

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 Line Infantry						Туре	Regulars
Points Value	6		Weapon	Muske	Musket		8
Formation	First Fire		Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always Yes		Yes	Yes	2	3	2	Sharp Practice
"Red Leg" Infa	ntry					Туре	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 & R	iflen	nen				Туре	Regulars
Points Value			Weapon	Rifles	5	Size	8
Formation	First Fire		Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	,	Yes	Yes	2	2	2	Sharp Practice
Drilled Volunt	eers					Туре	Conscript & Volunteers
Points Value	4		Weapon	Muske	ts	Size	8
Formation	First Fire		Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Always Yes		First Only	3	3	3	
Surly Volunteers						Туре	Militia
Points Value	2		Weapon	Muske	et	Size	10
Formation	First Fire		Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
No Shock	No		No	3	-	-	Surly
Rifle Volunteers						Туре	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					Туре	Skirmishers	
Points Value	6		Weapon	Musk	et	Size	6
Formation	First Fire		Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Yes Yes		No	-	2	-	Sharp Practice	
Voltigeur & Riflemen Skirm		ishers			Туре	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							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						Туре	Regulars
Points Value	7		Weapon	Muske	et	Size	8
Formation	First Fire		Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes		Yes	2	2	2	Aggressive, Sharp Practice
US Sailors	_					Туре	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						Туре	Impact Dragoons
Points Value	9		Weapon	Sabre & Ca	arbine	Size	8
Formation	First Fire		Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes		No	-	1	-	Tally Ho! Aggressive
US Artillery				_		Туре	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						Туре	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						Туре	Dragoons
Points Value		7	Weapon	Muske	ts	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

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Points Value 5 Weapon Fowling Pieces Size 8					Fowling P	ieces		
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Always Yes Yes 2 2 Aggressive, Sharp Practice	Always	ys Yes		Yes	2	2	2	
Light Infantry Skirmishers Type Skirmishers	Light Infantry Skirmishers						Туре	Skirmishers
Points Value 8 Weapon Rifle Size 6				Weapon	Rifle			6
Formation First Fire Controlled Crashing Step Drill Characteristics Volley Volley Out	F 4.1			Controlled	Crashing	Step	Drill	Characteristics
Never Yes No Weedy Coves	Formation	Firs	St FILE		_	-		

Irregular Skirn	nishers	Туре	Irregular Skirmishers			
Points Value	ints Value 3		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	Туре	Scouting Cavalry			
Points Value	5	Weapon	Sabre or I	ance	Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	3	2	
Hussars of the	Supreme Po	wer			Туре	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						Irregular Scouting Cavalry
Points Value	3	Weapon	Lance	<u>;</u>	Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Never	No	No	-	1	-	Weedy Coves
Mexican Artill	ery	Туре	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