The Santiago Surrender Tree Memorial is located in Santiago de Cuba near the San Juan Hill Historic Park.

**BACKGROUND**

On July 1, 1898 U.S. and Cuban troops fought to seize El Viso Fort, the town of El Caney and San Juan Heights, and San Juan Hill. These victories opened the way to Santiago de Cuba. Negotiations between the opposing forces led to the Spanish surrender under the Ceiba tree on July 17. Nearly a century later, the original tree died. The Cuban government planted a new tree in 1998 during the centennial ceremonies.

The Santiago Surrender Tree Memorial was dedicated in mid February 1906. By an Act of Congress, it became the responsibility of ABMC on July 1, 1958.

The memorial area is surrounded by an iron fence, which is made up of barreled Spanish Mauser rifle actions. They are surmounted by cast reproduction triangular bayonets. The tree is flanked by large bronze plaques that resemble open books. Four 18th century Spanish cannons interspersed with four siege mortars flank the walkway around the memorial.

Eight bronze tablets (each 3 feet x 5 feet) honor and commemorate individuals and units participating in the Santiago Campaign.

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One of the four siege mortars (Model 1861) emplaced around the memorial, along with four Spanish cannons.

The memorial is on the south side of the Avenida Raul Pujols, and just east of the Santiago de Cuba Zoo. A street sign with the legend Arbol de la Paz points to it.

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.”

For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit: www.abmc.gov