

Play 2 - Boston Massacre: March 5, 1770

Speakers:

Samuel Adams (Patriot)

Captain Preston (in charge of British troops, guarding Customs House)

John Adams (Patriot)

British Soldier (involved in 'Massacre')

Crispus Attucks (slain Patriot 'rioter')

Thomas Hutchinson (Lieutenant Governor)

S. Adams: March 5th 1770. Now *that* was a night to remember!

Cpt. Preston: You mean, that night *you* unruly citizens of Boston made *trouble* and then wondered at the *consequences* of your actions?

Attucks: *We* made trouble? What about all the aggravation *we'd* had to put up with for the previous 18 months? *Your* army of occupation was *never* going to be welcome in *our* city!

Soldier: And you *sure* didn't make things easy for us! All those taunts and threats!

Hutchinson: *Hardly* the way to treat our good King George's men!

J. Adams: And I suppose *you* would have welcomed complete strangers into *your* homes, would you? What if *us* lot had descended upon *you*?

Hutchinson: Oh I *don't* think so! No offence to *you*, Mr. Adams, but some of that lot you hung around with were just a *little* on the rough side for us *refined* Englishmen!

S. Adams: Talk about double standards! *Some* of us just wanted what was *right* and *fair*!

Cpt. Preston: But you *hardly* went about it in a peaceful way! Stirring up everyone's feelings, to such a pitch that *trouble* was *bound* to result!

Attucks: And why not? We were *tired* of doing everything we were told by a government thousands of miles away. It was time we took matters into our *own* hands!

Soldier: And you did *that* all right! That night of 5th March, you practically *threw* yourself onto my bayonet!

J. Adams: Huh! As if he *wanted* to die!

S. Adams: Though, what a *worthy* cause to die for!

Hutchinson: Sure suited *your* purposes! I don't know about throwing himself onto the British weapons, but he sure played into *your* hands!

S. Adams: What *do* you mean?

Cpt. Preston: So will you deny that this so-called *massacre* wasn't *just* what you had secretly hoped for?

S. Adams: *How* can you say such a thing?

Soldier: Well, it *had* to be the *best* propaganda yet! 'British soldiers massacre innocent civilians!'

Hutchinson: Though, let's face it, it was *hardly* a massacre!

Soldier: Just five killed! I'd call that more of a *skirmish*!

Attucks: How *dare* you belittle the loss of human lives!

J. Adams: Quite so! Just *look* at how the whole of Boston paid their respects on the day of the funeral.

S. Adams: Not a dry eye anywhere! Especially among the families of Caldwell and Maverick – they were just innocent by-standers!

Cpt. Preston: So even *you* will admit the other three were there to cause trouble!

Hutchinson: Indeed! From what *I* heard the other three – Attucks, Gray and Carr – were actually *rioting* in the street! They *deserved* to die!

J. Adams: What harsh justice you speak, sir! Just as well your men – Captain Preston and those soldiers under his command – had *me* to represent them.

Attucks: And let them off scot free! Some justice *that* was!

Cpt. Preston: But *no one* could *prove* we had fired that first shot. It was all so chaotic that night.

Soldier: Justice was indeed seen to be done. And we thank you, John Adams, for your fairness and honesty of character.

Hutchinson: Yes. Integrity – now *that's* something to be valued in a man!

Cpt. Preston: Indeed. It would have been so easy for you to bow to public pressure and convict us all, just for revenge.

Soldier: Thank *goodness* you didn't! It was bad enough seeing our two mates, Hugh Montgomery and Matthew Kilroy convicted of manslaughter.

Attucks: Huh! Some punishment *they* got!

S. Adams: A mere marking of their thumbs with a warm iron!

Attucks: And the rest of you let off completely!

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