

0. THE FLAG STILL FLEW - Story Preface
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- 4. THE FLAG STILL FLEW**
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Edward Percy Moran (1862-1935) created this oil painting around 1912. It depicts the artist's version of Francis Scott Key realizing that the American flag was still flying at Fort McHenry, despite a vicious battle between British and U.S. forces during the War of 1812. Image online via Wikimedia Commons. Click on the image for a better view.

Major Armistead had refused to take down the flag or surrender the fort. At dawn's first light, Francis Scott Key saw the huge flag. It was still flying over Ft. McHenry. Baltimore was safe.

What had happened during the night? Why had the night sky suddenly gone dark? Unknown to Key, the courage of Armistead and his Baltimore defenders had convinced the British high command the fight for Baltimore would be too costly.

During the night, both land and sea operations ceased. The British withdrew from the battle.

For many years thereafter, while they were still alive, the surviving Baltimore defenders marched in a parade to commemorate the city's freedom. (This link, to an 1880 photograph, demonstrates some of those men lived a very long time.)

Four months later, the Americans and the British negotiated the Treaty of Ghent. The War of 1812 was over. Britain and America never fought each other again.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-FLAG-STILL-FLEW-Star-Spangled-Banner)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-FLAG-STILL-FLEW-Star-Spangled-Banner>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-FLAG-STILL-FLEW-Star-Spangled-Banner)

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Media Stream



Major Armistead - Hero of Ft. McHenry

Image online, courtesy the Maryland Historical Society.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Major-Armistead-Hero-of-Ft.-McHenry>



Key - Looking Back at Ft. McHenry

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Key-Looking-Back-at-Ft.-McHenry>



View over Ft. McHenry

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Park Service.

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Battle of Baltimore - Survivors, War of 1812

Photo online, courtesy Maryland State Historical Society - Library of Maryland History.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Battle-of-Baltimore-Survivors-War-of-1812>



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