

Famous American Revolutionary
War Heroes

美国独立战争英雄故事

1. A BRIEF OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN AMERICA

The Revolutionary War in America gave birth to a new nation. Thirteen British colonies won their freedom and became the independent United States of America. The war began on April 19, 1775, when a group of colonists fought British soldiers at Lexington, Massachusetts. Hours later in nearby Concord, colonists fired "the shot heard round the world" when they battled British troops near a bridge. The war lasted eight years.

The news of war shocked people in both the American colonies and England. But ill-feeling between the British government and its colonies had been gradually developing for more than 10 years. After gaining control of the French empire in North America in 1763, the British had tried to restore their authority over the American colonies and to tax them more heavily. The Americans, who had enjoyed a large measure of self-government, wanted even greater freedom from British control. They refused to pay the Stamp Tax of 1765 and the Townshend duties on imports in 1767. Citizens of Boston organized a "tea party" in 1773 to dump incoming tea into the harbor rather than pay a tax on it. Britain sent troops to support its authority.

The First Continental Congress demanded that the British abandon their efforts to make Massachusetts bow to British authority. It asked Britain to admit that parliament had no right to tax the colonists for revenue. But the

1. 美国独立战争简介

美国独立战争使一个新的国家得以诞生。十三个州的英国殖民地赢得了自由，成为独立的美利坚合众国。战争始于 1775 年 4 月 19 日，当时殖民地的一些人在马萨诸塞州的列克星顿和英国士兵交上火。几个小时之后，在附近的康科德城，殖民地居民打响了“响彻世界的枪声”，他们在桥边和英国军队展开了战斗。战争持续了八年。

战争的消息使北美殖民地和英国本土的人民都感到震惊。但是英国政府和殖民地之间的矛盾由来已久，其发展已有十多年。1763 年在获得了法兰西帝国在北美的控制权之后，英国便一直试图恢复在北美殖民地的权力和加重税收。北美殖民地人民一直享有很大的自治权，他们想从英国那里获得更大的自由。他们拒绝付 1765 年的印花税和 1767 年的城镇进口税。波士顿公民 1773 年组织了“茶党”，他们不交纳进口茶税，把茶叶倾倒入海里。英国派出军队维护其权威。

第一次大陆会议要求英国放弃旨在使马萨诸塞州屈服于英国的努力，并要求英国承认，英国国会没有权力向殖民地人民征税以增加其财政收入。但英国政

British government considered Massachusetts and its neighbors to be in rebellion. British troops in Boston were ordered to take swift action.

The Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Ties between the colonies and the mother country had now been cut. Britain launched a great offensive to crush the rebellion. A British army under Lieutenant General William Howe assembled at New York. General George Washington, who had taken command of the Continental Army, slowly withdrew his men in face of the British attacks. The patriots forced Lieutenant General John Burgoyne and his army to surrender at Saratoga in 1777. They gained an active ally in 1778, when France recognized the independence of the United States and entered the war. Spain declared war on Britain in 1779, and Holland did so in 1780.

Faced by so many enemies, Britain found it difficult to assemble an army powerful enough to destroy the patriot forces. Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis tried to conquer the Southern States after Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton captured Charleston, South Carolina in 1780. But he found himself checked by Nathanael Greene in the far south. Cornwallis then concentrated his forces at Yorktown, Virginia. A French fleet cut him off there, and Washington's army of American and French soldiers attacked. On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis' army surrendered at Yorktown in the war's last major action.

The Revolutionary War did not involve large numbers of men. It was a small war compared with modern ones. The size of the fighting forces rarely exceeded

府认为马萨诸塞州及其附近的几个州想要叛乱。英国驻波士顿的军队受命立即采取行动。

第二次大陆会议于 1776 年 7 月 4 日通过了《独立宣言》。殖民地和母国之间的联系现已断决。英国采取大规模军事行动镇压叛乱。英国军队在陆军中将威廉·豪的率领下集结于纽约。大陆军队总司令乔治·华盛顿将军面对英军的进攻缓缓撤退。1777 年爱国者们迫使陆军中将约翰·伯戈因和他率领的军队在萨拉托加投降。1778 年，法国宣布承认美国的独立，并参加了战争，爱国者们有了积极的同盟者。西班牙于 1779 年向英国宣战。荷兰于 1780 年也向英国宣战。

面对这么多敌人，英国发现要集结一支强大的军队摧毁爱国者的力量困难重重。陆军中将查尔斯·康华里在亨利·克林顿爵士 1780 年夺取了南卡罗来纳州的查尔斯顿之后企图征服南部各州。但是他在远南地区遭到了陆军少将纳撒尼尔·格林的阻击。于是康华里把他的部队集结在弗吉尼亚州的约克敦。法国舰队把他的部队分割开，华盛顿率领的美国军队和法国士兵向他发起了进攻。1781 年 10 月 19 日，在战争最后的重大战役中康华里的军队在约克敦投降。

美国独立战争并没有大规模的军队卷入，和现代战争相比，是一场小战争。投入战斗的兵力很少超过

15,000 men. Both the patriots and the *redcoats*, or British soldiers, relied chiefly upon the musket and bayonet. But some Americans used rifles. Britain also hired mercenaries, or soldiers paid to fight its battles, notably the *Hessians* from Germany. At sea, American privateers captured British ships. About a fourth of the colonists supported the redcoats. These Loyalists, or Tories, stirred the bitter hatred of the patriots.

After the surrender at Yorktown, Great Britain gave up all hope of conquering the patriots. On September 3, 1783, it recognized the new republic in the Treaty of Paris, formally ending the Revolutionary War.

2. A TIME FOR VALOR

This was the strangest of wars. The American Revolution was not expected to last eight months – let alone eight years.

It began almost haphazardly, without a master plan on either side. The watching world could hardly have guessed at any moment of the conflict which side would finally show the white flag of surrender.

The war's outcome was not to be decided by any of the usual explanations – overwhelming manpower, superior firepower, greater wealth, better supplies, abler commanders. Instead, some fateful and hidden factor would determine the war's conclusion, the spirit of men and women fighting for freedom.

15,000 人。爱国者和红衣士兵，即英国士兵主要使用的是滑膛枪和刺刀。但有些美国士兵使用来复枪。英国还雇了一些雇佣兵，即要付钱给那些参战的士兵，最引人注目的是从德国招募来的黑森雇佣兵。在海上，美国的武装民船缴获了很多英国船只。大约有四分之一的殖民地人站在英军一边。这些忠于英国的殖民主义者或称亲英分子引起爱国者对他们的极大仇恨。

英国军队在约克敦投降之后，英国便放弃了征服爱国者的一切希望。1783 年 9 月 3 日英国在《巴黎条约》上承认这个新兴的共和国，正式结束了美国独立战争。

2. 英勇时代

美国独立战争是一场最奇怪的战争。没人料到它会持续八个月——更不用说八年。

战争的开始几乎是偶然的，双方都没有一个总体计划。在冲突的整个过程中，注视这场战争的世界各国始终看不出最终哪一方会亮出投降的白旗。

战争的结果不是由任何一个通常的因素——占绝对优势的人力，先进的武器，强大的财富，良好的供给，优秀的指挥官——决定的。相反，某种重大而潜在的因素——人民为自由而战的精神——决定了战争的结局。

In the raw, blustery winter months of early 1770, there was bloodshed in Boston. An eleven-year-old boy, Christopher Seider, was killed by a petty British official, an informer who spied on rebels. Eleven days later came the Boston Massacre, in which five Americans died by the gunfire of British redcoats, confused and beset by an angry crowd.

Violence set into motion its own chain of counterblows and revenge, punishment and defiance. Facts and rumors passed quickly from Boston to Baltimore, from Philadelphia to Savannah, and out into the dark frontier. There were wrathful mutterings in this land about unfair British taxes, crown regulations as to what and where Americans could buy and sell, restrictions on the rights of the colonies to govern themselves.

Even in both houses of the British Parliament there were those who said that King George III and his ministers were carrying things too far. In the House of Commons, one member of Parliament cried out: "I rejoice that America has resisted!"

One after the other, the American colonies defied British taxes and stopped buying British goods. In England, thousands of grim and jobless workmen were turned out into the streets because Americans refused to accept imports from Britain.

Tension rose in the colonies and in the mother country. A dispute in angry words was giving way to a conflict of open deeds. The colonists staged a few audacious acts of resistance. But this was not rebellion. Hardly a single

1770年初，阴冷、狂风大作的冬季，波士顿发生了流血事件。一个11岁的男孩，克里斯托弗·塞德，被一个低级的英国军官——侦探叛乱情况的告发者——杀害了。11天后，发生了波士顿大屠杀，五个美利坚人死在英国红衣士兵的枪口下，愤怒的人群围住这些士兵，这使他们感到慌乱。

暴力激起了一连串的反击、报复、惩罚和抵抗行动。事实和谣言迅速地传播开来，从波士顿传到巴尔的摩，从费城传到萨凡纳，直传至墨暗笼罩的边塞。英国不公平的税收，英国王室颁布的关于美利坚人在何处可以买卖何物的规定，以及对殖民地人民自治权利的限制，使得北美地区的人民怨声载道。

甚至在英国上下两院都有人说国王乔治三世和他的大臣们做得太过火。下议院的一位官员喊道：“我很高兴美利坚人反抗了！”

北美殖民地人民接二连三地公开反抗英国税收，并且停止购买英国货物。在英格兰，由于美利坚人拒绝从英国进口货物，成千上万的愤怒的失业工人被迫涌上街头。

局势在殖民地和英国本土愈来愈紧张。充满愤怒言辞的争论被公开的武装行动所取代。殖民地人民采取了几项大胆的抵抗行动。但这并不是叛乱。几乎没

voice was calling for the overthrow of imperial rule. As yet, this was still British America, and its people demanded only "the full rights of Englishmen."

In the stormy years that followed, a segment of America's two million people took an active part in the struggle. Among them were those in whom the idea of Liberty burned like an abiding flame. But they were ordinary, everyday people who had no thought of becoming heroes and heroines. Who can say what part their personal courage played in the conflict between a "rabble in arms" and the world's most formidable land and sea power?

3. SON OF LIBERTY

Rising early, Samuel Adams walked swiftly to the dock in Boston Bay to make sure the three ships were still there. In the morning mist they lay like a trio of ghosts at Griffin's Wharf. Townsmen were standing watch around the dock, and they gave Adams a cheery greeting.

The *Dartmouth*, *Beaver*, and *Eleanor* rode low in the water. In their holds was a British cargo more explosive than gunpowder. The ships were full of tea, a commodity bearing a royal tax which American rebels had vowed never to pay.

Samuel Adams marveled at how quickly his fellow colonists had abandoned a lifelong tea-drinking custom. Tea had become for them not only a symbol of British tyranny. Many had also persuaded themselves that the stuff was poisonous, fattening, and brought on early baldness!

有一个人呼吁推翻英帝国的统治。因为这仍是英国的美洲，它的人民仅仅要求享有“英国人的全部权利”。

在随之而来的充满暴风雨的岁月里，北美二百万人民积极地参加了这场斗争。其中有些人所表现的自由思想宛如永不熄灭的火焰。但他们是普通的平凡的人，从没想过会成为英雄人物。谁又能料到在这场“武装的乌合之众”和世界上最令人畏惧的陆海大国的冲突中他们的个人勇气所起的作用呢？

3. 自由之子塞缪尔·亚当斯

一大早起来，塞缪尔·亚当斯疾步走到波士顿湾的港口去查看那三艘船是否还在那里。晨雾中它们就像三个幽灵躺在格里芬码头。市民们不分昼夜地注视着这三艘船，现在他们愉快的向亚当斯问好。

“达特默思”号、“海狸”号、“埃莉诺”号都浅泊在水中。船舱里装着一种比火药更具爆炸力的英国货物。船上载满了茶叶，这种商品要索取皇家税，而美洲反叛者发誓永不交纳这种税。

塞缪尔·亚当斯对他的殖民地同胞能如此迅速地放弃毕生的饮茶习惯感到惊奇。对他们来说，茶不仅仅是英国暴政的象征，而且许多人还使自己相信那东西有毒，会使人发胖，还会引起过早谢顶！

But tea was only one of the many British products that were being shunned by the Americans. From Georgia to Massachusetts, there was a growing mood of resistance to British high-handedness. Many of the colonists had decided to show the mother country they could do without her goods.

The American buyers' ban had become a vexing problem to King George III and his Parliament. Never in their long years of imperial rule had the British suffered such open defiance from their colonies.

An imperial pattern had been jointly established by that handful of small European nations which ruled over vast areas of Asia, Africa and the Americas. Colonies were looked upon as a cheap source of raw materials. Too, colonies were to serve as a profitable market for goods from the mother country. Now, in America, Britain was trying to impose still another burden: the colonies were to be used as a direct source of tax revenue. With the duty on tea, Britain was testing its power to levy taxes on the colonists. The issue was deadlocked on the Boston docks where three tea ships had been tied up unloaded for nineteen days.

While all the colonies were involved in the tea-tax dispute, the situation in Boston was especially tense because the authority of the crown in Boston was backed up by a military force of British regulars. But Adams was more concerned this day about turncoats than redcoats. Each of the American colonies had its share of the "king's men," royalists with a pious faith in the British crown. It was said that they had "their bodies in America and their hearts in England." These Tories held positions of power in Boston, and their agents were everywhere.

而茶叶仅是遭到美洲人抵制的许多英国商品中的一种。从佐治亚州到马萨诸塞州，抵制英国专横统治的情绪日渐增长。许多殖民地居民决定向母国表明没有她的商品他们照样能行。

美洲抵制运动成为令乔治三世和他的国会感到烦恼的一个问题。在长期的帝国统治时期，英国从未遭受殖民地如此公然的反抗。

一个帝国模式已由少数几个统治着亚、非、美洲广大区域的欧洲小国共同建立起来。殖民地被视为廉价原材料的来源地，同时又是倾销宗主国商品的有利可图的市场。如今，英国企图在美洲身上再加一项负担：殖民地将被作为财政收入的直接来源。英国通过茶税来检验它向殖民地征收赋税的权力。这问题在波士顿港口陷入了僵局，三艘茶船 19 天来一直停在那儿，没能御货。

所有殖民地都卷入这场茶税的争论中，波士顿当局由于有一支英国常规军为其撑腰，所以那里的形势变得尤为紧张。但现在亚当斯更为关注的是变节者而不是英国士兵。美洲的各个殖民地都有“国王的人”，他们是对英国王权有着虔诚信念的亲英派。据说他们是“身在美洲而心却在英国”。这些亲英分子掌握着波士顿的权力，并且到处都有他们的代理人。

Adams moved warily among them. On this day, December 16, 1773, Boston rebels under his leadership would stage their most daring act of resistance against Tory rule. And Samuel planned the day's errands with care. It was Thursday, a market day, and he spent part of his morning among the stalls. He noted with satisfaction that there were few British wares being bought. Well-acquainted with the politics of everyone in town, he stopped to chat with townfolk, reminding them of an important meeting to be held later that morning.

By ten o'clock, Samuel found himself in the pulpit of the Old South Meetinghouse. A thousand or more Boston citizens had gathered to hear the latest report on the tea ships. Adams ran the meeting skillfully. Committees were dispatched to make a last effort at returning the "despised cargo" to Britain, and the meeting was recessed until reports could be made.

At the Green Dragon Tavern, Adams stopped for a noontime meeting with a group of friends who called themselves "Mohawks." These were a dependable group of Yankee rebels, well-prepared for their part in the events scheduled for later that day. One of the townsmen had composed a little song for the occasion, and he delighted Adams with a verse or two: "Rally, Mohawks! Bring out your axes, and tell King George we'll pay no taxes!"

By 5:45 p. m. Adams was back in the pulpit of the Old South Meetinghouse. A huge crowd overflowed the church. As the candles were being lit, he looked out into the glow of several thousand faces.

亚当斯在他们中小心翼翼地采取行动。在 1773 年 12 月 16 日这天，波士顿反叛者将在亚当斯的领导下采取最英勇的反抗亲英派统治的行动。塞缪尔把那天的事情安排得很周密。那天是星期四，也是赶集的日子。早晨他在市场的摊位间转悠了一段时间。他满意地发现很少有人买英国货物，由于对城里每个人的政见十分熟悉，他停下来跟市民们聊天，并提醒他们那天临近中午时要召开一个很重要的会议。

十点钟时，塞缪尔站在旧南会议厅的讲坛上。波士顿一千多居民聚集在这儿聆听关于茶船的最新消息。亚当斯熟练地主持着会议，决定派出一些委员去做最后一次努力：将“受蔑视的货物”退回英国。到此会议暂时休会，等待进一步通知。

在绿龙客栈里，亚当斯同一群自称为“莫霍克人”的朋友呆了一中午。他们是一群可靠的新英格兰反叛者。他们已为自己在定于那天早些时候的事件中所扮演的角色作了很充分的准备。一位市民为这次事件谱写了一支短歌，他唱了其中一两句，歌词使亚当斯非常高兴：“集合，莫霍克人！拿出斧子，告诉乔治王我们不纳税！”

到下午五点四十五分时，亚当斯又回到了旧南会议厅的讲坛上。教堂里挤满了人。当蜡烛被点燃时，亚当斯看到几千张脸上都洋溢着热情。

Samuel was no spellbinder. He spoke plainly in a high, thin voice. And he indulged in no lofty or stirring oratory. Every reasonable step had now been taken, he said, to get the unwanted cargo returned to England. It was clear that the demands of the Boston colonists were being ignored and defied. He whacked his gavel. "This meeting can do nothing further to save the country."

The last three words touched off a deafening echo throughout the hall. "Save the country!" It was as though a signal had been sounded; cheer after cheer rang out and the crowd poured into the streets.

In the midst of the throng were several hundred "Mohawks," ludicrously garbed, make-believe Indians. Their faces were smeared with lampblack and ash. Some wore blankets and headbands. All carried hatchets or sledges.

It was now nightfall. The crowds streamed toward the docks. There the tea ships were quickly boarded in the half-light of torches and lanterns. To the sound of mock Indian war whoops, the "Mohawks" set to work, hauling the chests of teas up from the ships' holds by winch and tackle.

There was bedlam as the crowds lining the docks shouted their encouragement while the raiders smashed the tea chests into splinters. Two thousand chests, each containing 320 pounds of choice British tea, were dumped into the icy waters of Boston Harbor.

Announcing nine o'clock, the town crier sounded his "All's well!" The crowd gave him a hearty cheer and

塞缪尔不是那种具有煽动性的演说者。他的讲话高昂而清晰，丝毫不追求那种华而不实的演说。他说，已采取一切合乎情理的措施使那些无人要的货物退还给英国。但显然，波士顿居民的要求没有给予理睬和重视。他重重地敲槌，说：“对于拯救这个国家来说，这次会议无能为力了。”

“拯救这个国家”这几个字引起整个大厅里震耳欲聋的欢呼声。“挽救这个国家！”就像一个信号，引起共鸣，欢呼声此起彼伏，人群峰拥到街上。

人群中有几百个“莫霍克人”。他们假装成印第安人，打扮得十分滑稽可笑。他们的脸上都涂有油烟和灰，一些人披着毡子，系着发带。所有人都拿着斧头或者是大锤。

黄昏时分，人群拥向码头，在那儿人们在火把和灯笼半明半暗的光线中很快就登上了船。“莫霍克人”模仿印第安人打仗时发出的声音，开始行动起来，他们用绞车和滑车将装茶的木箱从船舱里拉出来。

人群排列在码头上，当袭击者们将茶箱砸成碎片时，他们大声地鼓励着他们，一片喧闹声中，两千只箱子每只都装着 320 磅精选的英国茶叶，被倒入波士顿港的冰水里去了。

波士顿城的传报员九点钟报完时说：“一切顺