

SECTION 10
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
1776-1783

1492

1776-83

2020

“We fight not to enslave, but to set a country free, and to make room upon the earth for honest men to live in.”
—Thomas Paine, 1776



10-1 ★ THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR: AN OVERVIEW, 1776-1783




revolution—the complete overthrow of a political system

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THE 13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		GREAT BRITAIN	
	About 2.5 million	POPULATION	About 8 million 
PATRIOTS —colonists for independence (also called WHIGS, REBELS) About 1/3 of the colonists supported the Revolution.		AMERICANS CHOOSE SIDES About 1/3 were neutral.	LOYALISTS —colonists loyal to Britain (also called TORIES, REDCOATS) About 1/3 of the colonists remained loyal British subjects.
CONTINENTAL ARMY Never more than about 18,500, often less	STATE MILITIAS About 230,000 militiamen served—but never at one place (owing to regional loyalties) or at one time (owing to short enlistments of 3-12 months, desertions, and trips home to harvest crops).	ARMIES	BRITISH ARMY: About 50,000 regulars, never at one place or time GERMAN MERCENARIES (hired soldiers) King George III hired 30,000 soldiers from six German principalities. Because more than half came from Hesse-Cassel, they were all called Hessians. Most were forced to serve by their local ruler, who pocketed the British payments. Many remained in America after the war.
FRENCH TROOPS: after 1778, about 8,000 AFRICAN-AMERICANS: about 5,000 NATIVE AMERICANS: 2 Iroquois tribes, few other tribes WOMEN: a few disguised as men and some who helped in combat by loading weapons or by carrying water.			LOYALISTS: about 50,000 AFRICAN-AMERICANS: some slaves, in return for their freedom NATIVE AMERICANS: 3 Iroquois tribes and most other tribes
AMERICAN: 13 frigates, 40 merchantmen, more than 2,000 privateers FRENCH AND SPANISH: by 1781, about 350 ships		NAVIES	BRITISH: by 1781, about 460 ships

THE 13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

GREAT BRITAIN

MILITARY LEADERS



GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1732-99

Commander in chief, 1775-83

General Benedict Arnold, 1741-1801

(turned traitor in 1779)

General Horatio Gates, 1728-1806

General Nathanael Greene, 1742-86

General Henry Knox, 1750-1806

General Charles Lee, 1731-82

General Benjamin Lincoln, 1733-1810

Commodore Esek Hopkins

FRENCH ALLIES

Lieutenant General Comte de Rochambeau, 1750-1813

Admiral Comte de Grasse

Vice-Admiral Comte d'Estaing

FOREIGN VOLUNTEERS

General Marie Joseph Marquis de Lafayette (French),
1757-1834

General Baron Johan de Kalb (German), 1721-80

Colonel Thaddeus Kosciusko (Polish), 1746-1817

General Count Casimir Pulaski (Polish), 1749-79

General Baron Friedrich von Steuben (Prussian), 1730-94

GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE, 1729-1814

Commander in chief, 1775-78

GENERAL HENRY CLINTON, 1738-95

Commander in chief, 1778-83

General Charles Cornwallis, 1738-1805

General John "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne, 1722-92

Admiral Richard Howe, 1726-99

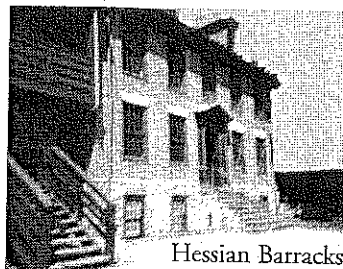
(brother of General William Howe)

Admiral George Rodney, 1719-92

GERMANS HIRED BY THE BRITISH

General Frederick von Riedesel

Colonel Johann Rall



Hessian Barracks Museum
Trenton, New Jersey

ADVANTAGES

1. **Outstanding leadership** of General George Washington, a man of high character and inspiring courage
2. **Strong motivation**—Americans were fighting to become free; free to think for themselves, choose their own laws, and govern themselves.
3. **Fighting on home ground**—knew the territory
4. **Experienced officers**—including Washington, who had fought in the French and Indian War
5. **Superiority of the American rifle**—in range and accuracy—over the British smoothbore musket
6. **Sharpshooters**—because of frontier experiences

1. **Military power**—strongest army and navy in the world; well equipped, trained, and disciplined
2. **Superior numbers**—outnumbering the American patriots in most battles
3. **Indian support**—from many Native Americans fearful of losing even more land to white settlers
4. **Loyalist cooperation**—from about one-third of the Americans, who wanted to remain British
5. **Hefty war chest**, with enough money to hire 30,000 German soldiers
6. **Bright red uniforms**—took pride in appearance

DISADVANTAGES

1. **Inexperienced army and militia** (most militiamen were farmers)—untrained and undisciplined
2. **Short enlistments**—often only 3 to 12 months
3. **Brand new navy**—few ships to defend coastline
4. **Constant shortages**: money, arms, food, clothing, medicine
5. **Near-bankrupt treasury**—Congress printed continental paper money that lost its value because there was no hard currency (gold/silver), called *specie*, backing it.
6. **Loyalist warfare**—often neighbor against neighbor

1. **Weak motivation**—not fighting for a cause
2. **Unaggressive officers**—failed to press advantages
3. **3,000 miles from British home base**—resulting in poor communications and a long supply line
4. **1,500-mile enemy coastline**—hard to blockade
5. **Vast land**—could conquer but not hold territory
6. **Easy targets**—because of red uniforms and classic military tactic of fighting in closed ranks
7. **European aid to Americans**; fighting European enemies

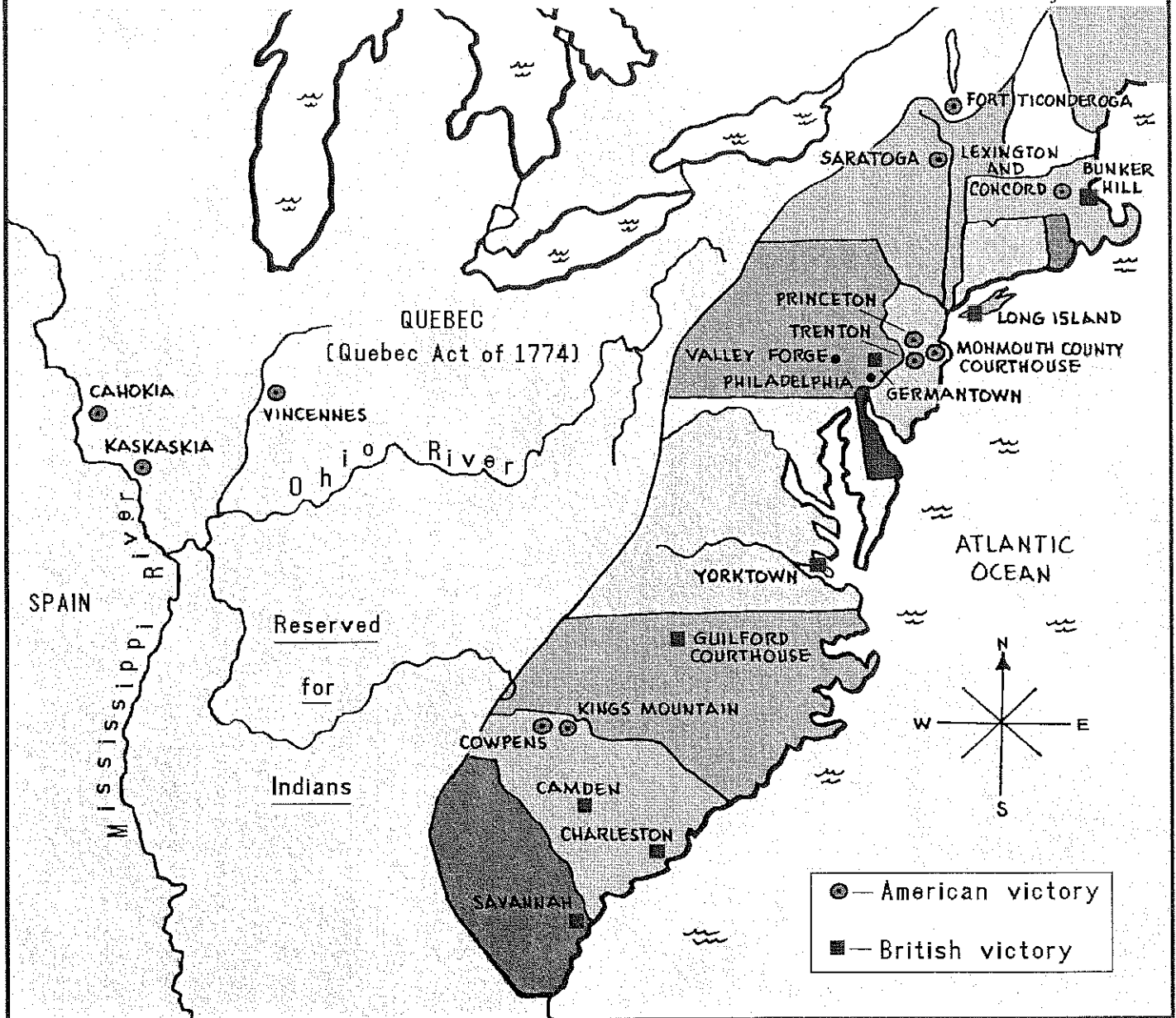
★ THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR: AN OVERVIEW, 1776-1783

“The possession of our Towns, while we have an army in the field, will avail them little....It is our arms they have to subdue.”
 —George Washington

	THE 13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	GREAT BRITAIN
GOALS	Preserve the Continental army and wear down British troops until they give up and go home	Force the Continental army to surrender; restore British control of the 13 colonies
STRATEGIES	Hit and run! Avoid battles; avoid capture. The only victory necessary: the last one	Capture seaports. Then, divide and conquer. How? By Isolating and seizing: 1) New England, 2) the middle states, and 3) the South.
TACTICS	Guerrilla tactics learned from the Indians (surprise raids, fighting from behind trees), as well as conventional 18th century war tactics	Conventional 18th century war tactics: frontal attacks in close ranks

MAJOR BATTLES

“I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and defend these states.”
 —John Adams

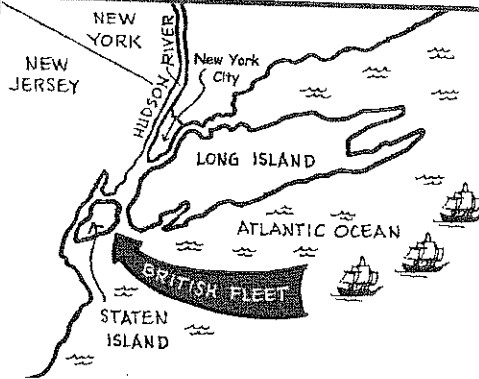


And now back to our story of General Washington and the Continental Army, who in April had forced the British troops to evacuate Boston.

July 2, 1776—
Washington had guessed correctly: the British were headed for New York.



Gen. William Howe, hoping to divide the colonies by taking New York, landed 10,000 British soldiers on Staten Island on July 2, the same day Congress voted for independence.



Soon a fleet of 300 ships led by Admiral Richard Howe, General William Howe's brother, brought more British troops to New York, for a total of 34,000.

July 9—Headquartered in New York City on Manhattan Island, Washington responded to the British threat by having the Declaration of Independence read to his 19,000 troops.



8:30 a.m., Aug. 27—Washington expected a British attack on Long Island. He told his soldiers:

I HAVE 2 LOADED PISTOLS AND WILL SHOOT ANY MAN WHO TURNS HIS BACK IN BATTLE. EVERYTHING WORTH LIVING FOR IS AT STAKE HERE. I WILL NOT ASK ANY MAN TO GO FURTHER THAN I DO. I WILL FIGHT AS LONG AS I HAVE LEG OR AN ARM.

(GULP) I FEEL MOTIVATED. DON'T YOU, BOYS?
WE S-SURE D-DO!!



THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND began thirty minutes later as the British, aided by fierce Hessians, attacked the patriot army. Outfoxing Washington, Howe's redcoats soundly defeated the Americans.

THE PATRIOTS' CRUSHING DEFEAT MIGHT HAVE SIGNALLED THE LAST DAY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE—EXCEPT THAT...



During a heavy fog, Washington made a daring escape by ferrying 9,500 troops from Long Island to Manhattan. Manning the boats were John Glovers' fishermen/soldiers from Marblehead, Massachusetts.



But General Howe's redcoats soon had Washington's army on the run.

Fancying a jolly fox hunt, the British chased the Americans out of New York, through New Jersey, and into Pennsylvania. Howe infuriated Washington with the bugle call "Gone to Earth," signifying the fox running for his hole.



Surprisingly, Howe did not move in for the kill (a persistent trait, perhaps a result of his Bunker Hill losses). He returned to New York City, which the British occupied until the end of the war, to set up winter headquarters.

THE HESSIANS ARE IN NEW JERSEY, GUARDING TRENTON AND PRINCETON, SO WE CAN PARTY ALL WINTER!

AND WILL YOU APPOINT A SOCIAL DIRECTOR, SIR?



December 1776: A GLOOMY CRISIS—Washington's demoralized troops, down to 3,000, were near desertion. From Pennsylvania, he wrote his brother John.

"I THINK THE GAME IS PRETTY NEAR UP... NO MAN ... EVER HAD A GREATER CHOICE OF DIFFICULTIES AND LESS MEANS TO EXTRICATE HIMSELF FROM THEM."



10-3 ★ THE TIDE TURNS: WASHINGTON CROSSES THE DELAWARE, 1776

1492

1776

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THE TIDE TURNED WHEN WASHINGTON ASKED THOMAS PAINE, AUTHOR OF "COMMON SENSE" AND NOW A SOLDIER IN THE RETREATING ARMY, TO READ HIS SPIRITED NEW ESSAY, "THE AMERICAN CRISIS" TO THE DEJECTED TROOPS.

THE AMERICAN CRISIS
 These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country. But he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

The soldiers' spirits revived. It was a morale victory, but Washington needed a military victory as well. He had a brilliant idea.

Christmas night we'll surprise-attack the Hessian troops at Trenton, New Jersey. Get ready to recross the Delaware River!

So on Christmas night, 1776, through a blinding sleet storm, John Glover's fishermen/sailors ferried Washington's 2,400 troops across the ice-clogged Delaware River toward Trenton.

WE MAY CATCH OUR DEATH OF COLD!

REMEMBER THE COUNTERSIGN— "VICTORY OR DEATH."

The freezing troops then marched nine miles to Trenton. Their bare feet wrapped in rags left bloody footprints on the snow, but none complained.

PRESS ON, BOYS, PRESS ON! REMEMBER THE GLORIOUS CAUSE WE ARE FIGHTING FOR.

ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS A WARM STABLE...

BATTLE OF TRENTON (New Jersey)
 9:00 a.m., December 26, 1776—
 In a smashing victory the patriots surprised the over-celebrated, sleepy Hessians and took Trenton in 45 minutes.

WHAT'S ALL THAT CLATTER?
 COULD BE SAINT NICHOLAS, JA?

Capturing 1,000 prisoners, the Americans shouted to the Hessians: "These are the times that try men's souls!" And they danced in the streets.

January 2, 1777—British General Cornwallis marched south to retake Trenton. Exhausted, he refused advice to attack Washington the night he arrived.

I HAVE THE OLD FOX TRAPPED NOW. I'LL BAG HIM IN THE MORNING

HO HO HUM

Meanwhile:

WE'RE OUTA HERE TONIGHT! BUT LEAVE CAMP FIRES BURNING TO FOOL CORNWALLIS.

BATTLE OF PRINCETON (New Jersey),
 January 3, 1777—Washington led a victorious attack on Cornwallis' rearguard at Princeton. Ignoring danger, he charged and cried out:

IT'S A FINE FOX CHASE, MY BOYS!

LOOK AT 'EM SCAMPER

Washington's brilliant victories reclaimed New Jersey for the patriots, and he now wintered his troops at Morristown, New Jersey. His reputation for courage restored, the nation cheered him as a hero—all except his mother.

When neighbors congratulated Mary Washington (who lived in Fredericksburg, Virginia), she said the news reports of her son's genius were too flattering, but they wouldn't go to his head.

"George will not forget the lessons I have taught him," she said.



ABIGAIL ADAMS,
1744-1818

While General Washington winters at Morristown, let me tell you about some other people involved in the Revolution, lest you think only white men fought for American liberty.

I am Abigail Adams. You have met me as the wife of John Adams. I am also the mother of John Quincy Adams. Both men are future United States presidents.

Patriots, those Americans who supported Independence, were of every nationality and faith, demonstrating the love of freedom that brought us all to this country.

Some groups—such as African-Americans, Native Americans, and all women—were excluded from some or all of the rights we were fighting for in the Revolution; nevertheless, many of us put our shoulders to the wheel, hoping our time would come.

As you remember, I wrote John asking him to remember the ladies in the new code of freedom he and the other Founding Fathers were writing. He laughed at my request, for like most men of his time, he believed women have restricted roles. Let's see for ourselves how some women and African-Americans participated in the War.

And for starters, you might like to read the very first history of the American Revolution: *History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution*. It was written by a woman, my friend Mercy Otis Warren of Plymouth, Massachusetts. This was an unusual feat for a woman, for women in our day were excluded from college and intellectual activities. Mercy became educated through listening to the tutor of her patriot brother, James Otis.

Deborah Sampson yearned to be a soldier, unthinkable for a woman. Brave, imaginative Deborah became the first woman in the American army. She served two years disguised as a man.

COME ON, DEBORAH! WE HAVE TO MILK THOSE COWS.
NOT ME. I'M LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE.



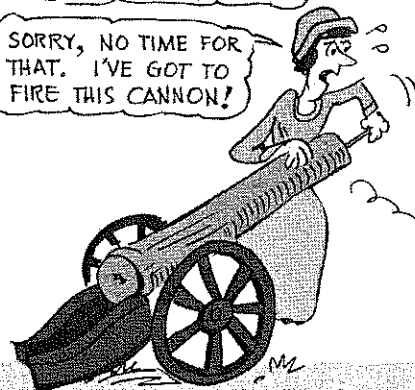
the American army. She served two years disguised as a man.



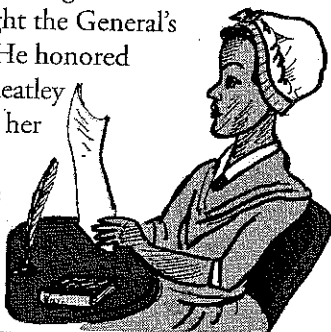
Molly Pitcher was the name given to many women who, like Molly Corbin and Mary Hays McCauley, brought water and aid to the soldiers and even manned the cannon when needed.

MORE WATER, MOLLY!

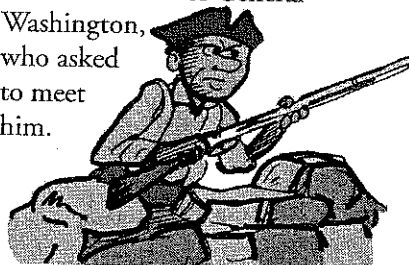
SORRY, NO TIME FOR THAT. I'VE GOT TO FIRE THIS CANNON!



Phillis Wheatley displayed such a brilliant mind as a young slave that her Boston owners encouraged her gifts as a poet. Her poem to General George Washington, published in the *Pennsylvania Magazine* in 1776, caught the General's attention. He honored Phillis Wheatley by inviting her to visit his Cambridge head-quarters.



Peter Salem and other African-Americans fought at Lexington and Bunker Hill. Salem heard Major Pitcairn's "Disperse, ye rebels!" at Lexington and was credited with killing Pitcairn at Bunker Hill. Salem's bravery won the attention and admiration of General Washington, who asked to meet him.



Of 5,000 African-Americans in the Continental Army, most were freedmen.



About fifty served in each battalion. There were two all-black regiments—from Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

The 400-strong R.I. regiment won fame in the Battle of Sullivan, South Carolina, by withstanding three fierce assaults from 1,500 Hessians.

10-5 ★ JOHN PAUL JONES: AMERICA'S FIRST NAVAL HERO

"Hailed the 'Serapis:' 'Have you Struck your colors?' Our reply,
"We have not yet begun to fight!" went shouting to the sky!"

—Bret Harte, *Off Scarborough*, September 1779

While the Continental Army won victories on land, the Continental Navy—founded by Congress October 3, 1775—struggled against Britain's mighty navy with a small fleet of 40 ocean-going ships and some smaller, freshwater vessels. John Adams, a strong advocate of sea defense, wrote the first rules and regulations for the new navy. Esek Hopkins served as naval commander in chief from 1775 to 1778.

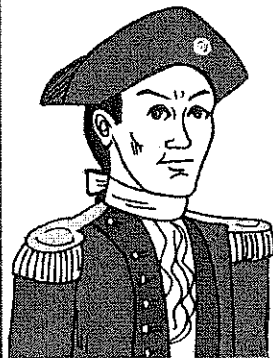
JOHN PAUL JONES, 1747-92, loved the sea, sought adventure, and became a hero for refusing to surrender his sinking ship.

Born in Scotland as John Paul (he added the name Jones later), he joined the British merchant marine at age 12 and captained his own ship within ten years.

In 1775 Jones joined the new American navy to help win American independence. He soon became noted for daring raids on British ships and ports.

In 1779 Benjamin Franklin, U.S. minister to France (America's ally), persuaded King Louis XVI to give Jones a French merchant ship to command.

Jones named his ship *Bon Homme Richard*, in honor of Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanac*, and led a small squadron into British waters.



JOHN PAUL JONES' FAMOUS VICTORY: *BON HOMME RICHARD* DEFEATS THE BRITISH *SERAPIS*

On September 23, 1779, John Paul Jones spied the British 50-gun frigate *Serapis* and fired upon her. "The battle being thus begun was Continued with Unremitting fury," he later wrote.

Out-gunned, his ship on fire and sinking, Jones heard Captain Richard Pearson, the *Serapis* commander, call out asking if he were ready to strike his colors (lower his flag) and surrender.

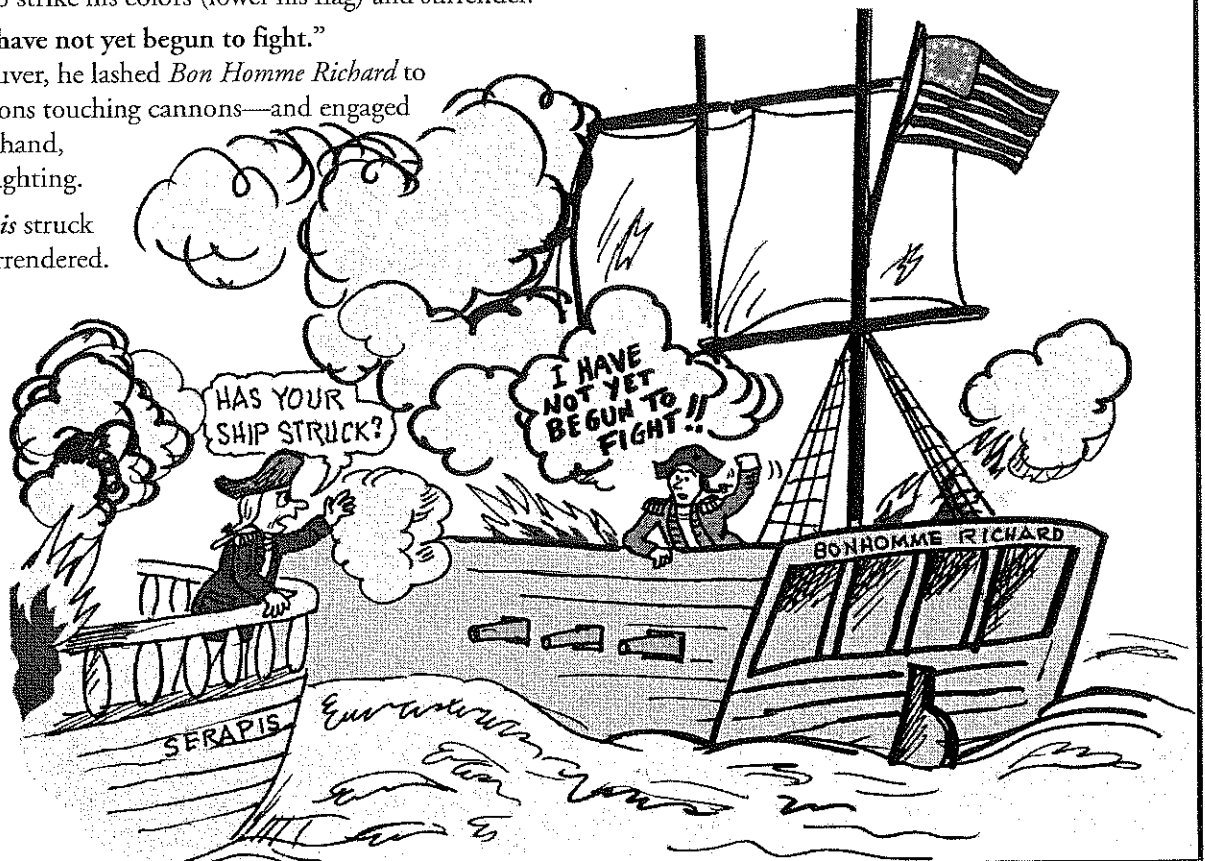
Jones replied: "I have not yet begun to fight."

In a daring maneuver, he lashed *Bon Homme Richard* to the *Serapis*—cannons touching cannons—and engaged in fierce hand-to-hand, sword-to-sword fighting.

At last, the *Serapis* struck her colors and surrendered.

Victorious, Jones and his crew left their sinking ship and sailed the captured *Serapis* to a port in Holland.

Benjamin Franklin reported to Congress: "The cruise of our little squadron... has had some success."



★ JOHN PAUL JONES: AMERICA'S FIRST NAVAL HERO

JOHN PAUL JONES WINS IMMEDIATE AND LASTING FAME FROM HIS DEFEAT OF THE *SERAPIS*.

Congress passed a resolution thanking "John Paul Jones, for the zeal, prudence and intrepidity with which he has supported the honor of the American flag; [and] for his bold and successful enterprises to redeem from captivity the citizens of these states." King Louis XVI knighted Jones, and French artist Jean-Antoine Houdon sculpted his bust (which you can see today in the American Embassy in Paris).

To Jones' dismay, a nearly bankrupt Congress disbanded the American navy after winning independence from Great Britain. He warned, "In time of peace it is necessary to prepare, and be always prepared for war at sea."

In 1788 Jones, now at loose ends, accepted Russian Empress Catherine the Great's invitation to become an admiral in the Russian navy; however, he reserved the the right to return to America if Congress should restore the navy. In Russia's war with Turkey he won crucial victories on the Black Sea as commander of the *Vladimir*. Jones obtained a leave of absence from the Russian navy in 1790 and retired to Paris,

In 1792—at age 45—Jones died and was buried in Paris. Unknown to him, he had just been appointed United States diplomatic agent to Algiers by Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson—who earlier had described Jones as "the principal hope of America's future efforts on the ocean."

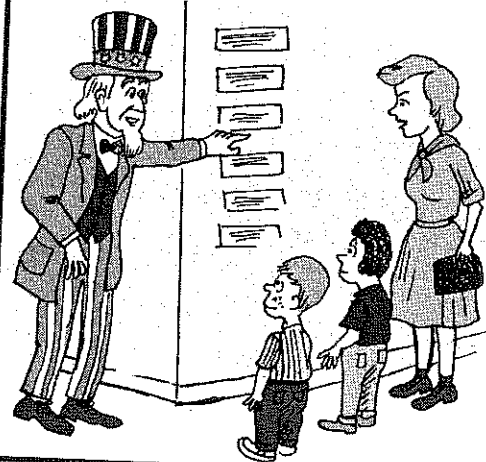
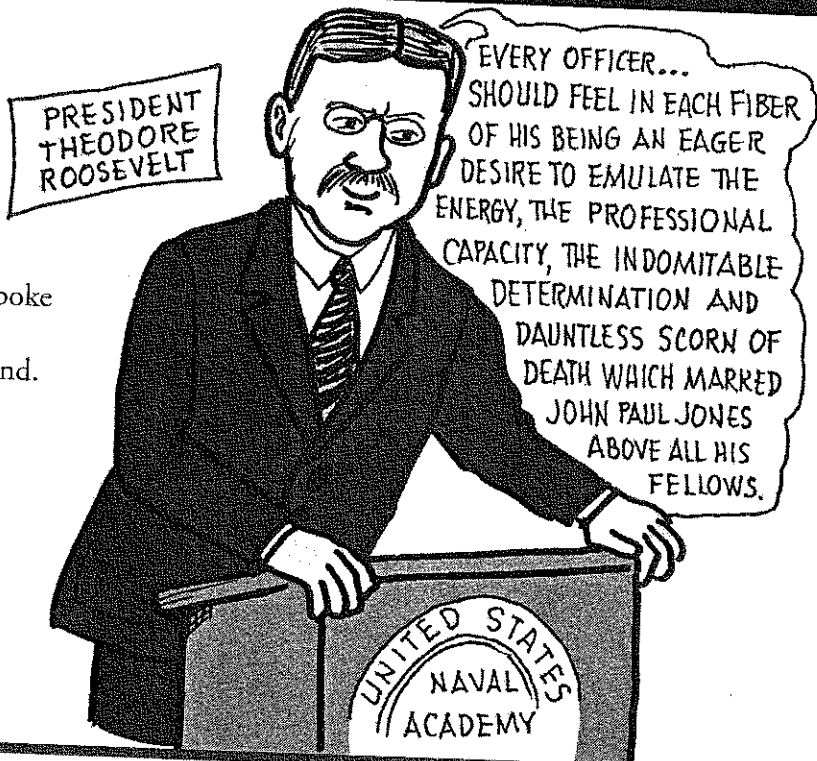
THE UNITED STATES RECLAIMS ITS HERO.

By 1900 John Paul Jones was considered the "Father of the American Navy," and Congress appropriated \$35,000 to find and return his body to the United States for reburial.

In 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt—like Jones an advocate of a strong navy—spoke at the interment of John Paul Jones at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Roosevelt began:

"On behalf of the American people I wish to thank our ancient ally, the great French nation, that proud and gallant nation to whose help we once owed it that John Paul Jones was able to win for the Stars and Stripes the victory that has given him deathless fame...."



Today you can tour the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and see plaques honoring John Paul Jones and other naval heroes.

You can also see this inscription on his memorial beneath the chapel:

HE GAVE TO OUR NAVY
ITS EARLIEST TRADITIONS OF
HEROISM AND VICTORY.

During World War II, PT boats such as John F. Kennedy commanded inspired American sailors with signs posting John Paul Jones' words:

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast for I intend to go in harms way."

10-6 ★ BENEDICT ARNOLD: TRAITOR

While John Paul Jones and others exhibited heroism, Benedict Arnold practiced treachery. Here is his infamous story.

Benedict Arnold became famous as an American general in the early years of the Revolutionary War.

Then in 1780 Arnold became infamous as a traitor by betraying his country.

For the promise of money and a British generalship, he schemed to help the British capture West Point, a strong United States fortification on the Hudson River in New York.

The scheme failed.
And so did Arnold.

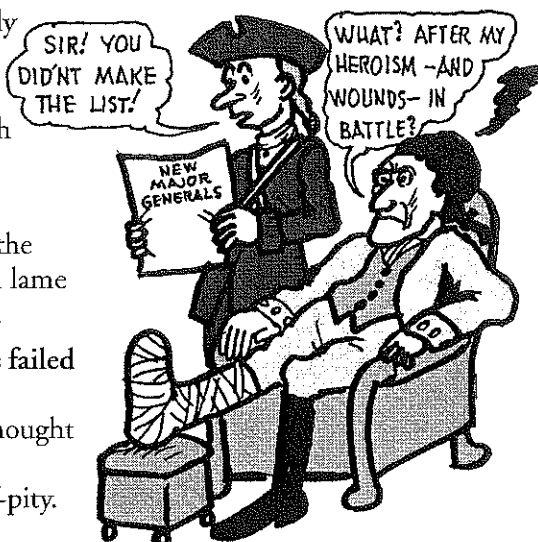
His name is synonymous with betrayal, the most wretched of acts.

IT ALL STARTED AFTER THE BATTLE OF SARATOGA.

General Benedict Arnold fought brilliantly in helping the American Army defeat the British at Saratoga.

A severe wound near the end of the battle made him lame and disgruntled.

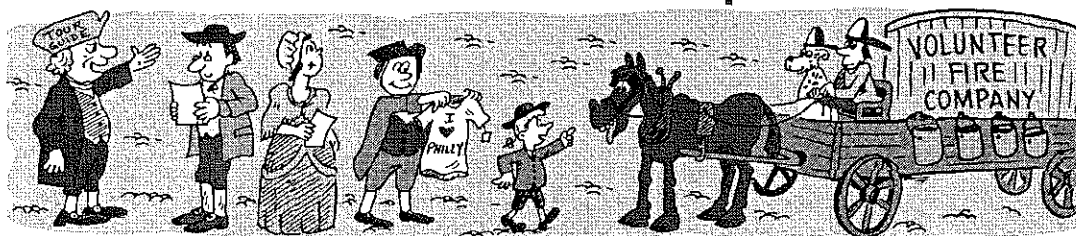
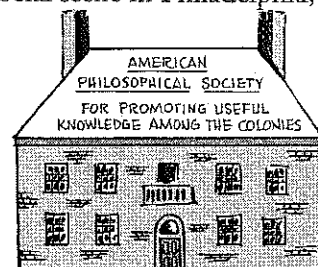
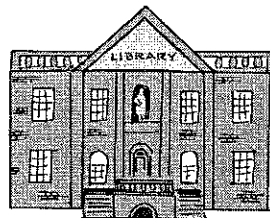
When Congress failed to give him the promotion he thought he deserved, he wallowed in self-pity.



General George Washington had confidence in Arnold, and he put him in command of Philadelphia, which the British had just evacuated after holding the city for several months. Arnold enjoyed the social scene in Philadelphia, especially after meeting and marrying Peggy (Margaret) Shippen, daughter of the chief justice of Pennsylvania.

Peggy—age 19, beautiful, and witty—was a Tory, an American who favored the British.

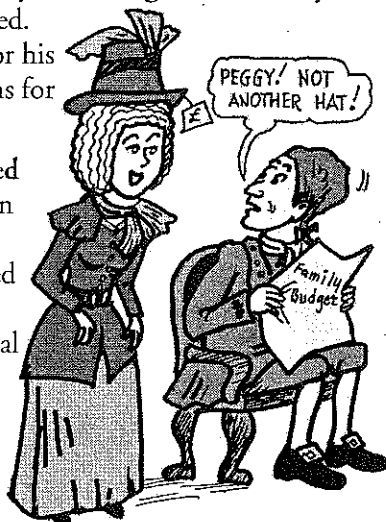
TROUBLE AHEAD!



The Arnolds lived extravagantly, matching the the lifestyle to which Peggy was accustomed. Benedict bought a mansion for his bride and and spent large sums for her new clothes—and his.

Deeply in debt, Arnold needed money. Accused of cheating on his expense account, he was investigated and then acquitted by Congress. Upon futher charges, he faced a court-martial and was sentenced to a reprimand from Washington.

Embittered, he decided to sell out to the British.



And so it was that Benedict Arnold committed treason.

From George Washington he sought and received the command of West Point in July 1780.

Then through John André, intelligence aide to British General Henry Clinton, he sent an offer to Clinton that the British did not refuse.

Arnold's offer: to surrender West Point, a strategic fort guarding the Hudson River, to the British for 20,000 pounds of sterling and an appointment as Brigadier General in the British Army.

★ BENEDICT ARNOLD: TRAITOR

September 21, 1780—In a secret meeting at Teller's Point on the Hudson River, Benedict Arnold gave John André the plans of West Point, which revealed the placement of troops and other important information for the British attack. André hid them in his boot and began hiking toward New York City to deliver them to Clinton.

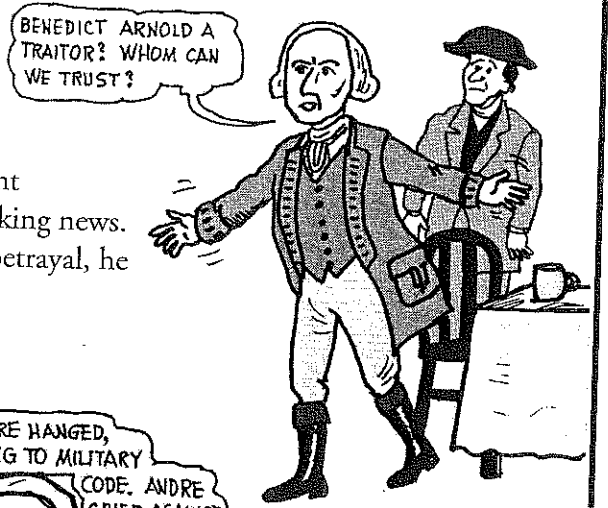
At Arnold's insistence, André had exchanged his uniform for civilian clothes and appeared disguised as "John Anderson," an American agent. This meant that if André were captured he would be hanged as a spy rather than imprisoned as a British soldier. As luck would have it, three American militiamen arrested André near Tarrytown, New York, and learned from his papers of Benedict Arnold's treachery.



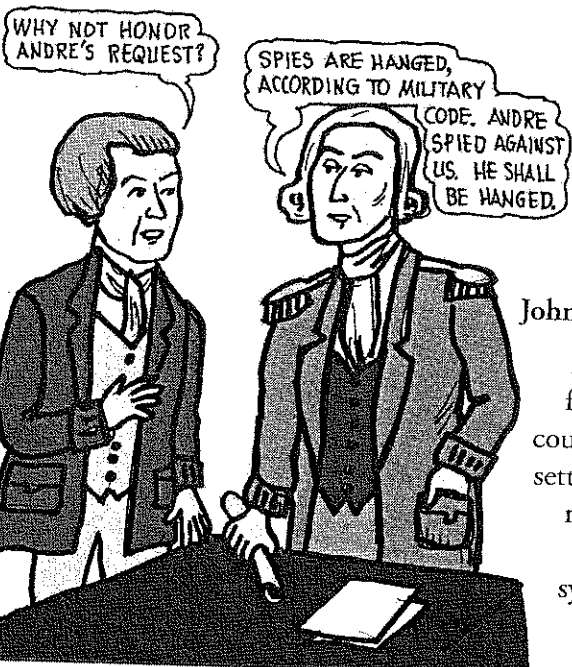
Arnold hurriedly left West Point for New York when he heard of André's capture.



Minutes later Washington arrived for a scheduled inspection of West Point and heard the fast-breaking news. Dismayed at Arnold's betrayal, he exploded with anger.



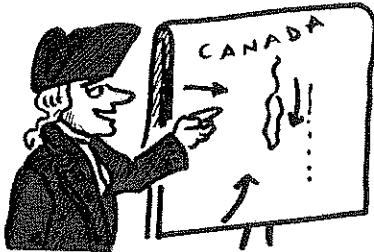
Washington's aide, Alexander Hamilton, interceded for André, who had requested to be shot as a soldier rather than hanged as a spy. General Washington held firm.



John André was hanged as a spy. Benedict Arnold fought for the British against his countrymen. After the war he settled in England, an ignoble man, even to the British. His name has become synonymous with *traitor*.

British strategy for 1777 focused on isolating New England with a three-pronged attack. General John Burgoyne was in charge.

General Howe, my troops will march south from Canada and meet yours marching north from New York. Colonel Barry St. Leger will move east.



BATTLE OF SARATOGA

(New York), October 17, 1777—VICTORY!

But General Howe, deciding to capture Philadelphia instead, was a no-show, and Burgoyne suffered a disastrous defeat at Saratoga. He surrendered 5,000 men, including seven generals.



The American victory at Saratoga was a turning point. France and Spain realized the colonists could win the war and decided to aid them in defeating Britain, their old enemy.

The motivation:

revenge and hope of regaining land lost to Britain: Canada in the case of France and Gibraltar in the case of Spain.

1778—A FRENCH-AMERICAN ALLIANCE, negotiated by Benjamin Franklin, was crucial to America's victory in 1783.

Britain responded by declaring war on France in 1778.

NOW THAT WE'VE SIGNED THE TREATY —LET'S SWAP A FEW JOKES, MES AMIS.



1779—SPAIN declared war on Britain and aided the patriots without a formal alliance.

Bernardo de Galvez, Spanish governor of Louisiana, aided the patriots by capturing Pensacola, Florida, from Britain. This kept the British from attacking the United States from the southwest. Galveston, Texas, is named for the heroic Galvez.

VALLEY FORGE—News of the French Alliance cheered Washington's troops as they wintered in bitter cold Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Baron Friedrich von Steuben, a Prussian volunteer who spoke no English, drilled the soldiers all winter, frustrated that they couldn't understand his German swearing. He turned them into professionals, and his drill book became standard in the army.



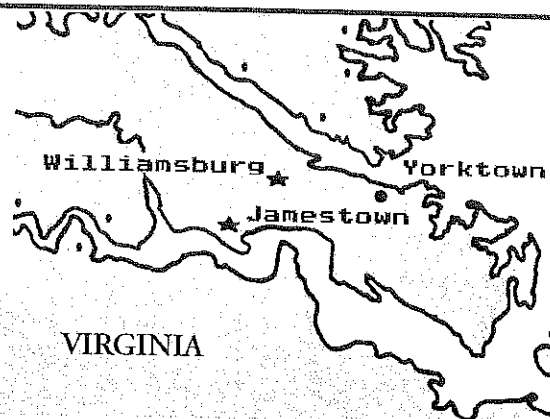
BARON FRIEDRICH VON STEUBEN



Meanwhile, the British replaced Howe with Clinton as commander in chief and opened a campaign in the south. With loyalist support, they won major victories.

But then, in Yorktown, Virginia, British General Cornwallis fell into a trap laid by Washington.

AN IRONY: Cornwallis would lose Britain's colonies only 13 miles from Jamestown—the first British colony, founded in 1607.



October 19, 1781—**FINAL VICTORY: BATTLE OF YORKTOWN**
With brilliant strategy, Washington had the French fleet block

Cornwallis by sea, while the American and French armies surrounded the British by land.

ACTUALLY, THE SURRENDER WOULDN'T BE SO BAD IF THOSE YANKS WOULD STOP PLAYING THAT AWFUL MUSIC.



Cornwallis surrendered, effectively ending the war. Pleading illness, he sent General Charles O'Hara to offer his sword. The British troops, marching between lines of French and American troops to lay down their arms, refused to look at the Americans. General Lafayette told the American band to strike up *Yankee Doodle*, and British heads swung around sharply!

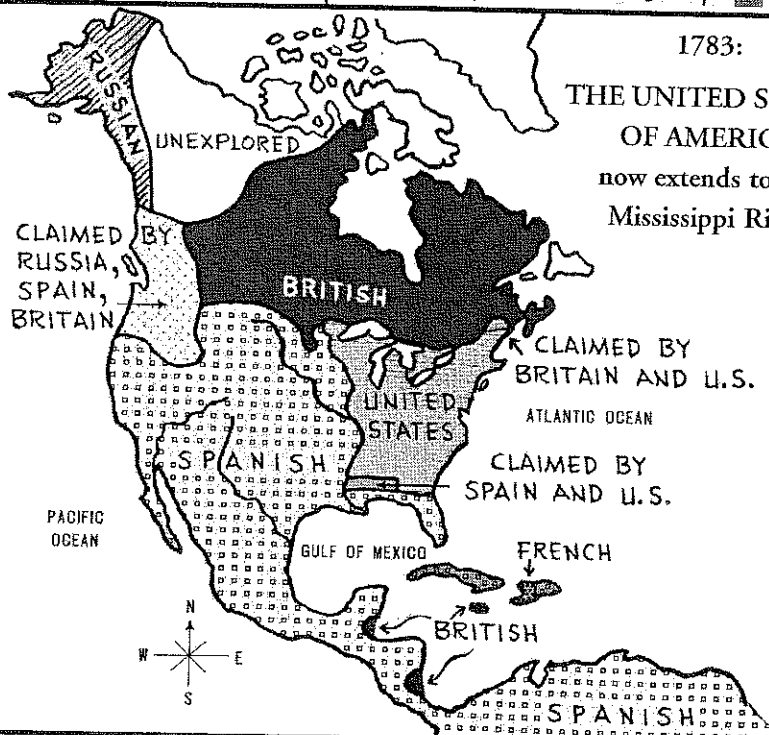
May 1782—Army officers, angered by Congress' inability to pay them, asked Washington to become king in a monarchy set up by the army. In one of his most important acts, Washington refused this military dictatorship.

AN ABHORRENT IDEA! BANISH THESE THOUGHTS FROM YOUR MIND.



1783—The **TREATY OF PARIS** gave the United States generous terms:

- ◆ **THE UNITED STATES** agreed to:
 - urge states to restore loyalist property
 - pay debts to British merchants.
- ◆ **GREAT BRITAIN** gave the United States:
 - Recognition of independence
 - Land stretching west to the Mississippi River (plus navigation rights on the river) and north to the 45th parallel and the Great Lakes (Britain did not want her rival France to have this land.)
 - Fishing rights off the Canadian coast
- ◆ **GREAT BRITAIN** gave Florida to Spain.



1783:
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA now extends to the Mississippi River