

Convention at Saratoga

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS-BAY. Council-Chamber, Boston, October 20, 1777. WHEREAS it appears in this Report that the Committee of Correspondence in June Towne where there is British Officers on Parole have permitted them and their servants to ride about the Country without License, &c. and obtained from the Council, which reads the Parole of the said Officers, and the following Order, That the Committee of Correspondence in June Towne where there are Officers on Parole, be and hereby are strictly enjoined not to permit any Officers on Parole or their servants to exceed the Limits set them in the respective Paroles; and in Case any Officers on Parole, or their servants, shall be so daring as to leap the Bounds (as them, the said Committee are hereby directed immediately to secure them and give Notice thereof to the Council, that they may take forthwith such Orders, as they shall think proper. True Copy.

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS-BAY. In the House of Representatives, October 23, 1777. WHEREAS the Court as the County-Clerk of the County of Middlesex, reported that the several Officers for the term of the year, &c. had not the time for which the said Naval Officers, &c. would expire in November next, and it is in this manner that they were sitting, and their cases were therefore to be reviewed. That said Naval Officers, &c. and hereby are hereby empowered and authorized to execute their offices, until they shall be recalled by the Court, or until others shall be chosen in their stead.

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS-BAY. Council-Chamber, Boston, October 23, 1777. ORDERED, That the Officers of the several Companies within this State, be, and they hereby are directed to convey, without loss of time, all such persons as are now confined in the common jails in their respective counties (and being to answer county) by virtue of a general warrant, under the hand of the President of the Council, to the common jail in the county to which they respectively belong.

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exchange shall be made. Art. IV. The army under Lieutenant General Burgoyne, to march to Massachusetts-Bay by the easiest, most expeditious and convenient route; and to be quartered in, near, or as convenient as possible to Boston, that the march of the troops may not be delayed when transports arrive to receive them.

Art. V. The troops to be supplied on the march, and during their being in quarters, with provisions by General Gates's orders, at the same rate of rations as the troops of his own army, and if possible, the officers horses and cattle are to be supplied with forage at the usual rates.

Art. VI. All officers are to retain their arranges, but horses, and other cattle, and no baggage to be molested or searched, Lieutenant General Burgoyne giving his honor there is no public force to be used therein. Major General Gates will of course take the necessary measures for the due performance of this article; should any marriages be wanting during the march, for the satisfaction of officers's baggage, they are to be supplied by the country at the usual rates.

Art. VII. Upon the march and during the time the army shall remain in quarters, in the Massachusetts-Bay, the officers are not as far as circumstances will admit, to be separated from their men. The officers are to be quartered according to rank, and are not to be hindered from assembling their men for roll calling, and other purposes of regularity.

Art. VIII. All arms whatever of Gen. Burgoyne's army, whether composed of fallers, battalions, artificers, drivers, independent companies and followers of the army of whatever country, shall be included in the fullest sense and utmost extent of the above articles, and comprehended in every respect as British subjects.

Art. IX. All Canadians and persons belonging to the Canadian establishment, consisting of fallers, battalions, artificers, drivers, independent companies, and many other followers of the army who come under no particular description, are to be returned to return to the British service in the 21st instant.

Art. X. Passports are to be immediately granted for three officers not appointed by the rank of Captains, who shall be appointed by Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne, to carry dispatches to Sir William Howe, Sir Guy Carleton, and to Great-Britain by way of New-York—and Major General Gates engages the public faith that these dispatches shall not be opened, that officers are to be set out immediately after receiving their dispatches, and are to travel by the shortest route, and in the most expeditious manner.

Art. XI. During the stay of the troops in Massachusetts-Bay, the officers are to be admitted to the same as the British officers, and are not to be treated during the present campaign in North America.

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In consequence of the above and important intelligence, the Rev. Doctor Coates, (at the desire of the Assembly) made an excellent Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving in the Representatives Chamber.

By the return of an express, we have the following Copy of a letter from his Excellency General Washington to Congress. Camp near Peekskill's Mill, Oct. 5, 1777. SIR,

HAVING received intelligence thro' two intercepting letters, that General Howe had detached a part of his force for the purpose of reducing Billings Port, and the Fort on Delaware; I communicated the accounts to my General Officers, who were unanimously of opinion, that a favourable opportunity offered to make an attack upon the troops, which were at and near Germantown. It was accordingly agreed, that I should take place yesterday morning, and the following dispositions were made. The division of Sullivan and Wayne, headed by Conway's Brigade was to enter the town by the way of Chefield Mills, while Gen. Armstrong with the Pennsylvania militia should fall down the Mountains, and by Vandergrift's mills, and get upon the enemy's left and rear. The divisions of Mifflin and Schuylkill, headed by Mifflin's brigade, were to march by taking a circuit by way of the Little Kill road, and the militia of Maryland and Jersey, under General's Sullivan and Freeman were to march by the old York road, and fall upon the rear of the right. Lord Stirling with his and Maxwell's brigades was to form a single de reserve. We marched about five o'clock the preceding evening, and General Sullivan's advanced party drawn from Conway's brigade attacked their picket at mount King, at Mr. Allen's house, about five o'clock next morning, which they profusely gave way, and his main body, consisting of infantry and other troops, engaged the light and heavy companies of the enemy, which they forced from the ground, leaving their baggage. They retreated a considerable distance, having previously thrown a party into Mr. Chew's house, who were in a situation to cut off the retreat, and had it not for the timely arrival of a reinforcement of small arms, and a gentlemanly and a soldierly advance.

The attack on our left column under Gen. Green, began about three quarters of an hour after that from the right, and was for some time equally successful. But I cannot enter upon the particulars of what happened in this quarter, as I am not yet informed of those with sufficient certainty and precision.

The morning was extremely foggy, which prevented our improving the advantages we gained so well as we otherwise should have done. This circumstance, by preventing from us the number of the enemy, obliged us to attack such more troops, and the consequence was that we were obliged to retreat, and to retreat we were obliged to retreat, and to retreat we were obliged to retreat.

The very foggy appearance of the morning, and the confusion of our army, was occasioned by the arrival of a part of our army, who were coming towards Germantown, and who were coming towards Germantown, and who were coming towards Germantown.

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British Troops by Estimation, 14400. Fugitive Prisoners, 1192. Casualties, Valuation, Sec. sent to Canada, 1100. Total included in the stipulation, 16692. Prisoners taken at different Times, 400. Sick and Wounded, 528. Defectors, 100. Lost as Bonington, 1100. Killed since the 17th of September, 600. Killed and taken at Ticonderoga, 413. Amounting in the whole, killed and taken, 9315.

The wonderful goodness of God in delivering so many of our cruel unparagoned Enemies into our hands, and with so little Loss on our Side, I hope every Heart will be suitably affected with. And may that Good will be granted to grant Justice success to our Arms in the Southern Department. Pieces of Ordnance taken from the Enemy, all Brass, Two 24 pounders, four 24, eighteen 6, four 3. Five Royal Artillery 3 1/2 half Inch, and a 1 Inch Mortar.

We have taken in all in the Department, including those taken at Bonington, 17 Pieces of Ordnance, and Members of Parliament among the Prisoners. Arrived at Baverly, by the Rev. Mr. Wadsworth, Mr. JOHN KETTLE, to Miss LYDIA HOLMAN, eldest Daughter of the Honorable GEORGE HOLMAN, Esq.

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Camp near Westbury Brook, Oct. 23, 1777. SIR, I have the pleasure to send you four honorable Copies of the enclosed copy of a Convention, by which Lieutenant General Burgoyne, surrendered himself and his whole Army, on the 17th instant, into my hands; they are now upon their march towards Boston; General Burgoyne's Army, with a proper

Great-Britain, upon condition of not serving again in North America during the present contest, and the parts of Boston is assigned for the entry of transports to receive the troops, whenever General Howe shall be ordered. Should any circumstances arise, by which the army under Lieutenant-General Burgoyne, or any part of it, may be exchanged, the foregoing articles to be void as far as such

exchange shall be made. Art. IV. The army under Lieutenant General Burgoyne, to march to Massachusetts-Bay by the easiest, most expeditious and convenient route; and to be quartered in, near, or as convenient as possible to Boston, that the march of the troops may not be delayed when transports arrive to receive them.

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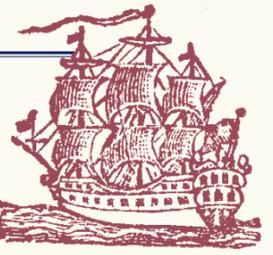
The wonderful goodness of God in delivering so many of our cruel unparagoned Enemies into our hands, and with so little Loss on our Side, I hope every Heart will be suitably affected with. And may that Good will be granted to grant Justice success to our Arms in the Southern Department. Pieces of Ordnance taken from the Enemy, all Brass, Two 24 pounders, four 24, eighteen 6, four 3. Five Royal Artillery 3 1/2 half Inch, and a 1 Inch Mortar.

We have taken in all in the Department, including those taken at Bonington, 17 Pieces of Ordnance, and Members of Parliament among the Prisoners. Arrived at Baverly, by the Rev. Mr. Wadsworth, Mr. JOHN KETTLE, to Miss LYDIA HOLMAN, eldest Daughter of the Honorable GEORGE HOLMAN, Esq.

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REPORTING THE BATTLES OF SARATOGA

By Eric H. Schnitzer



THE NORTHERN CAMPAIGN OF 1777 ENTERED A NEW phase in September, during which time both armies prepared to confront each other; no longer was Major General Horatio Gates's Northern Department of the Army of the United States retreating, and Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne's army from Canada was finally prepared to make its push to capture the city of Albany. Gates's force, at first deployed near Albany itself, moved about twenty miles north to Bemis Heights. The Heights, overlooking the valley and Hudson River below, were part of a continuity of stunning natural defenses, made stronger by man-made ones. Gates commanded an army of nearly eight thousand officers and men from Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the great majority of whom were Continentals.

On September 19, Burgoyne's slightly larger army advanced to attack the American defenses. Gates's second-in-command, Major General Benedict Arnold, took the initiative and brought the battle to the British in the farm fields and woods one and a half miles north of Bemis Heights, with the primary fighting occurring on American Royalist John Freeman's Farm. The battle ended in a tactical British victory, albeit a pyrrhic one—British casualties numbered 590 to the Americans' 325. After a day of resting his army following the hard-fought battle, Burgoyne received a message from the commander of the City of New York, Sir Henry Clinton, who offered to assist Burgoyne by making a diversion in the Hudson Highlands with the hope that Gates would be forced to split his army in two. Relying wholly on this new plan, Burgoyne built a fortified camp on and around Freeman's Farm and waited. The wait lasted for two and a half weeks, during which time Gates's army was joined by militia regiments and grew to over

twelve thousand, whereas attrition dwindled Burgoyne's to nearly seven thousand. On October 7, having heard nothing further of Clinton's movements, Burgoyne took the initiative and, with a probing force of 1,500, moved south to observe the American lines in search of a weakness that could be exploited. But neither he nor anyone in his detachment got close enough to see the Revolutionary army's defenses. Gates ordered an immediate and decisive attack on the British probing force, which in little more than one hour was beaten back to its fortified camp. In close pursuit, the Americans attacked two fortifications and captured one of them, Breyman's Post, at which place Arnold was severely wounded. Having suffered over six hundred casualties to the Americans' 150, and having lost one of his key forts, Burgoyne ordered a retreat.

Thunderstorms, fatigue, and poor coordination slowed the British withdrawal to Saratoga, eight miles north of Freeman's Farm. Gates belatedly ordered a pursuit on October 10 but quickly caught up with Burgoyne at Saratoga later that day. The small village was surrounded by the army of the United States, now numbering nearly seventeen thousand, and the British were forced to surrender—by the generally favorable terms outlined in the *Articles of Convention*—on October 17.

The *Articles of Convention*, a transcript of which was published in the December 11, 1777, issue of the *London Chronicle*, stated that Burgoyne's surrendered troops would be allowed to return to Europe. However, Congress interposed a series of objections to the *Articles* (as reported in the April 4, 1778, issue of the *Pennsylvania Ledger*) by questioning Burgoyne's integrity

on the matter proved unsatisfactory, and Congress doomed the Convention Army (as Burgoyne's surrendered army was called) to de facto prisoner of war status on January 8, 1778.

Gates's capture of an entire army commanded by a British Lieutenant-General—something which was never done before—was astonishing and inspired the

new nation's first day of Thanksgiving on December 18, 1777. But the greatest effect of the victory at Saratoga was the resultant February 6, 1778, Treaty of Alliance between the United States and France, the decisiveness of which came to fruition at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781. That is why the victory at Saratoga is known as the great "Turning Point of the Revolutionary War."



SURRENDER OF GENERAL BURGOYNE  
*Architect of the Capitol*

On October 10, 1777, British Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne found his army surrounded at Saratoga, New York, by American forces totaling nearly seventeen thousand. One week later, he surrendered.

DECEMBER II, 1777

# The LONDON CHRONICLE

Postscript.

LONDON.

ADVICES *from* AMERICA.

Albany, Oct. 19, 1777

SIR,

I Have the pleasure to send your honourable council the inclosed copy of a convention, by which lieutenant general Burgoyne surrendered himself and his whole army on the 17th instant into my hands. They are now upon their march towards Boston. General Glover and general Whipple, with a proper guard of militia, escort them, and are to provide all such necessary articles as may be wanted upon the march. I am so extremely busy in pushing the army forward to stop the cruel career of general Vaughan up Hudson's-river, that I have only time to acquaint you, that my friend general Lincoln's leg is in a fair way of doing well, and to testify with what respect I am, your much obliged and most obedient humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

To the honourable the President of the Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay.

ARTICLES *of* CONVENTION *made between*

*Lieutenant-general* BURGOYNE, and *Major-general* GATES.

ARTICLE. I.

The troops under lieutenant-general Burgoyne, are to march out of their camp with the honours of war, and the artillery of the intrenchments, to the verge of the river where the old fort stood, where the arms and artillery are to be left.—The arms are to be piled by word command from their own officers.

II. A free passage to be granted to the army under lieutenant-general Burgoyne to Great Britain, upon condition of not serving again in North America, during the

present contest; and the port of Boston to be assigned for the entry of transports, to receive the troops, whenever general Howe shall so order.

III. Should any cartel take place, by which the army under lieutenant-general Burgoyne, or any part of it, may be exchanged, the foregoing article to be void, as far as such exchange shall be made.

IV. The army under lieutenant-general Burgoyne is to march to Massachusetts-bay, by the easiest, most expeditious, and convenient route; and to be quartered in, near, or as convenient as possible to Boston, that the march of the troops may not be delayed when transports arrive to receive them.

V. The troops to be supplied on the march, and during their being in quarters, with provisions, by general Gates's orders, at the same rate of rations as the troops of his own army; and, if possible, the officers horses and cattle are to be supplied with forage at the usual rates.

VI. All officers are to retain their carriages, but horses and other cattle and no baggage to be molested or searched; lieutenant general Burgoyne giving his honour there are no public stores secreted therein. Major general Gates will of course take the necessary measures for the due performance of this article: should any carriages be wanted during the march for the transportation of officers baggage, they are, if possible, to be supplied by the country at the usual rates.

VII. Upon the march, and during the time the army shall remain in quarters, in the Massachusetts Bay, the officers are not, as far as circumstances will admit, to be separated from their men. The officers are to be quartered according to rank, and are not to be hindered from assembling their men for roll calling, and other purposes of regularity.

VIII. All corps whatever of general Burgoyne's army, whether composed of sailors, batteamen, artificers, drivers, independant companies and followers of the army of whatever country, shall be included in the fullest sense, and utmost extent of the above articles, and comprehended in every respect as British subjects.

[...]

(Signed)

J. BURGOYNE.

Camp at Saratoga, Oct. 16, 1777.

