

Source #1

"...there suddenly appeared a number of the King's Troops, about sixty or seventy yards from us, huzzaing and on a quick pace towards us, ... upon which said company dispersing, the foremost of the three officers ordered their men, saying 'Fire, by God, fire; at which moment we received a very heavy and close fire from them; at which instant, being wounded, I fell, and several of our men were shot dead by one volley. Capt. Parker's men, I believe, had not then fired a gun."

John Robbins, April 25, 1775

Source #2

"I ordered our Militia to meet on the common in said Lexington, to consult what to do, and concluded not to be discovered, nor meddle or make with said Regular Troops (if they should approach) unless they should insult us; and upon their sudden approach, I immediately ordered our Militia to disperse and not to fire."

John Parker, Captain, Lexington Militia, April 25, 1775

Source #3

"...finding our company kept their ground, Col. Smith ordered his troops to fire... I thought, and so stated to Ebenezer Munroe, Jun. who stood next to me on the left, that they had fired nothing but powder; but, on the second firing, Munroe said, they had fired something more than powder, for he had received a wound in his arm; and now, said he... 'I'll give them the guts of my gun.' We both took aim at the main body of the British troops... and discharged our pieces."

John Munroe, December 28, 1824

Source #4

"When the regulars had arrived within about one hundred rods of our line, they charged their pieces, and then moved toward us at a quick step. Some of our men, on seeing them, proposed to quit the field, but Capt. Parker gave orders for every man to stand his ground, and said he would order the first man shot, that offered to leave his post. I stood very near Capt. Parker, when the regulars came up, and am confident he did not order his men to disperse, till the British troops had fired upon us the second time.

Joseph Underwood, March 7, 1825