

**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!

**THE FRENCH ARMY**

**FRENCH INFANTRY** In 1860 Emperor Napoleon inspected the 56<sup>th</sup> Regiment in the new infantry uniform. Orders were then issued on 30 March 1860 for the rest of the Infantry to adopt it.

- **Tunic.** Dark blue short single-breasted tunic (habit-tunique). Yellow collar and cuff patches. Blue cuffs. Yellow piping on front edge, bottom and cuffs). Brass buttons. Epaulettes red for Grenadier company, yellow for Voltigeur and green with scarlet piping for Fusiliers. Grenadiers and Voltigeurs had red grenade and bugle horn respectively at the collar and turnbacks. Fusiliers yellow star at turnbacks. Chasseurs had plain blue collar, blue pointed cuffs piped yellow, white metal buttons and green epaulettes with yellow piping.
- **Trousers.** Madder red. Grey-blue with fine yellow stripe for Chasseurs. White linen or cotton in hot conditions. Fastened by buff or tan leggings. White short gaiters.
- **Shako.** Black, brass eagle plate with blue (centre) white and red cockade. Black chinstrap. Pompom (dark blue for 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, red 2<sup>nd</sup> red, green 3<sup>rd</sup>). Chasseurs green. Navy panama or M1858 kepi (red with dark blue band and piping. Chasseurs dark blue piped yellow) with off-white havelock cover in hot conditions.
- **Belt Equipment.** Black leather belt, straps, cartridge pouch and bayonet frog. Water bottle covered in grey-blue cloth. Off-white or fawn canvas haversack.
- **Footwear.** Black.
- **Pack.** Dark brown with off-white tent roll.
- **Greatcoat:** Grey-blue.
- **Rifle.** 1857 model rifled percussion musket with black leather strap. The 1866 breech-loading Chassepot rifle was not issued in Mexico.
- **Legion.** As Line except tunic piped scarlet (front edge, bottom, cuffs and cuff patches). Yellow collar piped dark blue, cuff flaps dark blue piped scarlet. Sashes of red, green or medium blue.



1. Legion Fusilier Corporal.  
 2. Legionnaire at Camarone.  
 3. Legion Grenadier.



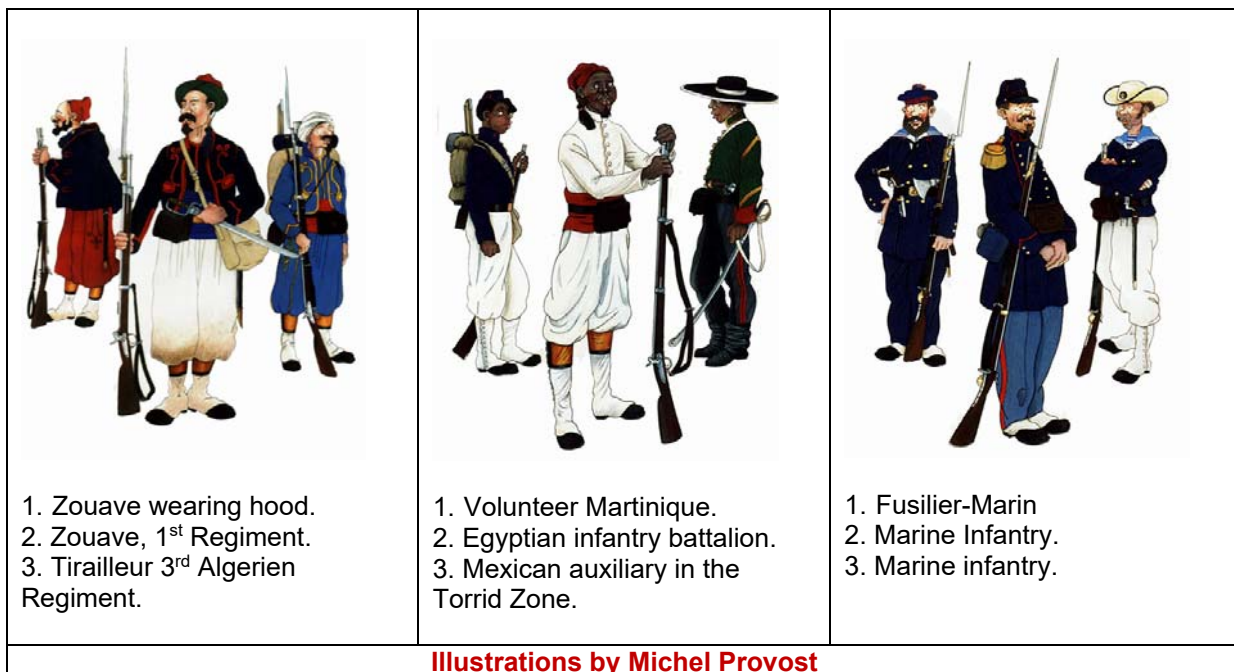
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1. Chasseur, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion.  
 2. Voltigeur Bugler.  
 3. Fusilier, 31<sup>st</sup> Line.

**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.

- **Zouave.** Dark blue bolero jacket trimmed with red lace. Waistcoat dark blue trimmed red. False pocket (red 1<sup>st</sup> regiment, white 2<sup>nd</sup>, yellow 3<sup>rd</sup>). Trousers red, white in hot weather. Fez red with blue tassel and green turban.
- **Algerian Tirailleur.** Jacket, waistcoat and trousers sky-blue trimmed in yellow. False pocket as for Zouave. Red sash. Fez red with tassel as for false pocket. White turban.
- **Marine Infantry.** Trousers grey-blue or dark blue with red stripe. Piping and epaulettes red and red anchor badge on left arm.
- **Officer. Line.** Dark blue long skirted tunic, gold buttons and epaulettes. Red kepi with dark blue band and gold lave. White shirt, dark blue waistcoat and coloured sash (red, medium blue, perhaps others). Trousers red, white in hot weather. Shoes or boots black. M1845 sabre with silver hilt and steel scabbard. M1858 Lefauchaux six-shot revolver in black leather holster. Black belt, gilt fastenings. **Chasseurs** grey-blue trousers piped yellow. **Zouave** dark blue French style tunic, gold buttons and gold knots on sleeves. Red trousers with wide blue band. Medium blue sash. Red kepi as Line. **Algerian Tirailleurs** sky-blue French style tunic with yellow collar, yellow piping (front and pointed cuffs), old buttons and epaulettes. Kepi as Line. Red trousers with sky-blue band, medium blue sash.



## FRENCH CAVALRY

- **Chasseurs D'Afrique.** Sky-blue tunic with yellow collar patches and white metal buttons. Red sash. Trousers madder red with black false boots and a narrow sky-blue stripe (later broad double stripe). Tall red kepi with sky-blue band, black peak and chin strap. Worn with off-white havelock and pompom (Royal blue 1<sup>st</sup> squadron, red 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> green, sky-blue 4<sup>th</sup>, yellow 5<sup>th</sup>, orange 6<sup>th</sup>) over a tricolour cockade. White leather equipment. Black plain cartridge box. M1822 cavalry sabre with gilt basket and steel scabbard. **Officer.** As above except sky-blue dolman with black braid, yellow cuffs and silver sleeve knots. Silver braid on kepi. **Horse Equipment.** Black leather harness. Light grey horse blanket, light grey or grey-blue valise.

- **12<sup>th</sup> Chasseurs a Cheval.** Dark green Dolman with rows of black braiding, black trim and silver buttons (in field plain green with red collar tab). Fur cap with gilt front cord and black cap lines and chin strap. Red over green plume over red roundel. Field madder red kepi with green lower band, black chin strap and white piping worn with off-white havelock. Madder red trousers with wide double green stripe and black false boots. White leather equipment. Black sabretache with gilt eagle. Sabre as above. **Officer.** Silver braid on sleeves and silver roundel below plume. **Horse Equipment.** Black leather harness. Dark green saddlecloth with plain red border. Green valise with red piping.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Hussar.** Dark blue Dolman with rows of white brading and trimmed with white lace. Red collar and pointed cuffs both trimmed with white lace. Fur cap with white over red plume above a red roundel. Gilt chinstrap. Madder red trousers with white/dark blue/white broad stripe and black false boots. White leather equipment. Black sabretache with gilt eagle. Sabre as above. **Officer.** Silver lace. **Horse Equipment.** As for Chasseurs a Cheval.

**FRENCH FOOT ARTILLERY** (1853 12-pounder smooth-bore. 1858 muzzle-loading rifle)

- Dark blue jacket with red collar tabs and brass buttons. Trousers dark blue with wide double red stripes at seam. Dark blue kepi piped red. White gaiters. Mounted artillery wore cavalry style trousers of red with black false boots. Legion artillery had red collars and red epaulettes.
- Artillery equipment French artillery green.



**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.

**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.