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Battle of Fort Washington

November 16th, 1776

The attack launched by the British and Hessian troopers in November was an attempt to push the remaining American troops out of Manhattan. General Howe, who was given command of the attack, called for a three pronged thrust against the Fort. His plan would have Brigadier Percy attack from the south with Brigadier Matthews attacking by boat across the Hudson River from the east.[1] "The main attack," as devised by Howe, "was to be on Rawlings' position by Hessian troops commanded by General Von Knyphausen."[2]

Knyphausen was first to attack on the morning of the 16th, followed then by Percy. The British attack eventually forced the American perimeter to collapse and American troops were forced back into Fort Washington. Things began to look dire for the Americans as "by 3:00 P.M., the Germans had reached Fort Washington from the north, and the British were in view on the east and south."[3] This forced Colonel Robert Magaw to surrender. The capture of Fort Washington also made Fort Lee "untenable" and forced Washington to transport any ammunition out of the fort.[4]

The result of the attack allowed for the British to push the Americans out of Manhattan and into New Jersey. The British then began a pursuit of Washington and his army into the interior of the state.

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[1] "The Battle of Fort Washington," *BritishBattles.com*, accessed April 22, 2010, http://www.britishbattles.com/fort-washington.htm.
[2] Ibid.
[3] "The Battle of Fort Washington," *MyRevolutionaryWar.com*, accessed April 22, 2010, http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/761116.htm.
[4] Ibid.