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## Battle of White Plains

The Battle of White Plains was an engagement that occurred in the Hudson River Valley directly following Washington's retreat from New York City in October of 1776. The battle occurred over a span of a couple weeks with minor skirmishes and a few major battles taking place within that span. Although the battle ended in a draw, Washington was able to escape into New Jersey unscathed.

Following his retreat from New York City in the summer of 1776, Washington had primarily kept his army in the Harlem Heights/Lower Westchester area in order to maintain tabs on British movement.<sup>1</sup> In the mean time the British were developing a plan to attack Washington and his army through an amphibious landing in Throgs Neck.<sup>2</sup> Washington was able to divert troops to the meet the British landings. General Howe, the commander of the British Army, was quickly reinforced by Colonel Rahl and two Hessian regiments.<sup>3</sup> The Hessians began an attack on Washington's fortifications, which were made near the Bronx River. At this point Washington began to withdraw his army across the Croton River. Howe, looking to capitalize on the situation, asked for reinforcements from Lord Percy to cut off the Continental Army's

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<sup>1</sup> "The American Revolution-The Battle of White Plains," *TheAmericanRevolution.org*, accessed February 25, 2010, <http://www.theamericanrevolution.org/battledetail.aspx?battle=11>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> "Battle of White Plains-American Revolution," *BritishBattles.com*, accessed February 25, 2010, <http://www.britishbattles.com/white-plains.htm>

retreat.<sup>4</sup> The reinforcements were never sent and the main body of Washington's army made it across the Croton River intact.

The Battle of White Plains, although a draw, was still a significant battle. Had Howe been able to cut off Washington and capture his army it would have seriously compromised the war for the Americans. Without Washington and his army, there would be no force to protect the colonies and the Continental Congress against the British.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.