vations indicate that the Indians spoke dialects of Caddo. This would explain why the Caddo guides with Moscoso could
not understand the language of the Indians across the River Dayaco. They spoke
a different language. All of these facts strongly support the Guadaluppe River as
being the River Dayaco.
This was as far west as the expedition traveled. Upon learning about the 'poverty
and misery' of the Indians ahead, they decided to return to the Mississippi River
and reach New Spain by boat. The expedition, still numbering 300 soldiers and
countless Indian guides and slaves, needed a guaranteed food supply to continue
traveling. This was not to be found among the Caddo Indians of southern Texas. From
archaeological evidence and early historical accounts we know that these people were hunters and
gatherers who lived off the land and grew little corn.
The return of the expedition was apparent uneventful; the narratives provide
only brief mention of the trip. At the Mississippi River they method down much
of their iron, felled many large trees, and used these materials to construct several
boats.

After months of construction through the winter of 1542-43, they sailed down the
Mississippi River and into the Gulf of Mexico. A few weeks later the members of
the expedition reached their destination—New Spain and civilization as they
knew it.

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