

JACKLEX MINIATURES PAINTING GUIDE: FRENCH INTERVENTION IN MEXICO 1861-1867

A general guide to aid the wargamer get his armies skirmishing, battling and campaigning on the table!

FOREIGN CONTINGENTS AND MEXICAN IMPERIAL ARMY

BELGIAN LEGION The Belgian Legion was raised via the good graces of the Empress Charlotte's father, the King of Belgium. Two battalions, the Empress Battalion (Grenadier) and The King of the Belgian's Battalion (Voltigeur). Two mounted companies also raised.

- **Tunic.** Dark blue, ten coloured Brandenburg knots at front and four at back (red, grenadiers; green, Voltigeurs; white, staff and musicians). Same colour trim on shoulder wings, upper collar edge and v cuff. Gilt buttons.
- **Trousers.** Blue grey with coloured seam trim (as above). Fawn leggings and white short gaiters. Later grey or white trousers and white short gaiters only.
- **Shako.** Black high crowned felt hat with four bands in coloured trim (as above) on dark blue. Grey-black plume. Green (centre), white, red cockade. White cover. Replaced by grey kepi with dark blue band and coloured trim (as above) and white Havelock.
- **Belt Equipment.** As French infantry (see French Army Painting Guide).
- **Footwear.** Black
- **Pack.** As French infantry.
- **Greatcoat.** Grey blue.
- **Rifle.** Enfield rifle, black strap.
- **Officer.** As above except gold trim including on lower sleeves. Service dress had black Brandenburg, collar and cuff trim. Gold hat trim on black. Dark green or white (Colonel only) plume. French or Zouave dress adopted as well as civilian jacket with trim on sleeves. M1850/1853 sabre, gilt with steel scabbard. No regulation revolver before 1878 but various designs were carried.
- **Mounted Company.** As infantry except black boots and white breeches.

 <p>1. Belgian Legion Infantry, Oudenaarde 1864.</p>	 <p>Visit Michel Provost's blog at: http://provostmichel.blogspot.com/</p>	 <p>1. Belgian Legion San Luis Posati 1866.</p>
<p>These wonderful illustrations are from the brush of Mr Michel Provost, a Belgian historian, author, painter and illustrator. His French-language novel 'Tacambaro' chronicles the adventures of grenadier drummer Remi Tambour as part of the Belgian Legion in Mexico. Mr Provost has kindly given permission for the use of some of his illustrations here.</p>		

AUSTRIAN LEGION

- **Facial hair.** All men wore beards.
- **Tunic.** Plain blue jacket worn over a red waistcoat. White metal buttons.
- **Trousers.** Madder red tucked into grey or brown gaiters.
- **Shako.** Grey felt hat with red cord and coloured plume (grey, Jaeger; red, artillery; white, pioneers).
- **Belt Equipment.** Black leather.
- **Footwear.** Black.
- **Pack.** Brown.
- **Blanket Roll.** Grey or brown.
- **Rifle.** Lorenz rifle, black strap.
- **Officer.** As above except black boots and silver braid at cuffs. White metal sword hilt and scabbard.
- **Uhlan.** Plain blue jacket. Dark green tunic worn as a pelisse with red cuffs, red collar patches and red piping down front and over pocket flaps. Dark green trousers with red stripe. White shapska with red piping and black fur round base. Black boots. Black leather equipment. White metal sword hilt and scabbard. Green (mast), white, red lance pennant. Grey shabraque with red edging. Brown roll. Silver lace for officers.
- **Hussar.** Plain blue jacket. Dark green jacket worn as a pelisse, green cuffs and collar with white piping. Five white Austrian knots at front, two running up back. Red breeches with white Austrian knot. Grey felt hat with red feather. Black boots. Tan leather equipment and cartridge box. White metal sword hilt and scabbard. Lorenz pistol. Grey shabraque with red edging. Brown roll. Silver lace for officers.
- **Artillery.** As infantry.

		
<p>Austrian Jaegers. 1. Lieutenant. 2 & 3. Jaeger.</p>	<p>Emperor Maximilian's Hungarian Hussar Regiment 1. Captain full dress. 2. Hussar undress. 3. Hussar full dress.</p>	<p>Austrian Uhlans. 1. Captain. 2. Uhlan. 3. Sergeant.</p>
<p>Illustrations by Michel Provost</p>		

MEXICAN IMPERIAL ARMY From 1863 called the Franco-Mexican Army as it was organized, armed, clothed and paid by the French. However, there is little evidence for uniforms worn and in all probability much variation in colours. The wargamer can have some fun here!

Regular Army

- **Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery.** Infantry: dark blue jacket, sky-blue collar and cuffs. Might have coloured French epaulettes. Madder red or white trousers, white short gaiters and black shoes. Black shako or dark blue kepi with Havelock. Red pom-pom. White leather belts, black cartridge box. Blue or grey blanket roll. French issued rifle with white strap. Cavalry. Plain dark blue or green jacket, white, red or grey (red piping) trousers and black false boots. Black shako or dark blue kepi with Havelock. White leather belts. Dark blue or green shabraque with red edging. Grey roll. Known variations include:
 - 3rd Light. Light grey jacket with red collar, cuffs and piping.
 - 11th Line. Dark green frock coat with yellow cuff laces and white trousers.
 - 1st Cavalry. Red jacket, faced dark blue with white lace. Dark blue trousers with red stripe.
- **1865 Regulations.** Infantry: red jacket, green cuffs and collar, brass buttons. Green trousers with red stripe or white in hot weather. Short white gaiters. Black leather equipment. Straw hat with red band. Line Cavalry: as above with white metal buttons. Artillery: Dark blue jacket with crimson collar and cuffs. Dark blue trousers with crimson stripe.
- **Cazadores.** Dark blue jacket with green collar tabs and cuff chevrons White metal buttons. Grey baggy trousers with green stripe. Grey or white short gaiters. Brown or black leather belts and straps. Grey hat with green band and brim edging.

Auxiliary Troops. Light grey with dark blue or red facings.

Rural Guards. Grey with crimson trim.



Illustrations by Michel Provost



Sources. 'Historische Uniformen, 19.Jahrhundert' Liliane and Fred Funcken, Mosaik Verlag, 1982. (also available in French language text). The colour uniform plates in this book are beautiful. Despite the non-English text it is possible to muddle through! 'French Army Regiments and Uniforms' W.A. Thorburn, Arms and Armour Press, 1969. 'The Mexican Adventure' Men-at-Arms 272, Rene Chartrand, Osprey, 1994. 'The Forgotten Legion', Funcken, Campaigns Magazine No32, Jan-Feb 1982.

See Also:

- **JACKLEX MINIATURES OLD SCHOOL NEW LOOK RULES.** Wargame Rules by **ANDY CALLAN**. Available free from the 'Wargaming' section of the Jacklexminiatures.com website.
- **JACKLEX MINIATURES FRENCH INTERVENTION IN MEXICO ARMY ORGANISATION SHEET.** Available free from the 'Wargaming' section of the jacklexminiatures.com website.