

Outline of the Matamoros Expedition

- I. Background and Context:
 - a. Mexican-American War: The war had begun in 1846 over border disputes and territorial claims, with the U.S. annexation of Texas as a key factor.
 - b. Matamoros Significance: Matamoros was a vital Mexican port city located on the southern side of the Rio Grande, across from Brownsville, Texas. It served as a key supply route for Mexican forces.
- II. U.S. Leadership:
 - a. Commanders: The expedition was led by General Zachary Taylor, who would later become the 12th President of the United States.
 - b. Taylor's Objectives: Taylor's primary objective was to secure the region and deny the use of Matamoros as a supply route to Mexican forces.
- III. Progress of the Expedition:
 - a. Advance into Mexican Territory: U.S. forces crossed the Rio Grande and advanced into Mexican territory in the direction of Matamoros.
 - b. Skirmishes: The expedition was marked by several skirmishes and engagements between U.S. and Mexican forces along the way.
- IV. Battles and Engagements:
 - a. Palo Alto (May 8, 1846): A significant battle took place near Palo Alto, Texas, where U.S. forces clashed with Mexican troops. It was the first major battle of the war and resulted in a U.S. victory.
 - b. Resaca de la Palma (May 9, 1846): This battle followed the engagement at Palo Alto and resulted in another U.S. victory. It marked the beginning of the expedition's success.
- V. Outcome of the Matamoros Expedition:
 - a. U.S. Control: As a result of the successful battles, U.S. forces gained control of the area around Matamoros.
 - b. Siege of Matamoros: Although the U.S. had control of the surrounding region, the city of Matamoros itself was not captured. It remained under Mexican control.
- VI. Significance:
 - a. Tactical Success: The Matamoros Expedition was tactically successful for the United States. It secured key territory along the Rio Grande.
 - b. Symbol of U.S. Military Superiority: The victories at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma were seen as early indicators of U.S. military superiority in the war.
- VII. Impact on the Mexican-American War:
 - a. Escalation of the War: The expedition and its battles contributed to the overall escalation of the conflict, leading to a wider war between the United States and Mexico.
 - b. Continued Operations: The Matamoros Expedition was just one part of the larger U.S. military campaign in Mexico, which included other significant battles and campaigns.