U.S. Army Military History Institute 950 Soldiers Drive Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5021 11 Aug 2012

PRISONERS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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BRITISH PRISONERS-The Convention Army, 1777-1783

In accordance with provisions of the Gates-Burgoyne surrender terms signed at Saratoga, Oct 1777, the British and German soldiers of Burgoyne's army were not to be considered as prisoners of war. Rather, they would be returned to their respective countries as quickly as transportation could be arranged with the stipulation that they could never again serve in the American colonies during the remainder of the Revolutionary War. Hence, to differentiate them from regular prisoners of war, Burgoyne's forces became known as the Convention Army. The British units involved included elements of the Royal Artillery and the 9th, 20th, 21st, 47th, and 62nd Regiments.

Initially, the Convention Army remained near Cambridge, MA. However, lack of sufficient provisions and fears of a British rescue attempt caused the Convention Army to be relocated early 1779 to Charlottesville, VA. In late 1780 again fearful of a British attack, the Convention Army was relocated to Winchester, Ft Frederick, and Fredericktown. See:

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