

The American Invasion – Summer 1812 – A Three-Prong Attack

U.S. Forces –

As part of the U.S. colonial legacy, the U.S. has no standing army (fear of military coups). This means that militias are the primary fighting forces – ill-prepared fighting force. Military leaders are either young and untried or relics from the American Revolution. In addition, units are disorganized; communication between forces non-existent; moving supplies by land is arduous; and the British control the St. Lawrence River.

British Forces –

British have veteran forces, but too few to defend the vast territory required. British find an invaluable leader in General Isaac Brock who co-opts the Native American populations mobilizing under Tecumseh.

NOTE: Most of the actual fighting will occur in Indian and Canadian territories.

Lake Erie

- General Hull (American Revolution relic) arrives at Ft. Detroit. July 1812
- General Isaac Brock and Tecumseh join forces and attack Ft. Detroit August 1812
- Brock demands surrender, begins bombardment, and Hull, paralyzed by fear of Native Americans, surrenders the fort.
- Note: This is the first and only surrender of an American city to a foreign power. Hull is court martialed and faced execution until Madison intervened.

Niagara River

- General Stephen Van Rensselaer (young and untried) arrives in Lewiston
- General Brock heads the British forces with help from Iroquois
- Rensselaer attacks Queenston Heights and is outflanked by the Iroquois despite having the high ground. October 1812
- Note: General Brock is killed and U.S. militia refuses to enter British territory after hearing the Iroquois war cries.

Montreal

- General Dearborn (another Amer. Rev. relic) leads troops to Montreal
- So disorganized they shoot each other
- Militia refuses to enter British territory and the U.S. fails to invade November 1812