

Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum



Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum was commander of the British forces at the Battle of Bennington. He himself was an officer from the German state of Brunswick, and most of the men he commanded at the Battle were also German, including those from his own regiment, the Prince Ludwig Dragoons.

Lt. Col. Baum's orders, given to him personally by General Burgoyne, were "to obtain large supplies of cattle, horses and carriages" held by the Americans at Bennington. He was also told that if he encountered a sizable enemy force, which he did about five miles short of

his target at a bridge over the Walloomsac River, to establish and hold his position and send for reinforcements. He set up three defensive positions (at the Troy Fort, at the bridge, and on top of a hill) but was attacked and overwhelmed by American forces under General John Stark before reinforcements could arrive. Lt. Col. Baum was seriously wounded in the action. He was taken to a house a few miles from the battlefield where he died two days later. The house is no longer standing, but a stone marker with a plaque marks the spot along Route 67 just inside the Vermont border with New York.

Lt. Col. Baum had served in Europe in the Seven Years War, but had no experience of fighting in America. He did not speak or understand English; he communicated in French and German and with the help of translators. He divided his forces on what became the battlefield, which allowed them to be overrun by the Americans. General Burgoyne later wrote, "He showed great Personal Courage, but was overpowered by Numbers".