Wartime news based on “fresh intelligence” was spread through one-page broadsides printed quickly and posted throughout a town.

1776. **News**: British evacuation of Boston, March 17.
   - **Content**: Letter dated March 21 from Boston resident to a resident of (probably) New York City.
   - As reported from: Boston, Massachusetts.
   - As reported (printed) in: New York City, New York (?).

1777. **News**: Repulsion of British at Saratoga, Oct. 6.
   - As reported from: Boston, October 13.
   - As reported (printed) in: Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

   - **Content**: Three letters dated Oct. 23 from officers in Red Bank, New Jersey, to Gen. Washington.
   - As reported from: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by order of the Continental Congress (printed in Lancaster, Penn.)

1779. **News**: Battle of Stono Ferry, S.C., June 20.
   - **Content**: News from a man “this moment arrived” in Providence (perhaps June 21), as heard in Philadelphia from a man newly arrived from South Carolina; confirmed by Boston men who heard news from another S.C. man.
   - As reported from: Providence, Rhode Island, June 21 (?), 4pm.
   - As reported (printed) in: Worcester, Massachusetts, June 21.

   - **Content**: Letter (excerpt) dated May 10 from Edenton, N.C., postmaster reporting news “from very good Authority.”
   - As reported from: Edenton, North Carolina, May 10.
   - As reported (printed) in: Baltimore, Maryland, May 20.

1781. **News**: British retreat after defeat in Battle of Guilford Courthouse, N.C., March 15.
   - **Content**: Letter (excerpt), dated March 23, from Major Gen. Nathanael Greene, Buffalo Creek, N.C.
   - As reported from: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 7.
   - As reported (printed) in: Boston, Massachusetts.

   - **Content**: Report from French warship that arrived in Philadelphia Feb. 23 from Cadiz, Spain, after “a passage of 32 days.”
   - As reported from:—New York City, March 26, via “an express from New Jersey”—Philadelphia, March 24, via a news broadside brought to New York by Lewis Morris—Worcester, Mass., April 1, 5pm, via a man delivering New York broadside of letter from president of the Continental Congress (n.d.)
   - As reported (printed) in: Worcester, Massachusetts.
On Friday the [town] crier was sent about to order all the inhabitants not to stir out of their houses till evening, while they were thus confined, the soldiers, sailors, and refugees, took the opportunity of breaking into houses and stores, and plundering. As they could not carry on board for want of rowboats, chairs, tables, and the like, they destroyed and burnt them. A prodigious quantity of mahogany furniture has been in this way demolished. When they were gone off, upon search being made, fires were discovered in several houses, so circumstanced as to evidence a design of setting the houses on fire, but that was happily frustrated.

General Robinston under an official cover seems to have been as great a plunderer as any, and to have connived at the rascally conduct of smaller villains. He might possibly answer to himself for the part he was acting, by viewing what he secured as an equivalent, for the many thousands he has cut out of interest, and in property in your colony, and elsewhere, should the same be seized. The prec's will be employed shortly in communicating to the public the sufferings of the Bostonians, drawn up by one who has been there the whole time, and well informed; and if that does not determine the colonists never more to admit King's troops into the continent, I shall think it failed. Since the ministerialists have left their works, every one that surveys them is convinced what a most hazardous attempt it would have been to have endeavored to force them, and are better satisfied with that seeming inactivity, but really Fabian delay, that was widely adopted by our patriotic sensible commanders. Strain every nerve, hazard life rather than admit of the regulars polluting themselves of your city: but it is likely they are going to Halifax; or if not, that you will be strongly reinforced here they can reach you. Many of the ships are failed. A number of good large iron cannon have been left, which when we have unfitted (several are already) will serve to fortify the town. Two good mortars fell into the water at the wharf, as they were attempting to put them on board, and another was left upon the Common spiked up.

It is reported that Manly has taken a ship laden with Scotch Tories [Loyalists], and their property.
Good News from the Northern Army.

BOSTON, October 13, 1777.
This Morning at three o’clock, an Express arrived at General Heath’s, the following Letter, viz.
Camp, three Miles above Still Water, Oct. 9.

DEAR GENERAL,

THIS will acknowledge the Receipt of yours of the 29th ult. and will inform you, that on Tuesday last the Enemy advanced from the Right, with a Design to take Post on our Left, our Scouts were drove in—they continued advancing. . . . Three Regiments were ordered out, who met them a Mile from our Lines, a small Eminence being between them, each pushed hard for it—Our Troops gain’d it.—The Attack began at four o’Clock, P. M. continued till dark, without any Intermittence; during which we drove them two Miles, & at last entered their Works Sword in Hand. In the Action and in their Works, were taken two brass twelve Pounders, and six six Pounders, three Ammunition Waggon, about 300 Tents, a great Quantity of Baggage, with upwards of thirty Horses, Waggon, &c. &c.

It now bec’me very dark, could not pursue any further, nor was it safe or practicable, the Woods being very thick.

We halted half a Mile in the Rear of them, there remained a whole Night, with our Arms in our Hands, not a Man slept.—About Four in the Morning they began to move. We pushed on till they were drove into their Strong Works on the River Road. Skirmishing Parties were sent out the whole Day;—some Prisoners taken, some killed, and wounded on our side.

Among the Wounded is the good General LINCOLN, not through the Leg, with he may save it, but is much doubted.—The brave General ARNOLD was wounded in the Action the Day before.

As we have not been able to get in Re-turns, cannot give you a particular Account of our Loss; however, it is very considerable—I believe I may venture to say, not more than thirty killed, not more than one hundred wounded.

The Enemy’s Loss on Tuesday must be great!—General FRAIZER wounded, (since dead.) Taken three Field Officers, six Captains, ten Subalterns, one Quarter Master General, one hundred and sixty Privates—taken in the Hospital on Wednesday about three hundred Sick and wounded, with some Medicines, two hundred Barrels of Flour, with many other Articles; Besides these, upwards of one hundred now lay dead on the Ground, which we have not been able to bury.

Much Honor is due to our Officers and men, who fought like Heroes.

The Enemy began their Retreat at 11 o’Clock at night, breaking up all the Bridges, and otherwise spoiling the Roads, in their Rear.

Thursday morning 1,00 men, served with three Days Provisions, began their march to hang on their Left Flank (the River being on the Right) and two Brigades on the River Road, on their Rear, but could not proceed, as it fell in full of Rain, and so continues.

Shall push on immediately, on its clearing up, when I hope to give you a further Account of them. Till then, I am your Honor’s Most obedient Servant,

John Glover, Major General

October 10. 9 o’Clock, three thousand have already marched on their Left Flank; and our whole Body is paraded, and will march immediately.

J. G.

P. S. it is A. M. This Morning Simpson much in favour of Gen. Lincoln, I am in hopes he will have his Leg—The Express heard a very heavy Cannonade all the next Day while on his Way hither.

PORTSMOUTH, Printed.
Intelligence from Red-Bank.

Red-Bank, October 23rd, 1777.

May it please your Excellency,

THIS will acquaint your Excellency, that early this morning, we carried all our galleys to action, and after a long and heavy firing we drove the enemy's ships down the river, except a 64 gun ship, and a small frigate, which we obliged them to quit, as they got on shore, and by accident the 64 gun ship blew up, and the frigate they set on fire themselves, took the people all out and killed them. Our action lasted till twelve o'clock, and our fleet has received but very little damage. You will be informed of the glorious event of last night by Col. Green. We in our galleys were of great use in flanking the fort. As I am very much fatigued, I hope your Excellency will be satisfied with this short account of our affairs of the river and fleet.

Being in haste, I hope soon shall have it in my power to give you a better account of this action; besides the sixty-four and frigate being burnt, the Roebuck, who lay to cover them, we damaged much, and drove off, and had the luff, we should have had her in the same situation.

An your Excellency's most obedient,

and very humble servant.

His Excellency Gen. Washington.

John Hazelwood.

SIR,

By the desire of Col. Green, I congratulate your Excellency on the success of the troops under his command, yesterday. On the 21st instant, four battalions of Germans, amounting to 1200 men, commanded by the Baron Donop, Col. Commandant, landed at Cooper's ferry, and marched the same evening to Haddonfield. At 3 o'clock yesterday morning, they marched for this place; when the guard at Timber-Creek Bridge were informed of their approach, they took up the bridge, and the enemy fled off to the left, and crossed at a bridge, four miles above. These advanced parties were defeated within a quarter of a mile of the fort, at 12 o'clock, at half after four o'clock P.M. they sent a flag to summon the fort, who was told, that it should never be surrendered. At three quarters after four they began a blank cannonade, and soon after advanced in two columns, to the attack. They passed the abatis, gained the ditch, and some few got over the piquets, but the fire was so heavy that they were soon drove out again, with considerable loss, and retreated precipitately, towards Haddonfield.

The enemy's loss amounts to 1 Lieutenant Col., 3 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, and near 50 killed, and the Baron Donop, his Brigade Major, a Captain, Lieutenant, and upwards of 50 non-commissioned officers and privates, wounded and taken prisoners. We are also informed that several waggons are taken. He also enjoined me to tell your Excellency that both officers and private men behaved with the greatest bravery. The action lasted 40 minutes, Col. Green's regiment has two serjeants, 1 file, and 4 privates killed, 1 serjeant, and 3 privates wounded, and one Captain, (who was reconnoitring) takes prisoners. Col. Angel has one Captain killed, 3 serjeants, 2 rank and file, and 2 Ensign, 1 serjeant, and 15 rank and file wounded. 2 of Capt. Duplessis company were slightly wounded; too many hand-to-hand things cannot be told of the Chevalier, who as well as his officers showed a truly heroic bravery. There has been already brought into the fort near 200 muskets, a considerable number of swords, cartridge boxes, &c.

There has been a fine firing between ours and the enemy's fleet this morning; several fire-ships have been sent down the river.

I am with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

S. M. WARD.

Red-Bank, 23d October, 1777.

His Excellency Gen. Washington.

SIR,

I am just arrived at this place, on command, from Fort-Mifflin, and finding that Col. Green, and the Commodore were sending by express to your Excellency, the glorious event of last evening, and this morning, think proper to give you the particulars from our garrison. This morning at half-past six o'clock, the enemy, from Province Island, began a very heavy fire from their bomb-batteries, and in about half an hour after was joined by their fleet, which kept up on us incessantly, till after 12 o'clock. Our battery, in concert with the Commodore's fleet, playing on them the whole time, in short we play'd them with 18 and 32 pound shot so closely, that they, I believe, began to give ground; however they ran a fifty-four gun ship and a twenty gun frigate aground, and after fruitless attempts to get them off, they set fire to them both. We sustained no damage, except a Captain and a private slightly wounded. Our garrison showed a firmness and resolution becoming brave men, and I don't doubt will merit themselves with honour. The fleet are making down again fast, as well as Billingsport.

I have the honour to be, &c,

ROBERT BALLARD.

His Excellency Gen. Washington.

Published by order of Congress,
CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

LANCASTER, Printed by FRANCIS Baily.

Reproduced by permission of the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University.
Battle of Stono Ferry, South Carolina, June 20, 1779. Broadside printed in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The battle ended with no clear victory for either side, although the British succeeded in resisting the American attack, which had to be called off due to low ammunition. Of about 1200 American troops, about 30 were killed, 115 wounded, and 155 were reported missing. Of 900 British troops, about 30 were killed, 100 wounded, and an unknown number missing. (Statistics vary.)
Baltimore, May 20, 1780.

Extract of a Letter from the Postmaster at Edenton, in North-Carolina, to the Printer hereof, (received by this Day's Southern Mail) dated the 10th of May Instant.

"I HAVE it from very good Authority, that the Enemy, on the 25th of April, made an Attack on Charlestown, by Land and Water, and were repulsed, with the Loss of 500 killed, and 250 taken Prisoners.----

This good News, I make no Doubt, you will be glad to hear.

J. MARL.

Printed by M. K. Goddard, at the Post-Office.
Cornwallis Retreating!

PHILADELPHIA, April 7, 1781.

Extract of a Letter from Major-General Greene, dated CAMP, at Buffalo Creek, March 23, 1781.

"O

N the 16th Instant I wrote your Excellency, giving an Account of an Action which happened at Guilford Courthouse the Day before. I was then persuaded that notwithstanding we were obliged to give up the Ground, we had reaped the Advantage of the Action. Circumstances have convinced me in my Opinion that the Enemy were too much galled to improve their Success. We lay at the Iron-Works three Days, preparing ourselves for another Action, and expecting the Enemy to advance: But of sudden they took their Departure, leaving behind them evident Marks of Distress. All our wounded at Guilford, which had fallen into their Hands, and 70 of their own, too bad to move, were left at New-Garden. Most of their Officers suffered: Lord Cornwallis had his Horse shot under him—Col. Steward, of the Guards was killed, General O'Hara andCols. Tarlton and Webster, wounded. Only three Field-Officers escaped, if Reports, which seem to be authentic, can be relied on.

Our Army are in good Spirits, notwithstanding our Sufferings, and are advancing towards the Enemy; they are retreating to Cross-Creek.

In South-Carolina, Generals Sumpter and Marion have gained several little Advantages. In one the Enemy lost 60 Men, who had under their Care a large Quantity of Stores, which were taken, but by an unfortunate Mistake were afterwards re-taken.

Published by Order,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.
Important Intelligence of PEACE!
Between America and Great-Britain, and all the European Powers at War.
SURE and CERTAIN.

NEW YORK, March 26. A GENERAL PEACE.

LATE on Monday night, arrived an express from New-Jersey, which brought the following account:—That on Sunday last, the 23d inst., a vessel arrived at Philadelphia from Cadiz, with dispatches to the Continental Congress, informing them, That on TUESDAY the 21st of JANUARY, the PRELIMINARIES to a GENERAL PEACE, between Great-Britain, France, Spain, Holland, and the United States of America, were signed at Paris, by all the powers as aforesaid; in consequence of which, hostilities, by sea and land, were to cease in Europe, on Thursday the 20th of February; and in America, on THURSDAY the 20th of March. In the present year, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three.

This very important intelligence was on Monday morning announced by the firing of cannon, and great rejoicing at Elizabeth-Town.

Late last night arrived Lewis Morris, Esq; express from Philadelphia, who brought a printed paper, from which the following are copied.

PHILADELPHIA, March 24, 1783.

Yesterday arrived a passage of 12 days from Cadiz, a French fleet of war, commanded by M. du Queine, with the agreeable intelligence of PEACE.
The particular articles respecting this happy and glorious event are as follows:
The principal ARTICLES of the PRELIMINARIES of PEACE, of the 21st of January 1783:

FRANCE to retain Tobago and Senegal.
France to restore to Great-Britain, Grenada, Saint Vincent, Dominica, and Saint Christophers.
St. Eustatius, Demerara, Barbadoes, and Ille-qui-obo, to be restored to the Dutch.
Great-Britain to reconquer, Goree, St. Lucis, St. Pierre, and Miquelon.
The French of France and England, on the Coast of Bantam, to remain on the same footing as they were by the Treaty of 1763; except that part of the Coast of Bonavista, at Cape St. John's, shall belong to the English.
France to be re-established in the East Indies, as well in Bengal, as on the East and West Coast of the Peninsula, as regulated by the Treaty of 1763.
The Articles of the preceding Treaty, concerning the demobilization of Dunkirk, to be suspended.
Spain and Great-Britain, about the cutting of wood in the bay of Honduras.
Great-Britain to retain the Dutch settlement of Nagapatnam, in the East-Indies.
Great Britain to restore Tripolimana to the Dutch if not broken.
St. Eustatius, Demerara, and Ille-qui-obo, to be restored by the French to the United Provinces.
Great-Britain acknowledges the Sovereignty and Independence of the Thirteen United States of America.
The limits of the United States to be as agreed upon in the Provisional Articles between them and Great Britain; except that they shall not extend further down the river Mississippi than the 32d degree of North latitude from whence a line is to be drawn to the head of the river St. Mary, on the middle of that river down to this month.

WORCESTER, April 1, 5 o'Clock, P. M. 1783.

We have this moment received the above truly interesting and pleasing intelligence by a Gentleman directly from Boston. The intelligence arrived there yesterday in four days from the City of New-York.

Great rejoicing has been manifested wherever the above glorious intelligence came.
The preliminaries with America nearly as published last Thursday.

Copy of a letter from Elias Boudinot, Esq; President of the Continental Congress, to Mr. Livingston, Esq; Governor of New-Jersey.

"An express has just arrived from on board a fleet of war in the river, which left Cadiz February 14. —She announces that the definitive treaty, having been signed by all the belligerent powers, on the 21st of January, all hostilities had ceased in Europe; and that the same happy event was to take place in this country on the 20th of March instant. The Count d'Efling, who was ready to sail with sixty ships of the line, a very formidable armament, had given up the attempt, and was dispersing his fleet to the different ports. This fleet does not bring us official dispatches, having been sent by the Count d'Efling, and the Marquis de la Fayette, in hopes that the might by accident (as she has done) be the fortunate medium of the earliest communication. Although the flag goes to-morrow morning, I could not with satisfaction to my own mind, suffer your Excellency and my friends in Trenton, to be deprived of the knowledge of this happy event, one moment longer than absolute necessity required.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c."