

# BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

Old-Time, Bluegrass; Breakdown. Widely known. Tune: Eighth of January, Lyrics: Jimmy Driftwood; **DATE:** Lyrics 1958; **CATEGORY:** Fiddle and Instrumental Tunes; **RECORDING INFO:** Johnny Horton; **NOTES:** On January 8, 1815, Major General Andrew Jackson led a small, poorly-equipped army to victory against eight thousand British troops at the Battle of New Orleans. The victory made Jackson a national hero and he was later elected President in 1970. In 1958, Jimmy Driftwood composed lyrics to the old tune and recorded it as "The Battle of New Orleans." In 1959, Johnny Horton recorded a version of Driftwood's song, and the song rose to the top of the hit parade that year.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of four lines of music. Above the staff, guitar chords are indicated: G, C, D, G, C, D, G, D, G, D, G. The lyrics are: "In eight-teen four-teen we took a lit-tle trip a - long with Col-onel Jack-son down the might-y Miss-is-sipp We took a lit-tle ba-con and we took a lit-tle beans and we caught the blood-y Bri-tish in the town of New Or-leans We fired our guns and the Bri-tish kept a com-ing there was-n't nigh as man-y as there was a while a-go We fired once more and they be-gan to run-ning down the Miss-iss-ip - pi to the Gulf of Mex - i-co."

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G C  
In 1814 we took a little trip  
D G  
Along with Colonel Jackson down the mighty Mississipp  
C  
We took a little bacon and we took a little beans  
D G  
And we caught the bloody British in the town of New Orleans.

G  
**Chorus:** We fired our guns but the British kept a coming  
D G  
There wasn't nigh as many as there was a while ago  
We fired once more and they began a running  
D G  
Down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.

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# BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

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We looked down the river and we seen the British come  
And there must have been a hundred of them beating on the drums  
They stepped so high and they made their bugles ring  
We stood behind our cotton bales and didn't say a thing.      *Chorus*

Old Hickory said we could take em by surprise  
If we didn't fire a musket till we looked em in the eyes  
We held our fire till we seen their faces well  
We opened up our squirrel guns and really gave em, well      *Chorus*

**Bridge:** Well, they ran through the briars and they ran through the brambles  
And they ran through the bushes where the rabbits couldn't go  
They ran so fast the hounds couldn't catch 'em  
On down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.

We fired our cannon till the barrel melted down  
Then we grabbed an alligator and we fought another round  
We filled his head with cannonballs and powdered his behind  
And when we touched the powder off the gator lost his mind.      *Chorus*