

# GRINGO40S

## Mexican Army of the Mexican American War

By Ron Vaughan

Illustrated by Phil Beveridge

### Infantry Regiments

On paper an infantry regiment had two Battalions of eight 100 man companies, but usually they mustered under 500 men in one combined Battalion. Even down to 200-300. Mexican Infantry stood up under fire very bravely.



(MEXICAN INFT REGT)

A **Line Infantry Battalion** consisted of six fusilier companies and one grenadier company armed with smoothbore muskets plus one “cazadore” light company usually armed with old British Baker Rifles.



{4<sup>TH</sup> LT INFT}

The four **Light Infantry Battalions** had seven musket armed companies and one Rifle company.

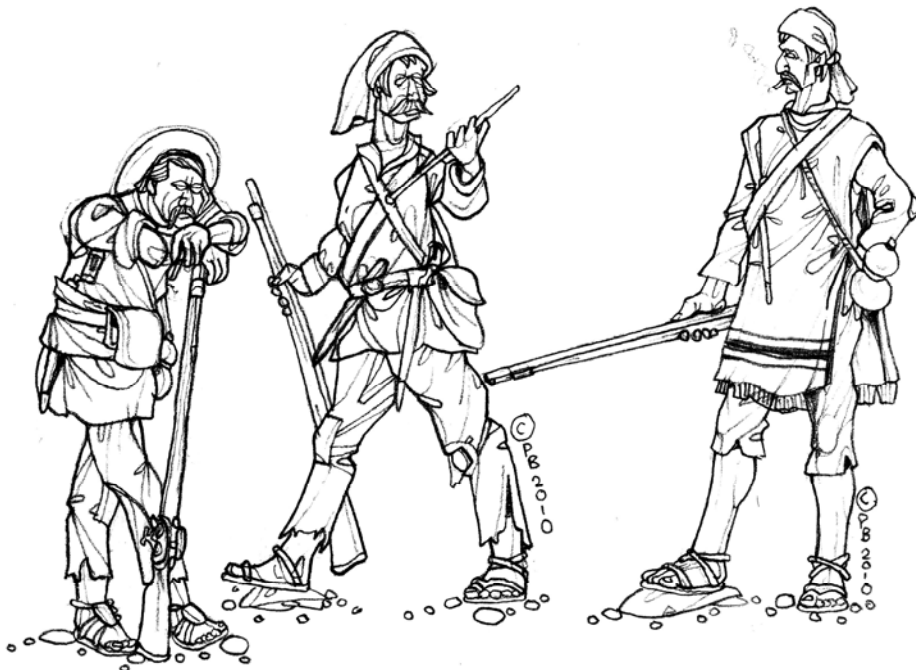


## Cavalry Regiments

On paper had eight 70 man companies, but regiments were often reduced to only 150 to 200 in two squadrons. Theoretically, only the 1<sup>st</sup> squadron was lance armed, but in practice all companies carried lancers. Also, their horses were small at 12-14 hands high.

## Active Militia infantry and cavalry regiments

These had been on duty for decades, due to the decades of internal strife. They should be equal in performance to the Regular Line Regiments, although they seem to have been held in less esteem by their generals.



## National Guard Infantry

These were volunteers, with brief training, but often showed spirit, especially the *Bravo* and *Independencia* Battalions

## Irregular Cavalry

Often there were large numbers of irregular cavalry present, who could be effective at harassing supply wagons, but were uselessly timid on the battlefield.



## San Patricio Company

American deserters formed the “*San Patricio Company*,” which was trained to be light artillery in the U.S. style equipped with draft horses, but at Buena Vista they were given heavy ponderous guns, and later were made into an infantry Battalion (but nevertheless still manned guns at Churubusco).

## Mexican Artillery

Mexican batteries consisted of 2 to 8 guns, with the number of gunners per piece as few as 7 and as many as 29, plus civilian mule or oxen drivers that transported the guns at a slow pace and then abandoned them once the shooting started. Mexican gunners were better trained than the other branches. Their fire was hampered by poor logistics and gunpowder.

# WARGAMING NOTES

Assuming figure scale is 1 to 10 and 1 model per 2 pieces.



## Infantry Regt

A large Regiment with 6-10 or more figure companies, plus staff, Commanding Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command, Ensign with flag, Drummer & Bugler, 4 Pioneers/Sappers.

An under strength Regiment would have 3 fusilier companies and one "elite company, with half Cazadores and half Grenadiers.

Each Company had an Officer, NCO with a company fanion, Drummer (or Bugler for "Light" Company) and "soldadera" (female camp follower) to care for the "soldados" and 3-6 "soldados."

## Cavalry Regiment

A cavalry regiment had two squadrons of 6-9 figures plus a Regiment staff of CO, Bugler, and a Sergeant with Flag.

## Irregular Cavalry

Size and composition can vary. No buglers or NCOs, just a Leader, and perhaps a flag bearer with a National flag or a black flag with skull & bones.

## Artillery Batteries

2 or more guns, each with 2 gunners, a NCO, and an officer for the battery.

## Gringo40s Dispatches

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E-mail: [gringo40s@btinternet.com](mailto:gringo40s@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.gringo40s.com](http://www.gringo40s.com)

Phone: +44 (0)1689828474

Mobile: +44 (0)7703522543