

### Question Sheet for The Continental Army & Washington (with answers)

1. Who is the author of the source? What was his position (his duty) at Valley Forge?

The author of the source is Albigeance Waldo, a surgeon in the Continental Army who was stationed at Valley Forge.

2. What sort of military action does the source describe that occurred on December 11? What does he note as the outcome of this action?

Waldo notes, "At four o'clock the Whole Army were Order'd to March to Swedes Ford on the River Schuylkill, about 9 miles N.W. of Chestnut Hill, and 6 from White Marsh our present Encampment. At sun an hour high the whole were mov'd from the Lines and on their march with baggage. This Night encamped in a Semi circle nigh the Ford. The enemy had march'd up the West side of Schuylkill - Potter's Brigade if Pennsylvania Militia were already there, and had several skirmishes with them with some loss on this side and considerable on the Enemies...."

3. Next, look at the diary entry for December 13. In your view, is this entry critical or supportive of the commanding officers at Valley Forge? What evidence in the entry supports your conclusion?

Answers will vary, but most students will say it is critical of the officers. Waldo writes that, "It cannot be that our Superiors are about to hold consultations with Spirits infinitely beneath their Order, by bringing us into these utmost regions of the Terraqueous Sphere. No it is, upon consideration for many good purposes since we are to Winter here....," and then goes into a series of statements about what Valley Forge does *not* offer.

4. Read the diary entry for December 14. In this entry, list at least four conditions described by Waldo that either he or other soldiers at Valley Forge are enduring. In your view, are these conditions that are unique to Valley Forge, or do you think soldiers in all conflicts experience the same thing?

Answers will vary, depending on which of the conditions students identify.

5. After reading the excerpt for Waldo's diary, describe how you see his morale. List at least three examples from the reading to back up your description.

Answers vary depending on student view and examples.

6. In your view, based on your reading and viewing of episodes from *Liberty!*, would Waldo's account be fairly consistent of the experience of the average soldier during the Revolutionary War? Write a paragraph explaining your view.

Answers will vary.

7. Do you think that the conditions Waldo discusses were common of both enlisted men and officers? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

8. Assume that you were George Washington and received a copy of Waldo's diary. What concern, if any, would you have about the conditions stated in it?

Answers will vary. Some students might say that Washington would be appalled at the conditions his men were forced to endure and would want to do whatever he could to help them. Other students might note that Washington might have been more concerned about public opinion and would not have wanted information that put the military and war effort in a bad light to be released.

9. In Episode #3, Pauline Maier notes, "...this means you have a different kind of an army. A more democratical army maybe, a more egalitarian army maybe. And in some ways it was a style of leadership that was going to be much more important for a republican government later on..." In your view, would this method of leading an army be more or less effective than the opposing armies' leadership styles described by the narrator of *Liberty*? Explain your view.

Answers will vary. Some students may note that it would be very difficult to enforce discipline in an army similar to what Maier describes. Others may note that if soldiers feel as though they are "equal", it might give them more incentive to fight effectively, because they have parity with officers and commanders and are more able to share in the rights and freedoms available once the Revolution ends and a new nation is created.

10. Why do you think George Washington had his officers read *American Crisis* to troops on the eve of the Battle of Trenton?

Washington probably believed that crossing the Delaware for a surprise attack was his last chance to rally troops and save his own job as general. By reading *American Crisis* to his army, Washington probably hoped to convince soldiers they were fighting for a worthwhile "cause." If he could inspire their beliefs even for one night, his chances of success would increase greatly. Washington also probably understood that he was fighting a very different kind of war. His troops were not compensated monetarily like the professional British soldiers; they were not fighting for a tangible goal like wealth or territory. Therefore, Washington needed to take extra care that his soldiers felt empowered by the greatness of their cause – the goal of liberty for all men – and Thomas Paine's words such as, "The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." helped to plead that case.

11. John Shy, in the end of Episode #3, looks at Washington's victories at Trenton and Princeton as watershed events, noting, "From that point, he seems to be able

to do no wrong. Washington, after these two little military victories, seems to exemplify the Revolution. He *is* the Revolution.” Presume you are a soldier in Washington’s army and are a veteran of the battles at Princeton and Trenton. Write a “letter” home to your parents describing how you see Washington’s leadership in these battles. Use information from the episode as well as information from your textbook and other sources.

Answers vary.