

Sulzer Takeover Battle



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Why did the Battle of York occur?

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The Battle of York occurred because the British and Americans were participating in the War of 1812. The Battle of York took place during the War of 1812. The British had supplies that the Americans needed so they invaded the city of York. In the end, they did not get their supplies but they burned down York in retaliation. The Battle of York also occurred because the Americans were trying to win the War of 1812 and for that they needed to take down the British. York was the capital of Britain's territory from the war and the Americans wanted to take down the capital.



What happened during battle?

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The Battle of York was fought on April 27th 1813. As the battle had begun Major General Roger Hale Sheaffe had noticed that the Americans were defeating the British and Canadians with no problem. Soon enough, the British side had started to get closer and closer to the fort and the commoners helped the “militia” fight the Americans. Sheaffe had lost hope of winning the battle and asked the militia to make good terms with the Americans as Sheaffe and the commoners headed east and burned the shipyard as they left. As the withdrawal began Captain Tito LeLievre was set to blow up the magazine in the fort so they wouldn't be able to capture the fort. During the massive explosion 38 Americans were killed and over 200 wounded and it was the last breath for Zebulon Pike an American general. With, Pike's last breath, Colonel Cromwell Pearce took charge. Soon hearing the British wished to surrender, Pearce sent Lieutenant Colonel George Mitchell and Major William King to have a talk with the militia.

What happened after the battle?

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The Battle of York was the first of many defeats for the British. In May, 1813, Fort George was captured by the Americans and the British had to abandon the Niagara Peninsula. In September 1813, the British's communications were cut off from Erie because the Americans had defeated them there. Throughout these battles, the British were heavily outnumbered and outmanned. The British also had a very small Naval Force after the Battle of York because they used most of it to fight off the Americans who were on the water. On October 5th, 1813, a group of American Soldiers caught up to a British force that was retreating from Detroit. The American force defeated the British force once more and this encounter between the two was called the Battle of Moravian Town. After, a squadron from Fort George went over to Kingston to resupply and they ultimately won the battles that they had in Stoney Creek and Beaver Dams. This forced the Americans to return Fort George back to the British. There were many other minor battles in between these ones. The two MAJOR defeats for the Americans were Chateaugay and Chryslers Farm. These battles were important because they allowed British communications to be open for another year. After this, there was a lot of burning. The Americans burned down the towns of Niagara River and Queenston. In retaliation for this, the British burned down the towns along the Niagara River. In August, 1814, The British captured Washington and burned down the government buildings. This was in retaliation for the burning of York. In December, 1814, a peace treaty was signed that would end the War of 1812.

How Did the Battle Impact Present Day Toronto?

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The capture of York was a huge embarrassment on the British, showing the weak spot in their defenses. Chauncey returned to York again in the month of July just to cause more riots. He landed and ordered his men to you know, burn down a several building and ships/boats and to completely destroy a lumber yard and leave with York's supplies (weapons, food, trading goods, etc.) While this was an embarrassment for the British this was a reason of celebration for the Americans. This was a very important political victory. This gave a boost of support to the American regulars which the Americans were really in need of what. Coming back to the 2000s, CNE in Toronto has a ghost walk every year and one of the stops during the walk are focused on the battle of York! When the fort's magazine exploded the debris killed many including Zebulon Pike and people say the ones died still walk on fort grounds today...

Who were some important people during the battle?

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. Major General Henry Dearborn:

- Born in 1751, Died in 1829
- Native of New Hampshire
- Doctor who had an impressive military career in the American Revolution
- Secretary of War from 1801-1809
- January 1812-July 1813, Dearborn was stationed in the territory of Niagara-Atlantic

WHY HE WAS IMPORTANT: Dearborn had minor successes and told the troops what to do to successfully defeat York during the Battle of York.

Major General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe

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Major General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe:

- Born 1761, Died 1851
- Born in Boston
- Entered British army in 1778
- Served: 1787-97, 1802-1811, 1812-1813

WHY HE WAS IMPORTANT: Sheaffe gave orders to destroy a stock of supplies that weren't useful to the British but were useful to the Americans. If those supplies got into the hands of the Americans, the British would have lost more battles that followed that Battle of York.



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Zebulon Pike:

- Born 1779, Died 1813
- Born in New Jersey
- Killed during the Battle of York
- Killed by flying debris when the British blew up their ammunition magazine

WHY HE WAS IMPORTANT: Pike successfully lead and commanded the American Combat Troops to victory until he was killed in action on the battle field.



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