

## Portals

It happened last semester. My teacher, Mr. VanRuyven, gave us an assignment. We needed to research a key event from the American Revolution. Being a huge fan of George Washington wanted to find a time in the war where he really shined and showed the people the true leader he was. I headed toward the section of the library that had books about the revolution. I started to pull one out, suddenly I was being pulled through what felt like a huge vacuum. It first sucked my arm in, I fought to keep the rest of my body on the ground. The sucking sensation was too strong, my whole body was lifted off the ground and sucked through a tiny black hole. I swirled around for 30 seconds and felt like I was flying forward. Suddenly the vacuum stopped, the darkness cleared and I was standing on the bank of a river. Where in the world had I just been taken?

I see a river and lots of trees. I went down to the river to drink some water. As I walked down, I suddenly wished I had brought some warmer clothes. It was freezing! Wind was blowing in my face and the dark clouds in the sky made it seem like it was going to rain any second. As I stood on the bank of the river shivering, I heard a commotion. I looked over and men, soldiers, were getting Durham boats and ferries together. There were thousands of soldiers. What was ever stranger was the clothes they were wearing. They had white pants on that looked like my baseball knicker with tall socks. They had long coats that were mostly blue but some different

colors too. They had on tricorn hats. I have only seen these outfits in pictures or movies from the American Revolution. Was I on the set of some movie?

I needed to figure out what was happening. I crept behind some trees and moved closer to the men. They were loading cannons and about forty horses on the ferries. Wind was whipping across the river and everyone looked so cold, but they were working hard and fast to get the boats and supplies ready for something. It couldn't be to fight, when I left the library nothing was happening anywhere. I was feeling confused.

Suddenly someone grabbed me from behind. They were dragging me out from behind the tree and over to someone they kept calling General Washington. It had to be a movie scene but they were treating me like I was an enemy, like they were serious! I was immediately welcomed at gunpoint and General George Washington was glancing at me with a serious look of suspicion in his eye. I was freaking and I could barely keep it together, were they going to kill me?

This guy really looked like Washington, was my hero standing less than 10 feet in front of me for real? Was I back in time? Everything happened so fast I couldn't think of anything to do. I blurted out, "What year is it?" They looked at me like I was crazy and a soldier replied, "It is Christmas day in 1776." I had a rush of questions for the soldiers and they were shouting tons of questions for me. Was I a spy? Who sent me? Was I there to help? Then I

heard a serious voice, asking a question directed at me. It was George Washington, taking control of the situation. He turned to me and said, "Hello young fellow, what were you doing in the woods all alone?" I didn't know how to respond. My brain finally lifted out of the fog it was in, if I told him the truth I would surely be shot so I need to think of something fast. I thought about what I had learned from fifth grade social studies. I just start talking, "Hello General, do you not remember me? I am one of your most trustworthy spies. I have gathered information from the Lobster Backs." "Ah I see," he responded, "and what might your name be son?"

I was amazed that one of the greatest leaders this country will ever see bought a lie from a middle school student but now I need to come up with a fake name quickly. "I'm Liam," I responded fast. "Boys, get back to duty while I talk to this so-called spy," hollered out the general. Then everyone turned and went back to work. "You're coming with me young fellow." I never would have dreamt of this, me, Cameron, talking with one of the greatest generals of all times, next to the boats that were going to cross the DELAWARE RIVER! We went to General Washington's working area where he writes letters, rules, and laws for the soon to be country that he was going to be the president of. There were already important people from the Union in there wondering how to finally put away these red coats. "Alright what did they tell you, Liam. No need to be afraid," General Washington said. I replied, "I followed them to Trenton where the Hessians are in charge of the fort. They look pretty

relaxed and even though they have heard rumors of your attack, they are not taking it seriously." I learned this from my fifth grade Social Studies teacher. "Thank you, Liam, your help was desperately needed." "Thank you," I proudly responded. General Washington asked me to grab his diary off the shelf. The same arm that touched the book in the library was starting to get pulled back into the black tunnel that felt like a vacuum. Suddenly I was back in the library. I was glad I met Washington and gave him important information but disappointed to not actually cross the river with the Continental Army. It would have been freezing traveling through the icy water but it would have been an amazing adventure!