

The 49th Reg't of Foot
Re-enactor's Handbook

*being a collection of information to aid the
modern historical interpreter in the pursuit
of accurate historical representation.*



This first edition of the
The 49th Reg't of Foot
Re-enactor's Handbook
*is made available as a learning aid for
recruits of the 49th Reg't.*

It has been produced in four parts:
CMHS Drill Manual pt1.pdf
CMHS Drill Manual pt2.pdf
CMHS Drill Manual pt3.pdf
CMHS Drill Manual pt4.pdf

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The 49th and the CMHS

The 49th Foot recreated unit was formed in 1984 and is a project of the Canadian Military Heritage Society.

The Canadian Military Heritage Society (CMHS) is a non-for-profit organization whose members are dedicated volunteers committed to the promotion and the preservation of Canada's national and military heritage.

The members of the CMHS study all aspects of Canadian military history and re-enact time periods of historical interest. Each member has the rare opportunity to gain knowledge while recreating the experience of the Canadian soldier in combination with the study of Canadian wars. The CMHS historical unit hopes to "educate through living history" by attending air shows, museums, and historical sites where the unit displays a large collection of uniforms, weapons, personal affects and documents from various periods. The society also participates in re-enactment displays in Canada and the USA at various historical and military sites.

War of 1812

Adopted from the Online Resources found at:
War of 1812 - Facts from the Encyclopedia - Yahoo! Education
<http://education.yahoo.com/reference/encyclopedia/entry/War1812>

Causes of the War

American shippers took advantage of the hostilities in Europe to absorb the carrying trade between Europe and the French and Spanish islands in the West Indies. By breaking the passage with a stop in a U.S. port, they evaded seizure under the British rule of 1756, which forbade to neutrals in wartime trade that was not allowed in peacetime. In 1805, however, in the Essex Case, a British court ruled that U.S. ships breaking passage at an American port did not circumvent the prohibitions set out in the rule of 1756. As a result the seizure of American ships by Great Britain increased.

The following year Great Britain instituted a partial blockade of the European coast. The French emperor, Napoleon I, retaliated with a blockade of the British Isles. Napoleon's Continental System, which was intended to exclude British goods or goods cleared through Britain from countries under French control, and the British orders in council (1807), which forbade trade with France except after touching at English ports, threatened the American merchant fleet with confiscation by one side or the other. Although the French subjected American ships to considerable arbitrary treatment, the difficulties with England were more apparent. The impressment of sailors alleged to be British from U.S. vessels was a particularly great source of anti-British feeling, a famous incident of impressment being the Chesapeake affair of 1807.

Despite the infringement of U.S. rights, President Jefferson hoped to achieve a peaceful settlement with the British. Toward this end he supported a total embargo on trade in the hope that economic pressure would force the belligerents to negotiate with the United States. The Nonimportation Act of 1806 was followed by the Embargo Act of 1807. Difficulty of enforcement and economic conditions that rendered England and the Continent more or less independent of America made the embargo ineffective, and in 1809 it gave way to a Nonintercourse Act. This in turn was superseded by Macon's Bill No. 2, which repealed the trade restrictions against Britain and France with the proviso that if one country withdrew its offensive decrees or orders, nonintercourse would be reimposed with the other.

In 1809, after the passage of the Nonintercourse Act, a satisfactory agreement had been reached with the British minister in Washington, David Erskine, who promised repeal of the orders in council. The pact was disavowed by Foreign Secretary George Canning, however, and Erskine was replaced by F. J. Jackson, who soon proved himself *persona non grata* to the U.S. government.

Subsequently, by a dubious commitment, Napoleon tricked James Madison, who had succeeded Jefferson as President, into reimposing (1811) nonintercourse on England. Negotiations with Britain for repeal of the orders in council continued without result; just before the declaration of war, yet too late to prevent it, the orders in council were repealed.

In reality, it was not so much the infringement of neutral rights that occasioned the actual outbreak of hostilities as the desire of the frontiersmen for free land, which could only be obtained at the expense of the Native Americans and the British. Moreover, the West suspected the British, with some justification, of attempting to prevent American expansion and of encouraging and arming the Native Americans. Matters came to a head after the battle of Tippecanoe (1811); the radical Western group believed that the British had supported the Native American confederacy, and they dreamed of expelling the British from Canada. Their militancy was supported by Southerners who wished to obtain West Florida from the Spanish (allies of Great Britain). Among the prominent "war hawks" in the 12th Congress were Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Langdon Cheves, Felix Grundy, Peter Porter, and others, who managed to override the opposition of John Randolph and of the moderates.

Course of the War

War was declared June 18, 1812. It was not until hostilities had begun that Madison discovered how woefully inadequate American preparations for war were. The rash hopes of the "war hawks," who expected to take Canada at a blow, were soon dashed. The American force under Gen. William Hull, far from gaining glory, disgracefully surrendered (Aug., 1812) at Detroit to a smaller Canadian force under Isaac Brock. On the Niagara River, an American expedition was repulsed after a successful attack on Queenston Heights, because the militia under Stephen Van Rensselaer would not cross the New York state boundary.

On the sea, however, the tiny American navy initially gave a good account of itself. The victory of the *Constitution*, under Isaac Hull, over the *Guerrière* and the capture of the *Macedonian* by the United States (Stephen Decatur commanding) were two outstanding achievements of 1812. The smaller vessels also did well, and American privateers carried the war to the very shores of England. In 1813 the British reasserted their supremacy on the sea; the *Chesapeake*, under Capt. James Lawrence ("Don't give up the ship!"), accepted a challenge from the *Shannon* and met with speedy defeat. Most of the American ships were either captured or bottled up in harbor for the duration of the war.

It was on inland waters, however, that the American navy achieved its most notable triumphs—victories that had an important bearing on the course of the war. In Jan., 1813, at the Raisin River, S of Detroit, American troops suffered another defeat. But with the victory of Capt. Oliver Perry on Lake Erie in Sept., 1813, American forces, under Gen. William Henry Harrison, were able to advance against the British, who burned Detroit and retreated into Canada. Harrison pursued and defeated them in a battle at the Thames River (see

Thames, battle of the), in which Tecumseh, the Native American chief, was killed. Yet the feeble efforts of James Wilkinson along the St. Lawrence River did nothing to improve the situation on the New York border.

The first months of 1814 held gloomy prospects for the Americans. The finances of the government had been somewhat restored in 1813, but there was no guarantee of future supplies. New England, never sympathetic with the war, now became openly hostile, and the question of secession was taken up by the Hartford Convention. Moreover, with Napoleon checked in Europe, Britain could devote more time and effort to the war in America.

In July, 1814, the American forces along the Niagara River, now under Gen. Jacob Brown, maintained their own in engagements at Chippawa and Lundy's Lane. Shortly afterward, Sir George Prevost led a large army into New York down the west side of Lake Champlain and seriously threatened the Hudson valley. But when his accompanying fleet was defeated near Plattsburgh (Sept., 1814) by Capt. Thomas Macdonough, he was forced to retreat to Canada. In August, a British expedition to Chesapeake Bay won an easy victory at Bladensburg and took Washington, burning the Capitol and the White House. The victorious British, however, were halted at Fort McHenry before Baltimore.

Negotiations for Peace

The Fort McHenry setback and the American victory at Plattsburgh helped to persuade British statesmen to agree to end the war, in which no decisive gains had been made by either side. For some time negotiations for peace had been taking place. Although Great Britain had refused an early Russian offer to mediate between it and the United States, the British entered into direct peace negotiations at Ghent in mid-1814. The American delegation to the meeting at Ghent was headed by John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, and Albert Gallatin. After long and tortuous discussions, a treaty (see Ghent, Treaty of) was signed (Dec. 24, 1814), providing for the cessation of hostilities, the restoration of conquered territories, and the setting up of boundary commissions.

The final action of the war took place after the signing of the treaty, when Andrew Jackson decisively defeated the British at New Orleans on Jan. 8, 1815. This victory, although it came after the technical end of the war, was important in restoring American confidence. Although the peace treaty failed to deal with the matters of neutral rights and impressment that were the ostensible cause of the conflict, the war did quicken the growth of American nationalism. In addition, the defeats suffered by the Native Americans in the Northwest and in the South forced them to sign treaties with the U.S. government and opened their lands for American expansion

Rough Timeline of the 1812 War

June 12 , 1812

US General William Hull marches out of Ohio bound for Ft. Detroit with an army of regular soldiers and militia.

June 18, 1812

President James Madison signs Declaration of War between the United States of America and Great Britain. U.S. House of Representatives vote 79-49, and a senate decision of 19-13 gave congressional approval to go to war with Great Britain.

June 26'ish, 1812

News of war reaches Major General Isaac Brock through contact with an employee of New York fur trader John Jacob Astor. Governor General Sir George Prevost learned of the war in a similar manner.

Niagara Light Dragoons formed. William Hamilton Merritt was appointed Lieutenant in command of a 20 man detachment ordered to guard Chippewa and patrol south toward Fort Erie.

July 2, 1812

American schooner *Cuyahoga* seized by the *General Hunter* of the Provincial Marines out of Fort Malden at Amherstburg. The boarding party found Hull's campaign baggage and documents' detailing his forces and war plans.



July 5, 1812

Hull Arrives at Ft. Detroit with 2,500 men.

July 12, 1812

Hull crosses the Detroit River, landing at Sandwich (now Windsor) and sends a proclamation to the people of Canada stating, "... The United States offers you Peace, Liberty, and Security. Your choice is between these and War, Slavery, and Destruction!" Hull's troops then looted and plundered the peaceful settlements as far as sixty miles up the Thames River.

July 15, 1812

At St. Joseph's Island, Captain Charles Roberts receives orders from Brock to "adopt the most prudent measures of offense or defense which circumstances might point out."

July 16, 1812

Capt. Roberts leaves St. Joseph's Island with a small unit of the 10th Foot (Royal Veterans), aboard the Northwest Company's fur-trading vessel *Caledonia*. Following along in Mackinac boats and canoes were 180 voyageurs, as well as Robert Dickson and 300 warriors of the Sioux, Chippewa, Winnebago, Menominee, and Ottawa tribes.

July 17, 1812

Capt. Roberts arrives at Mackinac Island (Michilimackinac) around 3 a.m. With help from a local fur-trader, the townspeople were quietly awakened and moved to an old distillery. The American commander Lieutenant Porter Hanks woke to find the British, Voyageurs, Indians, and a couple six-pound field guns waiting for him. He wisely surrendered without a shot being fired.

July 19, 1812

Master Commandant Hugh Earl on the HMS *Royal George* out of Kingston, attacked the small American naval station of Sackett's Harbor. Lieutenant Melancthon Woolsey, USN, on the brig *Oneida* defended the harbor until Earl gave up and went home.

July 26'ish, 1812

Woolsey sends the schooner *Julia* into the St. Lawrence River to intercept two Provincial Marine schooners (*Moira* and *Gloucester*) who were tasked with capturing a couple of American lake schooners sheltered at Ogdensburg, New York. The *Julia* met the *Moira* and *Gloucester* and fought well enough to drive them off. The *Julia* was then able to escort the American schooners back to Sackett's Harbor under cover of the Prevost-Dearborn Armistice.

July 31, 1812

US Sailing Master Francis H. Gregory sailing from Sackett's Harbor, secreted his three gigs among the 1000 Islands. He captures a British vessel, but was forced to burn it when in danger of being overtaken by an enemy gunboat.

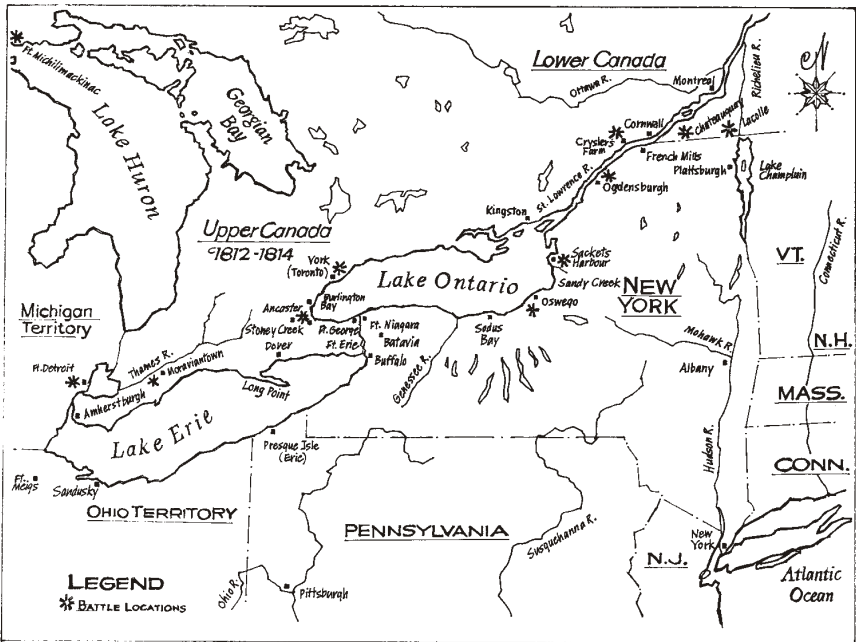
August 5, 1812

Brock and 300 militia leave York bound for Amherstburg to try and deal with the threat of Hull's troops.

At the village of Brownstone (south of Detroit) a party of warriors, infantry, and militia out of Fort Malden, intercept an American supply escort from Hull's army at Sandwich, lead by Major Thomas Van Horne. Hull's mailbags were seized and revealed the state of Hull's forces and his increasing fear of the native warriors.

August 6, 1812

Governor General Sir George Prevost's offer of armistice is received and accepted (pending approval from Washington) by Henry Dearborn, First Major General of the U.S. Army, at his headquarters in Albany, New York. Prevost orders Brock to act only out of defensive necessity, thereby tying Brock's hands and allowing the U.S. to reinforce positions and assemble a new army.



August 11, 1812

Hull returns to Fort Detroit.

August 13, 1812

Brock and his militiamen arrive at Fort Malden, where he is presented with Hull's mail. This is where he meets Tecumseh for the first time, and apparently

they get along famously, right from the start.

USS *Constitution* (“Old Ironsides”) meets HMS *Guinevere* US win.

August 15, 1812

Brock marches 300 regulars, 400 militia, and 600 warriors to Sandwich, opposite Fort Detroit. Hull, with 2000-3000 infantry in his fort, refused to surrender, so Brock ordered his small field guns and the guns of the Provincial Marines vessels *Queen Charlotte* and *General Hunter* to bombard the fort.

August 16, 1812

Brock crosses the Detroit River and marches on Fort Detroit. Hull's men saw what looked like a large body of warriors march through a clearing near the fort, Tecumseh having marched the same group of warriors through that clearing three times. Hull thought he faced a warrior presence more than 2000 strong. He is so unnerved by the warrior presence outside his fort that Hull surrenders without firing a shot. Without consulting his officers, Hull had given up the fort, its garrison (nearly 2,200 men), 35 cannon, 2,500 muskets, 500 rifles, ammunition, and the brig *Adams*.

August 18, 1812

Potawatomi warriors near Fort Dearborn (Chicago) receive word of the capture of Mackinac. They descend on Fort Dearborn, and attacked mercilessly as the garrison was evacuating to Fort Wayne, Indiana under orders from Hull.

August 19, 1812

The US super frigate *Constitution*, carrying 44 guns, met the British 38-gun frigate *Guerriere*. The *Guerriere* would eventually surrender herself, after the two ships had spent more than two hours firing on each other.

August 29, 1812

Washington ended the armistice. The British had lost their advantage and many native warriors began to lose faith in them. Many warriors deserted.

September 3, 1812

Pigeon Roost, an outlying post of Fort Wayne is brutally taken by Tecumseh's warriors. Afterwards, the warriors continued on toward Fort Wayne.

September 6, 1812

Tecumseh's warriors reach Fort Wayne to be met with determined resistance from the garrison there.

September 12, 1812

General William Henry Harrison arrives at Fort Wayne with a huge force comprised of militiamen from Kentucky, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Tecumseh's warriors fade away from the overwhelming numbers.

September 21, 1812

US Captain Benjamin Forsyth marched with 70 riflemen and 34 state militiamen from Sackett's Harbor to Cape Vincent, New York. He then, by dark, traveled to Gananoque, Ontario, where he met the British and Canadians drawn up in battle order. The victorious Americans took all arms, ammunition, and provisions back to Sackett's Harbor.

September 25, 1812

Adam Muir, with a force of 1000 British regulars and warriors, meet with advance parties of General James Winchester's 2000 man army. Muir fell back to Fort Defiance and Winchester halts his force and fortifies camp. After a short stand-off Muir retires to Fort Malden and Winchester establishes a position on the Maumee River to ready for the spring campaign.

September 26, 1812

Commodore Isaac Chauncey, USN, sets off on the Hudson River steamboat for Albany, where he is to meet with Henry Dearborn.

October 1, 1812

Earl and the HMS *Royal George* capture two American vessels at the Village of Charlotte (near present-day Rochester), New York.

October 4, 1812

New York Governor Daniel Tompkins ordered militia under General Brown and riflemen under Forsyth to reinforce the garrison at Ogdensburg. Brown ordered all shore batteries there to fire at any British convoy. Forsyth's men, in small boats, harassed British and Canadian troops being moved to Kingston, York, and Montreal. The British launch two gunboats carrying two companies from Prescott. Heavy artillery from the American batteries forced them to turn back about mid-stream.

October 8, 1812

Lieutenant Jesse Elliott, USN, takes the armed British vessels *Caledonia* and *Detroit* (Hull's former *Adams*) in a 'cutting-out' expedition under the guns of the British post at Fort Erie.

October 10, 1812

US Major General Stephen Van Rensselaer, making preparations for a 'forward movement' across the Niagara River that fall, receives an inaccurate report that Brock and much of his garrison had left for the Detroit frontier. [In actuality, Brock had returned from Fort Malden and was busily re-establishing himself at York and Fort George.]

October 11, 1812

Van Rensselaer sends a small force in boats from Lewiston, New York, to cross the Niagara River and land at Queenston. The boats for the crossing were assembled, but a boat which carried a shipment of oars somehow ended up on the Canadian shore, whereupon the American officer in charge promptly disappeared. The attempt was called off.

October 13, 1812

Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer (the General's cousin) manages to land 200 regulars and militia at Queenston. The landing party was supposed to be larger, but three boats were caught in the current and swept downstream where they were captured, and other boats turned back. British Captain James Dennis, with 300 men, repelled the Americans first attempt to rush the heights above Queenston. Brock, at Fort George, roused by the sounds of the guns rushes off on his horse Alfred to assist. Atop Queenston Heights is a gun battery defended by Captain Williams and 100 regulars. When Brock arrives there he orders Williams to leave a handful of men to guard the guns and take the rest to assist Dennis. This action allows two companies of the 13th US Infantry to seize the guns. Brock is killed attempting to climb back up the heights and re-take the guns. The British withdraw from Queenston, regroup and meet with reinforcements. They push back in from a different direction. The Americans being afraid of the native warriors and running out of ammunition were pushed back to the waters edge where a young American officer, Winfield Scott, waved a white neckcloth in surrender. After the Battle of Queenston Heights, General Roger Schaeffe and Rensselaer agree on a truce, which could be ended by thirty hours notice by either side.

October 18, 1812

USS *Wasp*, 18 guns, had taken HMS *Frolic*, 18 guns, only to be lost to HMS *Poictiers*.

October 22, 1812

American militia from Fort Covington attacked a British outpost at St. Regis, on the eastern St. Lawrence across from Cornwall. They killed an ensign and 7 Voyageurs, capturing 23 others, and seizing a quantity of blankets, muskets, and other items intended as presents for the reservation Indians.

October 25, 1812

USS frigate *United States*, 44 guns, defeated HMS *Macedonian*, 38 guns.

November 8, 1812

Chauncey on the brig *Oneida* sails from Sackett's Harbor with a little fleet of schooner-sized vessels.

November 9, 1812

After riding at anchor in the lee of Main Duck Island, Chauncey discovered Hugh Earl's flagship *Royal George* inbound to Kingston. Chauncey gave chase, but the *Royal George* escaped. Chauncey anchored for the night.

November 10, 1812

Chauncey closed on Kingston and engaged with the *Royal George* and shore batteries until wind and uncertain shoals turned him away. The *Royal George* had been forced to move deeper into Kingston Harbour to escape the *Oneida's* fire. Chauncey left Kingston and pursued another Provincial Marine vessel, the

Governor Simcoe, which escaped by running too close to shore and hitting a shoal. Chauncey returned to anchor off of Main Duck Island.

November 12, 1812

A gale blew up over Lake Ontario so Chauncey abandoned his anchorage at Main Duck Island and made for safety at Sackett's Harbor.

November 19, 1812

General Van Rensselaer has resigned his command to Brigadier General Smyth. On this day Smyth ends the truce with Schaeffe.

Dearborn is in Champlain, New York, with a large force of regulars and militia. They crossed into Canada and reached the banks of the Lacolle River, which they found defended by a small force of Voltiguers, militia, and warriors, commanded by Charles-Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry.

November 20, 1812

The Americans cross the Lacolle River just before dawn, with the Canadians firing on them. In the thick smoke, and dim light, the Americans became disoriented. Frightened by the warriors whooping around them, the Americans broke into groups and began firing on each other until bugles sounded the retreat. The Americans reformed columns and marched off south.

November 21, 1812

Schaeffe, concerned that General Alexander Smyth would be attempting another crossing farther upstream making Fort George or Fort Erie the principal targets, ordered the guns of Fort George to bombard Fort Niagara in an attempt to distract Smyth.

November 26, 1812

The launch of the USS *Madison*, 24 guns, at this point, the largest and most gunned ship on Lake Ontario.

November 28, 1812

Brigadier General Smyth sends two columns of American soldiers that had assembled at Black Rock, north of Buffalo, across the Niagara River. One column, under Lieutenant Colonel Charles Boerstler, was to seize the bridge at Frenchman's Creek. The other, commanded by Colonel William Winder, was to capture a British gun placement set up across from Black Rock.

Boerstler's men were spotted and after coming under artillery fire returned to Black Rock. Winder's column took and spiked the guns across from Black Rock, but then he allowed part of his force to return to Black Rock while the rest headed for Fort Erie, rather than remain in position as he had been ordered. Winder was attacked by a British column coming to investigate, and quickly surrendered. The British returned to the gun battery and put the guns back into action.

Smythe, in a supreme display of audacity, sent a letter to Lieutenant Colonel Cecil Bisshop, senior British officer at Fort Erie, demanding the surrender of the fort. Smythe made a big show of preparing his main force to cross the river, but Bisshop wasn't buying it so Smythe gave up and stood his men down before they could get across.

November 30, 1812

Smythe tried to organize another crossing, but the men were slow in getting into the boats. When daylight arrived and the chance of surprise was lost, Smythe called it off. Smythe's 1,500 men weren't too impressed by this. There are stories of some of his men shooting at the General's tent. Smythe, complaining of illness, went home and the US government would eventually not allow his return to service.

December 29 , 1812

USS *Constitution*, 44 guns, takes the HMS *Java*, 38 guns.

January 19, 1813

Colonel Henry Procter at Fort Malden receives word that Harrison and Winchester were on the move, and that Winchester had driven out a small party of British regulars and warriors from Frenchtown on the Raisin River, with an advance party of several hundred Americans.

January 20, 1813

Procter marched 600 regulars, 700 warriors, and six field guns on Frenchtown. The Americans had posted no sentries, so they were caught unaware. Winchester, himself, arrived just in time to be captured and give the order to surrender.

January 21, 1813

Procter returned to Fort Malden, leaving 50 wounded Americans behind in Frenchtown. A party of intoxicated warriors massacred the wounded Americans.

January ? ,1813

Harrison, upon learning of Winchester's defeat, halted his advance and entrenched his men on the Maumee River - naming the encampment Fort Meigs.

January ?, 1813

Admiral John Warren received orders to raid the American coast, with special attention to be paid to the Chesapeake Bay area. Warren imposed a strict blockade from New York to the Gulf of Mexico.

February 6, 1813

Benjamin Forsyth's US Rifle Regiment attacked Elizabethtown (now Brockville) by marching across the ice on the St. Lawrence River.

February 16,1813

The 104th Regiment of Foot sets off from Fredericton, New Brunswick, on an epic snowshoe march that would take them all the way to Kingston.

February 22, 1813

Ogdensburg, New York, attacked by the British from Fort Wellington at Prescott, in retaliation for Elizabethtown.

February 24, 1813

USS *Hornet*, 18 guns, defeats HMS *Peacock*, 18 guns, out on the Atlantic coast.

April ?, 1813

Procter sets out with 1000 British regulars and militia, 1000 warriors, and a small battery of artillery, bound to strike Fort Meigs.

April 27, 1813

Chauncey's squadron, packed with American infantry, riflemen, and a very sick Dearborn, arrived off of the poorly defended York. Dearborn's men made quick work of the few defenders - most casualties occurring when Scheaffe blew the powder magazine (killing Colonel Zebulon Pike and 38 soldiers). The occupation of York would last 6 days, during which Dearborn's men would loot shops and homes, and put torch to the little parliament buildings, an act which would come back to haunt them. Dearborn and his men took their loot and left as if the attack had been nothing more than a raid.

Roger Shaeffe returned to Kingston after being driven out of York.

May 1, 1813

Procter established a position close to Fort Meigs, approached the fort, and began a bombardment.

May 5, 1813

US Brigadier General Clay, and 1000 Kentucky militia, arrive and attack the British outside Fort Meigs. They sustain heavy losses, but are able to make it through into the fort. In the British lines, the militiamen want to go home and seed their crops, and the warriors are becoming uncontrollable. Procter decides to call off the attack and returns to Fort Malden. Harrison still holds the fort.

Sir James Yeo of the Royal Navy, now in command of the Provincial Marines, arrives in Kingston. By the end of the month he will have pulled together enough of a force to make Chauncey wary.

May 12, 1813

The 104th Regiment of Foot arrived at Kingston completing their epic trek from New Brunswick.

May 13, 1813

A British naval force struck at the Lake Ontario Port of Charlotte when it landed at the mouth of the Genesee River. After meeting some reported opposition,

they were said to have removed a quantity of stores.

May 25, 1813

Chauncey's fleet begins a two day bombardment of Fort George.



May 27, 1813

Colonel Winfield Scott landed his brigade on the Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) shore out of sight of the Fort George guns. General John Vincent, and the slightly more than 1000 men in Fort George, bitterly fought the landing, but in the end Vincent lost almost 500 men and had to withdraw from the fort. He regrouped at the little supply depot of Beaver Dams and sent word to Queenston and Fort Erie for those detachments to do the same.

Yeo sails for Sackett's Harbor, accompanied by Prevost, and a squadron packed with infantry.

May 28, 1813

Yeo arrives at Sackett's Harbor but Prevost's inability to show initiative cause them to ride anchor for the entire day, allowing the Americans time to prepare for the assault.

May 29, 1813

Prevost finally allows his men to proceed with the attack on Sackett's Harbor. The American militiamen broke and ran leaving the regulars to be overrun. As they retired, they set fire to buildings and incomplete ships, but quickly returned to extinguish the flames when, amazingly, Prevost called off the attack at the moment of victory. The British and Canadians were pulled back to the ships and Yeo sailed away.

June 1, 1813

HMS *Shannon* takes USS *Chesapeake* The HMS *Shannon*, under Captain Phillip Broke, waited for the USS *Chesapeake* to sail out of Boston harbour. When she did, the *Shannon* opened fire, and after only 15 minutes the American vessel surrendered. A dying Captain James Lawrence of the *Chesapeake* uttered his famous last words, "Don't give up the ship!"

June 5, 1813

Dearborn had sent an army of 3,400 men to chase down Vincent's retreating army. The Americans established an encampment near Stoney Creek. They felt secure with the escarpment on one side and a swamp on the other. The posted sentries were few and not very alert. A local boy named Billy Green, apparently told the British about the American encampment and gave them the American's password.

June 6, 1813

Lieutenant Colonel John Harvey led 704 men against the American encampment at Stoney Creek in a night raid. The British had removed the flints from their muskets so as not to wake the Americans accidentally. They bayoneted the American sentries, rushed into the camp ... and started yelling! The confused American's woke up and began shooting, throwing everything into chaos. Men were firing on their own troops. The American commanders blundered into British troops and were captured. Vincent became disoriented and lost (not being found until the next day by his own troops). By morning the British captured more than 100 Americans including several officers. The remaining American officers ordered a retreat toward Fort George, finally making a new camp at 40 Mile Creek.

June 8, 1813

Yeo appeared in Lake Ontario off of 40 Mile Creek and began bombarding the visible American encampment. The Americans, fearing a landing by Yeo's forces, abandoned their camp, again. They marched briskly for Fort George leaving a trail of arms, provisions, tentage, and gear all the way. Upon reaching Fort George, hasty orders were drawn up for the abandonment of the entire Niagara Frontier, with the exception of Fort George.

June 9, 1813

Fort Erie was set on fire, and the American units on the frontier crowded into Fort George. They began re-fortifying it with new earthworks in anticipation of a massive assault.

June 13, 1813

Americans repulse an attempted bombardment of Burlington, Vermont, by the British Royal Navy.

June 21, 1813

US Lieutenant Charles Boerstler spends the night in Queenston at the home of John and Laura Secord. During his stay there he boasts to other officers about

the surprise attack in store for Lieutenant James Fitzgibbon at Beaver Dams near the hamlet of St. David's. Laura Secord overheard this and decided to warn Fitzgibbon.

June 22, 1813

Laura Secord sets out on foot to try and warn Fitzgibbon. She was discovered by Mohawk warriors laying in ambush for Boerstler and taken to Fitzgibbon. Fitzgibbon graciously receives her report, although he was already aware of Boerstler's movements and intentions.

July 23, 1813

Armstrong is now residing in Sackett's Harbor in order to control Wilkinson and Hampton, the two new leaders of the American's northern armies. On this day, he presents a plan to President Madison involving a two-pronged assault on Montreal in September. He receives approval and begins pulling the elements together.

June 24, 1813

Boerstler's army, 700 strong, is ambushed by Cauganawaga warriors and suffers heavy casualties. After a brief battle, Fitzgibbon approaches Boerstler and convinces him to surrender.

July 26, 1813

Procter and Tecumseh, with several hundred redcoats, a thousand warriors, and a few light guns, arrived again at Fort Meigs. The plan was to stage a mock battle in the woods outside the fort in the hopes that the Fort Meigs garrison would believe that an American relief column had been attacked and would come out to help. It rained heavily, and no one came out of the fort.

July 28, 1813

Procter and Tecumseh's plan had failed so Procter called off the attempt and left, with a new plan to attack Fort Stephenson.

July 30, 1813

Oliver Hazard Perry is in charge of the US Navy presence on Lake Erie, but has been blockaded at Presque Isle by his British counterpart Robert Barclay. He has spent his time building a fleet to combat Barclay if he gets the chance to get out of harbor. On this day, Perry wakes to find the British fleet nowhere in sight. He immediately orders the movement of all his ships out into Lake Erie. [There is a legend that Barclay sailed off with his fleet to escort an attractive widow from Amherstburg eastward along the lake - True or not, the reasons for Barclay's absence were never recorded.]

July 31, 1813

York is again occupied by Americans, albeit briefly, after the British garrison stationed there marched toward Burlington to assist Vincent's men and attempt to ensnare Chauncey. Chauncey slipped away and landed at York, before taking Scott and his men to Fort George.

August 1, 1813

Procter and Tecumseh's forces arrive at Fort Stephenson, on the Sandusky River. Procter's field guns did little damage to the strong-timbered palisade fort, so Procter simply rushed his infantry at it. Despite suffering heavy casualties, they made the wall, only to find they could not climb the log palisade, or hack their way through. More than 100 men of the 41st were killed. Procter called the men back to the boats and headed back to Fort Malden.

August 1-7, 1813

Chauncey's and Yeo's fleets dance around each other off the mouth of the Niagara River, but never close. Chauncey finally departs for Sackett's Harbor after the loss of four lesser vessels - two by capture, and two schooners (*Scourge* and *Hamilton*) which overturned in a squall.

August 4, 1813

Barclay returns to Presque Isle to find Perry and his large fleet already at sea.

August 12, 1813

James Wilkinson arrives to replace Dearborn in command of the Northern Armies. He began planning for a concentrated movement involving the large force Dearborn had kept at Sackett's Harbor, enhanced by American troops from the Niagara frontier, and the large army Dearborn had built at Burlington, Vermont, and further supported by advance posts at Swanton, Vermont, and Plattsburg and Champlain, New York.

August 14, 1813

HMS *Pelican* takes USS *Argus*

September 1-7, 1813

Chauncey's and Yeo's fleets meet again. This time Chauncey's flagship, USS *General Pike*, manages to damage Yeo's flagship, HMS *Wolfe*. The *Wolfe* is saved by the *Royal George*. With the seas and skies darkening, Yeo's fleet runs off, downwind, to Burlington Bay to effect repairs and recover. Chauncey gives chase, but caution wins out and he turns away. The bemused soldiery on shore gave the name "Burlington Races" to the long slow chase.

September 3, 1813

USS *Enterprise* takes HMS *Boxer*

September 8, 1813

Thomas Macdough's Lake Champlain squadron begins to ferry Hampton's army to Plattsburg in preparation for the upcoming offensive against Montreal.

September 9, 1813

Barclay gives orders to sail from Amherstburg in search of Perry's fleet.

September 10, 1813

Barclay found the American fleet as they were moving out of Put-In-Bay. The two fleets met in a fierce some battle, which ended in an American victory. Perry's men collected and cared for the British wounded after the battle. Both navies were present for the burial of the dead, and an air of mutual respect presided, a true testament to the honour and caliber of both the navies and the individual sailors alike.

September 12, 1813

Procter penned a letter to General de Rottenburg stating that it was longer possible to hold the Detroit frontier. He intended to bake bread with his remaining flour, then march his troops, baggage, and civilians eastward along the Thames River. Unfortunately, he forgot to mention it to Tecumseh.

September 18, 1813

Procter agreed to meet with an angry Tecumseh and warrior allies, to speak about his withdrawal from the Detroit frontier. Tecumseh did not know about the resounding defeat of Barclay and the threats now posed to Procter should he remain at Fort Malden, nor did Procter make any attempt to explain. Instead, Procter listened to Tecumseh's speeches and declared that he would respond in two days time. The warriors were more than a little nervous that they were being hung out to dry by the British.

September 19, 1813

Hampton's men in Plattsburg march out to cross into Canada. The first units crossed the border and surprised a British picket at Odelltown.

September 20'ish, 1813

Procter again sits down with Tecumseh and explains everything behind his decision, and what he intended to do (which was to retire along the Thames River to Chatham and there, fortify a position from which to resist Harrison). Tecumseh then spent hours trying to reason with the warriors, managing to convince slightly more than a thousand, representing more than 11 different tribes, to retreat with Procter and fight with him at Chatham. With this, the evacuation to Chatham began.

September 25, 1813

Hampton's army arrives at the American hamlet of Chateauguay Four Corners, on the Chateauguay River just below the Canadian border. Hampton learns that Wilkinson has fallen ill and the offensive will be held off until he recovers. This allows Hampton to address serious supply issues within his army.

September 27, 1813

The rearguard at Fort Malden spotted Perry's fleet moving in off the lake with Harrison's advance party aboard. Within hours, the first of Harrison's 5000 men were ashore and entering Fort Malden.

October 1, 1813

Canadians and warriors of the Indian Department ambush several of Hampton's

outlying pickets. These men were under the command of Major General Richard Stovin, whose army was almost entirely Canadian, and mostly french-speaking, and spread out in a semi-circle through the countryside south of Montreal.

October 5, 1813

Procter had left the column headed for Chatham in the hands of Tecumseh and Colonel Warburton, and went ahead to presumably make preparations at the settlement. The column then learned that Harrison had fully occupied Fort Malden and was currently in pursuit with nearly 3000 men. Tecumseh and Warburton pushed the column on to Chatham only to find no Procter, and no prepared defenses. Tecumseh and Warburton decide to turn and fight Harrison at Moraviantown, a little farther upriver. Procter reappeared at this point, and taking control of his forces again, began making very bad choices as to deployment of the men. Many warriors had taken their families and faded away into the woods. At 4 p.m., Harrison attacked by sending in 1000 mounted Kentuckians under Richard Johnson. The British, having been placed in an open formation by Procter, were shattered in moments. More than 40 British casualties in that first attack, with barely one injured Kentuckian. Seeing the British line broken and surrendering, Procter bolted from the field and abandoned his men.

Tecumseh's line was a different story. The desperate warriors pushed the Americans back, but they rallied and came back in fighting hand-to-hand with the warriors. At some point during the fighting, Tecumseh fell. A cry went up through the warriors and then they simply melted away into the forest, leaving the Americans in command of the field.

It was a good day for Harrison, who had managed to defeat Procter and smash the heartbeat of the Indian resistance in the Northwest. [Procter would eventually face court martial and condemnation for his actions in these events]

October ? , 1813

Sir George Prevost at Quebec orders de Rottenburg to evacuate *all* of Upper Canada and retire to Kingston. General John Vincent, at Burlington, considered the orders, then decided to remain where he was, although he would have to recall all of his outposts and patrols. This led to months of looting and pillaging in the Niagara Region by McClure's militia and Willcock's Canadian turncoats, but kept the idea of Upper Canada alive.

October 11, 1813

Hampton sends orders to Colonel Isaac Clark, the garrison commander at Burlington, Vermont, to send out a raiding party to Missisquoi Bay, at the Canadian end of Lake Champlain. Clark, with 200 militiamen, attack the village of Phillipsburg and capture the local militia (who end up being marched off and held in Boston). Clark also discovers a stockpile of stores recently delivered by enterprising Vermonters, who were making a respectable income supplying Scheaffe's army.

October 17, 1813

Wilkinson mobilizes his army, now consisting of 8000 infantry, 38 field guns, 20 larger siege guns, two regiments of cavalry, and a mountain of supplies and equipment. Shortly after leaving Sackett's Harbour on 300 row barges and boats, and Chauncey's squadron, they were beset by a horrendous storm and stranded on Grenadier Island, suffering 10 inches of snow. Afterwards, the ferrying of men and supplies began in earnest.

October 18, 1813

Hampton receives a letter dated two days before, stating that Wilkinson was feeling better and planned to strike off immediately across the St. Lawrence. Hampton was to advance to the mouth of the Chateauguay River and hold the enemy in check.

October 21, 1813

Hampton's army moves north into Canada, encountering sniper fire and obstacles on the road. Hampton sends Brigadier General George Izard, with a column of light infantry and one line regiment to take control of Spear's farm and the blockhouse there. One of the Canadian militiamen stationed at the blockhouse ran to warn de Salaberry that Harrison was on the march, allowing de Salaberry to gather his forces at Allan's Corners and prepare their defenses. Stovin began casting about for whatever troops he could find to support de Salaberry. Hampton's army encamped at Spear's farm.

October 24, 1813

De Salaberry improves his defenses at Allan's Corners, by constructing an abitis and clearing the land in front their position of anything that would allow cover for the enemy.

October 25, 1813

Hampton sends Colonel Robert Purdy, with 3 regiments of regulars, and some volunteers and light troops, to find a ford behind de Salaberry's position so they would be able to attack from the rear while Hampton's main force attacks from the front. They leave at sunset, but due to the darkness and rain manage to loose their way. By morning they still have not pass de Salaberry's position.

October 26, 1813

Around 10 a.m. Hampton sends his men to attack the abitis at Allan's Corners, but learning that Purdy wasn't in position, he holds them back. Near 11 a.m., Purdy's men stumbled onto a militia unit, both were surprised, fired hastily, then backed away. Shortly after noon Hampton got tired of waiting for Purdy so he sent word for Purdy to fall back and rejoin the main column, and ordered Izard to advance. At 2 p.m., Izard's column closed with the Voyageurs and forced them behind the abitis. Purdy's men encountered the Embodied Militia companies, and were pushed out of the woods to the rivers edge directly across the river from the abitis line. Taking fire from two directions, Purdy pushed back into the forest, gave up trying to advance and began retiring toward Hampton's position. Hampton, seeing that things were not going well on the other side of the river, ordered Izard to retire the column, regroup on the road,

and fall back to camp, leaving 70 dead, a number of wounded, and 16 prisoners behind. These were collected by the Canadians.

October 28, 1813

Hampton breaks camp at Spear's farm and marches south to Chateauguay Four Corners.

November 6, 1813

Wilkinson sends a letter to Hampton directing him to meet Wilkinson's army at Saint Regis on the St. Lawrence, just upriver of Montreal.

November 8, 1813

Wilkinson halts the armada at a point 18 miles below Ogdensburg. He was now halfway to Montreal but had the Long Sault Rapids ahead. In order to secure the shoreline he lands a substantial force under Alexander Macomb (Winfield Scott heading the leading unit), another for to support them under General Jacob Brown, and sends them toward Cornwall. A rearguard is placed ashore consisting of a brigade under Brigadier General John Boyd.

November 11, 1813

Morrison's force had caught up with Wilkinson's army. While Mulcaster brought his gunboats to fire on the barges waiting to run the rapids, Morrison tried to engage Boyd's brigade in a field at Crysler's Farm. It became a long and bloody musket battle that ended with the 89th Regiment taking an American gun during a bayonet charge. Overall, Morrison had lost 1/5th of his men, while 500 Americans (including General Covington) were dead.

November 12, 1813

Wilkinson finally receives a letter from Hampton detailing Hampton's loss on the Chateauguay River and his decision to turn back. This gives the ailing Wilkinson, a day after his rearguard is defeated by Morrison, the perfect excuse to terminate the campaign against Montreal. Wilkinson moved his men out to French Mills (now Fort Covington, New York).

December 12, 1813

McClure, at Fort George, was concerned that, after the Wilkinson Campaign fiasco, Vincent would come out of Burlington. In the middle of a snowstorm, he blew the powder magazine in the fort, and torched every building in Newark, and took his militiamen back to Fort Niagara.

December 18, 1813

Lieutenant General Gordon Drummond, sent by Prevost to replace Vincent, had learned of the mistreatment Canadians had suffered at the hands of McClure and his men. He sent Colonel John Murray and 500 men across the Niagara River at night, equipped with scaling ladders and axes and under orders not to fire, but only to use the cold steel of the bayonet. The sentries at the gates of Fort Niagara were quietly dispatched, followed quickly by the duty company inside.

There was some minutes of firing from the soldiers quarters before the British killed them also. Nearly 80 men were killed before a plea to accept surrender broke the killing rage, and more than 300 men were taken. 20 men managed to escape to warn McClure at Buffalo. Murray ordered a Fort Niagara Gun to be fired as a signal to Major General Phineas Riall, who was 5 miles up river with 500 warriors and 500 redcoats ready to pounce on the village of Lewiston. Drummond had given clear orders not to repeat McClure's cruelty and no to burn any homes. Riall ignored the orders and allowed the burning of every home along a 25 mile swath from Fort Niagara to Tonawanda Creek.

December 29, 1813

Riall crosses the Niagara River with 1500 men near Fort Erie and attacks the village of Black Rock. He shatter the militia resistance, burned the ships in the harbour, then moved on toward Buffalo, New York. Everything was burned there, as well.

March 5, 1814

Raiding parties sweeping up the Thames River defeated a small British force that had been sent to stop them, at Longwoods.

March ?, 1814

Armstrong sends instructions to the newly appointed Major General Brown at Sackett's Harbor to prepare with Chauncey for an attack on Kingston when the ice is out of the lake. Included with these instructions was a false set of orders that Brown was supposed to let fall into enemy hands, detailing an attempt to reclaim Fort Niagara. The false orders were supposed to make Prevost send everyone the British could spare to the Niagara area, leaving Kingston exposed. Brown mistook the false orders for real ones and marched west toward Niagara.

March 21, 1814

HMS *Pheobe* and HMS *Cherub* take US *Essex*

March 30, 1814

Wilkinson makes another weak push north, but is repulsed by 600 militia, at Lacolle Mills. This failure, on top of the rest, marked the end of Wilkinson's career.

April 29, 1814

USS *Peacock* takes HMS *Eperview*

May 4, 1814

Yeo packs 1000 infantry into his ships and sails out of Kingston toward Oswego.

May 5, 1814

Yeo's fleet approaches Oswego and Fort Ontario (garrisoned by Colonel Mitchell, 300 regulars, and 6 guns. A lightning landing by Drummond and the infantry would possibly have swept aside the Oswego militia and seized a

known stockpile of badly needed flour. However, Yeo repeated the interminable wait of the Sackett's Harbour attack. He waited an entire day and night, allowing the civilian population of Oswego to join with the militiamen in transporting the naval and food supplies out or reach upriver. Mitchell also had a chance to call for help and militiamen from all over came flocking in to help, raising his garrison to 600 men.

May 7^{ish}, 1814

Yeo, finally, allows Drummond to take his men ashore and after taking a bit of a beating while in the boats, once ashore the battle only lasted a few minutes. The American regulars retired just in time to avoid capture. Drummond's men did seize a thousand barrels of flour, and a scuttled schooner, although they had missed the naval supplies which Chauncey would need to challenge Yeo.

May 15, 1814

British forces were successful in obtaining stores at Pultneyville, west of Sodus Point. However, they found only mouldy flour, as the remaining stores had been hidden in a ravine.

May 19, 1814

Yeo initiated a blockade of Oswego in an attempt to keep the naval stores from reaching Chauncey.

May 28, 1814

Chauncey sends Melancthon Woolsey with nineteen small boats laden with more than thirty ships guns, and mooring cables, rowed by sailors from Chauncey's fleet, and escorted by green-clad riflemen. They hugged the shoreline and rowed through the night.

May 29, 1814

One of Yeo's patrol ships discovered Woolsey's flotilla and managed to capture one boat. Woolsey directed the rest of the boats to row well up Sandy Creek. Yeo sent a boat party after them, under the command of Commanders Francis Spilsbury and Stephen Popham, but when the boats got well into the river they were caught in a devastating ambush set by Woolsey's sailors, the riflemen, and a party of Oneida warriors. Yeo's men surrendered, at a stroke Yeo had lost 200 prime seamen.

June 28, 1814

William McKays commanded a force of warriors and Michigan fencibles from Mackinac Island on another epic trek by canoe and open boat to Prairie du Chien (north of present day Dubuque, Iowa). The Americans had captured the post some time earlier, and were astonished when the British showed up and took it back.

USS *Wasp* takes HMS *Reindeer*

July 3, 1814

Winfield Scott leads the first of three brigades across the Niagara River, crossing at midnight without the loss of a man.

July 4, 1814

Eleazer Ripley and Peter B. Porter, lead two more brigades across the Niagara River to join Winfield Scott's Brigade. By noon, Brown had his army of 3,500 ashore and deployed in front of Fort Erie. Inside the fort Major Thomas Buck had only 150 men, so he quickly surrendered.

Word of the landing had reached Riall at Fort George early in the morning. Like Brock, Riall galloped south calling every available man to rally at Chippewa. By nightfall, Riall, with a mix of regulars, militia, warriors, and artillery, was roughly entrenched on the north shore of the Chippewa River. Scott, with his American brigade, was encamped perhaps a half mile south of the river.

July 5, 1814



The British column crossed the Chippewa outflanking Porter's men, then moved on against Scott's. Scott deployed his men in open fields between Street's Creek and the Chippewa River. Here they dressed, primed, loaded, and waited. Riall marched the British column straight toward Scott, believing the US forces to consist of only militia. He realized his mistake too late. The British were advancing in columns, which would work against militia, but would get cut apart against seasoned regulars. Scott pulled back the center of his line, and advanced the wings, pinioning the British. A series of well executed volleys

from Scott's men disintegrated the British column. Riall broke off the attack and retired from the field. The British had lost more than 350 men, with more missing or presumed captured, while the Americans had suffered more than 300 killed, wounded or missing. Riall withdrew all the way to Fort George, with a cautious Brown following behind.

July 24, 1814

Brown packs up his camp at Queenston and moves to the battlefield at Chippewa. As he was setting up the tent rows at Chippewa Brown received the news of Napoleon's final defeat.

Phineas Riall set out in the night with a force of just under 1000 regulars and militia headed south to Lundy's Lane within earshot of the Falls at Niagara. Behind him, at Ten Mile Creek, another 1000 men were preparing to set out south. At the same time, Drummond was marching south along the Niagara River with reinforcements just in from Kingston.

July 25, 1814

Brown was getting mixed information, so he order Scott's brigade to head back toward Queenston. Scott discovered Riall's troops at Lundy's Lane, sent word to Brown, then manoeuvred his men to meet the enemy. Riall ordered an orderly withdrawal of his forces, until he backed into Drummond's army. Drummond took command and started pushing southward again, re-establishing a position on the low rise of Lundy's Lane. The Americans and British stood facing each other, until Scott gave the order for the Americans to advance. The British lines stood fast until the Americans were in musket range then opened up with volley after furious volley, cutting into the Americans and wounding Scott. Brown finally stepped in and called the brigade back, and there was a short pause in the fighting. The battle resumed when an American party had managed to slip around the British lines on the river side, briefly capturing a wounded Riall, before being cut apart by British bayonets. In the darkness, Eleazer Ripley's men engaged the British line. The formations moved so close to each other, the men could hear the commands given in the other lines. Slowly, Brown pushed the British back, acquiring their guns in the process. Riall's reserve forces arrived and were put directly into action by Drummond for a bayonet charge back up the rise, pushing back the Americans again. Both armies are exhausted, suffering from the heat and a terrible thirst from the blackpowder. The firing ceased, but both armies refused to give. Brown, Scott, Riall, and Drummond were all injured. Brown's injury finally forced him from the field, but he left orders for his men to retire to Chippewa and return the next day if the British waited for more. Ripley ignored this order and retired to Fort Erie. The British and Canadians slept on the battlefield. Casualties numbered 878 British, 853 American.

August 3, 1814

Ripley arrives at Fort Erie, putting his men directly to work turning the incomplete fort into a menacing stronghold of log ramparts, earthworks, and gun embrasures.

In Bermuda, British Major General Robert Ross and several thousand infantry embarked in a fleet under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane, bound for the American coast. Ross' orders were to make a diversion on the coasts of the United States of America in favour of the army employed in the defence of Upper and Lower Canada. In other words, cause some trouble to help Prevost out. Ross and Cochrane conferred and settled on a target the American capitol city of Washington.

August 4, 1814

American Lake Erie squadron (including the US brig *Niagara*) arrives at Mackinac bearing 750 infantry under command of Colonel George Groghan, who had repulsed Procter at Fort Stephenson. Groghan landed his force and marched on the fort. Colonel Robert McDouall, currently commanding the garrison at Mackinac, ambushed Groghan with a force less than half that of Groghan's. The present and fortitude of the warriors present, again caused the Americans to rethink the attack and go home. Two schooners, *Scorpion* and *Tigress*, were left behind to ensure that Mackinac wasn't re-supplied.

August 9, 1814

Drummond is encamped a short distance from Fort Erie. Shortly after his arrival, with 3000 men, some sailors in his ranks had 'cut out' two of the three US ships (*Somers* and *Ohio*) anchored protectively off shore of Fort Erie.

August 12, 1814

Drummond orders his artillery to start a three day bombardment of the fort, but it has little effect.

August 15, 1814

Drummond is tired of waiting and decides to attack Fort Erie from three points Snake Hill redoubt, the central fort itself, and a waters-edge battery of guns. The attack was launched at 2 a.m. and immediately ran into problems when the 1300 men sent to take Snake Hill found their siege ladders too short. They made five attempts to take the redoubt but took heavy casualties and finally withdrew. The force sent against the gun battery met a similar fate, but the force attacking the fort itself met some success, when the British and Canadians entered the old northeast bastion, cramming in until almost 500 men were inside. Just as the sun came up, however, the powder magazine in the bastion blew up, killing almost all of the attackers. Drummond had to withdraw, and take toll of the damage. For an American loss of 84 men, Drummond had lost 905 men killed, wounded, missing, or presumed captured. Drummond was forced to settle in for a long siege on the fort.

Cochrane's fleet arrives in Chesapeake bay, and entered the Patuxent River, halting at the small community of Benedict. Ross put ashore 4,000 of his infantry, and sent a letter to James Munroe, secretary of state. The letter explained Ross's intentions to "destroy and lay waste such towns and districts upon the coast as may be found assailable." As to why he was doing this, Ross