

## JACKLEX MINIATURES: FRENCH INTERVENTION IN MEXICO 1861-1867 ORGANISATION SHEET

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

**Sources:** 'The French Intervention in Mexico', Wikipedia article, 2020, 'The Maximillian War 1861-1867', David Allsop and Anthony G Canavan, 2007, and 'Colonial Campaigns, Maximilian in Mexico', Tim Tilson, 2001.

### FRENCH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE ORBAT

At its peak in 1863 the French expeditionary force counted 38,493 men. It was commanded by General Elie Forey. The ORBAT below is for 31 December 1862.

Formation	Units
1 <sup>st</sup> infantry Division (Bezaine)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade (de Castagny)	18 <sup>th</sup> Light, 1 <sup>st</sup> Zouave, 81 <sup>st</sup> Line
2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade (?)	20 <sup>th</sup> Light, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Zouave, 95 <sup>th</sup> Line, Tirailleurs Algerine
	2x field batteries
2 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (Douay)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade (Heller)	1 <sup>st</sup> Light, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Zouave, 99 <sup>th</sup> Line
2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade (Berthier)	7 <sup>th</sup> Light, 51 <sup>st</sup> Line, 62 <sup>nd</sup> Line
	2x field batteries
Cavalry Brigade (de Mirandol)	1 <sup>st</sup> Regiment (2x squadrons each of 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chasseurs d'Afrique
	2 <sup>nd</sup> regiment (2x squadrons each of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Chasseurs d'Afrique and 12 <sup>th</sup> Chasseurs
Naval Brigade	1 <sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment, Sailor Battalion, Marine Battery
Not Yet Arrived	7 <sup>th</sup> Line, 1 <sup>st</sup> Etranger, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Light d'Afrique, Egyptian Battalion, Detachment 5 <sup>th</sup> Hussars

#### Note.

1. The French Army had six batteries, three Line, one Guard Horse, one Siege and one Mountain.
2. Line regiments usually had two of their three battalions serving in Mexico. A battalion was divided into four companies of Fusiliers, one of Voltigeurs and one of Grenadiers. The practice of forming 'battalion de marche' or units of detachments, for example two companies from each of the three battalions, was also used. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> Line wore panama hats.
3. Light were in single battalions of six companies with no flank companies.
4. Zouaves were three battalions of six companies with no flank companies.
5. The Legion (Etranger) initially sent a 'regiment de marche' consisting of two seven-company battalions. It was increased in size to six battalions by 1866 with its own mounted companies and artillery.
6. Cavalry regiments had six squadrons of approximately 125 men each.

### FOREIGN CORPS

Formation	UNITS
Belgian Legion	2x battalions of six companies each
Austrian Legion	3x Jager battalions of six companies each, Hussar Regiment of six squadrons, Uhlran Regiment of six squadrons 3x Mountain batteries.
Egyptian	Battalion of four companies

## MEXICAN IMPERIAL ARMY ORBAT

Date / Formation	Units
<b>1863</b> General Miguel Miramon and General Tomas Mejia	Infantry: 6x battalions Cavalry: 6x squadrons Scouts: 1x squadron Artillery: 3x batteries Auxiliary troops: 10x battalions
<b>1865</b> Maximilian I reorganised the Regular Army.	Infantry: 12x Line and 2x Light battalions Cavalry: 6x regiments and 12x Independent companies Artillery: 6x Field, 4x Mountain, 4x Horse batteries
<b>1867</b> French departure from Mexico	Infantry: 18x Line and 9x Light battalions Cavalry: 10x regiments Artillery: 8x Field, 4x Garrison batteries
<b>1867: Siege of Queretaro</b> – gives a good example of the variety of units and composition of formations.	
<b>CinC</b> (Maximilian von Hapsburg) approx. 11,000	
1 <sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (Casanova)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade (Escobar)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Line, Rifle (Tiradores) Battalion, Battalion 'Faithful' of Celaya
2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade (Lozado)	15 <sup>th</sup> Line, Municipal Guard of Mexico
2 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (Casille)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade (Valdez)	7 <sup>th</sup> Line, 12 <sup>th</sup> Line, Battalion of Queretaro
2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade (Ramirez)	16 <sup>th</sup> Line, Cazadores Battalion
Cavalry Division	
1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade (Guterrez)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Line, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Line
2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade (Monterde)	4 <sup>th</sup> Lancers, 7 <sup>th</sup> Line
3 <sup>rd</sup> Brigade (Quiroga)	Frontier Rifles (Rurales), Frontier Sharpshooters (Rurales), 5 <sup>th</sup> Lancers
Reserve	
Mixed Brigade (Mendez)	1 <sup>st</sup> Line, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Line, Empress Lancers, 31 guns, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Engineers
<b>Note.</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regular battalions probably composed six companies with no flank companies. Cavalry regiments had from two to four squadrons Artillery batteries had six guns but more often served as one or two gun sections.</li> <li>2. Militia battalions may have had between four and eight companies of varying strength. Irregular cavalry units probably often consisted of only a single squadron.</li> <li>3. Only about 7,000 of the 1865 army were regulars. The remainder were auxiliary troops (9,000) and rural guards and police (12,000).</li> </ol>	

### MEXICAN REPUBLICAN ARMY ORBAT

Date / Formation	Units
<b>1862</b>	Infantry: 10x battalions (numbered 1-10) Cavalry: 6x regiments (numbered 1-6) Artillery: 6x Field and 2x Horse batteries National Guard and State Militia: 25x battalions and 25x squadrons Rurales: mounted police used as light cavalry
<b>1867: Siege of Queretaro – gives a good example of the variety of units and composition of formations.</b>	
<b>CinC Army of the North (Trevino) approx. 9,300</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Division (Rocha)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade (Montesinos)	1 <sup>st</sup> Line, 6 <sup>th</sup> Line
2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade (Caveres)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Line, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion of San Luis National Guard
3 <sup>rd</sup> Brigade (Cervantes)	4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Battalions of San Luis National Guard
Cavalry Brigade (Martinez)	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifles of Zaragoza, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Squadron of St Luis
Artillery	2x Field and 1x Mountain battery
2 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (Arce)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade (Mayer)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Line, 7 <sup>th</sup> Line
2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade (Jose Gallardo)	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion of Aguas Calientes, 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion of Saltillo
Cavalry Brigade (Pedro Gallardo)	1 <sup>st</sup> Regiment of Aguas Calientes, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Regiment of St Luis
Artillery	1x Field, 1x Mountain battery
1 <sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division (Naranjo)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Brigade (Loera))	Legion of the North, Carabineers of Lampazos, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Regiment of St Luis
2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade (Laing)	1 <sup>st</sup> Regiment of Parras, 4 <sup>th</sup> Regiment of St Luis
3 <sup>rd</sup> Brigade (Zepreda)	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rifles of Coahuila, Frontier Scouts Regiment
Attached to the HQ	Battalion of the Supreme Power, 1 <sup>st</sup> Active Battalion of Nuevo Leon, 1 <sup>st</sup> Light Infantry of Durango, Chasseurs a Cheval of Galeana, 1 squadron of Line, 1x Mountain Battery
Artillery Reserve	2x Field and 1x Siege battery
<b>Note.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Line battalions had eight companies and cavalry regiments between one and four squadrons, each of two companies. Artillery batteries had either four or six guns but often served as one or two gun sections.</li> <li>2. A Gatling gun was used by Republican forces at the battle of Santa Gertrudis, 1866.</li> </ol>	

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Any comments or corrections would be very much welcomed by the author. Please send them to [info@jacklexminiatures.com](mailto:info@jacklexminiatures.com)