

American Revolutionary War

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The Battle of Ticonderoga 1777

Battle: Ticonderoga 1777

War: American Revolutionary War

Date: 6th July 1777.

Place: Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, New York State in the United States of America.

Combatants: British, Hessians and Brunswickers against the American Colonists.

Generals: Major General John Burgoyne commanded the British and Major General Arthur St Clair commanded the American troops.

Size of the armies:

7,213 regular British, Hessian and Brunswick troops, a varying but large contingent of Native Americans and some 150 Canadians against some 3,000 American troops.

Uniforms, arms and equipment:

The British wore red coats and headgear of bearskin caps, leather caps or tricorne hats depending on whether the troops were grenadiers, light infantry or battalion company men. The German infantry wore blue coats and retained the Prussian style grenadier mitre with brass front plate. The Americans dressed as best they could. Increasingly as the war progressed regular infantry regiments of the Continental Army wore blue uniform coats but the militia continued in rough clothing. Both sides were armed with muskets and guns.

Winner: The Americans withdrew precipitately from Ticonderoga leaving it in British hands.

British Regiments:

9th Foot: later the Royal Norfolk Regiment and now the Royal Anglian Regiment.

20th Foot: later the Lancashire Fusiliers and now the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

21st Royal Scots Fusiliers, now the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

24th Foot: later the South Wales Borderers and now the Royal Regiment of Wales.

47th Foot: later the Loyal Regiment and now the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

53rd Foot: later the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and now the Royal Green Jackets.

62nd Foot: later the Wiltshire Regiment, then the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and now the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

King's Loyal Americans.

Queen's Loyal Rangers.

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Battle of Zorndorf
Battle of Hochkirch
Battle of Kunersdorf
Battle of Liegnitz
Battle of Torgau
Battle of Burkersdorf
Battle of Minden
Battle of Emsdorf
Battle of Warburg
Battle of Kloster Kamp
Battle of Vellinghausen
Battle of Wilhelmstahl
Capture of Manila
Anglo French War in India
Siege of Arcot
Battle of Arni
Battle of Kaveripauk
Battle of Plassey
French Indian War
Braddock Monongahela
Braddock Monongahela Part 1
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Braddock Monongahela Part 8
Braddock Monongahela Part 9
Braddock's Defeat on the Monongahela Part 10
Battle Ticonderoga 1758
Battle of Louisburg
Battle of Quebec 1759
American Revolutionary War
Battle of Concord and Lexington
Battle of Bunker Hill
Battle of Quebec 1775
Battle of Long Island
Battle of Harlem Heights
Battle of White Plains
Battle of Fort Washington
Battle of Trenton
Battle of Princeton
Battle Ticonderoga 1777
Battle of Hubbardton
Battle of Bennington
Battle of Brandywine Creek
Battle of Freeman's Farm
Battle of Paoli
Battle of Germantown
Battle of Saratoga
Battle of Monmouth
Battle of Camden
Battle of King's Mountain
Battle of Cowpens
Battle of Guilford Courthouse
Battle of Yorktown
Wars of 1800
Second Mahratta War
Battle of Assaye
Peninsular War



9th (East Norfolk)
Regiment of Foot

The British 9th Regiment of Foot

German regiments:

Prinz Ludwig Dragoons
 Specht's Regiment.
 Von Rhetz's Regiment.
 Von Riedesel's Regiment.
 Prinz Frederick's Regiment.
 Erbprinz Regiment.
 Breyman's Jaegers.

American Regiments:

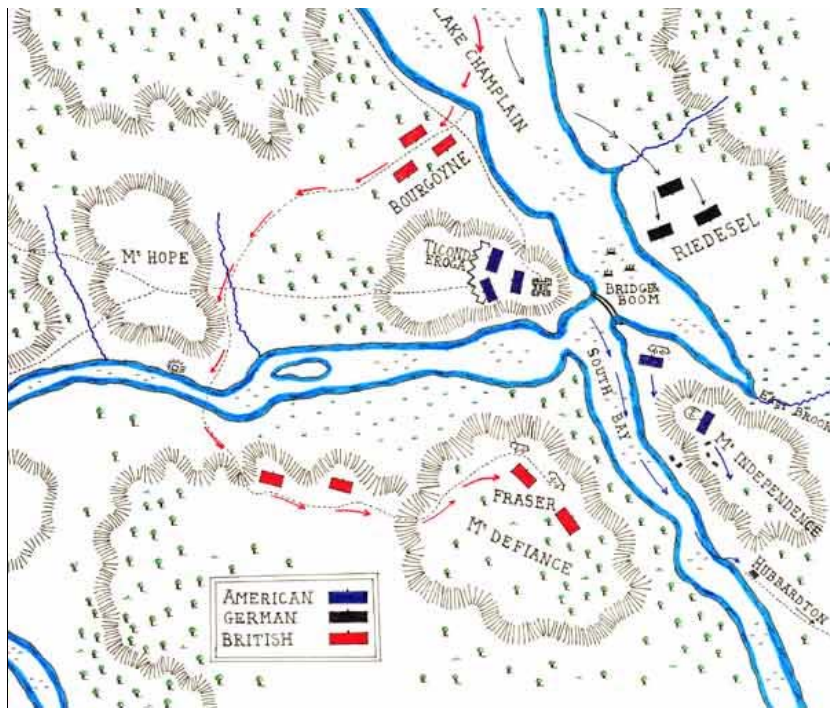
Francis' Massachusetts Regiment.
 Marshall's Massachusetts Regiment.
 Hale's New Hampshire Continentals.
 Cilley's New Hampshire Continentals.
 Scammell's New Hampshire Continentals.
 Many other severely undermanned corps.

Account:

Fort Ticonderoga was built by the French as Fort Carillon when they held Canada and the routes to the southern end of Lake Champlain. In 1758 during the French and Indian War Ticonderoga was the scene of a fearsome battle between the British and American colonists and the French under the Marquis de Montcalm. The following year, the fort was captured by the British under Amherst.

With the Treaty of Paris and the end of the French and Indian War (the Seven Years War) all of Canada passed to the British and Ticonderoga lost its previous strategic significance. That is until the American Revolutionary War broke out. By that time the stone fortifications had fallen into ruin and the garrison comprised 70 British pensioners.

- Battle of Vimeiro
- Battle of Corunna
- Battle of Douro
- Battle of Talavera
- Battle of Busaco
- Battle of Barossa
- Fuentes de Oñoro
- Battle of Albuera
- Battle of Salamanca
- Battle of Vitoria
- Napoleonic Wars
- Battle of Cape St Vincent
- Battle of the Nile
- Battle of Copenhagen
- Battle of Trafalgar
- Battle of Quatre Bras
- Battle of Waterloo
- Waterloo Allied order
- Waterloo casualties
- Waterloo French order
- Waterloo - Hougoumont
- Waterloo - La Haye Sante
- Waterloo - Scots Greys
- Waterloo - uniform
- First Afghan War
- Battle of Ghuznee
- Kabul and Gandamak
- Siege of Jellalabad
- Battle of Kabul 1842
- First Sikh War
- Battle of Moodkee
- Battle of Ferozeshah
- Battle of Aliwal
- Battle of Sobraon
- Second Sikh War
- Battle of Ramnagar
- Battle of Chillianwallah
- Battle of Goojerat
- Crimean War
- Battle of the Alma
- Battle of Balaclava
- Battle of Inkerman
- Siege of Sevastopol
- American Civil War
- First Battle of Bull Run
- Battle of Shiloh
- Battle of Antietam
- Battle of Fredericksburg
- Battle of Chancellorsville
- Battle of Gettysburg
- Second Afghan War
- Battle of Ali Masjid
- Battle of Peiwar Kotal
- Battle of Futtehabad
- Battle of Charasiab
- Battle of Kabul 1879
- Battle of Ahmed Khel
- Battle of Maiwand
- Battle of Khandahar
- Zulu War
- Battle of Isandlwana
- Battle of Rorke's Drift



Battle for Fort Ticonderoga

In 1775 Fort Ticonderoga was surprised and captured by the Americans under Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold. The Fort provided the heavy artillery that the colonists needed to bombard General Gage out of Boston. Ticonderoga again became an important bastion on the route from the Hudson River to Canada, this time to resist British invasion from North to South.

The end of the 1776 campaigning season saw British forces, under the governor of Canada, Guy Carleton, and Major General "Gentleman Johnnie" Burgoyne, advance south down Lake Champlain and threaten Fort Ticonderoga. But the year was far advanced and Carleton was an old North American hand. He considered it would be too difficult to supply a garrison in Ticonderoga over the winter and withdrew his forces to Canada, in the face of considerable objection from Burgoyne and others who wanted to seize the fort that year.



General St Clair.

Over the winter Lord Germaine, the Secretary of State for the Northern Department, the minister with the direction of the American War, persuaded King George II to appoint General Burgoyne commander of the expedition planned to attack the American colonies by way of the Lake Champlain route during 1777.

On 20th June 1777 the army assembled in the St Lawrence River to begin its advance south.

Over the winter of 1776/7 Major General Arthur St Clair, the officer appointed by Congress to command at Ticonderoga, and his garrison strove to bring the fort to a proper state of defence. St

Battle of Khambula	Clair and his men faced considerable difficulties. Ticonderoga, originally Fort Carillon, had been built by the French to keep the British at bay and consequently faced south, the wrong direction to resist the British incursion. In addition, with the end of the French and Indian War Ticonderoga had lost its purpose and been allowed to fall into disrepair.
Battle of Gingindlovu	
Battle of Ulundi	
Egypt and Sudan	
Battle of Tel-El-Kebir 1882	In the summer of 1776 an American officer, Lieutenant Colonel John Trumbull, had prepared a report on the defences of Ticonderoga. Trumbull recommended that the axis of defence be moved from the existing fort to a mountain on the opposite side of the lake, then known locally as Mount Rattlesnake. The recommendation was accepted and, in keeping with the spirit of the times, Mount Rattlesnake became Mount Independence. Unfortunately Trumbull's further recommendation that a prominence called Sugar Hill which overlooked the whole area also be fortified was ignored. It seemed sufficient to change its name to Mount Defiance.
Battle of El Teb	
Battle of Tamai	
Battle of Abu Klea	
Battle of Atbara	
Battle of Omdurman	
First Boer War	
Battle of Laing's Nek	St Clair's engineering officer, Colonel Jeduthan Baldwin, worked tirelessly in the face of shortages and disease to prepare Ticonderoga for attack by the British. By July 1777 Baldwin had built batteries, stockades and block houses and, to link the old Fort Ticonderoga with the fortifications on Mount Independence, a bridge and boom. On Mount Independence the Polish military engineer, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, built batteries and fortifications. The spirit of the American garrison was good. There were too few troops but they were ready to fight. Parties of New England militia came to the encampment, stayed long enough to deplete the garrison's stores, and returned home.
Battle of Majuba Hill	
Great Boer War	
Battle of Talana Hill	
Battle of Elandslaagte	
Battle of Ladysmith	
Battles of Belmont and Graspan	On 1st July 1777 Burgoyne's army, carried by flotilla and marching down the lake side, arrived just north of Ticonderoga. Light Infantry under Brigadier Simon Fraser infiltrated around the western side of the fort over Hope Hill. Fraser's troops crossed the river leading to Lake George and circled around the southern side of Ticonderoga. They climbed Sugar Hill and saw, as Trumbull had, that the heights dominated the American positions in both Ticonderoga and Mount Independence. The British dragged guns to the summit and opened fire.
Battle of Modder River	
Battle of Stormberg	
Battle of Magersfontein	
Battle of Colenso	
Battle of Spion Kop	
Battles of Val Krantz and Pieters	St Clair thereupon, after notionally consulting a council of war, resolved to abandon Ticonderoga and retreat south. During the night of 5th/6th July 1777 the American troops left the fort with such supplies as they could move in the time and rowed across to the landings beneath Mount Independence. The secrecy of the move was destroyed by a French officer, Colonel Roche de Fermoy, who set fire to his house on the summit of the hill lighting up the bay beneath, with its flotilla of boats carrying the American troops across the water.
Battle of Paardeburg	
Siege of Mafeking	
Siege of Kimberley	
Siege of Ladysmith	
North West Frontier of India	
Black Mountain 1888	Alerted to the withdrawal, the British troops pursued, crossing by boat and across the boom from the old French fort, but the Americans made good their escape, marching away into the woods or rowing down the South Bay towards Skenesborough to the South.
Black Mountain 1891	
Waziristan 1894	
The Siege and Relief of Chitral	An American rear party remained to contest the British advance and cover St Clair's withdrawal. That party fell back, leaving a forlorn hope of 4 men posted at a heavy gun with the duty of firing into the British as they crossed on the boom. The redcoats found the 4 men lying around the gun, incapably drunk, an empty Madeira barrel lying nearby. An inquisitive Iroquois discharged the gun by accident, but caused no injuries, the round howling off into the sky. Ticonderoga was again in British hands and available as a base for their operations south towards Albany.
Malakand 1897	
Wars of 1900	
First World War	
BEF - Order of Battle	
Battle of Mons	Casualties: Casualties were only a few dozen on each side.
Battle of Mons (2nd Day): Elouges	
The Battle at Landrecies	Follow-up: Ticonderoga was an important symbol for the Americans, who expected that the fort would keep the redcoats out of the northern colonies, particularly in view of the winter spent improving the fortifications. St Clair's abrupt retreat caused alarm and outrage. A militant Protestant chaplain in the garrison, the Reverend Thomas Allen, wrote "Our men are eager for the battle, our magazines filled, our camp crowded with provisions, flags flying. The shameful abandonment of Ticonderoga has not been equaled in the history of the world." This sentiment was repeated with fury across the colonies.
Battle of Le Cateau	
Battle of Le Grand Fayt	
Battle of Étreux	
Battle of Heligoland Bight	
Battle of Néry	
Battle of Villers Cottérêts	
Battle of the Marne	St Clair justified his actions, claiming to have saved valuable troops for the American cause. In the light of the heavy criticism to which he was subjected he demanded a court martial, at which he was acquitted.
Battle of the Aisne	
The Texel Action	
Battle of Coronel	St Clair may have been right. It may be that Burgoyne would have captured a defended Ticonderoga and that many valuable American troops would have become casualties. There is no doubt that Burgoyne's further march south overstrained the British supply system and contributed directly to his surrender at Saratoga.
Battle of the Falkland Islands	
Action off the Dogger Bank	
Gallipoli Part I : Naval Attack on the Dardanelles	Was the fact that the British battery established on Sugar Hill overlooked the American fortifications in Ticonderoga and on Mount Independence an adequate reason for the precipitate and headlong retreat and the abandonment of a major American defence on which such effort and expectation had been lavished?
Gallipoli Part II : Land attack on Gallipoli Peninsular	
Gallipoli Part III : ANZAC landing on 25th April 1915	In the absence of a direct order from General Schuyler or the Congress to abandon Ticonderoga, perhaps St Clair should have fought it out. Probably, whatever the outcome, St Clair would have emerged from the war a national hero instead of spending the rest of his life attempting to justify his actions and fending off allegations of cowardice.
Gallipoli Part IV: First landings at Cape Helles and Y Beach on 25th April 1915	
Battle of Jutland Part I: Opposing fleets	
Battle of Jutland Part II: Opening	References:

Battle Cruiser action on 31st May 1916

Battle of Jutland Part III: Clash between British and German Battle Fleets during the evening 31st May 1916

Battle of Jutland Part IV: Night Action 31st May to 1st June 1916

Battle of Jutland Part V: Annexe

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- The War of the Revolution by Christopher Ward
- Saratoga by Richard Ketchum

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