



# Revolutionary Times



Containing the Latest News from the Sons of the American Revolution

## American Revolution and Kamehameha's Conquest in Hawai'i

"... at 5 o'clock we arrived there and saw a number of People, I believe between 2 and 300 ..."

"... they fired one or two shots, upon which our Men without any orders rushed in upon them, fired and put 'em to flight; several of them were killed". (Diary of Lt. John Barker, Library of Congress)

The first shot ("the shot heard round the world") was fired as the sun was rising at Lexington. Out-numbered, the Patriots' militia fell back and the British regulars headed on to Concord.

On April 19, 1775, the Battles of Lexington and Concord were the first military engagements of the American Revolutionary War. They marked the outbreak of open armed conflict between Great Britain and its thirteen colonies of British North America.

The next eight years (1775-1783) war was waging on the eastern side of the continent. The formal end of the war did not occur until the Treaty of Paris and the Treaties of Versailles were signed on September 3, 1783.

At this same time, there was a turning point in the future of the Hawaiian Islands.

In the dawn hours of January 18, 1778, British explorer Captain James Cook first sighted what Cook named the Sandwich Islands (that were later named the Hawaiian Islands.)

With the death of the Chief of Hawai'i Island in 1782, the kingship went to Kīwala'ō; Kamehameha (Kīwala'ō's cousin) was given guardianship of the Hawaiian war god, Kūka'ilimoku.

Dissatisfied with subsequent re-distribution of the lands by district chiefs, civil war ensued; from late-1780s into 1790, Kamehameha conquered the Island of Hawai'i and was pursuing conquest of the rest of the archipelago.

Arguably, his use of the cannon and people who knew how to effectively use it were the pivotal factors in his conquest. Had the fighting been in the usual style of hand-to-hand combat, the forces would have likely been equally matched.

By 1795, Kamehameha, with his superior use of modern weapons and western advisors, subdued all other chiefdoms, with the exception of Kauai (where he negotiated a settlement).

"It is supposed that some six thousand of the followers of this chieftain (Kamehameha,) and twice that number of his opposers, fell in battle during his career, and by famine and distress occasioned by his wars and devastations from 1780 to 1796."



This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

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