



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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A Plan of the Action at Bunkers Hill on the 17th of June 1775 between His Majesty's Troops, Under the Command of Major General Howe, and the American Forces . . .

Stock#: 74657
Map Maker: Stedman / Faden
Date: 1793
Place: London
Color:
Condition: VG+
Size: 19.5 x 16.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine Plan of the Battle of Bunker Hill by Faden

An exceptional example of William Faden's important Revolutionary War battle plan of the Battle of Bunker Hill, as issued by William Stedman.

Faden's plan of Bunker Hill is one of the earliest and most famous of Faden's battle plans of the American Revolution. The map captures the action in and around the American fortifications at Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill, in what would become the most famous of all early battles of the American Revolution.

Ironically, the plan mixes up the hills; the action took place on the hill closer to Boston, which was Breed's, but here it labeled at Bunker's Hill. On top of the mislabeled Bunker Hill is Warren's Redoubt, named for Dr. Joseph Warren. Warren was shot in the face in the battle, dying there, after he refused a command in favor of fighting amongst his men.

Thomas Hyde Page, an English military engineer who served as *aide-de-camp* to General Howe during the action, prepared this detailed plan. It is the best known and most commonly reproduced plan of the battle. Originally published by Faden shortly after the battle, this edition of the map appeared in 1793, usually accompanying Stedman's *History of the American War*.

The plan depicts redoubts, fences, and hedgerows in great detail, as well as troop positions, and the lines of attacking forces. There are detailed placements of British ships and the Copp's Hill battery (here labeled as Corps Hill) with lines of fire. Charlestown, which was burned in the course of the battle, hugs



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the southern shore of the peninsula. British troops are shown with a black and white symbol, American troops with a horizontally-striped rectangle. A legend in the lower left explains the major events of the battle as they appear on the base map and the overflap that was supposed to be attached.

The Battle of Bunker Hill

After the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the American troops were regrouping and organizing. In mid-June, they heard that the British were planning to fortify the hills surrounding the city. Colonial militiamen under Colonel William Prescott built up earthen fortifications on Breed's Hill on June 16, 1775. These are marked on this map.

Threatened with Americans on the high ground, the British needed to strike the colonial forces. The next day, on June 17, 2,200 troops under British Major General William Howe and Brigadier General Robert Pigot landed on the peninsula, here indicated by the note, "First Landing." The British burned Charlestown and turned to face the Americans. They marched on Breed's Hill, but were rebuffed by Prescott's men. A second assault was also fought off.

On their third attempt, however, the British reached the colonial redoubts and entered into fierce hand-to-hand combat. They forced the Americans to retreat, but at a high cost. The British had over 1,054 casualties in just two hours of fighting, with 200 killed and over 800 wounded. Howe lost every member of his staff. 100 Americans were killed, with 300 wounded.

Although the British won the battle, it was a Pyrrhic victory. They realized that they would not quickly defeat the colonial forces. They also abandoned plans to seize the hills surrounding Boston and, eventually, left the city as well.

Detailed Condition:

Engraved map printed on a large sheet of "JBates / JB"-watermarked laid paper, the same paper used for Des Barres charts. This example consequently has very large margins. There is no overleaf of the second stage of the battle - it was apparently never attached to this example.