

Battle of Saratoga

Where – Saratoga, New York

When – September 19, 1777 to October 7, 1777

What – Battle of Saratoga

Another important battle for winning the war for independence was the Battle of Saratoga. This victory showed that the Americans were a force to be reckoned with.

This battle was two battles together – the Battle of Freeman's Farm and the Battle of Bemis Heights.

General Horatio Gates led the American army assisted by General Philip Schuyler and General Benedict Arnold. The British army was led by General Burgoyne. The Americans lost the first battle and because Gates and Arnold disagreed on tactics, Gates had Arnold step down from duty.

Although the British forces were tired from the previous battle, they attacked at Bemis Heights. Gates had a defensive strategy, but Arnold could see an offensive strategy to defeat the British. Even though he had been relieved of duty, he still joined the battle. The new plan was successful and General Burgoyne surrendered days later at Saratoga.

Because of this defeat, the French chose to recognize the United States of America and supported their efforts for independence.