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**America's Revolution (112) – Battle of
Charlestown Heights – II**

Lead: In the 1700s the United States broke from England. No colony in history had done that before. This series examines America's Revolution.

Intro: *A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts.*

Content: The British Army under General Gage was locked up in Boston by New England Patriot regiments surrounding

the city. Gage was also severely exposed should American forces occupy the heights, particularly those over the village of Charlestown: Bunker Hill, Breed's Hill and Moulton's Hill, 110, 75 and 35 feet high respectively. His fears were realized when word leaked out of his intention to fortify those hills and colonial military leaders led by Artemas Ward moved to grab the Charlestown Heights especially Bunker Hill.

Ward chose Colonel William Prescott, a cool, orderly officer to lead American forces to invest the hills. He commanded a Massachusetts regiment and was joined by two others and an entrenching party from Brigadier Israel Putnam's Connecticut volunteers. On the night of June 16, 1775 they left their mustering ground in Cambridge and arrived about 9:00 PM at the Charlestown "Neck," the narrow strip of land connecting the triangular-shaped

peninsula to the mainland. Oddly enough, contrary to Ward's instructions they began reinforcing Breed's Hill not Bunker Hill. The main defense would be on the Charlestown side of the Hill and consisted of a square fortification, 130 feet square bounded by a v-shaped extension in the direction of Charlestown. The troops dug all night and soon six-foot high walls marked the boundary of the Breed's Hill defenses. Prescott then extended his line of earthworks with a 330-foot extension in the direction, but not all the way to the Mystic River. He later would realize his vulnerability and cover the river-side path of attack. Next time: British strategy.

At the University of Richmond's School of Professional and Continuing Studies, I'm Dan Roberts.

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