



# The War of 1812

and America's Navy

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*'America's Navy: Keeping the Sea Free Since 1812.'*



## THE SECOND WAR OF INDEPENDENCE



The United States declared war for the first time in our young nation's history to protect "free trade and Sailors' rights."

Our small U.S. Navy took on the world's most powerful fleet and, through successful ship to ship action, proved its importance to our national security.

### FREEDOM OF THE SEAS: CORE CAUSE FOR WAR

Great Britain threatens American rights by:

- prohibiting U.S. exports
- blockading U.S. ports
- impressing American Sailors into the Royal Navy

### BY THE NUMBERS...

#### U.S. Navy in 1812

15 warships  
62 gunboats  
1,000 officers and men



#### Royal Navy in 1812

600 ships  
130,000 men

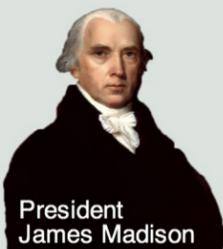


## Major Events Throughout the War

### JUNE 18, 1812

#### War Is Declared

Congress and President James Madison supported a declaration of war against England. While our young nation may have been underprepared for war, we had a capable Navy including six exceptional frigates, U.S. merchant men who volunteered for service, and outstanding Naval leaders.



President James Madison

### AUGUST-OCTOBER 1812

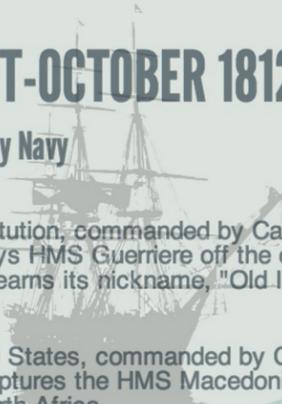
#### A Noteworthy Navy

August 19

USS Constitution, commanded by Capt. Isaac Hull, destroys HMS Guerriere off the coast of Nova Scotia and earns its nickname, "Old Ironsides."

October 25

USS United States, commanded by Capt. Stephen Decatur, captures the HMS Macedonian off the coast of North Africa.



### SEPTEMBER 10, 1813

*'We have met the enemy and they are ours...'*

Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry uttered this famous phrase during the Battle of Lake Erie off the coast of Ohio. One of the largest battles of the war, 10 U.S. Navy vessels captured six British vessels, securing American control of the Northwest Territory.



Oliver Hazard Perry

### JANUARY 8, 1815

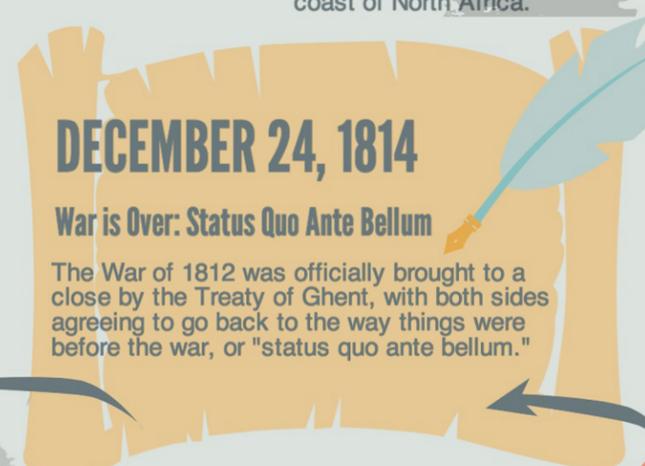
#### Meanwhile, On The Mississippi...

The Battle of New Orleans was the final major battle of the War of 1812. Sailors and Marines under Commandant Daniel T. Patterson fought in General Andrew Jackson's lines on the eastern side of the Mississippi River and defeated British forces attempting to seize New Orleans.

### DECEMBER 24, 1814

#### War is Over: Status Quo Ante Bellum

The War of 1812 was officially brought to a close by the Treaty of Ghent, with both sides agreeing to go back to the way things were before the war, or "status quo ante bellum."



### AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1814

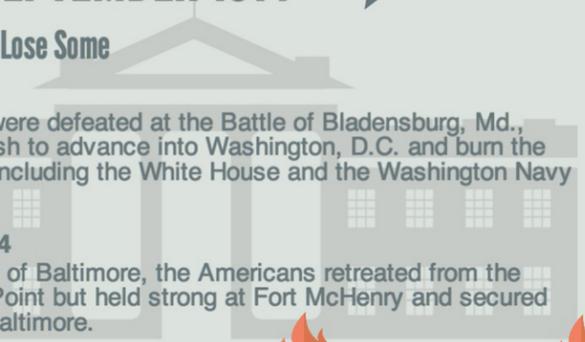
#### We Win Some, We Lose Some

August 24

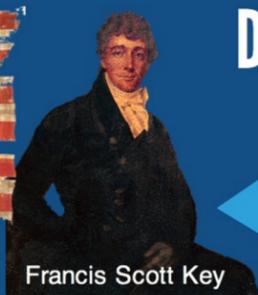
The Americans were defeated at the Battle of Bladensburg, Md., allowing the British to advance into Washington, D.C. and burn the nation's capital, including the White House and the Washington Navy Yard.

September 12-14

During the Battle of Baltimore, the Americans retreated from the British at North Point but held strong at Fort McHenry and secured the port city of Baltimore.



The flag seen here is the original garrison flag that flew in the dawn sky over the ramparts of Fort McHenry. The flag, commissioned by Joshua Barney and his committee, was made out of wool bunting and the stars out of cotton. Mary Pickersgill, with the help of her mother and daughter, sewed and charged a grand total of \$405.90 for their labor.



Francis Scott Key

### Did You Know?

The defense at Fort McHenry inspired professional lawyer and aspiring poet Francis Scott Key to write the Star-Spangled Banner, which was recognized for official use by the Navy in 1889. In 1931, it officially became the National Anthem of the United States.

