One of the ships that sailed to Penobscot was a vessel known as *Providence* (after it was put into Continental service). A sloop, she was 65 feet long. Fully staffed, she had 6 officers, 22 seamen and 26 Marines. When she was assigned to Commodore Saltonstall's squadron, she reached Penobscot Bay July 25, 1779.

W. Nowland Van Powell created this painting of the *Providence*. Released into the public domain, this painting is universally available under [CCO 1.0](#) and is online via the U.S. Navy Art Collection (and Wikimedia Commons).

Revere was a Lt. Colonel in the American militia. Four years after his famous "midnight ride," he was commander of land artillery in the Penobscot Expedition, the worst naval disaster in American history until Pearl Harbor.

The American plan was to eliminate British occupation in the area of Castine, Maine along the Penobscot River. It should have been an easy job.

The British had a half-built fort and about three guns. Nine hundred Americans sailed to Penobscot Bay on twenty-one armed, and twenty-four unarmed, transport vessels. It was July 25, 1779.

The British were desperate—they could see they were out-manned, out-gunned, and in trouble. But—the Americans did not attack. Their commander of the fleet, Dudley Saltonstall, didn't believe his intelligence reports.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PENOBSCOT-EXPEDITION-Paul-Revere-Treason-Trial>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

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Media Stream



View of Castine, Maine

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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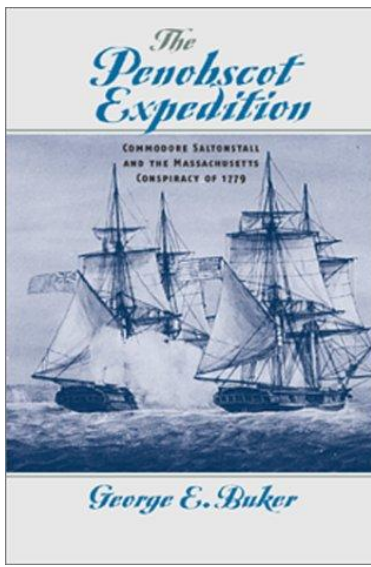
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View of Penobscot Bay

Image online, courtesy the midcoast.com website.

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The Penobscot Expedition - by George E. Buker

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