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Battle of Oriskany

August 6th, 1777

The Battle of Oriskany was a small scale engagement near the outskirts of Fort Stanwix in Oriskany, New York. A contingent of American militia under the command of General Nicholas Herkimer were attempting to relieve the besieged troops at Stanwix. However they were ambushed by a larger force of British and Mohawk troops.¹ To reach the fort, Herkimer's militia was forced to pass through a ravine near Oriskany Creek.² Lying in wait was Lieutenant Colonel Barry St. Leger and his troops. The attack made by the British caught the Americans off guard. General Herkimer was wounded during the engagement, but remained on the battle field and continued to coordinate his forces attack.³ The arrival of reinforcements from Fort Stanwix caused the Mohawks to retreat and the battle drew to a close. The Americans suffered an estimated 465 casualties while the British only suffered 150.⁴ The British continued to provoke the Americans at Stanwix and did not retreat from the area until news of General Arnold's approaching forces. Although the battle itself wasn't a success for American forces, the battle still worked to their advantaged. The Battle of Oriskany caused a delay in the movement of British troops and "The British army in the Mohawk Valley failed to keep its rendezvous with

¹ "The Battle of Oriskany," *MyRevolutionaryWar.com*, accessed April 15, 2010, <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/770806.htm>.

² "Battle of Oriskany," *U-S-History.com*, accessed April 15, 2010, <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1299.html>.

³ "The Battle of Oriskany."

⁴ *Ibid.*

Burgoyne at Albany, a failure that contributed heavily to the events around Saratoga in the following weeks.”⁵

⁵ “Battle of Oriskany.”