
THE MEXICAN WAR

July 4, 1845, nine years after the battle at The Alamo, the Republic of Texas accepted annexation by the United States. President James Polk ordered U.S. Forces under Brigadier General Zachary Taylor into Texas to protect the disputed boundary along the Rio Grande River. In March 1846, Taylor's Army moved toward the Rio Grande, and on April 25th the first hostilities between the U.S. and Mexican Armies commenced north of the Rio Grande. On May 13, 1846, President Polk signed a Proclamation of War.



General Taylor

In June of 1846, our unit, still known as Company F, 4th Artillery, arrived by ship near the mouth of the Rio Grande in July. The battery was once more under General Scott's command, again as infantry, although during the campaign the cannoneers of Company F seized and placed several enemy field pieces into action. In February, the battery joined Brigadier General William Worth's division at Lobos Island, to prepare for the first major amphibious assault in the U.S. Army's history.

On March 9, 1847 our unit landed at Collado Beach, three miles south and out of the range of the Mexican guns at Vera Cruz. The landings on the 9th went without contest for Scott's Army, but a gale storm blew in preventing mortars, artillery, and ammunition from reaching the shore for several days. Within three days, General William Worth's Division was in position around Vera Cruz. General Scott, however, would not allow his forces to storm Vera Cruz until the guns were in action. For four days the guns bombarded Vera Cruz. The Mexican force called for a truce and surrendered on March 29. The

green and white streamer embroidered VERA
CRUZ commemorates our role in this
amphibious assault.

General Scott next turned his army inward. As he advanced up the national highway near Cerro Gordo, the road ran through a rocky valley. The Mexicans controlled the high ground, but Scott's forces moved through the rough country, allowing us to attack the Mexicans from behind. The troops cut a path through forest and brush, and when they came to ravines, lowered the artillery by ropes to the bottom, and then hoisted it up the other side. The battle began on April 18, and the Mexican Army broke and fled. The streamer earned in this battle is inscribed CERRO GORDO.

On August 19, 1947, our unit was part of General David Twigg's division and was positioned to provide support for a force of soldiers working on a road, which skirted an impassable area. Near the village of Contreras, the Mexicans began to fire on our unit with a gigantic 68-pounder howitzer. Scott rushed reinforcements to the scene during the night, and the next morning attacked the Mexicans from two directions. For our part in this battle, we earned the streamer embroidered CONTRERAS

On September 9, 1847 General Scott launched his final attack on the defenses of the Mexican Capital where the battery supported the infantry in a battle at Molino del Rey. On September 13, 1847, while a gallant detachment of our battery scaled the forbidding walls of Chapultepec with the first assault party, the remainder was engaged on the causeways leading into Mexico City. The streamer we earned for this battle is embroidered CHAPULTAPEC. That night Worth's division captured Chapultepec and passed onward into Mexico City, which was captured the next day. Santa Anna's remaining forces retreated northward. On October 9th, Santa Anna and approximately 1000 soldiers surrendered.

After the war, our unit remained in Mexico until June 12, 1848 when gunners from both nations fired a great salute. We returned to Fort Monroe, Virginia in 1848, and then again to Florida, finally returning to Fort Columbus. While at Fort Columbus, Captain John C. Pemberton took command of the battery. In 1852 the battery moved to Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, where it stayed until 1856. The third Seminole War broke out in Florida, and our unit was sent but did not go into combat. In 1857, the battery moved to Texas, and later was reassigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. For four years the unit operated in Kansas, Wyoming, and Minnesota, helping to keep Indians in these territories under control.

