Neighbors in Contention

During the Mexican-American War of 1846-48, U.S. forces entered Mexican territory multiple times. The campaigns included landings on the eastern coast of Mexico and advance into Mexico City.

The Mexican Expedition of 1916, commanded by Brig.Gen. John J. Pershing, was much smaller in use of force, geographic scope, and duration.

Mexico City National Cemetery
The cemetery was established in 1851 as burial space for Americans who died in and near Mexico City during the Mexican American War. It also holds the remains of veterans and families, plus members of the U.S. Diplomatic Service. Congress closed the cemetery in 1924. It came under ABMC’s care in 1947.

American Battle Monuments Commission
This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 29 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that “time will not dim the glory of their deeds.”

American Battle Monuments Commission
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Mexico City National Cemetery
Virginia Fabregas No. 31
Col. San Rafael
C.P. 06470, Mexico, D.F.
tel 001-52-55-5546-0054
email mexicocitycemetery@abmc.gov
gps N19 26.5217  W99 9.970

For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit www.abmc.gov
The USA’s westward expansion in the early 19th Century created contention over territories claimed by Mexico. When Texas became a state in December 1845, Mexico severed diplomatic relations. President James K. Polk ordered Gen. Zachary Taylor’s forces into the area near the mouth of the Rio Grande.

May 8, 1846: General Taylor’s command attacked Mexican units near Palo Alto. The Mexicans withdrew.

September 21-23: General Taylor’s force seized Monterrey.

December 12: Col. Stephen W. Kearney’s troops reached San Diego.

February 22-23, 1847: Mexican President Santa Anna attacked Taylor’s command near Buena Vista. The Americans prevailed.

March 9-27: Gen. Winfield Scott commanded the landing and siege at Vera Cruz.

April 8-September 8: Scott advanced slowly toward Mexico City.

September 12-13: Scott’s command reached the Chapultepec citadel. Mexican units withdrew. However, six cadets of the military academy stayed and fought to the end. The Los Niños Heroes have been honored throughout Mexican history.

September 14: Mexican authorities surrendered. Scott’s forces entered Mexico City.

February 2, 1848: The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war.


The expedition did not achieve its purpose. However, it resulted in U.S. forces being better prepared to mobilize and fight in the war in Europe.