

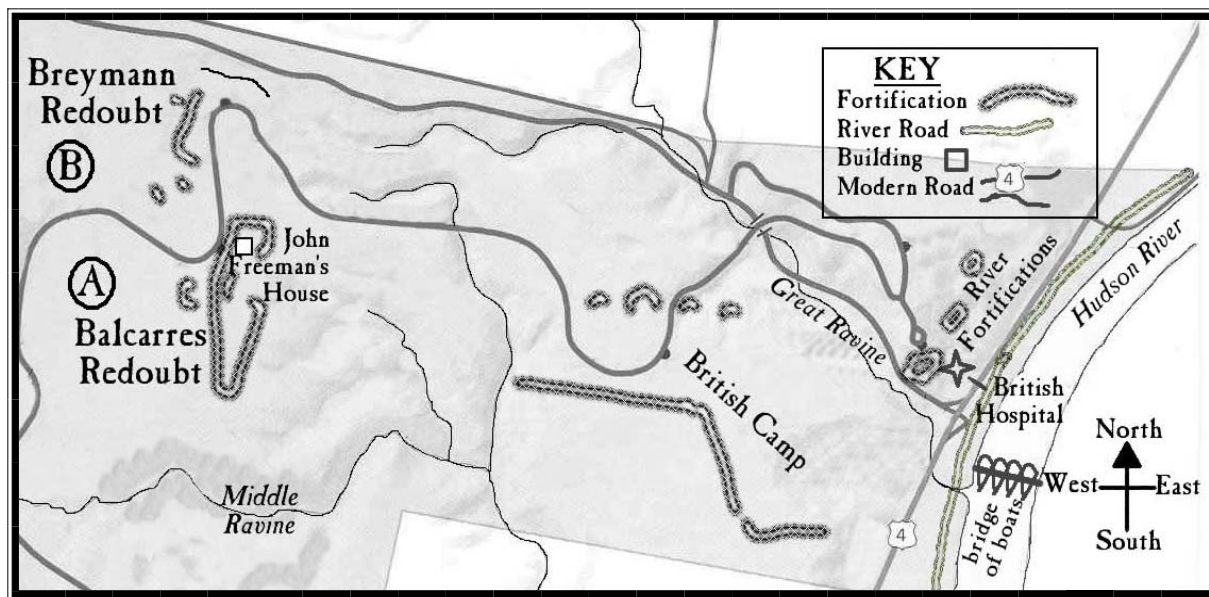
Saratoga

National Historical Park



The Crucial Hour

—a map activity—



"So, where DID the fighting happen?" That gets a little complicated, but if you "follow the numbers", it's easy to understand! Keep in mind that for the first day of fighting in the Battles of Saratoga, the British didn't have any fortified lines. **Read the descriptions below, and follow the directions in BOLD print.**

Activities for Balcarres Redoubt (Stop 6)

1. September 19th, 1777: almost all the fighting took place on John Freeman's farm, to the east of his house. **Find and circle John's house, and draw an oval in the open area east of it**
2. The British won that first day, as the Americans left the field and returned to their own lines, about 1 ½ miles south of Freeman's Farm. They built several positions for themselves:
 - British soldiers built a protective wall in front of their camp. **Find the British Camp, and draw a star in it.**
 - They built fortifications overlooking the Hudson River. These protected a bridge of boats they made, their hospital, their additional artillery and many of their supplies. **Find the River Fortifications, and draw a single rectangle surrounding all three parts.**
 - They also built two redoubts to protect their right flank (side). They expected the Americans would try attacking that side. These were the Balcarres ("Ball-car-eez") and the Breymann ("Bray-man"). **Draw a stars at each of these redoubts.**

More on Back!


Activities for Breymann Redoubt (Stop 7)

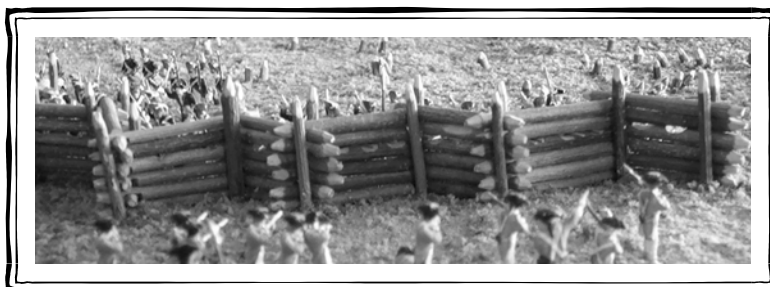
On October 7th, things got very busy. About 1400 British soldiers marched south from the Balcarres and Breymann Redoubts. They tried to find and attack the left end of the American fortifications. But the American soldiers saw them, attacked, and pushed them back into those two redoubts.

Here's what happened when the American soldiers pushed back the British.

1. American forces attacked the Balcarres Redoubt, but were unable to capture it. **Draw an arrow from the circled "A" to the front of the Balcarres Redoubt.**
2. Over 1000 American soldiers attacked the less than 200 German soldiers defending the Breymann Redoubt. The Americans were able to get into that position and capture it. **Draw an arrow from the circled "B" around the south end of the Breymann Redoubt, then draw an arrow from "B" through the front of that redoubt.**
3. When American soldiers got in behind the Breymann Redoubt, where else could they have gone?

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4. The American capture of the Breymann Redoubt forced the British to abandon all the rest of their positions and go across the Great Ravine to their River Fortifications. **Draw a short arrow that goes between the words "Great" and "Ravine". Make the point of the arrow on the top of the line.**
 5. That was all on the 7th of October, 1777. By the next night, October 8th, the British were retreating north, off the battlefield. **Draw a double-line arrow going north from the River Fortifications.**

About seven miles north, in the little village of Saratoga (now known as Schuylerville), the British had to stop. They could go no farther, as American militia soldiers halted their retreat. After a week behind hastily built fortified walls, the British surrendered, on October 17th, 1777. The Americans had won! 



American troops attacking Breymann Redoubt, October 7, 1777