

by Barney's boats and a battery on shore dislodged the frigates, and Barney, gaining access to the main stream of the Patuxent, took his flotilla high up the river. This was towards the end of June. Barney was unmolested until August 22, when Admiral Cockburn came up the river with the boats and tenders of the British fleet, strongly manned with sailors and marines, to make an end of the American flotilla. On rounding a point called Pig Point, with a village upon it, which was on the eastern bank of the river over against Upper Marlborough on the opposite side, Cockburn sighted Barney's boats in the reach of the river above the point; but they were all already abandoned and in process of being blown up. Sixteen were destroyed in this way, the seventeenth, together with some merchant vessels which the flotilla was protecting, fell into British hands. Meanwhile Barney and his men had joined the force which was collecting for the defence of Washington.

The expedition
against
Washington.

General
Robert
Ross.

Cockburn reported that, as he moved up the Patuxent river from Benedict, where he had parted with his senior officer, Sir Alexander Cochrane, his boats were kept as nearly as possible abreast with General Ross's army, which was advancing up the western bank. In accordance with the decision of the British government to supplement the forces which they were sending to Canada, by dispatching a brigade to co-operate with Cochrane and Cockburn on the Atlantic coast of the United States, Major-General Robert Ross set sail from the Gironde with three regiments of the line and a company of artillery on June 1. He reached Bermuda on July 24, and there his force was augmented by a fourth regiment of infantry and a strong battalion of marines, bringing up the number of men to about 4,500 in all, organized in three brigades. At Bermuda he met Admiral Cochrane, and on board his flagship, the *Tonnant*, sailed in advance of the troops for Chesapeake bay, where, on August 14, off the mouth of the Potomac river, he joined Rear-Admiral Cockburn, who had in the meantime been hunting out the creeks