

**MEXICO CITY  
QUERETARO  
VERA CRUZ**



**OCTOBER 7-14, 1997**

Tour Leaders  
Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.  
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**AZTEC CLUB  
OF 1847**



**SESQUICENTENNIAL TOUR**

**Aztec Club Primer**

Edited by  
Richard Breithaupt, Jr.

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October 7, 1997

## AZTEC CLUB OF 1847

### Sesquicentennial Tour

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Ruben Arvizu	Los Angeles, California
Williard Blankenship, M. D.	Laguna Beach, California
Richard & Elizabeth Breithaupt	Northridge, California
Richard Breithaupt, Jr.	Van Nuys, California
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Col. Benjamin & Marilyn Williams	Montgomery, Alabama



My Friend:

Welcome to beautiful Mexico! This week, we celebrate our sesquicentennial, but much more. An important part of our reason for traveling to Mexico is to celebrate 150 years of peace between the United States and Mexico, and to honor the bravery and sacrifices made by men on both sides. During our visit, we will visit both the American Cemetery and the monument at Chapultepec to lay wreaths in honor of the supreme sacrifice made by both sides.

We will have the opportunity to see first-hand the rich heritage of Mexico. In addition to a tour of the Plaza de la Constitucion, the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Cathedral and the renowned Museo de Antropologia, we will visit Querétaro, the provisional capital of Mexico following the American occupation and site of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo. Along the way we will see the 16<sup>th</sup> century Franciscan town of Tula, famous as the capital and chief ceremonial center of the Toltecs. We'll be "up close and personal" with its famous Giants, and see the Temple of Tiahuiacalpantecuitli, the Burnt Palace and the Coatepantli sites. Later, many of us will travel to Vera Cruz, following in reverse the path our ancestors took 150 years ago. It is our hope that our visit will help foster friendship and promote greater understanding between our two countries.

This booklet provides you background and information about the Aztec Club, the Mexican War and Mexico's history. Although primarily intended for your reading enjoyment, it has the added benefit of providing a glimpse of the depth and breadth of information that will be included in the Club's upcoming Sesquicentennial Register. With information and photographs from this trip, the Register will go to press in December. In addition to a complete history of the Aztec Club, included in its anticipated 1,000 pages will be a roll of members, biographies and photographs of over 120 original members, the most complete listing of officers serving in the war ever produced, battle statistics, and much more. Look for an announcement and be sure to reserve your copy early as it will be a limited printing.

Meanwhile, on behalf of the Aztec Club, I want to thank the Mexican Government, Mr. Jorge Gamboa Patrón and the Mexican Government Tourism Office, Cecelia Pedroza and staff at Pedroza Travel, and especially Mr. Rubén Arvizu, for all of the support and effort expended to make our visit both memorable and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Richard Breithaupt, Jr.  
President, Aztec Club of 1847

General Order No. 30  
Zachary Taylor's Order Moving Troops  
from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande

## AZTEC CLUB OF 1847

Order, }  
No. 30. }

Head Quarters Army of Occupation  
Corpus Christi, Texas. March 1846

The Army of Occupation being about to take position on the left bank of the Rio Grande, under the orders of the Executive of the United States, the General Commanding deems it proper to express his hope that the movement will prove beneficial to all concerned and that nothing may be wanting on his part to insure so desirable a result; he strictly enjoins upon his command the most scrupulous regard for the rights of all persons who may be found in the peaceable pursuit of their respective avocations, residing on both banks of the Rio Grande. No person, under any pretence whatever, will interfere in any manner with the civil rights or religious privileges of the people, but will pay the utmost respect to both. Whatever may be required for the use of the army, will be purchased by the proper departments at the highest market price. The General commanding is happy to say that he has entire confidence in the patriotism and discipline of the Army under his command, and feels assured that his orders, as above expressed, will be strictly observed.

Z. Taylor, Major General,  
U.S.A. Comd'g

The original, owned by the Aztec Club, was given to the Smithsonian Institution in 1953.

The Aztec Club of 1847 is, in point of age, the second ranking American patriotic society, coming next after the Society of the Cincinnati. Eligibility is based on descent, direct or collateral, from a commissioned officer of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps who served in any part of Mexico or adjacent waters during the Mexican War, 1846-1848.

Included in the Roster of Original Members, which listed some 160 original members of the Club, are, in the words of K. Jack Bauer (The Mexican War, New York, 1974), "most of the major figures in the Mexican War army and a large group whose fame would come a decade and a half later as leaders of the Union and Confederate Armies in the struggle of 1861-1865". These Original Members included:

### Union

John Milton Brannan  
Robert C. Buchanan  
George Cadwalader  
Albemarle Cady  
Philip St. George Cooke  
William Henry French  
Alfred Gibbs  
Ulysses Simpson Grant  
John Porter Hatch  
Schuyler Hamilton  
Joseph Hooker  
Philip Kearny  
George Brinton McClellan  
Robert Patterson  
Fitz John Porter  
Jesse Lee Reno  
Charles Ferguson Smith  
George Sykes  
Zealous Bates Tower

### Confederate

Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard  
Bernard Elliott Bee  
Richard Stodard Ewell  
Maxcy Gregg  
William Joseph Hardee  
Joseph Eggleston Johnston  
Robert Edward Lee  
Mansfield Lovell  
John Bankhead Magruder  
Samuel McGowan  
John Clifford Pemberton  
Henry Hopkins Sibley  
Gustavus Woodson Smith  
Martin Luther Smith  
David Emanuel Twiggs  
Earl Van Dorn  
Cadmus Marcellus Wilcox

Many other members of the Club, not original members in 1847, were equally significant leaders of the Army and Navy, both Federal and Confederate, in the great struggle of 1861-1865, including:

### Union

John Joseph Abercrombie  
Robert Allen  
Christopher C. Augur  
John Gross Barnard  
Thomas Leonidas Crittenden  
William Watts Hart Davis  
William Helmsley Emory  
Winfield Scott Hancock  
Henry Jackson Hunt  
John Cleveland Robinson  
William Tecumseh Sherman  
George C. Meade

### Confederate

Simon Bolivar Buckner  
James Longstreet

Original members of the Aztec Club came from both the Regular and Volunteer forces, but not from the militia. In *The Military Policy of the United States* (1904), Maj. Gen. Emory Upton (1839-1881) stated that:

“. . . [T]he Mexican War marked a great change if not a revolution in our military policy. This result was due to the decay and gradual abandonment of the military system which, up to that time, had been regarded as the ‘great bulwark of National defense.’” [Pgs. 221-222.]

Upton further pointed out that:

“. . . [W]hile in the War of 1812 the combined force of regulars and volunteers of twelve or more months’ service was but 12% of the total number of troops employed, the same force in the Mexican War was no less than 88%.”

Although entirely non-political in its organization and scope, no less than six of its members have been the standard bearers of their respective parties for President of the United States: Zachary Taylor, Franklin Pierce, Ulysses Simpson Grant, Winfield Scott, George Brinton McClellan and Winfield Scott Hancock. Of these, three were elected to and have administered that great office.

Two of the Club’s members have been candidates for Vice President of the United States, John A. Logan and Simon Bolivar Buckner, and a long line of its distinguished members have held high place in Congress, in the professions and other prominent fields of civic authority and in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

## Founding

On the 13th of October, 1847, as soon as the United States Army was quietly established in the City of Mexico, a meeting of officers was called with a view toward forming a Club and opening a clubhouse for the entertainment of its members and their guests while in the City.

Colonel DeLancey Floyd-Jones, an original member of the Club, described its founding as follows:

The Club was organized for the purpose of forming a resort for officers, as a promoter of good fellowship, and of furnishing a home where they could pass their leisure hours in social intercourse, and where more palatable and healthful viands could be procured at a reduced price than at the best Fandangos of the city.

General C. F. Smith, Col. John B. Grayson, Gen. John B. Magruder, Gen. Robert Buchanan, General C. P. Stone, Professor Henry Coppée, of the Regular Army, and General Franklin Pierce of the volunteers, and President of the United States, were the organizers of the Club.<sup>1</sup>

Elected that day as its officers were:

President	Gen. John A. Quitman
First Vice Presidents	Capt. John B. Grayson Col. Charles F. Smith
Second Vice President	Capt. John B. Magruder
Treasurer	Lt. Richard B. Hammond
Secretaries	Capt. George Deas Lt. Henry Coppée

The original home of the Club was the handsome residence of Senor Boca Negra. Mexico's former Minister to the United States, his palace, built during the 18<sup>th</sup> century for the Viceroy of Spain, was located on one of the streets leading out of the Calle Plateros, not far from the headquarters of Gen. Winfield Scott, Commander-in-Chief.



Brig. Gen. (Bvt. Maj. Gen.) John A. Quitman  
First President of the Aztec Club  
Daguerreotype Taken During the Mexican War  
Schultz Collection



Capt. (Bvt. Col.) Charles F. Smith  
First Vice President of the Aztec Club  
Daguerreotype Taken During the Mexican War  
Schultz Collection

On January 13, 1848 a Constitution was adopted and a new election was held. The initiation fee was set at \$20, payable in advance. Generals Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott, and Chaplain John McCarty, were elected honorary members.

The Preamble of the original Constitution of the Aztec Club states:

Extract from the Regulations of the United States Army:

"It is very desirable that officers of the same army should form themselves into messes, and live together. Such associations promote the harmony and comfort of their members, and when judiciously managed, constitute the most respectable and economical manner in which officers can live within their pay. They afford the opportunity of hospitable entertainment to friends, and other persons, to whom the civilities and courtesies of life should be extended.

Department at a Club will be marked with all that propriety which characterizes the society of gentlemen. The rules of good breeding will be punctiliously observed, and the infringement of them at the Club will be regarded as an offense calling for the interposition of the authority of the officers, or any members of the Club, to check the same in their irregularity."

We, the undersigned, believing that the clubs recommended in the foregoing extracts are conducive to the interests of the Army, as a body, and to the comfort of the undersigned members, do agree to constitute ourselves as an association, to be styled and known as "The Aztec Club", and do adopt the following as the fundamental rules of its constitution. . .

The original Constitution allowed for a President, two Vice Presidents, a three-member Committee of Arrangement, a Treasurer and Secretary, all of whom were members of the Club. The Committee of Arrangement was responsible to inspect and audit all accounts of the Club; to regulate and govern its interior police and arrangements of the building; to recommend alterations and improvements deemed necessary; and, in cooperation with the Club's officers, to adopt and enforce a system of rules "calculated to promote the grand objects of our association — 'harmony, economy and comfort'". The Club, located in the former palace of Senór Boca Negra, included a parlor, reading room, dining room, refreshment room and card rooms.

A committee, composed of the officers and Committee of Arrangement and twelve men appointed by the President, was created to consider and decide upon the qualifications of officers proposed as new members. To be proposed for membership, a note was addressed to the Secretary signed by two members of the Club. The note was then circulated to the admissions committee, each of whom signified his approval or disapproval within forty-eight hours. Three dissenting votes rejected an applicant and it took eighteen affirmative votes to approve him. The Secretary then addressed a note to the two officers proposing, with a duplicate to the candidate, informing them of the committee's decision. Those admitted were charged an initiation fee of \$20.

The Aztec Club held regular meetings in its parlor, on the evening of the first Friday of each month. Monthly dues of \$1 were charged for all members residing in the Federal District to defray the expenses of furniture and contingencies, due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Any member quartered in Mexico City who failed to be present at a meeting, absent sickness or duty, was required to forfeit \$2. A failure to pay this fine before the next regular meeting was considered as the virtual withdrawal of the member from the Club.

The Constitution was first printed by the office of the American Star in compliance with a resolution adopted March 3, 1848.

On March 3, 1848, by Resolution of the Club, a Constitution, with a list of members, was printed at the office of the American Star in the City of Mexico.

At a meeting on May 26, 1848, in anticipation of the speedy withdrawal of the army from Mexico, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, The circumstances that brought the Aztec Club into existence, and made to this time its continuance both convenient and desirable, are about to cease in consequence of the withdrawal of the army from Mexico, we, the members of said Club, believing it to be impracticable to continue its existence in any useful or desirable mode, and desiring to preserve some lasting memorial of the pleasure and advantages derived from this institution, that may serve for all time as an additional bond of friendship and brotherhood among its members, do therefore

*Resolve*, 1<sup>st</sup>. That the Aztec Club shall be adjourned from and after the withdrawal of the Army of the United States from the Republic of Mexico.

2<sup>nd</sup>. That all surplus moneys in the hands of the Treasurer, after the payment of the just debts of the Club, and those necessary for furnishing a diploma to each member, shall constitute a fund for the use of the Club, and shall be invested by the Treasurer as a Trustee for that purpose; and that said fund, together with accruing interest, shall not

be disposed of, save by a vote of a majority of the living members of said Club.

3<sup>rd</sup>. That the organization of the Club shall continue with its officers elected during the present meeting, for a period of five years from the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1847, and that thereafter the vacancies occurring in said offices shall be filled in the manner now provided by the Constitution of said Club, and that offices becoming vacant shall be filled by the remaining officers of said Club pro tempore.

4<sup>th</sup>. That within three months before the term of office of the present and subsequent officers shall expire, members may vote by letter addressed to the senior officer of the Club, on all subjects connected with the Club, instead of *viva voce*, which letters shall be opened on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September succeeding; and that after the whole number of members shall be less than twenty, a majority of the same shall have the power of election and vote.

5<sup>th</sup>. That the resolutions passed at the present meeting shall alter the Constitution of the Aztec Club, so far as they conflict with the same, and shall form a part of said Constitution.

6<sup>th</sup>. That it be recommended to members of the Club, that whenever and wherever, hereafter, they shall chance to meet in sufficient numbers, (and especially on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September,) that they celebrate the remembrance of the institution in such manner as may be convenient and agreeable.

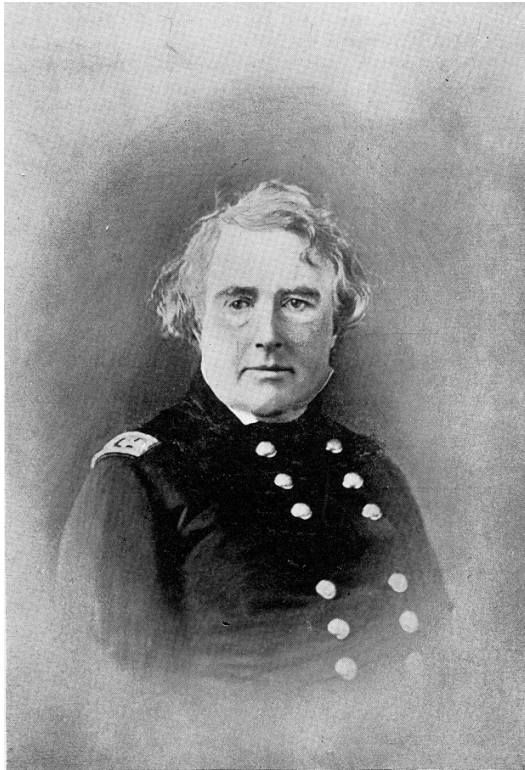
7<sup>th</sup>. That the Club shall be closed by the President when he shall deem expedient.

8<sup>th</sup>. That the resolutions of the Club passed this night be published in the United States, and be furnished to the members.

M. L. Smith, Lieut. Top. Eng's,  
*Secretary, Aztec Club.*

Also by resolution dated May 26<sup>th</sup>, the following were elected to be officers of the Aztec Club, "for a period of five years from 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1847", viz.:

President	Col. Persifor F. Smith
Substitute President and Acting Treasurer	Col. John B. Grayson
First Vice President	Col. Robert C. Buchanan
Second Vice President	Col. Charles F. Smith
Secretary	Lt. Martin L. Smith



Col. (Bvt. Brig. Gen. & Maj. Gen.) Persifor F. Smith  
Second President of the Aztec Club  
Painting by unknown artist  
History of the Mexican War  
Cadmus Wilcox, 1892

Thus, although it was determined that no satisfactory plan could then be proposed for continuing the existence of the Club as a functioning facility after returning to the United States, but "desiring to preserve some lasting memorial of the pleasure and advantages derived from this institution that may serve for all time as an additional bond of friendship and brotherhood among its members", the members then present took the first step toward creating an organization in perpetuity.

Subsequently, the house was closed and the Club declared adjourned until the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 1852.

In June, 1848, Lieutenant Peter Valentine Hagner, Treasurer, being under orders for the march, resigned his office as Treasurer and submitted his accounts, with balance due, to the Club, which were duly approved.

During the interval, the officers, charged with that duty, decided upon the diploma and seal, and had a plate engraved and diplomas distributed.

Sometime prior to 1885 the original copper plate was lost. Subsequently, a second engraved membership diploma was created.

At the time of the withdrawal of the Army from Mexico the Aztec Club consisted of 160 members and three honorary members. When the armies of the United States withdrew from Mexico the Club was declared adjourned until September, 1852 when new officers were elected.



Oration  
by  
Hon. Thomas J. Mackey  
at the  
Reunion of Veterans of the Mexican War  
in Washington City  
December 6, 7, and 8, 1883

With the Addition of Maps and Other Information  
Edited by Richard Breithaupt, Jr.  
President, Aztec Club of 1847

The beautiful scene presented under the gas-light by the tasteful display of banners, plants, elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen, who had been invited by the executive committee of arrangements, reflected great credit upon Mr. Abner and the committee on decorations. The most perfect order prevailed. The music, under management of Comrade Prosperi, was excellent.

On the platform were seated President James W. Denver, of Ohio' 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Mahlon D. Manson, of Indiana; Gen. Albert Pike and Gen. Thomas T. Crittenden, V. P.'s for the District of Columbia; Gen. W. S. Rosecrans, Gen. Horace Brooks, and Secretary Alexander M. Kenaday, the three last named being specially requested to represent the California veterans; Marshall A. H. Reynolds, Col. Robert Klotz, Gen. Edmund L. Dana, J. E. Arthur, John Kritzer, William Kerlin, and Hugh Kerr, of Pennsylvania; Gen. James Cravens, S. L. McFadin, and Col. O. P. H. Cary, of Indiana; Andrew J. Robertson, John Conwell, George Mason, and Col. James F. Chapman, of Ohio; Gen. Daniel Ruggles, Gen. William B. Taliaferro, Capt. James F. Milligan and Osmond Peters of Virginia; Col. George A. Porterfield, and M. L. Dorn, of West Virginia; Senator John A. Logan, Hon. W. R. Morrison, Maj. S. P. Tufts, Col. Andrew F. Rodgers, J. W. Wilbanks, and Dr. J. W. Slade, of Illinois; Henry A. McGlenen and T. Knowler, of Massachusetts; Gen. N. P. Viall and B. B. Manchester, of Rhode Island; Maj. Henry Gaines, Col. J. M. Turner, J. R. Riley, and Gen. J. E. Kerrigan of New York; Capt. John McGowan, and F. D. Clark, of New Jersey; Maj. A. J. Dorn, Daniel Murphy, and W. H. Sibley,

of Texas; Gen. Alfred H. Colquitt and Gen. James S. Longstreet, of Georgia; John L. Cantwell, of North Carolina; Col. William B. Stanley, Thomas J. Mackey, James D. Blanding, K. G. Billings, Zachariah Canty, R. J. Gladney, W. B. Lomax, Thomas Beggs, and George W. Curtis, of South Carolina; F. M. Chrisman of Arkansas; Capt. George V. Hebb, of Alabama; Col. James Walker, the artist whose "Battle of Chapultepec" adorns the Senate gallery of the United States; C. P. Wood, of Michigan; Col. J. C. McGinnis and A. B. Pearson, of St. Louis, Missouri; Senator John S. Williams, A. J. Morey, and Col. J. G. Craddock, of Kentucky; Treasurer Samuel V. Niles, Lieut. 16<sup>th</sup> Inf.; Maj. Gens. Stewart Van Vliet, John J. Reynolds, William H. Emory, Peter V. Hagner, Adj. Gen. Richard H. Drum, Gen. Thomas Duncan, Gen. Benjamin Alvord, Gen. B. H. Hill, Gen. James Oakes, Gen. Henry J. Hunt, Col. Alex Montgomery, Col. Alex J. Dallas, Col. James Belger, Col. George D. Patten, Capt. John S. Garland, Capt. Ed. Allsworth, and others of the U. S. Army; Capt. Louis S. Gelan, of Colorado; Capt. John G. Fury, Capt. William A. Barnes, Louis F. Beeler, and William Williams, of Baltimore; James W. Branson, Andrew J. Brock, and W. H. Porter of Tennessee; A. H. Parker, R. R. Wilson, and Martin Costello, of New Orleans, Louisiana; J. M. Hefley and John B. Bothwell, of Iowa; E. Welter, of Wisconsin, Rear Adm. A. Ludlow Case, and William Rogers Taylor, U.S.N.; Gen. Edward F. Beale and Thomas Young, formerly lieutenants in the Navy, and others.

President Denver introduced Comrade Thomas J. Mackey as the chosen orator of the occasion, who was received with hearty greetings.

## THE ORATION

Mr. President and Comrades of the Mexican War:

By your favor, I have been assigned the delicate duty of reciting history in the presence of those who have acted history. In so doing, I shall violate the prudent counsel of a distinguished teacher of modern languages, who advised his scholars on graduation, always to speak their French among Germans, and their German among Frenchmen.

The dust of more than a third of a century has gathered over the curtain that fell upon the last scene of that splendid drama in which you bore honorable parts on the stage of actual conflict. I can but lift that curtain for a brief moment, while we glance through the long vista of thirty-seven years upon scenes which to us are still living memories, while others must glean them from the historic page, or perchance, hear them recited at the household altar, where

"The broken soldier kindly bade to stay,  
Sits by his fire and talks the night away;  
Weeps o'er his wounds, or tales of sorrow done,  
Shoulders his crutch and shows how fields were won."

The war with Mexico had its origin in the act of Congress of January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1845, providing for the annexation of Texas. The act was ratified by that republic July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1845, and Texas thus became a State in the American Union.

She had already maintained her independence for ten years against Mexico, the parent country, whose authority her people had resisted with unequalled prowess and varying success on many fields of battle. The critic who questions the political morality of the act of annexation may be fully answered by referring to the fact that both England and France had recognized the independence of the Republic of Texas long before she applied for admission into our Union.

Mexico resolved to nullify this act by force of arms. She asserted her title to Texas, and further claimed that the true western boundary of that State was the river Nueces, whereas the Texans claimed the country westward to the Rio Grande. In view of the aggressive attitude of Mexico, General Zachary Taylor, at the head of an army of about four thousand men, chiefly regulars, was ordered into the disputed territory,

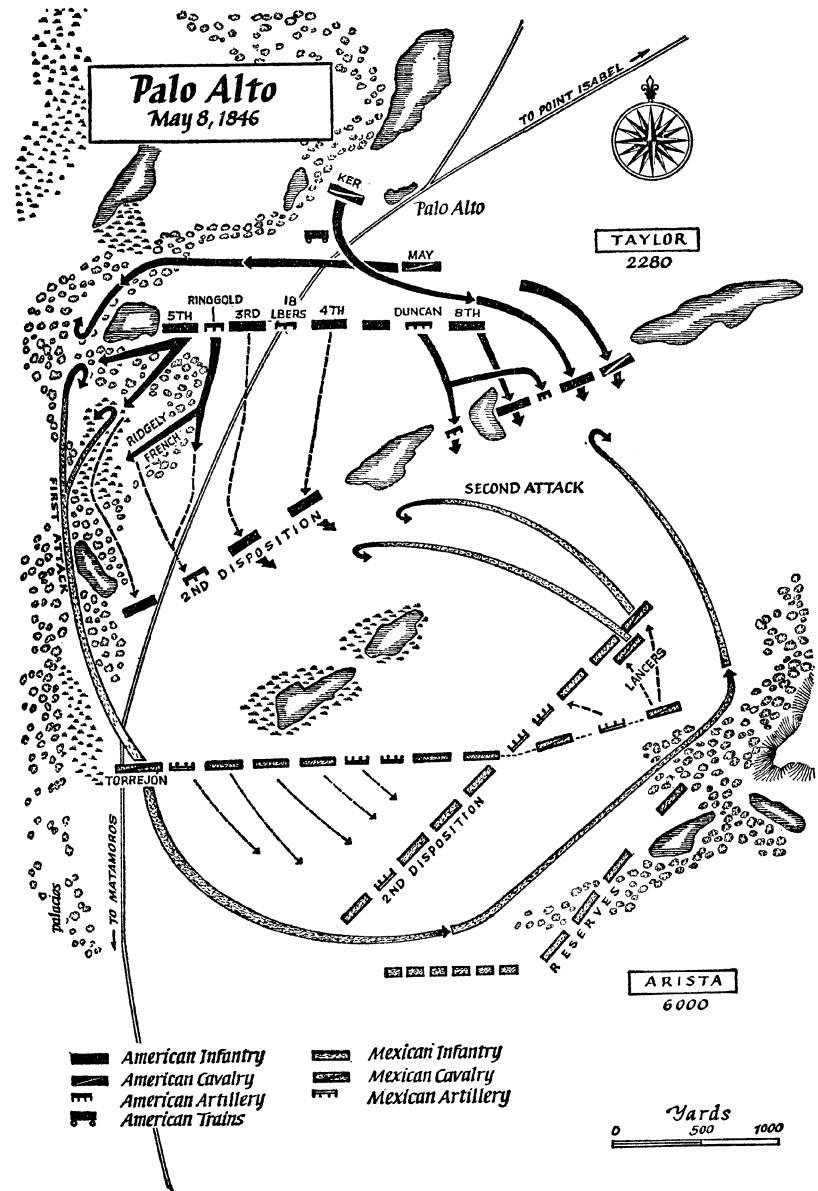
which he entered July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1845, establishing his camp at Corpus Christi. Early in 1846 he moved to the Rio Grande opposite the city of Matamoras, Mexico. Here he built Fort Brown. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, 1846, Captain Thornton, with a company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons, was ordered up the river to reconnoiter. He fell into an ambush, and being surrounded by a force seven times stronger than his own, he was compelled to surrender, after a gallant resistance, having sixteen of his command killed on the field.

Soon after this the Mexican forces attacked Fort Brown, and were handsomely repulsed. On May 8<sup>th</sup> General Taylor, with 2,800 men, met and defeated the Mexican army, six thousand strong, under the command of General Arista, at Palo Alto. In this battle Colonel Charles May of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons, as knightly a soldier as ever drew sword in battle, made his famous charge, capturing two batteries of Mexican artillery and taking prisoner Major General La Vega, a distinguished officer of the Mexican army. On the next day Arista, having been largely reinforced, made a stand a few miles distant from Palo Alto (the high plain), at Resaca de la Palma (or the Ravine of Palms), and was there again defeated by Taylor's army, the Mexican loss being 1,000 and ours but 110. On May 18<sup>th</sup> General Taylor crossed the Rio Grande and took possession of the city of Matamoras.

It is a noteworthy fact that these hostile operations were prosecuted and battles fought without any declaration of war on either side. In fact, there never was a formal declaration of war made by either nation. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1846, Congress passed a resolution declaring that war existed between the United States and Mexico, and further resolved that it should be prosecuted until we had attained "indemnity for the past and security for the future".

As evidence of the temper of the minority of that day it should be stated that during the debate upon the resolution a distinguished Senator (Thomas Corwin, of Ohio,) used the following language:

"If I were a Mexican, as I am an American, I would welcome the invaders of my country with bloody hands to hospitable graves!"





of seventy thousand, and had called into the field an additional force of nearly two hundred thousand. Her soldiers were well equipped and magnificently uniformed. We could say of her, with literal truth, that her "cohorts were gleaming with purple and gold".

Her coast defenses were provided with good armaments and well manned, and her principal seaport, Vera Cruz, was guarded by the castle of San Juan d'Ulloa, mounting four hundred guns, and one of the strongest fortresses in the world. No country upon earth was better adapted by its topography for defensive warfare.

And it had a formidable ally in the deadly climate of its coast, where the tropical sun, shining upon the ever-decaying masses of rank vegetation, burns up the blood with fever, alternating with the icy norther that in an hour will often vary the temperature from summer's heat to winter's cold.

Three lines of operation against Mexico were now determined on:

1. General Taylor was to operate from Matamoras along the line of the Rio Grande.
2. A column under General Kearny was to conquer the Mexican territories of New Mexico and California.
3. A column under General Wool was to enter the northern states of Mexico and conquer Chihuahua.

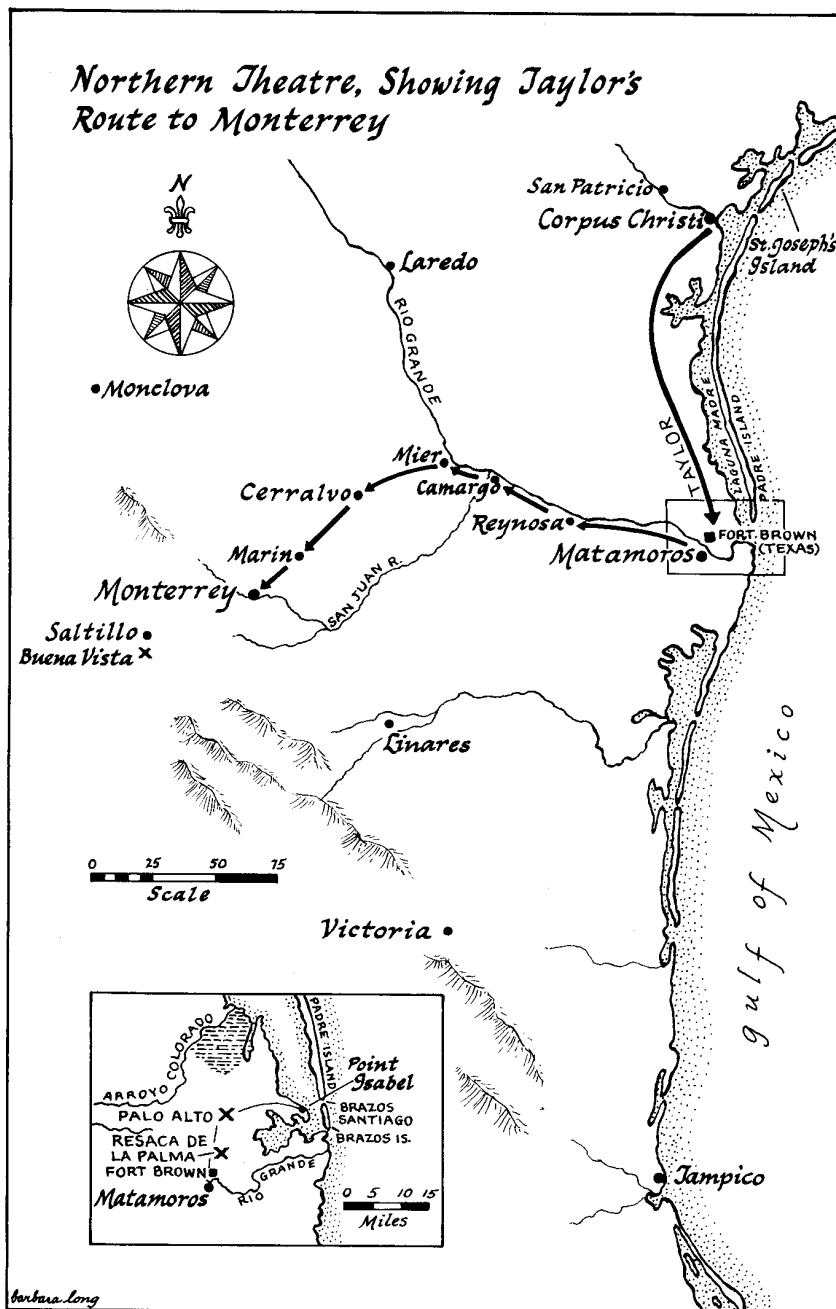
In pursuance of this plan, General Taylor advanced upon the Mexican army, then in position at Monterey, September 5, 1846.

His army numbered 6,600, and was composed of 3,200 regular troops — of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, four companies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons, five batteries of artillery — and 3,400 volunteers, consisting of the first regiments from Ohio, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee, two Texas regiments, commanded by Brigadier-General Henderson, including Jack Hay's famous rangers, and one battalion from Maryland and the District of Columbia.

The Mexican force consisted of 7,000 regulars and 3,500 volunteers, with an ample supply of artillery, in strong works, covering every approach to the city. Their principal works were known as Forts

Diabolo, Teneria, Soldado, Independence, the Bishop's Palace and the Citadel.

Our army attacked in three divisions, commanded by Generals Worth, Twiggs, and Butler, of Kentucky.



The enemy made a fierce and desperate resistance, raising the old Spanish war cry, of "War to the knife, and the knife to the hilt!" The firing was incessant from barricades in the streets, and from the windows and roofs of the dwellings, as our soldiers entered the city after carrying all the outer defenses by assault. Our men had actually to dig their way through the walls of the houses in advancing. The attack began on September 20<sup>th</sup> and ended on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the surrender of the enemy.

One who bore a gallant part in that most brilliant achievement wrote of it in a poem of the period —

"We were not many, we who stood  
Upon the battle-field that day;  
But many a gallant spirit would  
Give half his life if he but could  
Have been with us at Monterrey.

Now here, now there, the shot it hailed  
In deadly wreaths of withering spray,  
But not a single soldier quailed,  
As charging where the strongest lay  
We stormed the heights of Monterrey."

Early in the following December all of the regular infantry was withdrawn from General Taylor's army, and ordered to report to Major-General Winfield Scott, who had assumed command in person of the fourth great column of invasion, whose objective point was the capital of Mexico.

General Taylor's army was thus reduced to a force of only 4,500 men of all arms, composed altogether of volunteers, except three batteries of the regular army, and two squadrons of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons. Its numerical weakness invited attack, and General Santa Anna, the most renowned and skillful of the Mexican commanders, accordingly moved his army against him. That army numbered, according to the Mexican official reports, 23,400 men, two-thirds of whom were regular troops.

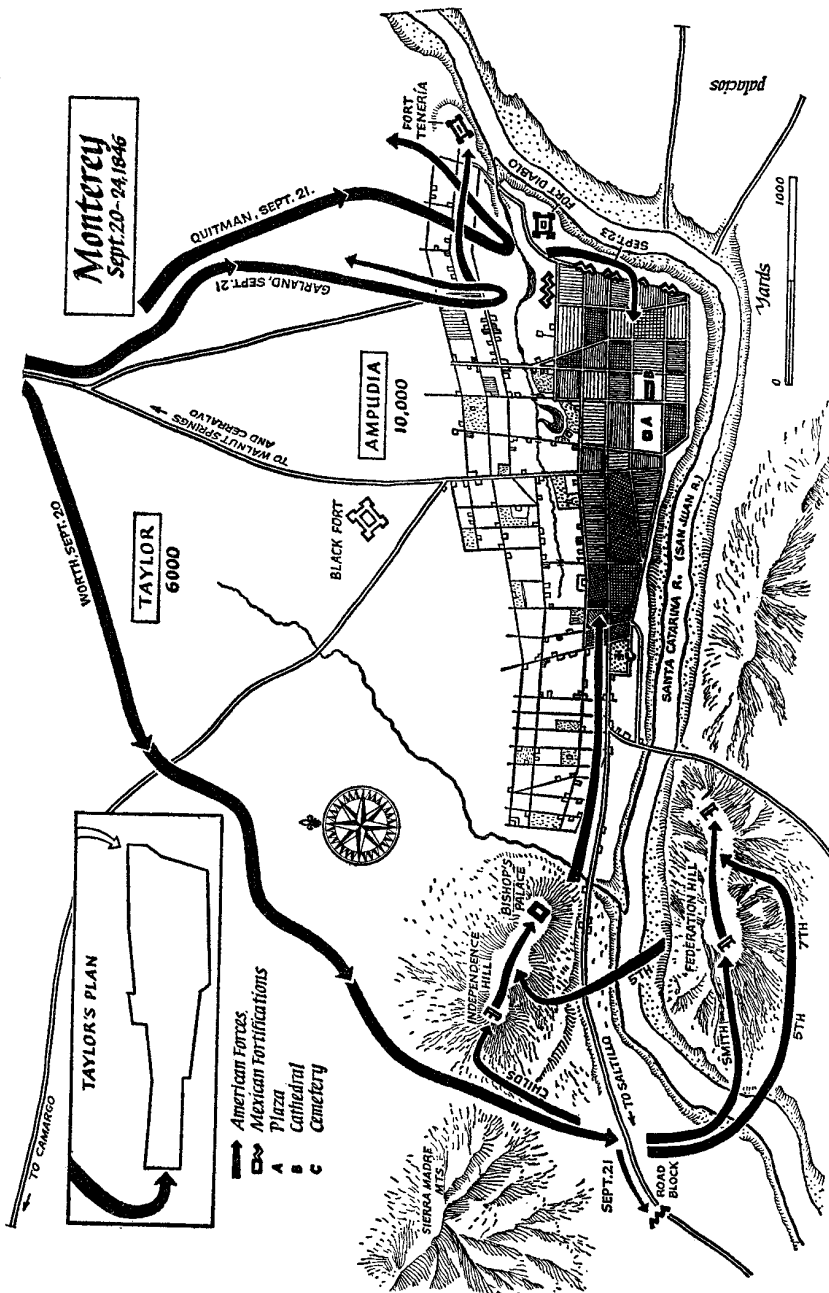
General Taylor selected a position admirably adapted for defense at the Rancho of Buena Vista. The position was marked by narrow defiles, deep ravines and rugged and high ridges that commanded the valley below.

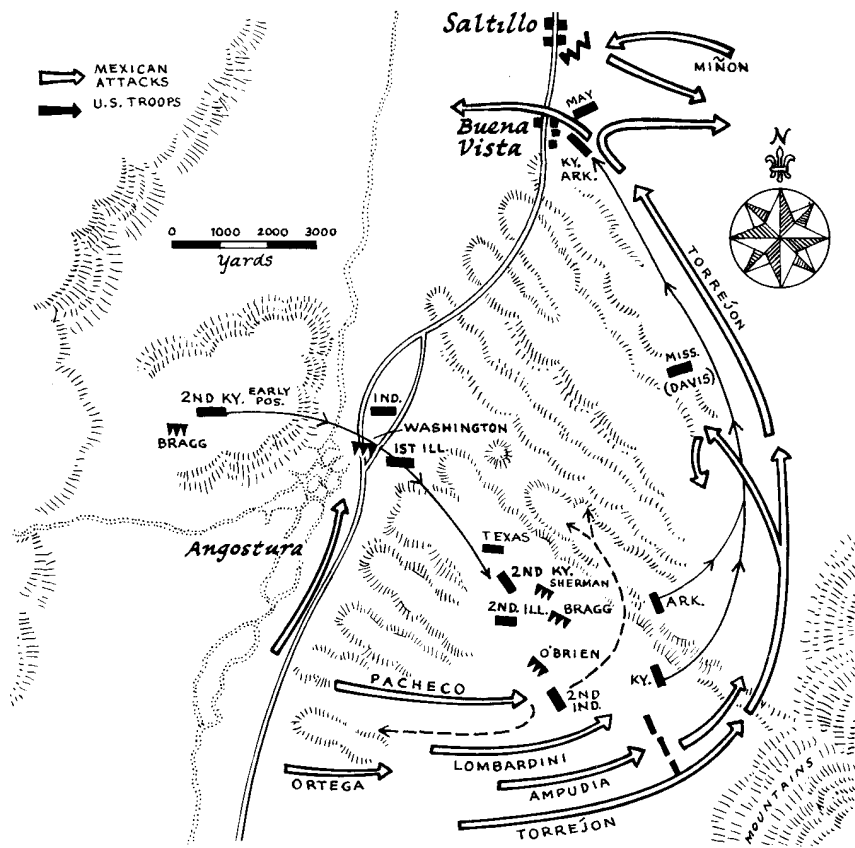
An army dislodged from such a position by such a foe is lost, and well each American soldier knew it. The battle began at daylight, on February 28, 1847, by the attack of the enemy in force upon our left flank. That attack was handsomely repulsed by the fire of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry and the Kentucky Cavalry, with Bragg's and Sherman's splendidly served batteries, a battalion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Indiana riflemen, and a company of dismounted Arkansas cavalry.

About 9 o'clock in the morning, another heavy column of Mexicans moved along the road against the centre of our position. This force was checked by the well directed fire of Washington's battery, and diverged to our left, where the enemy was concentrating for a decisive attack. The extreme left of our line was posted on a high and broad plateau, and was composed of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indiana and 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry. The tremendous impact of that attack compelled those regiments to retire after sustaining for some time a terrible cross fire of artillery and a heavy fire on their front by a greatly superior force of infantry.

At that crisis of the battle the first Mississippi Rifles, commanded by Col. Jefferson Davis, doubtless saved the day by the rapidity and accuracy of their fire, delivered against the advancing cavalry of the enemy, then exulting in the prospect of speedy victory. Most gallantly did he uphold the starry ensign of the Union, and for that, though his fortunes have foundered since, in grateful memory, for the flag's sake, we respectfully salute him now. The Mississippi Rifles were soon gallantly supported by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Indiana, 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky regiments, with a section of Bragg's famous battery, and the ground lost on our left flank was in great part recovered. At the base of the mountain the right flank of the enemy was held in check by the regular dragoons, and Indiana and Arkansas troops, and the destructive fire of our artillery, shattering that it might reach, and reaching that it might shatter the dense lines of the enemy, of whose magnificent cavalry it may be said--

The sheen of the spears was like stars on the sea,  
When the blue waves roll nightly on deep Gallilee.





**Battle of Buena Vista - February 23, 1847**

At that moment, when his attacking force had received a disastrous check, Gen. Santa Anna, with characteristic cunning, sent in a flag of truce, and our fire was suspended. This expedient cannot be too much commended in the practice of the art of war, although all writers upon grand strategy have overlooked it in works upon military science. Whenever your attacking columns are about to be repulsed and shattered, hurry up a flag of truce and demand the surrender of your exultant enemy; and then, before he can recover from his astonishment at your sublime impudence, reform your broken columns, and retire with dignity under the shelter of the peaceful symbol. Santa Anna's demand for the surrender of General Taylor's army was promptly

declined by "Old Rough and Ready", without thanks.

The battle was soon after renewed by the enemy who brought all his reserves into action. After a tremendous struggle they were again disastrously repulsed. The battle of twelve terrible hours had ended, and "our flag was still there!" Santa Anna retired rapidly with his army into the interior, only taking time to send off a bulletin to the capital announcing that he had just won a "glorious victory" over the "Barbarians of the North, at Buena Vista".

This victory ended in a blaze of glory the battle-record of the army of occupation under General Taylor.

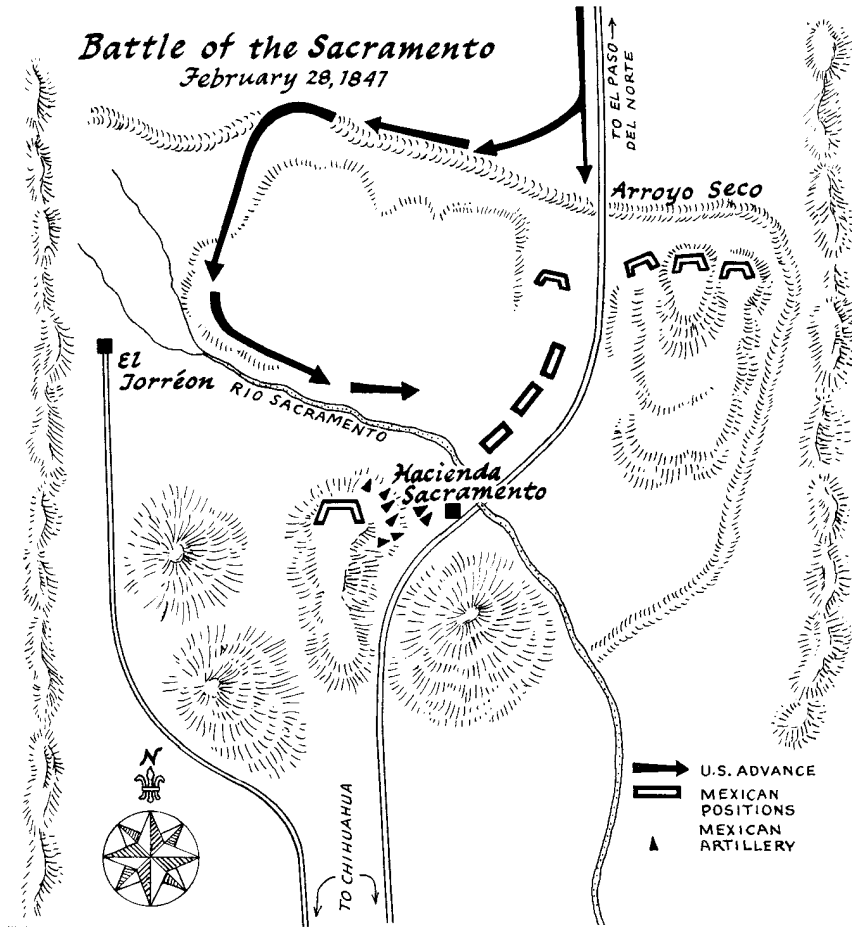
In the meantime, the army of the West, 2,500 strong, under the command of General Stephen W. Kearny, had been reaping a rich harvest of laurels, winning victory after victory against vast odds, and almost insurmountable natural obstacles.

By a rapid march from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe, a distance of 900 miles, in 35 days, New Mexico was taken possession of without firing a shot. Dividing his forces at Santa Fe, Gen. Kearny, with 1,500 dragoons, marched to California, defeated the enemy in a warm engagement at San Pasqual and formed a junction with the California rifle battalion and the marines and sailors from the squadron of the navy, under the command of Commodore Stockton, who had just succeeded the gallant Commodore Sloan, who had previously taken the California port of Monterey.

Prior to the arrival of Gen. Kearny, however, that gallant soldier and untiring explorer, John C. Fremont, had hoisted the American Standard in California. He was there under orders to ascertain a new route to Oregon further south than that usually traveled by emigrants. Upon learning, in May, 1846, that the Mexican governor had ordered all American settlers from that province, and had raised a force to expel them, he recruited a body of 400 men, and defeated the Mexicans in several engagements in the valley of the Sacramento, before he had even heard that war existed between the United States and Mexico, and under his leadership the Americans in California, united with many of the natives, had declared their independence of Mexico on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1846.



On Nov. 13, 1846, Col. A. W. Doniphan began his famous march from Santa Fe to Saltillo, his force consisting of two batteries of Missouri light artillery and nine hundred Missouri cavalry. A part of his command was attacked at Brazito, on Christmas day, 1846, by 1,400 Mexican troops, whom they defeated in twenty minutes.

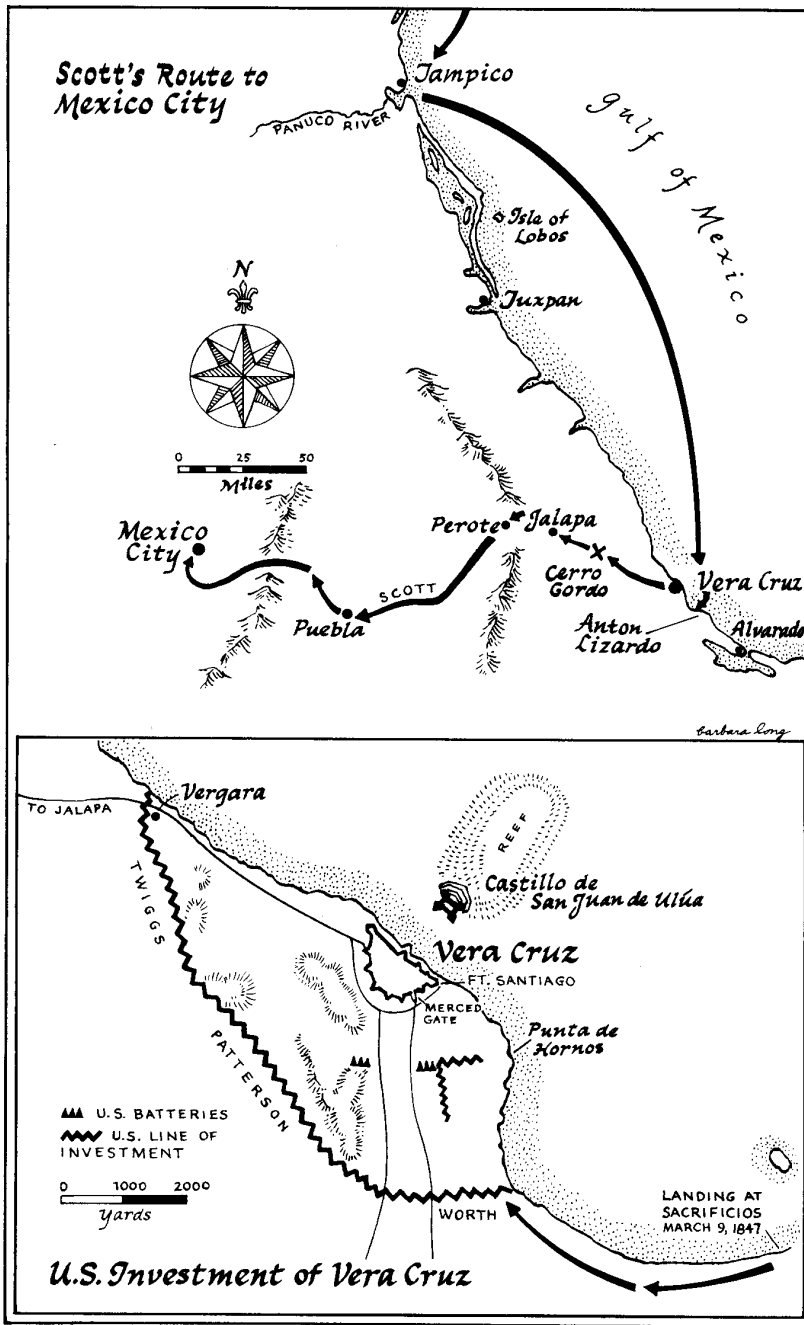


They again defeated the enemy on February 28, 1847, at the battle of Sacramento, near the city of Chihuahua, and entered that important city triumphantly. On the next day, Doniphan started on his renowned march through the Northern States of Mexico back to Saltillo. He accomplished this march of 1,500 miles, winning victories as he went, in 40 days. This dims the lustre of the retreat of the ten thousand

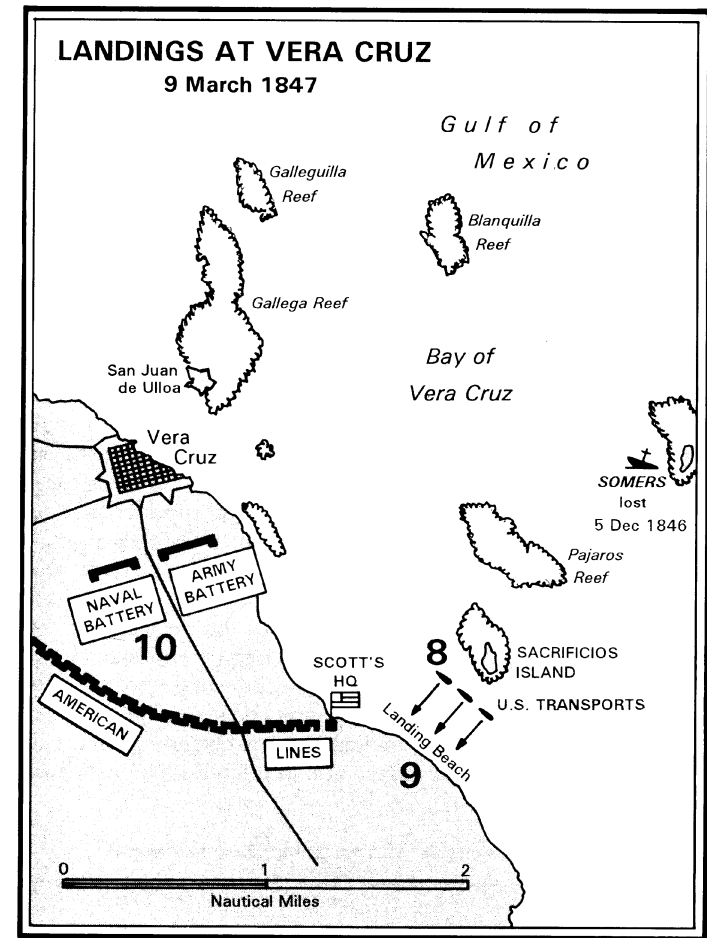
Greeks from the field of Cunaxa, so graphically narrated by Xenophon, their commander and historian. While these events were in progress, Colonel Sterling Price, of Missouri, who had been left by Doniphan in command at Santa Fe, with a force of about 500, consisting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Cavalry and a battery of artillery, with a company of New Mexicans, had been, as he always was, active and successful.

On January 19, 1847, Governor Charles Bent, with about thirty-five other Americans, were massacred in cold blood by Mexican troops, in Taos, and soon after a Mexican force of about two thousand cavalry appeared in the vicinity of Santa Fe. Price marched out and after a desperate conflict defeated them at Canada, about 18 miles north of Santa Fe. The enemy fell back along the road to Taos. Our forces pursued them rapidly and inflicted severe loss upon them at El Embedo, where they made a brief stand, and finally, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, won a decisive victory over them at Taos, the scene of their recent brutal atrocity.

Changing the scene, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 1847, the army of Mexico, under command of General Winfield Scott, that most regal of American soldiers, never to be named by us, comrades but with uplifted hat, began its victorious movement for the "Halls of the Montezumas". General Scott, on that day, effected the landing of his army at Sacrificios, an island seven miles west of Vera Cruz. The landing was made in sixty-seven surf boats, each holding seventy-five men, under cover of the guns of our fleet, commanded by Commodore Conner, with those brilliant naval officers, Commodores Perry and Tatnall, in command of squadrons of his fleet.



Scott's army, upon landing, numbered 13,000, rank and file. He established his lines on the north and east fronts of Vera Cruz on the same day. He planted five siege batteries, built of sandbags, within a thousand yards of the walls of the city. One of the batteries was mounted with 8-inch ship's guns, and manned by sailors from the fleet. A demand for the surrender of the city having been made and refused, our guns opened fire on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and for three days and nights rained the red ruin of avenging war upon it. On the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>, General Landero, commanding the Mexican garrison of the city and the castle of San Juan d'Ulloa, sent in a flag of truce with overtures of surrender.

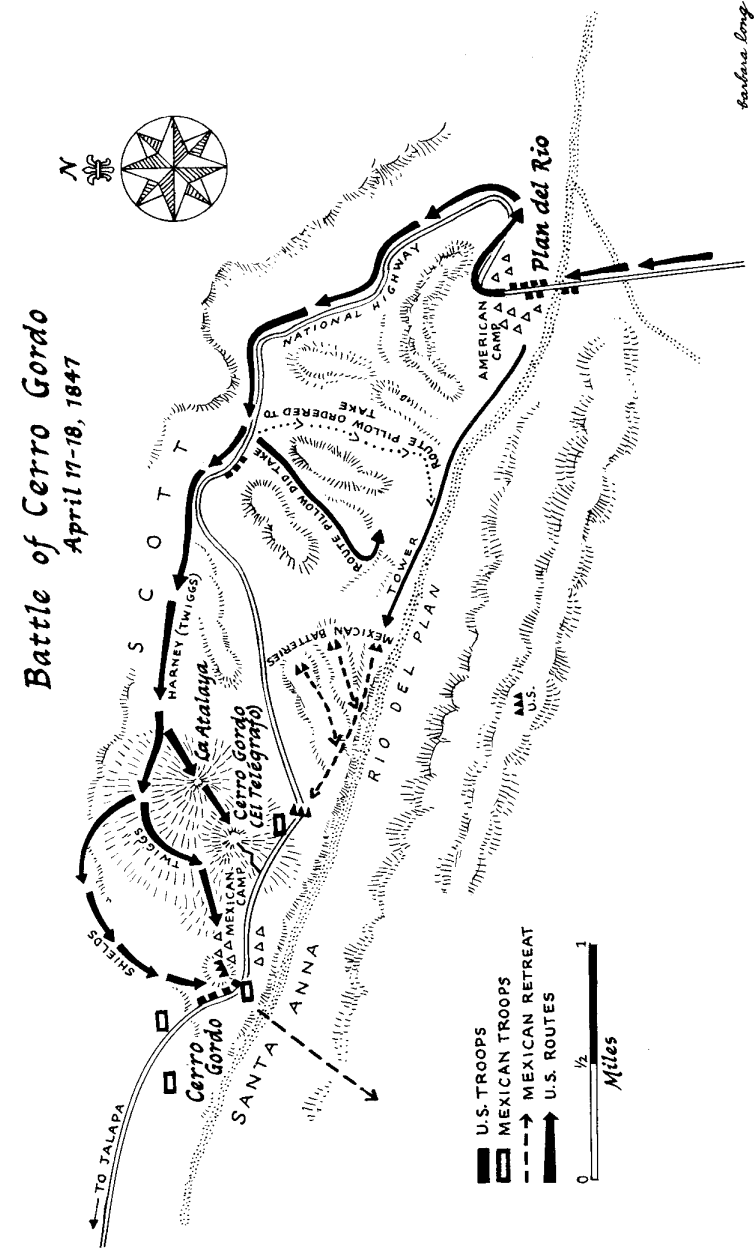


He at first proposed to surrender the city alone. General Scott refused this, demanding the castle also. This demand was finally acceded to, and the surrender of the Mexican army at Vera Cruz, 8,000 strong, was formally made on March 28, 1847, when we entered in triumph the beautiful city of the "true cross".

On April 8<sup>th</sup> our army took up its line of march along the national road for the capital of Mexico, distant 280 miles.

On April 14 we found ourselves in the presence of the army of Santa Anna, 20,000 strong, posted on the lofty heights of Cerro Gordo. The mountain ridges on which he had taken position had been thoroughly fortified by that enterprising, though cruel, subtle and faithless Mexican general, and they completely commanded the route to the capital. At the instance, and under the direction of that unsurpassed and stainless soldier, Capt. Robert E. Lee, of the Corps of Engineers, a road was cut through the dense forest on the enemy's left, so as to enable us to take his position in reverse. This work occupied three days, and while it was in progress, on the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup>, the enemy attacked our working parties and were repulsed with loss, a part of Twiggs' division, under Col. Harney, of the dragoons, pressing them back to the summit of the ridge.

On the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>, at dawn, we attacked in force, that gallant Irishman and unquailing soldier, Gen. James Shields, commanding our column of attack, on the Mexican left, with a view to cut his line of retreat. In three hours the army of Santa Anna was routed. The battle was done, and far up on the crest of the mountain range where the eagle lives alone, through the drifting clouds of smoke, the white stars of our country's banner shone serenely on their blue field. Our loss was 97 killed and 408 wounded, while that of the enemy was about 1,400 in killed and wounded and 3,000 prisoners. Harney's dragoons pursued the enemy hotly, and sabred their scattered columns for fifteen miles along the road to Jalapa. At that city the army of Scott was reduced to about 6,000, by the mustering out of the greater part of his volunteer forces, which had enlisted for one year, their term of service having expired.



Leaving Jalapa, on the 21<sup>st</sup>, we captured Perote and its strong castle, a full bastion work of 80 guns, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; and after halting there to rest for a few days, we took Puebla, the chief manufacturing city of Mexico, with a population of 75,000, on May 15, after a desultory fire from the enemy in its streets.

Here General Scott was obliged to lose several months awaiting reinforcements from home. Every day's delay increased our hazard, as the enemy was collecting a vast army and fortifying along every approach to his capital. At length, on the morning of August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1847, our army moved out of Puebla on its march for the city of Mexico, all our bands playing the Star Spangled Banner.

It numbered then about 10,000, of all arms, consisting of four divisions, namely:

First Division — General Worth

1st brigade, Col. Garland; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> regiments of artillery, 4<sup>th</sup> infantry, and Duncan's battery. 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade, Col. Clarke; 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> infantry.

Second Division — General Twiggs

1st brigade, Gen. P. F. Smith; mounted rifle regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> artillery, 3<sup>rd</sup> infantry, Taylor's battery. 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade, Col. Riley; 4<sup>th</sup> artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> infantry, 7<sup>th</sup> infantry.

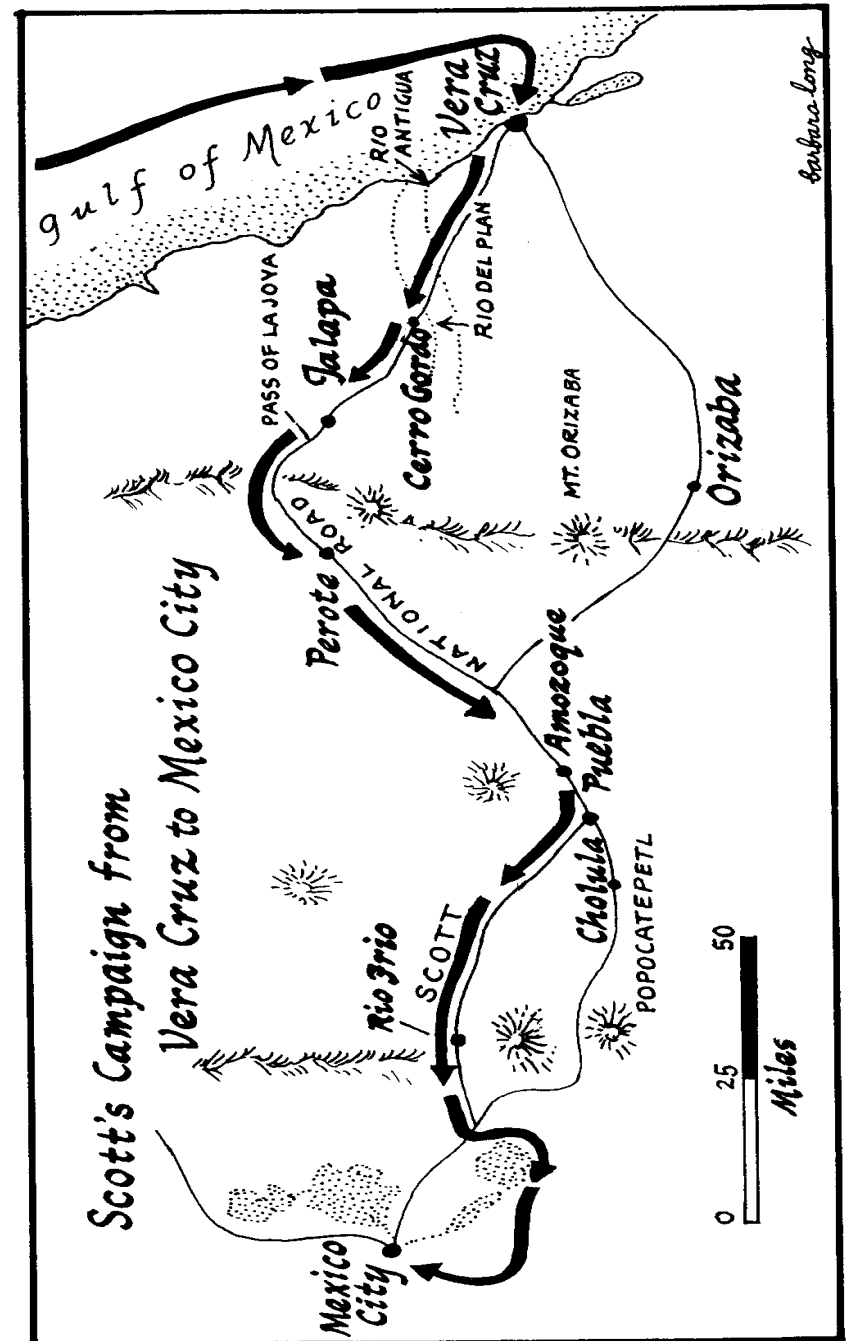
Third Division — General Pillow

1st brigade, Gen. Cadwalader; 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> infantry and voltigeurs. 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade, Gen. Pierce, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> infantry.

Fourth Division — General Quitman

1st brigade, Gen. Shields; South Carolina volunteers, New York volunteers. 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania volunteers, detachment of U. S. Marines.

The cavalry force of the army was under command of Bvt. Brig. Gen. William S. Harney, and comprised detachments of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Dragoons.

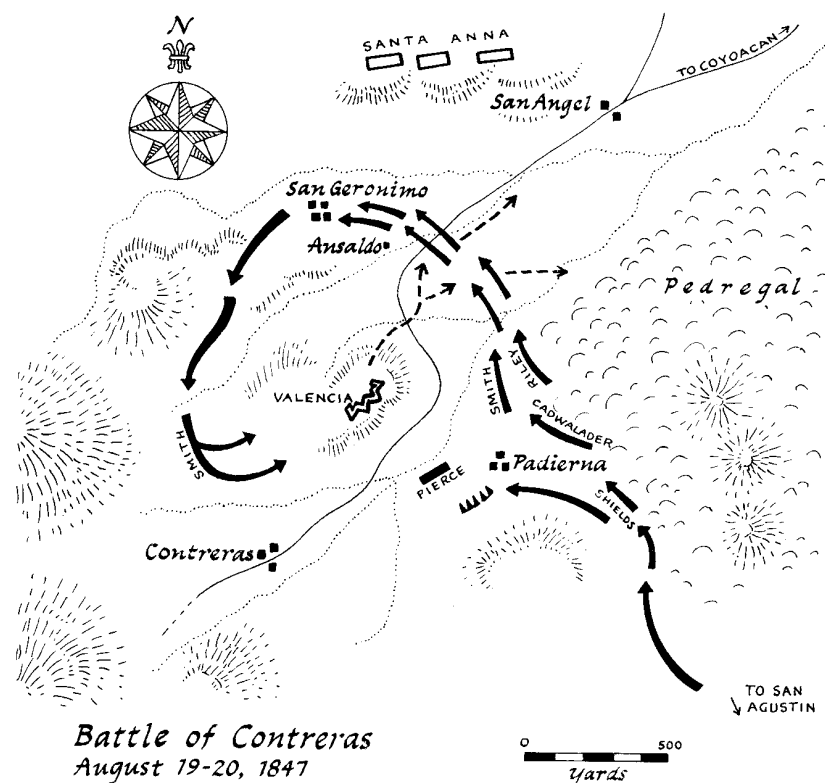


After a toilsome march of eighty miles, across mountain ranges and along a rugged and broken road, the army, on the afternoon of August 17, 1847, looked down for the first time on the valley of Mexico, and on its magnificent capital, with the golden crosses of its 160 churches glittering in the light of the setting sun. There lay before us the same lake, mirroring the same snow-crowned mountains in its glassy bosom, on which Cortez, with his steel clad warriors, had gazed in the same month 326 years before. There, too stretched out the same causeway, over which the knights of old Spain had charged, with their battle-cry of St. Iago, the devoted forces of the doomed Montezuma. In order to avoid the formidable fortress of El Penon, that commanded the approach by the national road to the city, General Scott, after reaching a point within nine miles of the city, ordered the army to countermarch, with a view to turn the lake on the south. This required a march of about twenty-eight miles, which was effected over roads deemed impassable by the enemy, and on August 18<sup>th</sup> the entire army was concentrated at the town of St. Augustine, about ten miles from the city of Mexico.

The enemy were then distant about five or six miles, at Contreras, a strong position held by General Valencia, with a Mexican force about 8,000 strong, with fortifications mounting twenty-six guns. These General Scott determined to take in reverse, which was done effectually by a night march of eight miles, over the pedregal or volcanic ground, hitherto deemed impracticable for any army. At sunrise on the 20<sup>th</sup> the assault was made on the rear and flanks of the enemy by Riley's, Cadwalader's, and Shield's brigades, all under the command of General Persifer F. Smith, whom General Shields, though outranking him, had magnanimously permitted to retain the command that he might carry out dispositions made prior to the arrival of Shields on the ground. The whole line of entrenchments was stormed and the battle won in seventeen or eighteen minutes. The enemy broke at the first assault, and fled in the direction of the city, but hundreds of them were captured by the New York volunteers and the Palmetto Regiment, of Shields' Brigade, that had been posted for the purpose of cutting off their retreat.

At this battle two guns of the 4<sup>th</sup> artillery, that were lost, without dishonor, at Buena Vista, were recaptured from the enemy. Old artillerists, who were with them when they were lost, kissed and hugged them with delight at their recovery. The army, after resting a few hours, marched against the main body of the enemy, then occupying a vast

intrenched camp at Churubusco, about eight miles from the city. We were soon in presence of the Mexican army, 30,000 strong, commanded by General Santa Anna, composed of the best troops of Mexico, embracing several thousand volunteers, the very flower of her chivalric youth.



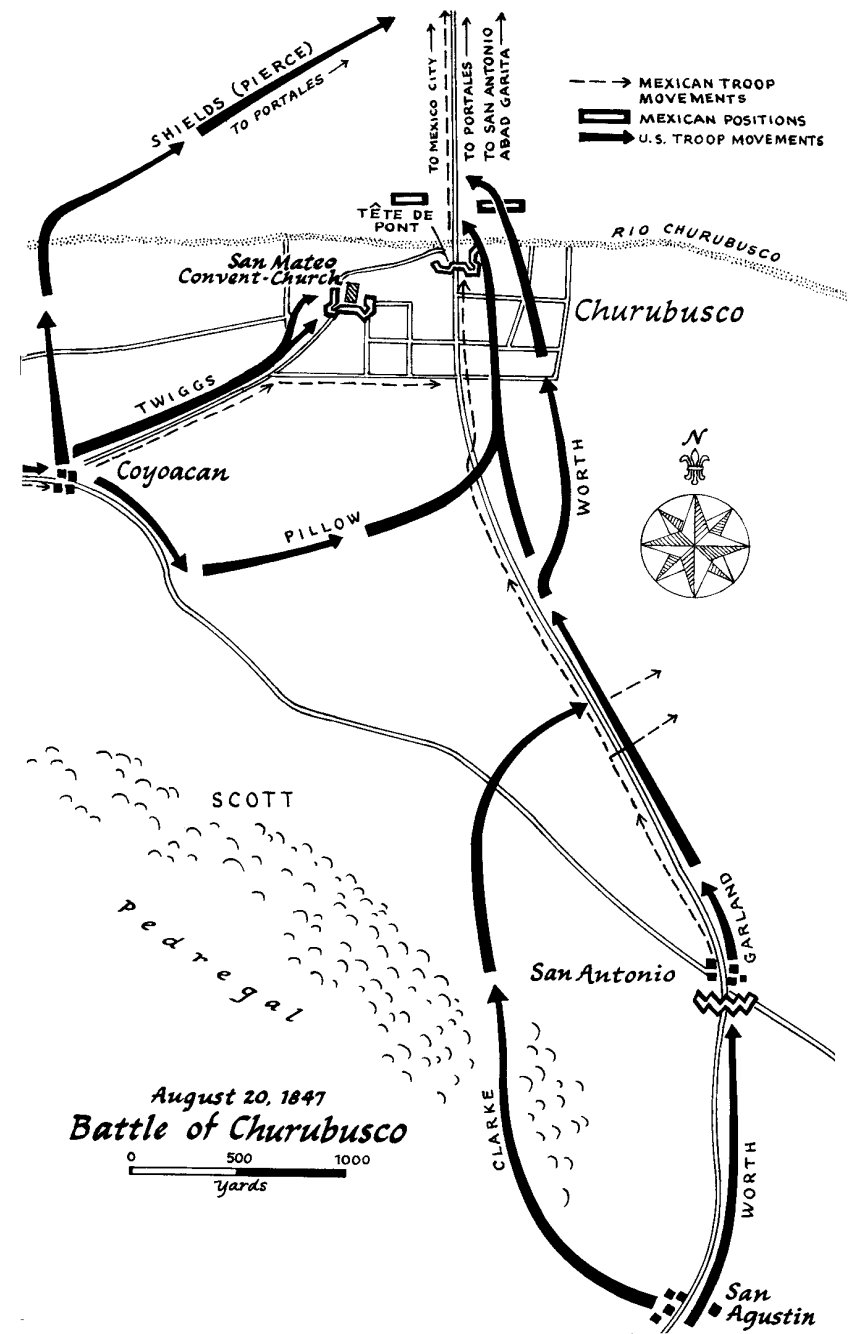
The battle began at noon and ended at sundown, with the complete defeat of the enemy. We captured 5,000 prisoners and 86 pieces of artillery. Churubusco, in fact was a series of four distinct battles, fought against as many independent fortified positions, and, with that of Contreras, made five distinct victories won on the same day by the American army, less than 9,000, engaged against an aggregate force of not less than 38,000. Our loss during that day was about 1,100 killed and wounded; while that of the Mexican army, in killed, wounded, and prisoners, was not less than 7,000.

Among the gallant spirits of our army who went up to god from that stricken field — I trust that I will be pardoned for naming alone my old commander, Col. Pierce M. Butler, of the Palmetto Regiment, one whose martial form and benign face are ever present in my memory. General Scott well wrote of him, a few days after the battle: "A soldier from his youth up, by his death he has added another illustrious name to the long line of South Carolina's departed heroes."

Time will not permit me to chronicle the deeds of heroism done at Churubusco, but yet, among the many, I must note one of the most daring that has passed into history. When, in the final charge upon the enemy's work, known as the tete du pont, or bridge head, the way was blocked by a burning ammunition wagon that threatened a destructive explosion, Sergeant A. M. Kenaday, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dragoons, attached to Worth's escort, now the worthy secretary of our National Association, sprang from his horse and calling three of his men to his aid, actually threw the burning packages of gunpowder into the river below, thus saving many lives and enabling our charging columns to advance. The dragoons, under Harney, followed the flying enemy fast and far; and the daring Major Phil Kearny, with a hundred dragoons, not hearing the recall sounded, or, rather, not heeding it, pursued them up to the wall of the city, sabreing gunners at its very gate, where he lost his right arm, and returned mounted behind one of his soldiers.

We were prevented from advancing to the city on that evening by the arrival of a flag of truce from Santa Anna, who proposed an armistice of twenty days, on the declared ground that a treaty of peace was pending between the two republics. General Scott assented, on the novel, and to us important condition, that he should be allowed to send a train into the city of Mexico and there purchase supplies for his army. This was accordingly done.

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, General Scott declared the armistice at an end, having discovered that it was a mere scheme on the part of the wily Mexican general, to gain time, thus enabling him to reinforce his army and strengthen his fortifications, which he had been doing ever since the armistice commenced.

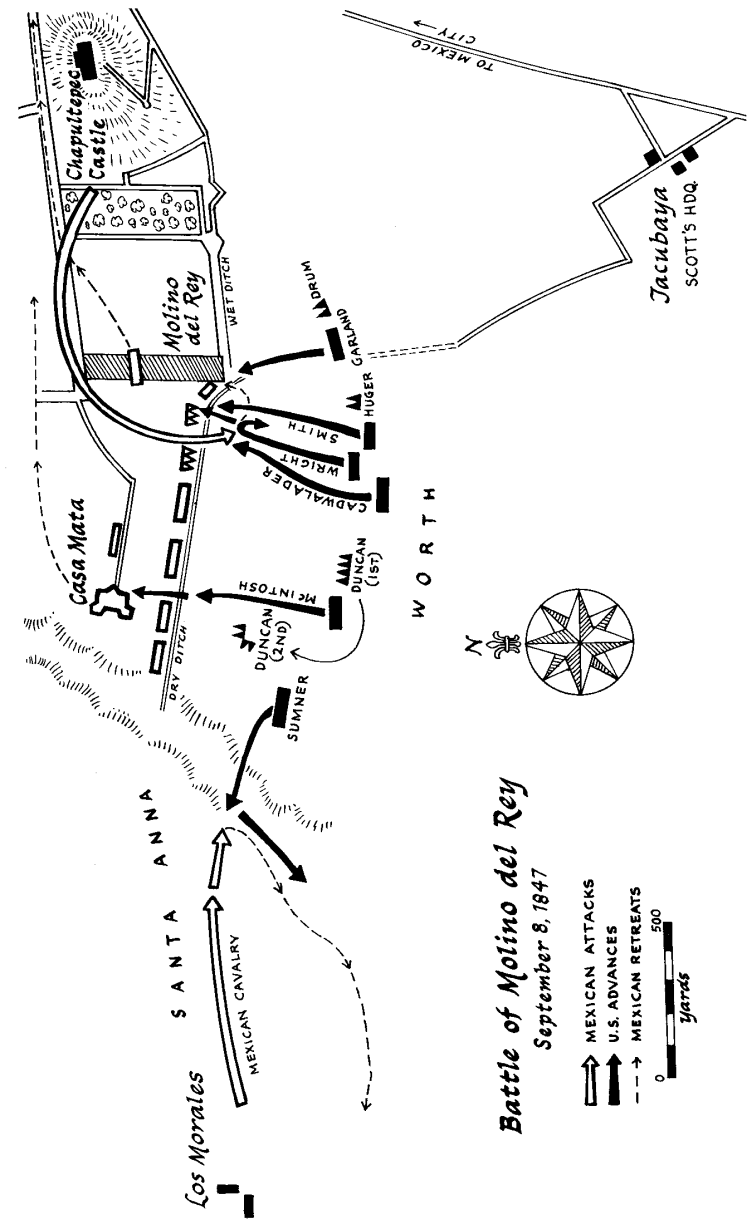


At daylight on September 8<sup>th</sup>, we again advanced upon the enemy. Santa Anna, with his army, occupied Molino del Rey, or the King's Mills, a series of massive stone buildings, surrounded by high walls, about one mile and a half west of the castle of Chapultepec, and about three miles from the city. His force consisted of 12,000 men and 24 pieces of artillery. Our attacking columns consisted of 3,400 men, with Drum's, Huger's, and Duncan's batteries, the last named composed of two 224-pounders, the whole commanded by General Worth, the Marshal Ney of the army. We attacked in three columns. After a brief, but severe cannonade, our center column, of 500 men, under the command of Major Wright, advanced to the assault, and, although met by a severe fire of artillery and musketry, took the enemy's battery in their front, but the Mexicans, seeing their small number, rallied in force and, delivering a destructive volley, drove this column back. Cadwalader's right wing, together with Stewart's rifles, that had been left to support Huger's battery, now entered the battle at the center of our line.

Thus reinforced, we quickly broke the enemy's line at the center, isolating his two wings. Garland's brigade, assisted by the effective fire of Drum's battery, attacked the enemy's left, and, after some desperate fighting, we drove him from his seeming impregnable position, firing his own captured guns into his broken and retreating columns. While our right and center were thus engaged, Col. McIntosh assaulted the Casa Mata, a strong stone citadel, or half bastioned work, on the enemy's right, aided by Duncan's heavy battery and a company of voltigeurs. The enemy abandoned Casa Mata and the day was won. In proportion to the force engaged this was for us the bloodiest battle of the war. We had 950 killed and wounded, among them sixty-five officers. The Mexican loss was 2,000 killed and wounded, and 850 prisoners.

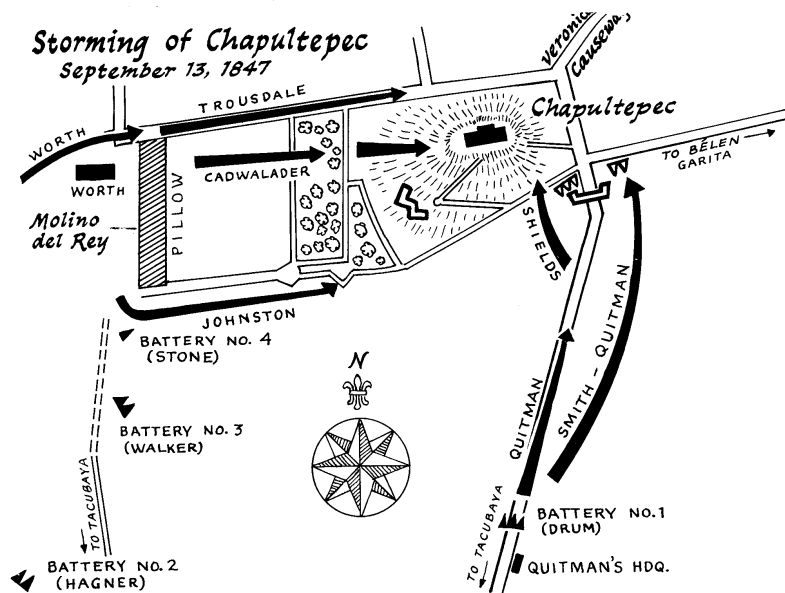
The victory was important, as Molino del Rey was the principal cannon foundry in Mexico, and its guns also commanded some of the approaches to the castle of Chapultepec. This castle was a strong fortress of masonry, mounting 16 guns, and was occupied by General Bravo with about 2,500 regular soldiers together with 300 cadets, for it was the National Military Academy of Mexico. It was situated on the crest of a steep, rocky height, which rose 150 feet above the road below. About midway of the ascent was a strong redoubt, and below that a heavy stone wall, with a banquette, each running around nearly the entire front and well manned with troops. Our batteries opened fire on the castle early on the morning of the 12th September, and by night had

made several wide breaches in its walls.



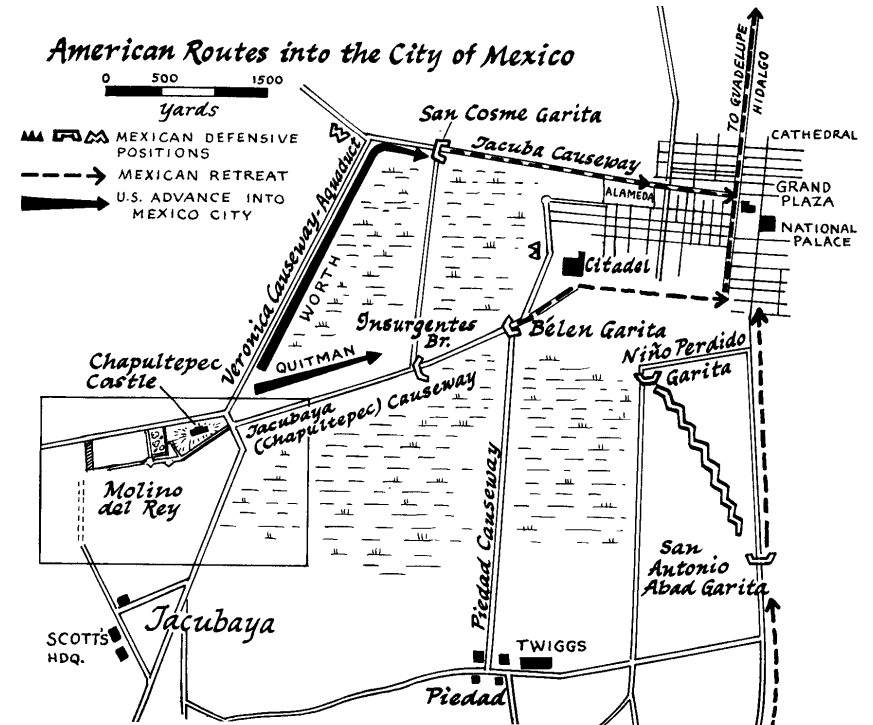
At 6 a.m., on the 13<sup>th</sup>, our columns moved to the assault. The entire army was brought into action, except a part of Worth's division, which was held in reserve near Molino del Rey. On our charging columns swept, the regulars attacking on the west face and the volunteers under Quitman and Shields on the east, while Smith's brigade wheeled to the southeast and carried a battery at the foot of the slope.

In a whirlwind of fire from cannon and musketry that swept down the hill that was everywhere ablaze with the flashing guns of the enemy, our men pressed forward, our artillery in the road below firing over their heads as they advanced. Another desperate rush and our bayonets sparkled at every breach. They sprang into the breaches and soon the flag of the First New York Volunteers floated out above the battlements, with its inspiring motto, "Excelsior", and announced that Chapultepec was ours!



Worth's division pressed the enemy on his principal line of retreat in the direction of the Eastern or San Cosmo Gate of the city.

Scott, intending to make his main attack at this point as the most vulnerable, ordered Quitman to make a feint and occupy the attention of the enemy at the Garita de Belen on the west. Quitman moved rapidly with his division along the causeway, carrying battery after battery as he went, determined to convert his intended feint into a real attack and win a victory in violation of orders. Far to the front, springing from arch to arch of the huge stone aqueduct, the Palmetto Regiment and Stewart's company of regular rifles were intermingled in their approach to the well-fortified gate, firing rapidly as they advanced.



Drum's battery of three pieces then soon galloped rapidly to the front and opened a rapid and effective fire, which was at once replied to by the enemy, with at least twenty heavy guns. In a few minutes nearly every officer and man of this splendid battery was killed or wounded. Its chivalric commander lay in the road with both thighs shattered by a cannon-ball, but true to the line of his duty, living and dying, he called out to the infantry in the arches: "For God's sake, save my guns!" They quickly responded, and met the advancing foe with the bayonet, driving



them back and following them into their works; and the last sound that reached the ears of the noble Captain Simon Drum was the shout of victory from his comrades at the gate.

The magnificent infantry of Smith's and Pierce's brigade also were delivering their destructive fire at the enemy on our front and flanks, and at twenty minutes past one o'clock on the afternoon of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1847, the Palmetto flag of South Carolina was planted on the walls of the city of Mexico, the first foreign ensign that had waved over that spot since Hernando Cortez on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1521, had there unfurled the royal standard of Spain. Our further advance was checked at the Belen Gate by the fire of a citadel with eight guns about three hundred yards within the walls. Its commander, General Flores, later in the afternoon, offered to surrender, on condition that Quitman would give him a receipt for all his ordnance, quartermaster and commissary stores. This was finally assented to. That Mexican should be regarded as the champion red-tapeist of the world. The citadel surrendered the next morning at sunrise.

Worth's division, after a desperate resistance, drove the enemy from every position at and around the San Cosmo Gate, and at eight o'clock on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> bivouacked within the walls of the city. At about noon on the 14<sup>th</sup> the entire army was united in the main plaza or great square of Mexico, and the stars and stripes were soon unfurled in all their glory above the halls of the Montezumas.

We had conquered the capital of Mexico, and with six thousand American soldiers we stood triumphant amid its hostile population of near two hundred thousand souls.

After the fall of the capital, Santa Anna collected the scattered fragments of his beaten army, and, early in October, attacked our garrison at Puebla, which consisted of the First Pennsylvania Regiment, under Colonel Childs. That command occupied Fort Loretto, in the western suburb of the city, and made a gallant and successful defense during an active siege of twenty days. Santa Anna had summoned the garrison to surrender, stating, with his usual lying tactics, that he had utterly routed the army of General Scott. That statement, Colonel Childs replied, has "no truth in it". Santa Anna drew off his forces, about 5,000 strong, on learning of the approach of Gen. Joseph Lane, who was advancing from the coast with needed reinforcements for Scott's army.

Soon after this, on October 21, 1847, a portion of General Lane's force, under the command of the renowned Texas ranger, Col. Sam Walker, of the District of Columbia, although but 350 strong, attacked and routed about 2,000 of the enemy at Huamantla. This victory was dearly purchased. While Walker was rallying his command to pursue the flying enemy he was mortally wounded by a shot fired from the roof of a house. There was an affection full of romantic beauty between him and the celebrated ranger, Capt. Addison Gillespie, who fell in the charge at Monterey. Gillespie's last words were, "Bury me under the cottonwood trees, near the Alamo, in San Antonio, and tell Sam Walker good bye for me." Walker's last words were, "Carry me to San Antonio, and bury me in the same grave with Addison Gillespie." The two immortal rangers rest together in the land they loved so well, companions in glory and the grave. They were friends in life, and in death they were not divided.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Capt. Henley, with his command of 200 Missourians, attacked a body of 500 Mexicans at Moro, and defeated them. That gallant soldier also fell in the moment of victory. The closing battle of the war was fought by Gen. Sterling Price, at Rosales, New Mexico, on March 16, 1848. He there defeated, with but 250 Missouri volunteers, a force of nearly 1,000 Mexicans, under command of General Trias, killing about 300 and capturing their commanding general, with 42 other officers, and 11 pieces of artillery. No more knightly soldier or braver and truer man than Sterling Price ever struck the last blow in his country's cause.

The Mexican war was ended by a treaty of peace, concluded at the hacienda of Guadalupe Hidalgo, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1848. Peace was proclaimed by President Polk, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1848. In this necessarily rapid and imperfect sketch of the salient events of the war, I have had to omit, comrades, even the name of many an unforgotten hero. It was no holiday war. It was replete with toilsome and weary marches, with blistered and bleeding feet, through hot sands, under a tropical sun, and over jagged rocks and snowy mountain ranges, where horses and riders perished with cold.

It had its many dark days, when the soldier was faint with hunger and his tongue parched with thirst. It was full of nameless tragedies, both on bloody fields, in front of many a battery's smoking guns, and in the deeper gloom of the fever stricken hospitals, where the living, in their anguish, envied the deep repose of the dead.

I will not attempt to describe the grand scenery of Mexico, its wondrous climate, or the endless variety of its agricultural products. As early as 1804, the great Humboldt wrote of it: "All the climates and all the products of the earth can be found here."

Least of all will I attempt, in such an assemblage of battle-scarred veterans to describe the fair women of Mexico. With them we had no battles, but yet must confess that we had with them many warm engagements in which we were always compelled to surrender to their arms.

But these things belong to the dear, dead summers of the heart. They come back like bright phantoms, robed in airy drapery, to visit the silent halls of memory, where once again the veteran of 1846 beholds, with ardent gaze, the joyous "fandango" of Mexico.

"Where the glances of her virgins were ever archly deep,  
And their dark eyes ever full of passion and of sleep."

In that memorable war, comrades, which lasted two and a half years, we fought seventy battles and engagements without the final loss of a single gun or American ensign.

Engaged always against heavy odds, we bore the honor of this great republic triumphantly on the points of our ever-advancing swords and bayonets, on fields —

"Ploughed deep with hurrying hoof and wheel,  
Shot-sown and bladed thick with steel!"

Blended with this honorable reflection we proudly recall the fact that we marched nearly four thousand miles through the country of an enemy, alien to us in race, language and religion, and performed no act to wound the modesty of woman or sully the sanctity of her person. The blaze of no defenseless homestead lighted up our line of march, and no vesper bell ceased to sound because of our coming.

We were always merciful in the hour of victory, and while we vindicated the prowess of our country we illustrated its civilization.

Thus should it always have been, and thus may it ever be with the American soldier!

What have been the material results of that victorious war?

By our arms, our country won the vast territories of California, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, and Idaho, and made it easy to acquire Arizona for a merely nominal sum. We thereby added one million square miles, or 610,000,000 of acres to the territory of the United States, nearly doubling its area. According to authoritative statistics there has been taken from the mines and rivers of the territories thus acquired, since 1848, gold and silver of the value of \$3,000,000,000. Averaging the soldier at 140 pounds, this amount is sufficient to award to every soldier, actually engaged in the battles in Mexico, were even all now living, his weight in pure gold.

Of the 85,000 men who participated in those battles, less than 6,000 survive. This fact is attested by a most careful census of the survivors. Yet we are told, in the discussion of the bill so long pending, to pension the veterans of the Mexican war, that "too many are still living" to warrant the granting of pensions to aid in maintaining them in their declining years. This is the base economy of ingratitude. Such an objector could only be satisfied by a proviso in the bill, that it should not take effect during the lifetime of any veteran, and the amount appropriated should be covered into the treasury of the United States, upon the death of the last survivor. May the feeblest of you comrades survive the Congressman who makes this objection and live many years after he has beheld the slow but certain justice of his country fully vindicated against the fat-ribbed advocate of lean appropriations for disabled veterans of the nation's wars.

During this reunion, comrades, of soldiers who parted nearly thirty-six years ago on fields afar, one subject has been conspicuous by its absence. There has been no allusion to the war which transpired among us since that parting--a war which shook this great Republic from center to circumference, with the tread of more than a million of armed men! On the part of veterans of the Union army, this has been the silence of magnanimity, worth alike of the noble victors and the heroic vanquished. Let that war only be recalled with a deep sense of gratitude to an overruling Providence, that today all our countrymen dwell contented under one glorious flag.

Speaking for the ex-confederate soldier of the South, I here declare, with all the solemn sanctity of a judicial oath, that whatever his political party, he is true to the flag of his country. If he ever dreams of future

wars, it is with the fervent hope that he may yet live to bear the ensign of the Union into lands that have never been sheltered under its beneficent folds, and among a people who have never felt the power of our eagle's beak. Henceforth the Union and Confederate veterans will be in peace friends, and in war brothers in arms.

TIMELINE  
OF  
MEXICAN HISTORY

Prepared by  
Brig. Gen. John Hawkins Napier, III

1519-1521	Hernan Cortez and his Spanish conquistadors overthrew the Aztec Empire and killed its last Emperor, Cuauhtémoc.
1523-1821	Viceroy ruled "New Spain" which claimed its northeast boundary near what today is Charleston, SC and its northwestern outposts at San Francisco, CA and Taos, NM.
1540	Expansion northward: Soto in present southeast United States; Coronado in southwest; Cabrillo in California.
1571	"Spanish Galleon" began run between Acapulco and Manila.
1763	New Spain lost Florida to Great Britain but gained Louisiana from France.
1767	Expulsion of Jesuits.
1780	Governor Bernardo de Galvez from New Orleans fought British and regained the Floridas during the American War of Independence.
1789	French Revolution: its doctrines spread to Latin America, where Creoles wanted to supplant Gachupines (Peninsular-born whites) in office.
1803	Napoleon took Louisiana back from New Spain but sold it to the United States.
1808	Napoleon deposed Spanish king and replaced him with his brother, Joseph, precipitating revolution and the Peninsular War and, ultimately, his own downfall.
Sep 16, 1810	Father Manuel Hidalgo called for Mexican independence from Spain in "el grito de Dolores" and this became Mexico's Independence Day. However, the struggle denigrated into guerilla warfare as the masses — Mestizos and Indians — rose against whites — Gachupines and Creoles.

Feb 24, 1821	General Agustín de Iturbide signed the Plan of Iguala to establish the new nation: conservative rule to protect upper orders against the masses. In July, the last Viceroy, Juan O'Donojú, recognized Mexican independence in the Treaty of Córdoba. Iturbide proclaimed himself Emperor Iturbide I. In the same year, Austins began American settlement of Texas.		border, the French withdrew and Maximilian is executed at Querétaro. Empress Carlotta went mad.
1823	General Santa Anna deposed Iturbide and declared a Republic. Bitter struggle began between centrists (conservatives) and federalists (liberals), continuing to 1860.	1867-1872	Juarez is again President of Mexico; died in office.
1824-1834	First federalist regime. Centrists allied with Scottish Rite Masons (Escoces) and federalists with York Rite Masons (Yorkinos).	1877-1911	Porfirio Díaz dictator of Mexico for all but four years. Encouraged foreign exploitation of Mexico's natural wealth, but Mexico City becomes a metropolis.
1834-1846	Santa Anna turned his coat and led Centrists to power.	1910-1920	Mexican Revolution — Madero, Huerta, Carranza, Villa and Zapata.
Mar 1, 1836	Because of Santa Anna's centrization, Texas declared its independence and won it at the Battle of San Jacinto.	1914	United States seized Vera Cruz in dispute with conservative dictator Huerta.
Dec 29, 1845	The United States annexed the Republic of Texas. President James K. Polk sent John Slidell to Mexico to settle differences but war party in Mexico under Paredes won out.	1916	Villa's raid on Columbus, NM was followed by Pershing's punitive expedition into Northern Mexico with 12,000 troops. The U. S. National Guard is sent to the Mexican border.
1846-1848	US-Mexican War. Four campaigns — Taylor in Northern Mexico, Kearny in New Mexico, naval blockage of both coasts and Scott's campaign from Vera Cruz to Mexico City.	1917	U. S. withdrew on eve of its entry into World War I. New Mexican constitution adopted.
Oct 13, 1847	Aztec Club of 1847 organized in Mexico City with General John A. Quitman, of Mississippi, as its first President.	1920	Obregón overthrew and killed Carranza.
Feb 2, 1848	Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends the War. Terms of peace included payment by the United States of \$15 million for Mexico Cession.	1920-1934	Revolutionary reorganization. Calles President in 1924, suppressed Roman Catholic Church and nationalized oil. Obregón, again elected President in 1928, was assassinated and Calles took over once more.
1857	A new constitution and a liberal victory, but three years of civil war followed until Benito Juarez emerged as liberal leader and President.	1934	Lazaro Cardenas (father of Mexico City's new mayor, Cuahtemóc) elected President and revived social revolution, organized labor, instituted land reform and expropriated foreign-owned property.
1861	European intervention during the American Civil War by Great Britain, Spain and France. First two withdrew shortly thereafter.	1941-1945	World War II. After Pearl Harbor, Mexico, under President Avila Camacho, declared war on the Axis. U. S.-Mexican friendship cemented. Mexican Air Force Squadron 201, flying P-47s, fought Japanese in the Philippines, serving with the U. S. Far East Air Corps.
1863	French army captured Mexico City and Archduke Maximilian of Austria-Hungary, a Hapsburg, proclaimed second Emperor of Mexico.	1946	Miguel Alemán elected first civilian President since Madero in 1911.
1865-1867	The Civil War ended, the United States sent troops to the	Aug 12, 1992	Mexico joined the U. S. and Canada in NAFTA, effective January 1, 1994.
		Dec 1, 1994	Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon inaugurated President of Mexico.
		1995	Mexican banking crisis. With U. S. aid the Mexican economy recovers.



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