

Activity

You be the journalist

It is late March, 1770, and the following events have taken place in Boston. The facts:

- British troops first arrived in Boston in 1768 to enforce Townshend Acts.
- Civilians often harassed British soldiers as they walked the streets.
- On March 5, the 29th regiment arrived to relieve the 8th regiment and were met by a taunting crowd.
- Captain Thomas Preston ordered the crowd to disperse.
- The crowd remained and chanted, "Fire and be damned!"
- Preston ordered his troops, "Don't Fire!"
- British soldiers fired into the crowd.
- Five colonists were killed by British regulars.

You are a newspaper writer in either Philadelphia or London. How would you portray the events? What would you emphasize? What would you downplay? What would your headline be? Using these facts as your guide, write a 600–700 word analysis of the events of March 5, 1770, in Boston.



British troops entering Boston to enforce taxation and other colonial legislation before the US Revolution.