

1776

During the winter of 1775-76, by hearing the conversation and disputes of the good old farmer politicians of the times, I collected pretty correct ideas of the contest between this country and the mother country (as it was then called). I thought I was as warm a patriot as the best of them...I felt more anxious then ever, if possible, to be called a defender of my country. [Martin]

Who is speaking?	Joseph Plumb Martin, soldier signed up for one-year hitch.
What side was he on in the Revolutionary War?	He fought for the Americans.
How can you tell he is on that side? Present evidence.	He says he was aware of the contest between "this country and the mother country" and that he was "as warm a patriot as the best of them."
What is his motivation for choosing to fight?	Patriotism, wanting to defend his country.

1776

They say we act with too much lenity and humanity towards the Rebels, and that 'thou it is praiseworthy, and might be supposed to be the most likely means of bringing them back to a sense of their duty, yet it will prove bad policy in the end...I am of the opinion it is right to treat our Enemies as if the might one day become our friends. Humanity is the characteristic of the British troops and I should be sorry they should run the risque of forfeiting what redounds so much to their honor, by one act of even necessary severity.

[MacKenzie]

Who is speaking?	Frederick MacKenzie, Welsh-born fusillier
What side was he on in the Revolutionary War?	The British
How can you tell he is on that side? Present evidence.	When he says "we" are too lenient towards "the Rebels"
What is his motivation for choosing to fight?	Like a kindly uncle, he believes the British must be patient and kind with the Rebels so that they can eventually be friends and because to do less is beneath the British.

1777

In the year 1777 A.D., on 28 February, on the gracious order of Our Most Serene Prince and Lord, Christian Friedrich Carl Alexander, Margrave of Brandenburg, we began our march to America and entered the service of His Royal Majesty, George III, King of England and Great Britain, as auxiliary or relief troops.
[Dohla]

Who is speaking?	Johann Conrad Dohla, Hessian soldier, 1777 to 1783
What side was he on in the Revolutionary War?	British
How can you tell he is on that side? Present evidence.	States that he entered the service of George III of England.
What is his motivation for choosing to fight?	Ordered to do so by the Margrave of Brandenburg.

Spring 1777

Each of these squads were to furnish a man for the army, either by hiring or by sending one of their own number.

One of the above-mentioned squads, wanting to procure a man, the lieutenant told them that he thought they might persuade me to go for them, and they accordingly attacked me front, rear and flank. I thought, as I must go, I might as well endeavor to get as much for my skin as I could. [Martin]

Who is speaking?	Joseph Plumb Martin
What side was he on in the Revolutionary War?	American
How can you tell he is on that side? Present evidence.	You can't tell by the quote but Martin was from Connecticut and fought in the Continental Army.
What is his motivation for choosing to fight?	He was pressured by other men of his community to join. Communities were required to furnish able-bodied men and would pay a sign-up bonus. Martin "sold" himself to the highest bidder.

Early Winter 1777

About this time the whole British army left the city, came out, and encamped on Chestnut Hill in our immediate neighborhood. We hourly expected an attack from them; we had a commanding position and were very sensible of it. We were kept constantly on the alert, and wished nothing more than to have them engage us, for we were sure of giving them a drubbing, being in excellent fighting trim, as were starved and as cross and ill-natured as curs. [Martin]

Who is speaking?	Martin again.
What side was he on in the Revolutionary War?	American.
How can you tell he is on that side? Present evidence.	He states he expected to be attacked by the British at any moment.
What is his motivation for choosing to fight?	Typically tongue-in-cheek, Martin says they were in such bad moods they were itching to take it out on somebody.

1778

...a few Indians came down under the sanction of a flag to demand their effects, representing that they had been so much disturbed in their huntings that they were not able to maintain so many of them...But instead of complying with this just request, in the hour of the utmost infatuation they seized these ambassadors, whipped them and sent them away. Ignorant, as we suppose them to be, yet this treatment inflamed them to most bitter revenge, and awakened those unguided passions which are so dreadful among this haughty people. [Crevecoeur referring to the treatment Indians by American Congress in the Wyoming Valley]

Who is speaking?	J. Hector St. John Crevecoeur From his Narrative of the Wyoming Massacre. Crevecoeur was born in France, immigrated to America, and became a citizen.
What side was he on in the Revolutionary War?	He was an American but did not fight. At one point, he was imprisoned by the British as a suspected spy.
How can you tell he is on that side? Present evidence.	This passage does not make clear whose side he is on, except that he seems sympathetic to the Indians. This passage was included because it was one of the few direct quotes I could find that talks about the motivation that the Iroquois had for fighting.
What is his motivation for choosing to fight?	The Indians were ill-treated at the hands of the Americans. Crevecoeur says this treatment inflamed them to revenge. Four tribes fought for the British. Two tribes fought for the Americans.

1778

It is to be hoped that this flagrant breach of faith will at last convince the British nation that the Rebel Chiefs are a set of unprincipled Scoundrels; and that it will rouse them to a spirited exertion of the strength of the Country, which, if properly directed, will effectually crush the ungrateful and perfidious wretches.
[MacKenzie]

Who is speaking?	Frederick MacKenzie, Welsh-born fusillier
What side was he on in the Revolutionary War?	British
How can you tell he is on that side? Present evidence.	Calls the Rebels “unprincipled Scoundrels” and wants the wretches crushed.
What is his motivation for choosing to fight?	The breach of faith refers to Burgoyne’s defeat at Saratoga and the Americans imprisoning British troops instead of sending them back to Britain. MacKenzie, who previously urged kind treatment of the Americans, now sees the Americans as ungrateful liars and wants Great Britain to exert “the strength of the Country” to crush the Americans.