

Extracts from the memoirs of Louis XX, Crown Prince of France before his murder in 1993:

February 23rd:

The history of the United States can be unbearably boring sometimes, it's a lot of droning on and on about many minuscule internal events. I honestly stopped paying attention to any of it about 3 weeks ago, but the war... well that certainly is something. I mean for a nation to rebel against its imperial leader (and not just any imperial leader, but Britain!) and come so close to gaining their freedom is fascinating. Of course in the end they failed and the revolutionaries like Washington and Adams were hanged for treason but WOW they came so close! The whole war is really interesting, I mean it was probably the last major war before the Franklin War in 1827 but that leaves a bitter taste when thinking about.

February 25th:

Today's lecture was...topical. It was on Benjamin Franklin and the ever fated voyage to France in October 1776, the very voyage that has caused great criticism towards my family for the past century and half (or thereabouts). After all, claiming the British murdered an 'esteemed guest to the nation' by sinking the Reprisal, and then going to war with them over that matter 51 years after the ship went missing? Utterly ridiculous. But of course I cannot say that in public as the people already hate us enough for there to be rumours of rebellion, what good would the crown prince do by condemning the actions that led to that disastrous conflict?. I didn't enjoy today, it felt as though the whole room was staring daggers at me over that war. It was 166 years ago, why do they still blame me? Too many questions, I have never felt less safe at University.

February 26th:

I have been thinking about that lecture from yesterday, on Franklin. The lecturer went on and on and on about 'the impact Benjamin Franklin could have had if he survived', I appreciated that he was probably trying to give reasons for the Franklin war so that I wouldn't feel so bad but some of the things he suggested felt a bit ludicrous I mean, American independence because of French intervention? A French revolution, why would my family want that? It was all a bit odd, I'm still a little shaken.

March 27th:

They found the Reprisal today. I had almost forgotten about Benjamin Franklin since that lecture a month ago but today it all came back up again with the finding of Franklin's sunken vessel. The people are calling for examinations into the cause of its sibling and the revolutionary parties are speaking out again, I want to go home.

April 11th:

The examination is done, I received a call from my father earlier today and the examination is complete. They let him know what the results are, the boat struck a rock and sank, no foul play. The Franklin war was pointless, all the bloodshed, that death, the effect it has had on our country. Over nothing. My father and his advisors have decided that the results should be released to the public despite the potential uproar it could cause, the people know that the examination is taking place and so withholding the result would probably have a worse effect than releasing them. I am going to be going home for safety in two days, the results are being withheld until I am home. Why should I be scared over something from so long ago?

April 12th

"Truth will be Truth tho' it sometimes proves...distasteful". Franklin said this a year before his ill fated voyage and I feel as though I have never understood this quote more than at this moment. I cannot sleep, it is currently 11pm and 20 minutes ago the head of my security detail burst in. The news has been released. We don't know why or how, who or where but it's public and it's spreading faster than a wildfire. I was supposed to go home tomorrow but now I'm not sure what we're going to do. How do I get home safely? Without the news being public I can travel around like I used to just with a little more caution but with the news out in the open it means hatred towards the royal family, towards me, is at an all time high. I'm 19, it was my great great great great grandfather who declared that stupid war, why am I facing judgement for that? What have I done personally that even suggests I agree with that war, with that death? What suggests I deserve guilt? Would you judge a man on the street for the crimes of his family when he himself is innocent? No, then why me? I wish Franklin had survived, I wish this so called 'French revolution' could have taken place and I wouldn't have to deal with the life of nobility, the life of generational blame. My life is at risk and I have no power to stop that. I need a drink.

April 13th:

It is technically a new day so I shall write as such. I had my drink. It did not help. There is a lot of noise outside, it has been loud for hours now but at 11pm that's expected near the city centre but at 1:30am, why is it louder? And not just a bit louder but so much louder and so much angrier. I fear I may be being paranoid but I swear I hear screaming, like a mob. But I'm too scared to look outside. I am frightened. I can't eat, I can't sleep, I feel like I can barely breathe and all I can think about is dying. How can one man's death cause all of this? Be of this much importance? Of all the times they could have fo- *

*In the written diary of Louis XX the account on April 13th 1993 cuts off with the letters 'fo' which is why the memoirs ends here. It is presumed that in the middle of writing this sentence Louis' room was abruptly burst into by his security detail who very quickly escorted him to an emergency motorcade prepared for Louis after the initial travel plans had to be ditched due to the early release of the *Investigation Into the Sinking Of the Reprisal* on April 12th 1993 by notorious anti-monarchist Christophe Fournier, although exactly how he got access to the results is still unclear. Unfortunately the unprepared and rushed nature of the motorcade meant that it was attacked by multiple other vehicles and the crown prince remained woefully unprotected, resulting in his execution in the street by revolutionary leader Thierry Dupont whom himself was executed 3 months later on the orders of King Henry VI after the revolution was brought to a close by the army.