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ON JANUARY 8, 1815, A MONUMENTAL AMERICAN VICTORY

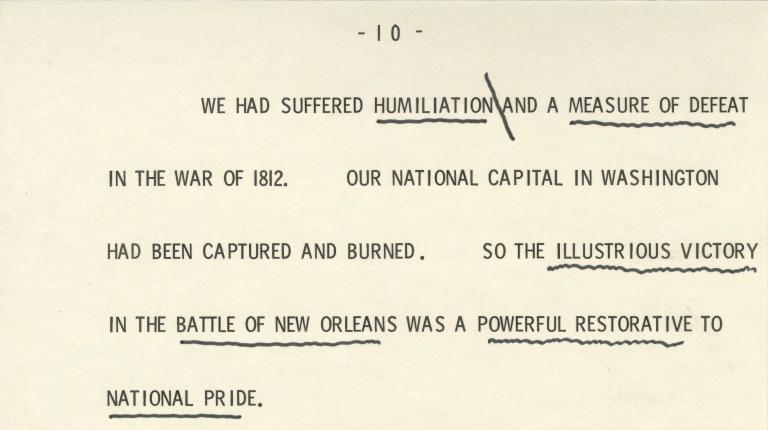
WAS ACHIEVED HERE, THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS. LOUISIANA

HAD BEEN A STATE FOR LESS THAN THREE YEARS. BUT

OUTNUMBERED AMERICANS INNOVATED AND USED THE TACTICS OF THE

FRONTIER TO DEFEAT A VETERAN BRITISH FORCE TRAINED IN THE

STRATEGY OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS.



YET THE VICTORY AT NEW ORLEANS TOOK PLACE TWO WEEKS

AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE IN EUROPE. THOUSANDS

DIED ALTHOUGH A PEACE HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED. THE

COMBATANTS HAD NOT GOTTEN THE WORD. YET THE EPIC

STRUGGLE NEVERTHELESS RESTORED AMERICA'S PRIDE.

TODAY AMERICA CAN AGAIN REGAIN THE SENSE OF PRIDE

THAT EXISTED BEFORE VIETNAM. BUT IT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY

REFIGHTING A WAR THAT IS FINISHED -- AS FAR AS AMERICA IS

CONCERNED. THE TIME HAS COME TO LOOK FORWARD TO AN AGENDA

FOR THE FUTURE, TO UNIFY, TO BIND UP THE NATION'S WOUNDS

AND RESTORE IN IT TO HEALTH AND OPTIMISTIC SELF-CONFIDENCE.

IN NEW ORLEANS A GREAT BATTLE WAS FOUGHT AFTER A WAR

WAS OVER. IN NEW ORLEANS TONIGHT WE CAN BEGIN A GREAT

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. THE FIRST ENGAGEMENT MUST BE

WITH THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY --- AND OF THE FUTURE.