Resource Sheet #1

Lexington, Massachusetts, April 25, 1775.

I, the Commander of the **militia** in Lexington, honestly state, that on the 19th of April, many **Regulars** (soldiers in the British army) were riding and insulting people and I was informed that troops were marching from Boston to take colonial military supplies in the town of Concord. I ordered our militia to meet in Lexington and decided not to *provoke* the Regulars unless they bothered us. When they got close, I immediately ordered our militia to disband, and not to fire. Immediately after I said this, the Regulars rushed furiously, fired upon, and killed eight of our minutemen without us provoking them.

John Parker, Commander of the Lexington militia

Resource Sheet #3

Lexington, Massachusetts, April 25, 1775.

On the evening of the April 18th, we rode our horses on the road between Concord and Lexington. Out of nowhere, nine British **Regulars** (soldiers) rode up to us, mounted on a horse and armed with pistols, seized our horses and swore that if we moved, we’d all be dead men. We surrendered and they *detained* us until two in the morning. During this time, we were search and questioned about the military equipment at Concord, how many guards were posted there, and then they stated that four or five regiments of Regulars would be that the military equipment soon. Finally, they brought us back to Lexington let tour horse go and left us on the side of the road.

Solomon Brown, Jonathan Loring, Elijah Sanderson, **minutemen**

Resource Sheet #4

Lexington, Massachusetts, April 25, 1775.

I was in Lexington, the Morning of April 19th. After being dismissed by my officers, I saw a many **Regulars** (British troops) advancing toward the Lexington **militia**, while they were leaving. I heard one of the Regulars, whom I took to be an officer, say, "Damn them, we will have them," and immediately the Regulars shouted, ran, and fired upon the Lexington militia, which did not fire any weapon before the Regulars fired on them. Eight of the Lexington **minutemen** were killed while they were *dispersing* and many more were wounded, and even though I was far away, I narrowly escaped with my Life.

Elijah Saunderson.

Resource Sheet #5

Medford, Massachusetts, April 25, 1775.

On the evening of the April 18th, under the Orders of General Gage, I went out with several **Regulars** (British troops), commanded by Colonel Smith, proceeded to Lexington. When we got there we saw sixty or seventy **minutemen** who were armed with weapons. ; When we got closer they scattered but then the firing of muskets began; I could not tell who shot first because my troops were yelling and shouting until all of the milita had scattered.

We then marched to Concord. On a hill near the entrance of the town, we saw minutemen assembled and we charged the hill to disperse them. We chased them as they retreated back towards Lexington and we took possession of the local bridge, which the minutemen had retreated over. About three or four hundred of my Regulars took the Concord side of the Bridge, but the minutemen came down upon us. We fought the whole day and I myself was wounded at the attack of the Bridge.

Edward Thoroton Gould, Lieutenant in King's own Regiment

Resource Sheet #2

19th. [April 1775]

At two o'clock in the morning, our boats finally brought the supplies we needed to take the military equipment stored in Concord and we began our march. After going a few miles our spies told us that, about 5 miles ahead in Lexington, there were some hundreds of people collected together intending to oppose us and stop our march. At 5 o'clock we arrived there and saw a number between 200 and 300 **minutemen**, in the middle of the town. We still continued advancing, being careful of an attack but not intending to attack them ourselves. When we got close, they fired one or two shots, and our men, without any orders rushed in and fired and made them flee; several of them were killed, we could not tell how many. Only one of our men were hurt.

We couldn’t hear any orders because it was loud and chaotic as we moved on to Concord to destroy the military supplies there. We ruined 3 cannons and 100 pounds of flour among other items. More and more **rebels** began to join the fight throughout the day as we attempted to secure **North Bridge** in the town of Concord. The amount of rebels grew as the day continued and they took advantage of our scattered position and we were forced to make a **tactical retreat**. We should have destroyed more of the Concord military equipment but the rebels knew we were coming had had moved much of it and joined in the fighting. We just barely made it back to Charlestown and then to Boston! If our ships had gotten supplies to us sooner, we’d have been more successful.

Diary from an anonymous British soldier