On 2 July 1846, Commodore John D. Sloat on board the frigate Savannah arrived at Monterey Bay California. Always a cautious man, Commodore Sloat first made a formal call on the port officials; then, after a discussion with Larkin, he at last agreed to the capture of the town. Early on the morning of 7 July 1846, four Navy officers went ashore at Monterey and demanded the surrender of the town. A few hours later 250 sailors and Marines landed at Monterey under the command of Captain William Mervine, the 85 Marines who landed with the bluejackets were commanded by Captain Ward Marston.

Landing at 10 in the morning, the forces formed and marched to the Custom House. Having met with no resistance, Captain Mervine then decided that established custom demanded that the Mexican Flag be lowered and the American flag raised before this act became official. The sailors returned on board the ship leaving a detachment of Marines under Lieutenant Maddox to garrison Monterey. Monterey was firmly in American hands.
History of Sloat’s Landing

“On this spot on July 7, 1846, U.S. Marines and Sailors landed and raised the American flag over the Custom House which stands before you. Mexico and the United States were at war. American forces landing in Monterey claimed 600,000 square miles of land for the United States”