

The Turning Point of the Revolution



SURRENDER OF BURGOYNE From Paintings by John Trumbull

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

IT WAS a campaign which, on paper, had every prospect of success; when put to the test of execution it failed miserably. So American history added to the roll of the "Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World" the name of Saratoga, and it is at Saratoga, N. Y., where the unsuccessful Burgoyne campaign culminated, that there is being held on October 6, 7 and 8 the greatest in the series of sesquicentennial celebrations staged by the state of New York this year. Because of the far-reaching results of the events that took place there 150 years ago, the Saratoga celebration has nationwide significance.

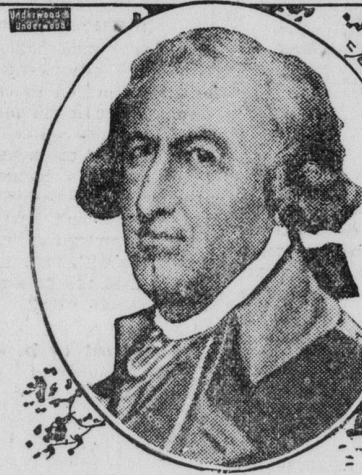
In the spring of 1777 the British ministry decided to make a supreme effort to crush the rebellious colonies. Accordingly Lord Germain, the English minister, conceived the plan of separating the colonies into manageable units, and more especially cutting off "the head of the rebellion," New England, by sending a force down the Hudson from Canada, another up that river from New York City and a third through the Mohawk valley from Oswego, all converging on Albany.

But no sooner were the plans laid than several vital mistakes were made. In the first place, Gen. John Burgoyne, a pleasure-loving man of letters, playwright and social lion, who had little military ability, was placed in command of the expedition from Canada instead of the capable Sir Guy Carleton. More than that, he was given positive orders as to exactly what he was to do and he had no authority to alter his plans to meet changing circumstances. But the greatest blunder of all was this: Lord Germain wrote out the order for General Howe in New York to cooperate with Burgoyne, laid it aside on his desk, forgot about it and went off to visit a country house without sending the order. The result was that Howe sailed away from New York on a perfectly useless expedition against Philadelphia and Burgoyne plunged into the wilderness to meet Howe without knowing that the latter was actually running away from him!

Having started, Burgoyne proceeded to make a few mistakes of his own which assured the failure of the campaign. He underestimated the ability of the Americans who opposed him under the leadership of Gen. Philip Schuyler; he underestimated the difficulties of traveling through the wilderness ahead of him, loaded himself down with useless baggage and failed to provide himself with adequate means of transportation for his supplies, and he deceived himself in the belief that the Loyalists would rally to his standard as he approached. Not only did they fail to rally, but Burgoyne soon found that in employing Indian allies, over whom he soon lost all control, he completely alienated any who might have been friends and he soon stirred up a veritable hornets' nest.

When his army of some 7,000 men, nearly half of them Germans under Baron Kiesel, embarked on Lake Champlain on June 17, 1777, it carried with it one of the finest artillery trains ever seen up to that time on the American continent. At first everything seemed to point to the success of the expedition. For the British were not the only ones who made mistakes. General St. Clair made a serious one when he failed to fortify the hills overlooking Fort Ticonderoga—and Burgoyne captured this fort and with it 123 guns. Crown Point had been taken previously and Fort Independence and, a little later, Fort Ann also fell before the invader. These successes led the Englishman to believe that within a few days he would be in Albany and his view was shared by the home government. There is an amusing story that when the news of the fall of Ticonderoga reached King George III, he dashed into the queen's room with the glad cry of "I have beat them, I have beat the Americans!" He did not realize that they, like John Paul Jones, had "not yet begun to fight," though Burgoyne soon realized it.

The historic Fort Edward was the next to fall into his hands. But by this time his greatest difficulties had just begun. The prudent and skillful



Horatio Gates

General Schuyler, as he retired before the British advance, did everything in his power to delay the enemy. The inhabitants of the country withdrew with Schuyler's army, taking with them all of the provisions and stock possible and destroying the remainder. Bridges were broken down, rivers and creeks choked up and plant trees cut down across such roads as there were through the woods. Burgoyne was forced to cut his way through the wilderness. It took him 30 days to cover less than 25 miles and during that time he was forced to build some 40 bridges!

The New Englanders were threatening his flank, but his instructions forbade him to turn aside and strike a blow at them. The messengers which he tried to send through to Howe were captured by the Americans and he had no idea of what that general was doing. Finally the food situation became desperate. Then Burgoyne attempted the ill-advised expedition under Colonel Baum, the Hessian leader, to Bennington, Vt., to capture the American supplies there. The result is history—the defeat of Baum by grim old General John Stark and the defeat also of Colonel Breyman, who had been sent to Baum's assistance.

In the meantime another disaster to the ambitious British plan had taken place. Col. Barry St. Leger, who was to deliver the Mohawk valley coup, failed to capture Fort Schuyler (formerly Fort Stanwix) and this, like Bennington, was another factor which contributed to the final downfall of Burgoyne. But despite these reverses, he determined to push on. On September 13 he took the decisive step, crossed the Hudson and moved his whole force to Saratoga. In doing this he had cut off his communications with Lake George and Ticonderoga. All he could do now was to press forward and trust to luck.

There was one element of luck in the situation in another blunder by the Americans. Politics in congress had resulted in the replacement of General Schuyler by Gen. Horatio Gates, a leader inferior in every way to Schuyler and even to some of his subordinates, notably Daniel Morgan and Benedict Arnold. But even that fact was not enough to save Burgoyne from the fate which awaited him. The American camp was pitched at Stillwater, 12 miles further down the river. Burgoyne advanced to attack and on September 19 the bitter fight at Bemis Heights took place. Burgoyne had failed to dislodge the Americans and the attempt had cost him 500 men.

The predicament of the British general at this point is well described in Wren's "Washington and His Comrades" in the Yale University Press' "Chronicles of America" as follows:

Burgoyne's condition was now growing desperate. American forces barred retreat to Canada. He must go back and meet both frontal and flank attacks or go forward or surrender. To go forward now had most promise, for at last Howe had instructed Clinton, left in command at New York, to move and Clinton was making rapid progress up the Hudson. On the seventh of October Burgoyne



John Burgoyne

attacked again at Stillwater. This time he was decisively defeated, a result due to the amazing energy in attack of Benedict Arnold, who had been stripped of his command by an intrigue. Gates would not even speak to him and his lingering in the American camp was unwelcome. Yet as a volunteer Arnold charged the British line madly and broke it. Burgoyne's best general, Fraser, was killed in the fight. Burgoyne retired to Saratoga, and there at last faced the prospect of getting back to Fort Edward and to Canada. It may be that he could have cut his way through, but it is rather doubtful. Without risk of destruction he could not move in any direction. His enemies now outnumbered him nearly four to one. His camp was swept by the American guns and his men were under arms day and night. American sharpshooters stationed themselves at day-break in trees about the British camp and any one who appeared in the open risked his life. His horses were killed by rifle shots. Burgoyne had little food for his men and none for his horses. His Indians had long since gone off in droves. Many of his Canadian French slipped off homeward and so did the Loyalists. The German troops were naturally dispirited. They died, a score at a time, of no other disease than sickness for their homes.

In the face of all this there remained for Burgoyne nothing but surrender. On October 8 he sent a flag of truce to Gates, asking what terms he would give. The British general indignantly refused the first demand for an unconditional surrender and after much argument finally signed the articles, called "The Convention of Saratoga," under which the British army was allowed to march out with the honors of war, pile their arms at an appointed place and then be marched to Boston, from whence they were to be allowed to return to England on the condition that they would not serve again in America.

Although Gates was not a particularly admirable figure in this campaign, in that he connived to supplant Schuyler and basely refused to give the credit due Morgan and Benedict Arnold for their brilliant work against Burgoyne's army, he does deserve credit for his treatment of his fallen foe. When Burgoyne handed him his sword with the remark "The fortune of war, General Gates, has made me your prisoner," the American general immediately returned it with a bow and the gracious remark "I will be ready to testify that it was through no fault of your excellency." It can also be said to the shame of congress that it repudiated the terms given the British by Gates, held them as prisoners of war in Boston and later in Virginia and although the officers were exchanged from time to time, the army, as a body, never got back to England and eventually disintegrated. By the time peace came in 1783 Burgoyne's soldiers had been merged into the American people and it may be that some of their descendants may participate in the celebration this month at Saratoga where American and Briton clashed in deadly conflict and wrote with their blood the name of another history-making battle. For Saratoga led directly to French aid and it was the biggest step taken by the American patriot in his march to Yorktown and to victory.

JUST HUMANS

By GENE CARR

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A COP WHEN YOU GROW UP?
"TO TAKE THAT FRESH BIRD'S BANANAS!"
COPS DON'T DO THAT ANY MORE."
"DEN I DON'T WANT T'BE A COP!"

Mothers' Cook Book

WHEN I WAS TWENTY-ONE

By JOSEPH KAYE

At 21—Conrad Bercevic decided to Seek His Fortune in the New World.

AROUND this time I began to think of leaving my native Rumania for the United States. A year or two later I arrived within sight of the famous skyline of Manhattan and soon became a part of the East side.

From then on I did everything but serve as a waiter. Wattering was the only vocation I forbade myself to join.—Konrad Bercevic.

TODAY—Mr. Bercevic has become a both distinguished and popular writer, which is something that does not happen often to the men who take a typewriter to their bosoms.

For many long years Bercevic struggled with adversity as few men have struggled, selling himself to any labor that would bring sustenance for his family and himself and it is only in the last few years that he has achieved his fame.

His recognition began when the "Dial" published his short story, "Ghitza," a narrative of gypsy life. This story brought a demand for other stories of a similar type and soon all the national magazines had started publishing the "Bercevic gypsy stories," as they came to be known.

The stories were then collected in book form and have had large sales in America, as well as in Europe.

Bercevic is also the author of a no-fiction best-seller, "Around The World in New York," a fascinating study of the foreign population of the metropolis.

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GOOD THINGS TO EAT

PRESERVED pineapple is so expensive that most of us are glad to prepare our own.

Candied Pineapple.

Peel the fruit and cut it into strips two inches long, one-half inch wide and one-fourth inch thick. Measure the fruit and add half the quantity of sugar and let stand until the sugar is dissolved—which may be 24 hours. Drain off the juice and boil it five minutes, then add the fruit and cook for five minutes. Spread the pineapple on a plate in the sun, turn when dry and roll in granulated sugar when well dried. Pack in box with waxed paper between the layers.

Indian Chutney.

Take two quarts of tart apples and green tomatoes, two pounds of seedless raisins, three cupfuls of brown sugar and the same of vinegar, one small onion, two cupfuls of lemon juice, one teaspoonful of red pepper, one-half teaspoonful of salt and a small jar of preserved ginger. Peel and core the apples and put them with the tomatoes and onion through the meat chopper, also the raisins. Mix all the ingredients in a stone jar and let stand over night. In the morning set the jar into a kettle of cold water, heat slowly and cook six hours, stirring often. A spoonful of this chutney added to various dishes adds a very unusual and delightful flavor.

Plainfield Cold Pickle.

Take six ripe tomatoes, four onions finely chopped, add one cupful of vinegar, three tablespoonfuls of salt, one cupful of sugar and half a teaspoonful of cayenne pepper. Mix and bottle cold. Seal with paraffin.

SAWS

By Viola Brothers Shore

FOR THE GOOSE—

SOME women not on'y expect to find a well every time they're thirsty, but they'd like it to get up and walk over to 'em.

Don't expect gratitude from your sister's children, your husband's family or a handsome lover.

I'd hate to have a doctor treat me for chibblains that never had nothin' the matter with his feet.

FOR THE GANDER—

There's always room for one more kiss.

Don't be too interested in economy right before you ask a woman to marry you.

If a woman wants a cigarette, give it to her—light it for her—but for heaven's sake leave her smoke it herself.

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Neelie Maxwell
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Lighting Hits Glass

In the ordnance museum of the United States Military academy there is on display, and has been for some years, a pane of glass that was perforated by lightning. It was originally a pane in a window sash, and is 9 by 12 inches in size. The hole in the pane is almost a perfect circle an inch and a half in diameter, rounded off on the edge of the hole on one side of the pane, but very sharp on the edge of the hole on the other side of the pane. Accompanying the curio is a certificate made on honor by John Rigney, sergeant of ordnance, United States army, retired, to the effect that the hole was made by lightning at his home in Highland Falls, N. Y.

"It isn't safe to smile when you are crossing a street," says Ironical Irene. "It may give some motorist a notion to spread cheer as he goes."

OPPORTUNITY

By EVELYN GAGE BROWNE

DON'T wait for your chance to be handed to you. Wrapped up and tied with a bow. Keep right on the job with the goal in view. And learn all there is to know.

Sit tight and watch—but do your best. With the duties of every day. And fit yourself for the final test. When the Big Chance comes your way.

For all things come to those who wait— And work while they're waiting, too; There's no such thing as luck or fate— The whole thing is up to YOU!

Don't make excuses for missing your chance. Or say that it never came— For those who know, can tell at a glance, You're looking for something to blame.

A lot of chances have come to men, Who never knew they were there; So the chances went their way again, And no one could find out where.

Opportunity knocks at many a door, When the fellow asleep inside Missed the thing he was hoping for, Because he had never tried.

So be up and doing—keep wide awake, For your chance may be near—not far. And when it comes for you to take, Just grab it—and there you are!

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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

By F. A. WALKER

MAKING GOOD THINGS

IN PEKING, China, there was, and very probably still is, a blacksmith who all his life has fashioned nothing at his tiny forge but donkey bits, simple rods of metal with a ring at each end to which the reins of the patient burden bearers are fastened.

For hundreds of years his ancestors have been engaged in the same occupation. Century after century, son following father, has striven to maintain the reputation of the highest grade handicraft and to fit his product to the craft song which each of them have sung—"I guide the hammer and a king guides the bit."

There is a Chinese saying which originated, I suspect, among that group of Eastern philosophers of which Confucius was the leader, which says: "To make good things is better than gold."

What a wonderful motto for a workman. What a splendid slogan for the man at the bench.

To make a good thing, to seek perfection in the simplest tasks, to study and strive to outdo in your present task all the accomplishments of the past AND TO SUCCEED is more satisfying than any other recompense that can result from our efforts.

"One of the bitter things of old age, to those who have honestly striven, is that its weakness, its dulling of the human tools, its limitation of effort makes it seem impossible to keep up to the standard that we set for ourselves in earlier days and stronger moments.

After all, there is one masterpiece at which we all work daily, whether we will or not. That is OURSELVES. Whether, when it is finished, it shall be a credit and a source of pride, rests wholly upon the honesty and faithfulness of our efforts.

Do not figure your success altogether in dollars. Do not measure your accomplishments solely by fame. Remember that there is a satisfaction in well doing that money cannot measure and that genius in an unknown cave is no less genuine for being hidden.

Sing with the old blacksmith of Peking and keep your eye on his smoke-grimmed motto—"To make good things is better than gold."

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What Does Your Child Want to Know?

Answered by BARBARA BOURJAILLY

DOES IT HURT A FISH WHEN WE CATCH IT?

A fish's nervous system is not sensitive to touch; it hurts it some to catch it, But not so very much.

(Copyright.)

Diagram Showing O Amplification

Newest Amplification Benefits

Tone-Gate Unit, Market; New Audio Amplifier

A form of audio which extraordinary by its sponsors has made available to the putting on sale the unit is assembled.

All sounds are made mental notes and over mental notes are produced of a certain frequency note has a number of brating at different frequencies are the character that permit the ear note struck on a piano note produced by another.

Music frequencies which are reproduced, perfect reproduction, quencies and all over amplified the same audio amplifier to re final combination series broadcast station. Gofication amplifies or of high and low frequencies overtones the same d volume.

The new scheme of amplification is a complete and impedance equal enameled high resistance.

Sun Directly Affected Strength

That the sun's influence probably the chief factor in the strength of signals was one of the stated in the annual report for special research, as prepared by the United States.

In addition to the showing the routine of the laboratory, curves the report which indicate the relationship between the number of sunspots and the number of sunspots during the sunspot cycle, the strength with the sunspots.

Other curves show the signals during the rotation (27 days), which create a nine-day period certain stations.

Some of the curves fixed active areas on often produce an increase in strength when they are not considered as the relationship of and yearly averages of signals extending over years.

How Radio Service Doctors Up

Quite frequently the called in to give his view of a home-built telegraphy set to afford lectivity. Often this to the grid returns of the RF coils or the secondary being run to the ment lead. There is a check up on the former the usual type, using 5 battery potential on the amplifier tubes and 45 detector tube, with a 4 bias on the audio-amplifier to insert a 0-50 scale in the wire running from terminal of the "B" common "A" and "B" section. If all is well of the needle on the meter is flowing. When a current is being constant the polarity of the lead is connected to the lead. Next, inspect the sure that the RF amplifier tubes are connected to those of the audio tube those of the audio tube a 201-A type tube is detector, it should be