

militia under the command of Lieut. Patrick Smith, an experienced mariner, to bring in several small merchant vessels reported on the way up the river. While among the islands on the night of June 28-9, Smith fell in with two American schooners, the *Island Packet* and *Sophia*, which he promptly captured and burnt. The vessels he had been sent to protect soon after came in sight and were safely brought into Kingston.*

Some slight defensive works which had been constructed for the defence of the harbour were hastily armed with guns of small calibre after which only one light field gun remained available. The militia of the vicinity turned out with alacrity to the number of six hundred for garrison service and displayed a strong desire to learn the proper performance of their duties. Twelve hundred muskets were distributed in the region extending westward from Glengarry to Hastings. Four troops of militia cavalry were stationed in pairs at regular intervals along the road from Montreal to York to carry despatches and maintain the communication. As senior officer in the district Colonel Richard Cartwright assumed command of the militia assembled at Kingston. He reported that they could be relied on to furnish escorts for convoys by land or water and suggested that redoubts and blockhouses should be built at suitable places along the route to assure their safety.

Eleven American schooners had taken refuge at Ogdensburg where batteries were being constructed and militia assembled for their protection. Their capture or destruction would immediately ensure the command of Lake Ontario, but this enterprise could not be attempted without the assistance of a small body of regulars and Cartwright recommended that at the same time an active and experienced regular officer of rank superior to any militia officer in the district should be appointed to take command.†

Colonel Robert Lethbridge, an inspecting field officer in the Montreal district, was accordingly selected but carefully instructed to undertake no offensive operations unless they were calculated "to strengthen a defensive attitude." The safety of Kingston was naturally designated as his principal object although the protection of the general line of communication was considered as of scarcely less importance. If unable to maintain his position he was instructed to destroy or remove all stores and supplies which might be useful to the enemy, assemble all loyal and well disposed inhabitants and retire upon York or Montreal, or keep the field as circumstances might direct.‡

*Major Donald Macpherson to the Military Secretary, July 5; New York Evening Post, 1812.

†Hon. R. Cartwright to Prevost, July 5.

‡Baynes to Brock, July 8; Baynes to Lethbridge, July 10; Prevost to Brock, July 11.