Summary: The War in the North

**Washington’s First Battles**
The Continental Army was not as large or strong as the British army when the War for Independence started. British soldiers had better weapons and training. But the Americans had a great leader, George Washington. They were on their own land, which made it easier to plan attacks and defend themselves.

The Americans forced the British to leave Boston in the spring of 1776. In August, the British won the Battle of Long Island in New York. The Americans retreated and marched into Pennsylvania. George Washington planned an attack on the British in Trenton, New Jersey. He wanted to win a battle so his soldiers would not give up. On the night of December 25, the Americans rowed across the Delaware River. They attacked at dawn. The soldiers in Trenton were German mercenaries. They were still sleepy from celebrating Christmas, and the soldiers surprised them. The Americans won the battle and took almost 1,000 prisoners. The Patriots were very happy about this victory.

**A Turning Point**
The British marched into New York from Canada. They met the Americans at Saratoga. It was a hard battle, but the Americans won. After the Battle of Saratoga, France decided to help the Americans. They sent money, soldiers, and a navy. Later, Spain and the Netherlands also helped the Americans.

The British captured Philadelphia and stayed there for the winter of 1777. The Americans stayed in tents at Valley Forge, about 20 miles away. Soldiers slept on the cold ground, and many men had no shoes. There was not enough food. Many soldiers died. Washington worked hard to get more food and uniforms. In the spring, Friedrich von Steuben, a German soldier, joined the army at Valley Forge. He trained the Americans to march and use their weapons better. They became better soldiers because of their training.