



Key Battle: Lexington & Concord

"The British Are Coming, the British Are Coming!" & The "Shots Heard 'Round the World!"

Where?

- Lexington, Massachusetts and Concord, Massachusetts (small towns outside of Boston, Massachusetts)

When?

- Both battles took place on April 19, 1775. The Battle of Lexington was the first battle of the American Revolution.

Who?

Paul Revere and William Dawes warned the colonists about the British attack. Colonel Smith, Major Pitcairn, and Lord Percy led the British troops.

What?

The war had not even started yet, but the British heard that the colonists were organizing an army. They were angry! So, they planned to attack the colonists and take their supplies. The British soldiers secretly planned to capture American leaders in Lexington and steal American weapons and military supplies in Concord. Luckily, Paul Revere and William Dawes heard about the British plans ahead of time. The two brave men rode through the night to warn the colonists in Lexington that "the British are coming!" The American leaders were able to get away from Lexington safely because of these warnings! They also moved most of the weapons and ammunition that were stored in Concord to a safe location before the British could get them.

A small group of colonists were waiting for the British in Lexington. The British were surprised that the group of colonists was so small. The British did not know that many Americans had run ahead to Concord to wait on the arrival of the British troops. Even though there was only a small number of Americans at Lexington, shots were accidentally fired, marking the beginning of the American Revolution. These shots have become known as the "shots heard 'round the world."

After the shots were fired, the American colonists that stayed in Lexington went to Concord. The British secretly followed the Americans. The British expected a small number of colonists in Concord because there had been so few colonists in Lexington. To their surprise, there were a lot of colonists waiting for them in Concord. These colonists later earned the nickname the "Minutemen." The Minutemen were just regular citizens that had gotten ready to fight for America in "a minute's time." There were more Minutemen than British soldiers, so the British eventually had to retreat to Boston. The colonists had won the first battle of the American Revolution! It was a sign of what was to come!

Key Battle Details

Paul Revere and William Dawes saved the day by riding ahead of the British Army to warn the colonists that the British were coming. Many colonists were able to run from Lexington to Concord. Because so many colonists left Lexington, the large group of Americans waiting in Concord surprised the British.

FAST FACT

- British soldiers were called "red coats" since they wore bright red uniforms.