

the men were constantly trained by their officers, most of them were left at home except when urgently needed. There were a great many soldiers to feed in Kingston and it was necessary that the farmer-soldier should remain at home and care for the crops and thus have as much grain and provisions as possible stored up for the winter months to avoid a famine and to provide fuel for the winter.

On August 8th, 1812, three days after Tecumseh defeated the Americans at Brownstown, orders were given in several parts of the Bay district for extra men to be prepared with sufficient provisions to take them to Kingston and furnished with other requisites for remaining there on actual service. The enemy was operating extensively along the St. Lawrence below Kingston and small raids and counter-raids were frequent. Gananoque was attacked on September 21st and on October 4th the British were repulsed at Ordensburg.

On October 20th, 1812, orders were sent out requiring those men of the Bay of Quinte district who had been away on furlough to return to duty at once. The reason given for this hurry call was the desire to have sufficient men on hand to guard a number of American prisoners who were taken at Queenston Heights and who were hourly expected to arrive at Kingston. This was probably true in part but there were also persistent rumors of an expected attack upon that base of supplies and men to defend it were required.

The attack took place on November 10th, 1812, when the fortifications were bombarded by the American fleet. The "Royal George," a vessel of 340 tons, and two schooners in returning from a trip to the other end of the lake, where they had taken both soldiers and supplies, were chased into the Kingston harbor by the American fleet and the ships of the squadron opened a heavy fire against the fortifications. Shortly after the commencement of the action a snow storm started and Chauncey, the commander of the American fleet, having met with a spirited fire, deemed it prudent to retire. One authority claims that the defence of the fort on that occasion was the reason for no other attacks being made upon Kingston during the war.

Those in command appear to have had considerable difficulty in keeping on duty the men who were not allowed to return to