

Erie, as the season of navigation was far advanced, and storms prevalent, consequently preparations were made to winter them at Put-in-Bay, with a force to protect them from marauding parties from the Canada shore, when the ice would make. Mr. Champlin, in command of the "Tigress," was sent to Put-in-Bay to assume command, and where he arrived on the 25th of December. He immediately made the necessary arrangements for defense, Col. Cass having sent 200 soldiers from Detroit to assist. Lieut. John Packet was sent up late in the winter, and superseded Champlin in command.

The season of storms being at hand, Elliot ordered a portion of the squadron to Erie, the balance to remain at the lower end of the lake. The "Ariel" and "Chippewa" parted their cables and went ashore at Buffalo, where they went to pieces. The "Trippe" and "Little Belt" were sent to Black Rock to winter, and were burnt by the British when they invaded Black Rock and Buffalo that winter. As soon as the "Ohio" and "Somers" had completed their work under Col. Cass the "Somers" and others went into winter quarters at Put-in-Bay, and the "Ohio" returned to Erie, where she arrived late in December. The vessels at Erie were all moored in Misery Bay, and preparations made for defense, as it was reported the British, exasperated at their late defeats, were determined to cross as soon as the ice made and destroy the shipping and village. However, they never made the attempt, and if they had, would have found Elliot with the vessels and Gen. Mead on land with 4,000 troops, ready to receive them.