ER Bickford Presents

Veracruz 1847

This is an old 1977 game by Richard Berg. It is an operational simulation of Winfield Scott's Mexican campaign from March through September 1847. The goal for the US is to capture Mexico City. Each hex is 5 miles and the turns are weekly.

The sequence of play begins with the Mexican player. During the supply phase Mexican troops must trace a line of supply to Mexico City or western road hexes. Then it is mostly move and fight. The US has to land supply and pack animals. Supply is a problem for the US commander. Again, it is essentially move and fight with some added features.

March 1847

The first three turns represent the last three weeks of March. The US player lands three divisions with supplies along the coastal areas. The US commander decides to lay siege to Veracruz to force it to capitulate. The Mexicans have a small force there led by General Morales.

The US uses its available artillery to bombard the fortress. This is somewhat effective but the US suffers some casualties due to counter-battery fire.
The US 3rd Division sends its engineers on a reconnaissance mission to determine the strength of the Mexican militia unit holding the bridge. Then the 3rd Division conducts an overwhelming attack and overruns the militia, advancing to the village Cerro Gordo.
At end of March, the US lands naval troops with gunboats, to join the bombardment. The fortifications are ebbing away.

April 1847

There are four turns in April. The US concentrates on capturing Veracruz and San Juan Del Ulua. Meanwhile, Santa Anna arrives with the Army of Mexico. He marches to Puebla. Brigadier General Rangel deploys with a large force in Mexico City.
The Mexican Army advances to Perote while the Army of the East occupies Jalapa. A small force covers the bridge at Cordova. With the surrender of Veracruz, the US 1st Division clears out some of the Mexican militia on its rear flank.
The US 1st Division goes after what proves to be a weak Mexican militia unit, which is all that hold Alvarado, a small port in the Gulf. General Worth's formation captures the port with little trouble. Now for some chrome. Starting this turn, the troops are faced with the effects of disease. This is Berg's La Vomito rule. This rule recognizes the devastating effects of Yellow Fever and dysentery and other endemic diseases and the toll it took on the campaign. Each stack makes a die roll subject to various modifiers which likely will reduce the effectiveness if the stack. The US 3rd Division in Cerro Gordo is down 10 percent. At this point in the campaign, the US player has collected a total of 4 VP.
May 1847

The month of May lasts four turns total.

General Rangel marches from Mexico City to Nopalucan. The US 2nd Division (MG Patterson) and the General Canalizo's East Army engage at Jalapa. This results in some losses and both sides hold initially.

The Mexican Army makes a desperate counterattack which is repulsed. The East Army retreats toward Mexico City. The Mexican National Morale drops. The US forces are on General Supply and capture the city of Jalapa, which is worth 2 VP (total 6 VP).
The US recuperates some and is trying to build supply. The 1st Division is heading to Cordova along the main road. The Mexicans are not doing too much. Santa Anna must start making die rolls for the Political Climate.

Santa Anna has to return to Mexico City with his army on a 1-2 die roll. This represents his concerns with the political situation during election time. The Mexican player rolls a two which means that Santa Anna is more concerned with the election than the US invasion, so he returns to Mexico City.

After spending a week in the city, he feels that everything is under control and Santa Anna takes the Army of Mexico back toward Veracruz where he engages the US 2nd Infantry Division in the village of Cruz Blanca. The US 2nd is send reeling.
The US 1st Infantry Division moves toward the roadblock at Cordova. This is weakly held by three Mexican militia units. These are sent in retreat after suffering some casualties. There are more casualties to disease and the US 2nd is hit the hardest and is down 25 percent.

**June 1847**

This section covers the four June turns. First, Santa Anna returns to Mexico City after hearing disturbing news about the political situation. This slows down Mexican military actions.

The US supply column is attacked by guerrillas. The attack comes to nothing. The US 1st Division captures Orizaba adding one VP for a total of 7 VP. The first division is down 10 percent due to dysentery.
The US 2nd and 3rd Divisions lay siege to the Mexican fort at Perote. The bombardment causes some damage but then counter-battery fire results in US casualties. Then the US formations follow up with an assault which destroys the enemy militia.
June 1847 continued

Santa Anna feels that it is safe to leave Mexico City for the time being. He heads out to the village of Nopaulucan. The US player has to withdraw General Patterson along with a significant sized formation of volunteers. The US 3rd marches toward Santa Anna's position at Nopaulucan. The US 1st Division marches to the edge of Mt. Orizaba. General Pillow has a small detachment that is guarding the US forward supplies.

Now it is the third week of June. Santa Anna decides to scree the US forces to protect Puebla. The US portage animals face down a bunch of guerrillas that fail in their attempt to capture the US pack animals.

The US Third Division is led by General Twiggs. He decides to attack General Canalizo and his small force outside of Nopaulucan. The Mexican troops are routed.
The Mexican Army of the South, which is led by General Alvarez, arrives in Mexico City. Santa Anna hears bad news from Mexico City and again, he departs the field with his army to bring order back to the city. This opens up a window of opportunity to the US forces. Meanwhile, the Mexican Line cavalry does a bit of recon on the US 1st Division and quickly decides that it wants no part of it.

General Worth seizes the initiative and marches toward Puebla. After heavy fighting, the city falls to General Worth's troops. Since the Mexican forces defended in this city, their National Morale falls, in addition to losing the battle. This pushes the US VP to 12. The 1st Division is in a dangerous position though.
July 1847

Now that the election in Mexico City is settled, Santa Anna can focus on the military aspects of the situation. The Army of the North is entered in Mexico City as reinforcements.

Then the Army of Mexico marches out to meet the US troops in Puebla. Unfortunately, the National Will for Mexico is quite low, so Santa Anna's attempts to dislodge the 1st Division will be difficult. General Worth, the US player's best leader is there besides. The battle erupts and there is a defensive benefit for the city, that the US player receives. The Mexican Army suffers heavy losses and retreats toward Mexico City, failing to knock the US unit out of Puebla.

Us reinforcements continue to land at Veracruz. The photo shows pack animals, supply and troops coming into play.
The next week, Mexican formations work on fortifications to protect Mexico City. General Pillow has a supply column that has to deal with guerrillas. There is no damage to the US supply this time. The US 4th Div vision lands at Veracruz.
July 1847 continued

The US 4th Infants launches an attack on General Canalizo's troops. The Small Mexican formations is defeated in detail.
Then the US 4th Infantry attacks the Army of the East. General Quitman leads the forces against General Rangel. This is another resounding victory for the US Army.
The Mexican Army prepares to defend Mexico City.
August 1847

The Mexican Army is just trying to protect Mexico City at this stage. The US 3rd Division moves to Puebla. The 1st Division marches to the national road to link up with the 4th Division and all of the forward supply.

The Mexican player employs a defense in depth strategy. Then the US 1st Division joins the 4th Division in an attack against the Army of Mexico. Santa Anna is defeated and falls back to
Mexico City.
The US 1st and 4th Make separate attacks against the Mexican defense's forward position. General Worth leads the 1st Division against General Canalizo. The Mexican forces fall back and suffer casualties.

The US 4th Division is led by General Quitman. He runs into trouble and both sides remain locked in action with no decisive result.

We are now in the last week of August. The 1st Division helps the 4th in its efforts to dislodge the Mexican troops. This time the enemy is driven back.
**September 1847**

September has only two turns. The Mexican Army has defenses set up to protect Mexico City. The US player tries to plow through to no avail, within the two turn time limit. Mexico City will fall however. The final VP tally is 12 VP for the US, which is deemed a Marginal Victory. The photo shows the final attacks as well as an overview of the map.