

THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION

The Bay of Pigs Invasion was perhaps one of the biggest failures of the United States. In an attempt to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro, the United States government planned an invasion that ended with decreased trust in U.S. Government and killed all Cuban-American relations.

WHY:

The Bay of Pigs Invasion had been thought out long before the actual event occurred. Here are some of the events that lead up to Kennedy's invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

March 17, 1960

Eisenhower authorizes a CIA plan called "A Program of Covert Action Against the Castro Regime." Shortly thereafter the CIA begins recruiting and training a group of 1,400 Cuban exiles from Miami in Guatemala.

May 7, 1960

The Soviet Union and Cuba establish diplomatic relations.

June 8, 1960

The United States suspends the Cuban sugar quota, effectively cutting off 80 percent of Cuban exports to the United States. The following day, the Soviet Union agrees to buy that sugar

September, 1960

A large Soviet Bloc arms shipment arrives in Cuba along with advisors and technicians.

October 6, 1960

In response to the sugar situation, Castro nationalizes U.S. private investments in Cuba worth about \$1 billion

December 6, 1960

Cuba openly aligns itself with the domestic and foreign policies of the Soviet Union, pledging Sino-Soviet Bloc solidarity

January 2, 1961

Soviet Premier Krushchev denies the existence of a Soviet military base in Cuba.

January 3, 1961

The United States and Cuba sever diplomatic and consular relations.

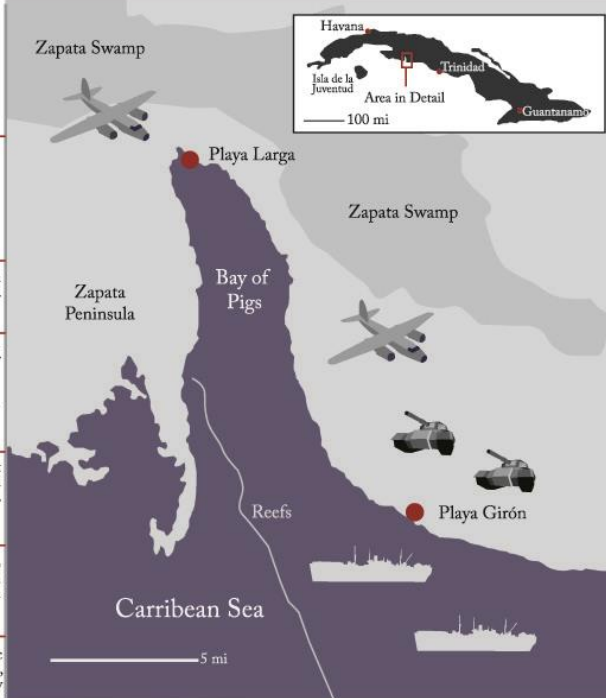
January 20, 1961

John F. Kennedy is inaugurated as the thirty-fifth president of the United States.

Early April, 1961

Kennedy discusses issues of deniability with regard to U.S. participation in the planned invasion of Cuba. Arthur

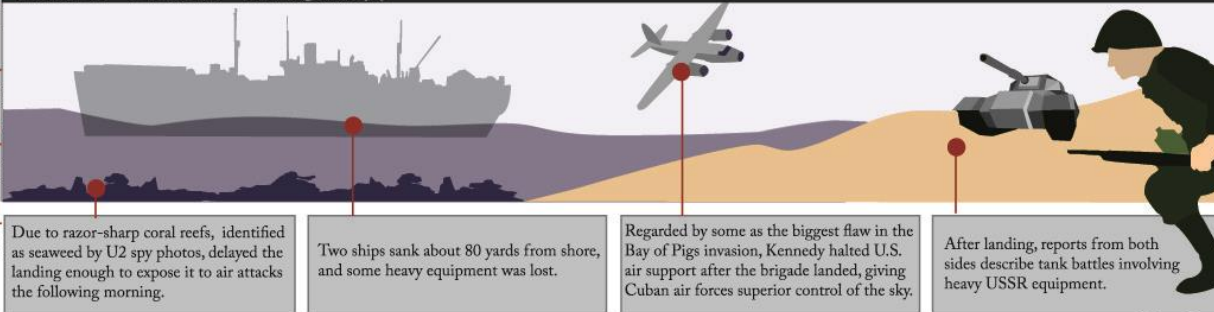
Sources: bayofpigsmuseum.org; historyofcuba.com; jfklibrary.org; opb.org; wikipedia.com; thinkquest.org



THE INVASION:

- SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH 1961**
Air Force B-26 Attack Bombers began flying bombing and strafing missions against Castro's airfields near the Bay of Pigs and the Zapata swamps. Castro was prepared and had dispersed some obsolete, unusable planes to fool the attackers and draw the bombs.
- SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH 1961**
Two battalions came ashore at Playa Giron and one at Playa Larga. However, due to razor-sharp coral reefs, identified as seaweed by U2 spy photos, delayed the landing enough to expose it to air attacks the following morning.
- MONDAY, APRIL 17TH 1961**
By 3 a.m. the next morning, Castro knew about the landing, and the Cuban government responded immediately, taking a superior position in the air. Since world opinion was against the U.S., Kennedy decided not to provide further air coverage and Cuba forces had complete control of the air.
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH 1961**
A final attempt for U.S. air support resulted in the loss of four pilots. That afternoon, the U.S. invaders surrendered. More than 200 people were killed; another 1,197 were taken captive.
- THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH 1961**
Kennedy told the American Society of Newspaper Editors that the episode was Cubans fighting Cubans and that the U.S. had not been involved.
- THE AFTERMATH**
The Brigade prisoners remained in captivity for 20 months, as the United States negotiated a deal with Fidel Castro. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy made personal pleas to pharmaceutical companies and baby food manufacturers, and Castro eventually settled on 53 million dollars worth of baby food and drugs. The Invasion not only tainted the Kennedy administration, but left a tense relationship with Cuba to this day.

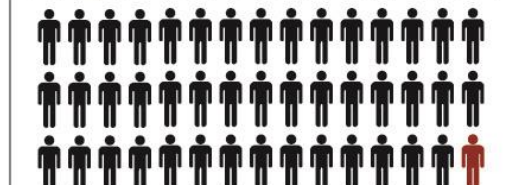
WHAT WENT WRONG:



BY THE NUMBERS

FOUR 2,400 TON TRANSPORTS LANDED | **1,511** AMERICAN SOLDIERS

23 THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE U.S. SOLDIERS



75,000 CUBANS vs. 1,511 AMERICANS

The Cubans outnumbered the Americans 50 to 1. Each figure represents approximately 1,500 soldiers. The black figures represent the Cuban soldiers and the red figure represents the American soldier.



400 AMERICAN SOLDIERS LOST

A THOUSAND AND ONE HUNDRED CAPTURED

\$53,000,000,000 OF FOOD AND DRUGS IN EXCHANGE FOR THOSE CAPTURED