The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 & The Star-Spangled Banner:

"We have met the enemy and they are ours . . . "
Oliver Hazard Perry after the Battle of Lake Erie, 10 September 1813

Exhibition Guide by Special Collections Staff at NDU Library

NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
Change of Presidency and Retirement Ceremony
Exhibitions

"National Defense University: Educating 21st Century Leaders" is the title of the video presentation on view in the Lincoln Hall Auditorium prior to the Change of Presidency and Retirement Ceremony. The Audiovisual Branch of NDU's Information Technology Directorate has created this video to tell the NDU story chronologically with each "chapter" beginning with photo depictions of the change of presidency ceremony for the 13 commanders who have served as President of NDU since 1976. Images featured in the video will include COP ceremonies, VIP visits, graduation ceremonies, distinguished lecturer visits, and other key events attended by NDU Presidents. These images have been interspersed with those of historic events on-campus, such as the construction of Marshall Hall and Lincoln Hall together with presidential visits, and off-campus that "define the era" of each NDU presidency.

The Bicentennial of the War of 1812: 2012-2015 "Our flag was still there" is commemorated by a slideshow depicting naval and ground actions during this war. The slideshow is on view in the corridor leading from the North to the South Atrium, Lincoln Hall, on the two monitors in the display panels. Ground actions represented include the battles of Fort George, Fort Oswego, Lundy's Lane, New Orleans, and Niagara. Portraits of Generals Andrew Jackson, Winfield Scott, Henry Dearborn, Jacob Brown, Zebulon Pike, and William Henry Harrison are also depicted. Naval scenes include the USS *Constitution* escaping from a British squadron and fighting the HMS *Guerriere*, the HMS *Shannon* boarding the USS *Chesapeake*, the capture of the HMS *Frolic* by the USS *Wasp*, and the USS *United States* capturing the HMS *Macedonian*. Both naval and ground actions from the Battle of Lake Champlain are represented. Images are from the official website for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 assembled by the USN, USCG, and USMC and the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Online Catalog.

"The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 & the Star-Spangled Banner: '*We have met the enemy and they are ours . . .*' ---Oliver Hazard Perry after the Battle of Lake Erie, 10 September 1813" is the exhibit featured in the South Atrium. Beginning with the introductory case to the War of 1812, the exhibit proceeds from left to right, north wall, with cases that feature Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon, the Naval campaign, the burning of Washington, the Battle of New Orleans and the Star-Spangled Banner.

Introduction to the War of 1812 (Case 1)

The United States of America's declaration of war against Britain in 1812 was a highly contested matter for the young nation. Speaker of the House, Henry Clay, and President James Madison both delivered impassioned speeches to Congress and reprints of their words were spread throughout the United States and its territories. Displayed in this case are President Madison's Message to Congress, December 7, 1813, and Henry Clay's Speech in Congress, January 8-9, 1813, together with a pamphlet printed to protest the United States' entrance into the war, dated 1812. The War Hawks felt a confrontation was necessary to protect America's honor and to ensure the safety of American merchant vessels. The splendidly illustrated 1869 edition of Benson Lossing's *The pictorial field book of the War of 1812* is one of the highlights in this case.

Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon & the Tripoli War, 1801-1805 (Case 2)

As a new nation, the United States of America felt that it could not give in to bullying Barbary rulers who demanded tribute payments for protection from pirates along the Barbary Coast. When Thomas Jefferson refused the pasha of Tripoli's demand for greater tribute, Tripoli declared war on the United States. Despite Jefferson's concern about the expense of maintaining a Navy, the United States of America's Navy was dispatched to the Mediterranean to confront Tripoli. A strong naval blockade and intrepid overland campaign from Egypt, in which Lieutenant O'Bannon earned the title "Hero of Derna," resulted in a peace treaty favorable to the United States. In honor of his heroism in the battle for Derna,

Hamet Karamanli presented Lieutenant O'Bannon with a scimitar in 1805 with a Mameluke hilt which became the model for the sword still used by the United States Marine Corps. On display is a USMC dress officer's sword together with biographical information about O'Bannon and his framed portrait to the right of the case.

The Naval Campaigns of the War of 1812 (Case 3)

The War of 1812's naval battles have captured the interest of Americans since the war's conclusion. Future president Theodore Roosevelt published an account, *The naval war of 1812*, of which the 1882 edition is displayed in this case. Roosevelt commended the Navy: "The Republic of the United States owed a great deal to the excellent make and armament of its ships, but it owed still more to the men who were in them. The massive timbers and heavy guns of Old Ironsides would have availed but little had it not been for her able commanders and crews."

Also displayed is Alfred Thayer Mahan's classic work, *Sea power in its relations to the War of 1812* (Boston, 1905). Mahan articulates "The meaning of the War of 1812":
"The people, born by war to independence, had by war again been transformed from childhood . . . to youth with its dawning vision and opening enthusiasms. . . . More and more of the people became Americans; they felt and acted more as a nation."

Portraits of naval commanders include Isaac Hull, who commanded the *Constitution*, with a print of the capture of the *Guerriere* by the *Constitution*; Jacob Jones, captain of the *Wasp*, with a print, "The *Wasp* boarding the *Frolic,"* from *The Naval Monument*, 1816; and Stephen Decatur, engraved for the *Analectic Magazine*, 1813, with a corresponding print, "The *United States* and *Macedonian*, 1816. "View of the action between the U. S. Frigate *Constitution* and the British Ships *Levant* & *Cyane*," 1816, completes this case.

The Burning of Washington and Explosion at Greenleaf's Point (Case 4)

The defeat of Napoleon in 1814 enabled the British to divert more troops to the war against the United States. At Bladensburg, a mixed American force of 5,000 militia, naval gunners, and regulars attempted to prevent a force of 4,500 British regulars from marching on Washington. The British, commanded by Major General Robert Ross, defeated the Americans and attacked Washington on August 24, 1814, burning numerous public facilities and buildings, including the White House, Capitol, and Washington Navy Yard. Greenleaf's Point, site of the Washington Arsenal (present-day Fort McNair), was the scene of a disaster for the British.

One of the NDU Library's earliest accounts of the explosion at Greenleaf's Point by Samuel Williams is dated 1815. In his *Sketches of the war, between the United States and the British isles*, the author vividly describes the British attempt to capture the magazine at Greenleaf's Point in 1814:
"This magazine was but partially destroyed by our people; the British soldiers afterwards more effectually completed its destruction. In a dry well belonging to the barracks, our soldiers had thrown many barrels of powder for concealment; and the British soldiers, after exploding the magazine casually threw into it one or two of their lighted matches, which communicated to the powder deposited there. The effect was terrific. Every one of the soldiers near, was blown into eternity; many at a great distance wounded, and the excavation remains as evidence of the great force of the explosion." Other early works on display that describe the burning of Washington and the Arsenal explosion are dated 1814, 1821, 1840, 1849, and 1857, complemented by prints of the Capitol, the Washington Arsenal, and the Navy Yard, with a "Plan of the City of Washington," 1799.

The British March into Washington and Naval Campaign (continued in Case 5)

Highlights in this case include a folding map, "Sketch of the March of the British army under Genl. Ross, from the 19th to the 29th August, 1814," from Edward Ingraham's *Sketch of the events which preceded the Capture of Washington, by the British, on the Twenty-Fourth of August, 1814*. A detailed narrative of the War of 1812 from July 8 through September 22, 1814, in Maryland the District of Columbia, this is the author's presentation copy.

Naval portraits include James Lawrence whose words, “Don’t give up the ship!” served as a rallying cry during the war, and William Bainbridge, Captain of the USS *Constitution* who defeated the Frigate *Java*, December 29, 1812.

The Battle of New Orleans and the Western Campaign (Case 6)

The print by Nathaniel Currier, 1842 (reproduction), depicts Andrew Jackson in the foreground as he leads American troops into battle against the British on January 8, 1815. The resounding American victory at the Battle of New Orleans soon became a symbol of a new idea: American democracy triumphing over European ideas of aristocracy and entitlement. General Andrew Jackson’s hastily assembled army had owned the day against a battle-hardened and numerically superior British force. A contemporary account of Jackson’s victory, *Notes on the War in the South*, by Nathaniel Claiborne, 1819, complements the print.

One of the most important sources for the war in the West is McAfee’s *History of the late war in the western country*, 1816. The work is based largely upon his own journal and material supplied by two of his most able commanders, William Henry Harrison and Governor Shelby of Kentucky. William Hull’s *Memoirs of the campaign of the North Western Army*, 1824, also is displayed. General Hull, former governor of Michigan Territory, wrote the memoir in an attempt to clear his name after the surrender of Detroit.

Prints on easels depict: the USS *Constitution* vs. the HMS *Guerriere*, August 19, 1812; the burning of the Frigate *Philadelphia*, February 16, 1804; Lieutenant Presley O’Bannon; Opsail 2012 Virginia [poster], “*Our flag was still there”*: commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner; the Battle of Lake Erie, September 10, 1813; and Andrew Jackson with the Tennessee forces on the Hickory Grounds (Ala), 1814.

Reproductions of prints from the Library of Congress and the Naval Historical Center are displayed on the exhibit panel, east wall, together with a poster on the Bicentennial of the Star-Spangled Banner.

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