

PATRIOTS WIN THE SIEGE OF BOSTON

STORM FOILS PLANNED BRITISH ATTACK, WASHINGTON SENSES VICTORY

THE SIEGE of Boston is over. A British fleet yesterday left Boston Harbor with thousands of troops aboard, the result of a stunning first military victory by George Washington's Continental Army, *writes our war correspondent, March 18, 1776.*

The British are withdrawing from the port and sailing away to the safe haven of Halifax in Nova Scotia. Also aboard the departing

fleet are hundreds of families who have decided to stay loyal to the British Crown.

Colonial forces have besieged British-held Boston for months. A breakthrough came earlier this month when the Continental Army captured and fortified Dorchester Heights, which overlooks the port. Cannons were then set up within the fortifications. These powerful weapons were captured last year

at Fort Ticonderoga and recently brought on sleds hundreds of miles by Henry Knox, Washington's artillery chief.

The British were reluctant to risk a battle that could prove even bloodier than Bunker Hill. They had hoped to use their ships in the harbor to attack the colonial forces' position, but around the time of their planned attack, a storm set in, and the assault had to be canceled.

The decision to evacuate the town brings to an end years of occupation by British soldiers. Living in tents on Boston Common, the soldiers' presence has angered many citizens, who say their liberties have been ignored.

Last night, jubilant patriots sang "Yankee Doodle" as a symbol of pride across the city—no longer a song used by British military officers to mock colonial "Yankees."