

SANTIAGO DE CUBA AND VICINITY, 1898

THE SPANISH - AMERICAN WAR,
25 April - 10 December 1898



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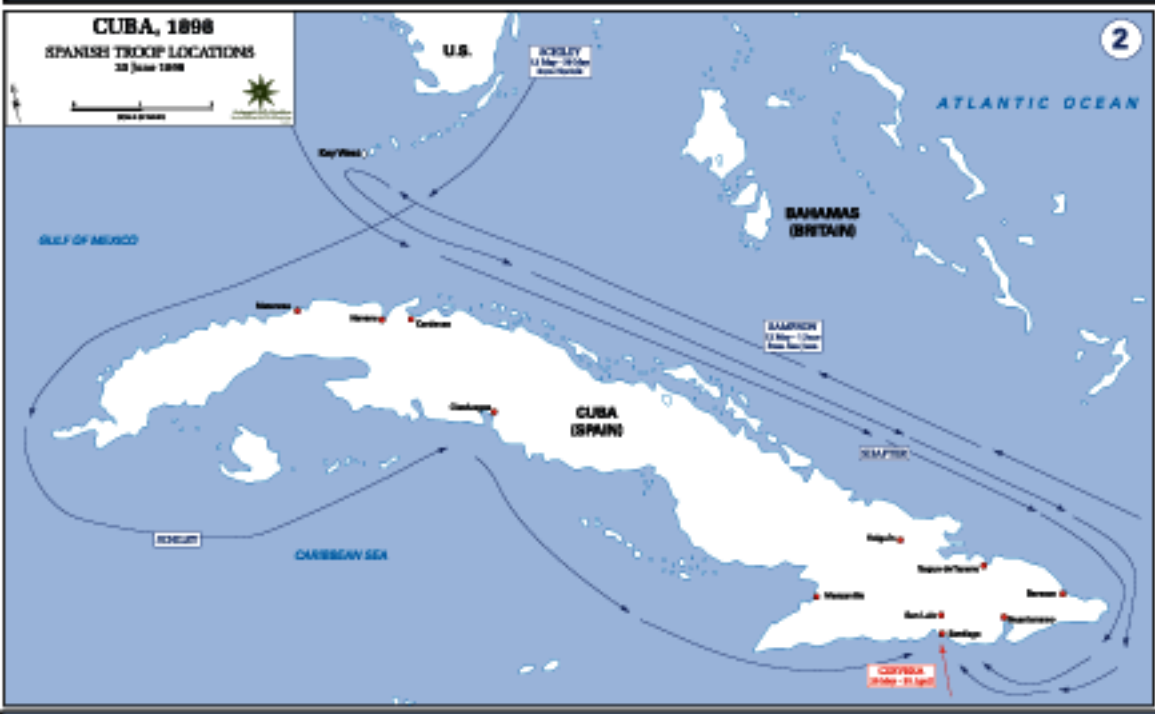
Cervera's fleet tried to escape and was sunk in a one-sided running engagement on 3 July 1898. General Toral recognized the hopelessness of his plight, and surrendered Spanish forces on eastern Cuba on 17 July. American forces went on to take Puerto Rico by 9 August and the Spanish sued for peace on 12 August. The next day, unaware that an armistice had been signed, General Merritt's forces captured Manila after token Spanish resistance.



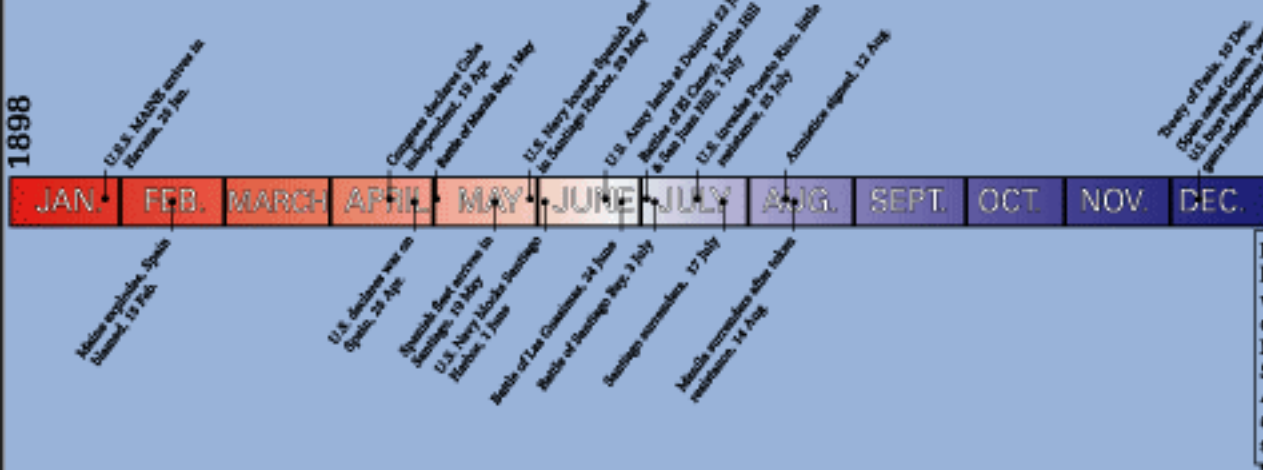
Legend

- Spanish Fort
- Battle Site
- U.S. on 1 July
- U.S. after 1 July

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TIMELINE



The President decided that Cuba would have to be liberated by land forces, and to this end the Army scrambled to raise and train both volunteers and additional Regular troops. An enthusiastic citizenry filled recruiting depots, creating havoc on a organization designed to police Western Plains. Order was eventually imposed on chaos and Shafter sailed for Cuba with 17,000 men on 14 June 1898.

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Both the Army and the navy were unprepared when hostilities began. The Navy quickly recovered, and within a week of the declaration of the war Dewey had destroyed the weak Spanish squadron in Manila Bay. Meanwhile, after briefly panicking over a possible Spanish attack against the East Coast, the American Atlantic Squadrons under Admiral Sampson clapped a blockade around Cuba, sealing Cervera's obsolescent squadron in Santiago Harbor.

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