

ment was cantoned at Lundy's Lane and the 89th with the flank companies of the 104th at Queenston. Major-General de Watteville, who was put in command of all the troops on the south side of Chippawa Creek, made his headquarters at Gonder's house, one mile below Black Creek, and Drummond established his at Forsyth's near the falls. Major-General Stovin, who had just arrived from Kingston, commanded the troops at Queenston and the forts. This distribution of his troops would enable Drummond to reinforce either flank quickly if it was threatened with attack or retire behind the line of the Chippawa if necessary. The troops were comfortably lodged in houses and barns until materials could be collected for the construction of barracks. Instead of paroling the militia prisoners, of whom nearly two hundred had been taken, as had been the practice in the past, they were sent to Montreal with a recommendation that they should be detained as long as possible, to deter others from volunteering for service in Canada. Deserters from the American regular regiments soon began to arrive at the British outposts, who reported that many of the militia had already recrossed the river.

No hostile movement took place on either side until September 29th, when a patrol of the 19th Dragoons, consisting of a corporal and six troopers, was surprised and taken upon the Ridge Road by a large party sent out from Fort Erie for that purpose. In retaliation Captain P. L. Chambers, in command of a party of dragoons and the light company of the 97th Regiment, succeeded in capturing a forage master and three dragoons at Haun's, near Point Abino, two days later, while a larger party, led by the "traitor Markle," late a member of the Legislature of Upper Canada, barely escaped.

About the same time General Drummond received information that Major-General Izard's division had arrived at Batavia, and made immediate arrangements for withdrawing behind the Chippawa. By the assistance of parties of the Incorporated Militia nearly all the grain on the south side of that stream had already been threshed and removed and orders were given to the farmers to drive away all their cattle at once. On October 3d the Royal Scots and 97th retired, leaving the light companies of the 6th, 82d and 97th, the Glengarry Light Infantry, a squadron of the 19th Light Dragoons and one field piece, under Lieut.-Colonel Battersby, in advance along the river between Chippawa and the mouth of Black Creek, where a small field work had been thrown up. Captain Dobbs was instructed to man one of the schooners lying at Chippawa and anchor her near the foot of Grand Island to prevent the enemy from passing the river there. Meanwhile the Incorporated Militia were incessantly employed in the collection of supplies.