

“Several British war vessels appeared off the light-house at Sandy Hook in the afternoon of the twenty-second of January, 1813. The new fort there was not yet ready [for occupation], and the only forts to prevent their entrance to the harbor [of New York] were those on Staten Island. At Fort Richmond, the advance fort, every man was at his post. The furnaces for heating balls were made ready, and everything prepared to give the admiral a warm reception, but he declined it.

“The city was frequently alarmed by signal guns, showing that the enemy was off Sandy Hook and an attempt to proceed up the harbor might be looked for.

“Brigadier-General John Armstrong, who had command of New York since the eleventh of August, 1812, was appointed secretary of war on the thirteenth of January, 1813. The command of the city then devolved on Colonel Henry Burbeck, of the United States artillery, he being the senior United States officer in the district. \* \* \* \*

“Volunteering was rapidly progressing. Nearly five thousand militia were fully armed and equipped to defend New York city. They were watching and waiting for an attack. \* \* \* \*

“During the month of January, 1813, the volunteer corps, which had been recruited for the defence of New York city, were as follows:

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Sitcher, artillery.....	1,200 men
Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Swartwout, artillery.....	1,000 “
Colonel Samuel Hawkins, artillery.....	800 “
Lieutenant-Colonel Jasper Ward, infantry.....	500 “
Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Denniston, riflemen... ..	500 “

“On the fifteenth of March, Governor Tompkins’ report of the situation stated: ‘It is possible that 3,500 troops in actual service are now stationed in and about the harbor of New York, consisting of 250 regular artillerists (exclusive of the recent recruits in the city and its vicinity), of Colonel Hawkins’ regiment of volunteers about 1,000 strong, and Colonel Sitcher’s, of the same number, and a consolidated regiment of volunteers about 1,000 more men. These volunteers are, by the terms of their enlistment, engaged for the defence of the city and harbor of New York alone, and are not liable to be ordered elsewhere.

“The first brigade of state artillery, a very well-disciplined and spirited corps, which has seen three months’ service, can probably, upon emergency, turn out at least 800 effective men, and the veteran corps and other associations at least 200 men.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>New York city and vicinity during the war of 1812-15. By R. S. Guernsey. 1889, vol. i., pp. 1, 3, 4, 5, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 89, 90, 97; appendix, note vi., 435, 436; 101, 103, 105, 106, 107, 114, 115; appendix, 439, 440, 441; 116, 120, 123, 124, 127, 133, 134, 135, 136, 139, 140, 164, 167, 168, 172. D. D. Tompkins’ papers, vol. xi., pp. 237, 340, 406, 407.