The National Historical Park

Scenes of the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 where Gen. Andrew Jackson saved the land of the United States from the might of the British.

At dawn on January 8, 1815, the last major battle of the War of 1812 was fought at New Orleans. Although the British had 5,000 British and 4,000 American troops in their lines, they were no match for the spirit and purposes of New Orleans. The rich commercial port was so sensitive geographically that the force which held it would also control the mouth of the Mississippi River. The honors of the battle were won by the British on January 8, 1815, as the major battle in the British army was a group of troops led by Gen. Andrew Jackson, whose victory at New Orleans brought the war to an end.

The British army, however, had been defeated and the American forces had captured the city of New Orleans. The British troops had been forced to surrender and the city was returned to American control. The British army had been defeated and the American forces had captured the city of New Orleans. The British troops had been forced to surrender and the city was returned to American control.

On Christmas Day, 1814, the New Orleans was hit by a heavy British force. The city was saved by the heroism of the American soldiers who had fought so bravely to defend it. The British abandoned the city and the American troops moved in to take possession of it.

The British army had been defeated and the American forces had captured the city of New Orleans. The British troops had been forced to surrender and the city was returned to American control. The British army had been defeated and the American forces had captured the city of New Orleans. The British troops had been forced to surrender and the city was returned to American control.

On Christmas Day, 1814, the New Orleans was hit by a heavy British force. The city was saved by the heroism of the American soldiers who had fought so bravely to defend it. The British abandoned the city and the American troops moved in to take possession of it.
by a shower of rocks. The guns of the American batteries answered—slowly at first but with increasing rapidity and accuracy. So severe was the American fire that by noon the British guns were completely silenced.

**Final British Attack: January 8**

Goaded on by Admiral Cochrane and fearing that further delay would demoralize the army, Pakenham began making preparations for a head-on assault against the American line, despite pleas from his junior officers that such an attack would be suicide.

In the twilight of early morning, January 8, Pakenham sent his veterans forward in a frontal attack on the American position. Behind the mud rampart crouched 4,000 Americans squatting into the darkness and mist of early morning. Pakenham had hoped to take advantage of the darkness to get his troops within a few yards of the American line without being observed; but a delay beyond the crucial moment cost him the advantage. Not to be thwarted, the determined Pakenham imperiously ordered the attack to proceed.

Maj. Gen. Samuel Gibbs attacked the American left and center with a brigade of 3,000 men. As these brave soldiers advanced across the open fields in the early morning mist, grape and round shot from the rapidly firing American batteries tore huge gaps in their ranks. Openings were quickly filled and the redcoats. British troops continued their advance in measure at time until they came within musket range. Then, the Tennessee and Kentucky militiamen that made up this part of the line opened on them with a devastating small-arms fire that checked their advance and killed many, including their commander, General Gibbs.

Meanwhile, on the British left along the river, General Keane divided his brigade. He sent Col. Robert Renzie down one fence forward against the extreme right of the American line. Keane then took a Scottish Highlander regiment and obeyed across the field to Gibbs' aid. This regiment, ruled by a gallant fire across the length of the battlefield, suffered frightful casualties. Keane collected the remainder of Gibbs' men and again assaulted the American center. This time Keane was severely wounded and his attack failed. Then Pakenham rode forward to rally his men for a third assault, but he was mortally wounded in the attempt and the assault failed. Colonel Renzie's attack on the right was repulsed after a fierce hand-to-hand fight.

Any hope of the British reaching New Orleans slipped away when their force across the river, successful at first, had to be recalled because of the bitter defeat suffered by their main force.

British casualties were in excess of 2,000, while the Americans reported only 7 killed and 6 wounded. Rarely have first-rate soldiers been defeated in so one-sided a battle.

**The Park**

In 1835, to commemorate the battle, the State of Louisiana began the erection of a 100-foot monument on a 13-acre tract that included an important part of the American line. In 1907 the State transferred the monument and grounds to the Federal Government, which completed the shaft the next year. Later the State donated to the park 36 additional acres, including the Rodriguez Canal.

On-shore mile east is the national cemetery at Chalmette. Over 15,000 veterans of all our major wars are buried in this now inactive cemetery.

Chalmette was established as a National Historical Park on August 10, 1939. Only part of the ground on which the Battle of New Orleans was fought is included in the two park plots which total about 70 acres.

**How To Reach The Park**

The park is located 6 miles below the heart of New Orleans on State Route 59. From Canal Street, follow Rampart Street downstream until it merges with St. Claude Avenue, which leads you directly to the park.

**About Your Visit**

You may obtain further information about this park and other areas of the National Park System at the visitor center, which is located in the ante bellum Beauregard House. This house, built apparently in the 1830's and altered in the 1850's and 1860's, was once owned by Judge René Beauregard, son of the famed Confederate general. The recently restored building now houses a modern museum on the second floor. Offices for the park staff are on the ground floor. The verandas offer commanding views of the Mississippi River and the battlefield.

**Administration**

Chalmette National Historical Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 125, Arabi 16, La., is in immediate charge.

**Mission 66**

Mission 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966 which will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.