

The American Revolution: The Battle of Germantown

Chapter 1: The Causes of The American Revolution

The American Revolution was an important war. It was when the colonists decided to declare independence from Britain. But to understand more about the revolution and The Battle of Germantown, you have to learn what started this war.

The Stamp Act

The Stamp Act was a way for the British to pay their soldiers for fighting in the Seven Years War. They taxed the colonists and made it so if you buy paper you have to buy a stamp with it. An average colonist would pay \$300.00 for a MAGAZINE in this time! The Americans hated it and decided to protest against the stamp act. They smashed windows, burned houses, and hung people who handed out stamps. They did that only to people who handed out stamps.

The Boston Massacre

The Boston Massacre was an important time in American history. It was when Boston decided to insult British officers by calling them names and pelting them with snowballs filled with pieces of clam shells. The fighting started with a young wig maker apprentice named Edward Garrick. He started cursing at a British regular. The regular hit Ed in the head with his musket. As he got up, he called his friends. Soon, what seemed like the whole town of Boston was at the scene. Now, it was the soldiers turn to call for backup. All of the soldiers fired into the huge crowd. The first American to be killed was a huge man, a sailor, by the name of Crispus Attucks. The British and Americans will forever remember this startling night.

The Battles of Lexington and Concord & The Midnight Ride

The Battles of Lexington and Concord were the two battles that started the American Revolution. No one knew these short battles would later spark a whole war. The battle started when American spies found out about a secret British plan. The plan was constructed by general Thomas Gage. The plan was to steal American weapons from Concord. Then Gage realized on the way to Concord, the army could stop by Lexington and capture Samuel Adams and John Hancock!!! But, once the plan was not a secret anymore, it was easily stopped thanks to friends Paul Revere and William Dawes. They rode through the night warning people that the British regulars were coming. This is known as the Midnight Ride. That morning over 70 militia men (or minutemen) gathered in Lexington. Meanwhile, the people of Concord decided to hide all American weapons from the British. Earlier that night Samuel Adams and John Hancock escaped Lexington just on time. Then, when the British finally arrived, (the leader of the mission, Kernal Smith, was very slow) both generals told their armies not to shoot. But, someone did. No one knows who shot what was called the Shot Heard Around The World. It is still a mystery people are trying to solve.

Chapter 2: The Battle of Germantown

The Battle of Germantown was a huge failure for the Americans. They suffered defeat and nothing was looking good going back to the beginning.

The Bad Beginning

As General George Washington thought of a plan to attack the British so that he could protect Philadelphia, he thought of possibly attacking them at Germantown, the location the British were currently located. But he had a huge plan in mind. He wanted four groups of soldiers to all to march down separate trails and attack the British from all different directions. Can you guess how that went?

Trouble In Germantown

Now, remember Washington's amazing plan to attack at Germantown? If you guessed it went according to plan, you guessed completely wrong. The first thing Washington should have remembered was that his army was full of weak, poorly dressed, and barely trained militia men. He should have at least realized his army had a very little chance of doing as told correctly. Now, let's see what happened right before the attack. 4 groups of militia men marched down 4 different trails. 1 group, lead by Nathanael Greene, took a very long trail and didn't make it to the battle on time. 1 group did not even show up. The 2 groups that made it on time and started the battle. By the time Greene's group got there, everything was covered in smoke.

Mission Incomplete

The American's loss wasn't their only trouble. Soon after the battle, Philadelphia was captured by the British. But luckily for the Americans, they won Philadelphia back. The road to complete victory was tough though. But Washington's Germantown mission will never be complete. Mostly because the last group never showed up. Technically, the plan was never completed.

Chapter 3: Another Perspective

Dear my lovely Taylor,

I have yet to win this never ending war. My commander General Washington has decided to send me and my friends to Germantown. My dear friend Jake Brown will be marching with me as we are to march in four different groups. I fear great defeat as the battle plan is much too complicated. When the general spoke of it, he sounded like he had come up with the greatest plan ever. He sounded a little like this as we were conversing about the upcoming battle. Washington: "Good day sir!" Me: "What shall our battle plan be for our next attack sir?" Washington: "We shall attack the redcoats in Germantown before they take over Philadelphia!!!" By the time he was done explaining, it was time to get some sleep in before the battle.

When I woke up, I prepared for battle. I barely had a breakfast. What I ate was a small bit of hard oats that tasted of pure dread. Then we marched. And marched. We marched for what

seemed like forever I won't tell you what happened during our long march, but I will tell you what happened in the midst of battle. I started immediately firing. I watched blood fly through the air like red darts, people falling off horses like they could no longer bare on. It all was like a huge nightmare. Jake and I cried as we had never seen something so terrible. I might as well die myself. I fired my rifle at a British troop. I saw terror in his eyes as the musket ball soared through the air. It missed but still hit him in the leg. It made me cry more to see him fall off his horse. I almost even ran through the mob of regulars and helped him up. I knew I couldn't though. I felt a pang of guilt. You should never shoot someone for any reason. I almost listened to myself but I knew my cause was much more important. Luckily, the battle was over and my generals finally retreated.

I know, it's harsh, but it had to be done. We couldn't let Philadelphia be captured. General Washington was not a bit pleased by our efforts. "Men! We can not let Philadelphia, our capital, be captured! You must fight better! Now move along we don't have all day to escape!!! You must learn to work!"

That's about how mad he was. Imagine a huge man yelling at you for not pleasing him with battling techniques!!! Now, I hope you understand how much I have been through in the last few days. Please don't worry about me. I have just joined the army right before what is known as The Battle of Germantown, so I should be ok for now. Please give this note to your mother to read to. And, finally, live your life to the fullest as if you would do if I was back home.

Sincerely,
Your Father

Chapter 4: The Significance of Germantown

The Battle of Germantown was a very important battle but not many people know it. If they had succeeded by winning this battle, maybe Philadelphia wouldn't have been captured. If not being captured would have made the war easier to win. That being Philadelphia was the nation's capital and it was the place the patriots wanted to protect the most. This also gave the British a reason to need to win this battle.

So technically, the Battle of Germantown was very important to both sides. Soon after the Americans sadly lost this battle, the British captured the beloved Philadelphia. All of the people who lived in the capital were transported to a city in Maryland. This almost broke apart the war. Fortunately, the Americans won their capital back. But after the war, they got a new capital named after George Washington; Washington DC.

