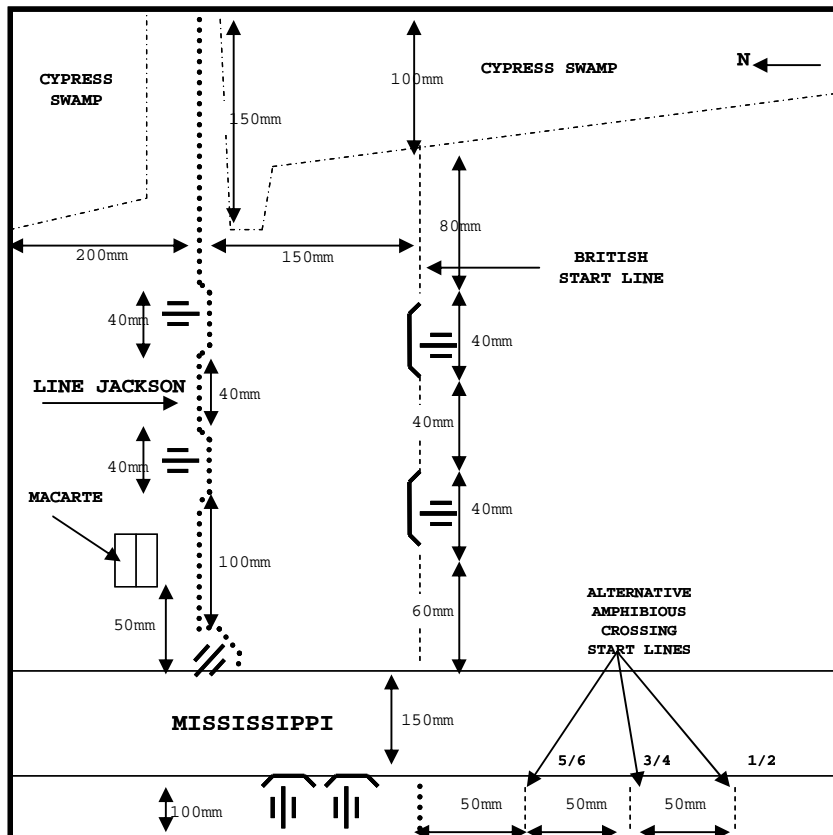


The Americans declared war on Britain on 18 June 1812 and within a month had invaded Canada, but after some initial success they were eventually pushed back over the St Lawrence in November 1813. To Britain, engaged as she was in the war in Europe, the war in America was something of a sideshow and as such were unwilling to commit too many troops to the conflict. But with Napoleon's first abdication in April 1814 the situation changed significantly and the British were able to send veteran troops to America. They mounted a series of punitive, and largely very successful, raids, which included taking Washington and burning the White House in August 1814. This was followed by the Battle of North Point and the inconclusive bombardment of Fort McHenry, during which the British commander, Maj Gen Robert Ross, was killed. The British withdrew to Jamaica to regroup and reinforce. The British High command next resolved to take New Orleans, which controlled the mighty Mississippi River and was, perhaps, the richest city on the continent. They also dispatch an experienced veteran general as the new commander, Maj Gen Sir Edward Pakenham. The Americans, meanwhile, had also not been idle. Their poor showing to date had forced them to rapidly promote some new blood and the best of these, the newly promoted and future President Maj Gen Andrew Jackson, was given command of the South which hinged on the successful defence of New Orleans.

The British have now been in the open facing 'Line Jackson' for two weeks. They tried rushing the line when they first arrived but were badly cut up by flanking fire from the American batteries across the Mississippi. The British Commander, General Packham has a plan! He has progressively bombarded 'Line Jackson' over the past two weeks with guns brought up from the fleet. He now plans a complicated amphibious night attack across the Mississippi in order to silence the American Batteries on the South Bank prior to his main assault on Line Jackson, which is timed to take place at dawn. The weather has been very cold and wet, British moral isnot good! the British must attack now or moral will fade away and ammunition will run out. Unfortunately for all, no one on either side knew, that two weeks before, peace had been agreed at the Treaty of Ghent and all that was about to happen was unnecessary.



The Battlefield. The Mississippi is impassable and the house, Macarte, has no defensive value but it does obstruct Line of Sight. The Cypress Swamps are classed as Very Bad Going (-1 to all movement).

Forces Involved:

British:

1 x CinC - Maj Gen Sir Edward Pakenham
1 x Jg(E)
3 x Ms/LI (including a Unit of Marines and Naval Shore Party)
4 x Ms
2 x Ms (West Indian Regiments)
2 x FA (18 pds Naval Guns in Fixed Positions)
1 x CR. Total Units: 14

Americans:

1 x CinC - Maj Gen Andrew Jackson
2 x FA(M) (in Fixed Positions in Line Jackson)
1 x HA(M) (in Fixed Position in Line Jackson)
2 x FA (in Fixed Position on the West Bank of the Mississippi)
1 x SC (Dragoons)
2 x Ms (Regulars and the Uniformed Militia)
3 x Ms(M) (Militia & Volunteers)
1 x LEM (Under armed Local Militia)
1 x Gs (Pirates & Indians). Total Units: 14

Deployment. As the artillery is Fixed it must be deployed historically. For all other Units both sides write down their dispositions, including those commit to the West Bank, which once on the West Bank, cannot cross back over to the East. Both sides then deploy simultaneously, except for the British Amphibious Assault Party which dices for its landing site after the Americans have deployed.

Gaming Notes.

1. Line Jackson. The Artillery in Line Jackson has been classed as 'M' because there were so few guns per Battery not because of their lack of ability. Line Jackson had formidable protection against incoming fire, and so rates a -3 to enemy Fire factors, but it was not so impressive against assault and the British had ladders and fascines for the assault, therefore only the usual +1 is added to the defenders' Close Combat factor. The West Bank is not Line Jackson.

2. Amphibious Assault Crossing. Historically the British experienced some difficulty with their amphibious assault crossing of the Mississippi, and so they must dice to see how far down along the West Bank they disembark prior to launching their attack:
1 or 2 - 600 paces, 3 or 4 - 400 paces and 5 or 6 - 200 paces from the American defensive position.

3. Command and Control. All Units on the West Bank had specific orders and objectives, and so they do not suffer the usual penalty if out of command and control of their respective CinC, but CAPs must be used to move them. Also the bad weather ensured the start of the attack was difficult and chaotic, therefore the British do not get the +2 CAP for the first turn.

4. British Artillery. The British Artillery facing Line Jackson was Naval Guns, on a wooden platform which was sinking into the sodden ground. They were unable to maintain a steady rate of fire, therefore to reflect this, the Fixed Guns can only Fire in the British Move Phase.

Victory Conditions. In order to win the British must have 2 Units of Ms over Line Jackson, the Americans win by destroying a total of 5 British Units before Line Jackson is breached.