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.

**American Battle Monuments Commission**

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 30 memorials, monuments and markers in 17 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.”

**Mexico City American Cemetery and Memorial**

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.

For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)

“Time will not dim the glory of their deeds.”

- General of the Armies John J. Pershing

December 2018
NEIGHBORS IN CONTENTION

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 MEXICAN EXPEDITION


Mexico-Mexico: The expedition entered Mexico. Numerous clashes followed. Villa was never caught. 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.

Vault Detail

George Heye of the Pennsylvania Regiment is one of eight veterans of the Mexican War interred here. His vault is on the West wall, Square 2, Line 2, Row 9.

Vault Location

WALL:

SQUARE:

LINE:

ROW:

Walls of Burial Vaults

The cemetery area was halved in 1976. The interred remains—and their original headstones—were disinterred and placed in vaults on the east and west walls.

Useful Information

From the entrance on Calle Virginia Fabregas, the expanse of the cemetery is easily viewed. Its tranquility is appreciated amid the hustle of the busy city around it.

Visit the Visitor Room for maps and additional information.

Dimensions: 1 acre

Unknowns from the Mexican War: 750

Veterans of wars represented:

Mexican War, Civil War, Indian Campaigns, and Spanish-American War

Dedicated: June 26, 1851

Sunday Facts

On September 21, 1846, the Mexican Army was defeated at the Battle of Palo Alto. The United States acquired Texas by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. This treaty ended the Mexican War, and it resulted in the United States gaining control of the American Southwest.

Entrance

The gates on Calle Virginia Fabregas include an entrance on the right that enhances accessibility for visitors who may have difficulty using the steps on the left.

Vault Detail

George Heye of the Pennsylvania Regiment is one of eight veterans of the Mexican War interred here. His vault is on the West wall, Square 2, Line 2, Row 9.

Cemetery Fountain

The sights and sounds of the pool and fountain in the northwest corner enhance the visitor’s experience.

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