

May, 2013

## May 5th, Day of the “Battle of Puebla”

In 1862, the fleets of Spain, England and France landed in Veracruz willing to collect their loans to Mexico. They withdraw after negotiations with the representative of Mexico, Spain and England.



However, Napoleón III, Emperor of the second French Empire, wanted to establish a monarchy for France, and also wanted to dissolve the constitutional Government of Mexico

### If visiting Puebla...

The area of the forts of Loreto and Guadalupe, site where the battle of May 5, 1862, was conducted is a beautiful place to enjoy a great view of the city of Puebla.



(Fort of Guadalupe)

Thus, French forces (7000 soldiers) commanded by General Lorencez left towards the city of Mexico.

President Juárez ordered General Ignacio Zaragoza to halt the advance of the French armed forces in the forts of Loreto and Guadalupe near the city of Puebla. Zaragoza had only (2,000) two thousand men.

On May 5, 1862, cannons resounded and rifles were fired and over (1,000) thousand French soldiers fell dead. The Mexicans had won the battle but not the war. However, this date symbolizes the Mexican value to a such a formidable Navy.

Defeated at the battle of Puebla, they recoiled to Orizaba while they waited for reinforcements to continue the offensive. Meanwhile, Luis Bonaparte

nephew of NapoleónI, allied with groups of Mexican conservatives to impose a European King in the country.

By June 1864, Maximilian of Habsburg and his wife Charlotte (Austrians) arrived in the city of Mexico to take possession of the newly formed Mexican Empire and were crowned as the Emperor and Empress of Mexico.

The Republicans, commanded by Benito Juárez, did not accept foreign intervention. They retreated to the North of the country and asked for help to Californians and other Mexican-American societies with financing and volunteers for the fight.

The United States at the end of its civil war, pressed France to retreat. The withdrawal of the French militaries in 1867 was forced out. Maximiliano, helpless, had to resort to his former conservative allies, generals Miramón and Mejía, but it was too late.

Defeated in Queretaro, they were shot on the Hill of bells (Cerro de las Campanas).

#### Relevant Data:

- The city of Puebla and its historic centre, were proudly declared as world heritage by UNESCO on December 11, 1987.
- The Biblioteca Palafoxiana is considered to be the single oldest library in the Americas, recognized by the UNESCO "Memory of the world" in June 2005.

#### To learn more...

- <http://www.5demayopuebla.mx/historia.php>
- <http://www.visitmexico.com/es/puebla>
- <http://www.turismopuebla.gob.mx/>