

## Plot to Kill George Washington

On March 11, 1776, from his headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, overseeing the siege of Boston, General George Washington issued a General Order to leaders of regiments of the Continental Army.

Washington's order directed these officers to select four men from each regiment who would form his personal guard.

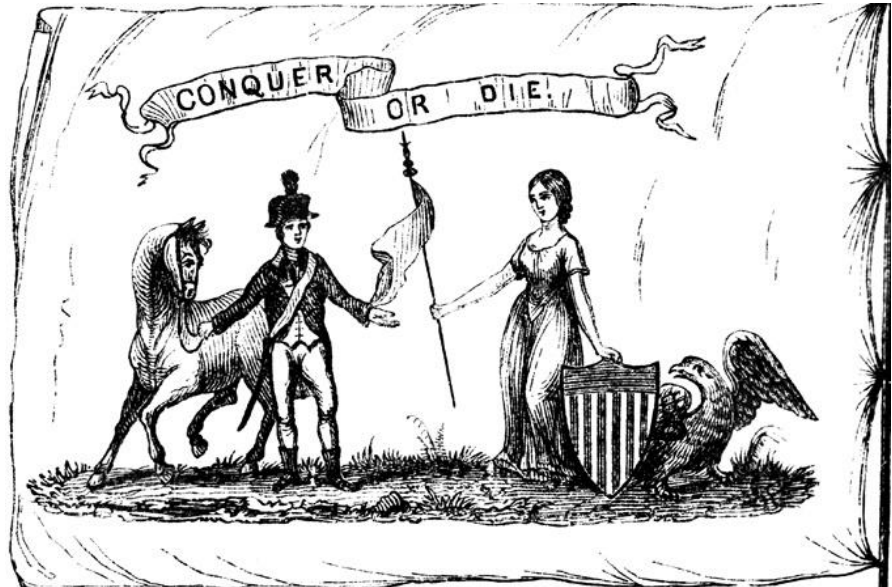
Captain Caleb Gibbs was selected by General Washington to command the new unit, promoted to the rank of Major, and given the title Captain Commandant. The task fell to Gibbs to organize the new unit, whose motto was "Conquer or Die."

The explicit mission of the new group was "to protect General Washington, the army's cash and official papers." Among Gibbs' immediate staff officers was Lieutenant George Lewis, a nephew of General Washington.

The official designation of the new unit was "His Excellency's Guard," or the "General's Guard."

Within two months of the formation of his personal security, several enlisted men and Non-Commissioned Officers were at the center of what became known as the Hickey mutiny.

Thomas Hickey, the Continental soldier at the center of the plot, was a favorite of Washington.



An Irishman and British Army deserter, Hickey joined the colonial militia in Connecticut and was later handpicked by Washington to join his elite Life Guard.

Hickey proved a disappointment and was later jailed on suspicion of counterfeiting.

While detained, he confided to fellow prisoners that he was turning his back on the cause of independence and actively recruiting others to support the British.

A group of New York Tories had established a secret organization whose possible goal was to assassinate General Washington while he was encamped with units of the Continental Army on Manhattan Island.

The conspirators aimed to capture or assassinate Washington using traitors in his Guard.

They were foiled by the Committee for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies, led by John Jay, who would later gain fame as a Founder, diplomat, and jurist.

Hickey was court-martialed for his role and was found guilty on June 26, 1776.

By Washington's orders, all soldiers who were not on duty at the time were present at the execution.

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)

**Presented by: The Hawaii Society Sons of the American Revolution**  
<https://hawaiisar.org/> For more:  
<https://bit.ly/3N15uof>