

## Battle of Bennington



This aircraft carrier is named for the Battle of Bennington, fought 16 August 1777 near Bennington, Vermont.

The battle was one of the most important of the Revolution contributing largely to the final surrender of Burgoyne's army at Saratoga and the defeat of the British invasion from the North.

By July 30, 1777, Burgoyne had reached Fort Edward and was well on the way toward joining forces with another British Army moving north from New York. Had they met, the Northern colonies would have been isolated and the Declaration of Independence in 1776 might well have become a mere gesture. Colonel Baum with 600 men was dispatched to Bennington to capture provisions, of which the British stood greatly in need. Although Baum was well entrenched drawing up plans for the capture, General Stark with an American unit made up of untrained farmers armed only with rifles, stormed the British positions and after bitter hand-to-hand fighting forced their surrender; Stark then attacked British reinforcements that had just arrived and forced their retreat.