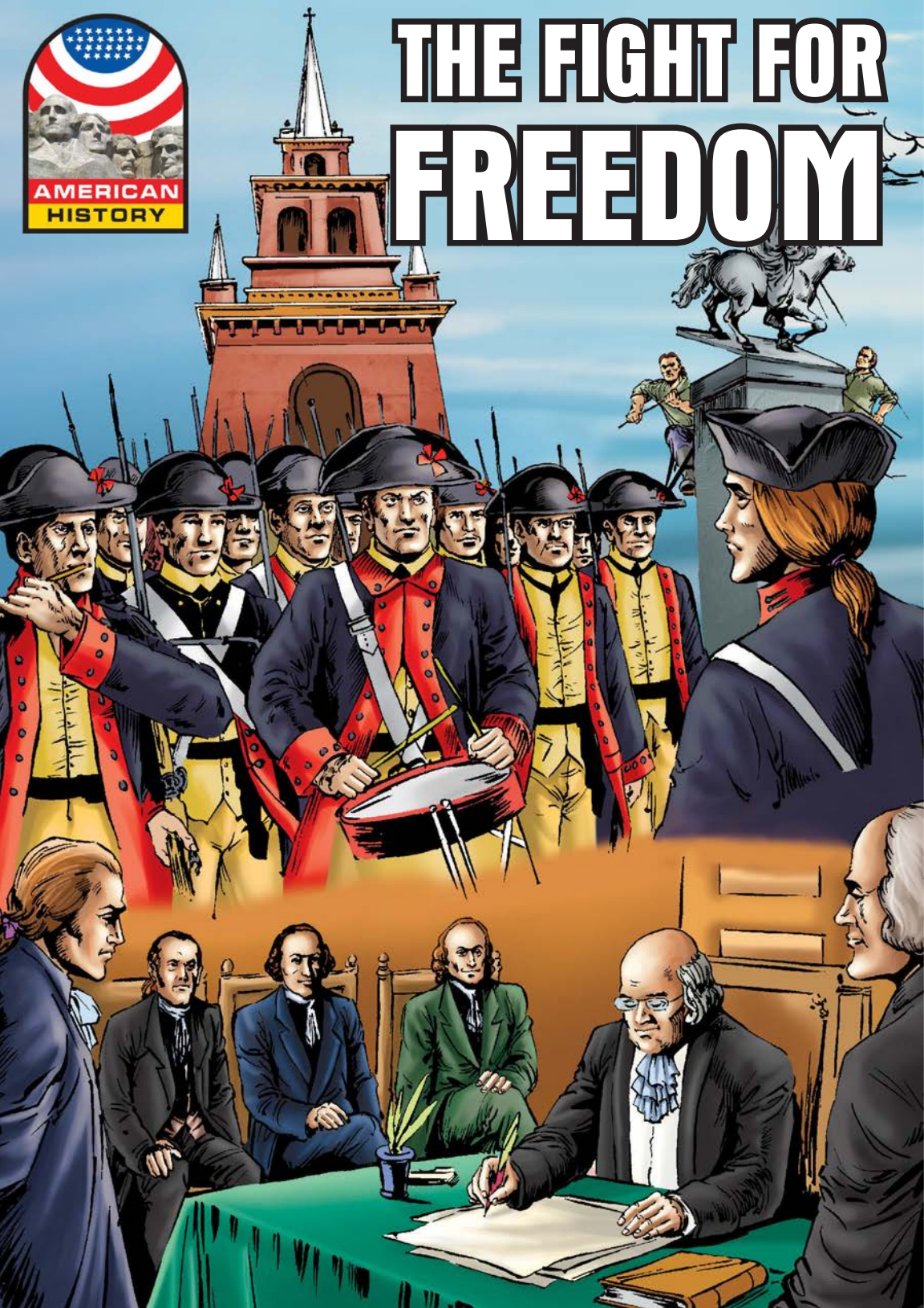




THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM



Saddleback's *Graphic American History*



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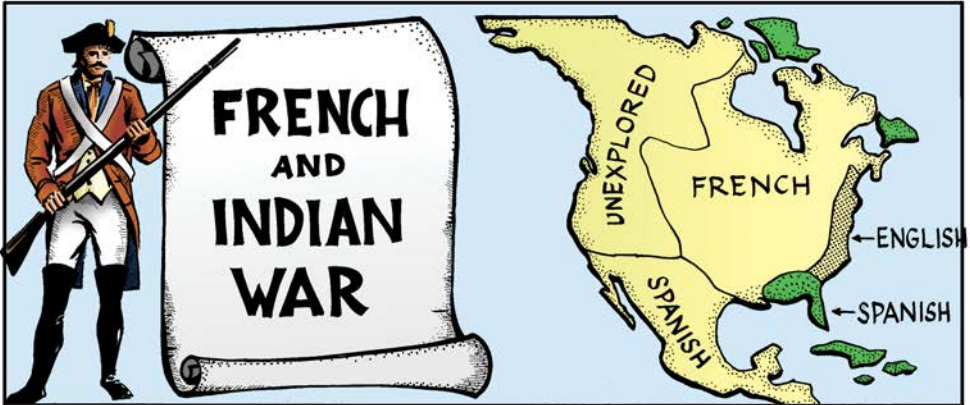
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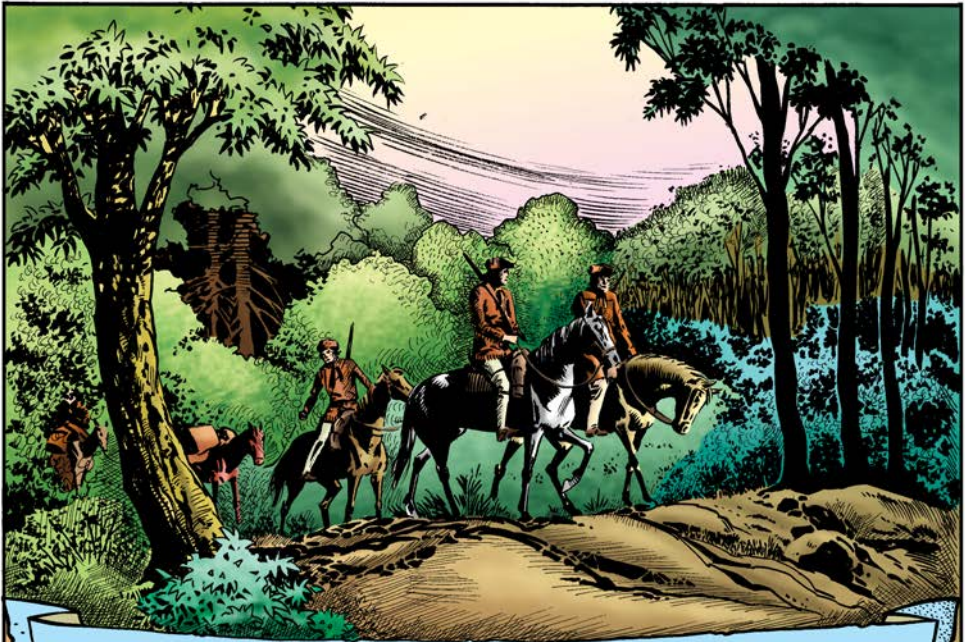
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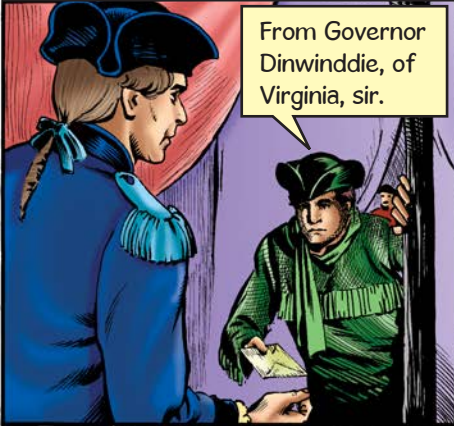


By 1750, the English colonies occupied only a very small strip along the Atlantic coast. Population in the English colonies was increasing. Conflict between the English and French became certain because English settlers were pushing westward into French territory.



Young *George Washington* was a Virginia surveyor. He was asked to carry a letter through the wilderness to the French commander in the Ohio territory. It directed the French to leave land claimed by British forces. This was a dangerous journey in winter through country best known for Native Americans, bears, and rattlers.

They had a long, hard journey to the French headquarters.

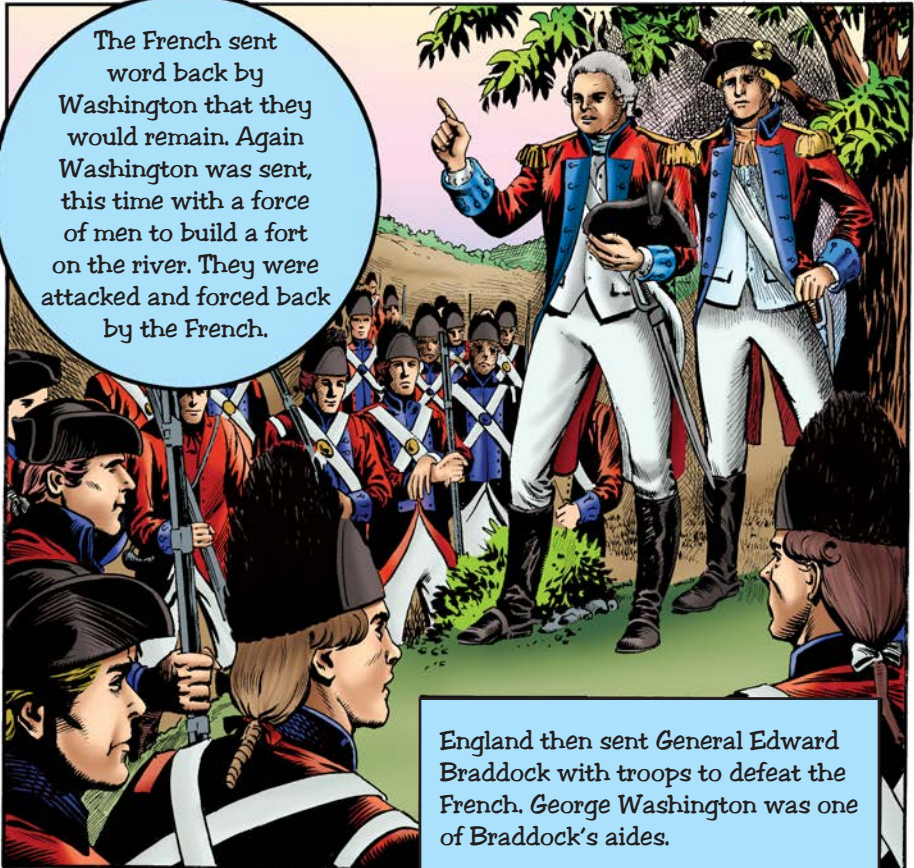


From Governor Dinwiddie, of Virginia, sir.



The trip back to Virginia was even worse.

The French sent word back by Washington that they would remain. Again Washington was sent, this time with a force of men to build a fort on the river. They were attacked and forced back by the French.

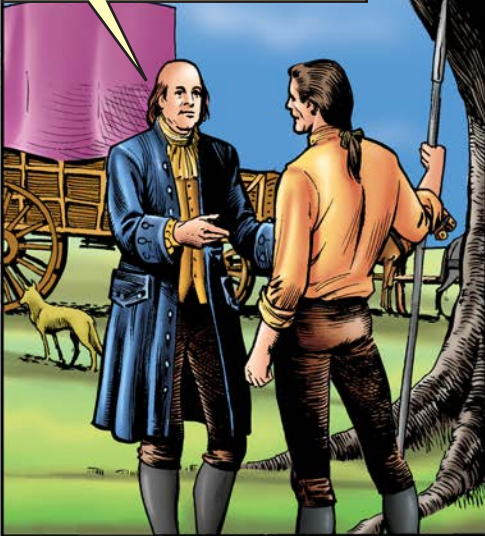


England then sent General Edward Braddock with troops to defeat the French. George Washington was one of Braddock's aides.

Braddock was not familiar with wilderness fighting. Instead of relying on pack horses, he insisted on a great wagon train. Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia helped him to acquire supplies.

He appealed to the Pennsylvania farmers.

If you don't hire out your wagons, the British Hussars may take them by force! Better to take the money.



Mr. Franklin, this is almost the only instance of ability and honesty I've known in these provinces!



Pennsylvania was the only colony to meet its quota for the great Conestoga wagons.



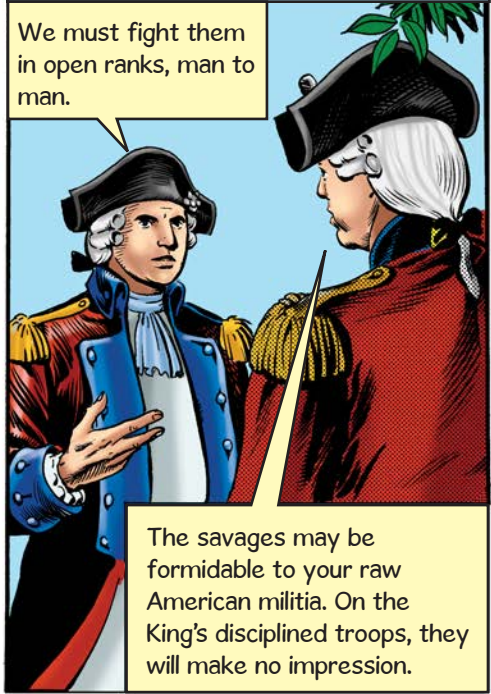
The problem: moving an army of 1,400 men and equipment from the Potomac River to the forks of the Ohio. Many axmen went ahead to cut trees and clear a rough road.

The foot soldiers advanced as British troops always advanced, in neat solid rows. Their bright red coats were brilliant in the sun.



Washington protested. This was not the way to fight the French.

We must fight them in open ranks, man to man.



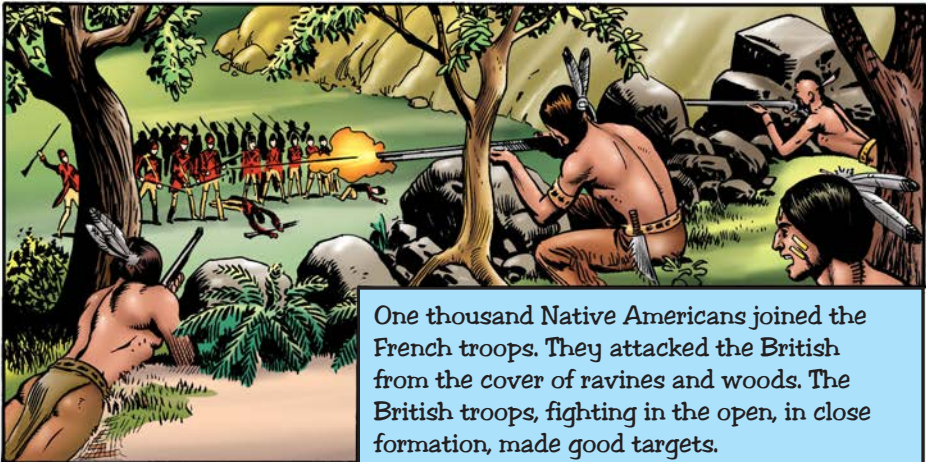
The savages may be formidable to your raw American militia. On the King's disciplined troops, they will make no impression.

Braddock's army took 32 days to cover 110 miles. As they neared the French Fort Duquesne, they had to ford the Monongahela River. They feared an ambush but crossed safely.

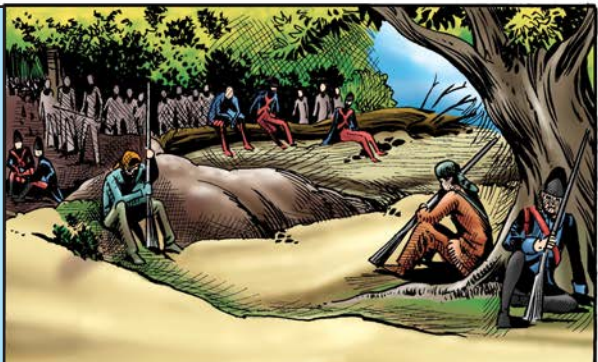
All across safely, sir!

Good! We'll rush the fort.





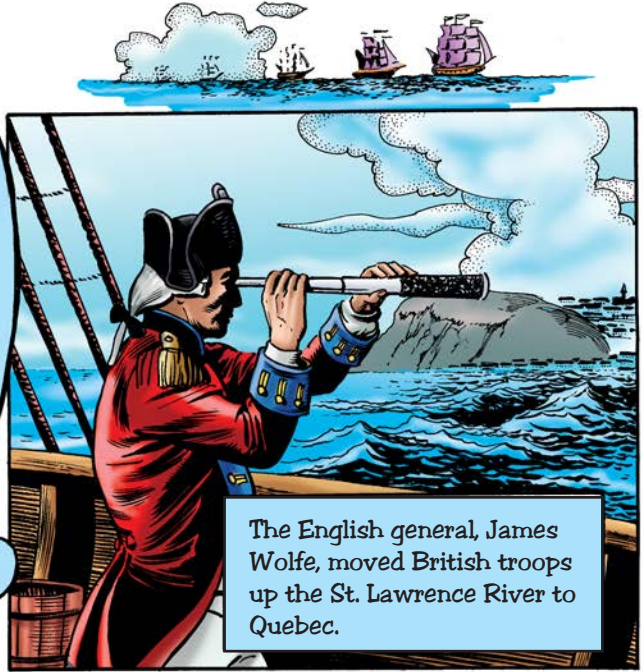
More than half the British troops, including General Braddock, were killed. Many more were wounded. Washington became a hero. Under his command the remaining British troops were able to retreat and save themselves.



But Braddock's defeat made life harder for the British colonies. Both the Native Americans of the North and the French took advantage.

The English and French were at war over their possessions. England made a decision to conquer the French in the New World. She sent better troops and wiser officers to America. The colonies furnished more men and food. In 1759, the most important battle of the French and Indian War was fought at Quebec.

Quebec City was a natural fortress, on a high bluff above the St. Lawrence River. All routes leading to the city were guarded by General Montcalm's 14,000 French troops.



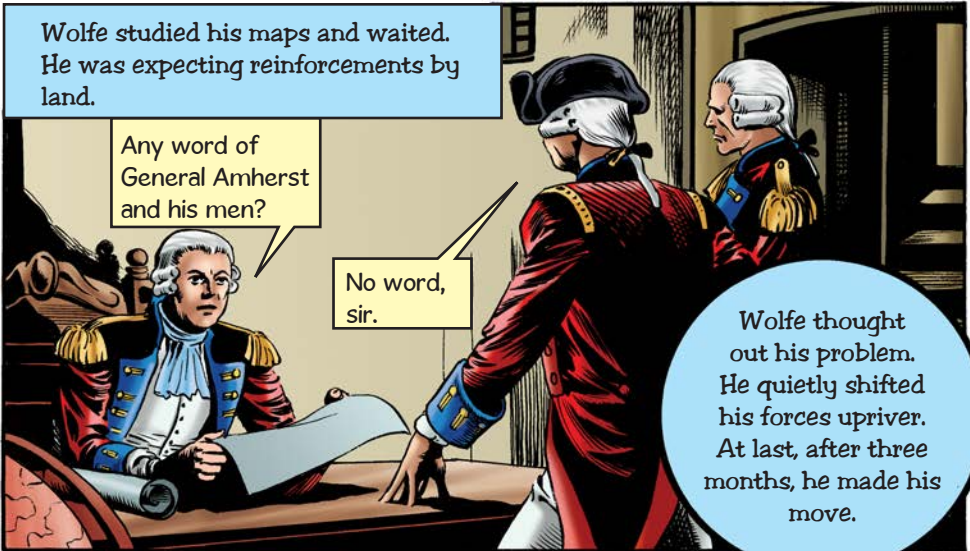
The English general, James Wolfe, moved British troops up the St. Lawrence River to Quebec.

Wolfe studied his maps and waited. He was expecting reinforcements by land.

Any word of General Amherst and his men?

No word, sir.

Wolfe thought out his problem. He quietly shifted his forces upriver. At last, after three months, he made his move.

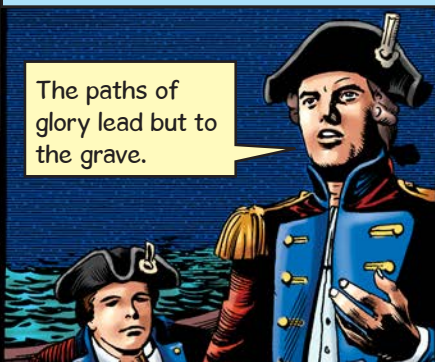


With his army ready, General Wolfe was determined to surprise the French troops.



On the night of September 12, Wolfe and his army boarded a fleet of small boats. Quietly they floated downriver toward the city.

In a leading boat, Wolfe recited *Gray's Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* to a young midshipman. Was he forecasting his own fate?



The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Suddenly from the shore a French sentry challenged them.



A French-speaking Scottish soldier answered. The French sentry decided the British were French, and gave no alarm.

* Who goes there?

The boats reached a little cove. Twenty-four volunteers tackled the rugged cliff route.



Taking the French guards by surprise, they overwhelmed them before they could make a sound.

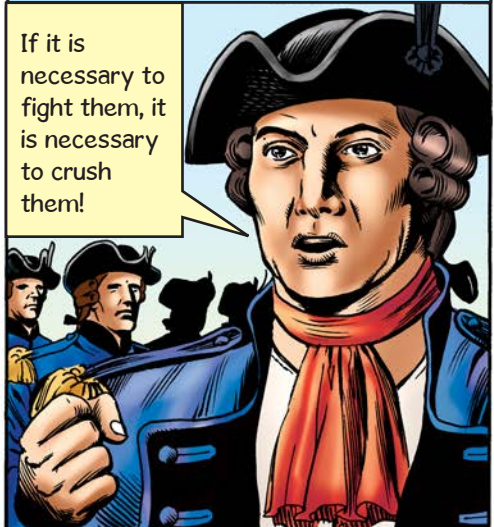


The rest of the British troops swarmed up the 300-foot cliffs onto the grassy field at the top. At dawn the French looked out on an unbelievable sight: 4,500 British soldiers stood outside the city ready to fight.



Outside the city walls, as the French formed ranks and marched to meet the English, Montcalm warned his officers.

If it is necessary to fight them, it is necessary to crush them!



Now the French soldiers came running through the narrow streets of the city to meet the enemy.

Wolfe wanted an open-field battle, the kind he best knew how to fight. The French accepted his challenge and marched toward the British. Wolfe knew the power of accurate, concentrated firepower.

Three-fourths of his troops were stretched in a single line, which waited silently until the enemy was near. Then the command was given.

Fire!

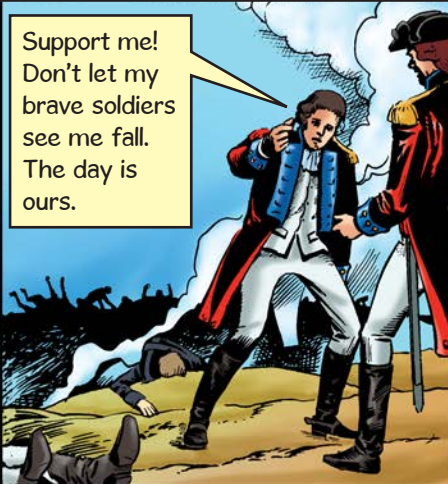


Only two volleys were needed. The ground was covered with French dead and wounded.

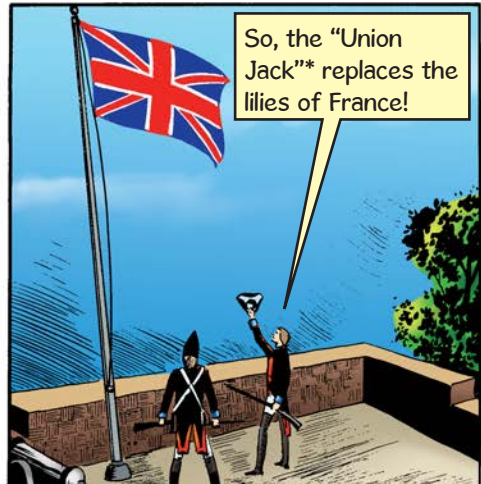


Then the British charged, with Wolfe in the thick of the fighting. Suddenly he was struck by several bullets.

Support me!
Don't let my
brave soldiers
see me fall.
The day is
ours.

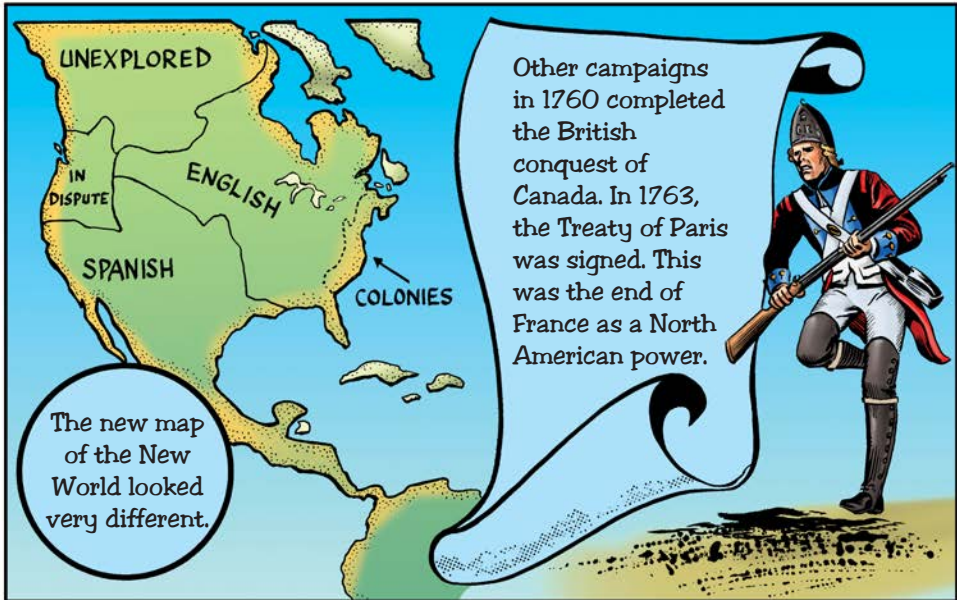


So, the "Union Jack"* replaces the lilies of France!



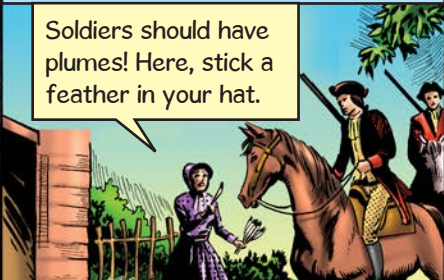
Wolfe died knowing that he had won a great victory. Montcalm also was killed. The city of Quebec surrendered to the British.

*Flag of Great Britain



The name Yankee Doodle started, it was said, in Norwalk, Connecticut, when Colonel Thomas Fitch's regiment reported for duty. His sister thought the men looked shabby. She ran to the henhouse and returned with a handful of feathers.

Soldiers should have plumes! Here, stick a feather in your hat.



The men rode into New York state to join a British force. An English army surgeon saw them, laughed, sat down, and wrote a song. It made a hit with the redcoats.

*Yankee Doodle came to town upon a little pony. He stuck a feather in his hat and called it macaroni.**



At the end of the French and Indian War, the colonists were happy. They were proud to be part of the powerful British empire. They were thankful that the French threat had been removed from their frontier.



They had found they could fight as well as the English soldiers—sometimes better. But, to the redcoated British soldiers, any colonial militiaman was “Yankee Doodle.”