

was a comparatively unimportant point, and that the defenses were too small to accommodate a garrison of over 200 troops, they would not reinforce the place, but destroy it and withdraw Major Croghan and his little band who were stationed there. An order to this effect was sent to the latter; before it reached him, however, the country was infested with the savages, and the determination was made to hold the fort or die. The British troops were landed soon afterward; a demand to surrender was refused and the subsequent successful defense of Ft. Stephenson was one of the most gallant and heroic in the history of the nation. Speaking of Maj. Croghan, in his official report of the affair, Gen. Harrison said: "It will not be among the least of Gen. Proctor's mortifications, that he has been baffled by a youth who has just passed his twenty-first year. He is a hero worthy of his gallant uncle, Gen. Geo. R. Clarke." Maj. Croghan was brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel by the President for his gallantry.

The defense of Ft. Stephenson, which occurred Aug. 2, 1813, was followed, on Sept. 10, by Commodore Perry's victory at Put-in-Bay—one of the most brilliant naval affairs in the history of any nation.

This victory removed the principal barrier to the commencement of active operations toward the recovery of the Michigan territory, and immediate steps were taken for an advance to Malden, and the troops (nearly 7,000) rendezvoused at the mouth of the Portage. Sept. 17, Gov. Shelby arrived there with 4,000 Kentuckians; Gen. Cass, with his brigade, came to Upper Sandusky; Col. Hill came with a regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers from Erie; on Sept. 20, Gen. McArthur came with his brigade from Ft. Meigs, leaving Col. Johnson's mounted regiment there as a garrison, with orders to subsequently march to Detroit by land. The troops were conveyed to Put-in-Bay in boats; on Sept. 25 they re-embarked for the Canadian shore, and on the 27th entered Malden, without encountering either British troops or Indians, who had retreated; the enemy continued their retreat from before Detroit, and on the 29th, the victorious Americans marched into that town; on the 30th, Col. Johnson's mounted rifle regiment arrived from Ft. Meigs. Oct. 2, the Americans commenced their pursuit of Proctor, whom they overtook and defeated in the battle of the Thames, Oct. 5, which practically closed the war in the northwest.