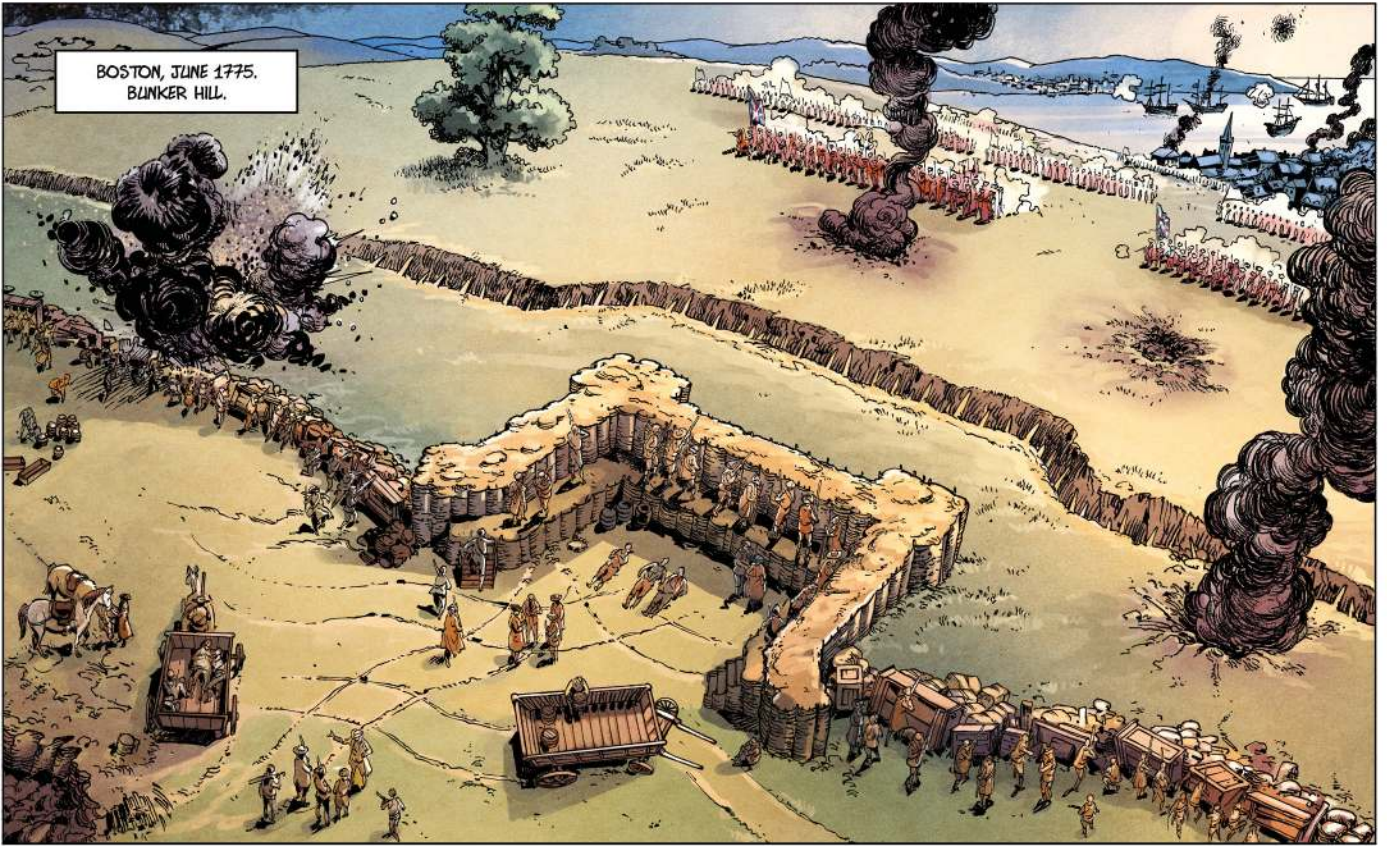


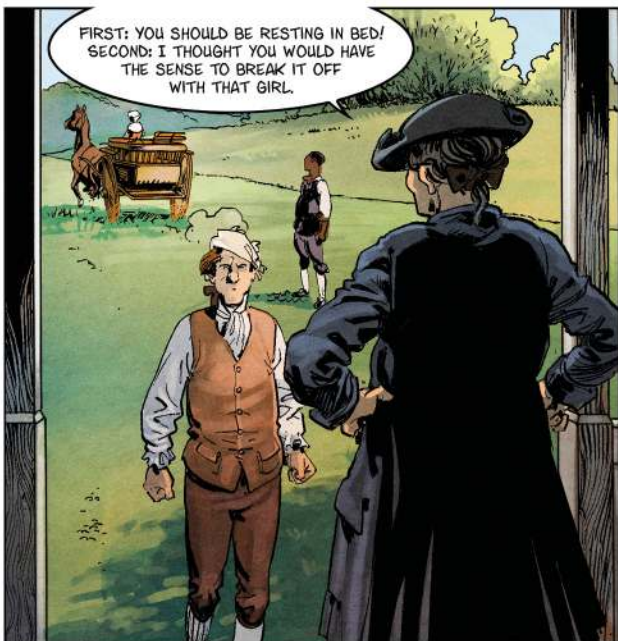
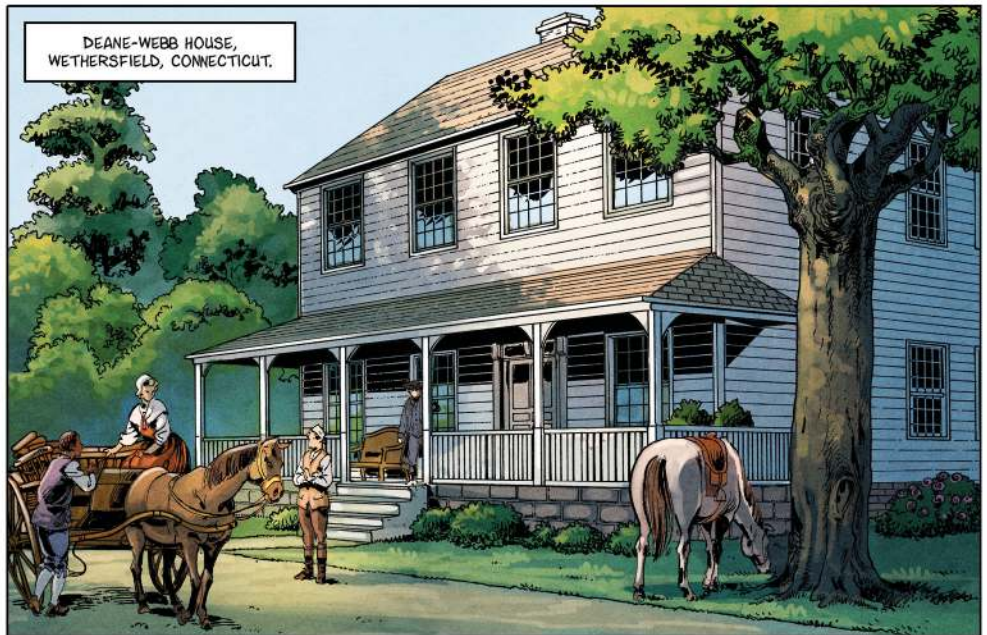
LIBERTY!





BOSTON, JUNE 1775.
BUNKER HILL.







PHILADELPHIA.

"TO PUT AN END TO SUCH DISORDERS, WE ARE INCREASING OUR NAVAL AND LAND FORCES. WHEN THE UNHAPPY AND DELUDED MULTITUDE SHALL BECOME SENSIBLE OF THEIR ERROR, I SHALL BE READY TO RECEIVE THE MISLED WITH TENDERNESS AND MERCY..."



"... GOD SAVE THE KING."



WHO THREW THAT? YOU CUR, STEP FORWARD!



FOR SHAME!



AH, HERE'S MR. DEANE.

POUR HIM SOME GOOD VIRGINIA RUM, TOMMY...



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, DELEGATE FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

BENJAMIN HARRISON, DELEGATE FROM VIRGINIA.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, DELEGATE FROM VIRGINIA.

JOHN JAY, DELEGATE FROM NEW YORK.

...IT HELPS BAD NEWS GO DOWN EASIER.

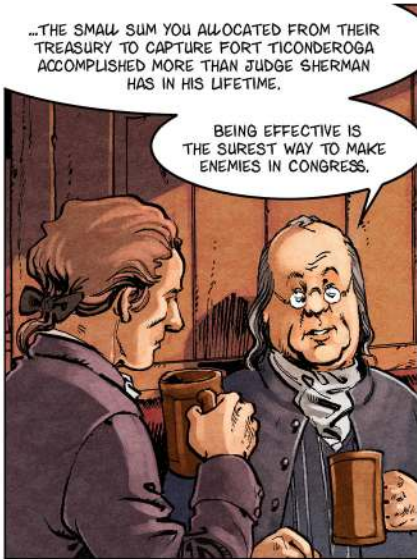
THE COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE



BEFORE WE START, MR. DEANE, MAY I EXPRESS OUR REGRET...

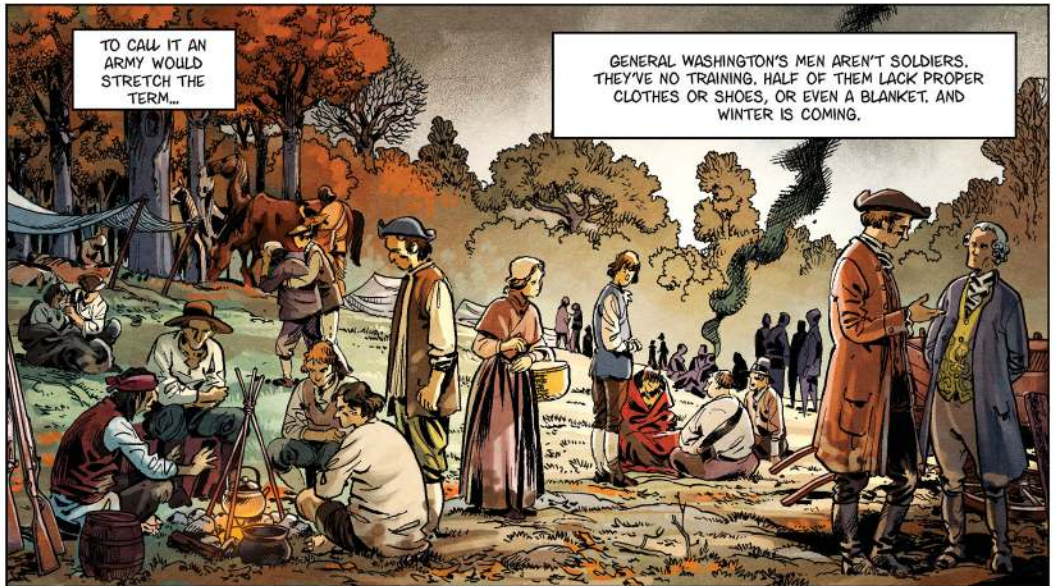
IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED...

OUR FRIENDS IN CONNECTICUT MADE A GREAT MISTAKE BY NOT REAPPOINTING YOU TO CONGRESS.





HOW IS OUR ARMY'S SITUATION AT BOSTON?



TO CALL IT AN ARMY WOULD STRETCH THE TERM...

GENERAL WASHINGTON'S MEN AREN'T SOLDIERS. THEY'VE NO TRAINING. HALF OF THEM LACK PROPER CLOTHES OR SHOES, OR EVEN A BLANKET. AND WINTER IS COMING.



WE HAVE NO CANNONS. GUNPOWDER ENOUGH TO FIRE NINE ROUNDS PER MAN.

UNDERSTAND, ABOUT ONE BALL IN A HUNDRED FINDS ITS MARK.

GOOD LORD!



IF CONGRESS KNEW HOW DESPERATE THE SITUATION REALLY IS, THEY'D VOTE TO SURRENDER TOMORROW AND BEG FOR ROYAL PARDON.

AND ATTEND OUR HANGINGS WITH REGRET.

WHICH IS WHY WE'RE MEETING HERE AND NOT IN CONGRESS.



LET ME KEEP WORKING WITH THE COMMITTEE FOR THE NAVY. IF EVEN ONE PRIVATEER CAN CAPTURE A BRITISH SUPPLY SHIP...

YOUR WORK FOR THE NAVY IS APPRECIATED, BUT WE CAN'T COUNT ON LUCKY BREAKS TO OUTFIT AN ARMY.



WE WISH YOU TO GO TO FRANCE.



WITHOUT FOREIGN HELP, OUR REBELLION WILL SIMPLY BE SNUFFED OUT LIKE AN INFANT IN THE CRADLE.

YOU WILL GO NOT AS A CONGRESSMAN OR DIPLOMATIC ENVOY, BUT AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN.



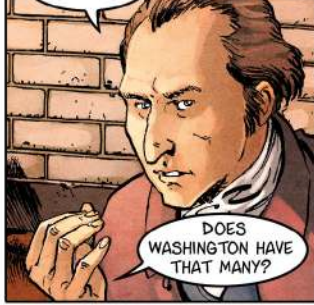
...A PLAIN MERCHANT FROM CONNECTICUT, BY WAY OF BERMUDA.

ONCE THERE, TELL THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER IN SECRET THAT YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO OFFER FRANCE THE COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED BY BRITAIN... IN RETURN FOR ASSISTANCE.



SPECIFICALLY, ARMS, UNIFORMS, AND EQUIPMENT FOR AN ARMY OF 25,000 MEN.

ON CREDIT.



DOES WASHINGTON HAVE THAT MANY?

NOT EVEN CLOSE. BUT TO NAME A LESSER NUMBER WOULD ADMIT DEFEAT. WE CAN'T ASK THE FRENCH TO INVEST IN A LOST CAUSE.



MY BROTHER JAMES HAS INVENTED A FORMULA FOR INVISIBLE INK. I WILL TEACH YOU ITS USE, ALONG WITH A CIPHER TO USE IN YOUR LETTERS.



WHY ME? WHY NOT SEND SOMEONE RESPECTED... LIKE YOU, JOHN? OR FRANKLIN? OR JOHN ADAMS?



I DON'T SPEAK A WORD OF FRENCH. I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT EUROPE. NO ONE THERE HAS HEARD OF ME.



PHILADELPHIA IS THE ONLY PLACE I'VE EVER SET FOOT OUTSIDE CONNECTICUT.

IT'S PRECISELY FOR THOSE REASONS THAT WE CHOSE YOU, MR. DEANE...



...YOU ARE THE LAST MAN THE BRITISH WOULD EVER SUSPECT OF BEING A SECRET AGENT.



WHEN YOU DEPART, TELL NO ONE YOUR REAL MISSION. ACT CHAGRINED AT YOUR RECALL FROM CONGRESS. REMEMBER THAT EVERY WORD UTTERED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE HOUSE IS REPEATED VERBATIM IN LONDON.



IN ANY CASE, NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN CHALLENGED TO JUSTIFY A TRIP TO PARIS.

