

US-Mexican War

The US-Mexican War was initially a border conflict which had rumbled on since the Texan War of Independence ten years earlier. After initial clashes on the border, the conflict intensified into a war which saw US forces fighting in the East and West of Mexico before landing on the coast and marching to Mexico City itself. For the Mexico, a nation only twenty-five years old, the war was a disaster which highlighted the failings of both its government and military and costing it a third of its land.

US FORCES

The US Army of 1846 was a relatively small force which was used to serving in small groups on the western frontier and engaging in periodic small conflicts with the Indians. Politically, the cost of maintaining a large standing force was unacceptable, so the traditional reliance on volunteer forces in time of war remained.

The US-Mexican War was notable as the final conflict fought by the United States before the Civil War and saw the foundations laid for many officers who would go on to achieve rank and fame in that fratricidal confrontation.

There a four core forces representing the different phases and theatres of the two year conflict.

The first list represents the largely regular force of General Taylor's Army of Observation on the Rio Grande.

Taylor on the Border, 1846
Leader Status III
Leader I
Three Groups of 8 Regular Infantry, Muskets
Leader, Status II
Two Groups of 8 Regular Infantry, Muskets
Leader, Status I
One Group of 8 Dragoons, Sabre & Carbine
Point Value: 60

The second force reflects the somewhat rag-tag mix of volunteers who joined the campaign in the

north and covers the period from Paolo Alto to Buena Vista.

Monterrey Jacks
Leader Status II
Two Groups of 8 Drilled Volunteers, Muskets
Leader, Status II
Two Groups of 8 Surly Volunteers, Muskets
Leader, Status I
One Group of 8 Mounted Volunteers, Muskets
Leader Status I
One Group of Volunteer Skirmishers, Rifles
Point Value: 49

The third list is a force serving in the West in or near California.

Go West!
Leader Status III
Two Groups of 8 Dragoons, Sabre & Carbine
Leader, Status II
Two Groups of 8 Mounted Volunteers, Muskets
Leader, Status II
Two Groups of 8 Mounted Volunteers, Muskets
Point Value: 67

Finally we have a force for the landings at Vera Cruz and the advance on Mexico City.

To the Halls of Montezuma, 1847
Leader Status III
Three Groups of 8 Regular Infantry, Muskets
Leader, Status II
Two Groups of 8 Drilled Volunteers, Muskets
Leader, Status II
One Group of Voltigeur & Riflemen Skirmishers, Rifles
Point Value: 58

- Impact Dragoons: These troops fight as Dragoons when dismounted, but as Impact Cavalry when mounted.

US FORCES

US Line Infantry					Type	Regulars
Points Value	6	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	3	2	Sharp Practice
"Red Leg" Infantry					Type	Regulars
Points Value	6	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	3	2	
Voltigeurs & Riflemen					Type	Regulars
Points Value	9	Weapon	Rifles		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	2	2	Sharp Practice
Drilled Volunteers					Type	Conscript & Volunteers
Points Value	4	Weapon	Muskets		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First Only	3	3	3	
Surly Volunteers					Type	Militia
Points Value	2	Weapon	Musket		Size	10
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
No Shock	No	No	3	-	-	Surly
Rifle Volunteers					Type	Conscript & Volunteers
Points Value	6	Weapon	Rifle		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First Only	3	3	3	Sharp Practice
Regular Skirmishers					Type	Skirmishers
Points Value	6	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Yes	Yes	No	-	2	-	Sharp Practice
Voltigeur & Riflemen Skirmishers					Type	Light Infantry
Points Value	11	Weapon	Rifle		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Yes	Yes	No	-	2	-	Sharp Practice

Volunteer Skirmishers					Type	Irregular Skirmishers
Points Value	6	Weapon	Rifle		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Never	Yes	No	-	-	-	Weedy Coves
US Marines					Type	Regulars
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	2	2	Aggressive, Sharp Practice
US Sailors					Type	Clan
Points Value	5	Weapon	Musket		Size	12
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Never	Yes	No	-	2	-	Aggressive
US Dragoons					Type	Impact Dragoons
Points Value	9	Weapon	Sabre & Carbine		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	1	-	Tally Ho! Aggressive
US Artillery					Type	Artillery
Points Value	8/9/11	Weapon	Musket		Size	5
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	1	2	Sharp Practice
Texas Rangers					Type	Dragoons
Points Value	8	Weapon	Muskets		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Never	No	No	-	2	-	Sam Colt's Equalizer
Mounted Volunteers					Type	Dragoons
Points Value	7	Weapon	Muskets		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Never	No	No	-	3	-	

MEXICAN FORCES

The Mexican Army are best described as brave men poorly led and pitifully equipped. With cheap weapons purchased from the British and dating from the Napoleonic Wars the Mexican soldier fought hard and with stoic bravery despite a succession of losses.

There are three core Army lists provided, covering the war in the North, West and the defenders of Mexico City in 1847.

On the Rio Grande, 1846
Leader Status II Three Groups of 8 Line Infantry, Fowling Pieces
Leader, Status II Three Groups of 8 Line Infantry, Fowling Pieces
Leader, Status II One Group of 8 Zapadores, Fowling Pieces
Point Value: 41

The following force represents units operating in California and the West.

Los Californios
Leader Status II Three Groups of 8 Active Militia, Fowling Pieces
Leader, Status II Two Groups of 8 National Guard, Fowling Pieces
Leader, Status II Leader Status I Four Groups of 8 Rancheros, Lances
Point Value: 38

Finally we have a force which could fight from Vera Cruz on the coast to Mexico City.

Defenders of the Nation
Leader Status II Three Groups of 8 Line Infantry, Fowling Pieces
Leader, Status II Three Groups of 8 Light Infantry, Fowling Pieces
Leader, Status II One Group of 6 Light Infantry Skirmishers, Rifles
Point Value: 53

Note: The Mexican Army used Tower Muskets and Baker Rifles which had often been condemned by the British Army as worthless. This, coupled with the truly abysmal state of Mexico gunpowder means that we have classed

their flintlock muskets as Fowling Pieces as opposed to the US troops who had percussion caps.

MEXICAN FORCES

Mexican Line Infantry						Type	Conscripts & Volunteer
Points Value	3	Weapon	Fowling Pieces		Size	8	
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics	
Always	Yes	First Only	3	3	3	Stubborn	
Light Infantry						Type	Regulars
Points Value	6	Weapon	Fowling Pieces		Size	8	
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics	
Always	Yes	First Only	2	2	2	Sharp Practice, Stubborn	
Active Militia						Type	Conscripts & Volunteer
Points Value	2	Weapon	Fowling Pieces		Size	8	
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics	
No Shock	Yes	No	3	-	-	Tactical, Weedy Coves	
National Guard						Type	Militia
Points Value	1	Weapon	Fowling Pieces		Size	10	
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics	
No Shock	No	No	3	-	-	Weedy Coves, Poor Shots	
San Patricio Battalion						Type	Conscripts & Volunteer
Points Value	4	Weapon	Fowling Pieces		Size	8	
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics	
Always	Yes	Yes	2	3	2	Stubborn	
Zapadores						Type	Regulars
Points Value	5	Weapon	Fowling Pieces		Size	8	
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics	
Always	Yes	First Only	2	2	2	Aggressive, Sharp Practice	
Grenadiers of the Supreme Power						Type	Regulars
Points Value	5	Weapon	Fowling Pieces		Size	8	
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics	
Always	Yes	Yes	2	2	2	Aggressive, Sharp Practice	
Light Infantry Skirmishers						Type	Skirmishers
Points Value	8	Weapon	Rifle		Size	6	
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics	
Never	Yes	No	-	-	-	Weedy Coves	

Irregular Skirmishers					Type	Irregular Skirmishers
Points Value	3	Weapon	Fowling Pieces		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Never	No	No	-	-	-	Weedy Coves, No Bayonets, Tactical
Mexican Line Cavalry					Type	Scouting Cavalry
Points Value	5	Weapon	Sabre or Lance		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	3	2	
Hussars of the Supreme Power					Type	Scouting Cavalry
Points Value	6	Weapon	Sabre		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	2	2	Tally Ho!
Rancheros & Irregular Cavalry					Type	Irregular Scouting Cavalry
Points Value	3	Weapon	Lance		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Never	No	No	-	1	-	Weedy Coves
Mexican Artillery					Type	Artillery
Points Value	4/5/7	Weapon	Gun		Size	5
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Never	No	No	-	-	-	Poor Shots