The Man Who Declared War On America: The Untold Story of William Wallace, the Scottish Warrior Who Inspired the American Revolution



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bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America

by Yossef Bodansky

Print length

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In the annals of history, William Wallace stands as a towering figure of courage, resilience, and unwavering patriotism. As the leader of the Scottish army during the First War of Scottish Independence, Wallace's heroic exploits against the English crown would reverberate across the centuries, inspiring generations of freedom fighters and revolutionaries, including those who fought for American independence.

Early Life and Influences

William Wallace was born into a wealthy landowning family in Elderslie, Scotland, around 1270. Little is known about his early life, but it is believed that he received a traditional Scottish education, which emphasized warfare, hunting, and horsemanship. Wallace's early experiences would shape his character and prepare him for the challenges that lay ahead.

The Scottish Uprising

In the late 13th century, Scotland was under the rule of King Edward I of England, who sought to consolidate his power over the Scottish kingdom. Wallace emerged as a leader of the Scottish resistance, rallying his

countrymen against the English occupation. In 1297, he led a small band of Scottish rebels to a stunning victory at the Battle of Stirling Bridge, effectively breaking the English siege of Stirling Castle.

The Battle of Falkirk

Wallace's victory at Stirling Bridge emboldened the Scottish forces, and he was soon appointed Guardian of Scotland. However, in 1298, the English army, under the command of King Edward himself, crushed the Scottish forces at the Battle of Falkirk. Wallace was forced to retreat into the Scottish Highlands, where he continued to wage a guerrilla war against the English.

Betrayal and Execution

In 1305, Wallace was captured by the English and taken to London, where he was tried for treason and executed on August 23, 1305. His head was placed on London Bridge as a warning to other potential rebels.

Legacy and Impact

Despite his untimely death, William Wallace's legacy lived on. His heroic deeds and unwavering commitment to Scottish independence became a source of inspiration for future generations of Scots and others around the world. Wallace's story was immortalized in Blind Harry's epic poem "The Wallace," which helped to spread his legend throughout Scotland and beyond.

William Wallace and the American Revolution

William Wallace's influence extended far beyond Scotland. His story of defiance against tyranny and his unwavering commitment to freedom

resonated with the American colonists who were struggling for independence from British rule in the 18th century.

George Washington, the first President of the United States, was known to be an admirer of Wallace. He is said to have read "The Wallace" and drew inspiration from the Scottish warrior's example. Thomas Jefferson, another founding father, also praised Wallace as a "hero of liberty."

The American Revolutionaries drew parallels between their own struggle for independence and Wallace's fight against the English. They saw Wallace as a symbol of courage, resilience, and the indomitable human spirit.

William Wallace, the Scottish warrior who declared war on America, remains a towering figure in the annals of history. His heroic deeds, unwavering commitment to freedom, and tragic death continue to inspire generations. From the American Revolution to the present day, Wallace's legacy serves as a reminder of the power of one person to make a difference in the face of adversity.



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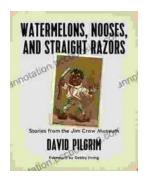
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