

**Major-General Sir Isaac Brock (1769-1812)**  
*The Hero of Upper Canada*



Born: 1769, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, England

Background: British Army officer stationed in Canada in the early 1800s.

Heroic Action: Prepared Upper Canada for American invasion, especially by strengthening the fortifications of Quebec and advocating the importance of the cooperation of the Indian allies.

Heroic Action: Led a force of regulars and First Nations warriors in the capture of Detroit (August 16, 1812). He created the illusion of a much larger force with the help of Tecumseh, a leader of the Shawnee. Despite being outnumbered (1300 men) Brock attacked Fort Detroit (2000 men not including a detachment of 500 that was protecting a supply column) and

captured her. This victory came at a key moment when "[M]ost of the people had lost all confidence". Brock later wrote his brothers that, "The militia have been inspired by the recent success with confidence- the disaffected are silenced." ([www.biographi.ca/](http://www.biographi.ca/))

Heroic Action: Battle of Queenston Heights (October 13, 1812). After the Redan Battery cannon was captured he personally led the charge to re-capture the position. He was shot and killed by an American sniper. British forces, Canadian Militia, and First Nations warriors drove the Americans back and forced 1000 to surrender.

Historiography: Although Brock's bravery cannot be questioned he has been accused of being rash, *[H]is action at Detroit, we have seen, was criticized as being unduly rash; and the same has been said of his last charge at Queenston Heights.* And although his "spirit continued to animate the people of the province for the rest of the war" Brock's war lasted only four months. (C.P. Stacey, [www.biographi.ca/](http://www.biographi.ca/))

Abridged from [www.1812.gc.ca/eng/1317828221939/1317828660198#a8](http://www.1812.gc.ca/eng/1317828221939/1317828660198#a8)