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Lexington, Massachusetts, 1775 - II

Lead: Having killed Minutemen on the Lexington, Massachusetts green in April, 1775, British regulars moved off to Concord.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: The British soldiers were sent by Governor Gage to capture provincial arms and the leaders of the Massachusetts rebellion, John Hancock and Sam Adams. In the end they got neither, but like a man sticking his hand into a hornets' nest they stirred up a Revolution.

The search for weapons in Concord proved a fruitless exercise, but when they reached the North Bridge they encountered an enraged multitude of 400 militia lining the slopes of Buttrick's Hill. When the grenadiers tried to cross they were met with a hail of musket fire and, outnumbered, wisely retreated back into the town. Captain Francis Smith, the British officer in charge, realized that the day was not to be his and he assembled his men for the march back toward Boston. On the slopes above the road, from hedgerows and barns on the side, the militia poured intense fire into the straggling retreat of British soldiers. Exhaustion began to set in and even the arrival of re-enforcements at Lexington failed to stem the rebel

hoard or that seemingly endless irritating enfilading fire from the flanks of the road.

When finally the remnants of the Redcoat contingent, who began that day with such hopes, rushed across the Charlestown Neck and collapsed under the harbor security of the British ship's guns, they could see the campfires of the first of 20,000 patriots who soon surrounded the City and locked them in. The War for American Independence had begun.

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Resource

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