

minutemen ready at a moments notice

Multiple riders \*

Warren rushed to alert **Paul Revere** and **William Dawes**, members of the Sons of Liberty. Revere and Dawes rode to Lexington, a town east of Concord, to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that the British were coming. Revere galloped across the moonlit countryside, shouting, "The regulars are out!" to people along the way. Upon hearing the news, Adams exclaimed, "What a glorious morning this is!" Adams was ready to fight for independence.

A shot was fired, and then both sides let loose an exchange of bullets. When the fighting ended, eight minutemen lay dead. The British troops continued their march to Concord. When they arrived, they found that most of the militia's gunpowder had already been removed. They destroyed the remaining supplies. At Concord's North Bridge, waiting minutemen turned back the British.

### Lexington and Concord

At dawn the redcoats **approached**, or moved closer to, Lexington. There they discovered about 70 minutemen who had been alerted by Revere and Dawes. Led by Captain John Parker, the minutemen stood on the town common with muskets in hand. A minuteman reported:

Messengers on horseback had spread word of the British movements. All along the road from Concord to Boston, farmers, blacksmiths, and clerks hid behind trees and stone fences. As the British marched down the road, the militia fired. By the time the redcoats reached Boston, at least 174 were wounded and 73 were dead.

guerrilla warfare

Looking back, the poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote in "The Concord Hymn" that the Americans at Lexington and Concord had fired the "shot heard 'round the world." The battle for independence had begun.

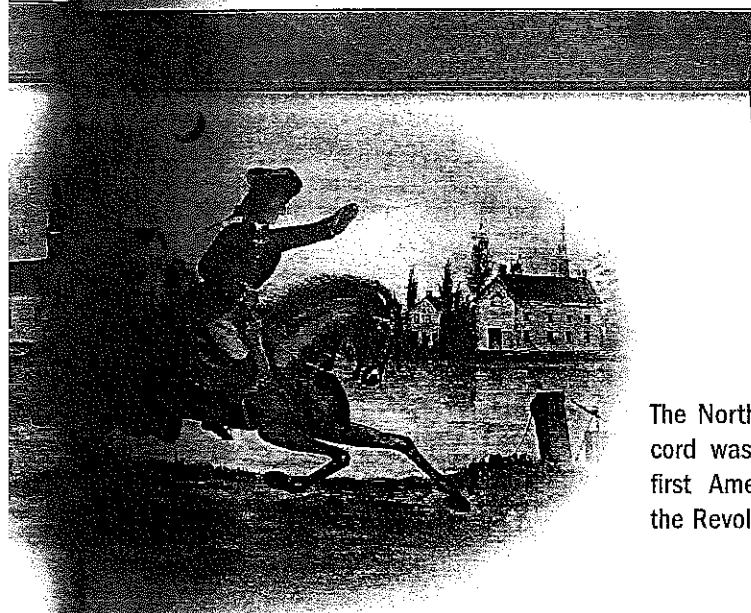
Beginning of the revolution

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

"There suddenly appeared a number of the king's troops . . . the foremost of which cried, 'Throw down your arms, ye villains, ye rebels!'"

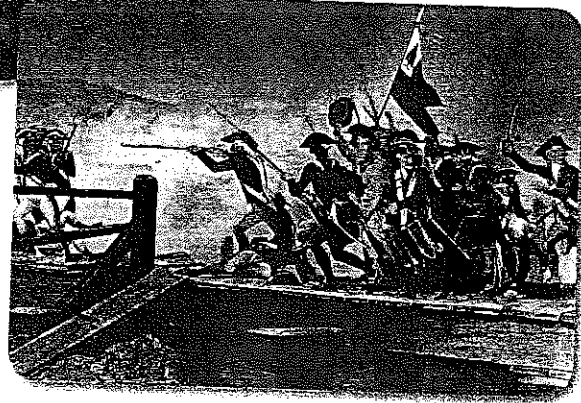
—from *The Military Journals of Two Private Soldiers*

**Reading Check** Explaining How were the colonists preparing for war with Britain?



◀ The North Bridge today

The North Bridge at Concord was the site of the first American victory in the Revolutionary War. ▶



nd. ired  
34  
arker militia  
▲ On the night of April 18, British troops secretly set out from Boston to Concord. Messengers, including Paul Revere (above), were sent to spread the alarm. When the British reached Lexington, Patriot minutemen were waiting.

#### Critical Thinking

Analyzing What happened after British forces reached Lexington?

Maps In Motion See StudentWorks™ Plus or [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com).



# Nathaniel Mulliken, Phillip Russell,

and 32 other men duly sworn to be 34 minutemen Court document  
on April 25th, 1775, before three Justices of the Peace

We Nathaniel Mulliken, Philip Russell, (and 32 others who are named) . . . all of lawful age, and inhabitants of Lexington, in the Country of Middlesex, . . . do testify and declare, that on the nineteenth of April instant, about one or two o'clock in the morning, being informed that . . . a body of regulars were marching from Boston towards Concord, . . . we were alarmed and having met at the place of our company's parade (Lexington Green), were dismissed by our Captain, John Parker, for the present, with orders to be ready to attend at the beat of the drum. [We further testify and declare that about five o'clock in the morning, hearing our drum beat, we proceeded towards the parade, and soon found that a large body of troops were marching towards us, some of our company were coming to the parade, and others had reached it, at which time the company began to disperse, whilst our backs were turned on the troops, we were fired on by them, and a number of our men were instantly killed and wounded, not a gun was fired by any person in our company on the regulars to our knowledge before they fired on us, and they continued firing until we had all made our escape.

started to  
run away

British fired  
first



# Lieutenant John Barker

British Officer

(DIARY ENTRY WRITTEN ON APRIL 19, 1775)

19th. At 2 o'clock we began our March by wading through a very long ford up to our Middles: after going a few miles we took 3 or 4 People who were going off to give intelligence; about 5 miles on this side of a Town called Lexington which lay in our road, we heard there were some hundreds of People collected together intending to oppose us and stop our going on; at 5 o'clock we arrived there, and saw a number of People, I believe between 2 and 300, formed on a Common in the middle of the Town; we still continued advancing, keeping prepared against an attack tho' without intending to attack them, but on our coming near them they fired one or two shots, upon which our Men without any orders rushed in upon them, fired and put 'em to flight; several of them were killed, we could not tell how many, because they were got behind Walls and into the Woods; We had a Man of the 10th light Infantry wounded, nobody else hurt. We then formed on the Common but with some difficulty, the Men were so wild they could hear no orders; we waited a considerable time there and at length proceeded on our way to Concord, which we then learnt was our destination, in order to destroy a Magazine of stores collected there.

He means  
200-300

originally did  
not intend to  
fight

Colonists  
fired