

## Chapter 9

# The Revolutionary War

### THE WAR BEGINS IN THE NORTHERN COLONIES

ON TUESDAY NIGHT, April 18, 1775, about midnight, General Gage dispatched troops on a supposedly secret mission to capture the cannon and military supplies at Concord. As the infantry approached Lexington, the ringing of bells and the roll of drums warned the British regulars that their march was known. By five o'clock in the morning of April 19, about a hundred colonists with loaded muskets were gathered on the Lexington green near the meeting house. Scarlet uniforms appeared in the gray morning light. The soldiers halted to load their guns. The colonial militia did not budge, as they were under orders not to fire the first shot.

“Disperse, you villains! Lay down your arms!” called out Major Pitcairn, the British officer in charge.

The colonists did not obey immediately. Pitcairn gave the order to surround the militia. In the confusion, shots were fired. Three British soldiers were wounded and eight militiamen were killed. The British continued the march to Concord where they destroyed a few cannon, burned sixteen new carriage wheels, and chopped

down a liberty pole. Most of the supplies had been hidden in the woods. When British soldiers began to tear off the planks of the bridge crossing the river, militiamen gathered to stop the destruction, and shots were fired on both sides. As such action had not been anticipated, British officers ordered a retreat to Boston for further orders. Along the way, the regulars were fired upon from behind walls and trees, houses and barns, by marksmen who seemed “to drop from the clouds.” During the eventful day, the British lost 65 killed, 183 wounded, and 28 who were made prisoners. The colonists or provincials had 49 killed, 39 wounded, and 5 who were missing. Thus began a long and bitter struggle, the American War for Independence.

### BREED'S HILL IS ATTACKED

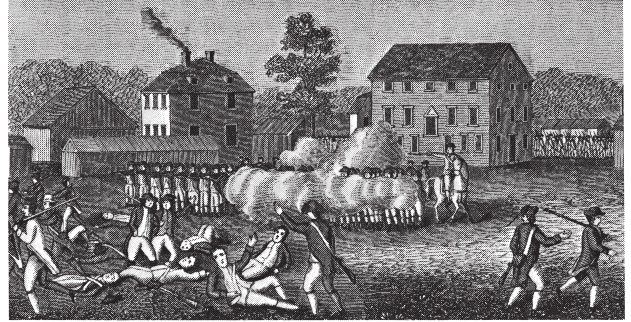
COLONEL WILLIAM PRESCOTT, with orders to fortify Bunker Hill, decided to include Breed's Hill and began there. All night soldiers were busy building defenses of earth and, as protection from heavy shells, walls made of rail fences stuffed with newly cut grass. Before they could get

to Bunker Hill, the battle began on Breed's Hill. One of the officers, Israel Putnam, who had hurried to Boston from his farm in Connecticut, took command under Prescott. Smoking a pipe, "Old Put," who had served in the French and Indian War, walked back and forth among his men shouting the order, "Don't one of you shoot till you see the white of their eyes!" Ammunition was scarce. The British charged the hill three times before the patriots ran out of powder. Although troops were arriving and some were at work building defenses on Bunker Hill, the actual battle of that name was fought on Breed's Hill.

In this battle, the British lost one-third of their men, killed or wounded. Gage was replaced in Boston by General Howe who had led the British troops on three charges up Breed's Hill. The Americans suffered a great loss in the death of Dr. Joseph Warren, a political leader as well as a physician. Boston was occupied by British troops and war had begun, not only for Massachusetts but for all the thirteen colonies. The colonies were not united in their determination to prosecute the war. The burden of the conflict fell upon the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia, with John Hancock presiding.

Two days before the Battle of Bunker Hill, Congress had resolved to appoint a commander for the American armies which were being recruited from volunteers. A delegate from Maryland nominated Colonel George Washington of Virginia, who was unanimously elected commander-in-chief of the colonial forces. In accepting the appointment, Washington said:

Mr. President, Though I am truly sensible of the high honor done me in this appointment, yet I feel



#### SKIRMISH AT LEXINGTON

Among the Minutemen was an artist who made this sketch of the battle from eye-witness accounts. The largest building was the meeting house; the one with two chimneys, the tavern. Major Pitcairn, on horseback, is ordering his British regulars to fire upon the Minutemen who had gathered on the village green during the night. However, historians have not been able to prove who fired the first shot.

great distress, from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important trust. However, as the Congress desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty, and exert every power I possess in their service, and for the support of the glorious cause. —As to pay, sir, I beg leave to assure the Congress that, as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept the arduous employment at the expense of my domestic ease and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact amount of my expenses. Those, I doubt not, they will discharge, and that is all I desire.

On the twenty-first of June, Washington left Philadelphia, arriving in New York four days later. It was there that he first heard of the battle on Breed's Hill in Boston, on June seventeenth. At nine o'clock on the morning of July 3, 1775, on Cambridge Common, Washington took command of the Continental Army, an untrained group of men from all walks of life. Several days later, Washington called a council of his officers, who voted to maintain the siege of Boston. During the remainder of the sum-



mer, neither army felt strong enough to make an attack. Both followed a purely defensive policy. Washington was busy establishing discipline and training raw recruits to fill his regiments, and he also gave much attention to outfitting privateers to harass the enemy. The year ended without a major battle.

However, when Washington took command in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the "Green Mountain Boys" who had captured Crown Point and Ticonderoga were back on their New England farms after a brief fling at war. Benedict Arnold, one of the officers at Ticonderoga, was anxious to proceed with the invasion of Canada before the forces of Sir Guy Carleton, governor of that British province, were increased with regiments from overseas.

About the middle of August in 1775, a committee from the Continental Congress visited Washington at his headquarters. There a plan was made to invade Canada with armies approaching from two directions. Major General Philip Schuyler, belonging to a Dutch patroon family with a large estate near Albany, was given command of one army. He was to advance north through the Hudson Valley to capture Montreal. Benedict Arnold took charge of 1100 hardy men detached from Washington's army. He left Cambridge in the middle of September to follow the route of the Kennebec River in Maine. He planned to join forces with Schuyler for the attack upon Quebec.

Arnold's men started up the Kennebec in flat-bottomed boats which they paddled up stream, carried around seventeen waterfalls, and pushed through swamps. Hastily built from green lumber, the boats leaked and supplies were ruined. Sometimes, the men waded in slushy swamps up to their armpits during storms of rain, snow, and sleet. The

troops depended upon salmon trout for food, although sometimes they chewed on their moccasins to ease the pangs of hunger. One company roasted the captain's dog. Arnold and a party went ahead to buy food from French Canadians, who were friendly but not much interested in joining the colonial armies. However, they took sick and wounded men into their homes and cared for them.

By the time Arnold's army reached the St. Lawrence River, one fourth of the troops had been lost from exposure or desertion. With bare feet on frozen ground, this small force appeared before the fort in Quebec where Arnold attempted an assault. The British, snug and warm inside, made no reply, leaving Arnold and his invaders out in the cold Canadian winter. Then the Americans retreated to await the army from the south.

Meanwhile, Schuyler had been forced by illness to turn over his command to his Brigadier, Richard Montgomery, a more aggressive officer. Early in December, Montgomery joined Arnold with only about half the number of troops expected, but he brought the uniforms of captured British soldiers to clothe Arnold's tattered army. On a dark night when heavy snow was falling, about a thousand Americans stormed the citadel of Quebec. When light dawned on the following morning, the last day of December in 1775, Montgomery's body was found lying half buried in the deep snow. Arnold suffered a leg wound and was carried to the rear. Daniel Morgan, commander of Virginia riflemen, took his place. Continuing the attack, Morgan and about 400 of his soldiers, fought until they were surrounded, captured, and held as prisoners. Later Morgan was exchanged and returned to Washington's army. Carleton,

governor of Canada, treated his prisoners with extraordinary kindness, and ordered Montgomery to be buried with military honors. Storms, swamps, freezes, sickness, and desertions made the invasion of Canada a dismal failure.

## BRITISH EVACUATE BOSTON

HOWEVER, THE Canadian campaign aided Washington in the siege of Boston. Following is an excerpt from a letter written by Ethan Allen to the Massachusetts Congress (Council of War):

Ticonderoga, May 11, 1775

GENTLEMEN: I have to inform you with pleasure unfelt before, that on break of day of the tenth of May, 1775, by the order of the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut, took the fortress of Ticonderoga by storm. The soldiery was composed of about one hundred GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS, and near fifty veteran soldiers from the Province of the Massachusetts Bay . . . . As to the cannon and warlike stores, I hope they may serve the cause of liberty instead of tyranny . . . . From, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

— ETHAN ALLEN

In November of that year, Washington sent General Knox north to bring back the sorely needed armaments that Ethan Allen mentioned. He returned with 42 sleds, loaded with 14 mortars, 39 cannons, one barrel of flints, and more than a ton of lead. With this added equipment, Washington decided to bombard Boston although British warships in the harbor had over 150 guns. Months before, the Continental Congress had given Washington the authority to destroy the city, if necessary, to dislodge Howe's army. John Hancock personally urged the bombard-

ment although he would probably suffer the heaviest loss, being one of the largest landowners in Boston.

Early in February of 1776, the arrival of ten militia regiments boosted Washington's army to 17,000 men. Many of the recruits had received little or no training and were not dependable in battle. However, the attack could not be delayed. Howe was expecting reinforcements from Ireland and Halifax. During the first week in March, on a moonlit night, Dorchester Heights was fortified with cannon pointing toward the city.

A few days later General Howe agreed to evacuate Boston to save the city and its inhabitants from gunfire. A smallpox epidemic sweeping through the city hastened Howe's withdrawal. The disease was spreading among his troops. Word was sent to Washington that the retreating army would not fire the city if the troops were not harassed while embarking upon vessels in the harbor. The patriots calmly watched the departure. About a thousand loyalists fled with the soldiers. On the seventeenth of March, a fleet of more than a hundred ships sailed from Boston Harbor for Halifax. The Tory refugees so crowded the vessels that Howe left behind 250 cannon, more than 3000 tons of coal, over 5000 bushels of grain, 100 barrels of oil, and 150 horses, a boon to the poorly supplied patriots.

Since Washington did not know the destination of Howe's fleet, he dispatched the major portion of his army to defend New York, thinking that port would be invaded by the fleeing British army. He left Boston on the fourth of April, leaving a few regiments to defend the city. The war moved into the middle colonies, where more supplies could be obtained.

## THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

IN JANUARY OF 1776, the Massachusetts General Court passed this resolution:

As the happiness of the People is the sole end of Government, so the consent of the People is the only foundation of it, — . Therefore, every act of Government — against or without the consent of the People is injustice, usurpation, and tyranny.

This statement was read in court, in town meetings, and in churches. The New Englanders and the Virginians were ready to declare independence before a majority of the people in the middle colonies would accept the idea. The loyalists were strong in New York and Pennsylvania. Many staunch patriots believed it was wise to remain colonists of Great Britain if King and Parliament would meet their demands for justice and liberty. Among these was John Dickinson, author of the widely-read Farmer's Letters. John and Samuel Adams of Massachusetts, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, and Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania did not agree with him.

In their homes, at the crossroads, and in town meetings, the colonists argued for and against independence. On April 12, 1776, North Carolina took the lead by instructing her delegates in Congress to vote for a complete separation from England. Rhode Island was second. On May 15, Virginia declared her own independence of England. Virginia instructed her representatives in Congress to ask all thirteen colonies to do likewise. Only five days later, the neighboring colonies of Maryland and Delaware voted against independence. It was June

before the Second Continental Congress felt that public opinion would support a declaration of independence. The following is copied from the Journals of the Second Continental Congress:

TUESDAY, June 11, 1776

RESOLVED, That the committee to prepare the declaration, consist of five members:

The members chosen, Mr. Thomas Jefferson, Mr. John Adams, Mr. Benjamin Franklin, Mr. Roger Sherman, and Mr. Robert Livingston.

RESOLVED, that a committee be appointed to prepare and digest the form of a federation to be entered into between these colonies.

RESOLVED, That a committee be appointed to prepare a plan of treaties to be proposed to foreign powers.

Independence made necessary a central government with treaty-making powers. Six months before, Franklin had presented a plan to unite the colonies but it was voted down. Many people felt that a strong central government might rob them of the liberty they enjoyed in their own colonies.

When the committee of five met to draft a declaration of independence, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were nominated for the task. Each one politely suggested that the other one do it. Finally, John Adams insisted that Jefferson pen the document, remarking "you can write ten times better than I." John Adams was the better speaker, but Thomas Jefferson could put strong words on paper. Seventeen days later, Jefferson's draft was read and debated in Congress, and suggestions were made for changes. On July 4, 1776, the final version was read to Congress and approved unanimously, except by New York whose delegates had not been instructed to vote for independence.



# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

In Congress July 4, 1776

*The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America*

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace,

Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offenses:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

WE, THEREFORE, the REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly PUBLISH and DECLARE, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES, may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.



When the document had been engrossed on parchment, each member of Congress signed his name with the delegates of the state he

represented. (Their ages and occupations or professions were added by the author. The average age was forty-four.)

<b>Massachusetts</b>			George Clymer	37	Business
John Hancock, President	39	Business	James Smith	57	Law
Samuel Adams	54	Politics	George Taylor	60	Manufacturing
John Adams	41	Law	James Wilson	34	Law
Robert Treat Paine	45	Law	George Ross	46	Law
Elbridge Gerry	32	Business	<b>Delaware</b>		
<b>New Hampshire</b>			Caesar Rodney	48	Government
Josiah Bartlett	47	Medicine	George Read	43	Law
William Whipple	46	Business	Thomas McKean	42	Law
Matthew Thornton	62	Medicine	<b>Maryland</b>		
<b>Rhode Island</b>			Samuel Chase	35	Law
Stephen Hopkins	69	Business	William Paca	36	Law
William Ellery	49	Law	Thomas Stone	33	Law
<b>Connecticut</b>			Charles Carroll of Carrollton	39	Agriculture
Roger Sherman	55	Law	<b>Virginia</b>		
Samuel Huntington	44	Law	George Wythe	50	Law
William Williams	45	Government	Richard Henry Lee	44	Agriculture
Oliver Wolcott	50	Government	Thomas Jefferson	33	Law
<b>New York</b>			Benjamin Harrison	36	Agriculture
William Floyd	42	Agriculture	Thomas Nelson, Jr.	38	Government
Philip Livingston	60	Business	Francis Lightfoot Lee	42	Agriculture
Francis Lewis	63	Business	Carter Braxton	40	Agriculture
Lewis Morris	50	Agriculture	<b>North Carolina</b>		
<b>New Jersey</b>			William Hooper	34	Law
Richard Stockton	46	Law	Joseph Hewes	46	Business
John Witherspoon	54	Ministry	John Penn	35	Law
Francis Hopkinson	39	Law	<b>South Carolina</b>		
John Hart	68	Agriculture	Edward Rutledge	27	Law
Abraham Clark	50	Government	Thomas Heyward, Jr.	30	Law
<b>Pennsylvania</b>			Thomas Lynch, Jr.	27	Law
Robert Morris	42	Business	Arthur Middleton	33	Agriculture
Benjamin Rush	31	Medicine	<b>Georgia</b>		
Benjamin Franklin	70	Diplomacy	Button Gwinnett	41	Agriculture
John Morton	52	Government	Lyman Hall	52	Medicine
			George Walton	36	Law

### INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA IN 1876

In that year, the Centennial Exposition was held in Philadelphia to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of The Declaration of Independence.





A number of these men who pledged their lives and fortunes lost either or both in the war. On their way to Charleston in 1780, British soldiers ransacked the beautiful home of Arthur Middleton, destroyed his collection of paintings, and damaged the house while he was serving in the army defending Charleston. When that city fell, Middleton was captured and held on a British prison ship in the harbor. When the British invaded Georgia, Lyman Hall moved his family north. His property was destroyed. Richard Stockton was also captured by the British and confined in a military prison in New York, where ill treatment wrecked his health and hastened his death. British soldiers burned his fine library, drove off his horses and cattle, and laid waste his farm near Princeton, New Jersey.

The Declaration of Independence stated the principles of government based on the

**THE LIBERTY BELL  
INDEPENDENCE HALL – PHILADELPHIA**  
“Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all  
the inhabitants thereof.”



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By Henry C. Howard.

God-given human rights of man; cited examples proving that the British government had interfered with these rights; and justified the colonies, in defense of these human rights, to declare their independence.

John Hancock, President of the Second Continental Congress, and Charles Thomson, the Secretary, signed their names. That was all. Business went on as if nothing extraordinary had happened. Congress ordered copies to be printed and sent to the assemblies of the thirteen states, to councils of safety, and to commanding officers of the continental troops. With an order to sell twenty-five pounds of powder to a man in North Carolina, the day's business came to an end. The meeting “adjourned to 9 o'clock tomorrow.”

A few days later, Philadelphia celebrated. A crowd gathered in the statehouse yard to hear the Declaration of Independence read to them. The bell in the tower rang the news and church bells joined the celebration. Soldiers paraded on the common and fired salutes. It was a gala day.

Although the United States of America had declared its independence, the new nation had yet to win its freedom by force of arms. The grim duty of providing for this necessity fell largely upon the Second Continental Congress. The delegates could only ask for men and supplies, as they did not have enough authority to compel obedience to any demands.

## **MEN AND SUPPLIES FOR A CONTINENTAL ARMY**

WHEN THE Second Continental Congress met on May 10, 1775, fighting had

already begun between British and colonial troops. The members had been sent to this meeting in Philadelphia to demand certain rights from the King of England. Upon arrival, they found a war on their hands. Since there was no national government, as each colony was separate, this body of men fell heir to the difficult task of raising and supplying an armed force to wage war with Great Britain. It took arms to equip a soldier, ammunition to fire the guns, and saltpetre to make the gunpowder. Since there were no large mills for manufacturing saltpetre when war broke out, the people in every community searched for the earth containing the necessary minerals, and refined it with crude home-made apparatus. Bounties were offered for the product, and men were encouraged to become munitions-makers. Advertisements like the following appeared in colonial papers:

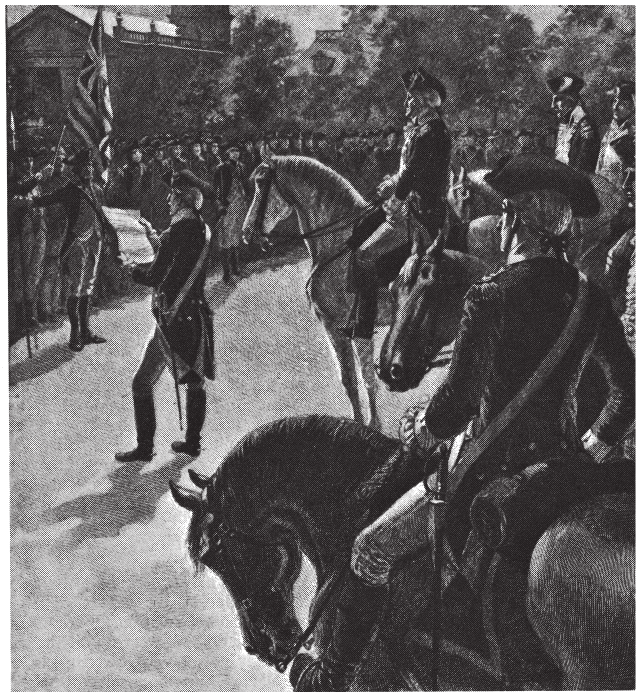
#### BOUNTY ON SALTPETRE

Connecticut, July 17, 1775

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COLONY OF CONNECTICUT, in May last, voted Ten pounds reward for every fifty pounds weight of SALTPETRE that should be made in the Colony within the year ensuing. Any person, master of the process, and willing to undertake, if able to carry on the works, may (if his character is good), by inquiring of the printer, be informed of the best places in that colony to set up the business, and assisted with every necessary direction.

From Dunlap's Pennsylvania Packet  
PHILIP and HENRY SHEETS  
GUN-SMITHS

In Shepherd's Town, Berkley, Virginia  
INTEND carrying on their business extensively; and as they are in want of hands that understand said business, they will give great wages either by the week, month, year, or otherwise as they may desire it, to any such that would choose to be employed, by applying speedily at their place of residence as above mentioned.



#### THE READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Declaration of Independence was received with loud cheers when read to Washington's troops in New York.

From Dunlap's Pennsylvania Packet  
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY  
Philadelphia, January 17, 1776

Such persons as are willing to erect POWDER MILLS in this province, within fifty miles distant of this city, are desired to apply to the Committee of Safety, who will lend them money on security, if required, for that purpose, and give them also other encouragement.

Extract from the Minutes  
William Govett, Secretary

The non-importation agreements had shut out woolens from England and there was no supply on hand when war broke out. Upon women and girls fell the duty of providing part of the clothing for the soldiers. They knitted socks, caps, and mittens for the fighting men in their own families. In their homes, they carded, spun,



and wove linens and wool, but home manufacture could not supply the demand. In 1776 Congress promised every enlisted man a new suit of clothes each year, but this pledge could not be kept. Congress could only ask for needed supplies, since this body did not have the power to tax the separate states. Each one maintained its own militia for its own defense. Enlistments were slow in the Continental Army. Promised necessities were not always delivered on time, if at all.

Any costume was a uniform for a Continental soldier. About 11,000 Americans took part in the Battle of Brandywine. The best dressed of these fighting men wore long, loose hunting shirts over long pants, and wide-brimmed hats, turned up at three places and decorated with a bright feather or a green sprig. Many of the soldiers were almost naked. In the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge, nearly half the soldiers lacked good shoes and warm stockings. Some cut up their blankets to wrap around their feet, and then were forced to sit up all night huddled around the fire to keep warm. In December of 1777, 3000 men were unfit for military duty because they lacked warm clothing. Six weeks later, the number was 4000. Even officers were without uniforms and wore blankets and bed-coverings on parade. Some of the manufacturing states were able to supply clothing for their own recruits. Every man from Connecticut at Valley Forge was ready for duty at a moment's notice, if in good health.

A soldier's ration called for bread and meat each day, but this allowance was cut in half for weeks at a time during the winter at Valley Forge. The Second Continental Congress issued paper money to purchase provisions for the army, and

patriotic citizens accepted it in payment for goods. However, as the war lagged, this paper went down in value. Farmers as well as manufacturers wanted coins, "hard money," for their produce and wares, and less could be purchased. During January of 1778, the soldiers encamped with Washington lived for days on pancakes made of flour and water, baked on flat stones heated in the fireplace. When food could not be purchased, forage parties were sent out to take supplies, a certain amount being assessed to each farmer. Some soldiers took more than the allotment, according to the item found in Dearborn's Orderly Book, dated January 14, 1778, at Valley Forge:

As several farmers have complained, notwithstanding the certificates granted by the Commanding General of Forage of their having furnished their quotas of Forage assigned them, further demands have been made upon them of what was reserved for the use of their own families. The General strictly prohibits such unjust proceedings, and desires that more respect may be paid the Forage Master General's certificates for the future.

The health of the troops presented a problem. In May of 1777, General Greene wrote a letter to Washington saying scurvy was found among some of the troops because they lived mainly on animal food and did not have enough vegetables to eat. Greene recommended that each man be allotted about a half a pint of vinegar per day to prevent this ailment.

"I think it, my dear General, an object of great importance to preserve the health of the troops," he wrote. "What can a sickly army do? They are a bother to themselves and the state that employs them."

The Committees of Safety in Pennsyl-



vania and other states sent men from door to door collecting window weights, clock weights, and anything made of lead, needed for bullets. In New York City, during the celebration of the Declaration of Independence, the gilded leaden statue of King George III was dragged from its stone base in the Bowling Green to be melted for bullets. Washington mildly rebuked his soldiers for their part in this rowdiness, ordering that in the future, "these things shall be avoided by the soldiery." Lead was so scarce that even weights on fishing nets were confiscated. Window leads were removed from the houses of more than 500 citizens in New York City. The total was 100 tons. According to the records of the Auditor-General of New York, some of the bills were not paid until years after the war ended.

Some families donated or sold their pewter dishes as material for bullets. Munitions could be obtained overseas when money could be raised to provide ships and engage crews.

The problem of pay for fighting men plagued Congress throughout the war years.

A free farm was tempting bait to a Celt or an Anglo-Saxon. However, an offer more exciting and more adventurous lured men onto the high seas.

## AMERICAN SEAMEN FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE

WHEN WAR BROKE out in 1775, a few armed merchantmen were hastily added to Washington's army to capture the British supply ships headed for Boston. The officers and crews were taken from Washington's forces. To encourage enlist-

ments, Washington offered prize money to the crews: "one-third part of the cargo of every vessel by you taken and sent into port." Special detachments of soldiers on these vessels were forerunners of marines, and all on board were part of the Continental Army. This fleet led to the formation of a Continental Navy and Washington's fleet was disbanded.

On a chilly morning in January of 1776, Commodore Esek Hopkins left the Walnut Street wharf of Philadelphia to take command of eight armed vessels with these names: *Alfred*, *Columbus*, *Andrew Doria*, *Cabot*, *Providence*, *Hornet*, *Fly*, and *Wasp*; all were made-over merchant ships. Although Esek Hopkins was a soldier when he was chosen to command the first American fleet, he belonged to a seafaring family in Rhode Island. He had been a seaman for over thirty years and in command of a number of ships. As the commodore reached the deck of the *Alfred*, his flagship, the captain gave a signal to First Lieutenant John Paul Jones to hoist the flag. Historians are still undecided about this flag. Some claim that the first pennant to wave over an American man-of-war was a yellow silk flag with the image of a coiled rattlesnake, ready to fight, and the motto "Don't tread on me." A British spy who saw the fleet sail described the flag as "English colors but more striped."

Although the officers received their commissions from the Continental Congress during December of 1775, the exact date on which they boarded the vessels in the Delaware River is not known. November tenth is the birthday of the Marines, because on that date in 1775, the Second Continental Congress ordered a Marine Corps to be organized. However, marines had been serving in local navies.

There were eleven naval units belonging to the separate states, besides Washington's fleet and the Continental Navy, that served in the War for Independence.

The first orders received by the first commander of a United States fleet were instructions to defend the coast of Virginia from attacks by a British squadron under Lord Dunmore. However, one paragraph of these orders issued by the Continental Congress provided a loophole. It stated:

Notwithstanding these particular Orders, which 'tis hoped you will be able to execute, if bad winds or stormy weather, or any other unforeseen accident or disaster disable you so to do, you are then to follow such courses as your best judgment shall suggest to you as most useful to the American cause and to distress the enemy by all means in your power.

Since the weather was stormy and many of the men were sick, and Hopkins had little chance to succeed if he attacked warships with his made-over merchant vessels and inexperienced crews, he took advantage of the permission to use his own judgment, and sailed for the Bahamas.

The first cruise of this Continental Navy was to these islands in the West Indies to capture guns and ammunition stored there.

On the third of March, 1776, marines landed on the beach near the town, Fort Nassau, under cover of guns from the ships. Since an attack was unexpected and the garrison was small, the fort was soon taken. The booty, loaded on the vessels, included cannon, 15 mortars, shells, and shot, but only 24 barrels of gunpowder were captured. The British governor had managed to ship out 150 casks of powder during the night. Hopkins took over a vessel lying in the harbor, and loaded it also, as his own fleet could not hold all the stores obtained.

Some members of the crew contracted fever in the islands. It was a heavily laden and poorly manned fleet that sailed away.

The voyage home was made in bad weather, but only one ship, the *Wasp*, was lost from sight. That vessel made the port of Philadelphia on the thirteenth of April, eleven days after the main fleet reached the eastern end of Long Island. Sailing into the sound, Hopkins captured a British schooner with six guns, and on the next day, a brig of eight guns. Two merchant ships bound from New York to London fell as prizes of war to this navy.

Off the coast of Rhode Island, near the end of the voyage, the little fleet met up with the *Glasgow*, a British sloop of war carrying twenty-four guns. Hopkins' flagship, the *Alfred*, bore the brunt of the battle which began shortly after midnight on the sixth of April and lasted for nearly three hours. The *Glasgow*, badly damaged, headed for Newport with one man killed and three wounded. The American loss was ten killed and fourteen wounded. Among the wounded men was the commodore's son. In this first sea fight of the United States Navy, no ships were sunk, and the much needed guns and ammunition were delivered to army units. The states quarreled over the booty. Hopkins was accused of favoring New England in distributing cannon, especially his home state of Rhode Island which received twenty-six of the captured guns. The crews were paid in Continental money, which, according to Lieutenant Trevett, one of the navy officers, "would pay for one pair of shoes."

The venture to the Bahamas was the only cruise of the entire fleet during the war. The engagements on the sea were between individual vessels for the most

part. John Paul Jones, aboard the *Alfred* in the first sea battle, was soon promoted and given his first command, the *Providence*. Later, as captain of the *Ranger*, the *Bon Homme Richard*, and other vessels, he captured tons of supplies for the Continental Army and harassed the British Navy. He is honored today as the outstanding naval hero of the Revolutionary War.

The official navy had a powerful competitor – the privateer. Owners of ships idled by the war applied to Congress for “letters of marque,” legal permission to

mount guns on their vessels and turn them into privateers. Captains of these armed ships roamed the seas, capturing British merchantmen and their cargoes, towing them into an American port, and collecting their share of the prize money. Part of the loot was given to Congress for support of the war. In letters to Congress, Hopkins bitterly complained that seamen refused to enlist in the official Navy and ships were idle for lack of men. Yet, the owners of privateers had no difficulty in securing crews because they offered larger prize

### THE CAPTURE OF THE SERAPIS

In the middle of August, 1779, John Paul Jones sailed from a French port with a fleet of five vessels to raid British shipping. His flagship was the *Bon Homme Richard*, (*Good Man Richard*) named for Benjamin Franklin’s paper, *Poor Richard’s Almanac*.

Cruising along the coast of Scotland, Jones sighted the Baltic fleet of forty merchantmen convoyed by the British warship, *Serapis*. He ordered a chase, and all of his captains obeyed except Landais of the *Alliance*. Early in the evening of September 23, 1779, the desperate sea battle began off Flamborough Head near Scarborough. Richard Dale, First Lieutenant of the *Bon Homme Richard*, who was in the fight, wrote an account of this bloody engagement:

At about eight, being within hail, the *Serapis* demanded, “What ship is that?”

He was answered, “I can’t hear what you say.”

Again the *Serapis* hailed, “What ship is that? Answer immediately, or I shall be under the necessity of firing into you.”

At this moment, I received orders from Captain Jones to commence the action with a broadside which, indeed, appeared to be simultaneous on board both ships.

(Later in the battle, Dale wrote:) We were again hailed by the *Serapis*, “has your ship struck?”

Captain Jones answered, “I have not yet begun to fight.”

By 9:30 when the moon rose, both ships were on fire. After three hours of hand-to-hand combat, Pearson, the Captain of the *Serapis* who had nailed the flag to the mast, handed it down and surrendered. With the *Bon Homme Richard* sinking, the able-bodied men boarded

the *Serapis*, now commanded by Jones, who took it to a Dutch port. Most of the wounded on the *Bon Homme Richard* went down with their ship.

For this victory, Congress presented John Paul Jones with a gold medal, and the King of France gave him a gold sword.





money, usually one half, while the Navy offered only a third. There was less delay and bickering in settling the prizes of privateers than with the Continental vessels. When a privateer brought a prize into port, the goods were sold quickly, and the booty divided among the men, while seamen in the Navy suffered delay in receiving their shares because agents were forced to await orders from Congress before they could dispose of the captured cargoes. Privateering became so profitable that men did not enlist readily in the regular Navy, where the pay ranged from \$6 to \$8 per month. Some states even offered a bonus. The risk and danger of this licensed piracy appealed to many adventurous young men, and the privateers were numerous and well-manned. In time of dire need, these patriotic pirates supplied Continental soldiers with food, clothing, and ammunition, from the beginning of the war to the end.

Early in 1777, the American privateer, the *Montgomery*, captured the *Hannah*, and brought the prize into Baltimore where the cargo of cheese, ale, port wines, handkerchiefs, stockings, spices, linen, beef, pork, and peas was sold for nearly £7000. After the Government's share was taken to supply troops, and all expenses were paid, the sum remaining was divided among the officers and members of the crew according to agreement. Esek Hopkins, commander of the Continental Navy, complained about the competition of the privateers when his vessels were marooned in port for lack of sailors. He tried to get the General Assembly of his home state to pass a law that the privateers could not enlist seamen until the quotas of navy vessels in Rhode Island ports were filled. Since most of the men in the General

Assembly were merchants possessing letters of marque, the law was not passed although Hopkins knew many of them personally and had sailed ships for them before they had turned to privateering.

The deeds of the unsung heroes of the privateers are seldom recorded on the pages of history. Privateering was real adventure on the high seas – and it PAID.

## THE WAR CENTERS IN LOYALIST STRONGHOLDS

FOLLOWING THE evacuation of Boston by Howe, Washington and the major portion of the Continental Army moved to New York where the armed rebellion was not so popular as it was in Massachusetts. Since the state of New York bordered on Canada, its citizens were inclined to remain loyal to the King. They preferred to plead for justice rather than fight for it. In New York City, a trade center, the wealthy landowners and merchants whose prosperity depended upon commerce did not want a war that would endanger their property and ruin business.

Shortly after his arrival in New York, Washington recommended to the Committee of Safety that the inhabitants of the city not be permitted to go back and forth freely to the British vessels anchored in the harbor. Information and supplies were reaching the enemy. This order marked merely the beginning of the hardships which the Tories, as the loyalists were called, would be forced to endure while the city was occupied by the American Army.

Loyalists who wished to remain neutral, or who preferred to join the King's armies, hid in swamps and out-of-the-way places

when the troops of Washington took over the city. Since many of these men belonged to the militia of the state and had been called into service, they were considered to be deserters. Orders were issued by army officers to apprehend them. In the army records are many such commands, like the following:

Queens County, June 19, 1776

To Mr. Thomas Mitchell, Lt. —

You are hereby required to march your company into Capt. Peter Nostrand's district, and divide them into as many parts as you may think proper, for the purpose of aiding and assisting him to bring forth — with 283 defaulting persons belonging to that company, or such of them as you can find, and forthwith send or bring them to Samuel Nicolls', and there safely secure them until further orders. Given under my hand and seal.

John Sands, Col.

Strangers were stopped and questioned by American soldiers, and messengers carried identification. Warrants were given to search the homes of Tories and seize all arms found.

Tories often did not attend conventions called to elect delegates to the state congress or the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. With less than a majority, the patriots went ahead, and boldly chose their representatives to operate the government. At first, Tories were only disarmed. Soon, however, they were arrested, thrown into jail, and sometimes banished. Then, gradually, their property was confiscated, and families of soldiers who had joined the British forces suffered from want. Two weeks after independence was declared, Congress ordered that livestock on Long Island be driven inland to prevent their capture by the enemy, who was expected to land at any time. Some Tories were able to escape on British vessels and return to England,

leaving their belongings and property behind. Some fled from New York to Connecticut.

Washington managed to erect a few forts around New York before General Howe reached Sandy Hook on June 28, 1776, with ships carrying 10,000 men. A few days later, his brother, Lord Richard Howe, arrived with a British regiment and Hessian soldiers. Soon Clinton and Cornwallis came up from the South, bringing the combined British force to over 31,000 men. The Americans had less than 20,000 fit for duty, and these were poorly equipped. Howe tried to bring about a reconciliation and have the Americans lay down their arms. After Washington's refusal, Howe landed troops on Long Island.

The evening before the resulting battle, Washington made this speech to his soldiers.

The time is near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be freemen or slaves; whether they are to have any property they can call their own; whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and themselves consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will deliver them. The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army . . . We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or to die.

The next day, August 27, in the Battle of Long Island, Washington's troops were routed. The Americans lost the battle with five hundred men killed or wounded and eleven hundred officers and men taken prisoner. In rain and fog, Washington escaped with his army and supplies across the river to Manhattan without discovery. General Howe lost an opportunity "to end the war with a single stroke," his critics said in England.

After defeat in the Battle of Long Island,

Washington desperately needed information on the plans of the enemy. Where would Howe attack next? He asked Lieutenant-Colonel Knowlton to find a young officer to serve as a spy. Only one volunteered, Captain Nathan Hale, twenty-one and a graduate of Yale.

He entered the British camp disguised as a school teacher and loyalist, looking for a job, and gathered the news Washington wanted. With his notes written in Latin on thin paper stuffed between the soles of his shoes, he escaped to the appointed spot where he was to be met on the beach by patriots who would row him back to his regiment. The boat arrived on schedule, but the six men aboard were British marines. Hale was

#### STATUE OF NATHAN HALE CITY PARK, NEW YORK

Encircled by a wreath are these words:

“A captain in the regular army of the United States who gave his life for his country.”

Circling the column above the base are his last words:

“I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

*Courtesy of The New York Historical Society, New York City*



captured and hung. When asked for his last words, he said:

“I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

Lord Howe, the British naval commander, now tried to end the war peacefully. He sent General Sullivan, captured in the Battle of Long Island, to ask the Continental Congress to send delegates to discuss peace. John Adams, Franklin, and Rutledge met Howe on Staten Island where they were courteously received and entertained. Lord Howe was friendly to the Americans and earnestly desired to come to some terms on which the so-called rebellion could end without further bloodshed. On September 19, 1776, he announced that the British Government was willing to reconsider the acts and laws which had caused the rebellion, if the Declaration of Independence were repealed. The three delegates from Congress held out for independence. Four days later, with little difficulty, his brother, General Howe, took New York City.

It was soon plain to Washington that the British planned to separate New England from the other states by occupying the Hudson Valley. After the Battle of White Plains, in which the British lost more men than the Americans, Washington crossed to New Jersey, escaping a trap by a masterly retreat across that state. He ordered General Charles Lee to follow but the officer disobeyed and was captured. The war shifted to New Jersey and Pennsylvania, also strong loyalist centers.

The Tory governor of New Jersey, a son of Benjamin Franklin, had been arrested in June of 1776 and removed to Connecticut for safe keeping while delegates were chosen to vote for independence. In Pennsylvania, Quakers refused to fight



because of their religious beliefs. Some of the large German population preferred to solve the problems as colonials rather than as independents. However, many Germans aided the American cause and joined the state militia. Neighbors, friends, and families disagreed on the war.

Washington's retreat from New York was a dark hour in the fight for independence. General Howe remained in the city, assigning Lord Cornwallis to pursue the fleeing enemy. Washington outran him and crossed the Delaware River with his troops, establishing headquarters at Newtown, Pennsylvania. Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, adjourned to Baltimore.

Upon leaving New York, Washington advised Greene to evacuate Fort Washington on Manhattan Island and Fort Lee on the opposite bank of the Hudson River. Instead, Greene reinforced Fort Washington, which was taken by the British along with about 2600 of the best American troops. Flushed with success, the King's commissioners issued a proclamation granting pardons to all persons who, within sixty days, agreed to remain peaceable, not to take up arms against the King, nor encourage anyone else to do it. In those dark hours, an American victory was desperately needed. It came as a surprise.

The diary of Charles Willson Peale who painted portraits of Washington, reveals how well the commander-in-chief kept a secret of his plans. Peale's entry for Christmas Day, 1776, begins as follows:

We were ordered to join brigade. Many of the men were unwilling to turn out, as it was a Day that they would wish to enjoy themselves. However, with small battalions we went through several maneuvers.

Late in the day, there was no warning of the eventful night to come because Peale left

camp at Bristol, where his division was stationed. He wrote in his diary:

In the afternoon, one of our men informed me that he had heard of a person about three miles out of town had butter and cheese that he would only sell for hard money. I set out on foot with some men and got there just before it was dark. But on asking to buy with hard money, I found that the man had been slandered. I tempted as much as I thought was justifiable, finding the man never expected to get any other than Continental Money, and that he constantly sold his butter of it.

By the time Peale arrived at camp with two quarts of fresh butter, he found that orders had come to cross the Delaware, and his troops were waiting for their officer. Peale marched his men about six miles to a ferry and they tried to cross the stream, rowing against the wind in a storm of icy rain. Some succeeded in reaching the Jersey side, but the ice gathered so rapidly at a distance from the shore that the artillery could not be landed. Therefore, the entire force was ordered to march back to Bristol "at which place I arrived just before day of 26, — very much fatigued having walked 18 miles at least, 11 of them with very heavy baggage. The storm continues with hail and rain," wrote Peale.

General Putnam was expected to cross the Delaware River from Philadelphia with a thousand men. He did not attempt it, since his troops were needed to discourage a loyalist rebellion, simmering under cover in the city. Washington was the only one who succeeded in crossing the river on that stormy night. With a force of about 2400 men, he marched from Newtown to Taylorsville, nine miles above Trenton, where guns, ammunition, and troops were prepared for action. The crossing was made



at McConkey's Ferry after dark. Fishermen from Marblehead, Massachusetts, were the first to row across the Delaware, which was full of floating ice. Washington was among the first to land on the Jersey side of the river. In the sleet storm it was difficult to handle the artillery. It was three o'clock in the morning before the last gun was unloaded. An hour later, with a strong wind blowing snow and ice into their faces, the troops were marching toward Trenton where Hessian soldiers were encamped.

Snow deadened the rumble of the artillery as the Americans approached the village about eight o'clock in the morning. In such bad weather, an attack was not expected. Everyone was indoors asleep after the revels of Christmas Day. At the entrance to the village, Washington saw only one man, and he was chopping wood. The surprise was complete. The Hessians did not have time to get out their artillery and any cannon that appeared was quickly captured. Rahl, the Hessian commander, tried to rally his men. He was mortally wounded and died that evening. In half an hour, nearly 1000 Hessian soldiers surrendered. Washington sent his prisoners to Philadelphia and scattered them in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Washington had notices posted explaining to citizens that these soldiers, for the most part, were serving in the British army against their will, and some had even been kidnapped in their German kingdoms and sold into military service by their rulers. Some of the hired soldiers had their wives and children with them and were burdened in the march with pots and pans, bundles and blankets. In crossing New Jersey, these Hessian soldiers had plundered farmhouses for supplies. Some of the Hessian women stripped American children to put warm

clothing on their own little ones. When the Americans learned the truth of their plight, a Hessian corporal wrote that "many came out of the towns and brought us provisions, and treated us with kindness and humanity."

Since the enlistments of most of the soldiers Washington had at Trenton would end on the last day of December, he sent an appeal to Robert Morris in Philadelphia for money to offer them to reenlist. Early on New Year's Day, 1777, Morris went from house to house and managed to borrow, partly by signing the notes personally, about \$50,000 and sent it to Washington.

On the next day, Cornwallis reached Trenton, and the two armies were facing each other. Washington left his camp fires burning brightly and slipped away in the dark to surprise the British from the rear, at Princeton. These two victories electrified the Americans struggling for independence, and startled the British who had considered the rebellion almost ended. Volunteers enlisted in the Continental Army, giving Washington enough troops to recover control of New Jersey. Then the war shifted back to the state of New York, which bore the brunt of the conflict. Out of 308 engagements of the war, 92 were fought on the soil of New York, the most important one being the decisive battle of Saratoga.

## **BRITISH PLAN TO ISOLATE NEW ENGLAND**

ON THE SIXTH of May, 1777, General Burgoyne, who had witnessed the Battle of Bunker Hill, arrived at Quebec from London to take command of the British

army from General Carleton. He commanded a force of about 8000 men, of whom 3000 were hired German soldiers, 150 were Canadians, and 500 were Indians. His orders were to follow the Hudson River route south to prevent another invasion of Canada, and to split the rebellion in two, separating the leaders, Massachusetts and Virginia. In the middle of June he dispatched Colonel St. Leger from Montreal with a small force, instructing him to go up the St. Lawrence to Lake Ontario, thence to Fort Oswego and down the Mohawk Valley. General William Howe, in possession of New York, was to go up the Hudson with an army and a fleet, capture forts along the way, and join Burgoyne and St. Leger at Albany. It was a well-laid plan on paper — divide and conquer.

Burgoyne moved up Lake Champlain where his Indians paddled their way in canoes. His overland journey was hampered by poor weather and roads. It rained and both troops and guns wallowed in mud and water. The trails were blocked with fallen trees laced together in a web, the work of General Schuyler's men. When Burgoyne reached Fort Edward at the end of July, his provisions were low. On a tip from a loyalist, he sent Colonel Baum with 500 men to capture flour and other supplies stored at Bennington. Colonel Stark, with state militia, interfered with this scheme, winning the Battle of Bennington and taking over 500 prisoners, most of them loyalists. Burgoyne was forced to proceed without the needed food, horses, and wagons. Vermonters cut off other supplies to Burgoyne's army as he advanced toward Albany.

St. Leger reached Oswego the middle of July where loyalists under Johnson and Butler and Indians under Brant joined his

force, making a total of 1700 men. Early in August, St. Leger appeared before Fort Stanwix (sometimes called Fort Schuyler) on the Mohawk River, and demanded surrender. Although he threatened the garrison with an Indian massacre, the Americans held the frontier post. In a ravine near Oriskany, Indians fired from behind trees upon county militia under General Herkimer, marching to the relief of Fort Stanwix. When rain fell in torrents, the Indians fled and the loyalists retreated, leaving their equipment on the battleground. As soon as the storm subsided, the garrison marched out of the fort and invaded St. Leger's camp, capturing over twenty wagon loads of food, blankets, guns, clothes, and ammunition. Hearing from scouts that Arnold was approaching with as many men as there were leaves on the trees, St. Leger continued his retreat to Montreal.

The order for Howe to join Burgoyne was left on a desk when the messenger hurried away on a hunting trip. When he returned the ship had sailed.

Since General Howe had not received definite orders to go himself to meet Burgoyne, he evacuated New York, leaving the city under Sir Henry Clinton. General Howe started for Philadelphia. He seems not to have worried about the fate of Burgoyne. The Americans were as much surprised as were the British at Howe's move. Both agreed it was a colossal blunder. The voyage from New York to Philadelphia was more like a pleasure cruise than a military expedition. Although Howe embarked his troops at New York on the fifth of July, he did not sail up the Chesapeake Bay to land until late in August.

The Continental Congress fled to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, but moved on shortly to



Benson J. Lossing

### WASHINGTON'S ARMY WINTERING AT VALLEY FORGE 1777-1778

It was a bitter winter at Valley Forge near Philadelphia, where Washington's troops suffered from lack of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care.

York to hold meetings in the courthouse there.

The British did not march into Philadelphia unopposed. When Admiral Howe's fleet sailed from New York harbor with the army of his brother on board, Washington left his encampment in New Jersey and headed south to defend Philadelphia. He passed by the city, taking a position at Newport to challenge the march of British troops advancing from Elk River where they landed early in September. Although the Americans were forced to retreat after the Battle of Brandywine, the action delayed Howe's march. He did not enter the city until the twenty-sixth of Septem-

ber. Eight days later, Washington attacked Howe's headquarters at Germantown. Fighting in a dense fog, friends were mistaken for enemies, prisoners were captured and recaptured, and army units became confused. The Americans finally deserted the field of combat, leaving Howe in full possession of Philadelphia, guarded by his brother's fleet anchored in the Delaware River. Nearby at Valley Forge, Washington established his winter quarters.

Meanwhile, a decisive action was developing in central New York. Following the plan for the three generals to meet at Albany, Burgoyne had steadily advanced although his pace was only a mile a day as



Schuyler's troops had blocked trails, flooded roads, and wrecked bridges. Howe's failure to proceed according to schedule to march north from New York, and St. Leger's defeat in the Mohawk Valley, maneuvered Burgoyne into a trap. The possible capture of Burgoyne's army encouraged enlistments. These were especially heavy from New England after Horatio Gates replaced Schuyler, who was a descendant of a Dutch patroon and was therefore not popular in Puritan communities. In the fighting that took place on his estate, Schuyler lost his residence. Afterwards, Burgoyne apologized for ordering Schuyler's mansion to be burned.

As the two armies lined up for a contest, Burgoyne's Indians deserted in large numbers and went home. The regiments under Gates were adding recruits day after day. Clinton waited for fresh troops to arrive from England before starting up the Hudson with 3000 men. He had not gone far when a decisive battle developed around Saratoga. The British were hemmed in and shut off from sources of supply. Defeated in combat, Burgoyne asked for terms of surrender. These were quite generous. The Canadians were sent home. Free passage was granted to Burgoyne's army for their march to Boston where they would await the arrival of British transports to take them home.

In the afternoon of October 17, 1777, British soldiers piled their guns in scattered heaps near the riverbank. There were less than 6000 able-bodied British, Canadian, and German soldiers left to lay down their arms on that day when the American army numbered about 24,000 men. Gates had ordered the American forces to remain within their own lines to spare the prisoners undue humiliation. Burgoyne and his

officers rode to the American camp to give themselves up. Burgoyne handed his sword to Gates who promptly returned it. According to a page added to Burgoyne's orderly book, probably by Governor Clinton of New York, the British and American officers celebrated the surrender in a congenial manner in Albany.

"They all dined at General Schuyler's," the note read. "At table, General Gates drank the King of Britain's health. General Burgoyne in return thanked him, and in the next glass drank the Continental Congress."

Thus ended the engagement at Saratoga, listed by historians as one of the decisive battles of the world. It was the turning point of the War for Independence. This victory encouraged enlistments at home and brought help from abroad. Convinced that the Americans could win with aid, the King of France agreed to send supplies, men, and ships to the former colonists of Great Britain.

## THE WAR ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

THREE YEARS before the Revolutionary War broke out, a surveyor from Virginia traveled over Braddock's Road to Fort Pitt, and made the trip down the Ohio River in a canoe. He was only nineteen years old and his name was George Rogers Clark. Like many young men of his day, he was looking for land where it was cheap and plentiful. He found acres that pleased him, where a creek furnished water for his needs. Here he built a log cabin and planted corn. Clark was more a soldier than a farmer. In the spring of 1774, following Indian raids on the frontier settlements, troops from Virginia passed near his cabin

on their way to punish the tribes north of the Ohio River. Clark left his farm and joined the ranks of the soldiers. He proved to be such a good Indian fighter that he was offered a commission in the British Army. He refused the offer. The colonists were then quarreling with the mother country over the right to tax themselves. Clark wanted to fight with the colonies if the quarrel led to war.

When the war broke out the following year, George Rogers Clark was living on the Kentucky frontier, where Indian raids were destroying houses and crops. The British, in forts north of the Ohio, were furnishing guns and powder to the Indians and inciting them to war upon the settlers in their old hunting ground, Kentucky. For protection, the people turned to George Rogers Clark, the able soldier with experience in Indian warfare.

With a few companions, Clark made the dangerous journey from the wilderness to Williamsburg, then the capital of Virginia, to lay his plans for defense before the governor, Patrick Henry. Patrick Henry listened eagerly to the daring scheme of the tall, athletic young officer. Clark asked for money and men to threaten the British strongholds north of the Ohio. Since this was a bold venture, Patrick Henry sought the advice of Thomas Jefferson and other Virginians. After several weeks of debate, Clark left Williamsburg with orders signed by the governor allowing him to enlist seven companies of fifty men each, to purchase flatboats for the journey down the Ohio, and to buy guns, powder, and supplies. To encourage men to enlist in this expedition, Jefferson made this promise in a letter to Clark:

We think it just and reasonable that each volunteer entering as a common soldier in this

expedition, should be allowed 300 acres of land and the officers in proportion, out of the lands which may be conquered.

On a little island in the Ohio, opposite the present site of Louisville, Clark established a base of supplies. He then started north into British territory.

## THE CAPTURE OF KASKASKIA AND VINCENNES

IT WAS JULY 4, 1778. Clark's small army was sighted at Kaskaskia, a fort the British had taken in the French and Indian War. This army had marched from old Fort Massac on the Ohio, without wagons or pack horses, and had carried their munitions and supplies on their backs. For the last two of the six days, they had marched on empty stomachs.

After dark, the Americans quietly surrounded the town while Clark and a few men captured the British governor. Then, pretending their force was much larger, the soldiers burst noisily into the town. Those who could speak French ran up and down the streets, shouting at the tops of their voices, "Stay inside your houses, or be shot." During the night, the Americans searched the French homes and took all the guns. The surprise was complete. Without the loss of a man on either side, the fortified town of Kaskaskia fell to a handful of bold frontiersmen.

The next morning, Father Gibault and several aged men called at Clark's headquarters to learn their fate. They were shocked at the sight of these officers. In the march of a hundred and twenty miles through a swampy wilderness, their clothes were torn by briars, their leggings were



crusted with mud, and their bare toes stuck out of holes in their homemade moccasins. These were the frontiersmen whom the Indians called "Long Knives" because a hunting blade hung from each man's belt. The village priest offered the surrender of his people, expecting the Americans to take their homes and cattle as prizes of war. He pleaded that enough food and clothing be left for the women and children.

"Do you mistake us for savages?" Clark asked. "My countrymen disdain to make war upon helpless innocence. It was to prevent the horrors of war upon our own wives and children that we took up arms and came to this remote stronghold."

The French villagers gathered in the church to receive Clark's orders, which they thought would be exile. When they learned that they could remain in their

homes, unmolested, and could worship as they pleased, they rang the church bell and sang hymns of thanks. Father Gibault supported the American cause and aided Clark in many ways. He sent word to the Indian tribes, who always had been friendly to the French, asking them to make peace with the "Long Knives." He went ahead of Clark to Vincennes to get French aid for the Americans.

The fifth of February in 1779 was an exciting day in the frontier village of Kaskaskia. Clark's army of 170 men marched down the lane of log houses with fifes shrieking and drums beating. The soldiers cheered and waved their wide-brimmed hats while the women dabbed their tear-stained faces with their long white aprons. Children clung to their mothers' long full skirts and waved

#### ARMY OF GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MARCHING TO FORT VINCENNES

When George Rogers Clark and his small army arrived at the Little Wabash, they found the river had overflowed its banks and flooded the plain between two forks of the stream. The troops were forced to wade through miles of icy water to surprise the British garrison in Fort Vincennes.

*Benson J. Lossing*





goodbye to their fathers going along with Clark to capture the strong British fort at Vincennes.

It rained nearly all the time. The little army slushed through mud and water during the day, and slept without tents in the cold drizzly night. Between them and the fort, the Wabash River had overflowed its banks and turned the plain into a shallow lake. When Clark saw his men hesitate at the brink of a five mile stretch of water, he gave a war whoop and marched into the flood. He ordered those nearest him to start singing a favorite tune. Down the line, the men began to sing, and fell in behind their leader.

At night, the army camped on little islands of hilltops in the vast swamp. The flood seemed endless to the tired and hungry men. Each morning ushered in another day of wading. Sometimes, the water reached their armpits, forcing them to carry their rifles above their heads. The short troopers clung to floating logs and branches of trees. When soldiers dropped exhausted, their comrades pulled them into canoes to save them from drowning.

A little drummer boy, only fourteen years old, kept up the spirits of the men with his funny antics. When the water was too deep for wading, he floated on his drum, bobbing up and down like a cork, and paddled with his feet and hands. One morning when the water was coated with a film of ice, Clark hoisted the little drummer to the shoulders of a tall, comical sergeant. With his drum perched on the sergeant's head, the lad beat the charge, while Clark followed close behind them into the icy flood, waving his sword and shouting the command, "Forward! MARCH!"

Not expecting an army to wade through

miles of water, the attack upon the fort at Vincennes was another complete surprise. The French inhabitants had been warned by Father Gibault that the Americans were coming. When Clark sent word ahead that the King of France was helping the Americans, the villagers refused to fight in defense of the village. The British fort soon fell to these brave frontiersmen. Clark changed the name to Fort Patrick Henry, in honor of the man who had backed the expedition. In the East and in the West, the help of France proved to be the turning point of the war.

#### **FOREIGNERS AID THE AMERICAN CAUSE**

IN AUGUST OF 1775, the Duke of Gloucester, a brother of George III of England, had stopped over in the city of Metz, France, on his way to visit Italy. The governor of Lorraine, a French province, gave a dinner in the capital to honor his royal guest from England. Among the invited guests was a young French army officer, Marquis de Lafayette, whose regiment was stationed in the town. During the meal, the conversation turned to the war between England and her colonies. The Duke of Gloucester, who did not agree with his brother, the King, talked freely and explained why the colonists had rebelled. Lafayette, a lad not quite eighteen, listened to every word and asked the duke many questions about the rights the colonists were demanding. He knew neither the country nor the people of the American colonies and he did not speak their language. Before he left that dinner table, he had made up his mind to offer his services to a strange

people struggling for freedom across the Atlantic.

His family and his government opposed every attempt he made to leave for the New World. It would be embarrassing, indeed, to have a member of the French nobility helping the common people of any country to fight their king. Finally, in secret, Lafayette bought a ship which he christened *La Victoire* (The Victory), hired a crew, and loaded it with supplies for a voyage. Before he could sail, however, he received orders to report for duty with his regiment. His ship, ready to sail, lay at anchor in a Spanish port beyond the reach of French officials. Lafayette had to make his decision — and quickly.

Disguised as a postboy, he rode on horseback ahead of the coach he had hired to take him and his friend across the border into Spain. French officers sent to capture him inspected the coach, but ignored the shabby looking postboy in the lead. At an inn where the party stopped to rest, the young daughter of the innkeeper, recognized the rich nobleman disguised as a servant. The postboy shook his head and the girl kept silent. A few hours later, when French officers caught his trail and inquired for him at the inn, the girl sent them on a wild-goose chase in the opposite direction.

On a Sunday in April, 1777, *La Victoire* unfurled her sails and slipped quietly out of the harbor of Los Pasajes in Spain. On board was the owner, Marquis de Lafayette, other officers in the French army, Baron de Kalb, a German, serving in the French army, the friend who had ridden with Lafayette in the coach, and an American named Price. It took fifty-four days to cross the Atlantic in a sailing ship. To escape capture, Lafayette had been forced to leave France without saying

goodbye to his young wife and year-old daughter. On shipboard, he spent much time in writing letters asking his wife's forgiveness and explaining why he had come to the New World against the wishes of his family. He wrote:

As a defender of that liberty which I adore, coming as a friend to offer my services to this most interesting republic, I bring with me nothing but my own free heart and my own good will, no ambition to fulfill and no selfish interests to serve. — The happiness of America is intimately connected with the happiness of all mankind. She is destined to become the safe and venerable asylum of virtue, of honesty, of tolerance, of equality, and of peaceful liberty.

*La Victoire* was bound for Charleston, South Carolina. At the time, British warships were cruising off that part of the Carolina coast. Fortunately, a strong southerly wind blew Lafayette's ship off its course, and the captain dropped anchor farther north at the mouth of an inlet near Georgetown. Not knowing where they were, Lafayette, de Kalb, and several officers, with eight sailors, started for the shore in the ship's yawl. It was early in the afternoon on a warm June day. They rowed up North Inlet until ten o'clock that night, when they found some Negroes fishing for oysters. These men said they belonged to an officer in the American Army, and offered to guide the strangers to their master's house. With the tide out, the water was not deep enough for the yawl. Lafayette took de Kalb and one more, leaving the others on the yawl, and climbed into the little oyster boat. It was midnight when the Negroes put them off at their master's landing. The three men stumbled through the darkness toward a light burning in a window. As they approached the house, the dogs began to bark. The

noise awakened the family who thought the prowlers were sailors from an enemy ship out to raid their chicken roost.

From the darkness, a voice called out, "Who's there?"

"We are French officers," answered de Kalb, who could speak English.

"What do you want?"

"We've just come ashore to serve in the Continental Army," de Kalb replied. "We want a pilot to bring our ship into the harbor."

"Come in!" the voice spoke.

The three men entered a room where they were cordially welcomed and were invited to spend the night. Thus, to Major Benjamin Huger of South Carolina, fell the unexpected honor of welcoming Lafayette to America. Later the French nobleman went to Charleston. From this place, he wrote to his wife about the country and the people. Lafayette wrote:

What gives me most pleasure is to see how completely the citizens are all brethren of one family. In America there are none poor and none that can be called peasants. Each citizen has some property, and all citizens have the same rights as the richest individual, or landed proprietor, in the country.

It was a long journey overland from Charleston to Philadelphia, seat of the Continental Congress. Lafayette bought carriages and horses for the trip, but the coaches soon broke down on the rough roads, and the party completed the journey on horseback. Lafayette was given an army commission by the Continental Congress. Some of his fellow officers received none and returned to France, disgruntled.

Another foreigner, a Pole named Kosciuszko, helped the American cause.

He left Poland after his country, defeated in war, was partitioned by its powerful neighbors. When his own country could not be free, he sought consolation in fighting for the freedom of a new nation across the seas. He arrived a year ahead of Lafayette. As an engineer, his services were in demand for building roads, defenses, and fortifications. In the Journal of the Continental Congress for Oct. 18, this item appears:

RESOLVED, that Thaddeus Kosciuszko be appointed an engineer in the service of the United States, with the pay of sixty dollars a month, and the rank of colonel.

A Polish patriot, Count Pulaski, also preferred fighting for freedom in a strange land to living in his own country under foreign rule. He was killed in an attack on Savannah. De Kalb also lost his life. In the battle of Camden, South Carolina, he was badly wounded, and died a few days later. During his last hours, he dictated a letter to Colonel Smallwood who took over his command. In this note, he expressed his satisfaction in dying for a cause as dear to the friends of liberty in Europe as it was to those in the United States. Baron Steuben, another German, survived the war. He had been educated for a military career and had been a general in the Prussian Army under Frederick the Great. He was a hard drill-master who trained raw recruits for the Continental Army, rendering a great service to Washington during the trying winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge. Of all the foreigners who fought in the war for independence, Lafayette was the most popular man with the people, perhaps, in part, because his country helped the United States.

During a visit in Baltimore, Lafayette was invited to a ball. He attended but did





FAC-SIMILE OF THE CONTINENTAL BILLS.<sup>1</sup>

Benson J. Lossing

### CONTINENTAL MONEY

The plates for this paper money were engraved on copper by Paul Revere of Boston. One bill shows a beaver patiently gnawing at the trunk of a tree. The motto — PERSEVERANDO (by perseverance) suggests that the colonists will win if they are as determined as the beaver. On another bill a circular chain is engraved with each link named for one of the thirteen states. In the center is the slogan, WE ARE ONE.

This paper money so depreciated in value that one pair of boots cost \$600 in January of 1781. The Continental Congress could ask the states for taxes to support the war, but could not force the states to pay.

not join in the fun. When he was introduced as the honored guest, he said to the ladies who had planned the party for him, "You dance very prettily; your ball is fine; but my soldiers need *shirts*."

Quite embarrassed, the ladies soon went home. In a few weeks, bundles of shirts were on the way to clothe Lafayette's troops.

### THE FRENCH ALLIANCE ENCOURAGES AMERICANS

HISTORY RECORDS that wars breed strange alliances like the "Treaty of Amity and Commerce" between France and the United States in 1778. Why did a French king help the Americans, whom he

regarded as rebels, to wage war against another king? The answer is long and involved because the reasons were many and varied. Was revenge a motive? France was still smarting under defeat by Great Britain in the Seven Years War. The loss of Canada and the territory lying between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River was a blow to French pride, and also closed the door to French colonization in a large part of North America. Great Britain's victory over France was attained in a large measure with the resources of men and supplies from her American colonies. Therefore, the loss of these possessions would injure British commerce and the British navy, lessening the power of Great Britain in world affairs.

Although the King, Louis XVI, listened to this argument from his ministers, he was not easily persuaded to risk another war with Great Britain, until Burgoyne was captured at Saratoga. This victory convinced him that the Americans had a chance to win the war if given some help and encouragement. Or, at least, so his ministers convinced him. At the time, following Burgoyne's surrender, there was considerable opposition in the British Parliament to continuing the war. Early in 1778, a member of Parliament testified that American privateers had captured or destroyed 559 British vessels according to the register at Lloyd's Coffee House, where a record was kept "with the most minute correctness" of every vessel sailing out from or entering into ports of Great Britain and Ireland. Lloyd's insurance rates on ships sailing for the United States had doubled, even with convoy, because about 175 American privateers with 2000 guns and 13,000 seamen were raiding British shipping.

On the thirteenth of March, the French Ambassador in London announced that his Government had signed a "Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the United States of North America." A week later, Benjamin Franklin and other envoys were presented to Louis XVI, who appointed a Minister to the United States. In only another week, a letter was on the way to the Continental Congress that the King was sending a fleet under the Count D'Estaing "to endeavor to destroy the English forces upon the shores of North America." With France at war with Great Britain, American privateers were free to use French ports, taking their raids into waters washing the shores of England.

When news of the French treaty reached Washington encamped at Valley Forge, he ordered a day set aside "to offer up a Thanksgiving" and to celebrate the important event.

With money loaned by investors, after the treaty of France increased the chances for victory, Washington's army gained uniforms, guns, and much needed equipment. The French Minister, Gerard, visited the General's headquarters in northern New Jersey a year later. A troop review was arranged in his honor. Dr. Thacher remarked in his journal, with pride, that the "ragged Continentals" of Valley Forge had been drilled into a first class army by Baron Steuben. The doctor's entry for May 28, 1779, began with a description of Steuben's inspection of the brigade to which he was assigned:

The Baron Steuben reviewed and inspected our brigade. The troops were paraded in a single line with shouldered arms, every officer in his particular station. The baron first reviewed the line in this position, passing in front with a scrutinizing eye; after which, he took into his hand the

muskets and accoutrements of every soldier, examining them with particular accuracy and precision, applauding or condemning, according to the condition in which he found them. He required that the musket and bayonet should exhibit the brightest polish; not a spot of rust or defect in any part could elude his vigilance. He inquired also into the conduct of the officers toward their men, censuring every fault and applauding every meritorious action. Next, he inquired of me, as surgeon, a list of the sick, with a particular statement of their accommodations and mode of treatment, and even visited some of the sick in their cabins. — The continental army has improved with great rapidity under his inspection and review.

## THE WAR ENDS IN THE SOUTH

TEN DAYS AFTER celebrating the French alliance, Washington's troops were rejoicing over the departure of General Howe, who turned over his command in Philadelphia to General Clinton on the eighteenth of May, 1778. Howe was called home to answer for his failure to end the rebellion. A month later, Clinton evacuated Philadelphia and marched toward New York. Lafayette in command of the advance column was pursuing him. Washington overtook the British forces at Monmouth, New Jersey. Joining forces with Lafayette, an indecisive battle was fought on the twenty-eighth of June, a day of oppressive heat which increased the number of casualties.

During the battle, Molly Pitcher, wife of one of the officers in charge of a cannon, carried water from a spring for her husband's gun crew. When he fell, overcome by the heat, the officer in charge ordered the gun taken off the field. Molly

rushed forward, however, and continued to fire the gun until a retreat was ordered. The engagement ended without a decision in favor of either side. Washington and Lafayette lay down under a tree on the moonlit night, to be ready at daybreak to resume the battle. During the night, Clinton silently slipped away, and continued his march to New York. Washington followed, establishing his headquarters nearby at White Plains; later moving to Morristown, New Jersey, for the winter.

Meanwhile, the final campaign of the war was slowly developing in the South. After Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga and the failure of the British plan to isolate New England, a new scheme was developed to conquer the southern states, one by one. This strategy was good, since there were many loyal Tories in these former proprietary colonies. From the beginning of the war, patriots and loyalists had been engaged in civil war, destroying each other's property and murdering one another. Taking advantage of this bitter personal feud among former neighbors and friends, the British outlined their southern campaign.

The arrival of a French fleet carrying French troops during the summer of 1779 helped the development of action in the South. In the autumn of that year, ships commanded by Count D'Estaing appeared off the coast of Georgia. They landed troops to aid the Americans and laid siege to Savannah. However, the British held the city and the French squadron sailed away to defend the West Indies from attack. With the loyalists in control of the government, the patriots were forced to retreat into forests and swamps to carry on warfare.

Encouraged by the British success at Savannah, Clinton sailed from New York

during the Christmas holidays with an army to invade the South. He took Lord Cornwallis as second in command and left Knyphausen to hold New York and to keep Washington anchored at his headquarters in Morristown, New Jersey. With the departure of the French fleet, it was safe to transport his army by sea for an attack on Charleston, South Carolina.

The expedition ran into stormy weather which caused the loss of one vessel carrying guns for the siege. Nearly all the horses belonging to the cavalry perished at sea. It was the end of January before the transports reached Savannah, from which place Clinton sailed to a spot about thirty miles south of Charleston. He landed his troops on John's Island. His plan was to attack Charleston by land while his fleet bombarded the city from the harbor.

About the middle of May, after resisting a siege, the Americans surrendered Charleston. When news came a few weeks later, that a French fleet was enroute across the Atlantic, Clinton sailed for New York. He left Cornwallis in command of 8000 troops. Lacking numbers and equipment, roving bands of militiamen harried the march of Cornwallis with hit-and-run warfare. They hid in the woods by day and raided the British camps at night. A page from the small orderly book of Francis Marion, whom the British nicknamed the Swamp Fox, reveals the alert method by which he earned this title:

Before George Town May 28, 1781

All the guards and pickets to keep their arms so near as to be able to take them at an instant and without confusion, night and day. No officer to leave his guard on any pretense. Should an alarm take place, all guards and pickets must be ready to make the utmost opposition and not to quit their posts but on the greatest necessity or by orders





### MARION'S BRIGADE CROSSING THE PEEDEE RIVER

During the Revolutionary War, Marion and his followers roamed through the swampy region between the Pee Dee River and the Santee River in South Carolina. From their hidden camps, day and night, the Swamp Fox and his fighting men raided the British quarters.

from the commandant or field officer of the day. — Every officer to remain with his men during the night. — All horses must be picketed in the rear of the encampment at night.

Nathaniel Greene, who early in the war had taken over the difficult job of furnishing supplies for the army, asked to be relieved of the quartermaster's duties. He wanted to return to the field of combat in the southern campaign. Generals Greene, de Kalb, Gates, and Lafayette were among the officers dispatched to meet Cornwallis

on his march northward from Charleston. Although the Americans lost more battles than they won, they managed to drive Cornwallis inland, drawing him farther and farther away from his supply bases on the coast.

The main battles in the Carolinas were Camden, King's Mountain, Cowpens, Guilford Court House, Hobkirk's Hill, and Eutaw Springs. At Petersburg, Virginia, on the twentieth of May, 1781, Cornwallis joined forces with Benedict Arnold, the able general who had deserted the Continental Army and joined the British Army.

Lafayette with a small force was encamped at Richmond, not far from Petersburg. A French fleet, commanded by Count de Grasse, was on the way to block a British retreat by sea. For good measure, de Grasse brought about 4000 troops from Haiti to enlarge the forces under Lafayette. Late in August, Washington left part of his army along the Hudson. He slipped away with his main force and headed south toward Chesapeake Bay. Clinton thought Washington intended to attack him in New York, and the troops had passed Philadelphia before the British General realized that Washington was enroute to Virginia.

While his army was embarking for a short voyage at the head of Chesapeake Bay, Washington paid a brief visit to his home at Mount Vernon. It was the first time in six years that he had been home.

Protected by a French fleet, Washington landed at Williamsburg. He assembled about 16,000 soldiers to close in on Cornwallis who was trapped on Yorktown peninsula. The siege of Yorktown began late in September, with a combined force including about 8000 French troops. On October 17, 1781, four years to the day

after Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga, Cornwallis was ready to surrender. Two days later, his soldiers marched out and stacked their guns while their army band played the old British tune, "The World Turned Upside Down."

Eight years after the Battle of Lexington, merely a skirmish on the village green, Great Britain acknowledged the independence of her former thirteen colonies in North America. By the Treaty of Paris, negotiated by John Adams, John Jay, and Benjamin Franklin in 1783, the United States extended from Canada in the north to Florida in the south, and west to the Mississippi River. The eyes of the world were turned toward the first new nation to rise in the Western Hemisphere. People everywhere wondered how long it would last. What kind of government would it have? Would the country grow and prosper? In war, could the nation defend itself?

#### MAP:

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*Atlas of American History* by Edgar B. Wesley