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**The Battle of New Orleans Part II**

**Lead: On December 24, 1814, the Treaty of Ghent was signed in Belgium. The treaty ended the war of 1812 and jump-started the political career of Andrew Jackson.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: The greatest American victory, though, the Battle of New Orleans, which was fought on January 8, 1815, occurred fifteen days after the treaty of peace was signed. Both the United States and Great Britain were eager for peace after negotiations had gone on for several**

**months with little progress, and the war seemed to draw to a stalemate. The treaty ended the fighting and pretty much restored the pre-war status quo with few policy changes, territorial gains or concessions from either side. John Quincy Adams, a chief negotiator for the United States, later recorded, “I hoped it would be the last treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States.”**

**Due to slow communication news of the treaty did not reach New Orleans until after the battle. Andrew Jackson led American forces to a stunning victory against the British as they attempted to capture New Orleans and gain access to the Mississippi River. The Americans**

**inflicted over 2,000 casualties including several high ranking British officers, but only suffered 71.**

**So what was the result of the Battle of New Orleans, the so-called "needless battle?" First of all, it firmly and permanently established US control over the Mississippi Valley. Never again would hostile forces threaten the young nation's control over its Continental heartland. Second, it boosted morale and patriotism all over America, and finally it firmly established Andrew Jackson as a war hero. Fourteen years later, this helped to catapult him into the White House.**

**January 8<sup>th</sup> or "Jackson Day" has**

**been celebrated in New Orleans and parts of the south as a victory day. This was true particularly during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Andrew Jackson lives on in folk legend as well as political reality. As recently as 1959 Andrew Jackson reigned as a cultural hero in one of the biggest selling records of that year, “The Battle of New Orleans” covered by numerous artists.**

**Research assistance by Ann Johnson, at the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

## Resources

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**Remini, Robert V. *The Battle of New Orleans: Andrew Jackson and America's First Military Victory*. New York: Penguin, 2001.**

**“Battle of New Orleans.” *The Cabildo: Two Centuries of Louisiana History*  
<<http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/cabildo/cab6.htm>>.**

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