

THE BATTLE  
*of*  
QUEENSTON HEIGHTS

WHEN, on the 18th of June, 1812, Mr. Madison, President of the United States, signed the declaration of war against Great Britain, Canada, to be the scene of action, was inadequately prepared for defence.

General Brock, Governor of Upper Canada and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, had only 3,250 men, regulars and militia, to protect the thirteen hundred miles of the frontier of the whole province. Of these, he detailed twelve hundred for the defence of the thirty border miles along the Niagara River, where attack might be made at Fort George (Niagara-on-the-Lake), Queenston or Fort Erie. General Brock distributed his little handfuls of troops to the best advantage, trusting to the better training of the men, and the better military prowess of the leaders to offset the lack of numbers. At Chippawa he placed a small detachment of the 41st Regiment, under Captain Bullock, and the flank companies of the 2nd Lincoln Militia, under Captains Hamilton and Rowe; at Fort Erie a detachment of the 49th Regiment and some militia; Fort George, the General's headquarters, was garrisoned by part of the 49th Regiment and three hundred militia including some York Volunteers; Queenston's share in the distribution was part of the 49th, under Captains Dennis and Williams, and some militia, approximately three hundred in all.

About a mile below Queenston, at Vrooman's Point, the principal gun was mounted; other guns were placed at intervals between there and Fort George; also at a short distance below Fort Erie