

# 14 One If by Land, Two If by Sea

**On September 11, 1774, Dr. Joseph Warren and a group of Patriots gathered in Milton, Massachusetts, where they wrote out 19 blunt statements (called “resolves”) protesting Britain’s actions in the Boston area. Paul Revere carried those resolves to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, where they are said to have influenced the delegates and a declaration they were writing.**



**An American rifleman, better equipped than most of his fellow revolutionaries.**

Three men rode horseback on an April night in 1775: Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Dr. Samuel Prescott. Each carried the same message: “The redcoats are coming.” You may have heard of Paul Revere, because a poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, wrote a famous poem about his ride.

*Listen, my children, and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous day and year.*

Can you hear Longfellow making his words gallop, like a horse’s hoofs? Here’s more of the story, this time in prose:

The Patriots were worried. It looked as if war with Britain couldn’t be avoided. The Patriots were the colonists who wanted independence. They wanted to be free of British rule. The other colonists—the ones who wanted to stay British subjects—were called Loyalists. Some Patriots, like Samuel Adams, expected war. But most Patriots still hoped to find peaceful ways to settle their differences with England.

It was scary to think of war. England was a great power; the colonies were scattered and had little military experience.

Still, it made sense to be prepared for the worst, so New Englanders began to stockpile cannonballs and gunpowder. They piled them up in Concord, a small town about 20 miles northwest of Boston.

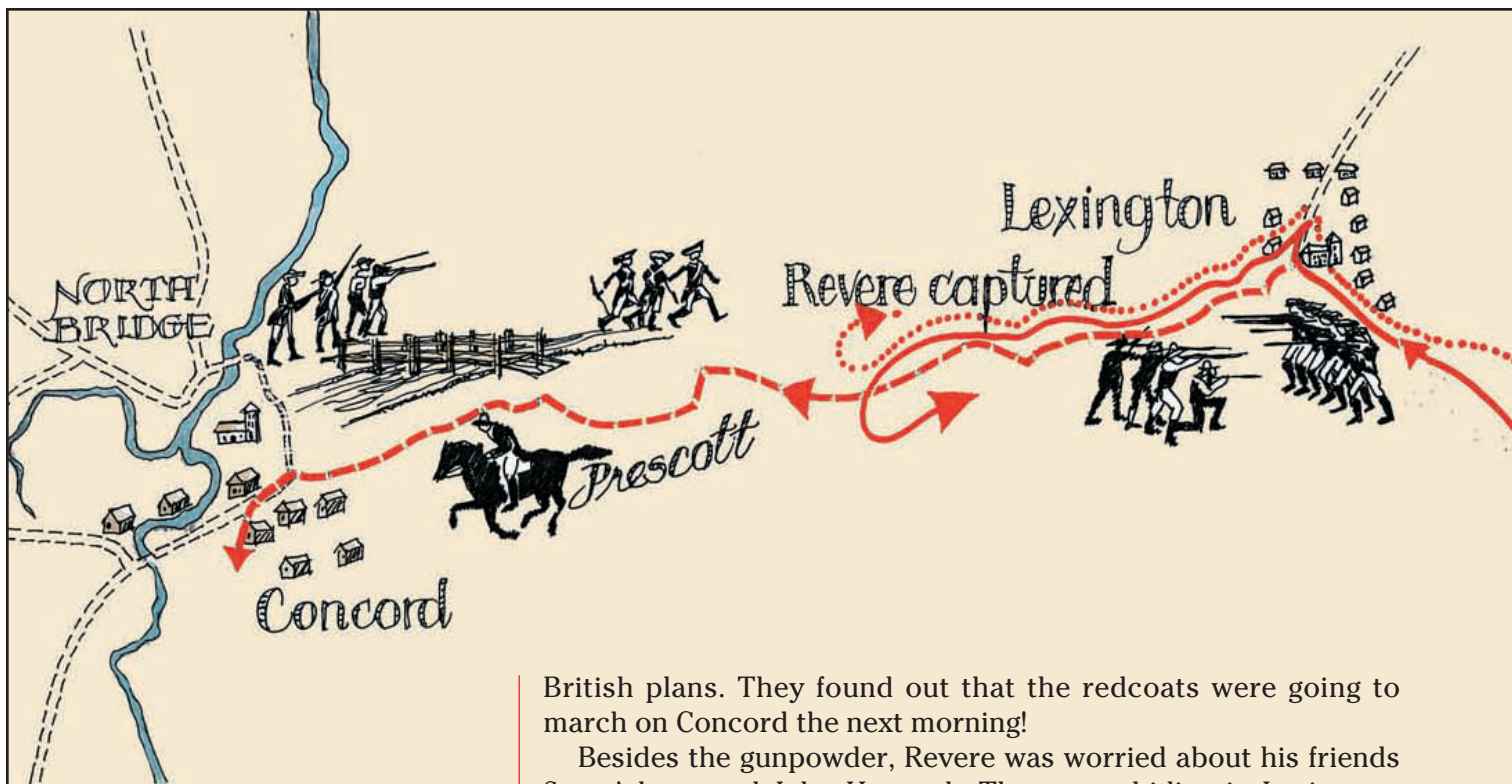
When the British officers heard about those munitions, they decided to get them. Paul Revere and his Boston friends learned of the

Pamphlet: *An American Time Capsule*  
Library of Congress, Rare Book and Special  
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**T**O all Gentlemen VOLUNTEERS,  
who prefer LIBERTY to SLAVERY, and are hearty  
Friends to the GRAND AMERICAN CAUSE; who are  
free and willing to forfeit this STATE, in the Character of a  
Gentleman MATROSS, and learn the noble Art of Gunnery,  
in the Massachusetts State Train of Artillery, commanded by  
Col. THOMAS CRAFTS, now Stationed in the Town  
and Harbour of BOSTON, and not to be removed but by  
Order of the honorable House of Representatives, or Council  
of said State; let them appear at the Drum-Head, or at the  
Station, when they shall enter into present  
Pay, ~~in the sum of~~ *Twenty Dollars* per Month.  
For their Encouragement they shall receive *Twenty Dollars*  
Bounty on pulling Muzzle, one Suit of Regimental Cloaths  
yearly, a Blanket, &c. with Arms and Accoutrements suitable  
for a Gentleman Matross. For their further Encouragement,  
the Colonel would inform all Gentleman Volunteers, that there  
are *twenty-two* Non-commission Officers in each Company, who  
receive from the *Payroll five and six Pence*, in three *Pounds*  
*twelve per Month*; and as none will be accepted in full Regi-  
ment, but Men of good Characters, such only will be promo-  
ted, whose Steady Conduct and good Behaviour merits it.

*You are desired to take Notice of the Difference of Pay and  
Station.  
John Ball in Swanton Green  
The Quarter Master's Office*

**Advertisements like this one, for volunteers to fight for the colonies, were soon plastered around Boston.**



Map: "The Shot Heard Round The World"  
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Elspeth Leacock.

British plans. They found out that the redcoats were going to march on Concord the next morning!

Besides the gunpowder, Revere was worried about his friends Sam Adams and John Hancock. They were hiding in Lexington, right next door to Concord. The British were searching for those two troublemakers—they wanted to hang them as traitors.

Someone had to get a warning to those towns—and fast. It would help to know which way the redcoats would march.

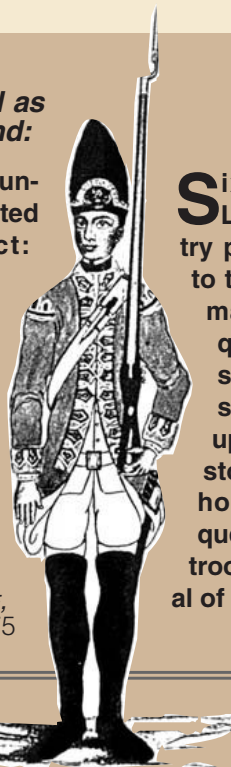
## Who Started It?

*The story of Lexington and Concord as seen in Massachusetts and in England:*

**T**he troops came in sight just before sunrise...the Commanding Officer accosted the militia in words to this effect: "Disperse, you rebels, damn you, throw down your arms and disperse," upon which the [American] troops huzzaed, and immediately one or two [British] officers discharged their pistols, which were instantaneously followed by the firing of four or five of the soldiers, and then there seemed to be a general discharge from the whole body. Eight of our men were killed and nine wounded.

—FROM THE SALEM GAZETTE,  
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, APRIL 25, 1775

A **green** is a grassy lawn or common. Many New England villages have a green for public gatherings. To **accost** someone means to approach and speak to or touch him or her—but not gently.



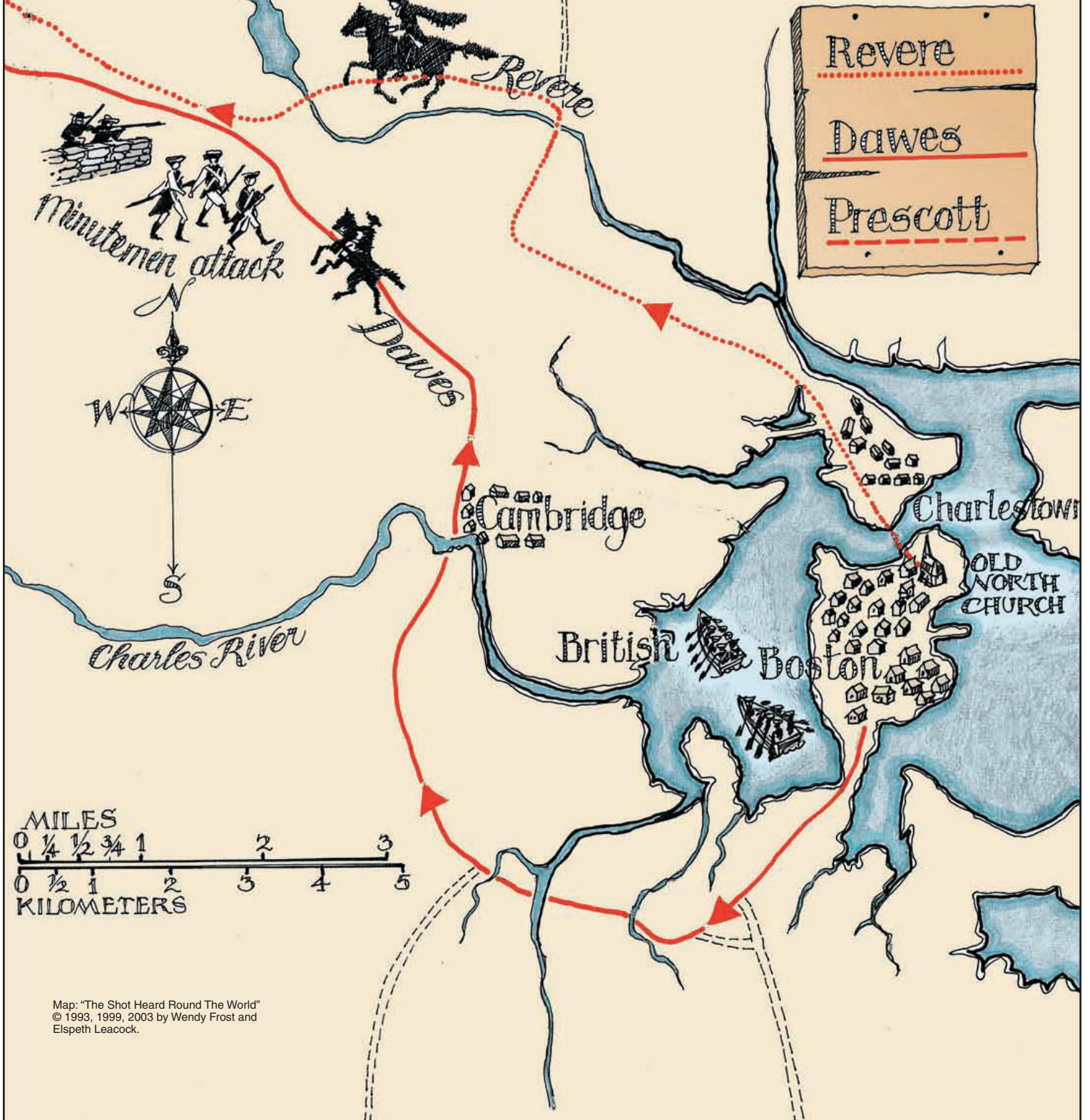
**S**ix companies of light infantry...at Lexington found a body of the country people under arms, on a green close to the road. And upon the King's troops marching up to them, in order to inquire the reason of their being so assembled, they went off in great confusion. And several guns were fired upon the King's troops from behind a stone wall, and also from the meeting house and other houses.... In consequence of this attack by the rebels, the troops returned the fire and killed several of them.

—FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE,  
LONDON, ENGLAND, JUNE 10, 1775

**Disperse** means to break up and scatter.

**Huzza** is an old-fashioned word for "yell." It's something like "hurrah." The rebels were yelling at the British soldiers.

# THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD"



Map: "The Shot Heard Round The World"  
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