

thing was in readiness by the fourth of October. Yet final orders were not issued until the twelfth, when a plan of encampment and order of battle was given to each general officer and corps commander, to be observed when circumstances would permit. Four days more were consumed without any apparent necessity, when, on the seventeenth, orders were given for the embarkation of all the troops at the harbor destined for the expedition. At the same time, General Hampton, who had been halting on the banks of the Chateaugay, was ordered to move down to the mouth of that river.

“Embarking at Grenadier Island [in the St. Lawrence River, about eighteen miles from Sackett’s Harbor], in more than three hundred boats, protected by some of Commodore Chauncey’s squadron, General Wilkinson committed his fortunes to the waves from the twenty-first of October to the fifth of November, which fortnight it consumed to get out of the lake and into the river. During three long weeks, as long as it requires by sail, near twice as long as by steam, to go from America to Europe, the flotilla, with General Wilkinson, ill and morbid, crawled, not vigorously or confidently, but despairingly, as the order in council of war at Sackett’s Harbor proposed, to slip down to Montreal. The Odyssey of a calamitous voyage was written every day in the general’s boat; mostly bedridden, getting continually worse, he was nearly invisible to his tempest-tossed followers. There were not boats enough even at first; and one-third of what there were, were stranded, sunk, wrecked, or otherwise cast away in transit; the clothing unfit for an inclement and boisterous, wet and tempestuous autumn; the navigation extremely difficult and hazardous; large numbers of officers and men, like their general, prostrate by illness; continually assailed by vigilant and skilful enemies on the water and the shores from batteries at every turn; with shoals, rapids, fogs, storms; provisions unwholesome; clothing soaked with water; ammunition damaged; unfaithful or ignorant pilots—an endless catalogue of misfortunes.”

“By the skilful management of Brigadier-General Jacob Brown, the whole flotilla passed Prescott safely on the night of the sixth of November, with the exception of two large boats heavily laden with provisions, artillery, and ordnance stores, which ran aground at Ogdensburg. They were taken off under a severe cannonading from Fort Wellington, and soon joined the others at the ‘Red Mill.’ Wilkinson was now informed that the Canada shore of the river was lined with posts of musketry and artillery at every eligible point to dispute the passage of the flotilla. To meet and remove these impediments, Colonel Alexander Macomb was detached, with twelve hundred of the *élite* of the army, and, on Sunday, the seventh, landed on the Canada shore. He was soon followed by Lieutenant-Colonel Forsyth and his riflemen, who did excellent service in the rear of Macomb.