GENERAL WASHINGTON RESIGNS



- 0. GENERAL WASHINGTON RESIGNS Story Preface
- 1. TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION
- 2. THE BOSTON MASSACRE
- 3. COLONISTS REBEL
- 4. LET IT BEGIN HERE
- 5. LEXINGTON AND CONCORD
- 6. THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL
- 7. WASHINGTON TAKES COMMAND
- 8. AMERICA ESTABLISHES A NAVY
- 9. DRAFTING THE DECLARATION
- 10. THE VOTE: 13-0
- 11. AMERICA'S FIRST DOLLARS
- 12. LONDON'S REACTION
- 13. TREASON
- 14. TREASON MOST FOUL
- 15. EXECUTIONS
- 16. MARION'S BRIGADE
- 17. THE TABLES TURN
- 18. SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN

19. GENERAL WASHINGTON RESIGNS

20. UNANIMOUS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



Britain's forces left New York on November 25, 1783. This hand-colored wood engraving, "Evacuation of New York by the British, November 25, 1783," was issued at the office of Pictorial War Record, in New York, circa November 30, 1883. Online via the Library of Congress. Click on the image for a better view.

Although General Washington did not keep a <u>personal diary</u> for most of the war, he did maintain one for 1781. His <u>thoughts</u> and <u>observations</u> about <u>Cornwallis' surrender</u> at <u>Yorktown</u> are <u>included in his diary</u>. (Follow the links to his handwritten originals.)

Within two months of the Treaty of Paris, <u>Washington resigned</u> his commission as Commander-in-Chief. (Follow the link to his signed resignation letter.) As Washington put it:

...the commander in chief is about to retire from service...

George III was shocked. How could a man with so much power willingly give it up to return to <u>Martha, his wife</u> and Mount Vernon, his <u>Virginia farm?</u>

Washington's resignation was treated differently from the standard <u>Discharge from the Continental Army</u>. Although Congress regretfully <u>accepted</u> his <u>departure</u>, and Washington's officers <u>bid him farewell</u> as he left his command, the <u>General who prayed</u> for wisdom during the toughest moments of the war would not be out of public life for long.

The hero, who had successfully led his young country through a difficult war, would soon have another job.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/GENERAL-WASHINGTON-RESIGNS-American-Revolution-Highlights

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/GENERAL-WASHINGTON-RESIGNS-American-Revolution

Media Stream



Washington's Diary - British Surrender at Yorktown

American Treasures of the Library of Congress, General Washington's diary entry for October, 1781.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Washington-s-Diary-British-Surrender-at-Yorktown-



Washington on Yorktown Battle - Diary Entry

American Treasures of the Library of Congress, diary entries for October 16th and 17th, 1781. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Washington-on-Yorktown-Battle-Diary-Entry



Cornwallis - Proposes Cessation of Hostilities

American Treasures of the Library of Congress, diary entry for October 17th, 1781. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cornwallis-Proposes-Cessation-of-Hostilities



Washington - Articles of Capitulation to Cornwallis

American Treasures of the Library of Congress, diary entry for October 19th, 1781. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Washington-Articles-of-Capitulation-to-Cornwallis



Cornwallis Surrenders

Illustration, depicting Lord Cornwallis surrendering at Yorktown, is from <u>History of the United States</u>, Volume 2 (of 6), by E. Benjamin Andrews - Chapter 6. Online, courtesy Gutenberg.org. <u>Quoted passage</u> from PBS' Liberty web site.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cornwallis-Surrenders



Washington at Valley Forge

Washington at Valley Forge. Lithograph by F. Heppenheimer, 1853. Library of Congress. Quoted passage from *Treasury of Presidential Quotations*, By William J. Federer.

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