

“Canada A People’s History: A Question Of Loyalties”

The Detroit Bluff

- The immediate threat to _____ Canada in August 1812 is at Fort Detroit. An American army of 2500 men is poised to invade the province. Removing that threat is Isaac Brock’s first objective. Setting out with just 300 men, Brock takes the offensive. It is a bold gamble, but his sheer audacity has an electrifying effect on the Indian tribes. Tecumseh is already waiting at Detroit with his own army of 600 warriors.
- Brock has also recruited 400 Upper Canadian militia. He disguises them in the red coats of the regular army to bluff the Americans into thinking they are all professional soldiers. At dawn on August the 15th, Brock’s mismatched little army marches on the fort of _____. They are outnumbered 2 to 1, but they have one big advantage, the Americans are terrified of the Indians. Tecumseh knows this and openly parades his warriors in full view of the fort. It’s all a bluff, but Brock backs it up with a note to the American general.
- For more than _____ hours, the fort is pounded by artillery fire. Brock waits and the American commander loses his nerve.
- Hall _____ without a fight. An American observer writes to President Madison that the whole fiasco is "the most weak, cowardly and imbecile" he has ever seen.
- Detroit is a stunning victory for Brock and Tecumseh, one without a single casualty, 2200 prisoners and enough captured muskets and cannons to equip an army. Best of all, the news has raised hopes in Upper Canada – the _____ can be beaten.

Queenston Heights

- A few miles downstream from the falls, the Niagara River is so narrow a musket ball can be fired across it. Here in the fall of 1812 a second American army prepares to avenge the humiliation of Detroit. On the heights of _____ the British watch and wait.

- In the early hours of October 13th, the garrison at Fort _____ is roused from bed by the thunder of heavy guns.
- In the dark water below, _____ American troops are flooding across the river. Brock has his answer; it's a full scale invasion.
- At first, the British guns pin down the Americans on the beach below Queenston Heights. Then by chance they find a fisherman's path up the steep bank. In a surprise attack, they seize the British cannon. As General Brock arrives, the battle is fast turning in favour of the _____. At daybreak, he decides on a desperate counterattack. It fails.
- Now the fate of Upper Canada rests in the hands of a band of _____ Mohawk warriors. They are led by the adopted son of Joseph Brant, a man named John Norton who is half Cherokee and half Scot.
- Outnumbered 15 to 1, Norton's warriors strike and run repeatedly. The Americans stagger and cannot consolidate their position. It is a critical failure. At 2:00, ten hours after the attack began, British and _____ reinforcements pour into Queenston. Now a thousand strong with Norton's warriors on the flank, they break cover and advance.
- The American commander, Winfield Scott surrenders, delivering 925 prisoners. Barely four months into the war, _____ American armies have fallen.
- But the battle has been costly, a dozen warriors and two Mohawk Chiefs were killed. The British and Canadians have lost nearly 100 men. But the Americans suffer far worse, estimates of their casualties range as high as _____.
- In that desperate charge at dawn, a _____ had recognized General Brock's uniform. A Canadian volunteer in Brock's regiment saw the shot.
- Isaac Brock is buried at Fort George as the British cannon fire a twenty-one gun salute. Across the river, the Americans answer with their own salute. Brock will be remembered as the

_____ of Upper Canada, a place he didn't much care for and whose people he never trusted. But in that critical first year of the war, he bought the province time and gave it a reason to fight.

Tecumseh's Last Stand

- Tecumseh is recruiting warriors a thousand miles away when Brock falls at Queenston Heights. By now the Shawnee Chief is known to every tribe from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. The war has given him an opportunity to realize a vision, a unified and independent Indian confederacy powerful enough to resist American _____. A nation within a nation.
- Tecumseh has emerged as one of the most _____ Indian leaders on the continent. As the war enters its second year, he has demonstrated his courage and skill in half a dozen battles.
- But in _____ of 1813, Tecumseh can only listen to a far away battle and wait. Out on Lake Erie, the sound of warships carries for thirty miles. The American and British fleets are in the midst of battle that will change the course of the war.
- When it is over the _____ have command of Lake Erie.
- Tecumseh knows what will come next, his old enemy William Henry Harrison is waiting with an invasion force of _____ men. Tecumseh looks forward to the fight.
- But his allies have other ideas. Now that they have lost control of the lake, the British fear they can be cut off and trapped on the Detroit frontier so they choose retreat. Fort Detroit, which Tecumseh and Brock had captured a year earlier is abandoned. In a rage, Tecumseh confronts the British General Henry Procter, and accuses him of _____.
- Procter is unmoved. The British will pull back up the Thames River, all the way to York if necessary. It is an agonizingly slow _____. For a week, Harrison's army chases them down gaining every day. By the time General Procter finally turns to make a stand at Moraviantown, the red coats and Tecumseh's warriors are exhausted and disheartened. Most have not eaten in

more than two days. They have only a single cannon and not much ammunition and they are outnumbered two to one.

- General Procter fled for safety as soon as the fighting started, leaving his men to be captured or _____.
- On the right flank, Tecumseh and a few hundred warriors, now hopelessly _____, fight on for another hour. Then the sound of Tecumseh's voice, which all had heard urging on the fight, is gone.
- Tecumseh's army has been broken. Never again will the military services of the Indians regain their importance in colonial affairs. Tecumseh's dream of a pan-Indian _____ dies with him.

"Canadians Know How To Fight!"

- In the fall of 1813, the Americans hold the western frontier of Upper Canada. But, they now face the simple truth that no army can conquer Canada without taking _____.
- It is an improbable army that digs in the defences on the banks of the Chateauguay River to face the invaders. French Canadians standing shoulder to shoulder with the _____.
- They are led by Lieutenant-Colonel Charles-Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry. A man whose grandfather fought against the British and whose father fought for them. Now French and British will face a common _____.
- The _____ strategy is a classic pincer move. One force will march north along the Chateauguay River while a second comes down the St. Lawrence. When they meet Montreal will fall.
- De Salaberry's voltigeurs and the Canadian militia are chosen to make a stand on the _____ of the Chateauguay.

- On the morning of October the 26th, 1813, 4000 Americans take to the field. They know they are facing only a few hundred _____ in the forward lines.
- The Canadians believe the Americans have _____ only to mount another attack. And so, for eight more days Pinguet and the others lie between their barricades in the cold and wet, and wait.
- A few weeks after the victory at Chateauguay, the second half of the American invasion plan also crumbles. On November 11th, in the fields of John Crysler's farm a greatly outnumbered force of British regulars and Canadian militia drives the invaders back. For the second time in less than forty years, the Americans have tried to conquer Lower Canada and _____.

Traitors & Heroes

- In the summer of 1814, a mass execution sends an unmistakable message to the population of Upper Canada. Eight men convicted of _____ for aiding the American forces are hanged at Burlington Heights.
- Since the beginning of the war, dozens of Upper Canadians have turned traitor. But the most notorious of them all is still at large. Joseph Willcocks has come a long way since serving his prison term for libel. At the outbreak of the war, he was reelected to the Upper Canada assembly and became leader of the unofficial opposition. But in the summer of 1813, Willcocks crosses the line from dissent to treason. He begins passing on _____ information to the American commanders.
- Willcocks is still a member of the assembly of Upper Canada when he becomes a colonel in the American army. Within six weeks he has raised a force of 130 Canadian volunteers to fight for the _____.
- For a year, the Canadian turncoats wage a campaign of terror along the Niagara frontier. They even _____ the village of Newark, whose people voted Willcocks into the assembly.

- Now in the summer of 1814, Willcocks and his men commit a final act of treachery. They march with an _____ invasion force in one last push to capture Upper Canada.
- At a place called Lundy's Lane within earshot of Niagara Falls, 3500 British and Canadian troops are waiting for them. Here among the grave markers of a pioneer cemetery they will fight the _____ battle of the war.
- Around midnight, fearing the battle is lost, the Canadian turncoats retreat. Joseph Willcocks escapes, but _____ in battle six weeks later.
- At dawn the next morning, the _____ and Canadians are left holding the field. Both armies have suffered terrible casualties.
- The Canadian units are among the hardest hit. In one regiment, one of every three Canadians who fought at Lundy's Lane was killed or wounded. Canada's defenders pay a terrible price. But they have turned back the last major American invasion. A _____ treaty will not be signed until Christmas day 1814. But Canada will never again be attacked.
- The war that was supposed to assimilate the people of Canada has achieved precisely the opposite. In its determination not to become _____, Canada has drawn closer to Britain than ever and has seen a glimmer of its own identity.