

Fire Incendies

Revenge La Vengeance

On May 2, 1813, after nearly a week of occupation, the Americans left York in order to prepare for a full-scale invasion of Upper Canada. This invasion commenced at the end of May, when the Americans captured Fort George on the Niagara River. In the following year, both sides won important victories and suffered significant defeats.

Invading American forces were defeated by British, Canadian and First Nations forces at Stoney Creek, Beaver Dams, Chrysler's Farm and Chateauguay in Lower Canada. The Americans were victorious at the Battle of Lake Erie and the Battle of Moraviantown, where Tecumseh was killed.

In the spring of 1814, Napoleon's empire collapsed and thousands of British troops became available to fight in North America. With these reinforcements, the strengthened British military raided and occupied communities all along the American eastern seaboard. In August, the British attacked Washington, the capital of the United States. President James Madison fled and the British burned The White House and other government buildings in retaliation for the burning of the parliament buildings at York.

Le 2 mai 1813, après environ une semaine d'occupation, les Américains quittent York afin de préparer une invasion à grande échelle du Haut-Canada. Celle-ci commence à la fin du mois de mai avec la capture de Fort George sur la rivière Niagara. Au cours de l'année suivante, les deux adversaires remportent chacun des victoires significatives et essuient des défaites majeures.

Les troupes américaines sont vaincues par les forces britanniques, canadiennes et indiennes lors des batailles de Stoney Creek, de Beaver Dams, de la ferme Chrysler et de la Châteauguay dans le Bas-Canada. Les Américains sortent victorieux à Moraviantown, combat au cours duquel Tecumseh trouvera la mort.

Au printemps 1814, l'empire de Napoléon s'effondre et des milliers de troupes britanniques peuvent rejoindre les champs de bataille en Amérique du Nord. Grâce à ces renforts, l'armée britannique passe à l'offensive et occupe toutes les collectivités bordant le littoral américain de la côte est. En août, les Britanniques se lancent à l'assaut de Washington, la capitale des États-Unis. Le président James Madison prend la fuite et les Britanniques incendient la Maison-Blanche et les autres édifices gouvernementaux en représailles à la destruction des bâtiments du Parlement de York.

Canadians ... We're Not Always So Polite!

" ... In 1812 Madison was mad,
He was the president you know.
Well he thought he'd tell the British
where they ought to go.
He thought he'd invade Canada, He
thought that he was tough.
Instead we went to Washington,
And burned down all his stuff.
And the white house burned,
burned, burned.
And we're the ones that did it, It
burned, burned, burned. While the
president ran and cried, It burned,
burned, burned.
And things were very historical, And
the Americans ran and cried like a
bunch of little babies In the war of
1812. ..."

From the song "The White House Burned: The War of 1812." Wes Borg, Paul Mather, Donovan Workun and Joe Bird. Three Dead Trolls in a Baggie and Atomic Improv. c.1994

Nous, les Canadiens... nous ne sommes pas toujours aussi polis qu'on le croit

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Extrait de la chanson « The White House Burned: The War of 1812. » Wes Borg, Paul Mather, Donovan Workun et Joe Bird. Three Dead Trolls in a Baggie et Atomic Improv., v. 1994.