MILITARY BROADSIDES of the American Revolution

The most immediate form of written communication during the Revolution was the broadside—a one-page handbill printed quickly to spread breaking news and deliver government and military announcements. The Continental Army, Continental Congress, and state and local war agencies printed them continuously to publicize orders and resolutions, requisition supplies from civilians, alert the public to imminent threats from the British army, and proclaim days of thanksgiving and prayer. This collection includes eight American broadsides and one issued by the British army, which used the same medium to distribute news, orders, and requisitions.

1775. Call for food and provisions.
   **Issued by:** Quarter Master General of the Continental Army, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
   **Addressed to:** Civilian merchants and farmers.

1775. Ban on selling hard cider to soldiers in camp.
   **Issued by:** Quarter Master General Thomas Mifflin, Continental Army, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
   **Addressed to:** Civilian merchants and farmers.

1776. Call for linen and lint for bandages.
   **Issued by:** Committee of Observation, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
   **Addressed to:** Women of Lancaster.

1776. Request for aid in the defense of Philadelphia against advancing British troops.
   **Issued by:** Pennsylvania Council of Safety.
   **Addressed to:** Battalion commanders in Lancaster County.

1777. Call for food and provisions.
   **Issued by:** Massachusetts Board of War.
   **Addressed to:** Town administrators (selectmen).

1777. Offer of pardon for deserters.
   **Issued by:** Major General Israel Putnam, Continental Army, White Plains, New York.
   **Addressed to:** Army deserters who return by January 1, 1778.

1777. Notice that unthreshed grain will be seized for army’s use and recompensed at low rate.
   **Issued by:** General George Washington, Continental Army, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.
   **Addressed to:** Farmers within seventy miles of Valley Forge.

1777. Call to create a Loyalist battalion.
   **Issued by:** British army, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
   **Addressed to:** Pennsylvania Loyalists.

1778. Call to grant amnesty to Loyalists who surrender to authorities.
   **Issued by:** U.S. Continental Congress.
   **Addressed to:** State legislatures.
CAMBRIDGE, 21st August, 1775.

WANTED for the CONTINENTAL ARMY.

One Million of Bricks.
Three Thousand Cords of Fire Wood.
Two Hundred Thousand Feet of Pine Boards and Scantling.
Five Hundred Bushels of Charcoal.
One Hundred and Fifty Tons of English Hay.
Twelve Hundred Bushels of Indian Corn.
Twelve Hundred Bushels of Oats.
Three Hundred Shovels.
Three Hundred Spades.
Fifty Pick Axes.
One Hundred and Fifty Hand-Saws.
Five Thousand Bushels of Lime.
One Hundred and Fifty Tons of Rye Straw.

Those Persons who are willing to supply the Army with the Articles above-mentioned, may apply to the Quarter-Master-General, in Cambridge.

1775

Call to civilian merchants and farmers for food and provisions, issued by Thomas Mifflin, Quarter Master General of the Continental Army under General George Washington, Cambridge (near Boston), Massachusetts, 21 August 1775.

Scantling: small timbers used in construction, usually to prescribed dimensions.
Quarter Master General: officer in charge of providing food and supplies for an army.

Early American Imprints, Series I, Doc. 42951. Reproduced by permission of the Massachusetts Historical Society.
Head-Quarters, Cambridge, 27th August, 1775.

His Excellency General Washington has been informed that great quantities of new Cyder are daily brought into this Camp and sold to the Army under his Command; and as the Use of such poisonous Liquor will inevitably produce Disorders of the most fatal Tendency to the Soldiers, the General finds it necessary to forbid the Sale of it in this Camp; and recommends to all the Officers under his Command to prevent as much as possible the Sale and Use of it in their respective Departments.

Those Persons who are found in this Camp selling new Cyder to the Soldiers will be considered as Enemies to America, and be treated accordingly.

THO. MIFFLIN, Q. M. G.
IN COMMITTEE,
Lancaster, February 10, 1776.

The Committee considering the Necessity there may be for Linen for Bandages, &c. for the Use of the Army, request of the good Woman of the Borough and County of Lancaster, to collect such as they can conveniently spare from their Families, and send it to the House of Mr. Adam Reigart, in the said Borough, where it will be thankfully received, and be disposed of as the Committee shall direct, among the Surgeons of the Army, for Lint and Dressings, for such as may be so unfortunate as to be wounded in defending the Liberties of their Country.

And those who have Leisure to make Lint from old Rags, which they may have, will shew a generous and humane Disposition by so doing, and delivering it at Mr. Reigart's, for the Purposes aforesaid.

Signed by Order of the Committee,
GEO. ROSS, Chairman.
No. 484

Request to the "good Woman [sic] of the Borough and County of Lancaster" for linen and lint for bandages, issued by the Committee of Observation of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 10 February 1776.

Lint: fine material made by scraping linen or cotton cloth; used for bandages.

Early American Imprints, Series I, Doc. 14817. Digital image courtesy of the New York Public Library [sepia tone added].
IN COUNCIL OF SAFETY,

Philadelphia, November 14th 1776,
12 o’Clock, Thursday.

SIR,

WE have certain Intelligence that the Enemy has actually failed from New-York Five Hundred Ships for this City, and that great Numbers had got out of the Hook on 12 o’Clock Yesterday and were steering towards our Capes: As you value the Safety of your Country, and all that is dear and valuable to Men, we most earnestly solicit your immediate Assistance, and that you will march all your Battalion to this City without the least Delay.

As nothing but the most hasty Marching of the Militia will enable us to make a Stand, it is hoped that your Battalion will manifest their usual Spirit, and come forth on this trying Occasion with the Alacrity that will do them Honour. If you can collect any Shovels, Spades, Grabbing Hoes and Pitching Axes, beg you will bring them forward and the People shall be paid for them a full Price.

By Order of Council,

THOMAS WHARTON, Jun. President.

Printed by JOHN DUNLAP, in Market-Street.

_1776_

Request from the Philadelphia Council of Safety to the Lancaster County Committee of Safety, issued 14 November 1776, copies to be delivered to the commanders of the eleven army battalions in Lancaster County, urging their advance to Philadelphia to aid its defense against the British troops advancing from New York City.

WAR-OFFICE, Boston, February 3, 1777.

To the Selectmen of Westborough.

As the Articles herein enumerated, are absolutely necessary for the ensuing Campaign, and nothing is wanting to repel our determined, unrelenting and unprovoked enemies, but preparation and resolution to meet them—It is most earnestly desired by the Board of War, in behalf of this state, that you would exert yourselves, and appoint some proper persons to procure the following articles, for which the legal (and where no price is stipulated) a reasonable price will be given, the expence of collecting and transporting paid, and the smallest quantity will be acceptable.—It is requested the articles may be delivered at Watertown, to the order of the Commissary-General, who will pay for the same upon delivery.—It is also requested that you immediately make return to this office, of the quantity of each article you have a prospect of procuring, between this and the tenth day of April next.

By order of the Board,

SAMUEL P. SAVAGE, President.

Tow Cloth yard wide at 2/3 and so in proportion for wider or narrower.
Coarse thread Hose.
Yarn Stockings.
Shoes.
Beans.
Pease.
Twine.
Bar-Iron.
Fire-Arms.

Old Brass per lb.
Old Copper per lb.
Soldiers Blankets.
Linen and Woolen large shirts.
Felt Hats.
Striped, check'd and white Flannel.
Linen Rags.
Lint.

Call for food and provisions, addressed to town officials [written in hand, "Westborough"], issued by the Massachusetts Board of War, Boston, 3 February 1777.

Return: report. Tow Cloth: coarse inexpensive fabric used for sacks, work clothes, and other utilitarian purposes.

Early American Imprints, Series I, Doc. 43298. Reproduced by permission of the American Antiquarian Society.
BY THE HONORABLE
Major-General PUTNAM,
Commander of the Forces of the
United American States,
At and near the WHITE-PLAINS.
A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS some Soldiers of the Continental Army,
induced by artful and insidious Persons, have been
led to desert their Country’s Service, and have aided the
Enemy in their wicked Purposes to subdue the Country;
some of whom are deterred from returning to their Duty
through Fear of Punishment: And whereas many of the
peaceable Inhabitants of these States have, by artful and
designing Persons, been induced to leave their Habitations
and take Arms against their Countrymen; who, conscio-
sious of their Errors, are desirous of returning to their
Habitations, but are deterred through Fear of Punishment.

I DO THEREFORE DECLARE, That all Deserters from the
Army of the United States, who will return to their Duty
by the First Day of January next, shall have a free Par-
don: And those Inhabitants who have been induced to
enter the Enemy’s Service, shall, on returning to their
Habitations, receive Protection, and Exemption from per-
focal Punishment for the aforesaid Offences.

Given under my Hand at Head-Quarters, the 17th
of November, Anno Domini, 1777.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Offer of amnesty for deserters who return to duty by January 1, 1778,

Early American Imprints, Series I, Doc. 43380. Reproduced by permission of the American Antiquarian Society [sepia tone added].
Announcement to farmers within seventy miles of Valley Forge (winter quarters of the Continental Army) that any unthreshed grain left in their fields after March 1, 1778, will be taken by the Continental Army, payment to be made at the lower price of straw; issued by General George Washington, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 20 December 1777.

Recruitment broadside to create a battalion of Pennsylvania Loyalists, issued by the British army during the occupation of Philadelphia, 1777. (Due to low response, the battalion was not formed.)

Latin header, "Teucro duce nil desperandum": “Never despair with Teucer as leader” [Horace: Book I, Ode 7].

Handwritten note: "every non comm officer was to receive 200 acres of land."

Early American Imprints, Series I [LCP Supplement], Doc. 50427. Reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
Resolution calling on states to grant amnesty to Loyalists who turn themselves in by June 10, 1779; issued to the states by the Continental Congress, York Town, Pennsylvania, 23 April 1778.

Early American Imprints, Series I, Doc. 16119. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Broadside Collection, Call No.: Cont Cong no. 44a.