

historyofcuba.com Presents

ANTONIO MACEO

TIMELINE

by Jerry A. Sierra



THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF CUBA

The contents of this Ebook appear as a chapter in the book "MARTI, MACEO & CUBA'S STRUGGLE FOR SEPARATION FROM SPAIN," by Jerry A. Sierra/historyofcuba.com.

COPYRIGHTS

This Ebook as a whole, and its many individual elements, are the property of Jerry A. Sierra (unless otherwise identified) and may not be reproduced, copied, sold or published in print, on the Internet, or on any other new or traditional media without prior written consent from the author/publisher.

The author/publisher reserves all rights to any future media types not yet developed.

The buyer/user may print one copy of the Ebook for personal use, but it may not be reproduced, copied, published, sold or altered in any way and under any circumstances without prior written consent.

TERMS OF USE

By purchasing and/or downloading this Ebook you agree to the following:

- You may print this Ebook once for your own personal consumption.
- You may not sell this book in any form whatsoever, including paper or digital form.
- You may not change or alter this Ebook in any way.
- This Ebook is sold "as is" without any warranties of any kind. While a great deal of time and effort has been spent in the production of this Ebook, it is understood that the author/publisher shall not be held accountable for misspelled words, typos, incorrect dates or other information.
- It is completely up to the user/buyer to have and properly maintain a system that is able to handle a PDF 7.0 file. It is understood that the author/publisher shall not be held responsible for slow download times, inadequate computer systems and/or incorrectly installed programs. The user/buyer assumes full responsibility for his/her system and its performance. No technical guarantees of any kind are made.

Antonio Maceo Timeline is published by historyofcuba.com
© 2006 Jerry A. Sierra
First Edition



ANTONIO MACEO

AKA

THE BRONZE TITAN



One of the most-loved figures in Cuban history is Antonio Maceo, fondly remembered as a brave leader who suffered 24 battle-wounds and fought two wars for Cuban independence. After his death in battle on December 7 1896, he was affectionately nicknamed The Bronze Titan.

Maceo was born on June 14 1845 in Santiago de Cuba, the son of a free black Venezuelan farmer and dealer in agricultural products. At age sixteen Maceo went to work for his father, delivering produce and supplies by mule back.

Young Maceo developed an active interest in the political issues of the time, and was encouraged by his parents to act on his feelings.

Weeks after Carlos Manuel de Céspedes' revolt against Spain on October 25 1868 (known as "El Grito de Yara") Maceo and his brothers joined the war for independence. Within five months, Maceo was promoted to commander, and within a matter of weeks after that he was again promoted to lieutenant colonel of the Liberating Army (1/16/1869). In what became the Ten Year War, Maceo participated in over 500 battles against the Spanish Empire.

Historian Philip Foner, from his book ANTONIO MACEO: "Maceo delighted in outsmarting the Spanish generals; again and again, he decoyed them into situations that were disastrous to them."

Fearing his sudden rise in fame and popularity, rebel conservatives launched an all-out slander campaign against Maceo. This is believed to be one of the main reasons for the failure of the war.

In 1878 Maceo opposed the Pact of Zanjón, which ended the war in a stalemate and the Spanish promise of reform. The Pact offered a general amnesty to the rebels, but did not end slavery, although it did grant freedom to slaves who fought on either side.

When the war ended Maceo was forced into exile, surviving numerous assassination attempts planned and funded by the Spaniards up until the beginning of the 2nd War for Cuban Independence.

After years of organizing Cubans inside and outside the island, José Martí founded the Cuban Revolutionary Party in 1892, and sought Maceo's help in what would be Cuba's final war against Spain. During this war, Maceo led the Liberating Army into Havana in what's known as The Western Invasion. It is considered one of the great military feats of the century.

Like his father and brothers, Maceo died in battle, fighting for Cuban independence. His final moment came in the battle of Punta Brava, in Western Cuba.

Maceo was known in the Spanish press as "the lion."

THE ANTONIO MACEO TIMELINE

Before Maceo was born...

- 1762** Between 1762 and 1838, about 391,000 slaves are brought to Cuba.
- 1817** British-inspired agreement ends the slave trade, but after the agreement, slaves are imported illegally in greater numbers.
- 1824** **December 9.** With the battle of Ayacucho in Peru, **Spanish forces are decisively defeated and thrown out of the American mainland**—north, central and south. Spain still controls two islands in the West Indies: Cuba and Puerto Rico.
- 1842** **March 20.** María Josefa Eufemia Cabrales is born in San Luis, Oriente Province. (She later becomes Antonio Maceo's wife.)
- Official Cuban census reports: 1,037,624 inhabitants: 448,291 white, 152,838 free blacks, 436,495 slaves.
- 1843** Marcos Maceo and Mariana Grajales y Cuello enter into a common law marriage.
- 1845** **June 14.** **José Antonio de la Caridad Maceo y Grajales** is born in Majaguabo, San Luis, Oriente Province. Antonio is the first of Marcos and Mariana's nine children.
- August 26.** Antonio Maceo is baptized at the Church of Santo Tomás Apóstol.
- 1847** **February 20.** Maceo's first sister, María Baldomera is born.
- 1849** **February 2.** Maceo's first brother, José Marcelino is born. José is Marcos and Mariana's 3rd child.
- 1850** **October 24.** Maceo's brother, Rafael, is born.
- 1851** **July 6.** Marcos Maceo and Mariana Grajales legitimize their common-law marriage before parish priest José Tomás Chamorro, of the Church of San Nicolás de Morón y de San Luis, Oriente.
- 1852** **September 16.** Miguel, Maceo's brother, is born.
- 1853** **January 28.** José Martí is born in Havana.
- 1854** **May 20.** Julio, Maceo's brother, is born.
- 1857** **May 11.** Dominga de la Calzada, Maceo's sister, is born.
- December 25.** José Tomás, Maceo's brother, is born.
- 1860** **September 24.** Marcos, Maceo's brother, is born.

1864 Maceo joins the Masonic Lodge of Santiago de Cuba (and enters the inner revolutionary circle).

1865 **November 25.** Spain establishes a Colonial Reform Commission to discuss proposals to reform the island.

1866 **February 16.** Maceo marries María Magdalena Cabrales y Fernández. They move into a home in La Esperanza, one of the Maceo family farms.

November. **Maceo's first daughter is born:** María de la Caridad Maceo.

1868 **February 24.** In Puerto Rico, an uprising known as the *Grito de Lares* is begins.

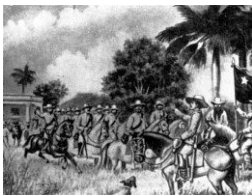
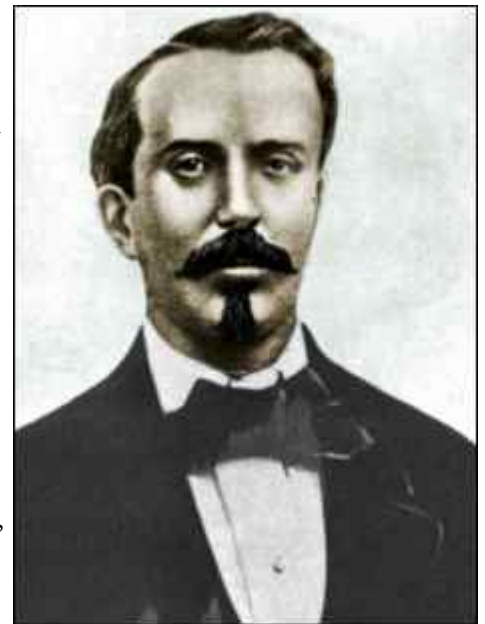
August 4. At a coordinating meeting for revolutionary activities (on a farm named San Miguel de Rompe, in Las Tunas) Carlos M. de Céspedes makes a passionate plea for immediate action, ending with the words: "Gentlemen, the hour is solemn and decisive. The power of Spain is decrepit and worm-eaten; if it still appears great and strong to us, it is because for more than three centuries we have contemplated it from our knees."

September 23. In Puerto Rico, the **Revolutionary Junta proclaims a free Puerto Rican Republic.**

October. Early in the month a telegram from General Lersundi to governor of Bayamo Udaeta, is intercepted by a telegrapher friendly to the revolutionaries. It reads: "**Cuba belongs to Spain and for Spain she must be kept no matter who is governing.** Send to prison D. Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, Francisco Vicente Aguilera, Pedro Figueredo, Francis Maceo Osorio, Bartolomé Masó, Francisco Javier de Céspedes..."

October 10. From his plantation, La Demajagua, near Yara, Carlos Manuel de Céspedes proclaims Cuban independence in the historic "**Grito de Yara.**" Joined by 37 other planters, he liberates his slaves and incorporates them into a rebel army.

October 12. First clash with Spanish troops at Yara. The rebels eat supper at the Maceo house in Majabuabo. After the meal, Marcos Maceo donates four ounces of gold, a dozen good machetes, two revolvers, four shotguns and a blunderbuss. Antonio and José Maceo, with half-brothers Justo Regüeyferes Grajales, join the rebels. Mariana Grajales: "Everyone, parents and children, kneel before Christ, who was the first liberal man who came to the world, and swear to free the country or die for her." [Justo was later captured and executed while trying to visit his wife. He was the first of Mariana's 8 sons to die for Cuban independence.]



At this point, Spain has only 7,000 regulars on the island, and a Volunteer force armed with 90,000 Remington rifles purchased in the U.S. It is the volunteers that allow Spaniards to contain the rebellion until reinforcements arrive.

El Grito de Yara **October.** The rebel army, known as the **mambises**, consists initially of 147 volunteers who do not even have a weapon each. Their weapons consist of 45 fowling pieces, 4 rifles, and a few pistols and machetes.

1868 **October 28.** Ten days after capturing the city of Bayamo, the Revolutionary Municipal Council of Bayamo petitions Céspedes to proclaim the immediate abolition of slavery.

November. The Rebel Army now has 12,000 men.

At the battle of “El Cristo” and “El Cobre,” **Maceo shows exceptional courage**, initiative and leadership. He is quickly promoted to sergeant, and then to captain.

In Bayamo, Maceo achieves a victory that his commander, Colonel Pio Rosado, declared impossible. General Mármol later praises him.

November 1868 through December 1869. **Spain sends its finest officers** to command 35,000 veteran soldiers and thousands of others. Included are 14 warships and a train of artillery equipped with latest model Krupp cannons.

December 27. Céspedes signs a decree declaring Cuba incompatible with slavery, but adding that slavery will end “when it had full use of its powers under free suffrage so that it could agree on the best means of carrying the proposal to an end that would be advantageous to the old as well as the new citizen.” [Meaning a gradual and indemnified abolition to happen after the war.]

1869 **January 7.** Spanish General Valmaseda outmaneuvers Marmól and surprises Cuban forces at El Saladillo. **More than 2,000 Cubans die in this encounter**, most of them are recently freed slaves.

January 15. Valmaseda enters Bayamo and finds it burned to the ground. This was done with the unanimous consent of its inhabitants upon realizing they cannot resist the siege by Spanish forces armed with artillery and modern weapons.

January 16. **Maceo is promoted to commander.** He begins to operate with independent forces, still under the jurisdiction of General Marmól. With this new freedom to “formulate his own tactics,” achieves victories in Mayari and Guantánamo.

January 21. In Havana, the Volunteers force (controlled by wealthy slave-owners opposed to independence) attacks the audience attending a comedy at the Villanueva Theatre. The performance is suspected of being favored by rebel sympathizers.

January 26. **Maceo is promoted to lieutenant colonel** of the Liberating Army.

Historian Philip Foner, from his book *Antonio Maceo*:

“On many occasions, Spanish officers were completely fooled by Maceo’s whirlwind attacks against their superior forces. When the initial attack was repulsed and the seemingly desperate retreat was followed up by the Spaniards, they found themselves suddenly trapped in a well-prepared ambush on unfavorable terrain. Maceo delighted in outsmarting the Spanish generals; again and again, he decoyed them into situations that were disastrous to them.”

February 9. Under General Federico Cavada (a former colonel in the U.S. Volunteer Service during the Civil War) the **Las Villas district joins the war for independence.**

February 26. The Revolutionary Assembly of the Central Department in Camagüey issues a declaration that states: “The institution of slavery, introduced into Cuba by Spanish Dominion, must be extinguished along with it.”

1869 **March 19.** U.S. President Grant's cabinet makes its first major decision on a Cuban policy. Nearly all members of the cabinet, led by Secretary of State Hamilton Fish, are opposed to the recognition of Cuban belligerency.

March 25. The U.S. House of Representatives begins exploring the issue of Cuban belligerency.

April 10. The **Constitutional Convention meets at Guaimaro**. A constitution is adopted that provides for a republican government. Article 24 declares, "all the inhabitants of the Republic are absolutely free."

May 14. In a fierce and bloody battle at San Agustín, Sergeant **Marcos Maceo** (Antonio Maceo's father) **is killed in battle** (by a Spanish bullet) at the side of his son. In his book, *Antonio Maceo*, Foner writes, "Mariana Grajales, living incarnation of Cuban patriotism, cried out to the youngest of her sons, still a little boy: 'And you, stand up tall; it is already time that you should fight for your country.'"

'And you,
stand up
tall; it is al-
ready time
that you
should
fight
for your
country.'

In *A History of Cuba and its relations with The United States, Volume 2*, historian Philip S. Foner writes: "Indeed, as a passionate patriot and foe of the Spaniards, this Negro woman, Mariana Grajales, one of the outstanding women in Cuba's revolutionary history, swayed her entire family to the cause of independence."

May 22. In an attack at the strongly defended sugar mill, "Armonia," **Maceo receives the first of many wounds**. He is carried back to a hidden rest camp, where his wife and his mother nurse him back to health.

A few weeks later, Maceo's two small children die of disease, possibly cholera.

Late in the month, an expedition organized by the New York *Junta*, made up of 800 to 1,400 men equipped with Spencer carbines, revolvers, sabres, two batteries of 12-pounder, and several 60-pounder guns, is intercepted by U.S. federal authorities and most of the men are taken prisoner.

Historian Philip Foner, from the book *Antonio Maceo*:

"What the Cuban army lacked in numbers, experience, warfare training and arms and equipment was often compensated for by their thorough knowledge of the country, effective use of guerrilla tactics, greater immunity to cholera and other diseases that flourished on the island, and above all patriotic devotion. The most important asset of guerrilla warfare is an ideal; the rebels were fighting for the liberation of their country, and this gave them the popular support without which a guerrilla movement cannot be effective. 'Every tree and flower and grass had a use or a virtue with which they seemed acquainted,' reported James J. O'Kelly, the Irish journalist. The *guajiro* and the *campesino*, the slave and the free black, not only moved steadily into the ranks of the Liberating Army, but aided and shielded the patriotic fighters, even though they risked their own lives by so doing."

August 7. Don Ascencio de Ascencio (Maceo's godfather) and Exuperancio Alvarez (Maceo's friend) are executed by a Spanish firing squad.

By the end of the year, Spain has amassed a powerful fleet that includes the vessels *Victoria* and *Zaragoza*. This proves to be a major advantage, since the rebels had no navy and Spain is easily able to keep outside aid from getting through.

The **rebel army is forced to abandon the province of Las Villas**, the most western point of the rebellion, and fall back to Camagüey. However, **Spaniards are constantly on the run in Santa Clara, Camagüey and Oriente provinces**.

1870 June 14. Antonio Maceo celebrates his 25th birthday.

June 26. General **Donato Marmól** is killed. General Máximo Gómez is placed in command of Maceo's area. Gómez and Maceo become dominant military figures.

July 20. Gómez reorganizes his forces. General Calixto García becomes second in command, and Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Maceo is put in charge of the third battalion.

Heading a battalion of only 187 men, **Maceo takes part in numerous successful attacks** under Gómez's command.

October 2. After defeating a Spanish attack on his camp in Majaguabo, **Maceo receives another severe battle wound**. By the twentieth he's active again, taking part in the highly successful assault on the town of Ti-Arriba, which results in the destruction of the town and the capture of a large quantity of booty.

November 7. At General Headquarters, Máximo Gómez speaks fondly of Antonio Maceo, referring to him as "a soldier's soldier in or out of battle."

December 4. During an attack on the fortress of Baragua, **Maceo is wounded** again. His **younger brother, Julio, dies** in the same battle. Even as his wounds are healing, Maceo is able to defend against Spanish troops that venture near his camp.

1871 April. Captain-General Valmaseda reports to Minister for Overseas:

"This is a war of surprises and violence, not one of conquest by arms; its purpose is to win through destruction and burning, and the difficult task of attaining total coverage of the terrain, the impossibility of effectively controlling unpopulated areas where the heavy, almost virgin forest hides thousands of shelters which require small columns to locate and to pursue the bands of dissidents, makes it impossible to attain proper military confrontations, and for this reason we must have expert officers, sagacious and skilled in maneuvers..."

July. **Gómez decides to invade the Guantánamo zone**, which is strongly guarded by Spanish elite units.

At the beginning of the campaign, Maceo clashes with the famous rifle battalion of San Quintín, one of Spain's most aggressive and disciplined units. In battle, Maceo's aide, **Manuel Amábile, sacrifices his life in order to save his leader**. "It was not the last example of the love Maceo's soldiers had for him."

During a fierce battle at "La India," **José Maceo lays wounded** in front of the enemy trenches, and Maceo refuses to retreat without another effort to save his brother. In a brave effort, Maceo leads a charge "through a veritable shower of bullets until the fortifications were breached and the buildings set on fire." José Maceo is rescued, and after a long period of recovery his life is saved. The Spaniards fight to the death, and only one soldier escapes.

October 15. General Gómez leaves **Maceo in charge** while he attends a government conference on war strategy.



1872 **January/February.** Spanish General Martínez Campos, after failing to defeat Maceo with 1,000 men, declares, “It is impossible to end the war by means of arms.”

January 27. Gómez speaks about Maceo: “The conduct observed by the chief of operations of the jurisdiction of Guantánamo, citizen José Antonio Maceo, is very worthy of the post which he occupies, and is evident in his valor, skill, and activity.”

March. Maceo is promoted to full colonel.

March 8. Learning that Martínez Campos is expecting re-enforcements, Maceo intercepts the troops and stages a series of “flank and rear guard attacks,” inflicting numerous wounds on the advancing columns.

March 18. Spanish troops receive additional support and engage Maceo in a six-hour battle. Maceo retreats.

March 27. Maceo strikes back, defeats Spanish troops at “Loma Del Burro.”

May 26 – June 7. During a conference with government officials, **President Céspedes meets Maceo for the first time.**

April 16. President Céspedes writes to Colonel Antonio Maceo:

“A few days ago I received the news that the operations of the enemy in Guantanamo had been completely paralyzed. This fact, which can be the result of various causes, undoubtedly recognizes as a primary motive the brilliant operations and heroic efforts of the Cubans who fight against the Spaniards in that district. Those have been operations and efforts which have obtained the sort of glory that is justly associated with your name and which is recognized and confessed by all.”

Gómez renews his pressure for his plan to attack the West, arguing that Cuban victories in Guantánamo were important, but the revolution could only make real headway if it moved westward. The plan is accepted, but when ordered to divert men from the expedition to protect the members of the government, Céspedes refuses to obey, and is removed from command for disobedience.

The plan to move westward is later abandoned, and Maceo reluctantly replaces his old commander.

June 20. General Calixto García takes over Gómez’s position as commander of the province.

July 1. The whole army of Oriente comes under Calixto García. In the next four months, the rebel army wins victory after victory in the Guantánamo district. Maceo plays a leading role.

November. Maceo rejoins General García to help capture the town of Holguín. Exactly one month later the town is captured.

Late, 1872. As a result of the many successful Cuban campaigns, **Captain General Valmaseda resigns.** The new Captain General, Cándido Pieltán, adds 54,000 men, 42 artillery pieces, and 2,000 horses (aside from the thousands of guerrillas not formally part of the Spanish army but used mainly to guard towns, garrisons, plantations and mills) to the war effort. The Rebel Army, on the other hand, has close to 7,000 men.

A Royal
Decree
condemns
Antonio
Maceo to
death

1873 August 6. A Royal Decree issued on this day condemns Antonio Maceo to death.

October 27. Members of the House of Representatives call for a meeting in Bijaugal. President Céspedes is not invited. As a result of this meeting, **Céspedes is removed as president**, and Salvador Cisneros Betancourt is proclaimed president of the republic.

1874 February. Early in the month a meeting takes place between the highest-ranking officials of the Rebel Army, the president, his cabinet, and the House of Representatives. Gómez's plan to attack westward is approved.

February. Rebel conservatives launch **an all-out slander campaign against Maceo**. The opposition stems from the effects of racial prejudice and propaganda about "black domination."

February 4. With permission from the government, **Gómez forms a force of 500 soldiers** from Oriente and Las Villas (300 infantry and 200 cavalry), and names Maceo General of the new division, second in command only to himself.

February 10. In Naranjo, the new 500-man division **defeats the 2,000 artillery-equipped** veteran Spanish troops lead by General Manuel Portillo.

March 15. In the **Battle of Las Guásimas**, the rebel army is, again, victorious over larger Spanish forces. Maceo, with 200 cavalry and 50 infantry, attacks a column of 2,000 men sent from Camagüey. In all, the Spaniards pour 6,000 men and six pieces of artillery into the battle, but have to retreat.

March 17. As the battle of Las Guásimas continues and the Spanish cavalry is all but defeated, Spanish General Manuel Armizán requests help from troops in Camagüey. By the end of this battle, Spaniards suffer 1,037 dead and wounded, and the Cubans 166. The rebel victory uses so much ammunition and equipment that **the western invasion is temporarily called off**.

April 18. **Maceo's brother, Miguel, dies in his arms** from wounds received in the attack on the Spanish garrison at Cascorro.



April 16. Captain General José Gutiérrez de la Concha signs one more (the third) decree proclaiming the death penalty for Antonio Maceo and confiscating all his property.

September 4. **Calixto García is captured by the Spaniards**. Maceo assumes command of the Second Division.

1875 January 6. General Máximo **Gómez crosses the 'trocha'** (the long fortified line that the Spaniards erected to prevent penetration of the West. "The objective, Gómez tells his men, "is the destruction of the plantations which sustain the enemy, principally the mills from which the *hacendados* derive their wealth and with which they support Spain's war effort."

April 27. General Vicente García renounces allegiance to the revolutionary government and calls an assembly at Lagunas de Varona of all elements dissatisfied with the progress of the revolution. The move results in a disruption of the whole revolutionary movement. President Cisneros offers to resign.

1875 **June 18.** Maceo meets with General Vicente García in Alcalá, near Holguín and expresses his disagreement with García's actions.

December. Another vicious campaign against Maceo begins. He is again accused of seeking a Black Republic. Maceo ignores the charges.

1876 **January 18.** Joaquín Jovellar is appointed Captain-General of Cuba by the Spanish crown.

March 28. The House of Representatives **elects Tomás Estrada Palma as president** of the Republic.

May 16. From his camp in Baragua, Maceo responds to the charges against him. His letter to the president is quoted in full. Estrada Palma does not respond.

1877 **May 11.** García issues a new manifesto demanding reforms in the revolutionary government.

July. General Antonio **Maceo confronts Limbano Sánchez**, who had joined the conspiracy against the government orchestrated by General García. [Sánchez, a Negro leader known as the Lion of Holguín, had taken command away from Colonel Arcadio Leyte Vidal, who refused to participate in the conspiracy.

Maceo located Sánchez' camp and ordered his men to remain behind (to avoid bloodshed). He approached the camp with only two men in tow, Colonel Fernando Figueredo and Félix Figueredo.

The incident is described in *La Revolución de Yara* by Fernando Figueredo: "A "who goes?" echoed on that mountainside, interrupting the silence which surrounded the scene, and before we could collect our wits the quick reply came from the General—"General Maceo, Chief of the Division!"—"Hands up, Chief of the Division!" replied the sentinel. The Chief answered serenely:

"In the territory under my command none has the right to detain me!" The zealous sentinel gave the voice of alarm with words that fairly ran together in their rapidity, as he called for the officer of the guard and for Colonel Sánchez. The notes of a trumpet were heard coming from the camp followed by voices crying, "Vivan the reforms!" "Viva General Vicente García!" The sounds became lost in the immensity of the mountainous surroundings. Then the abrupt voice of Lieutenant Colonel Sánchez, clear and penetrating, exclaimed, "Hands up General Maceo! If you don't raise your hands—pointing with his modern and magnificent revolver at the head of General Maceo—I will fire!" Figueredo and I ran toward the group. Meanwhile the trumpets in the interior of the camp played "call to colors," and voices cried again insistently, "Vivan the reforms!" "Viva Vicente García!" and the echoes repeated the sounds, gradually disappearing in space.

"Fire coward!" exclaimed the General, "If you want to kill a man shoot!" he said with his arms crossed. And since Limbano lost the time that the bird needs to sue, fascinated by the eyes of the boa, Maceo ordered him to "holster that sidearm!"

And the arm which nearly gave the deathblow to the country, and which almost committed murder, fell as though dominated by its own weight, at the order of the General. Maceo embraced Limbano Sánchez. In that moment Figueredo and I drew nearer to the scene...

"Have no fear!"—Said the Chief to his subordinate—"I have come to save you from the ruin that threatens you; turn your troops over to me and return to obedience!"]

Sánchez is placed under technical arrest, but is allowed to move about the camp freely on his word of honor not to escape. At the first opportunity he escapes with a few of his men.

1877 July 17. Maceo and General Gómez meet to discuss a plan to try and re-unite the political factions and continue the war.

July 24. General Gómez concludes an agreement with Limbano Sánchez, but Maceo warns (in front of Sánchez) that the later can't be trusted.

August 6. Maceo is wounded again in battle, and it is feared that he will not survive. Gómez leaves Maceo with Dr. Félix Figueredo and a small protective force (lead by Maceo's brother José) to continue the war.

August 13. Dr. Figueredo writes to Gómez that in spite of his earlier estimate that Maceo could not survive, he now appeared to be out of serious danger.

Maceo is wounded in battle. It is feared that he will not survive.

Late August. After an informer advises General Martínez Campos of Maceo's wounds and the small size of his escort, the General sends a column of 3,000 men to surround the area.

September. For over ten days, Maceo's brother José leads the running battle trying to break through a tightening ring of enemy foot soldiers.

September 27. Less than two months after receiving his terrible wounds, Maceo is able to mount his horse (Guajamón) and gallop away in a "cloud of dust and smoke." [Three days later he is safe in San Miguel with his wife, brother, and other members of his escort.]

Reporting the affair to Madrid, Martínez Campos writes: "I thought I was dealing with a stupid mulatto, a rude muleteer; but I found him transformed not only into a real general, capable of directing his movement with judgment and precision, but also into an athlete who, finding himself indisposed on a litter, assaulted by my troops, abandoned his bed, leaped upon a horse and outdistanced those pursuing him."

September. Gómez writes in his diary: "General Maceo was seriously wounded, but that man, with his indomitable spirit and iron constitution, is already active again."

November. President **Estrada Palma is captured and imprisoned** by the Spaniards. Máximo Gómez is offered the presidency, but he refuses. [Many believe this to be the factor that ended the Ten Year War unfavorably for the rebels.] **General Vicente García is named president** of the Republic.

December. The rebel government, ready to discuss peace terms with Martínez Campos, asks for the neutralization of a part of Camagüey province.



1878 **January 29.** In the Sierra Maestra Mountains, Maceo successfully ambushes an unusually large column of Spanish troops. The rebels capture their booty, including many weapons and ammunition, and force the Spaniards to retreat with many dead and wounded.

February 4. While most of his troops are away and he's only left with 38 rebels, Maceo is completely surrounded and outnumbered more than eight-to-one. After three hours of brutal combat, the Cubans completely rout their enemy. Spanish prisoners are later released to the Spanish commanding general.

February 5. A conference is held between the most important leaders of the government and the Spanish generals. The government, including President García and the House of Representatives resign. A Comité del Centro (Committee of the Central Department) is formed.

February 7, 8, 9. In the area of San Ulpiano, Maceo achieves a brilliant victory over the famous San Quentin battalion.

February 9. The Comité del Centro asks Martínez Campos for terms to cease fighting.

February 11. At a meeting in Zanjón, in Camagüey, the **Treaty of Zanjón** (Pacto de Zanjón) is accepted.

From New York, General Rafael Rodríguez writes to Félix Figueredo that he sent "*Les Miserables* of V. Hugo so that you may save it for Maceo."

February 21. From New York, General Rafael Rodríguez writes to Félix Figueredo that he sent "*Les Miserables* of V. Hugo so that you may save it for Maceo."

February 29. Surrender ceremonies are scheduled to take place at Puerto Príncipe.

March 4. The New York Times prints a lengthy review of "The Ten Years War." It does not mention Maceo.

March 8. Maceo camps at Baraguá, near Santiago de Cuba.

March 15. In Baraguá, Spanish General Martínez Campos and other Spanish representatives meet with a small gathering of black and white Cuban officers led by General Maceo. The Spanish general continually addresses Maceo as "señor." An eight-day truce is established, but it is agreed that it will end on March 23.

March 18. Maceo is offered a considerable sum of money to accept the Zanjón pact. He replies: "Do you think that a man who is fighting for a principle has a high regard for his honor and reputation can sell himself while there is still at least a chance of saving his principles by dying or trying to enforce them before he denigrates himself? Men like me fight only in the cause of liberty and will smash their guns rather than submit."

March 23. War breaks out again. Maceo issues a circular that becomes known as "**The Protest of Baraguá.**"

April 6. New York's *La Verdad* pays tribute to Maceo's action: "The hero of the day is Maceo, and it appears it is up to him to raise Cuba again to the pinnacle of its glory."

May 10. Maceo leaves Cuba (under Presidential orders) in a Spanish cruiser headed from Santiago de Cuba for Jamaica.

1878 **May 21.** At Loma Pelada, The **rebel government accepts Spanish peace terms**, officially ending the Ten-Year War.

May 23. Maceo leaves Kingston in the steamship Atlas, heading for New York.

May 30. Maceo arrives in New York.

June 6. A reception for Maceo takes place at the home of Reverend Garnit.

June 8. In New York, Maceo receives news that the rebels have accepted Spanish peace terms at Loma Pelada.

June 12. An interview with Maceo appears in *Las Novedades*.

August 5. In a letter to General Carlos Roloff, Angel Pérez shares his thoughts on Maceo: "...the attitude which we have encountered in Maceo up to this date has been hostile and insincere. He has always entertained very big ambitions. His tendencies have been and are to make himself the man not only of Oriente, but of Camagüey and Villas, or better said, the man of the new revolution." [During the Ten Year War, Roloff had refused the command of Gómez in Las Villas.]

October. After organizing the Cuban Revolutionary Committee (Comité Revolucionario Cubano), Major General Calixto García issues a manifesto inviting all Cubans to unite in the fight against Spanish rule.

October 25. Flor Crombet declares to Calixto García that he will not submit to orders from Maceo.

November 23. *La Independencia*, a publication of the Revolutionary Committee, urges slaves to "take your machetes in hand, and burn the cane."

1879 **August 5.** At a conference in Kingston, Jamaica, Maceo and García plan the next uprising.

August 26. **The Little War** (La Guerra Chiquita) begins prematurely in Santiago de Cuba. (Some historians consider this to be Cuba's second war of independence, and others ignore it, referring to the struggle that began in 1895 as Cuba's second attempt.)

September 5. Maceo issues a "Proclamation to the People of Cuba," calling on all Cubans to fight for liberty.

September 12. Maceo leaves for Port-au-Prince. [The Spanish Consul in Jamaica informs the Cuban authorities, and various naval crafts are assigned to patrol the coasts of Santo Domingo and look out for a possible expedition led by Maceo.]

September 23. Trying to cross the border into Santo Domingo on horseback, Maceo is attacked by a group of riders. He escapes and returns to Port-au-Prince, where he stays at the home of Cuban friend Santiago Pérez. He writes to Haitian General Joseph Lamothe: "Ther [in Cuba] the greater part of the population, composed of men of our race, finds itself deprived of all of political and civil rights and subject to the most inane of concerns, and there, lastly, three hundred and fifty-thousand men lie still in the harshest servitude and are born and die under the iron yolk of slavery... These slaves, General, tired of the whip and the chains, and too tired to break them alone, look around themselves and see us, men of color who have had the fortune to

1879 not be born into slavery or to have been freed, they ask us for our help. Our duty is to concede them such; to deny them would be a crime. I am the emissary of the enslaved people who fight to achieve their independence.

December 14. In Haiti, an **assassination attempt is made on Maceo** by Dominican generals Quintín Díaz and Antonio Pérez. Maceo is warned in advance and the attempt fails. It is later revealed that the attempt was planned and paid for by Cuba's Captain General Ramón Blanco.

In Haiti, an
assassination
attempt is made
on Maceo

1880 January 7. With his brother Marcos, Maceo leaves Haiti on the French steamer *Deserade*, heading for St. Thomas, in the Danish Virgin Islands.

May 7. Calixto García lands in Cuba.

May 18. Maceo arrives in Santo Domingo (on ship also named Santo Domingo) and stays at the Hotel Europa.

June 1. General José Maceo, Brigadier Rafael Maceo, Guillermo Moncada, and other rebel leaders surrender. The surrender is arranged by the consuls of France and England in Guantánamo, on the condition that the rebels are given safe passage from the island. But once out at sea, a Spanish warship takes them to Spanish prisons in Africa.

June 28. Maceo leaves Santo Domingo with 34 companions and a cargo of arms, bound for New York.

July 6. A third attempt is made on Maceo's life. [José Ramón Vardespino, a Colombian, entered Maceo's room and thrust a knife into the hammock where he thought Maceo was resting (it turned out that Deogracia Marty was laying in Maceo's hammock). Vardespino was later arrested in Puerto Plata.]

August 3. General Calixto García is forced to surrender and is sent to prison in Spain.

August 24. Juan Bellido de Luna, director of the Cuban revolutionary paper in New York, *La Independencia*, writes to Maceo, urges him not to invade Cuba: "I fear that you may sacrifice yourself for a sterile cause. What has happened to Calixto is proof of the general demoralization of the Cuban people."

September 12. Maceo writes to Juan Bellido de Luna:

"That Calixto García has fallen prisoner for the second time is to be lamented for the great loss it brings to our cause. But the situation of that chieftain is more enviable than my own; he had the good fortune of reaching the battlefields of Cuba while my fate is to remain in foreign areas when he most needed me. It is not my fault. Everyone knows what efforts I have made to get there before him. But the constant setbacks that I have suffered and the lack of sufficient resources to carry the thirty men in my company to those beaches prevented me from being among the fortunate ones. Indeed, Calixto has the good luck of having fulfilled his aspirations, while I find disgrace hanging over me with all of my most important comrades able to reach Cuban soil..."

December 10. On his way to Honduras, General Gómez stops in Kingston to visit Maceo.

1881 September 21. Maceo is appointed to the Honduran army with the grade of General of Division.

December. Eusebio Hernández and Carlos Roloff arrive in Honduras. [Hernández is appointed director of the Hospital of Tegucigalpa and professor in the School of Medicine of the Honduran National University.

1882 May 31. Maceo finds work in Honduras as deputy judge.

July 31. Maceo finds new work (still in Honduras) as commander of the ports of Puerto Cortés and Omoa.

November. Maceo receives the first letter from Martí, (dated July 20). Martí writes: “The Cuban problem has its answer in a social rather than a political solution. And this solution can only be obtained with the love and mutual respect of the one race for the other and the dignified and generous prudence which animates your high and noble heart. For me the one who promotes hatred in Cuba or who tries to take advantage of that which exists is a criminal. And he who tries to suffocate the legitimate aspirations of a special tenderness with which I think of these evils. My remedies for them are discreet, loving, and evangelical rather than boastful or ostentatious.”

November 29. Maceo responds to Martí’s letter of July 20. “My sword and my breath are at the service of Cuba,” he writes. Maceo again names General Gómez as the man best qualified to lead the Cubans in battle.

1883 January. Maceo’s wife, María Cabrales, arrives in Puerto Cortés. Later that same month, (January 15) General Gómez calls on Maceo with a business proposition – the establishment of an agricultural colony of Cuban emigrants.

*Cuba will
be free when
the redeeming
sword
flings her
antagonists
into the sea.*

March 25. Gómez writes to Maceo about their latest business venture:

“All that we asked has been conceded (and modified in our favor), but the most important thing is the interest and even the enthusiasm which the government, the congress, the most notable men of commerce, and men of some social and financial representation have demonstrated.”

May. Honduran President Marco Aurelio Soto (who had been actively supported by Maceo) flees the country.

June 13. Maceo writes to the editor of *El Yara*:

“Cuba will be free when the redeeming sword flings her antagonists into the sea. The Spanish domination was a shame and affront to the world that suffered it. But for is it is a shame which dishonors us. Whoever tries to take power over Cuba will only get the dust of its soil drenched in blood, if he does not perish in the struggle.”

July. Maceo resigns his posts in Honduras and declares, “Our enslaved Cuba demands that its sons fight for its freedom.”

December 16. Maceo writes to Colonel Fernando Figueredo Socarrás:

“While I understand the good motives of most Cubans, I do not understand certain efforts of Bonachea, whose announcements in the press denounce our work with prejudicial effects for Cubans resident in the Island and with harm to the whole Cuban movement. Generals Gómez, Crombet, Rodríguez, Roloff, and I have no knowledge of the conference about which Bonachea speaks in *El*

1883 *Yara*. I am glad this is true since it relieves me of having to disapprove his vanguard without a column.

Partial pronouncements will bring as a consequence the loss of the best chieftains and officials. All the government has to know is that a Cuban has dignity and it will throw him into some deep prison. Each one of those pronouncements causes arrests. Why should we call for the attention of the enemy who must be surprised with a formidable movement? What will Bonachea be able to secure since he is so little known as a fighting revolutionist? Will he be able to do what the immortal Céspedes did? No. Those times have passed and he is not that man; our enemies are also other people and they know us better than we ourselves. They have bitter memories of innumerable ac-

1884 **April 3.** From San Pedro, General Gómez writes to Maceo:

“I must speak to you as good companion so that we will completely understand each other. As you know, the cause of Cuba comprises the ideal closest to my heart.

Various revolutionary centers are calling me with insistence, and since I cannot leave at the moment, they may interpret my delay in a manner unfavorable to me. Moreover I have given my word (to be ready forever to fight for the attainment of Cuban independence).

For that reason I sent a commissioner to take my place... No one is more appropriate for this mission than Colonel Aguilera who is in agreement with my ideas of revolutionary organization. In my judgment, such organization must be the first task to occupy our time if we wish the invasion to have any chances of success.”

Maceo requests more details.

April 24. Gomez writes again to Maceo, expressing fear of “unworthy revolutionists” using money to “gain entrance” into the movement’s leadership.

June 10. Gómez, Hernández and Maceo gather at Gómez’ house to plan the new rebellion. Their plans are based on financial support promised by wealthy Cuban Félix Govín.

July 1. Maceo writes to Anselmo Valdés:

“In order to accept the duties which my country has placed upon me, I have sacrificed the well being of my family. Our enslaved Cuba demands that her sons fight for her freedom... Our old paladin and distinguished military leader, Máximo Gómez, will direct the revolution as its supreme chieftain. With him we can have a new order of things without the party disputes of the past, and we can suppress the jealousies and social preoccupations that have so restricted my services to the cause of Cuba. Petty ambitions and rivalries can be annulled before they start. I have no other aspiration than to see my country sovereign and free. With national sovereignty we will obtain our natural rights, calm dignity, and the repression of a free and independent people. When Cuba is free and has a constituted government, I shall request that we fight for the independence of Puerto Rico also. I would not care to put up my sword leaving that portion of America in slavery.

August 2. Maceo and Gómez leave with their families (on the steamboat *Santa Dalla*) for the U.S. to join the new independence movement.

August 9. Maceo and Gómez arrive in New Orleans. Maceo dislikes the racial attitude of the U.S. and comments on this to his friends.

September. Maceo and Gómez visit Key West, where they receive a warm reception. Maceo finally meets the directors of the revolutionary newspaper *El Yara* (they have corresponded by mail for seven years). Maceo learns about the death of his brother Rafael Maceo in a Spanish prison in Africa, and the escape of his other brother José Maceo.

1884 **September 26.** Maceo and Gómez, with José Rogelio Castillo, depart for New York on the ship *Lámparas*.

Maceo meets Martí **October 1.** In New York, Maceo and Gómez begin to hold conferences at the small hotel of Madame Griffon, on Ninth Ave. This is **the first time that Maceo and Martí meet face-to-face.**



October 20. In a letter to Gómez, **Martí resigns from the revolutionary movement.** (This is because of Martí's lack of trust for Gómez.)

November 13. Maceo arrives in Veracruz, Mexico, to collect money for the revolution. [He is unable to collect money or establish an understanding with the Mexican government.]

January 5. Maceo and Gómez re-join their families in New Orleans.

1885 **January 24.** Hernandez, before going to New York to buy weapons for the revolution with money raised in Key West, tells Maceo to be aware of spies, and that the Spanish government knew of their efforts. He added that an American warship had been alerted to prevent an expedition.

May 31. Maceo again arrives in New Orleans aboard a Spanish ship flying a Mexican flag.

July 1. María Cabrales (Maceo's wife) travels with the Gómez family to Jamaica. Maceo joins them a week later.

September. Authorities in Santo Domingo confiscate a shipment of arms purchased by the revolutionists. This is a major setback, and Gómez receives most of the blame. One of his most vocal critics is General Flor Crombet.

October. Maceo travels to Key West to raise money for the independence effort.

October 13. Maceo writes to Gómez:

“Give the orders and we will obey without question. Since putting myself actively at the service of Cuba I have determined to be a patriot above everything else—a soldier without pretensions or conditions. I am this in spite of bad things that displease me. But who can guarantee what things will be? Crombet suffers... because he is moving in bad company. He is neither a bad soldier nor a bad patriot; he has some very good qualities, and his exaggerated love of himself proves it... Let us look at things then with calmness and meditation. You are responsible for everything. You carry in your hands the future of a people who has entrusted you with the direction of its leadership. Who can suppose that you are exercising command through ambition? We have given it to you, and you have the right to expect us to fulfill your orders. Did we not know of your excellent characteristics and superiority of command when we elected you? May you be, then, superior in everything; make a complete analysis and order the invasion of Cuba whenever it must be done. The emigrants of Panama have discovered that Flor is what you said about him... I did what I could to correct the bad impressions which that has produced on them, and I tried to make them think of the necessity of your having independence in all the matters in your charge.

I am making unusual efforts to be ready on the fifteenth of this month so that if you have to give in to the pressure brought against you, you will not be alone in the moment of danger; let us all run the same risks. Rodríguez will also be ready on the same date, but as for Núñez, he has nothing done. However, I am urging him to go with us. I am asking these people and those in the Key to help him; with God's good wishes he can make his departure with us.”

1885 **December 23.** A letter from Gómez to Maceo leads to the first serious breach in their long friendship. (Gómez questioned Maceo's motives in urging him to begin the war immediately.)

1886 **January 2-9.** In Santo Domingo, Gómez is held in prison. He is released on the condition that he leaves the country immediately.

January 13. Maceo writes Gómez:

“My dear friend:

The concepts of your letter of the twenty-third of the last month of last year deserve a detailed reply, and I hasten to answer them in order to destroy the misconceptions that you have in regard to my letter from New York.

The “motives” that I obeyed are the same that guided me in Honduras when I began to concern myself with the cause of Cuba. As a matter of fact they are the same motives that have always guided my public acts, those of honor and loyalty.

I think the same thing of you now that I thought of you then; my opinion has not changed.

I thought it to be a necessity that you should be the supreme chieftain of the revolution, and I still think so. I think so not because I do not have my own personal opinions concerning you, which could in no way contribute to the realization of our enterprise, but, since above everything I am a patriot, no circumstance, situation, or convenience of general or particular interest would make me change my opinion.

Permit me to say that you have the great defect of always having a lack of confidence in those men who have not “approved” your manner of being.

Your character is infernal, egoistic, jealous, haughty, preoccupied (according to the hour), intractable, inconstant, and imperative.

My thoughts concerning you obey only the motives of accomplishing soon our revolutionary enterprise, subject today to a thousand misfortunes.

As for the rest, if anyone should think well of me, it ought to be you; you know me and know that I would not betray my ideals. Ambition and egotism have never twisted my spirit; I am governed only by ideas of order and legality in all my acts.

Upon thinking that time was being lost, I thought that it was not in our favor to continue losing money. It was for this reason that I expressed the desire of quickly breaking out of the situation in which we found ourselves placed.

You know that I have always believed in a strong organization for making war and that I chose this course when you thought preparatory work unnecessary. But today when we have no other choice, I cannot agree in a policy of delay.”

January 16. Maceo sends Gómez another letter, less severe in tone than his first response.

January 29. Waiting for a shipment of arms that was supposed to arrive in Colón, Panama on the 23rd, Maceo writes two letters to friends in Kingston: Ernesto Bavastro and Benito Machado. He expresses a sense of helplessness with the politics of the rebel movement and the many setbacks, errors and misfortunes.

March 20. Dr. Hernández arrives in Colón, Panama with bad news about the shipment Maceo was expecting on January 23.

July 10. Flor Crombet arrives in Panama.

July 20. Crombet arrives in Kingston, aboard the Morning Star, with arms and ammunitions for the rebels. “But the ship’s captain,” writes Foner, “fearful of being arrested with his dangerous cargo, threw the entire shipment into the sea and returned to New York.” (This is the second time

1886 that war materials are lost).

August 17. A major conference of all the military and civil leaders is held at the house of Octavio Bavastro (a close friend of Maceo) in Kingston, Jamaica. After a brief misunderstanding over the transfer of \$1,000 from the Rodríguez to the Maceo expedition, Maceo declares his belief that efforts to launch an armed rebellion in Cuba should be temporarily suspended. After a tense and lively discussion they all agree that the war effort will continue, and Maceo agrees to abide by the decisions of the group.

At one point in the meeting (while discussing how the various expeditions are to be organized) Flor Crombet rudely interrupts Maceo, using violent, abusive language. The exchange ends when Maceo challenges Crombet to a duel to the death. [Maceo designates Ernesto Bavastro and Benito Machada as his seconds, and Crombet designates Agustín Cebreco and Pedro Castillo. The following day both men are persuaded to postpone the duel indefinitely for the welfare of the revolutionary cause.]

August 19. Maceo writes to Gómez:

“I’m sorry for you and sad for Cuba. That celebrated military conference must have made you suffer much; to our shame it was conducted badly. In it I was subjected to repeated and marked insults because I sustained my opinion. With a total lack of the consideration that is due to gentlemen, friends, countrymen, and representatives of the cause of Cuba, my dignity was offended in your presence. As the Supreme chieftain you could and should have opposed the manners and grotesque language with which I was offended. This is even truer when you consider that I was called there on your orders. We were not in the street, and furthermore there was no reason for the insults lavishly used against me which you did not impede.”

August 20. Gómez responds to Maceo’s letter:

“I am sorry that you lament, with apparent reason, that I did not intervene with my authority to cut off the inconveniences of the other night. If I did not do so it was because nothing but the good of Cuba dominated me. To me it appeared more convenient to allow matters to take their course than to obstruct ideas.

In addition, with the ephemeral authority with which they have vested me already trampled under by you yourselves, nothing was left to me except what my origin has given me. And since childhood I have thought that anyone who dared to cast aspirations on that would die in the act or I would die, or if I failed in that I would require a duel unless the party refused. So you can understand why I always proceed with caution in such matters.”

August 31. At a dispute over finances, in which Maceo questions Gómez’s authoritarian style, his integrity, and his fitness to command, **Gómez brakes off their friendship.**

October 7. A Royal Decree abolishes slavery in Cuba.

December 8. Gómez announces the end of the rebel movement. Many blame Maceo personally for the failure to properly organize a rebellion.

1887 January 3. In Panama, Maceo obtains a concession to build a large number of wooden houses in the community of Bas Obispo (and his financial status improves considerably).

December. Maceo is actively involved with the Masons in Inter-Oceanic Lodge Number Forty-four.

1888 **January 4.** Maceo is sick with malaria in the Isthmus of Panama when he receives a circular by José Martí discussing preparations for a future uprising. Maceo writes to Martí:
“Today as yesterday and always, Señor Martí, I believe that all Cubans, without social distinctions, must put aside their dissension. For the sake of our enslaved country, which each day, becomes more unfortunate, we must purge ourselves of the seeds of discord sown in our hearts by the enemies of our noble cause...”

January 15. After he recovers from malaria, Maceo writes again to Martí, outlining his political thinking and offering support for the cause of Cuban independence.

1890 **January 29.** After Captain General Salamanca signs a passport for Maceo, and two Cuban merchants in Jamaica (Benito Machado and Prudencio Bravo) receive assurances of safe passage by the Spanish consul, **Maceo leaves Port-au-Prince** on the *Manuelito y Maria*, headed for Cuba.

Maceo writes:

“I was deeply troubled by the idea of returning to Cuba by a Spanish conveyance and of entering my country under the guise of peace and concord when what I wanted was war and the extermination of the colonial system in Cuba.”

After arriving in Santiago de Cuba, Maceo remains on the ship and is visited by Flor Crombet, Antonio Colás and Antonio Pareño. [Crombet and Colás assure him that the province of Oriente is ready to go to war for Cuba’s independence.]

February 1. The *Manuelito y Maria* arrives in the port of Gibara. Maceo again stays on the ship while he meets with rebel leaders.

February 5. At eleven o’clock in the morning, the *Manuelito y Maria* reaches Havana. Later a reporter from the daily newspaper *La Lucha* interviews Maceo, who stays in the Hotel Inglaterra and receives many visits from former rebel leaders and others.

According to Foner, “Even his enemies were not immune to his charm. One of the most capable Spanish officers in the Ten Years’ War told Maceo that he was the worthiest military opponent he had ever faced. According to one account—that of a Spanish officer who was later converted into an ardent revolutionary by Maceo—many Spanish soldiers saluted the *candillo* as they would have a general on the streets of Havana.”

A Spanish officer, Fidel Vidal de Santocildes, approaches Maceo at the "Acera de Louvre," a gathering place at the Hotel Inglaterra, and tells him that he is the "most worthy military opponent I have ever faced." [Ironically, Santocildes is killed in battle against Maceo in 1898.]

In Havana, as in the rest of the country, many white, well-to-do Creoles welcome Maceo into their homes. Spaniards are alarmed by the warmth and friendship offered to Maceo. According to Cuban historian Herminio Portell Vilá, “this demonstrated the increasing integration of the people... All these symptoms revealed that neither autonomy nor annexation represented the Cuban aspiration as did independence.”

July 20. Maceo takes a train to Batabanó, where he then takes a ship to Santiago de Cuba (his birthplace) in Oriente.

July 25. After arriving in Santiago de Cuba, Maceo stays at the Hotel Louvre.

1890 July 29. At a banquet in Maceo's honor (at a restaurant called La Venus) a young man named Jose J. Hernandez asks about Cuba being annexed to the U.S. to become "one more star in the great American constellation." Maceo immediately replies, "Young man, I believe, although it seems impossible to me that this can be the only outcome, that **in such a case I would be on the side of the Spaniards.**"

British consul in Santiago, A. De Crowe, sends a dispatch to the Earl of Salisbury stating: "His real aim is a Cuba for the colored, and he would commence a war of races as soon as he could. White liberals flatter him because they think he can help them, but they also fear him."

August 5. Maceo attends a dinner at the home of lawyer Urbano Sánchez Hechavarría, where along with Crombet and others they continue to plan the next insurrection. It is agreed that Sánchez Hechavarría will serve as the civil chief of the revolution in Oriente.

August 24. **Captain General Camilo Polavieja arrives in Cuba.**

August 26. Polavieja sends the following coded telegraph to the civil governor of Santiago de Cuba, Juan Antonio Vinont:

"In conjunction with the military governor you are ordered to arrange for the immediate departure of don Antonio Maceo and his family for Kinston or some other foreign port. For this action you are authorized to facilitate and pay for his transportation on my account. I recommend that you and the military governor exercise the greatest reserve and discretion in carrying out this order so as to avoid all excitement on the part of his sympathizers. At the same time you must take all convenient means to restrict the actions of Maceo from the moment of notification to the time of his departure. Give me an account of the result by this same means of communication."

August 27. The civil governor of Santiago de Cuba responds to Polavieja:

"There is no ship or communication with the outside whatsoever until Saturday. For that reason the Commanding General and I have not notified Maceo, believing it best to wait until the day before his departure in order to avoid excitement among his sympathizers. I request that you advise me in case he tries to see you, since this is probably what he will want to do. Our vigilance continues.

August 28. Captain General Polavieja sends two telegrams to Santiago de Cuba with instructions. The first one:

"According to the judgment of the Commanding General and yourself, you must notify Maceo the same day of the departure of the ship, if it should leave in the afternoon, and if it should go in the morning, you must do it the night before. In that way from the moment of notification not much time will pass before the embarkation and you will be able to minimize the spread of the news as much as possible. Above all this will enable you to prevent his flight to the country. If he should request permission to see me, tell him that his request is denied, since it is agreed that for the good of all he must leave the Island."

The second telegram:

"I request that you give me an account of all that occurs in regard to Maceo, especially concerning his embarkation. It is necessary that you watch Flor Crombet carefully also. He had revolutionary plans for that area."

August 29. A police escort (lead by Narciso Manrique y Salazar) informs Maceo and his wife at their hotel that they must leave the following day on an American ship bound for New York. A group of policemen immediately move into Hotel Louvre with orders to prevent Maceo from leaving.

1890 News of Maceo's detention spreads rapidly, and Urbano Sánchez Hechavarría convinces Maceo that the time is not right for an insurrection.

August 30. The civil governor, Juan Antonio Vinont, escorts Maceo and his wife to the steam ship *Cienfuegos*. While saying farewell, the governor puts thirty ounces of gold in Maceo's hand. When asked about the source of the money, the governor replies that he's been instructed to do so by the government. Maceo refuses the money.

Within a few days of Maceo's departure, Colonels Pedro Castillo and angel Guerra, General Flor Crombet and others are also deported from Cuba. Some revolutionary sympathizers are sent to jail.

September. Maceo and his wife leave New York on the same ship that brought them from Cuba, and they arrive in Kingston, Jamaica, early in the month.

1891 February. Maceo visits Costa Rica to investigate business possibilities similar to his previous efforts in Honduras. He is about to make a deal for the establishment of a farming colony on the Caribbean or Atlantic shores of the country when the Spanish government obstructs the deal.

May 31. Maceo signs a contract with Joaquín Lizano, Secretary of the Department of Development in Costa Rica, for the establishment of a colony devoted to the cultivation of tobacco, cacao, sugar cane, coffee, cotton, etc., in the Nicoya peninsula, on the Pacific shores. [The project is similar to the one hampered by pressures from the Spanish government. 15,000 hectares* are to be provided by the Costa Rican government and will become the property of Maceo when 50 Cuban families come and establish themselves in the colony. If, however, 25 families don't arrive within 18 months, the contract is to be considered invalid. All expenses are to be paid by the Costa Rican government. The colony becomes successful almost immediately. Maceo calls his own farm "La Mansión."]

*1 hectare= 2.471 acres.

April 26. Jose Maceo, Flor Crombet, and ten additional families settle in Maceo's colony.

May 4. In Nicoya, the new settlers and workers get busy preparing the land for growing yucca, corn, beans, bananas, cacao, coffee, and rice.

By the end of the year, Maceo is the master of a large, successful plantation, a *colono*.

1892 February. Maceo travels to New York, where he learns about Jose Martí's work organizing the Cuban Revolutionary Party.

1893 February 1. Martí offers Maceo a leading place in the new revolutionary movement. Maceo does not immediately respond.

May 25. Martí writes to Maceo to let him know that he will visit in about one month.

June 30. Martí visits Maceo for a week in San José, Costa Rica.

October 6. In "Patria," Martí publishes his insights about Antonio Maceo.

November. Maceo visits Cuba incognito. He then goes to Jamaica.

1893 **November 28.** At eighty-five years of age, **Maceo's mother, Mariana Grajales, dies.**

December 12. In *Patria*, Martí pays tribute to Maceo's mother:

"[Cuba's] entire people, rich and poor, arrogant and humble, masters and servants, followed this woman of eighty-five years to the grave in a strange land. Died in Jamaica, November 27, Mariana Maceo.

All Cubans attended the internment, because there is no heart in Cuba that does not feel all that is owed to this beloved old woman, who would always caress your hand with such tenderness. Her mind was already going from having lived so much, but from time to time that energetic face lit up, as though a ray of sun were shining within... I remember that when we were talking about the war at a time when it seemed as if we were not able to carry on the struggle, she got up brusquely, and turned aside to think, alone. And she, who was so good, looked at us as if with anger. Many times, if I had forgotten my duty as a man, I would have retained it because of the example of that woman. Her husband and sons died fighting for Cuba, and we all know that from her breasts, Antonio and Jose Maceo imbibed the qualities which propelled them into the vanguard of the defenders of our liberties."

1894 **January 12.** Maceo writes to Martí about the death of his mother:

"Only three times in my anguished life as a Cuban revolutionist have I suffered such strong and tempestuous emotions of pain and sadness as I have just had with her death in a foreign land. How terrible were these three things! My father, the Pact of Zanjón, and my mother."

April 8. In New York, Gómez and Martí hold a conference to discuss the recent delays in revolutionary preparations.

April 20. Martí writes to Maceo:

"You are indispensable for Cuba. To me you are, and I say it sincerely, one of the most complete, magnificent, strongest, and useful men of Cuba. You are too great, Maceo. I must say that I feel such a deep and intimate affection for you that, believe it or not, it is though I was conceived in the same womb with you. Doesn't María love me like a brother? Didn't your mother caress me as she would her own son? Didn't she publicly call me her son? Rest assured that while I have a hand in the matter you will be fully recognized."

May 19. Maceo takes a residence in San José, capital of Costa Rica. He shares a room with Enrique Loinás del Castillo, who was sent by Martí to assist Maceo.

June 7. Martí arrives in San José. In a meeting with Jose Maceo and Flor Crombet, he emphasizes that **Antonio Maceo is to be in absolute command** of the revolutionary expedition to Cuba.

August 22. Maceo writes to Enrique Trujillo, director of the rebel newspaper *El Porvenir*. Trujillo has been attacking Martí's domination of the Cuban Revolutionary Party in letters and editorials. Maceo demands that criticism of Martí stop, that there should be "more unity and less division."

September 30. Tired of waiting for the wealthy "hacendados" to provide the money already promised the revolution, Gómez writes to Maceo, asking that everything be ready by "November 15 at the latest," to begin the new war for independence.

November 17. **Maceo is the target of another assassination attempt** after attending a theater performance ("Felipe Derblay," a comedy by Jorge Ohnet presented by the Company Paulino Delgado). Maceo is shot on the shoulder. It is his twenty-second wound. Also targeted is Enrique Loinás del Castillo, who saves Maceo's life. [Loinás is later deported from Costa Rica.]

*The war
begins...*

1895 February 24. With the “Cry of Baire,” (Grito de Baire) revolution breaks out again. (Baire is a village about 50 miles from Santiago de Cuba.) Historian Philip S. Foner writes in *The Spanish-Cuban-American War, Vol. 1*: “According to all standard works by military analysts, the prospects for the insurgents did not appear bright. The Spanish army already in the island was superior in number, equipment, training, and in almost every essential of warfare. Moreover, a steady stream of reinforcements could be dispatched to Cuba, and the insurgents had no navy to prevent their reaching the scene of conflict.”

February 27. Gómez writes to Maceo: “The smoke of gunfire is visible in Cuba, and the blood of our comrades is being shed on its soil. We have no other choice than to leave from wherever and however we can.”

March 25. On his last day in Costa Rica, Maceo writes to his wife:

“I have experienced untold bitterness, disgust, and displeasure brought on by those who shelter avarice in their hearts, disguised by the polish of goodness. Now often men with a poor sense of loyalty deceive their friends!”

March 28. On his way to Cuba on the ship *Adirondack*, Maceo arrives in Kingston.

March 30. Antonio and José Maceo land in eastern Cuba (from Santo Domingo). The ship is destroyed during the landing on the beach near Baracoa. The rebels are greeted with joy by the farmers cry “Maceo is here! Viva Cuba Libre!”

April 2-10. As the rebels make their way to the rebel camp, one of the guides slips away at Dos Brazos and betrays the group, informing Spaniards of the rebels’ location and numbers.

Flor Crombet is killed in battle in La Alegría.

April 11. José Martí and Máximo Gómez land in eastern Cuba from Costa Rica.

April 12. After being attacked at Loma Colorado, Maceo learns of Flor Crombet’s death. [Of the 23 men who landed with Maceo, only 13 are still alive.]

April 20. A communiqué to all the rebel forces in Oriente announces that General Maceo is in Cuba and has assumed command of the forces on the province.

April 21. Maceo orders all rebel officers “to hang every emissary of the Spanish government, Peninsular or Cuban, whatever may be his rank, who presents himself in our camps with propositions of peace. This order must be carried out without hesitation of any kind or without attention to any contrary indications. **Our motto is to triumph or die.**”

April 30. Maceo writes to his wife;

“I have 6,000 men, well-armed, and with much artillery. By the 15th of the month, I will have 12,000 armed men, and much territory conquered.

Three days ago Jose (Maceo) told me of the arrival of Gómez, Martí, Borrero, Guerra and two others on the beaches between Guantánamo and Baracoa.”

May 5. In La Mejorana, **Martí, Gómez and Maceo meet to decide on the war strategy.** Martí is elected as supreme leader of the revolution abroad and in nonmilitary matters. The issue of civil versus military control of the war remains unsettled; Maceo points out that dissension, petty rivalries and incompetence of the civil government during the Ten Year War had contributed to the ultimate collapse of the rebellion. He also makes it clear that he will not accept any post in the government, and at one point he passionately says, “First the war and its victory; afterwards the government and its law!”

1895 May 7. After leaving the rebel meeting in La Mejorana, Maceo attacks the towns of San Luis, El Cristo, and El Caney in southern Oriente.

May 13. Maceo surprises enemy forces at Jobito.

Death of Martí May 19. **José Martí is killed** in his first appearance on the battlefield at Dos Ríos in eastern Cuba. He is 42 years old. The rebels try to recover his body, but are unable to do so.

May 23. A reporter from **the New York Herald interviews Maceo**, who states: “In my campaign on the northern coast I have had no action of any great importance. The enemy columns have not dared to attack me since the battle of Jobito. I march with 5,000 well-armed men. I have received various small but excellent expeditions. I have two mountain cannons with sufficient ammunition and soon I shall begin operations on a large scale.” [Most of this is an exaggeration, since the men are not well-armed and there’s very little ammunition. The article runs on June 7, 1895.]

June. For most of the month Maceo is involved in minor actions in Sagua de Tánamo, Aguas Claras and the zone of Las Tunas. [Many historians point out that this is the type of warfare at which Maceo excelled; constantly on the move, striking without a visible pattern with little chance for the enemy to pin him down or figure out his next move.]

June 30. Gómez instructs Maceo to begin preparing for an invasion of the Western segment of the island. It had been determined that lack of a Western invasion was one of the reasons for the failure of the Ten-Year War.

July 2. Bartolomé Masó writes Maceo to convey his full agreement with Maceo on the policy for sugar producers. [Maceo’s plan is to allow sugar producers to continue grinding sugar cane if they make regular contributions to the war effort and agree not to aid the Spaniards or hamper the progress of the rebellion.]

July. General Fidel Vidal Santocildes (the man who complimented Maceo in 1890) dies in battle against Maceo’s troops in the battle at Paralejo.

August 3. The first issue of the rebel newspaper *El Cubano Libre* is published.

August. In Oriente, near Bayamo, the rebels celebrate another impressive victory. One account of the battle has it that Martínez Campos escapes alive by having himself slung in a hammock and carried on the shoulders of his men (as if wounded).

Late August. Spaniards attack José Maceo’s hospital camp in Sal del Indio. Antonio Maceo arrives just in time to help defeat the attack. As the Spaniards retreat, the rebels plant two dynamite bombs on the road ahead of them, causing a number of casualties and creating panic and confusion among enemy forces.

September 3. Maceo writes to his wife María:

“I have had two battles in this campaign superior to all of the past war, and one conflict without equal in our fight for the independence of Cuba. I believe there will be others of even greater significance and magnitude in the approaching campaign, to which the Spanish press is giving so much attention. The final contest will be in the port of Havana, where I will be within a few months.”

September 6. Salvador Cisneros Betancourt (the old and aristocratic revolutionist who had been second president of the Republic of Cuba during the Ten Year War) writes to Maceo, hinting that

1895 he might offer the Negro General a high government post if Maceo supports him for President.

September 12. Maceo responds to the letter from Cisneros Betancourt;

“Do not forget the nature of my temperament if it should again occur to you to speak to me of posts and destinies which I have never solicited. As you well know, I have the satisfaction of never having held a post through favor; on the contrary, I have exhibited manifest opposition to the slightest suggestion of such a thing. The humbleness of my birth kept me from placing myself at the beginning on the heights with others who were chieftains of the Revolution by birth.”

Do not forget the nature of my temperament if it should again occur to you to speak to me of posts and destinies which I have never solicited.

September 13. In Jimaguayú, Camagüey, the Constituent Assembly, composed of delegates from Oriente, Camagüey and Las Villas, meet to organize the Republic of Cuba and its government. Antonio Maceo is elected Lieutenant-General. Máximo Gómez is named General in Chief, and Tomás Estrada Palma is named foreign representative.

September 22. Maceo sends Estrada Palma a bank draft for more than \$10,000 for arms and ammunitions.

October 10. In New York’s Chickering Hall, the anniversary of the “Grito de Yara” is celebrated. Manuel Sanguilly refers to Maceo as the “Bronze Titan.”

The Western Invasion begins

October 22. The **invasion of the West begins.**

October 27. Maceo’s column arrives in Pestán.

October 30. Maceo writes to Estrada Palma: “Please do your best to send us, as quickly as possible, the weapons and munitions ordered...”

November 21. Maceo writes to Manuel Sanguilly in the U.S.:

“We have not been very fortunate in the make-up of the new government. Again we have been the victims of the vain effort of trying to give it the democratic forms of a republic already constituted when we have the enemy in front of us, and we are not the masters of the land we walk on. As you will understand, while the war lasts, there must only be soldiers and swords in Cuba, or at least men who know how to prosecute the war and how to achieve the final redemption of our people. When this is achieved, which is the objective to which our efforts are directed, the time will then be ripe for the forming of a civil government. Such a civil government should be eminently democratic and be capable of managing the public affairs with prudence and moderation, attentive to our own peculiar political and social requirements.”

November 23. The new civil government proclaims that all sugar-cane grinding is to be prohibited without exception for the remainder of the war.

November 29. Maceo’s troops cross the Trocha at Morón.

November 30. In the town Lázaro López, in Camagüey, **Gómez and Maceo** (known to the Spaniards as the fox and the lion) **combine their forces** (totaling 2,600 men) and **begin marching toward Las Villas and the west.** Gómez addresses the combined forces:

“Soldiers! The war begins now, the tough unmerciful war. The weak will fall by the wayside; only the strong and the intrepid will be able to stand the ordeal. In the full ranks which I see before me death will open great gaps. The strong among us do not expect rewards, but only suffering and work.”

1895 **December.** By the end of the year, 98,412 regular troops have arrived from Spain, and the volunteer forces on the island have increased to 63,000 men. These forces are steadily augmented by fresh troops from the Peninsula, and by the end of 1897 there are 240,000 regulars and 60,000 irregulars fighting against the rebels.

December 3. The main rebel force crosses the Jatibonico River into Las Villas. Gómez learns that a Spanish column is escorting a well-supplied convoy not far from Iguará, and immediately plans a surprise attack. The ambush is discovered, and **the battle of Iguará** develops into the type of large-scale battle that Gómez wanted to avoid. The rebels are victorious, with heavy casualties on both sides.

*Soldiers!
The war
begins now,
the tough
unmerciful
war*

December 5. General Maceo issues a proclamation directed at the people of Las Villas, calling on them to put aside provincial concerns for the sake of the nation.

December 10. A fierce battle on the Manacal Heights lasts for three days, with intervening nights of rest. As the rebels continue to move westward, the Spaniards follow.

December 11. The civil government agrees to exempt sugar mill operators who had agreements with Maceo from the prohibition against cane grinding.

December 13. Under heavy artillery bombardment from Spanish General Oliver, the Cubans withdraw, leaving Maceo to fight a closely pursuing enemy. By late afternoon, the Spaniards have had enough and return to their base.

December. After the battles of Iguará and Manacal Heights practically exhaust the rebels' ammunition supplies, Gómez questions whether the western invasion can continue. Maceo refuses to consider abandoning the invasion. He tells his general that the invasion must continue, even if he had to clear his way with a machete.



1896 **January 1.** Martínez Campos seriously misinterprets rebel movement and reports to Havana that the rebels have been blocked and sent back to the eastern segment of the island. The "Diaro de la Marina" carries this as front-page news. On the very same day, **the rebel army enters Havana province**, having left a wide smoking path of destruction through Matanzas.

*Maceo in
Havana*

January 3. Martínez Campos sends a cable to the Minister of War in Madrid: "The enemy keeps advancing through the lines north and south of Havana. A numerous separatist force is in San Jose de Las Lajas, a town situated twenty-nine kilometers from Havana. It comes destroying all. They burn the railroad stations. There are also parties in Guara. Similarly insurrectionary forces are in Melena del Sur, not far from Batabanó. Numerous families reach Havana fleeing from nearby villages. The panic is extraordinary."

January 6. On "Three Kings' Day," the rebels enter Vereda Nueva, and are received with cheers of "Viva Cuba Libre!" and "Viva Maceo!"

January 7. Martínez Campos resigns his post as captain general. Spain assigns General Valeriano Weyler y Nicolau as his replacement.

Near the northwestern border of Havana, Gómez and Maceo hold a strategy conference. They

1896 agree to split their forces, Maceo will continue into Pinar del Rio, and Gómez will remain in Havana, with the largest portion of the forces.

January 8. Maceo's troops cross the trocha from Havana into Pinar del Rio.

January 22. The ultimate goal of the western invasion is achieved. At three in the afternoon, **Maceo's troops arrive in Mantua**, the westernmost town on the island. The people gather on the street to see the famed rebel, and the troops form a parade to make a grand entrance, led by the newly formed cavalry of natives from the province. At official ceremonies held the following day, Maceo is offered a champagne toast, which he declines, saying, "I do not drink any kind of liquor." He is later offered a cigar from Vuelta Abajo, which he, again graciously refuses, stating, "I am sorry not to be able to please you, but I do not smoke."

February 11. General Valeriano Weyler Y Nicolau arrives in Cuba. His highest military priority is the destruction of Maceo.

February 17. Weyler announces the **policy of re-concentration**. Inhabitants living outside fortified areas are given eight days to move into the towns occupied by the Spanish troops. After that time, anyone caught outside the concentrated areas is to be considered an enemy sympathizer and killed.

February 19. Gómez and Maceo meet in Soto to discuss Weyler's policy of re-concentration.

March 5. Maceo returns to Matanzas, outmaneuvering a powerful column sent by Weyler against him.

March 10. Maceo joins Gómez at El Galeón. It is agreed that Maceo will continue moving westward, and Gómez will continue operating in the central part of the island. This is their last meeting.

March 20. In a battle at El Rubí, despite a lack of ammunition, Maceo's column forces a numerically superior opponent to retreat.

April 15. Maceo writes to his wife, assuring her that he will outwit the enemy, and that by August, Spain will see the "hopelessness of their situation."

April 18 - 26. Waiting for supplies, Maceo takes refuge in the Tapia Mountains. The Spaniards repeatedly attack this natural defense position, but are repelled each time. Learning that an expedition with war materials from the U.S. (on the ship "Competitor") Maceo outmaneuvers the enemy. At Cacarajicara, a battle against a column of nearly 1,000 soldiers, led by General Suárez Inclán, cuts down his company to 170 men. At a critical point in the battle, Rebel Colonel Juan E. Ducasse arrives with rifles, reinforcements, and 1,000 rounds of ammunition. The enemy is forced to retreat.

May 23. Maceo attacks the fortified town of Consolación del Sur, leaving it in flames.

May 25. Maceo achieves another victory, this time over the forces of General Valdés, the supreme commander of the province.

June. After learning that the U.S. and Spain are discussing the possibility of granting Cuban autonomy and not independence, Maceo writes to Perfecto Lacoste: "The (North) Americans and Spaniards can make whatever agreements they wish, but Cuba will be free in a short while and can

1896 laugh at the negotiations which do not favor its independence.”

June 6. From Havana, London Times correspondent Colonel Charles E. Akers, writes:

“With an army of 175,000 men, with materials of all kinds in unlimited quantities, beautiful weather, little or no sickness among the troops, in a word, with everything in his favor, General Weyler has been unable to defeat the insurrectionists.

In the province of Pinar del Río, at some eighteen miles from the center of the Spanish lines, is encamped since last March the rebel General Antonio Maceo with his army. here are the rebels almost in view of 60,000 Spanish soldiers. There is no pretense of not knowing the position of Maceo since a Spanish general indicated to me the precise point where the insurrectionist encampment was. The frequently repeated Spanish boast that Maceo will not be able to cross the trocha is already worn out and useless. Undoubtedly, whenever it suits the insurrectionary leader, he will succeed in breaking the line, and meanwhile, it is enough for him to stay where he is and compel more than a third of the entire Spanish army to remain on the defensive.”

June 19. Weyler’s forces attack Maceo at San Gabriel de Lombello.

June 24. On the fifth day of battle (at San Gabriel de Lombello), Maceo sustains his 24th battle wound when a rifle bullet breaks a bone in the lower portion of one of his legs. He is taken to the house of a rebel civilian in the Rosario Mountain range for 9 days to recover.

July. Early in the month, Jose Maceo resigns his post as Commander of the Oriente province (in order to allow Calixto Garcia to take over).

July 5. José Maceo is killed at the battle of Loma del Gato.

September 18. Maceo meets the expedition of Colonel Francisco Leyete Vidal and obtains 500,000 rounds of ammunition, one thousand rifles, two thousand pounds of dynamite, one cannon with 100 cannon shells and three American artillerymen. He is also joined by Máximo Gómez’ young son, Francisco (Panchito) Gómez Toro.

Foner:

“The happy shouts and *vivas* of the mambises over the arrival of the war material abruptly ended when they notice General Maceo’s face. He had been handed a copy of the Boletín de Guerra of July 15 which featured the news that on July 5, Jose Maceo had been killed in battle at Loma del Gato in Oriente. It may seem incredible that it took so long for the news to reach Maceo. Actually, it was an indication of the indifference of the revolutionary government to their greatest warrior. They had simply neglected to inform Maceo. Indeed, the only communication Maceo received from government officials during the entire campaign in the West was not congratulations for his remarkable achievements against the enemy, but a criticism for making a number of appointments and conferring ranks ‘without first submitting them to the Governing Council for their approval.’” [From: “The Spanish-Cuban-American War and the Birth of U.S. Imperialism, Vol. 1”]

September 23 - 24. In Montezuelo, Maceo defeats larger Spanish forces, suffering 68 rebel casualties.

September 25. Another victorious clash for Maceo’s troops at Tumbas de Estorino.

October 1. At Ceja del Negro, Maceo’s troops are trapped by three Spanish columns. After three days of fighting, the rebels are victorious, but suffer 277 casualties. Maceo is left with 200 fighting men.



1896

October 14. De Truffin writes: “At present being better organized and well supplied with arms and ammunition, they (the rebels led by Maceo) have altered their tactics, and are offering resistance to the royal troops. Five rather serious clashes have taken place in the last few days. The bitterness with which both sides fought is an indication that the war has entered an entirely new and more active phase.”

October 27. In San Cristóbal, Maceo makes his last address to his troops. He urges them to take courage and to prepare for whatever sacrifices are necessary to win independence.

October 29. In El Roble, **Maceo receives a letter from Máximo Gómez requesting his urgent return to Camagüey.** He learns that Gomez has been removed from his post as General-in-Chief of the revolutionary armies.

November 9. In an encounter with Weyler’s forces in the valley of Tapia, Maceo loses 77 soldiers.

November 25. Maceo interviews three soldiers who claim to have knowledge of a weak spot in the Trocha, but is not satisfied with their answers.

December 4. Maceo and 17 men circle the trocha by sea, in the port of Mariel, which requires four trips of the small boat. They come within sight of a Spanish garrison. The rebels take refuge in an abandoned sugar mill in La Merced.

December 6. Still waiting for a rebel unit with horses, Maceo gives the order to begin marching toward the sugar mill Garro.

December 7. Antonio Maceo is killed in the battle of Punta Brava in Western Cuba. Also killed is Panchito Gómez Toro.

December 8. Maceo and Gómez are buried in Cacahual, in Santiago de las Vegas. Also killed is Panchito Gómez Toro.

December 8. Maceo and Gómez are buried in Cacahual, in Santiago de las Vegas.



