

MILITARY

HISTORY



















PART 1 OF 2

Battle of New Orleans

8 January 1815





The War of 1812	
Belligerents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  United States (incl. State militias)  Choctaw Nation  Cherokee  Creeks  Seneca 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  United Kingdom  The Canadas  Tecumseh's Confederacy  Bourbon Spain  Florida
Commanders and leaders	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  James Madison, President  MG Henry Dearborn  MG William H Harrison (Tippecanoe)  MG Andrew Jackson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  George, Prince Regent (for George III)  Lord Liverpool, Prime Minister  LTG Sir George Prevost, CinC N. America  Tecumseh, Shawnee, Multi-tribal leader
Strength	
US Army: 7,000 (start) – 35,800 (end) Rangers: 3,049; Militia: 458,453 Native allies: 125 Choctaw, others	British Army: 5,200 (start) – 48,160 (end) Irregulars :10,000; Militia: 4,000 Native allies: (e.g., Tecumseh) 10,000-15,000
Casualties	
2,200–3,721 KIA; 15,000 died all causes 4,505 WIA; 20,000 missing or captured 8 frigates CIA or destroyed; 278 privateers and 1,400 merchant ships captured.	1,160-1,960 KIA; 10,000 died all causes 3,679 WIA; 15,500 missing or captured Native allies: 10,000 dead all causes 4 frigates CIA; 1,344 merchant ships CIA

Political Background

18 May 1803 – 20 November 1815	Napoleonic Wars. Wars between the French Empire and its allies against other European powers formed into various coalitions, financed and usually led by the United Kingdom.
December 1803	Louisiana Purchase. France sold Louisiana to the United States despite objections by Great Britain and Spain that the purchase violates the terms of the Treaty of San Ildefonso.
1803–1807	Against US objections, the Royal Navy began to impress foreign sailors of British birth forcibly into military service because of personnel shortages from Napoleonic Wars.
27 October 1807- 17 April 1814	The Peninsular War (1807–1814) pitted Napoleon's empire and Bourbon Spain against the United Kingdom allied with the Portugal, for control of the Iberian Peninsula.
11 November 1807	The British government issued Orders in Council of 1807 to cut off maritime trade between France, British allies, and neutral nations, including the United States.
22 June 1807	Chesapeake Incident. The frigate HMS Leopard stopped and attempted to board the American frigate Chesapeake to search for Royal Navy deserters. Ultimately, the Leopard fired a broadside, killing or wounding 21 American seamen.
2 July 1807	President Jefferson issued a list of grievances against Great Britain.

22 December 1807	In order to secure American trade rights, the first version of Jefferson's Embargo Act is passed the following.
1 March 1809	The unpopular Embargo Act was repealed and replaced by the Non-Intercourse Act , which lifted costly restrictions on US vessels sailing abroad. The following year all remaining embargoes on struggling American shippers were removed.
1811–1812	So-called "War Hawks" in Congress, led by Speaker of the House Henry Clay and Rep. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, call for war against Great Britain as a means to assert American sovereignty and regain lost national honor.
16 June 1812	The British Orders in Council of 1807 are repealed, but too late to avert war with the United States.
18 June 1812	The United States of America declares war on Great Britain.

- Issues:**
- ◆ British manipulation in Northwest Indian War (1785–95) and agitation of Indian Nations in Northwest Territory ceded in Treaty of Paris 1783.
 - ◆ Impressment of American sailors into the Royal Navy.
 - ◆ The British **Orders in Council** of 1807 restricting American trade.
 - ◆ British military attention focused away on the Napoleonic Wars.
 - ◆ Agitation by US "War Hawks".
 - ◆ Weeks of delays in formal communications (minimum 2 weeks by sea).
 - ◆ General bad blood remaining from Revolutionary War (1775–1783).

- ◆ The British were surprised by the declaration of war. At first they couldn't spare many troops, but they did send over ships to blockade ports.
- ◆ Although likewise unprepared, the small US navy has some success.
- ◆ Americans invaded Canada, but General Isaac Brock tricked the Americans. By dressing his troops to look like well-trained Redcoats and letting a false "secret" message about thousands of Indian fighters fall into American hands. The Americans retreated.
- ◆ Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren proposed a diversionary assault against New Orleans to reduce American pressure on the Canadian front.
- ◆ The Creek War began on 30 August 1813 after 400-500 settlers at Fort Mims, Mississippi, were massacred.
- ◆ In September 1813, the Americans took control of Lake Erie and invaded Canada again, in search of the British and the Indian leader Tecumseh. At the Battle of the Thames, Tecumseh was killed and his confederation died.



Andrew Jackson, from Tennessee, led troops against the Creeks and defeated them at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend 27 March 1814.



He was made MG in charge of Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi.

British Strategy

- Wellington's defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Toulouse freed Great Britain to send some veteran regiments to America.
- They adopted a three-pronged strategy:
 1. Attack the Northern States from Canada.
 2. Occupy Washington, DC, and destroy public buildings.
 3. A secret expedition is sent from the UK against Louisiana to capture the mouths of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans.

Why New Orleans?

The course and watershed of the **Mississippi River**
The Father of Waters

200 Miles
400 Km

British Strategy for 1814

Map showing military movements from Canada (GB) and the District of Maine towards Washington D.C. and New York. A starburst indicates the location of the White House.

The Outcomes

- After routing American defenses at the Battle of Bladensburg, British troops in August occupied Washington, DC, and destroyed the Capitol, the Treasury Building, and the White House. They are beaten back near Baltimore and MG Robert Ross, who was to lead the New Orleans push, was killed.





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- MG Pakenham is sent from England to command the New Orleans attack and departs for Jamaica. He is due to arrive in Jamaica mid-Dec.
- Perhaps seeking glory, Admiral Cochrane loads newly arrived troops under MG Keane and sets sail.



U.S. NAVAL
INSTITUTE

The 8th of January

In 1814 the British took a trip,
Down south to the mouth of the mighty Mississip.
They had 11 thousand men looking to conspire,
After victories in Canada and setting Washington on fire.

The Brits, they were anchored in the Gulf of Mexico
With 8,000 troops, New Orleans would be their Jericho.
But at Lake Borgne they faced an American esprit de corps
Of a quintet of gunboats and a pair of sloops of war.
















Commodore Daniel Todd Patterson was his name,
Planning and commanding were his game.
It was at Lake Borgne where he would take his stand,
Against 12 hundred Red Coats with his small command.

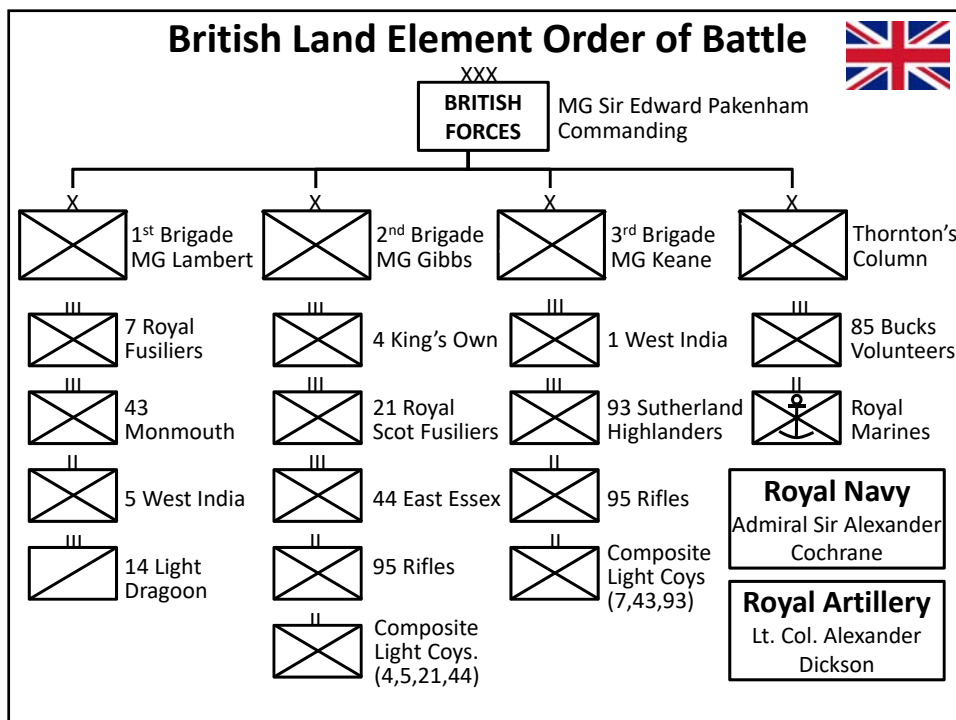
Each time the British tried to row ashore,
The Americans fired back with their 4-pounder bore.
Despite the valiant fight, the British finally got ashore,
After capturing all the gunboats and a pair of sloops of war.

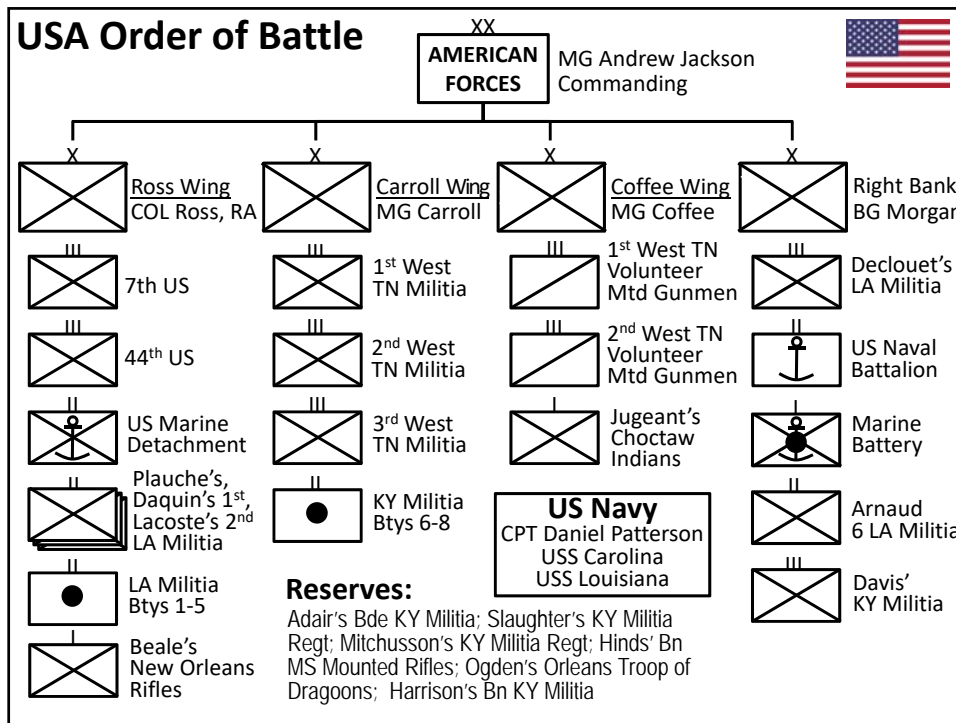
Now as the British tried to catch a little breather,
The Navy said no to rest and no to leisure.
Jackson said they shall not upon our soil sleep,
And so came the plan for the British to be beat.

It was in December they signed the Treaty of Ghent,
For the Brits and Yanks, of that treaty there was no hint.
There was no Twitter or Internet that year,
So the Red Coats tried to take Mobile which was near.



The British withdrew after hearing about the treaty.
Since the United States troops had beaten them completely.
Patterson and his sailors fought long into the action.
And for his efforts he would be awarded the rank of captain.

The Battle of New Orleans	
Belligerents	
 United States (incl. State militias)  Creoles, Frontiersmen, Free Slaves  Barataria privateers (Pirates)  Choctaw Nation	 United Kingdom
Major units involved	
 7 th Infantry Regiment (Kentucky)  44 th Infantry Regiment (Louisiana)	4 th , 21 st , 44 th , and 85 th Regiments (experienced) 1 st and 5 th West India (new in America) 93 rd newly formed from the Cape Colony 7 th , 43 rd , and 14 th Light Dragoons (reserve)
Commanders and leaders	
 Major General Andrew Jackson  MGs William Carroll and John Coffee  BG David Morgan, COL George Ross  Captain Jean Lafitte & many others	 Major General Sir Edward Pakenham †  Major General Gibbs †  Major General John Lambert  Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane
Strength	
5,700	~ 8,000
Casualties	
313 dead, 30 wounded 19 missing or captured	285 dead, 1,265 wounded 484 missing or captured















American Chain of Command

			
Major General Andrew Jackson	Major General William Carroll	Major General John Coffee	Colonel George T. Ross
			
Brigadier General David B. Morgan	Major General Jacques Villere	Commodore Daniel Patterson	Captain Jean Laffite

The Battle of Lake Borgne, 13-14 December 1814

Belligerents	
 United States (incl. State militias)	 United Kingdom
Major units involved	
 5 gunboats <i>Nos. 156, 163, 5, 23, 162</i>  Sloop-of-War <i>USS Alligator</i>  Sloop-of-War <i>USS Tickler</i> U.S. Navy U.S. Marines	 North American Station 42 armed open boats (from British fleet) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Navy • Royal Marines 3 gigs, each with long brass 12 pounder
Commanders and leaders	
 Commodore Daniel Patterson, USN  Lieutenant Thomas Jones, USN (WIA)	 Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane  Commander Nicholas Lockyer, RN (WIA)
Strength	
180 men	1,200 sailors and Royal Marines



ATLAS

TO THE
HISTORICAL MEMOIR OF THE WAR
IN
WEST FLORIDA AND LOUISIANA.

BY MAJOR A. LACARRIERE LATOUR,
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER IN THE LATE SEVENTH MILITARY DISTRICT
UNITED STATES' ARMY.

CONTAINING

<p>* PLATE II. A General Map of the Seat of War in Louisiana and West Florida, showing all the fortified points and encampments of both the American and British armies, also the march of general Jackson's army on his expedition against Pensacola.</p> <p>PLATE III. A Plan showing the attack made by a British squadron on fort Bowyer, at Mobile Point, on the 15th September, 1814.</p> <p>PLATE IV. A Plan of the Attack made by the British barges, on five American gun-boats, on the 14th December, 1814.</p> <p>PLATE V. A Map, showing the landing of the British army, its several encampments and fortifications on the Mississippi, and the works they erected on their retreat, as also the several posts, encampments and fortifications, made by the several corps of the American army during the whole campaign.</p>	<p>PLATE VI. A Plan of the Attack made by major-general Andrew Jackson, on a division of the British army, commanded by major-general J. Keane, on the 23d of December, 1814, at seven o'clock at night.</p> <p>PLATE VII. A Plan of the Attack and Defence of the American lines below New Orleans, on the 8th of January, 1815.</p> <p>PLATE VIII. A Plan of Fort St. Philip, at Plaquemine, showing the position of the British vessels when bombarding the fort.</p> <p>PLATE IX. A Map of Mobile Point, and of part of the Bay, and of Dauphin Island, showing the position of the land and naval British forces investing fort Bowyer, the batteries erected, the trenches opened at the moment the summons was made to the garrison.</p>
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* Plate No. 1, is the Portrait of General Jackson, bound with the Historical Memoir.

PHILADELPHIA:
PUBLISHED BY JOHN CONRAD AND CO.
1816.

DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, to wit:

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the sixth day of March, in the fortieth year of the independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1816, **ALEXIS LACARRIERE LATOUR**, of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of an Atlas, the right whereof he claims as Author, in the words following, to wit:

Atlas to the Historical Memoir of the war in West Florida and Louisiana. By major A. Lacarriere Latour, principal engineer in the late seventh military district United States' army;

CONTAINING

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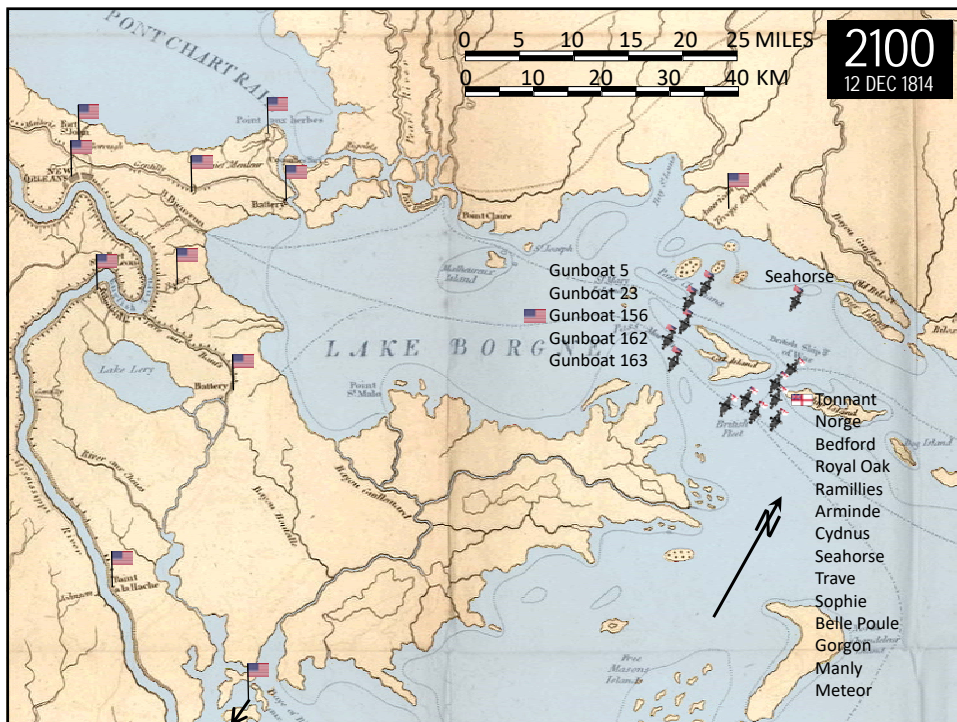
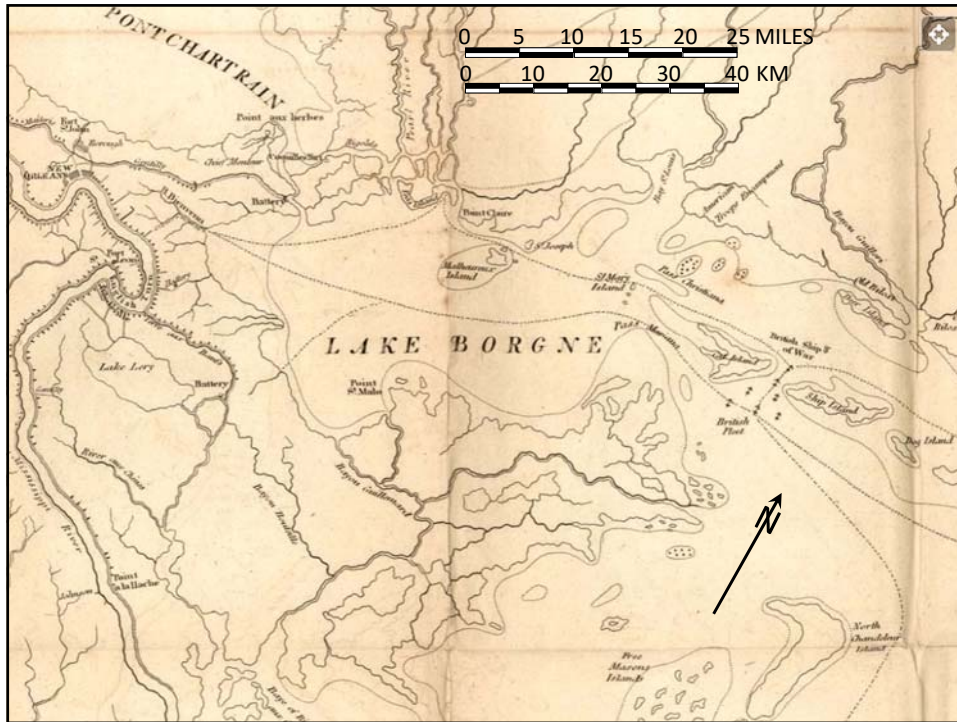
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In conformity to the act of congress of the United States, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned;" And also to the act, entitled, "An act supplementary to an act, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

DAVID CALDWELL,
Clerk of the District of Pennsylvania.

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Convulsion Class Gunboat (Mortar Vessel)



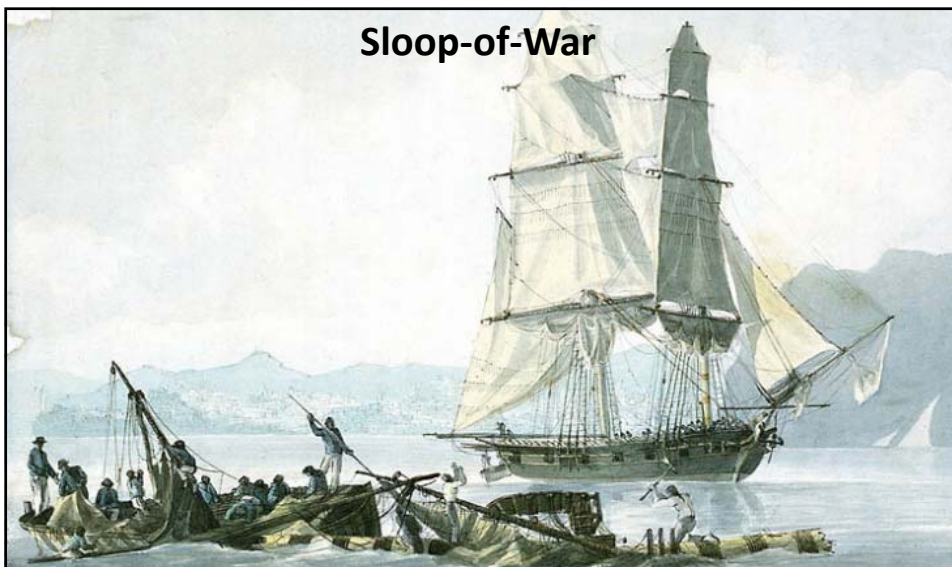
60' x 17' with hold 7' deep



A gunboat was a ketch rigged mortar boat built for shore bombardment duties.

Armament: Gun Deck 4: British 18-Pound Carronade (some had 24 and 32-pounder long guns, 6 and 12-pounder carronades, and swivel guns)
Gun Deck 1: British 10" Mortar

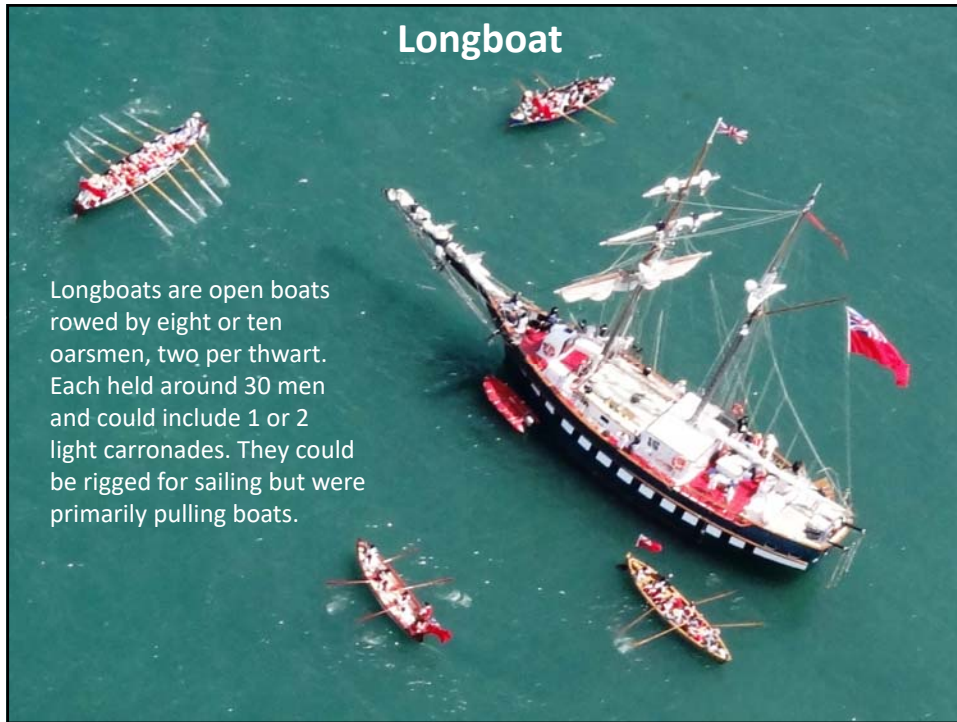
Sloop-of-War



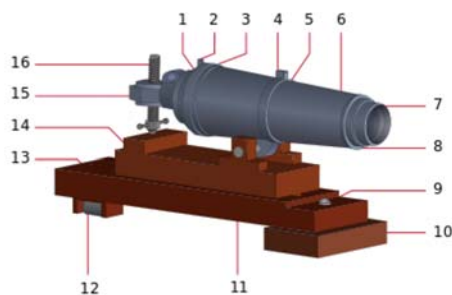
A sloop-of-war was a warship with a single gun deck that carried up to eighteen guns. As the British rating system covered all vessels with 20 guns and above, this meant that the term *sloop-of-war* encompassed all the unrated combat vessels.

Longboat

Longboats are open boats rowed by eight or ten oarsmen, two per thwart. Each held around 30 men and could include 1 or 2 light carronades. They could be rigged for sailing but were primarily pulling boats.



Naval armament (Carronade)



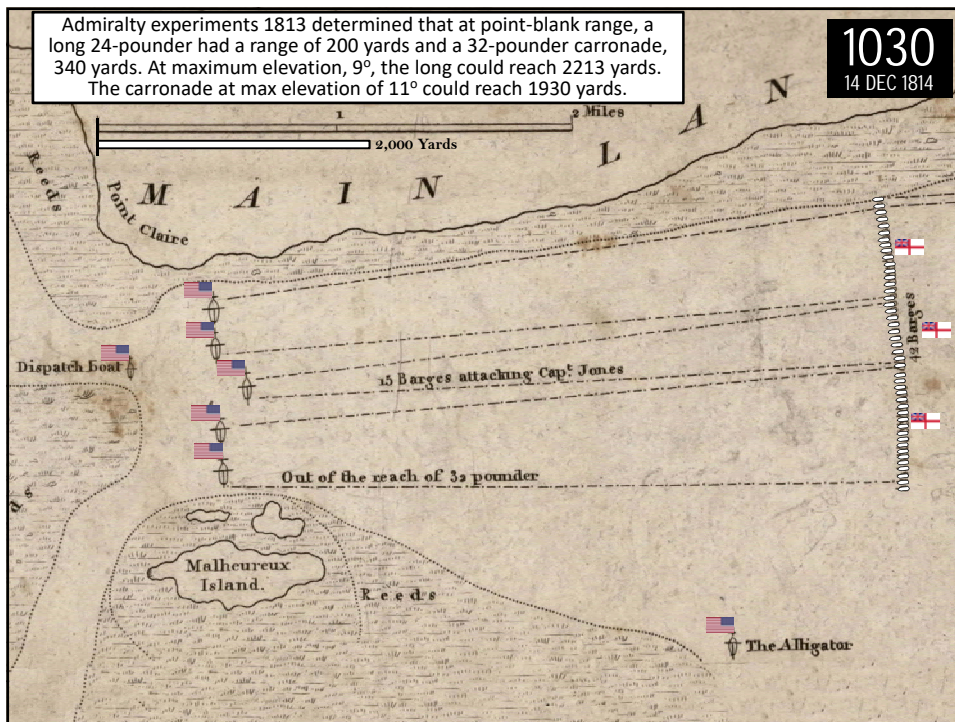
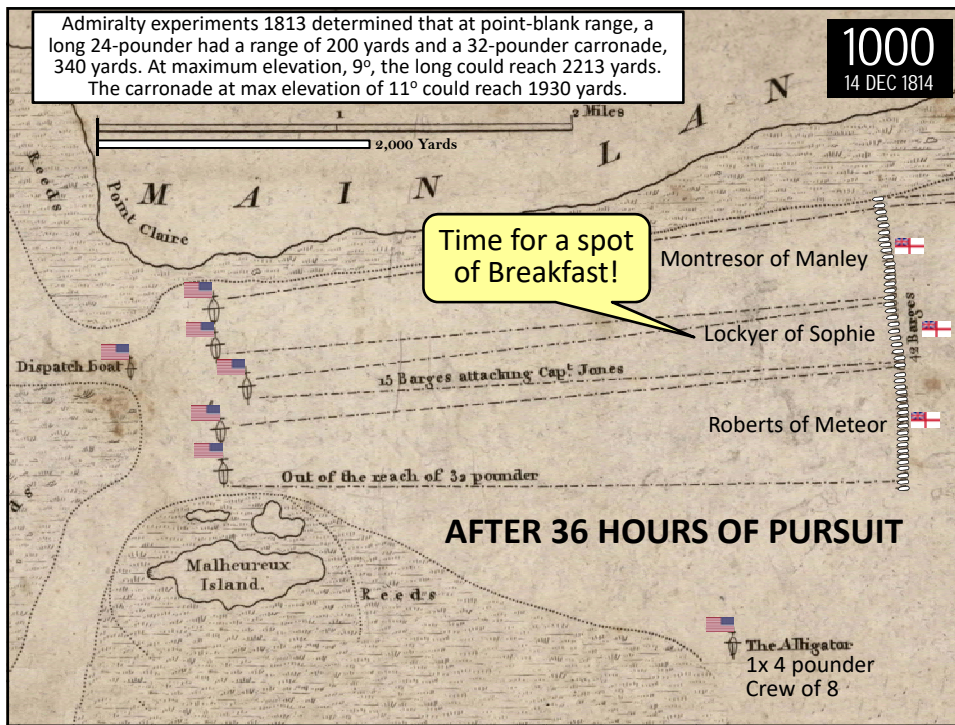
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Breech bolt | 9. Horizontal rotation axis |
| 2. Aft sight | 10. Chock |
| 3. Vent hole | 11. Vertical rotation axis |
| 4. Front sight | 12. Wheel |
| 5. First reinforcing ring | 13. Mobile pedestal |
| 6. Barrel | 14. Carriage |
| 7. Muzzle | 15. Pommel |
| 8. Second reinforcing ring | 16. Elevation thread |

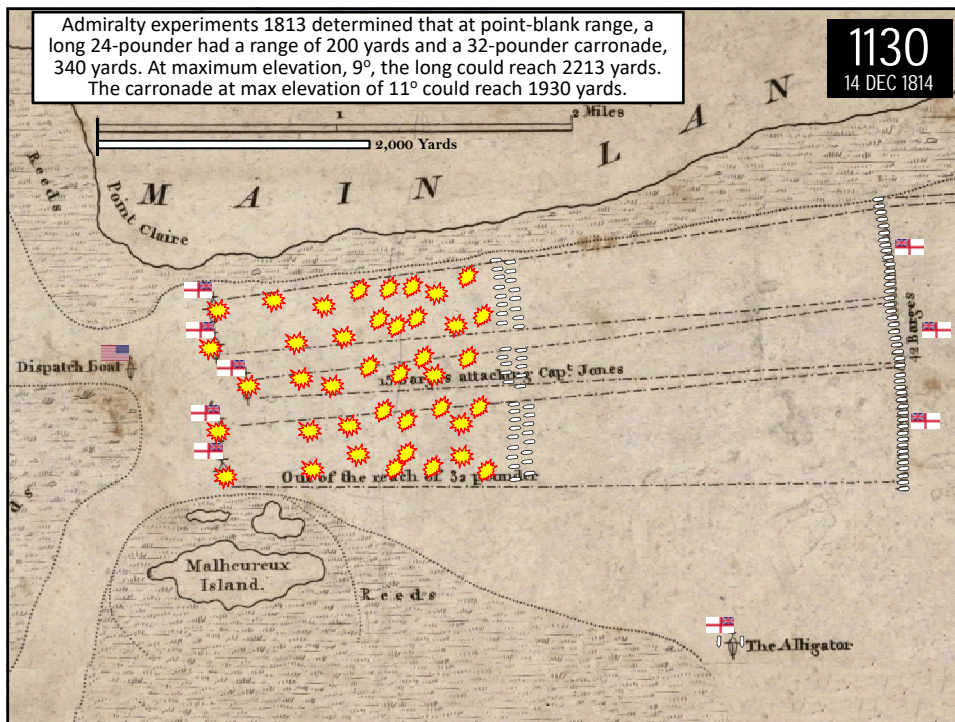
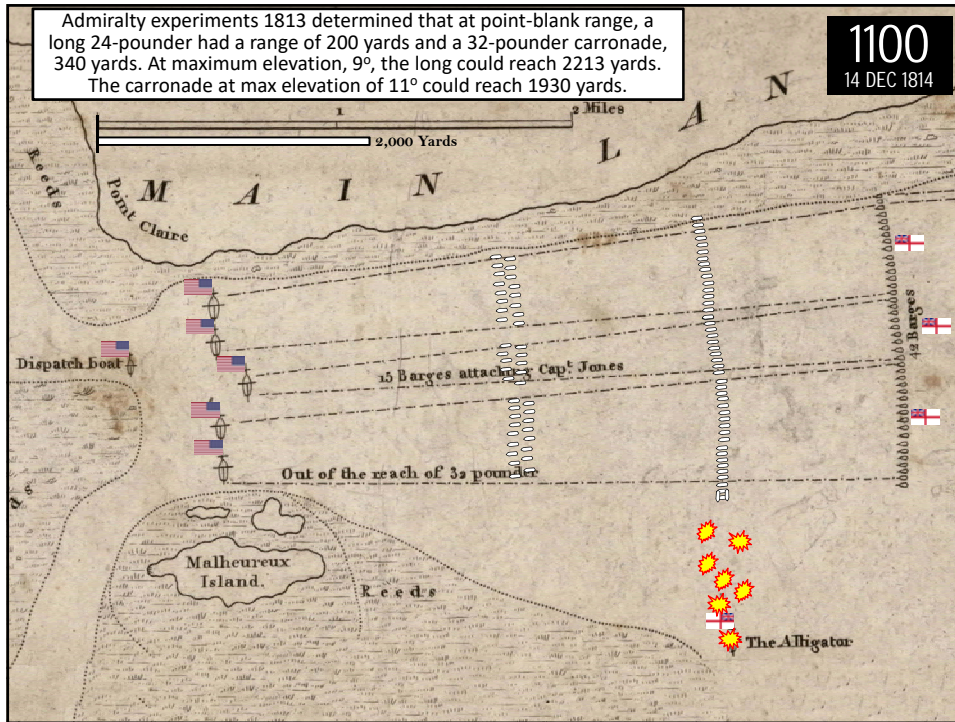


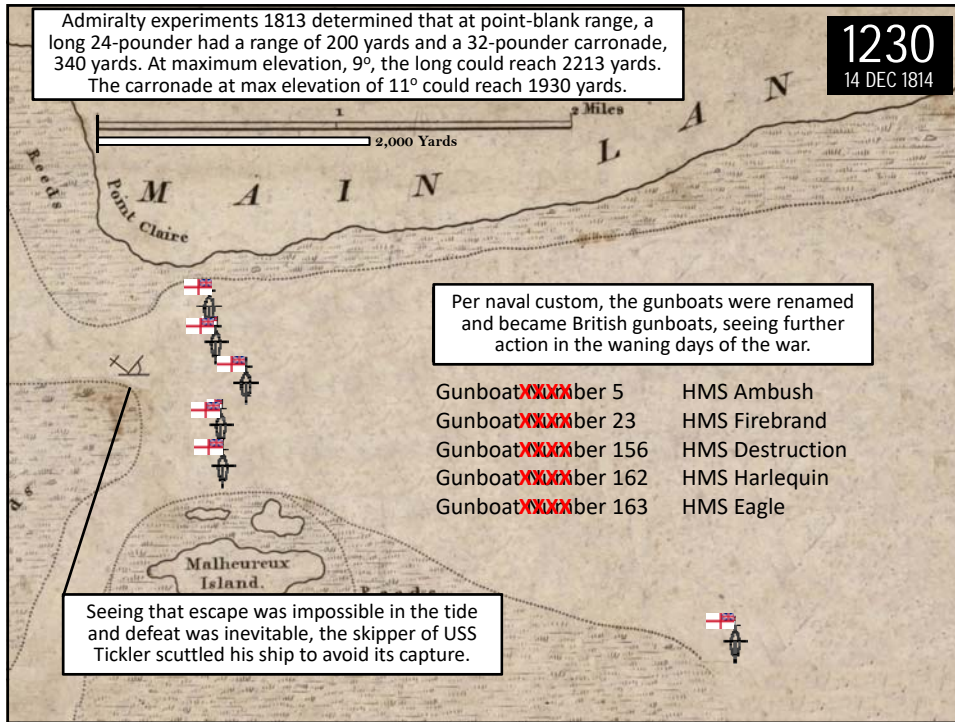
68-Pound Carronade
(short, smoothbore, cast iron cannon,
Carron Company, Falkirk, Scotland)

A carronade was much shorter and a third to a quarter of the weight of an equivalent long gun. Carronades were manufactured in the usual naval gun sizes: 6-, 12-, 18-, 24-, 32-, and 42-pounders, with 68-pounders used on HMS Victory at Trafalgar.

The standard package of shot per gun was 25 roundshot, 15 barshot, 15 double-headed shot, 10 "single" grapeshot and 10 "single" canister shot.















USS 156
 14 December 1814
 • 1x 24 pounder long gun
 • 2x 12 pounder carronades
 • 4x swivel guns
 Model at Washington Navy Yard

The Battle of Lake Borgne, 13-14 December 1814

Belligerents

 United States (incl. State militias)  United Kingdom

Major units involved

<p> 5 gunboats <i>Nos. 156, 163, 5, 23, 162</i>  Sloop-of-War <i>USS Alligator</i>  Sloop-of-War <i>USS Tickler</i> U.S. Navy U.S. Marines</p>	<p> North American Station 42 armed open boats (from British fleet) Royal Navy Royal Marines</p>
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Commanders and leaders


<p> Commodore Daniel Patterson, USN  Lieutenant Thomas Jones, USN (WIA)</p>	<p> Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane  Commander Nicholas Lockyer, RN (WIA)</p>
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Strength


180 men	1200 sailors and Royal Marines
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Casualties

<p>5 gunboats captured 1 sloop captured (<i>USS Alligator</i>) 1 sloop scuttled (<i>USS Tickler</i>) 6 killed 35 wounded 86 captured</p>	<p>2 armed boats sunk unknown armed boats damaged 17 killed 77 wounded</p>
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The Commanders




Captain Nicholas Lockyer


- Commanding HMS Sophie, Lockyer visited Pirate Jean Laffite in September to bribe him to join the British. Laffite pretended to agree but informed the Americans.
- On 13-14 December 1814, Lockyer led 45 boats containing some 1,200 sailors and marines attacking Jones' flotilla of five gun-vessels after 36 hours of rowing.
- Capt. Lockyer was seriously wounded boarding Jones' flagship.
- The prize ships were a flotilla equivalent to a 36-gun frigate, with command given to Capt. Lockyer.
- His injuries kept him out of the rest of the campaign. He was not proclaimed out of medical danger (many wounded died from sepsis) until January 1815.
- Lockyer was promoted to post captain in 1815 for his service.
- He was appointed a Companion of The Most Honourable Order of the Bath (CB) in 1815 and received a pension for his wounds.

Lieutenant (later Commodore) Thomas ap Catesby Jones

- A POW in Bermuda for 3 months, Thomas ap Catesby Jones later received honors for bravery. The musket ball in his shoulder from the battle was never removed.
- In 1826, Commodore Jones commanding sloop-of-war Peacock, signed a treaty with Queen regent Ka'ahumanu and other chiefs of the Kingdom of Hawai'i.
- From 1841 to 1844, Jones commanded the United States Pacific Squadron, and again from 1848 to 1850.
- In 1848, Jones arrived in Mazatlán just at the end of the Mexican–American War, maintaining order until he could transport those who had aided the United States in that war to Monterey.
- He provided a US Navy presence in San Francisco during the chaotic Gold Rush days.
- Like Custer, he faced a political court-martial (in Jones' case, for mistreating junior officers), but was pardoned.

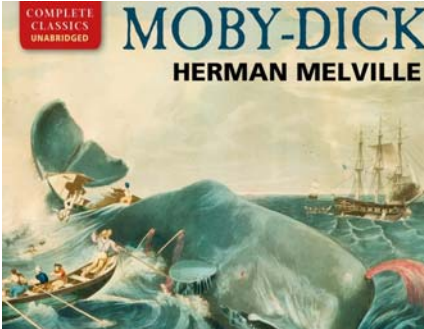


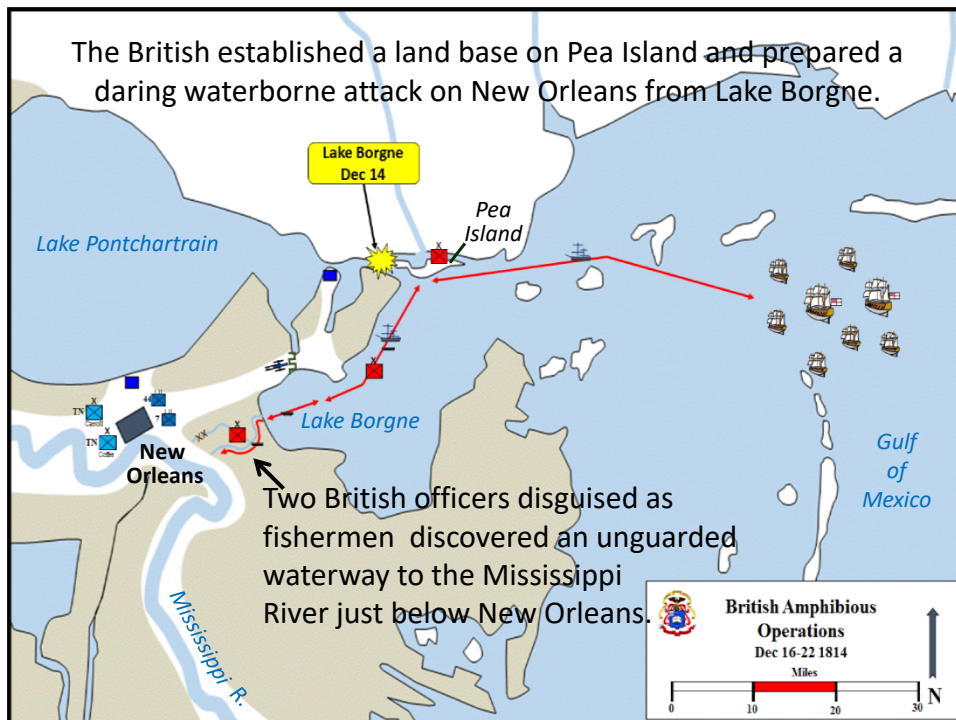
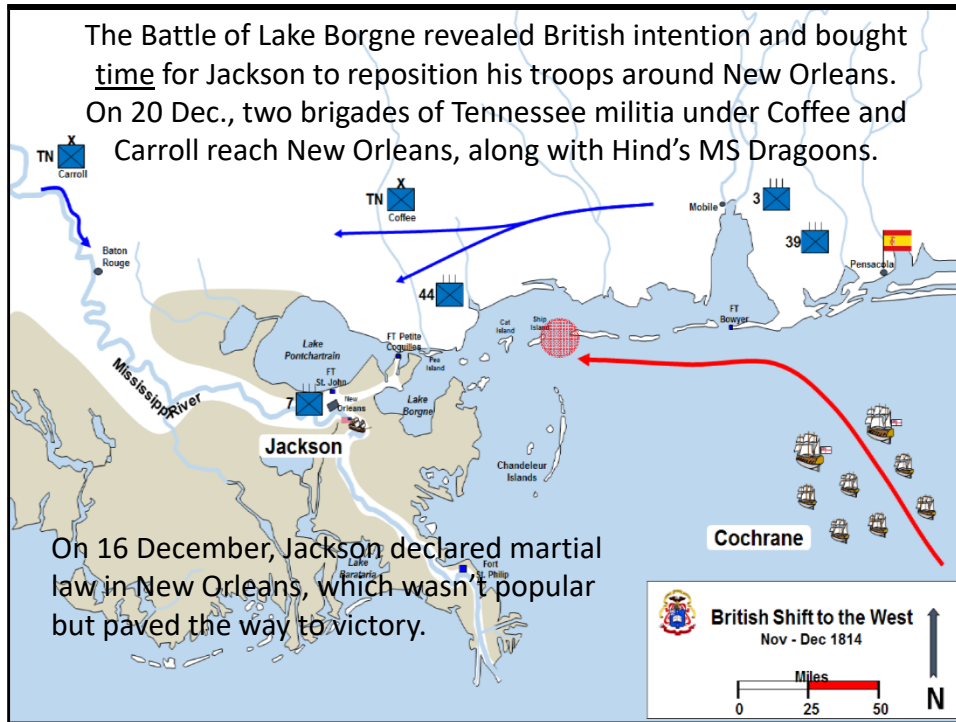
Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones



- In 1826, Commodore Jones commanding sloop-of-war Peacock, signed a treaty with Queen regent Ka'ahumanu and other chiefs of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. In 1827, Peacock was severely damaged in an attack by a whale.
- Appointed commander of the United States Exploring Expedition in 1836, delays prompted him to resign the appointment.
- As Commander US Pacific Squadron in 1843 he heard that British Captain Lord George Paulet had seized the Kingdom of Hawaii. His fleet arrived July 22, 1843 and restored the king July 31, hosting all parties to dinner aboard his ship.

- In 1843, Jones returned a young deserter, Herman Melville, to the United States from the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii).
 - Later, Melville modelled "Commodore J—" in Moby-Dick, and the commodore in White-Jacket after Jones. The Peacock's 1827 damage by a whale under Jones's command, inspired Melville to write Moby-Dick.
 - He also inspired Melville's "The Affidavit."



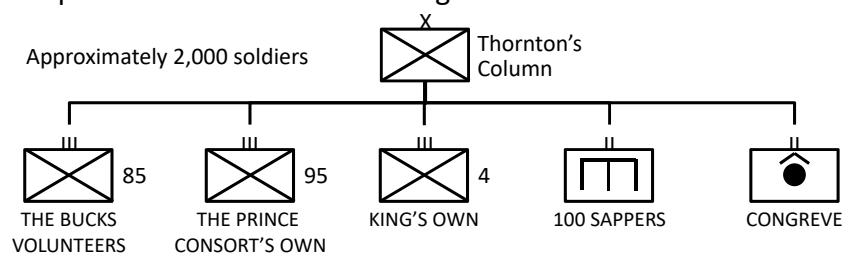


Establishing the plan

- The decision made, Cochrane and Keane agreed to land and consolidate the expeditionary force on Pea Island, 10 miles east of the Rigolets and 20 miles from Bayou Bienvenue.
- Landing began 16 December and finished 21 December. RN seaman rowed barges packed with 200 men per vessel, 6,000 soldiers, 10 hours one way from the anchorage to Pea Island. All luxury items, including tents, were left on board ship due to the transport situation.
- On Pea Island, Keane organised troops into three brigades, with a brigade to be transported to the landing in each lift.
- The lead brigade would be in shallow draft barges that could continue immediately down Bayou Bienvenue. Once at the Mississippi, the barges would return for the second brigade. With all brigades landed, the barges would move artillery, etc.

Execution

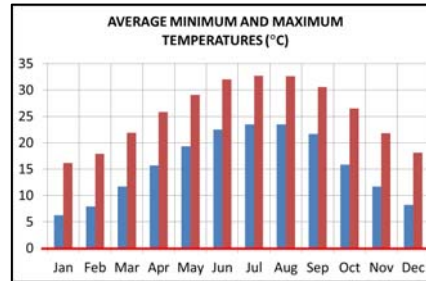
- The 1st Brigade under COL William Thornton (85th Foot) departed Pea Island the morning of 22 December.



- Major General Keane (Actg CinC) accompanied the brigade.
- Admiral Cochrane tracked the progress from a small schooner.
- Weather was a factor from the start as rain filled the barges with ankle-deep water. Small charcoal fires on the stern of each barge were extinguished at night. In the midst of this suffering and anguish the flotilla halted and took a one hour pause just before nightfall.

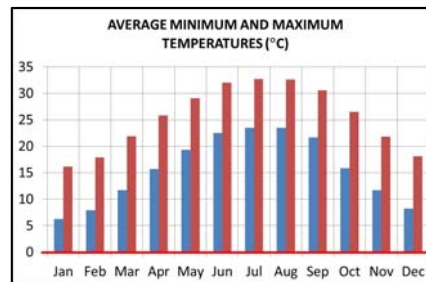
Unforeseen consequences

- It was mid winter, with cold nights and severe AM frosts. Pea Island offered no shelter and troops brought none.
- West Indian troops, unused to cold weather, took sick or simply went to sleep at night and died before morning.
- Humidity lingers around 80%, with frequent rains. When rain stopped, wind increased.
- Movement on Bayou Bienvenue proved challenging. Initially moving five abreast, barges were soon forced into single file.
- At Bayou Bazant, they could no longer row, but had to punt.
- Eventually making landfall after nearly 20 hours afloat, they had to disembark by clambering from barge to barge.



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Then, things got **worse**.

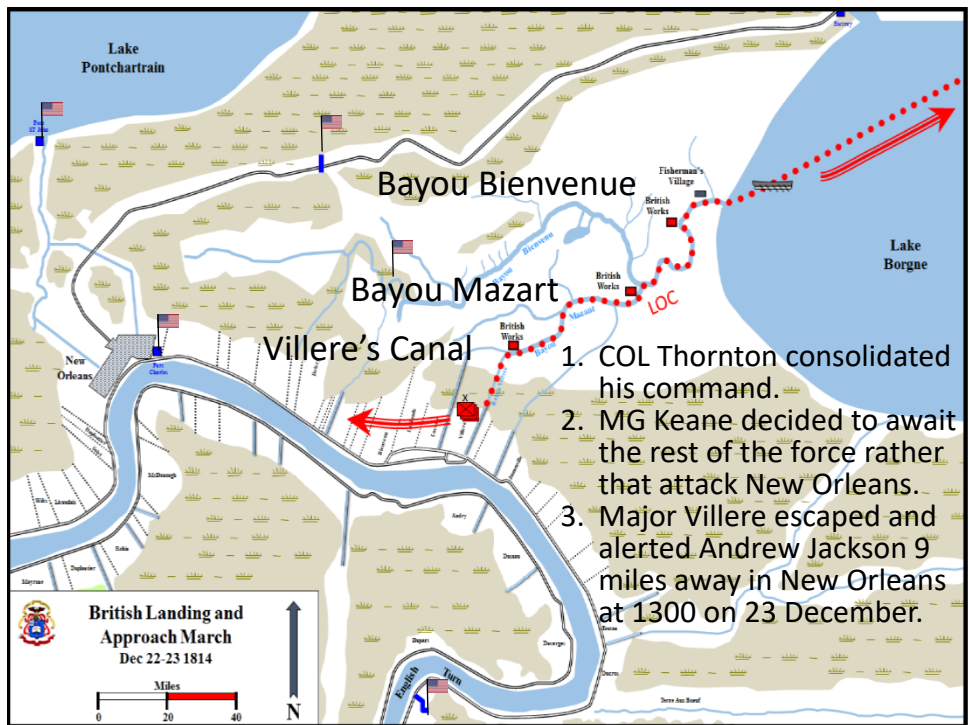
- The formerly confined, exhausted soldiers now moved single file across swamp or marshy ground, cutting through thick reeds and frequently stopping to bridge streams or sloughs.
- An hour and a half later, at 0600 on 23 December, the 1st Bde reached the edge of Villere Plantation and deployed tactically.

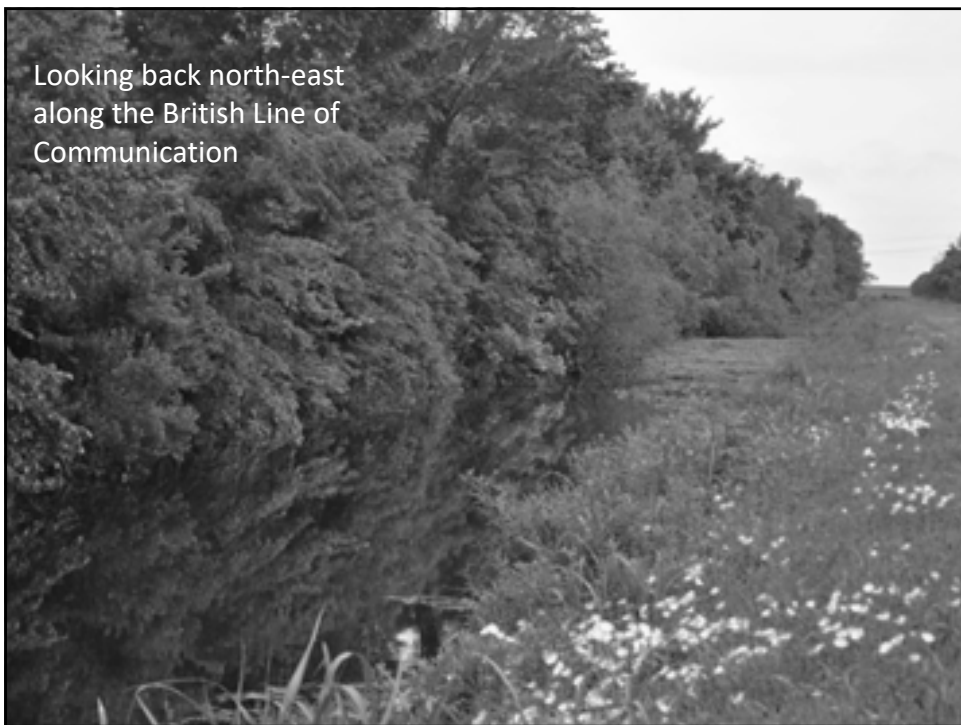
Following a recon when he arrived in New Orleans, Andrew Jackson had ordered that all major avenues be blocked. This included Bayou Bienvenue and the Villere Canal, which he entrusted to Major Gabriel Villere, whose father commanded the Louisiana Militia and owned the Villere Plantation. Villere *chose not to execute* Jackson's orders, perhaps because the family's plantation depended heavily upon the bayou and canal for moving the plantation's sugar cane and other products. Villere sent a small 12-man detachment to guard the entrance at the Fisherman's village, who were routed on 21 December by the approaching lead British brigade.


















- The formerly confined, exhausted soldiers now moved single file across swamp or marshy ground, cutting through thick reeds and frequently stopping to bridge streams or sloughs.
- An hour and a half later, at 0600 on 23 December, the 1st Bde reached the edge of Villere Plantation and deployed tactically.

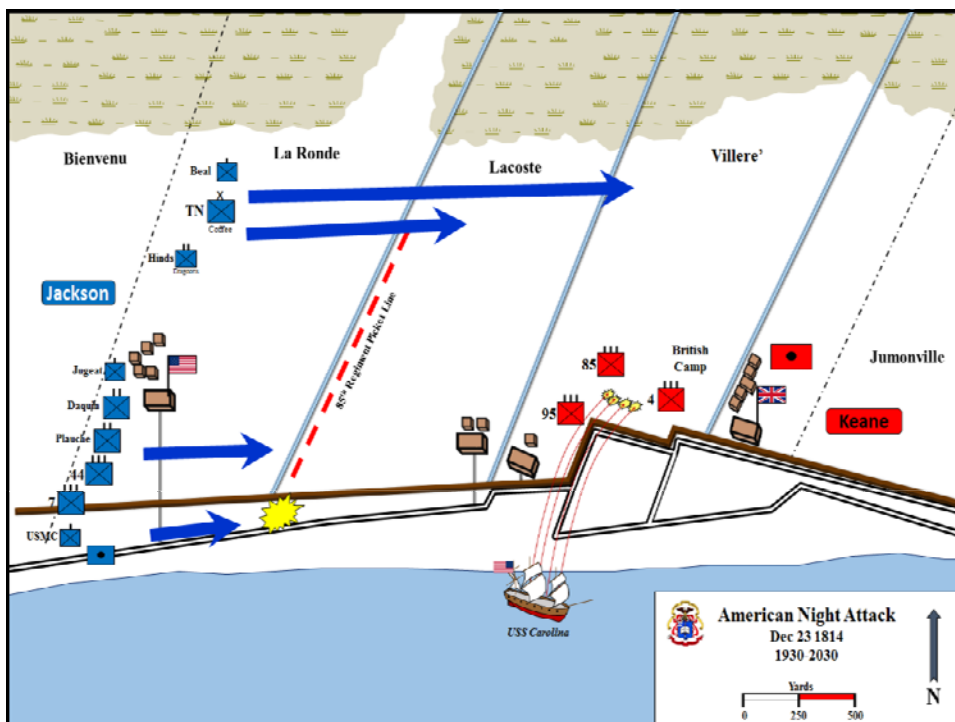
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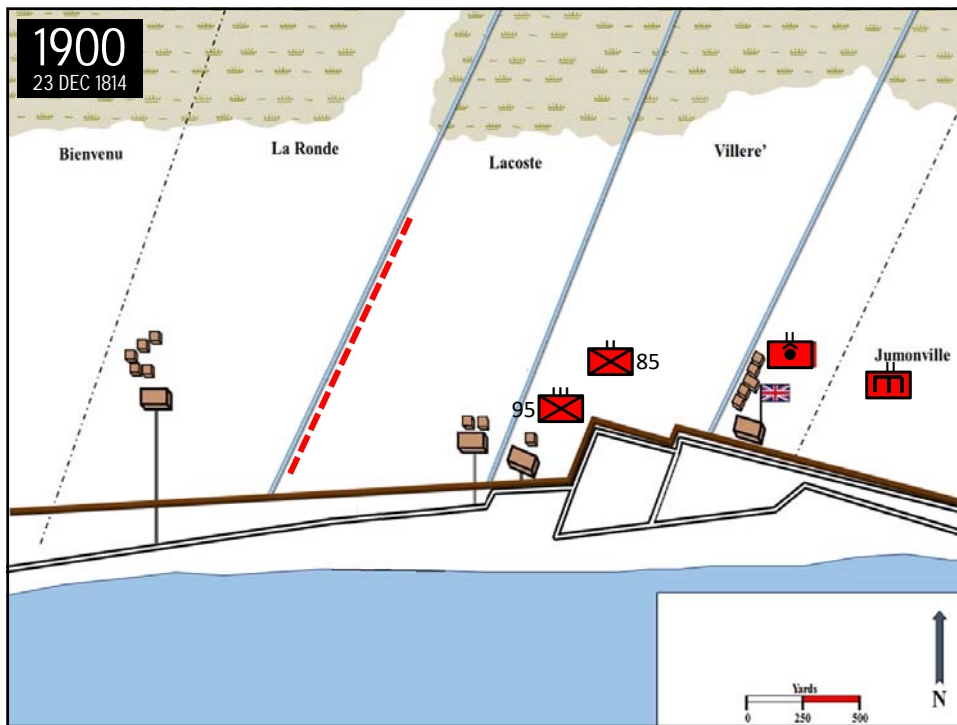
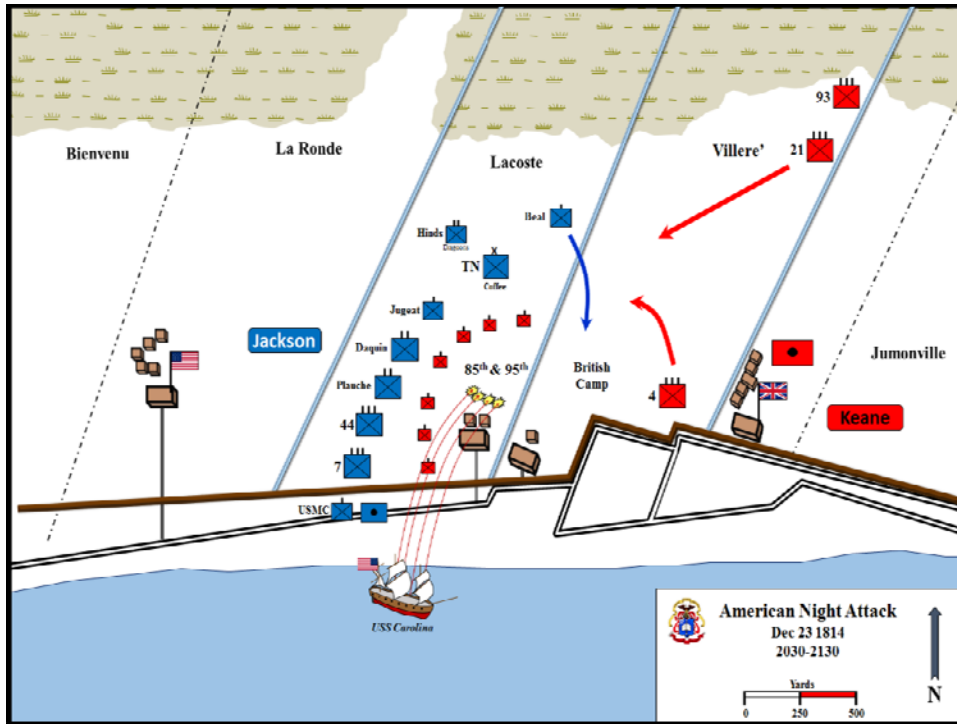
- The advance guard surprised and captured Major Villere.

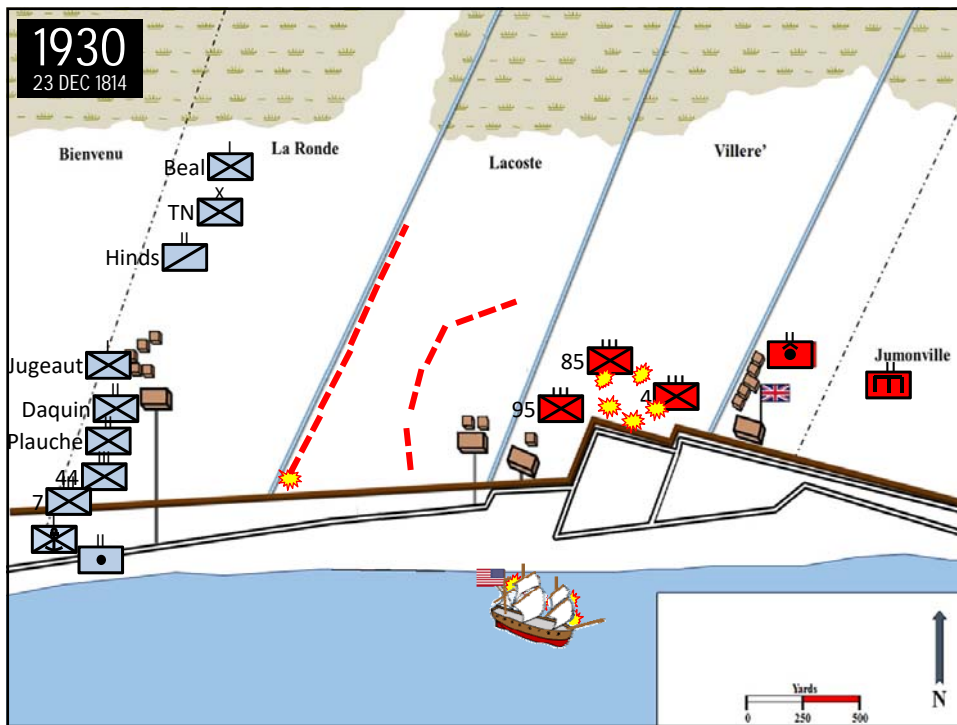
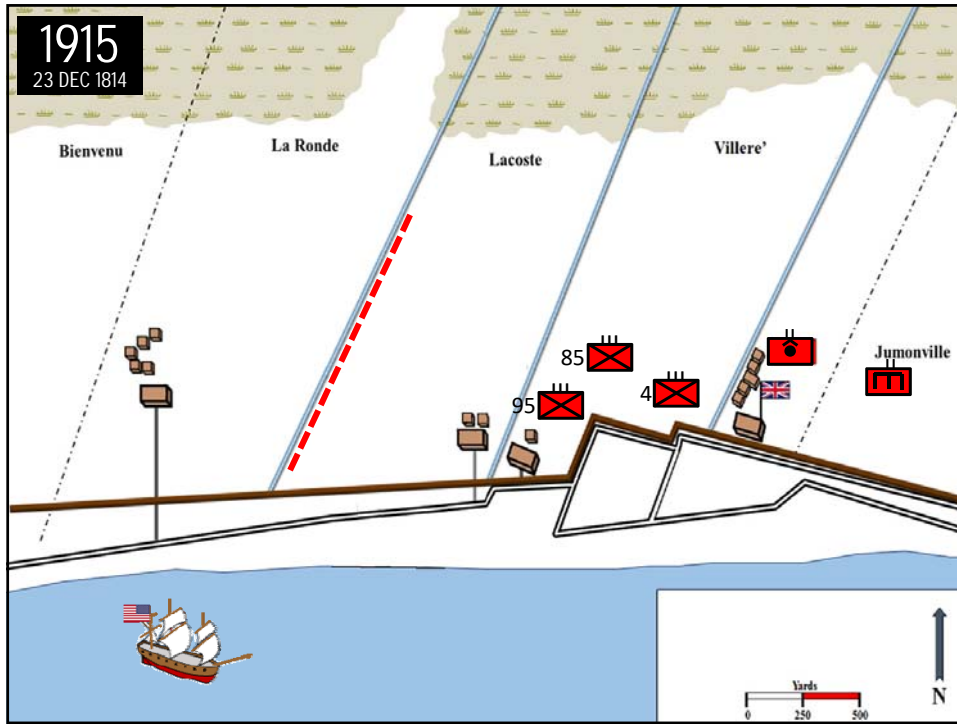


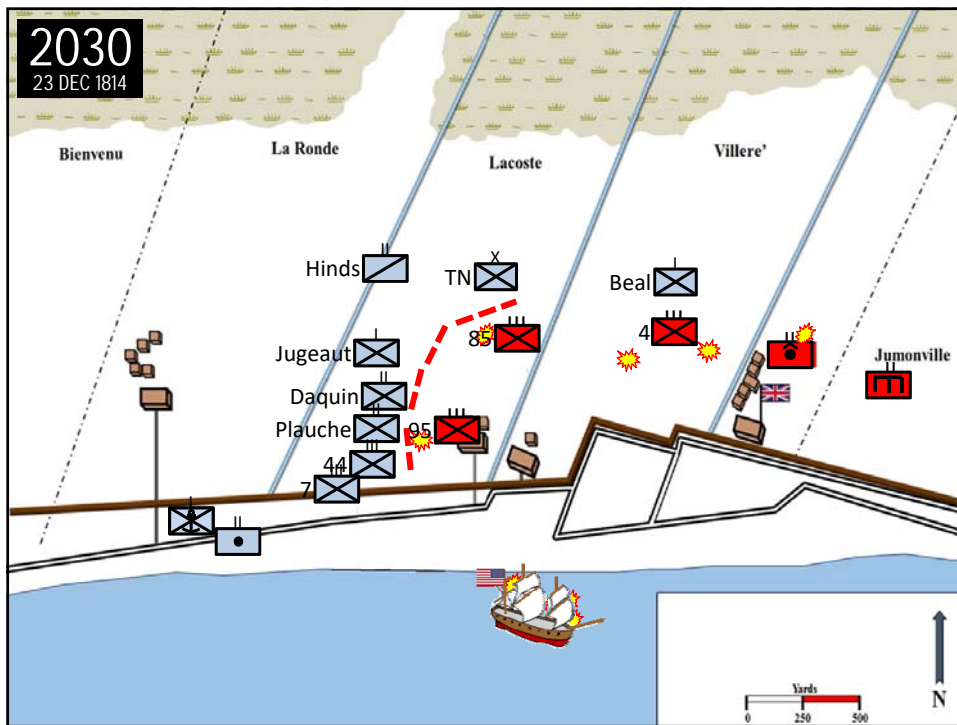
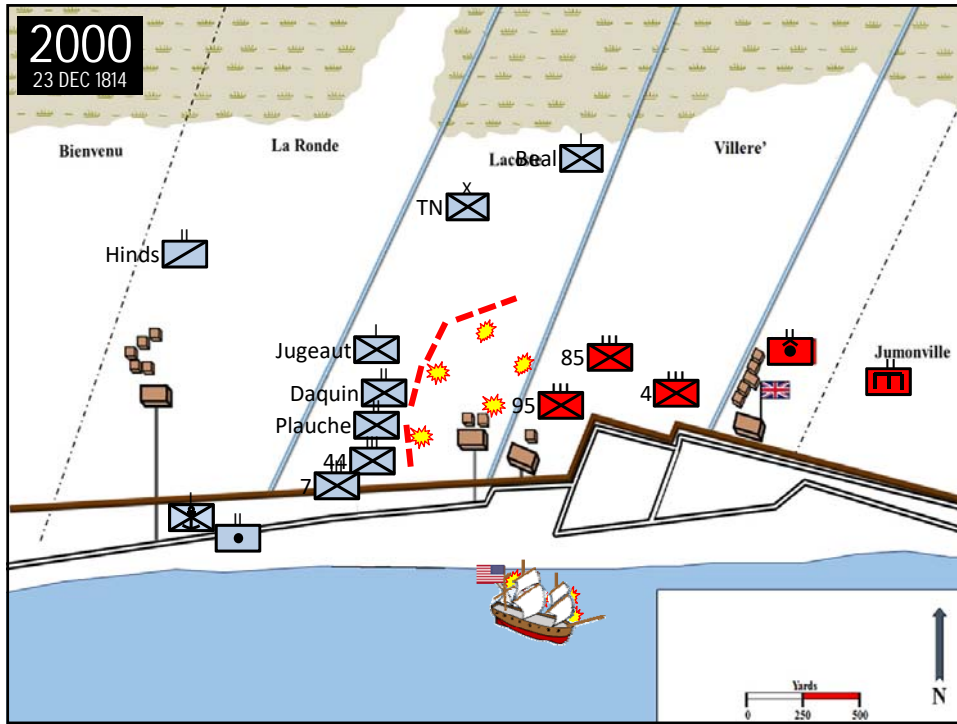


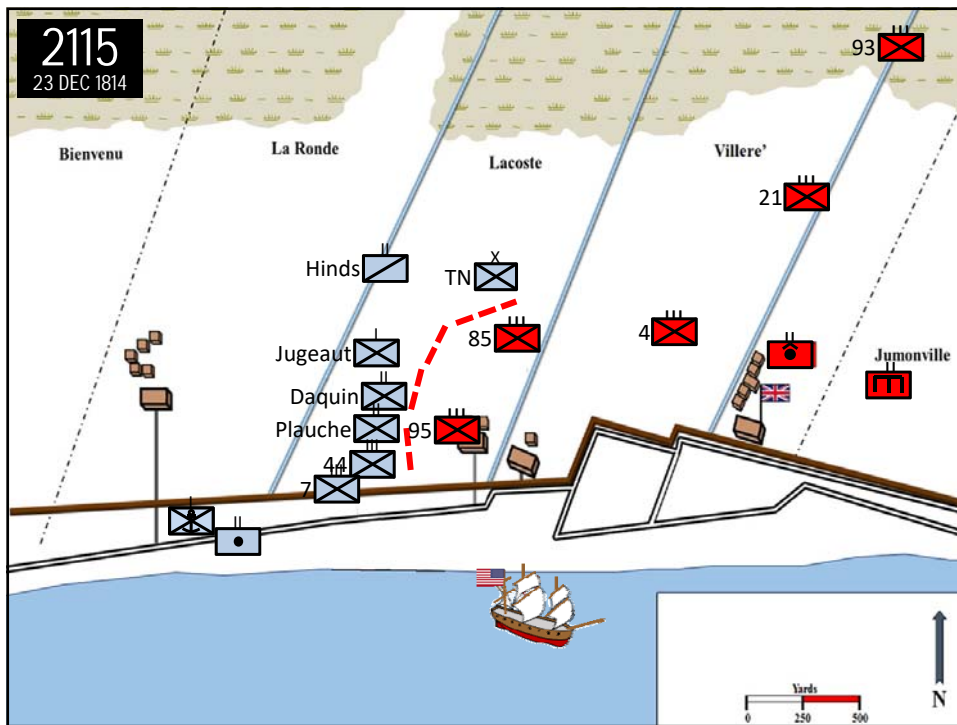
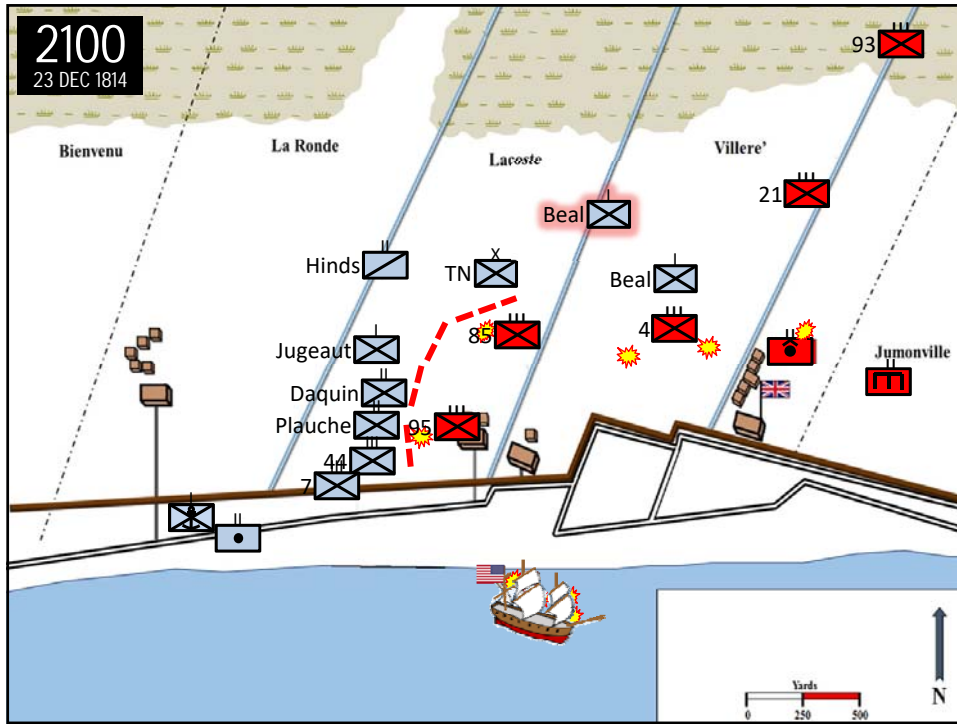
Jackson's Night Attack, 13 December 1814	
Belligerents	
 United States (incl. State militias)	 United Kingdom
Major units involved	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  7th and 44th US Infantry (regulars)  US Artillery (regulars)  US Marines (detachment)  Coffee's Tennessee Mounted Rifle Bde  Carrol's West Tennessee Militia Bde  Hind's Mississippi Dragoons  Louisiana Militia (various units)  CPT Jugeau's Choctaw Indians  USS (the schooner) Carolina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Thornton's 1st Brigade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85th The Bucks Volunteer Rifles • 95th Prince Consort's Own Rifles • 4th King's Own Rifles • Miscellaneous others  Keane's 3rd Brigade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Royal Scot Fusiliers (enter 2100) • 93rd Sutherland Highlanders (2100)
Commanders and leaders	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Major General Andrew Jackson  Major General John Coffee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  MG John Keane, Actg CinC, 3d Bde Cdr  COL William Thornton, Thornton's Bde
Strength	
2,287 men	2,000-2,500

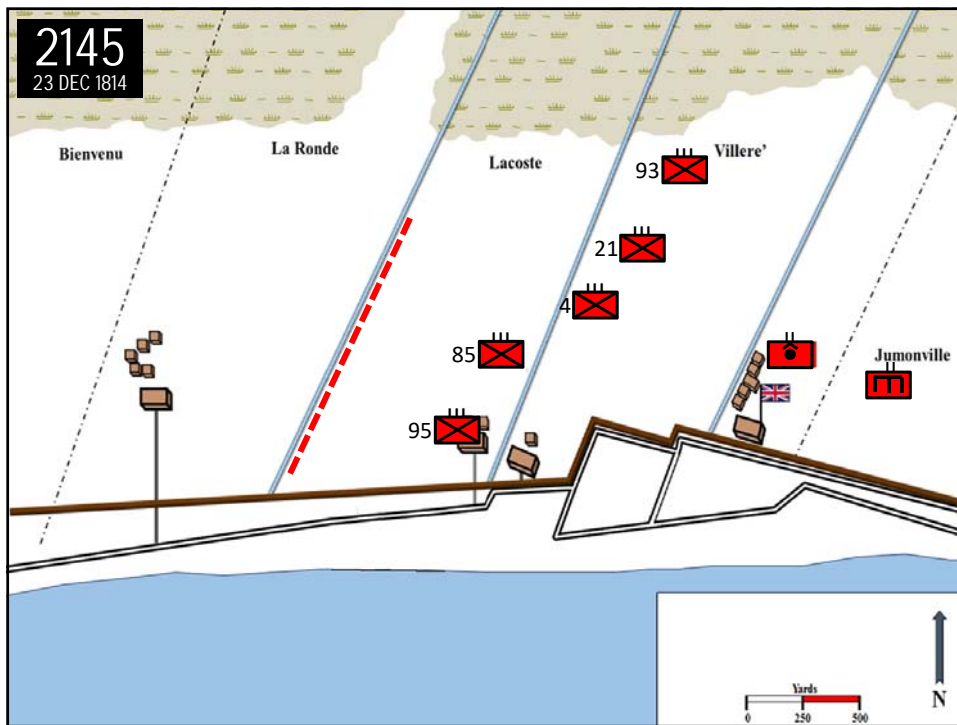
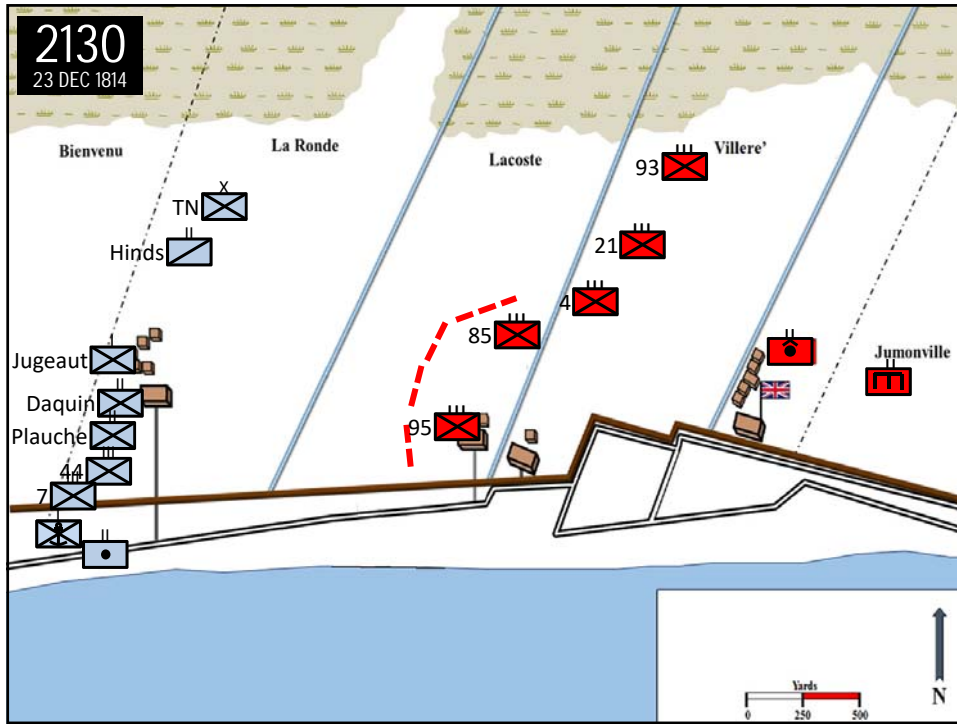












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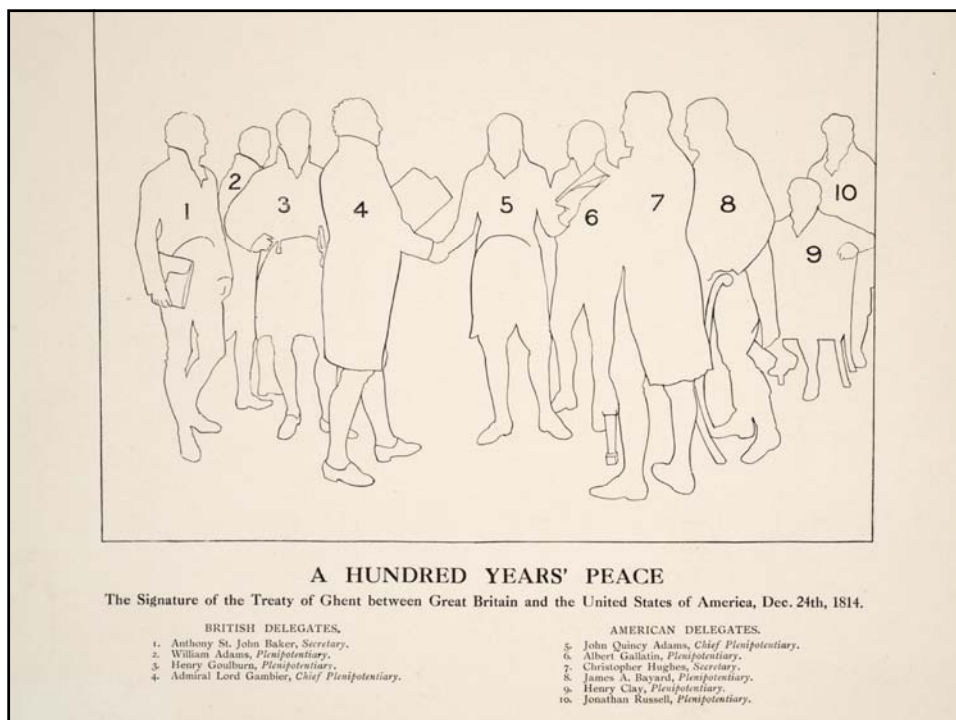
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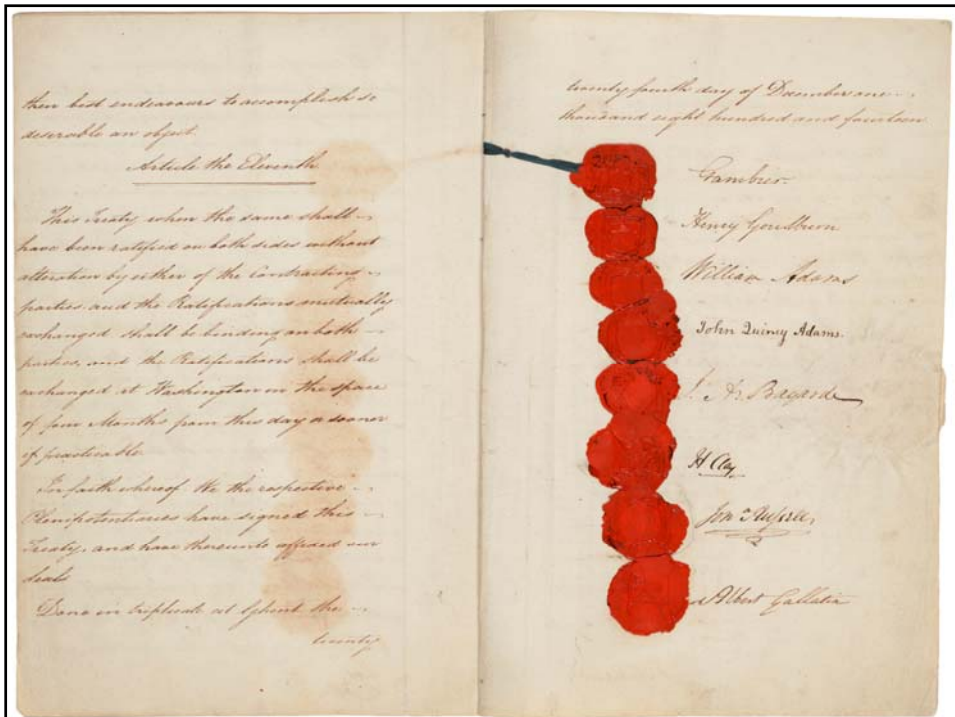
2,287 men	2,000-2,500
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Casualties

24 KIA, 115 WIA, 74 MIA (9% casualties)	46 KIA, 167 WIA, 64 MIA (11-14% casualties)
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14 December 1814 in a land far, far away



The Treaty of Ghent

(United Netherlands, now Belgium)

- The decisive American naval victory at the Battle of Plattsburg in New York on Lake Champlain forced the UK to abandon its invasion of the U.S. northeast and retreat to Canada, leading to signing of the Treaty of Ghent on 24 December 1814.
- The War of 1812 was officially over.
- The basic terms of the treaty was *status quo ante bellum*.
- Twelve days were set (the “time late clause”) for the world to gain knowledge of the treaty of Ghent to get out.
- News of the treaty took almost two months to cross the Atlantic. British military leaders were aware that talks were proceeding but not the result. They wanted to “set the table.”
- The American public was to hear of the Battle of New Orleans and the Treaty of Ghent at approximately the same time.



Change of Command



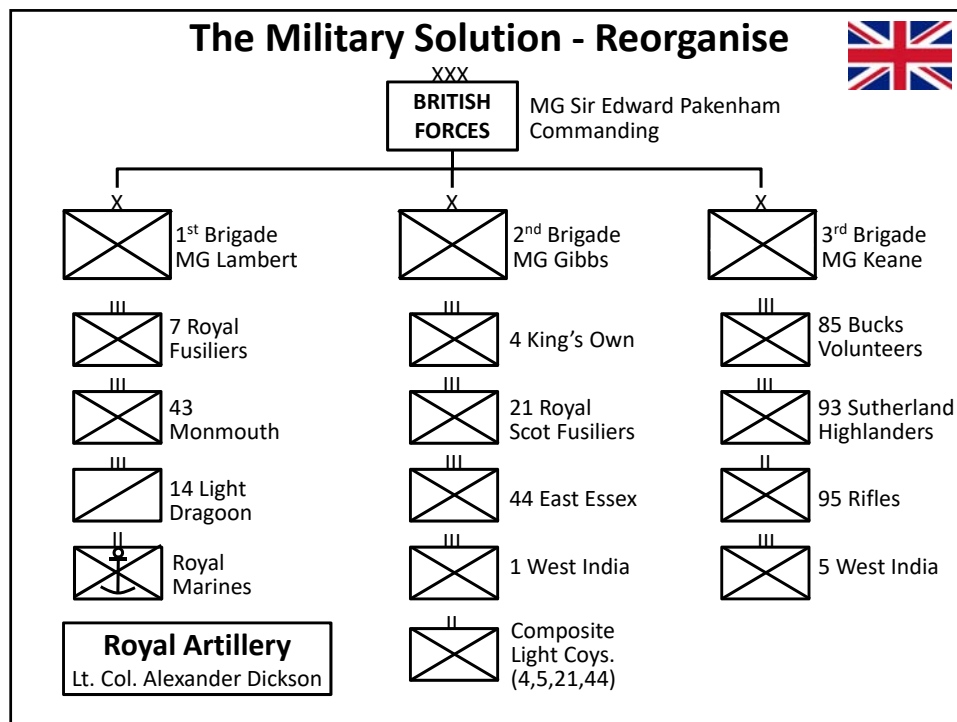
- The next day, Major General The Honourable Sir Edward Pakenham, GCB, arrived in camp.
- The 36 year old brother-in-law of Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, was a veteran of the Irish Rebellion of 1798, Frontier and West Indies duties, and the Napoleonic Wars. He commanded a regiment at Bussaco and the Third Division at Salamanca, where he distinguished himself to win a Gold Cross:

'Ned, d'ye see those fellows on the hill? Throw your division into column; at them and drive them to the devil.'

- In September 1814, Pakenham, having been promoted to the rank of major general, accepted an offer to replace General Robert Ross as commander of the British North American army, after Ross was killed during the skirmishing prior to the Battle of North Point near Baltimore.
- He and 2IC MG Gibbs arrive at Villere' to find a dispirited army.

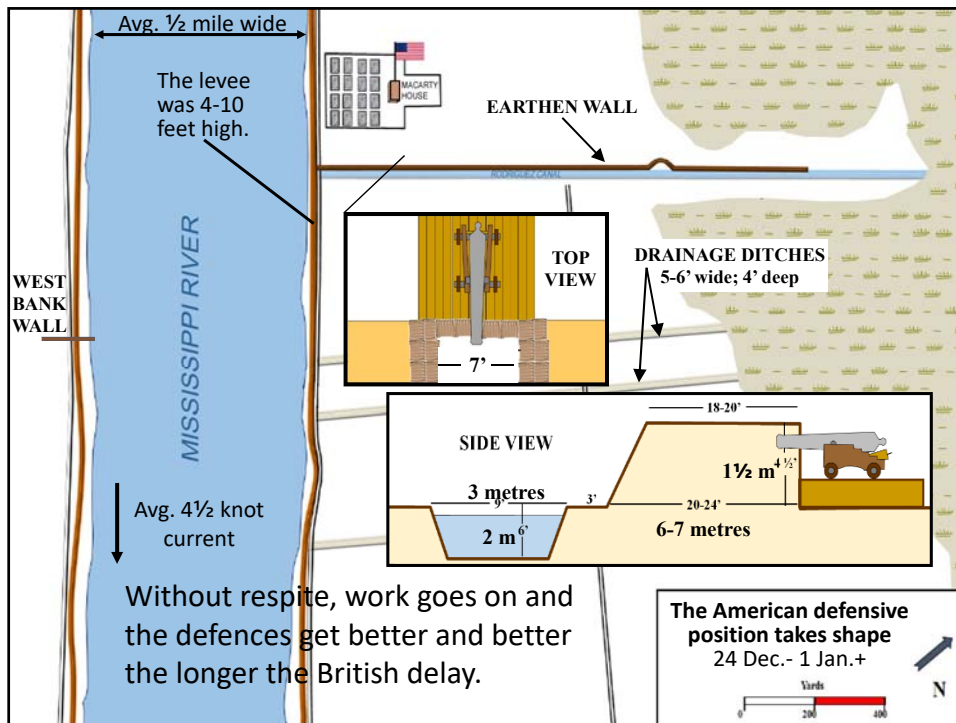
Issues

- Unsuitable terrain (a greatly confined space between a dense swamp and a broad river at the end of a 60 mile long LOC).
- Lack of supplies or any amenity.
- Failure to attack immediately on 23 December upon arrival.
- Being surprised that evening and losing the night battle.
- Lacking cavalry for reconnaissance, while the enemy made effective use of cavalry for screening and raids.
- Increasing casualties resulting from West Indians' sicknesses.
- Failure to muster local French Creoles to the cause.
- Ongoing bombardment from schooners Louisiana and Carolina.
- Unethical nightly "hunts" of British pickets **even in the camp**.
- Choctaw Indian patrols of the swamp on the British right flank (and their blood curdling war cry as yet another sentinel died).
- Never-ending harassment of the British camp. They found themselves under fire and stood-to several times a night.



During this time

- Jackson immediately began building a strong defensive position along the empty Rodriguez Canal (a disused sawmill millrace between the Chalmette and Macarty plantations) with a second line at the Dupre Plantation and a third at the Montreuil Plantation.
- He had the levee cut to flood ground between him and the British. Alas, the river level eventually receded leaving mud.
- With building materials and equipment from New Orleans, troops worked as in the Bible, 50% on watch and 50% on tools.
- Forces were realigned. BG Morgan left British Turn and set up a defensive and artillery position across the Mississippi.
- To buy time, Master Commandant Patterson was requested to have the Louisiana and Carolina bombard the British around-the-clock.
- Significantly, he actively sought and placed as much artillery as possible in stout embrasures.



HISTORICAL MEMOIR
OF
THE WAR
IN
West Florida And Louisiana
in 1764-71, with an Atlas
by ARSÈNE LACARRIÈRE LATOUR
Edited with an introduction by Gene A. Smith

Per Major Arsène Lacarrière Latour, Jackson's chief engineer:

As soon as this position was chosen, the troops began to raise a parapet, leaving the ditch as it was... as there was then a temporary rise of the river. Earth was fetched from the rear of the line and thrown carelessly on the left bank, where the earth had been thrown when the canal was originally dug. The bank on the right side being but little elevated above the soil formed a kind of glacis. All the pales of the fences in the vicinity were taken to line the parapet, and prevent the earth from falling into the canal. All this was done at various intervals, and by different corps, owing to the frequent mutations in the disposition of the troops. This circumstance, added to the cold and to incessant rain, rendered it impossible to observe any regularity as to the thickness and height of the parapet, which in some places was as much as twenty feet thick at the top, though hardly five feet high; whilst in other places the enemy's balls went through it at the base. On the 1st of January there was but a very small proportion of the line able to withstand the balls; but on the 8th of January the whole extent, as far as the wood, was proof against the enemy's cannon.



Major Tatum, Jackson's topographical engineer, wrote:

The Canal, behind which the Army retired, was large, and stretched from the river (nearly at right angle) a considerable distance into a thick, and almost, impenetrable swamp, which commenced at the distance of about 600 yds. to the left of the river. On the upper side, and on the bank, of this Canal a Breast Work (or parapet) was commenced, and its erection prosecuted with great ardor, and calculated to extend a distance of about 800 yards to the left, from the river, and extending about 200 paces into the swamp. Proper banquetts were erected to every part of this line of defence, and batteries constructed at such places on the line as were deemed proper, according to the number of Ordnance that could be spared to this work.

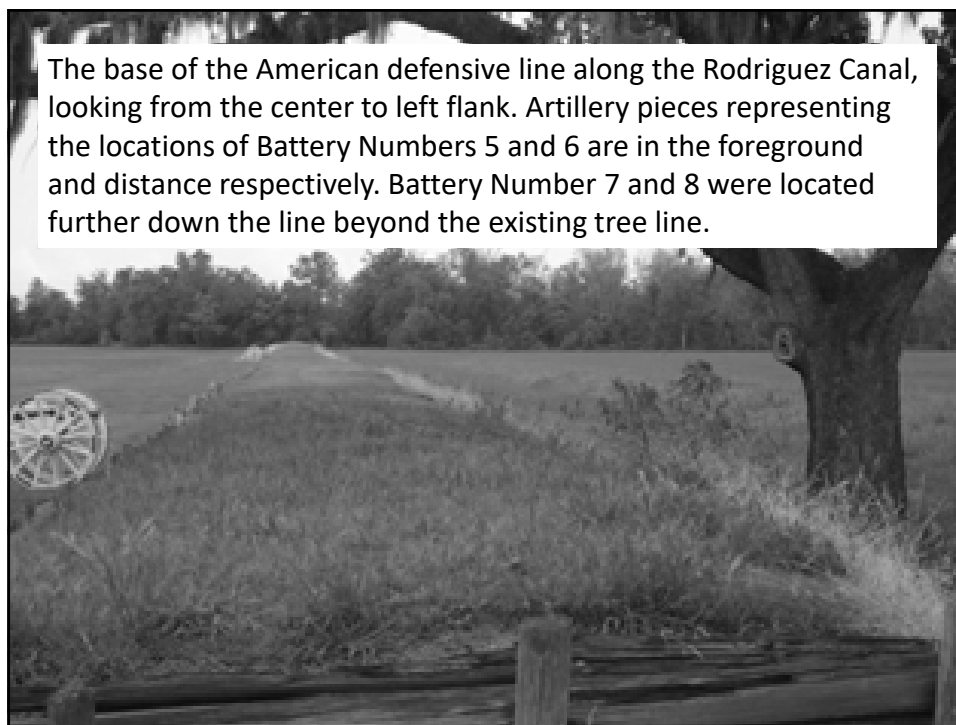


Captain Benson Hill, overseeing a battery along the British forward line described the effects of the 1 January bombardment on the American line.

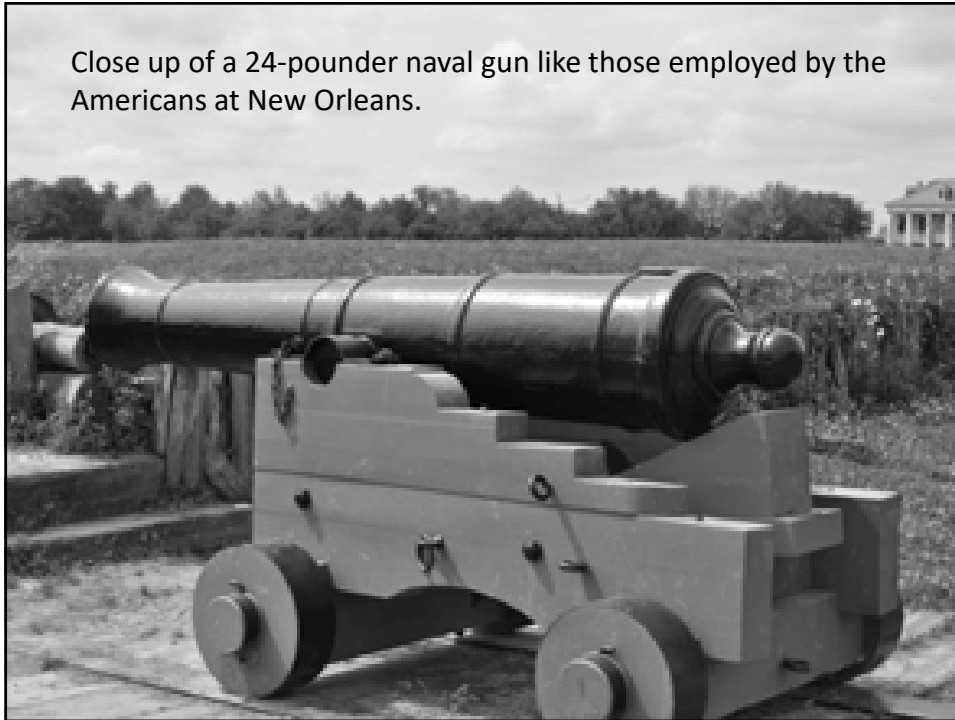
A heavy cannonading against the enemy's lines commenced, which was answered by him with great spirit but, alas! our shot made little or no impression on the cotton-bags with which General Jackson had so skillfully constructed his parapet; for, in spite of our battering at it for some hours, it was apparent that we had failed to make the impression which had been expected added to which our ammunition was nearly expended, and it was deemed advisable to "husband our fire."

Battery Number 4 oriented on the British lines (Note: the actual ordnance used in the fighting was a larger 32-pounder naval gun.



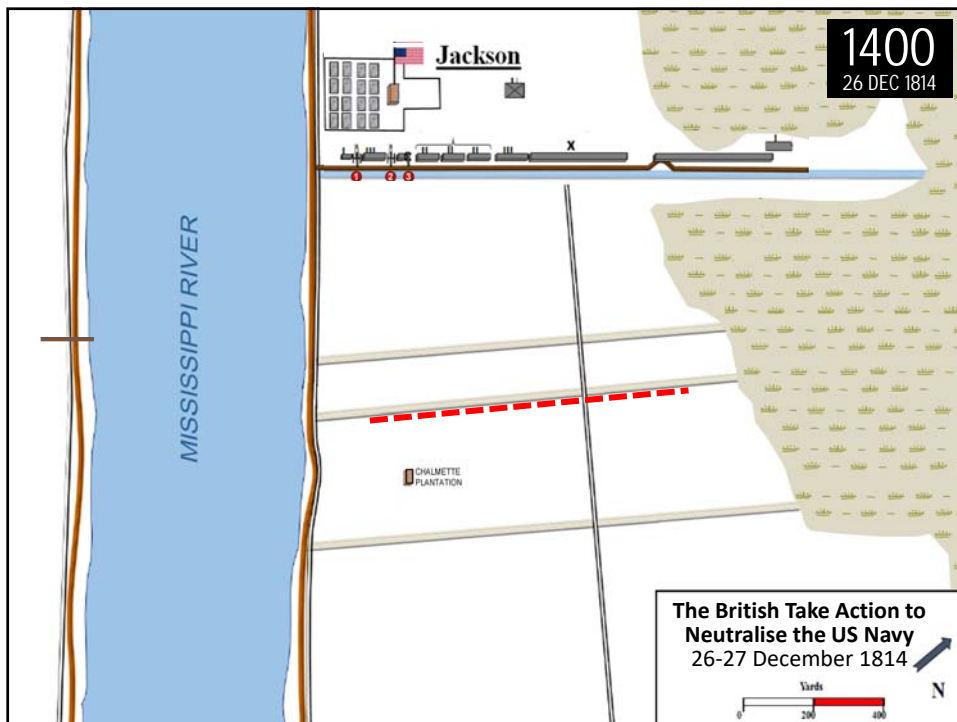
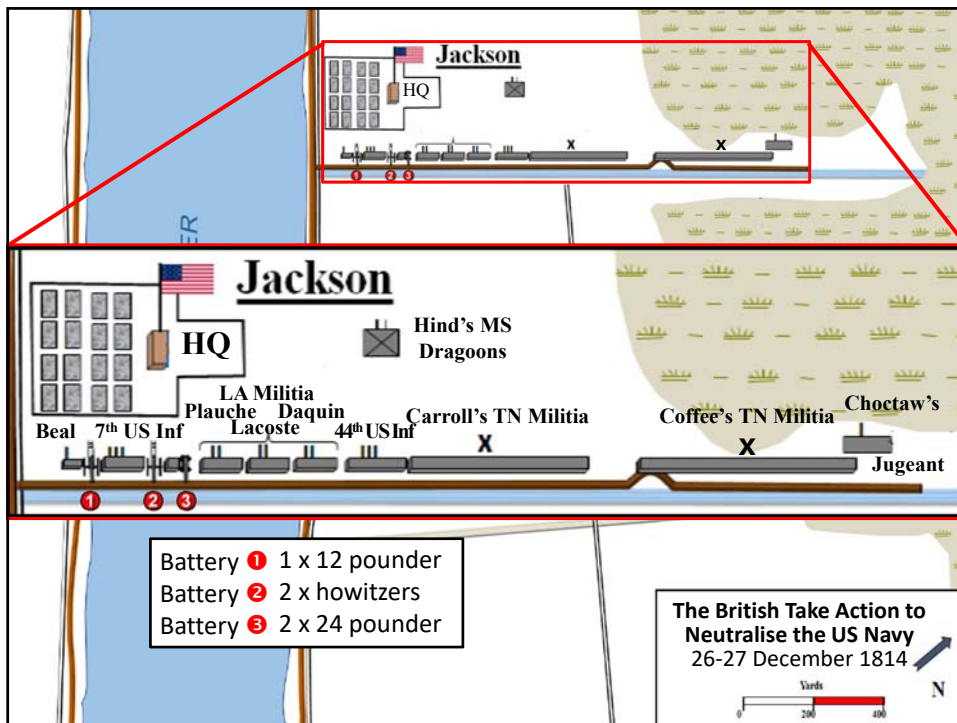


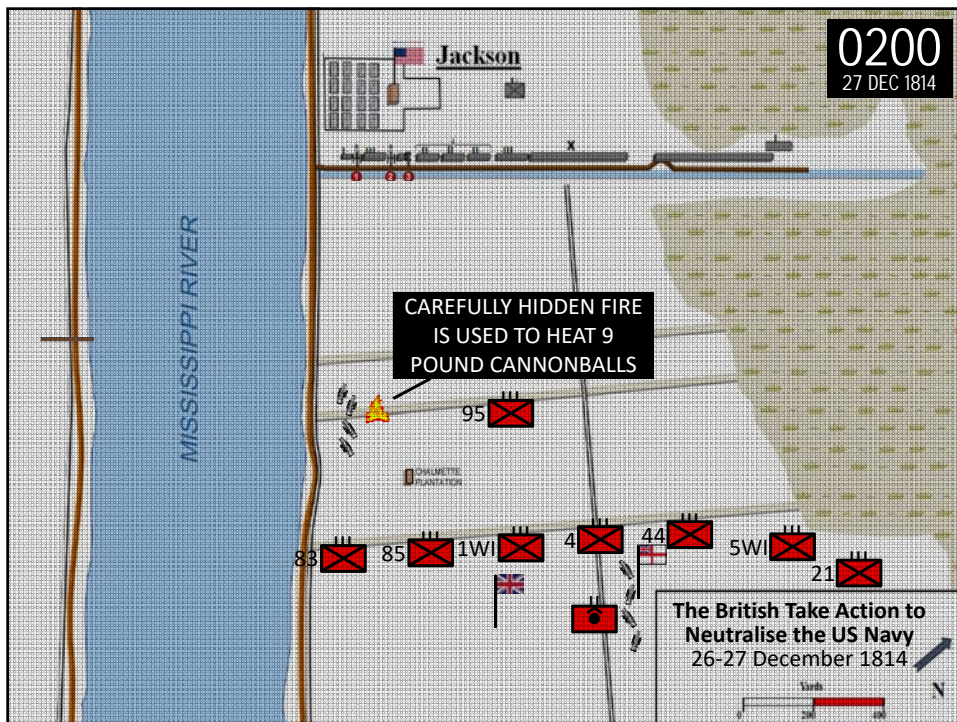
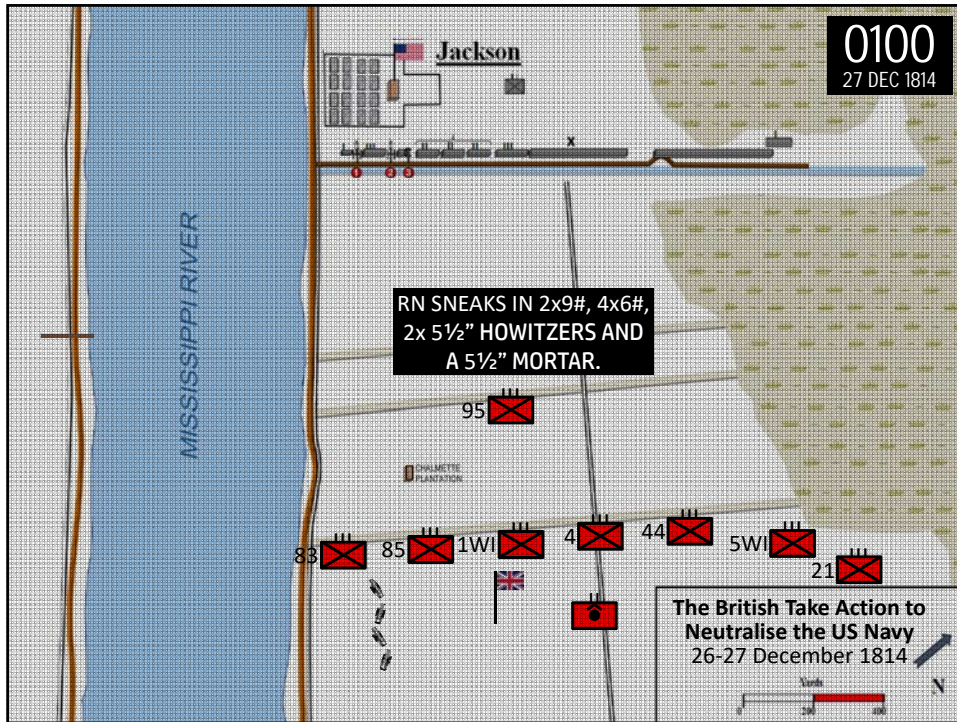
Close up of a 24-pounder naval gun like those employed by the Americans at New Orleans.

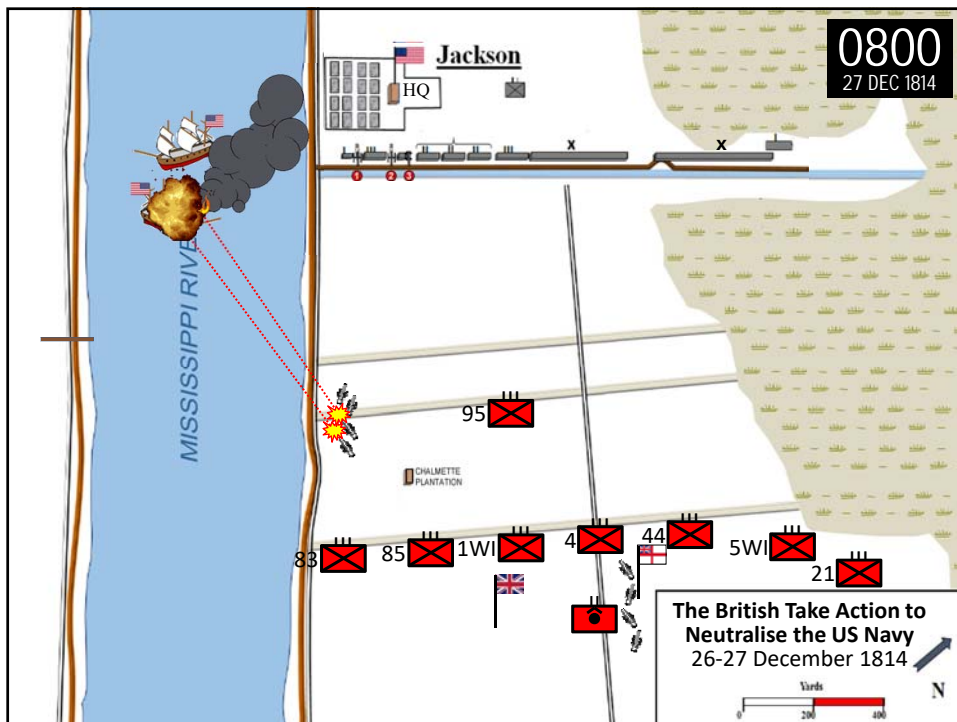
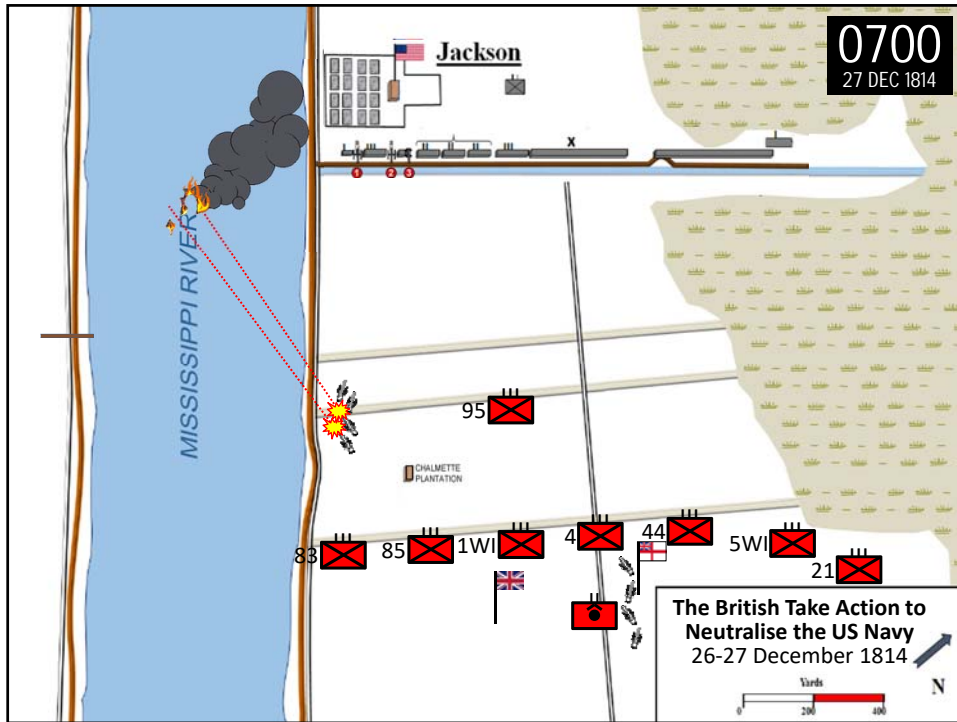


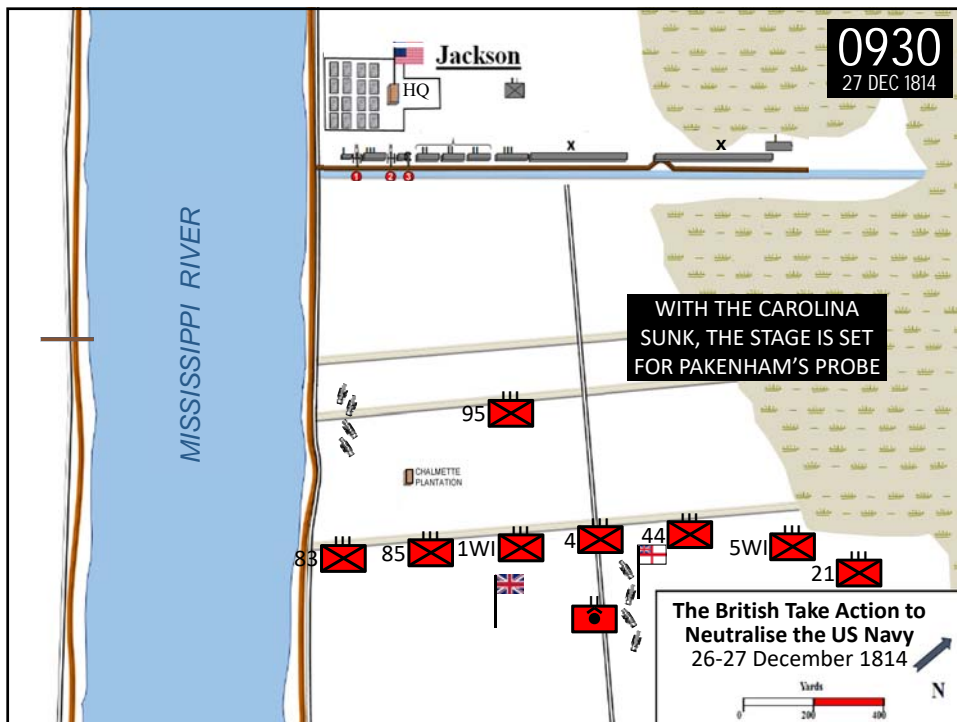
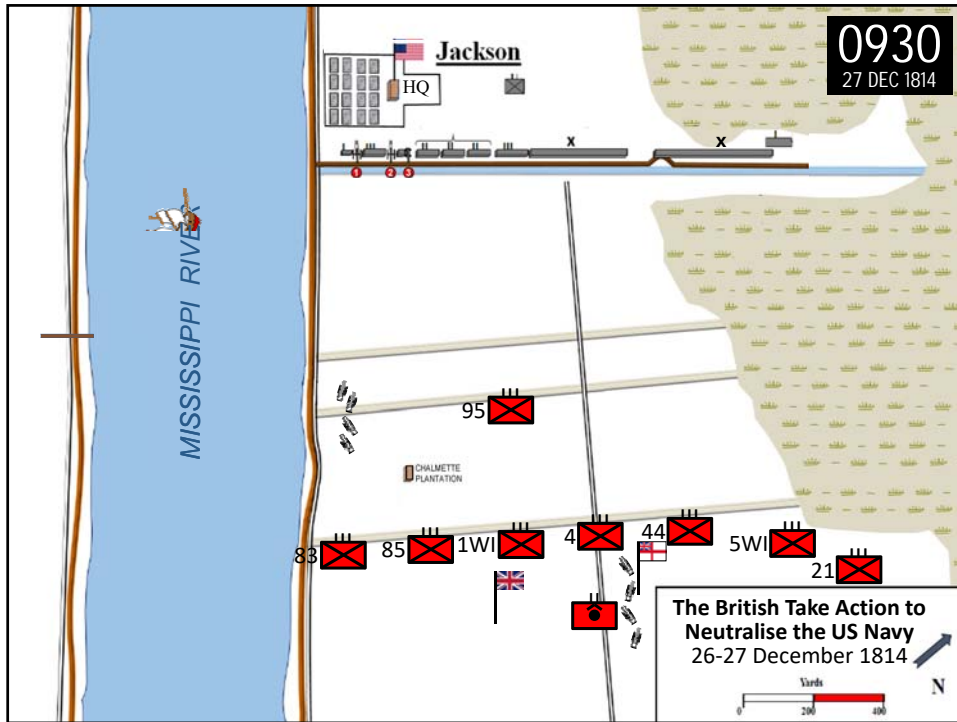
Pakenham's Cunning Plan

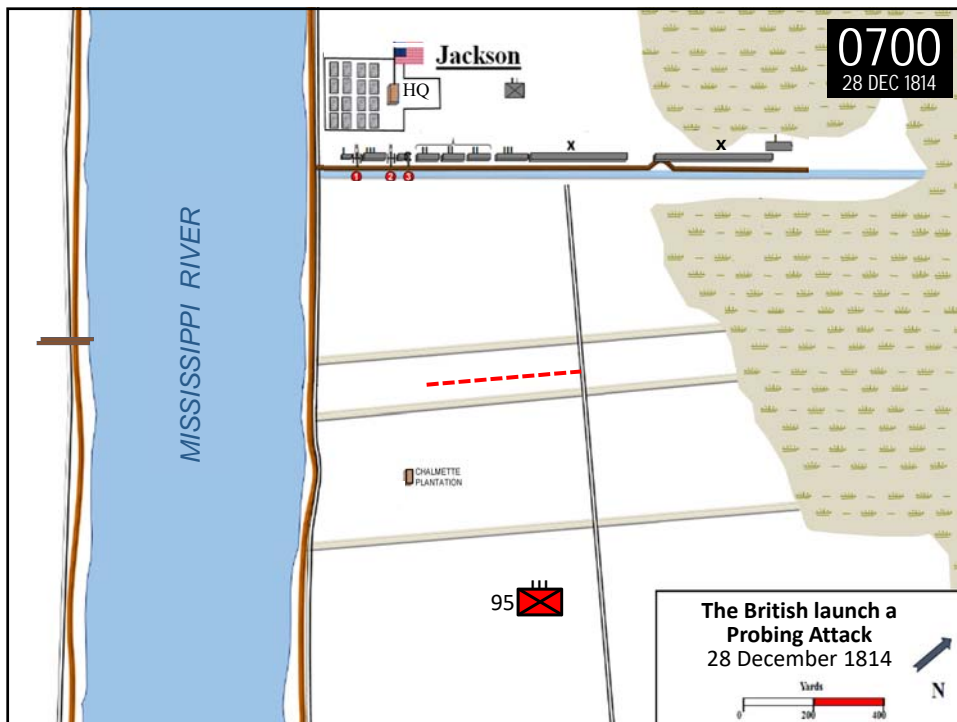
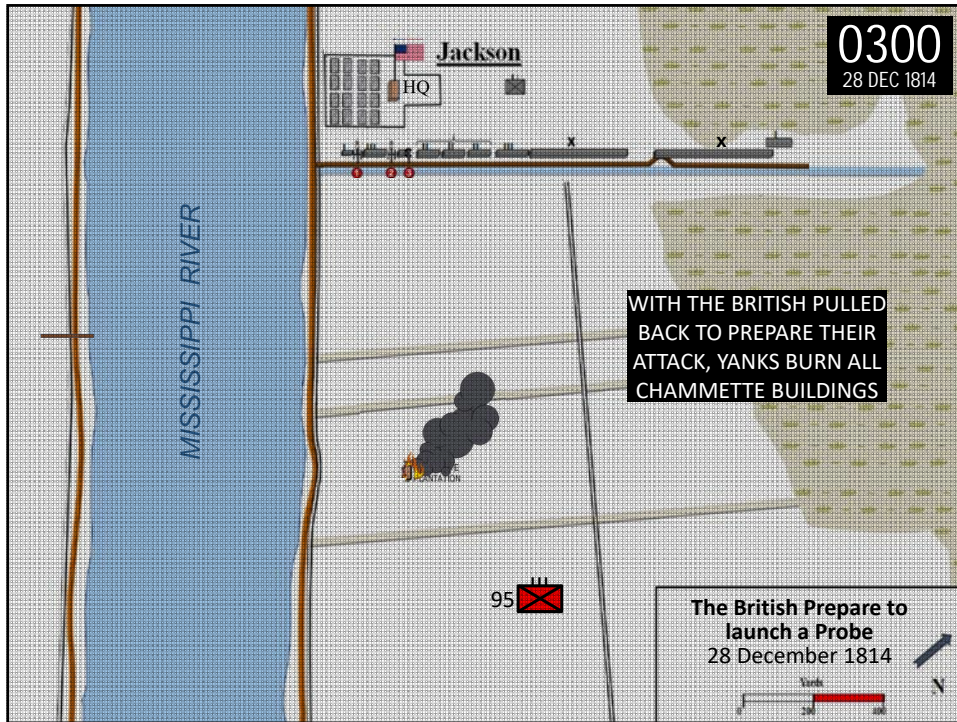
- Pakenham was in no doubt about Andrew Jackson's intentions. So he moved north and occupied the Chalmette Plantation on 27 December. Its buildings stood 500-600 from the line.
- Jackson's use of terrain left the British with only two options:
 1. Frontal attack, OR
 2. A very difficult withdrawal.
- Pakenham chose to stay in his current position, as chosen by Cochrane and Keane before his arrival.
- Pakenham viewed the enemy as substandard and no match for disciplined and seasoned British troops.
- He decided on a limited attack of two brigades abreast to find any weaknesses. A full attack could focus on any found.
- To neutralise the naval guns, the RN brought in 2 9-pounders, four 6-pounders, 2 5.5' howitzers and a 5.5" mortar. The gunners heated 9 pounder shot (hot shot) from 0200 onwards.

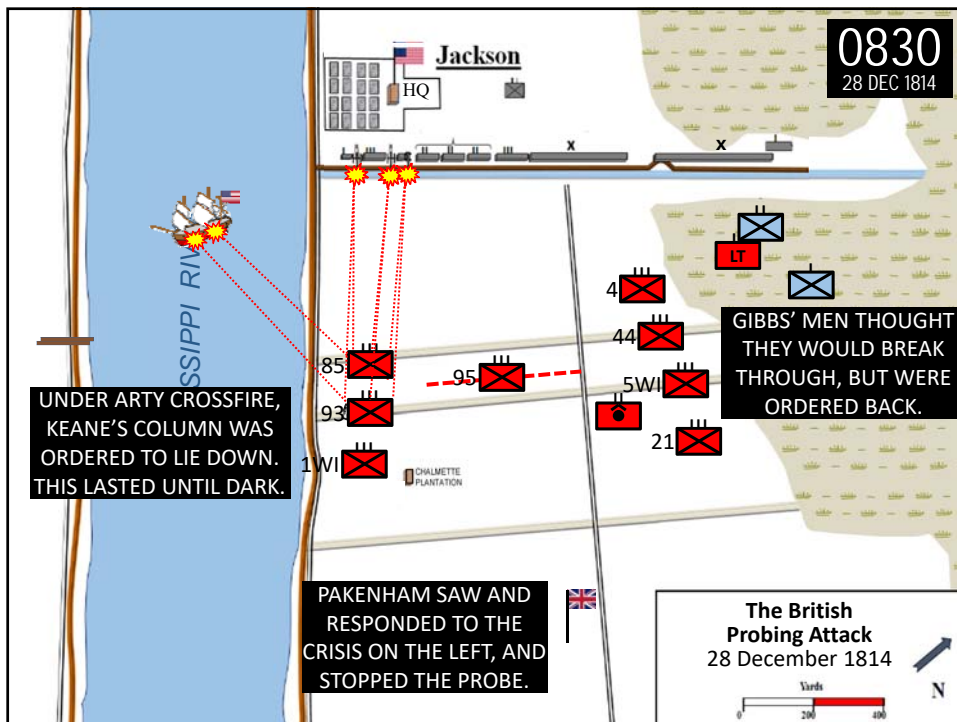
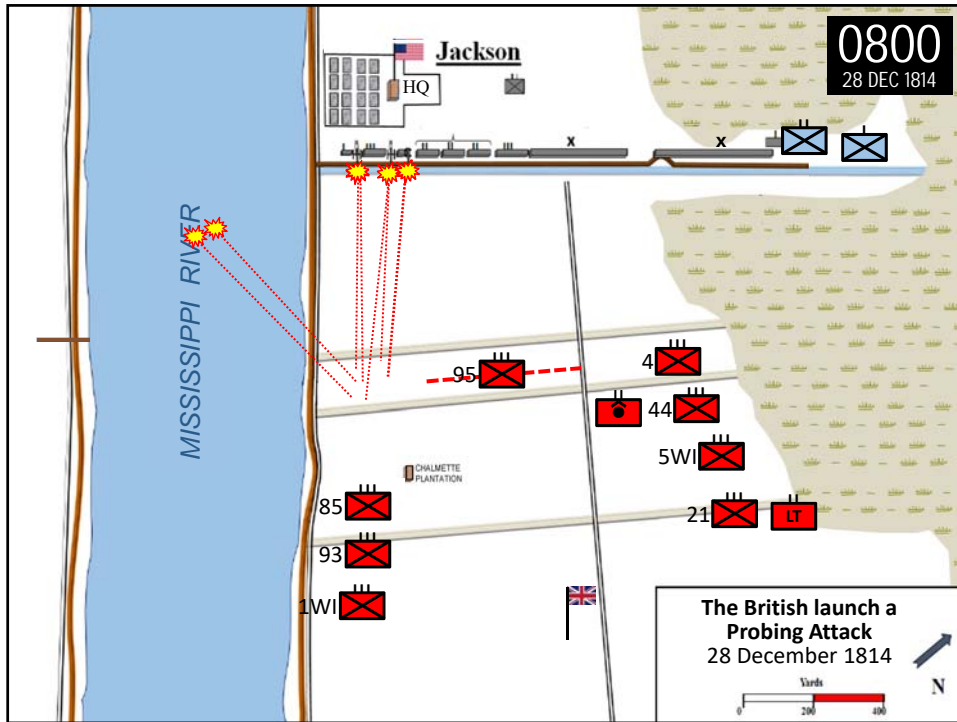


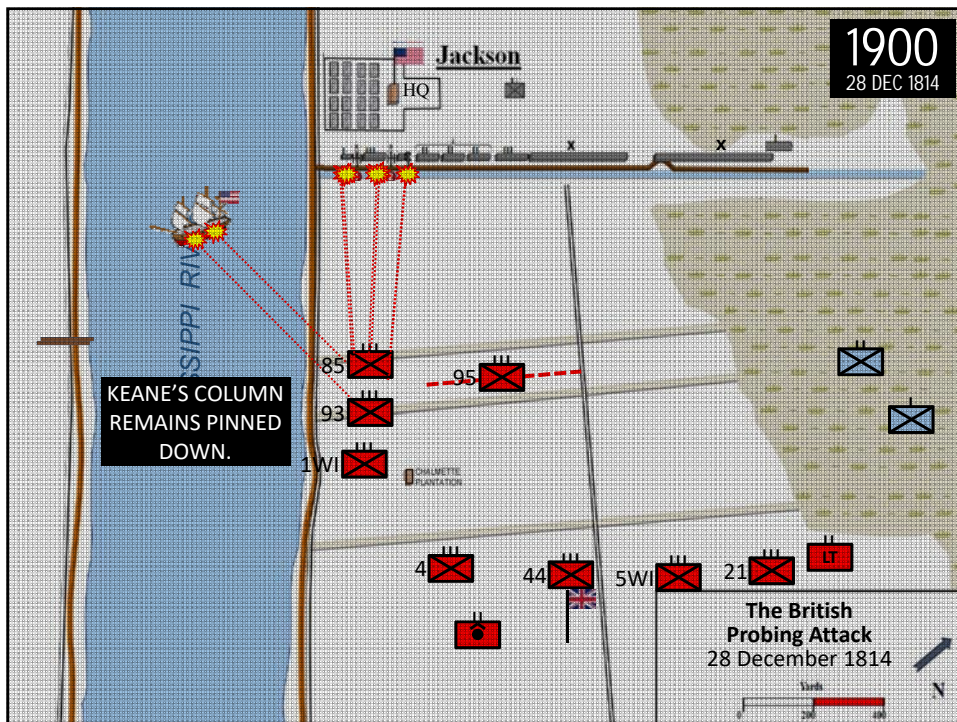
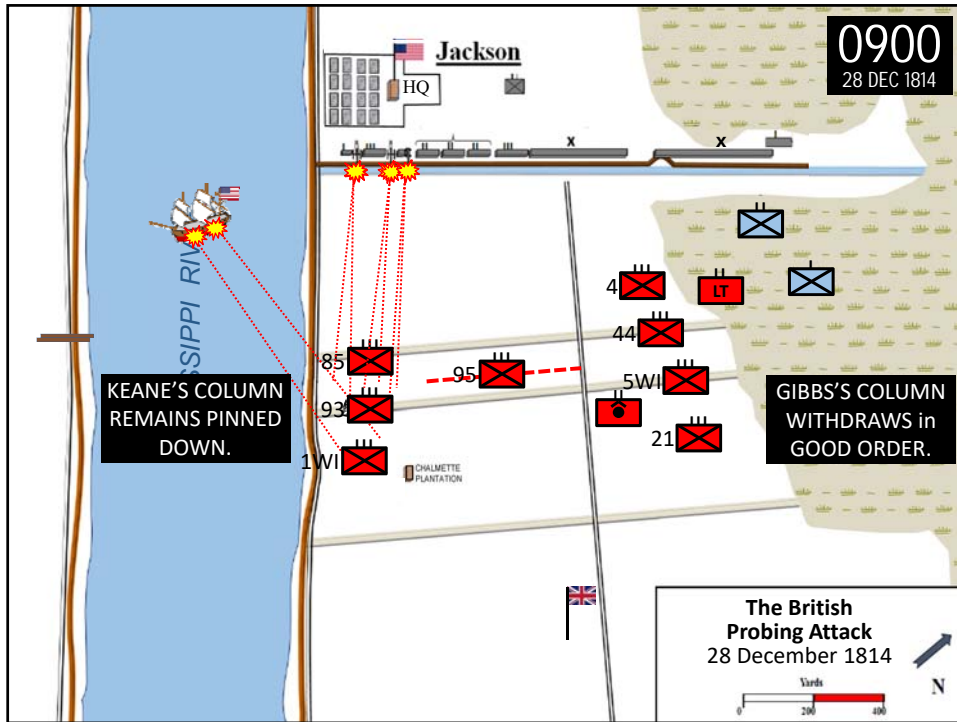


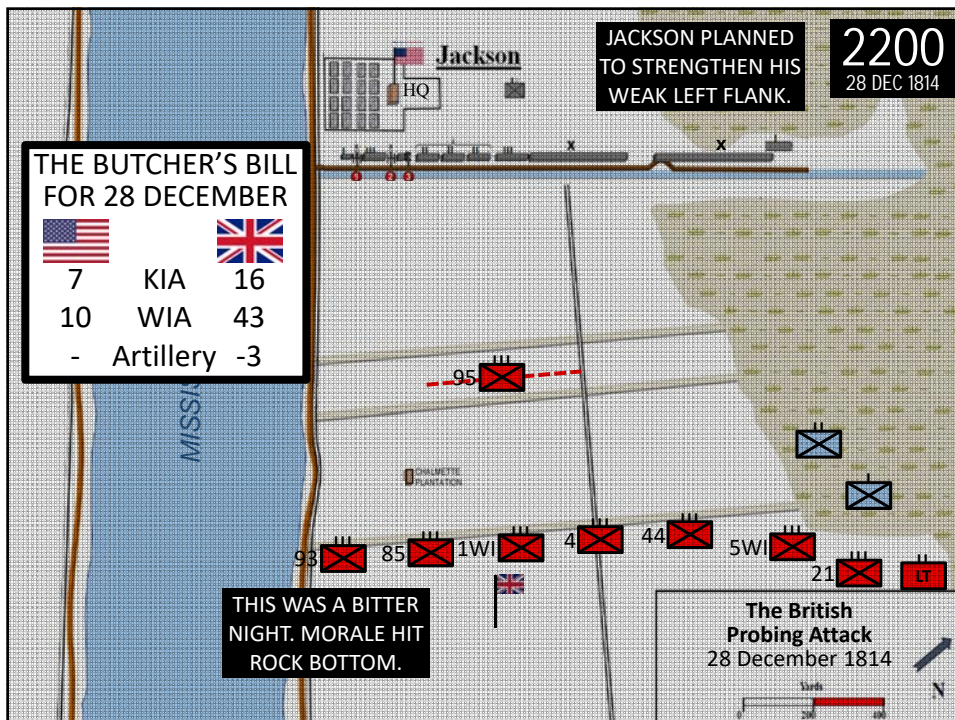
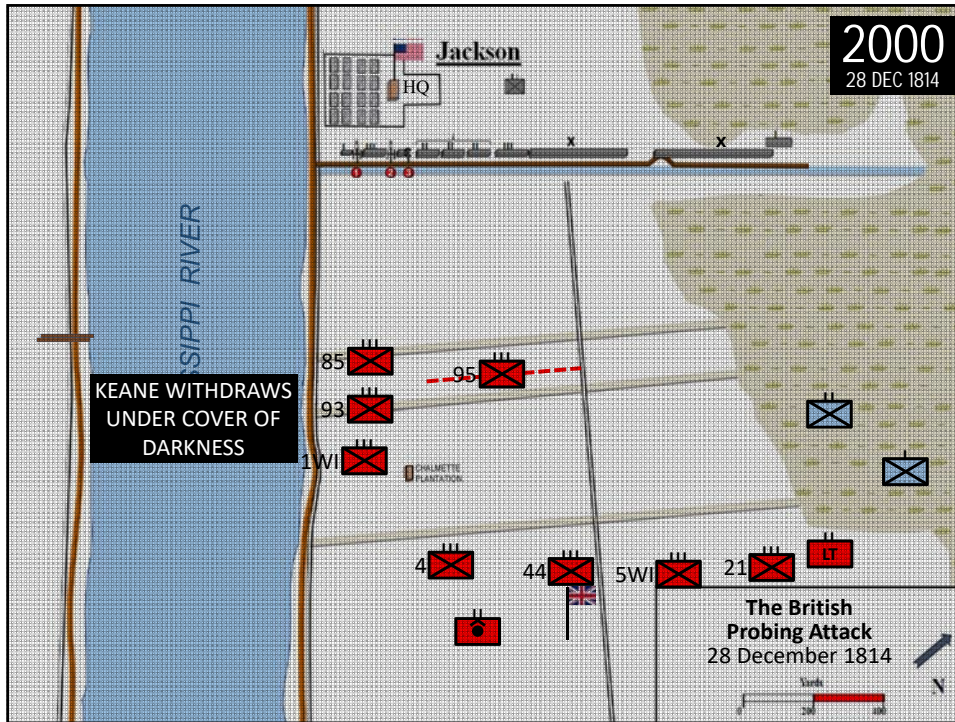


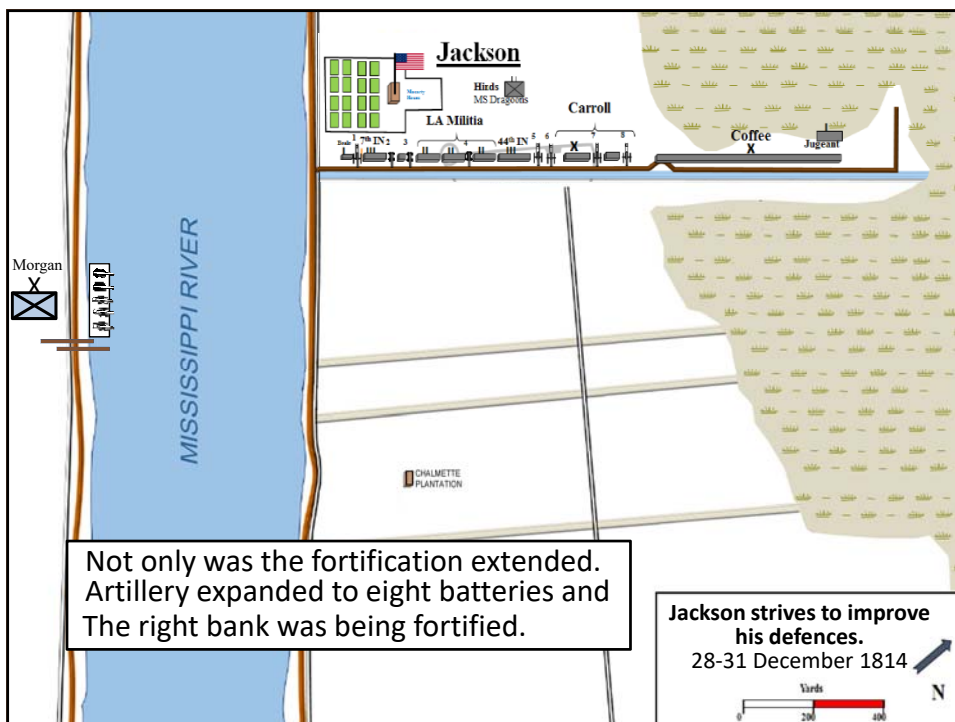
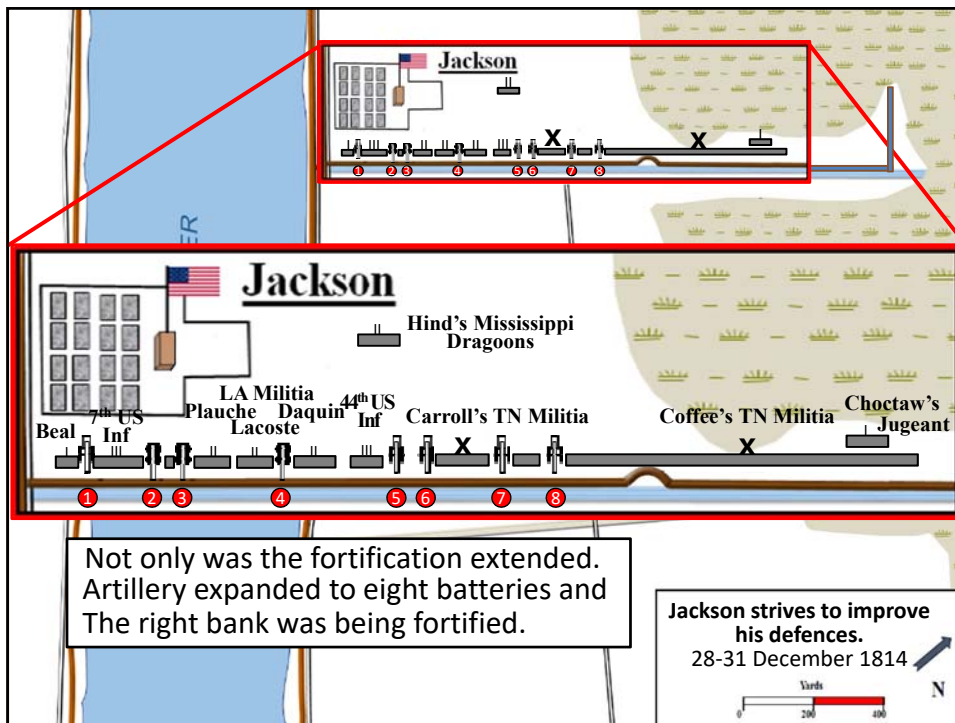


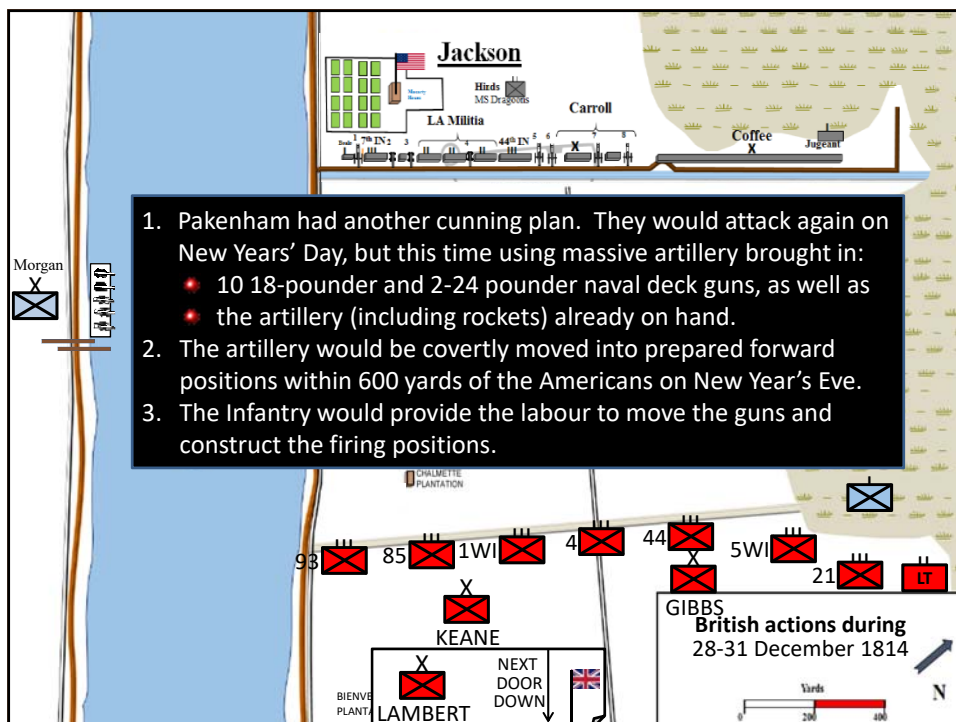
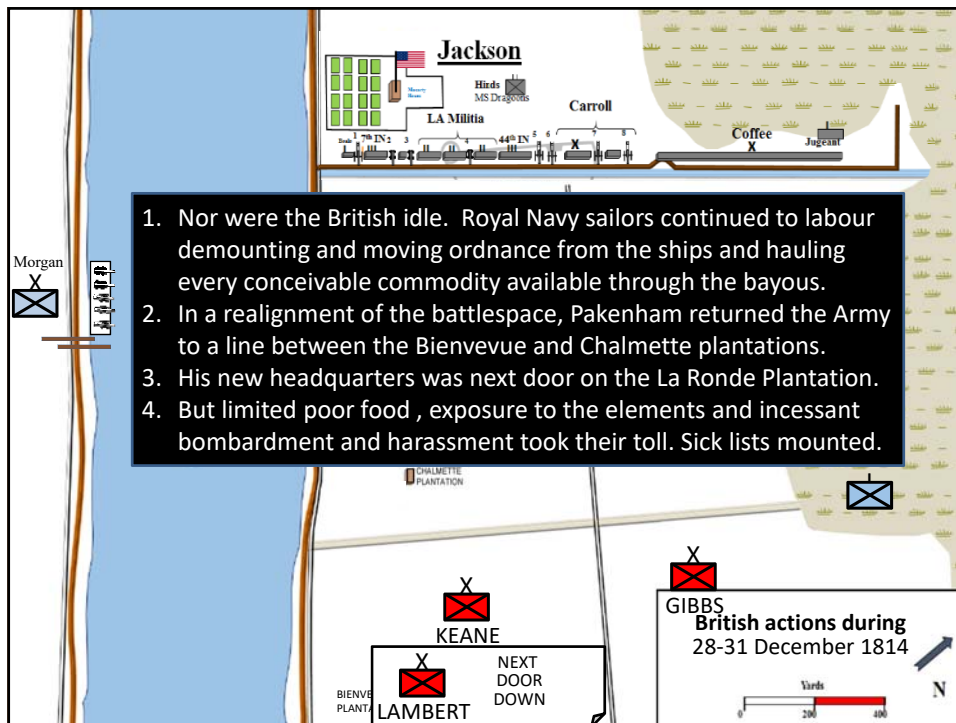


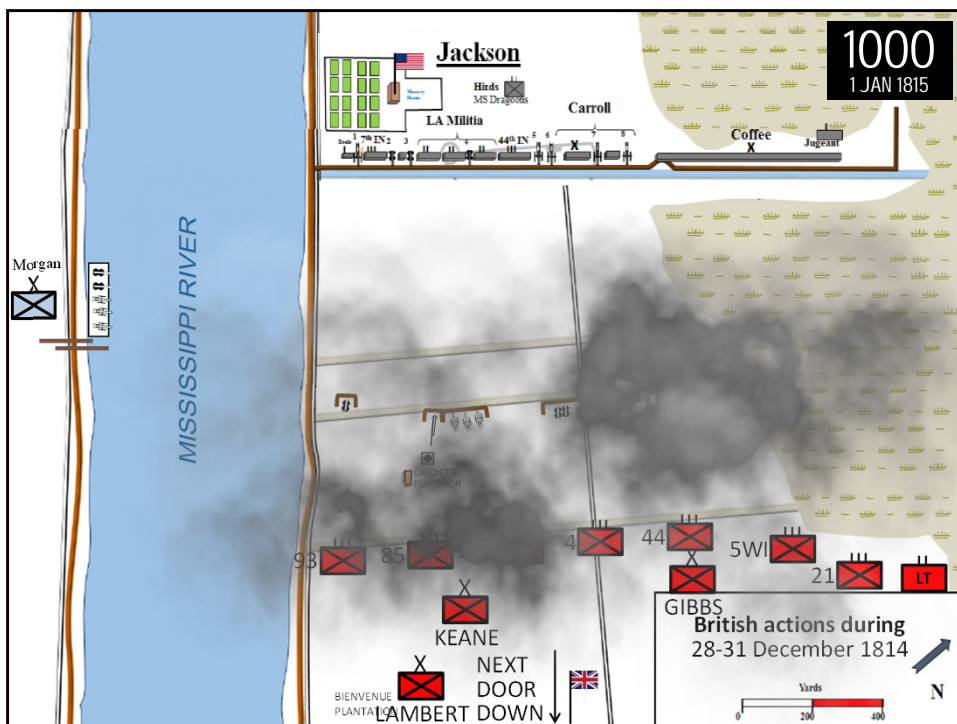
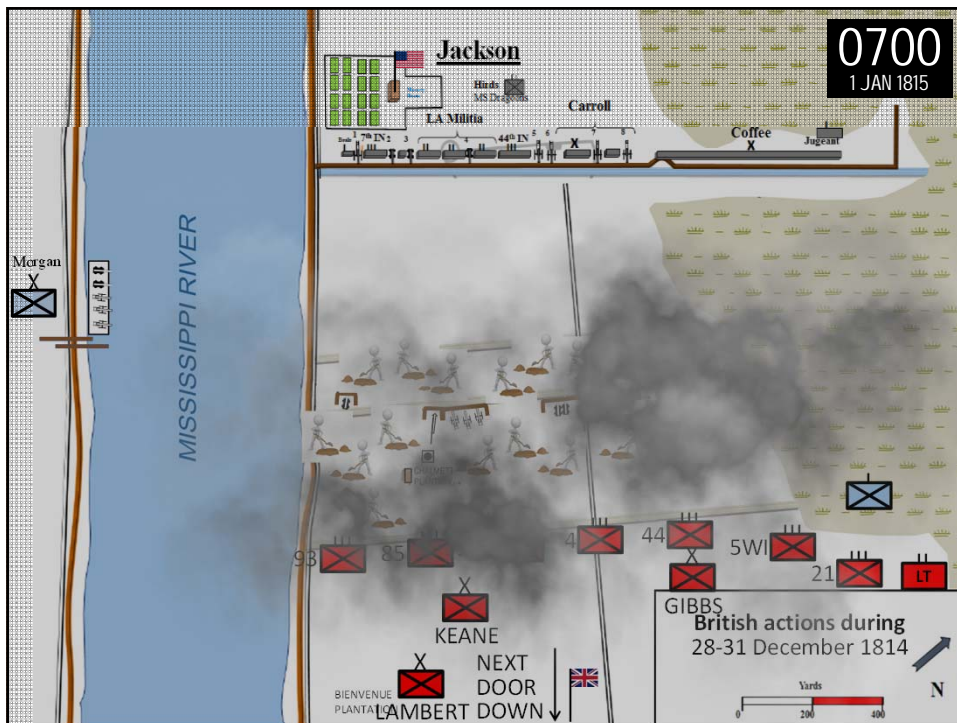


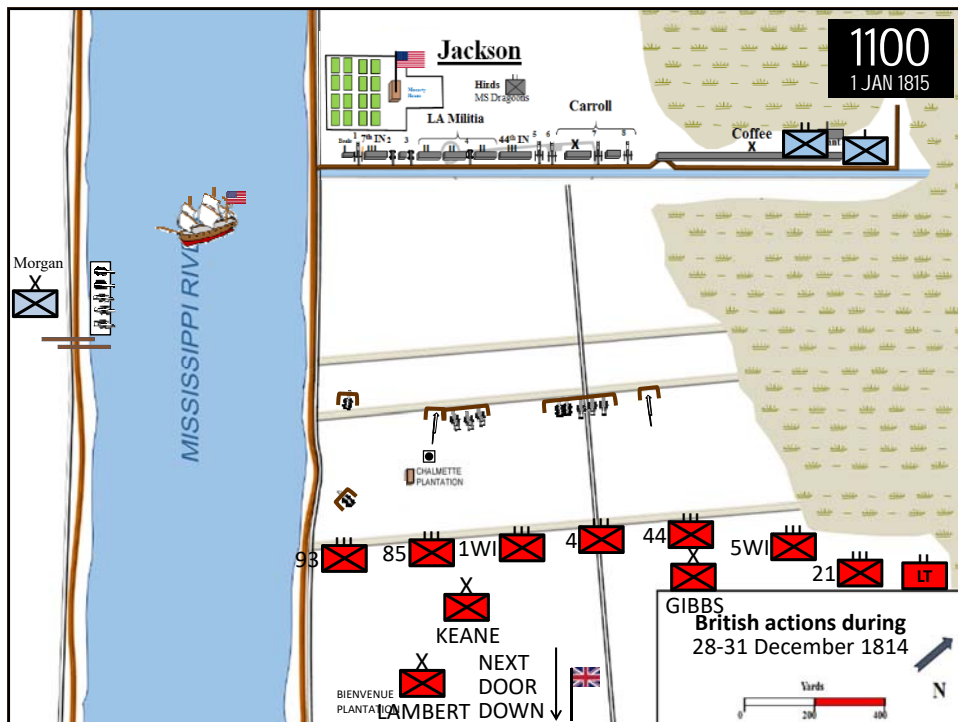
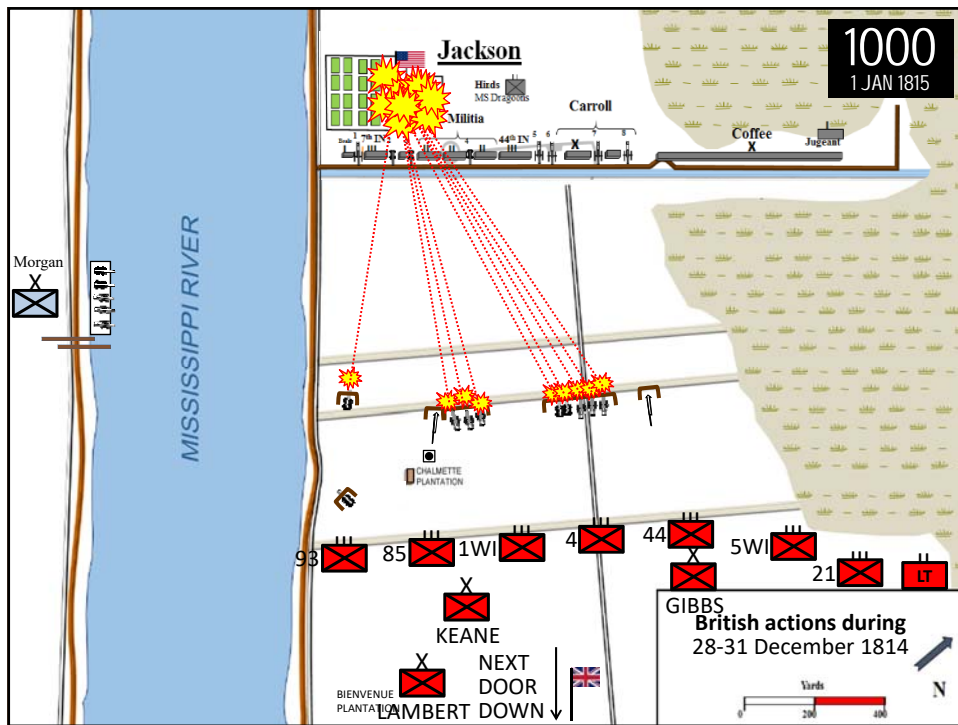


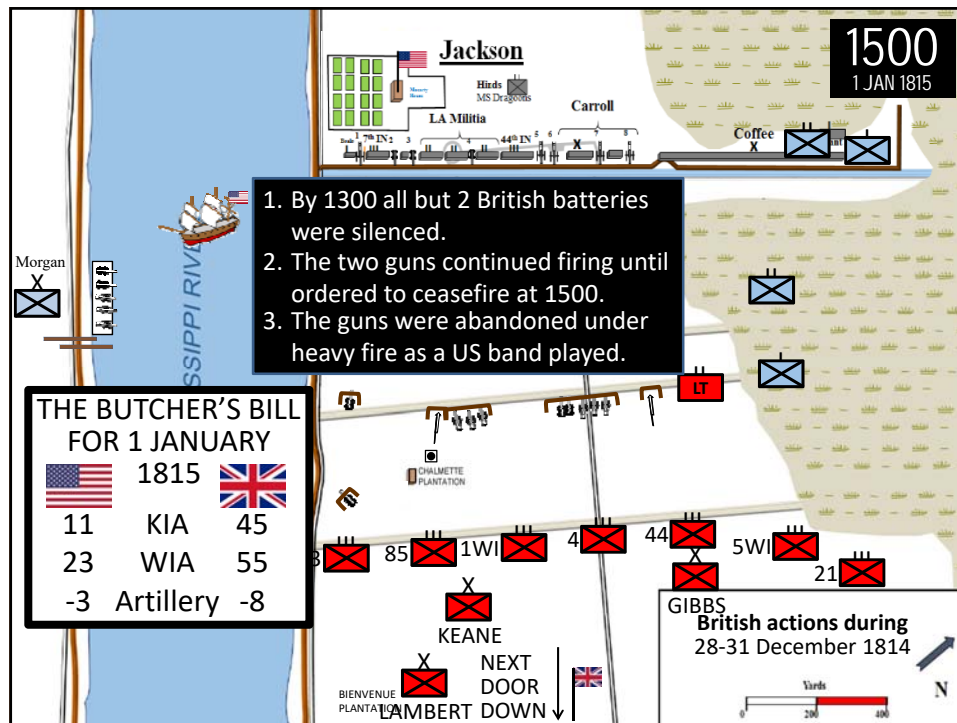












Next week

- Two failed attacks in five days led Pakenham to reevaluate his situation and conceive a new plan to defeat the Americans. 1,800 reinforcements arrived.
- The next attack will be a well-coordinated combined attack supported by heavy fires, a level of complexity previously missing from operations.
- There will be a main and a supporting attack.
- A force will cross the river to attack the right bank.
- A special assault force will assault fortifications on the American right flank.
- A strong reserve will be available to exploit gains.