

*"These Are the Times  
That Try Men's Souls . . ."*

Thomas Paine

1/ Captain John Paul Jones unfurled the first *Stars and Stripes* over the ocean when the young nation's banner, containing thirteen stars and thirteen stripes, was hoisted aboard the *Ranger*.  
2/ From the deck of the captured British vessel *Serapis*, Capt. Jones and his crew watched as the American man-of-war, *Bonhomme Richard*, sank in victory, September 23, 1779. With the aid of friendly powers—namely France and Holland—and the leadership of commanders like Jones, the American fleet was able to effectively combat Britain's naval supremacy in the colonies.

3/ General John Stark led the colonial forces to victory at Bennington on August 11, 1777. The victory, along with an American triumph at Saratoga on October 12 of that year brought France to the colonies' aid as an ally and was the turning point of the war.

4/ Outside of occupied Boston, colonial patriots organized themselves into a volunteer militia known as the *Minutemen*. On the eve of April 18, 1775, British troops numbering more than 800 were dispatched from Boston to seize colonial munitions stored at Concord. Forewarned, Paul Revere and others spread the alarm and the Redcoats were met by a determined band of Minutemen at Lexington. It was here that the famous "shot heard round the world" was fired. It is not known which side fired the first shot of that battle which marked the opening of outright hostilities and led to open war.

5/ The surrender of British troops under the command of General Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, brought an end to all-out fighting. A few scattered skirmishes continued for over a year. However, complications of negotiation with England delayed the signing of a peace treaty for nearly two years. General George Washington, commander of colonial forces, accepted the British surrender at Yorktown and later presented the captured British flags to the Congress.



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*"Don't Strike  
the Colors.  
. . . We Have  
Just Begun  
to Fight."*

Capt. John Paul Jones