

OUTSTANDING MILITARY IN THE HISTORY OF MEXICO (2)

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Note: The translation into English is carried out through the use of software, so there may be discrepancies with the usual use of this language, we appreciate your understanding in this regard.

According to what was noted in the article Outstanding Military in the history of Mexico (1), in this part 2 I will comment on the 5 generals who participated in the Mexican Revolution of the 6 that appear in the 1997 issue.

Outstanding military in the history of Mexico (2nd. part): The Revolutionaries.-

Background.-

1) The restored Republic.-

Once the French were expelled (in **1867**), the Republic was restored within the framework of a country in turmoil and with many problems to resolve; Benito Juárez was reelected for a new presidential period, from **1867 to 1871**; At the end of his term there were two candidates waiting to succeed him: Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada (1,2) and General Porfirio Díaz, but Juárez sought to be re-elected for the period **1872-1876**, Porfirio Díaz proclaimed the Plan of La Noria against him in 1871 and took arms, was defeated, thus Juárez began another presidential term, but died as president of the Republic in **July 1872** (3), Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada temporarily assumed the presidency by mandate of law and elections were called between Lerdo and Díaz, the winner was Lerdo de Tejada and he began his mandate 1872-1876; When 1876 arrived, Lerdo was reelected and assumed power in September of that year, but his government was shaken by armed revolts. Díaz proclaimed the **Plan of Tuxtepec** with the motto **Effective suffrage, no reelection**, and on November 23 of that year he took over his **first presidential term: 1876-1880**, Lerdo flees the country. In 1880 Díaz handed over power to his compadre **Manuel González**, elected for the presidential period **1880-1884**. On December 1, 1884, Porfirio Díaz regained power, the motto of his Plan of Tuxtepec remained an unfulfilled promise and the Porfiriato (4) began, in which for 27 continuous years the eternal candidate and the eternal winner would be Porfirio Díaz.

2) The Porfiriato.-

This period is considered, by most of the sources consulted, to begin in 1876 (beginning of Díaz's first presidential term) and not since he was re-elected for the first time, in 1884. I consider that it is irrelevant to decide what the beginning is. What is relevant about this period is that "**there is no other period in the history of Mexico identified with a single man**"(5). "*Díaz achieved control of the Army, with the elimination and separation of the leaders and the exclusion of the great commanders*"; He restructured the army, modernized its weapons and promoted military industry and education for both troops and officer training. 20,000 kilometers of railways were built, the telegraph covered the entire country, attracted foreign investment and development of national industry, in such a way that **in the entire period from 1884 to 1911** the "Value of foreign trade" was positive for Mexico, exports were greater than imports (6). In the financial aspect, the country regained global confidence and therefore the possibility of obtaining credits from abroad. The **political and social aspects** were neglected: politically there was no possibility of electing local or federal authorities, the president decided who governed and those who rebelled were repressed, in the social aspect the working class did not have adequate working hours neither good salaries, that affected them and their families, the same for farm workers. Although there were advances in education, 80% of the population was illiterate.

Mexican Revolution.-

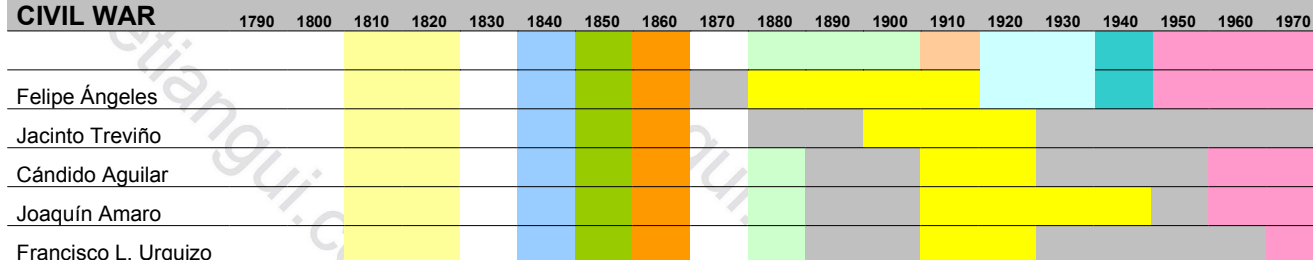
On **November 20, 1910**, the armed struggle to overthrow the Government of Porfirio Díaz began officially. Díaz renounces his position in **May 1911** and leaves the country ... the solution to the problems was not close to being achieved, the country lived many years between armed clashes, betrayals, looting, murders and death. The **first stage, Maderismo**, aimed to overthrow the government of Porfirio Díaz to achieve an effective non-reelection suffrage; It goes from the end of 1910 to the murder of Francisco I. Madero, first president elect democratically after the fall of Díaz, and vice president José María Pino Suárez, in February 1913. The **second stage** is the armed struggle **against the usurper** of power Presidential, Victoriano Huerta, who headed the armed revolt that ended with the death of President Madero; the governor of the state of Coahuila Venustiano Carranza, and within a few days the governor of the state of Sonora, José Maytorena declared against Huerta, also Francisco Villa and other regional leaders, **all joined** with the same objective, overthrow Huerta, what which happened in **July 1914**. Carranza had issued the Plan of Guadalupe, since March 1913 and it established as priorities to overthrow Huerta and reestablish the constitutional order, Carranza would be the first head of the Constitutionalist Army and headed the Executive Power interim in an interim way , once defeated Huerta, to call elections and proceed to prepare a new constitution. The **third stage** is the **faction struggle**, which began in 1914 when the constitutional order could already be reestablished; At this stage, the **groups that allied themselves** against the usurper Victoriano Huerta **became antagonistic** and the armed struggle continued. The distancing of the Zapatistas and Villistas from Carranza led Carranza to attempt to reach an understanding with the **Aguascalientes Convention**, held from **October to November 1914**, considered the most representative meeting of the Revolution; The objective of unification of the factions was not achieved and even the Convention appointed a president of the Republic and ignored Carranza. Carranza did not accept that decision and armed confrontations continued during 1914 and 1915 and political changes, and regional leaders multiplied. . Carranza moved his government to the port of Veracruz, managed to dominate most of the country, returned to Mexico City at the **end of 1915**, victorious, and began the **fourth stage**, that of the **constitutionalists**. Carranza promotes a Constituent Congress and deputies are elected; the Constituent Assembly began its sessions on December 1, 1916 in the city of Querétaro and the new Constitution was promulgated on **February 5, 1917**. The following day, elections for deputies and senators and for the president of the Republic were called. Carranza took office as President of the Republic in May 1917. Achieving order, peace and the rule of law were attempts that did not bear fruit and **Carranza was assassinated in May 1920**.

Did the Revolution end in 1917, or in 1920 or when? It is an unanswered question; little by little, in a process of long years, and even with abuses and bloodshed, the country was moving towards stability.

Five generals, among many, who participated in the different stages of the Mexican Revolution had a place of honor in this mini series of postage stamps from 1997, we will see why...

TIMELINE OF LIFE AND MILITARY ACTION OF OUTSTANDING MILITARY IN THE HISTORY OF MEXICO

CIVIL WAR



(1) (2) (1) = (1) Years of life, (2) active military life

COLUMNS:

Independence (1810-1821)
North American invasion (1846-1848)
War of Reform (1858-1860)
French intervention (1862-1867)
Porfiriato (1884-1910)
Civil war (1910-1920)
Maximato (1928-1934)
Cardenismo (1934-1946)
Civil commander (desde 1946)

In chronological order of their year of birth					
SC#	Name	Fig .	Birth in	Death in	Years of life
2026	Felipe Ángeles Ramírez	1	1868	1919	51
2025	Jacinto B. Treviño González	2	1883	1971	88
2027	Cándido Aguilar Vargas	3	1889	1960	71
2028	Joaquín Amaro Domínguez	4	1889	1952	63
2023	Francisco L. Urquiza Benavides	5	1891	1969	78



Fig. 1 Felipe Ángeles



Fig. 2 Jacinto B. Treviño



Fig. 3 Cándido Aguilar



Fig. 4 Joaquín Amaro



Fig. 5 Francisco L. Urquiza

Some highlights of the Generals.-

Felipe Ángeles.-

He is the pride of the military because during his life he embodied values such as **loyalty**, courage, congruence, respect for institutions, among others. Originally from the state of Hidalgo, Ángeles was a career military man, he entered the **Military College** at the **age of 14**, thanks to a scholarship awarded to him by Porfirio Díaz in recognition of the services provided by General Ángeles' father during the French Intervention; He was an outstanding professor at the Military College, the Military College of Aspirants, the National Preparatory School and the Shooting School, of which he was later director; he carried out artillery studies in the United States of America (USA) in 1901, and in 1909 in Paris, France, artillery courses and studies on the Napoleonic and Franco-Prussian Wars. In **1912**, **President Madero** appointed him **director of the Military College** and he obtained the rank of brigadier general. He was with Madero until the latter's arrest (7). He joined the **second stage** of the Revolution in **October 1913** with Carranza and later with Francisco Villa as commander of the Artillery of the Northern Division, since 1914; at the beginning of the **third stage** of the Revolution, Ángeles represented Villa in the Aguascalientes Convention and demonstrated against Carranza. He continued with Francisco Villa fighting against Carranza's forces until in **April 1915** he broke with General Villa when Villa "ignored their advice" in the battles fought in the Celaya area and were defeated by the forces of General Álvaro Obregón. Upon Carranza's triumph and the beginning of the **fourth stage** of the Revolution, Ángeles fled to the United States in June 1915 and returned until December 1918 to fight against Carranza. He tried to join Villa again without success, defeated and ill, he was betrayed and imprisoned in the state of Chihuahua by the federal army, they court-martialed him, declared him guilty and shot him on **November 26, 1919**. Since 1896, General Ángeles was married to Clara Kraus, they had 4 children, his family lived in the USA since 1913 when Madero fell; before being shot, Ángeles writes a letter to his wife, without knowing that she was also about to die, he asks for it to be given to her upon his death. For her part, his wife also sends him a letter, knowing that his days are numbered and lamenting. leaving his children orphans and him widowed, and she died on **December 8, 1919**, the letters never reached their recipient. Villa with a group of soldiers, avenged the death of Felipe Ángeles by attacking, two days after his death, the Carrancista garrison of Santa Rosalía without leaving any survivors.

Jacinto B. Treviño.-

Originally from Coahuila, upon finishing high school at the Colegio Civil in Monterrey, N. L. he **entered the Military School** at the **age of 17**, in 1900, he graduated in 1908 as an artillery technical lieutenant and joined the army serving in the National Cartridge and Cartridge Factory. at the National Gunpowder Factory. He was part of **Madero's** General Staff in **November 1911**, as a commissioner in Coahuila He joined Carranza after the assassination of Madero and Pino Suárez. He was the **first signatory** of the **Plan of Guadalupe** of March 26, 1913 and was part of the escort that accompanied Venustiano Carranza to Hermosillo. In June 1914 he was already a brigadier general. During the *factional struggle* he remained at Carranza's side under the command of General Pablo González Garza; **defeated** the Villistas in the **battle of El Ébano**, which was the longest during the Revolution (it lasted 72 days from March 21 to May 31, 1915) and was also transcendental for the triumph of the constitutionalists because oil wells and the access to the port of Tampico, after his triumph, Treviño was promoted to brigadier general and at the end of **1915 division general** by carrying out a successful campaign in the states of Nuevo León, Coahuila and Chihuahua. In 1917 he founded the Partido Nacional Cooperativista (8), in 1920 he joined the ranks of Obregón; he was **discharged from the army** on October 3, **1929** for participating in the military "asonada" (9) against Plutarco Elías Calles and went into exile in San Antonio, Texas; he was **reintegrated into the army** by order of President Manuel Ávila Camacho on April 1, **1941** when he returned to the country. He joined political life and held several public positions; during the mandate of Adolfo Ruiz Cortines (10) he was director of Puertos Libres Mexicanos and Senator of the Republic. He founded and presided over the Partido Auténtico de la Revolución Mexicana (PARM) in 1954. The oldest of the 5 generals, he **died in 1971 at the age of 88**.

Cándido Aguilar.-

Originally from Veracruz, in **1909** he joined the Anti-Reelectionist party against Porfirio Díaz; he joined the Maderistas and took up arms in Coscomatepec Veracruz, along with other companions, on **November 19, 1910**. Upon Madero's triumph he fought opposition rebels in Morelos, Coahuila and Durango. When Madero and Pino Suárez are murdered, Aguilar was under the command of Victoriano Huerta, he managed to flee to Guatemala and from there to the USA and return to Mexican territory and join Carranza's forces in **May 1913**; Carranza sends him to Veracruz as military commander in the state. In **May 1914**, he was appointed **governor** of Veracruz by Carranza, establishing the state capital in Tuxpan and in addition to his already demonstrated military role, he stood out in this position in his social role, issuing on August 3 of that year a **decree to regulate exploitation oil company** in the entity (11), on October 19, 1914, a **labor law** setting a minimum wage in the state (12) and other avant-garde concepts at that time, and a **law on ships** which established that the crew members of Mexican merchant ships they had to be Mexicans. He was a **constituent deputy** in 1916-1917, he also served as Secretary of War and Navy and Foreign Relations, carrying out this position creditably. In **August 1917** he married a daughter of Venustiano Carranza and it is highly possible that this is why General Aguilar's career is so little known, since "posterity" diminished his personal merits. After Carranza's assassination, in **May 1920**, he left the country for the United States and returned in 1923 supporting Adolfo de la Huerta against Álvaro Obregón, after the latter's victory, he left the country again and returned in 1939 during the government of President Lázaro Cárdenas; he was a deputy and senator for Veracruz; in **1949** he was commander of the **Legion of Honor** (17); he rebelled in **1951** against the designation of Adolfo Ruiz Cortines as Miguel Alemán's successor candidate for the presidency of the country and was imprisoned for a short time and upon his release he was exiled to Cuba; he returned to the country shortly after, without being able to specify the date, and dedicated himself to tourism in Catemaco, Veracruz. He **died in 1960** in Mexico City at **71 years** of age.

Joaquín Amaro.-

He was born in Zacatecas, he joined the Maderista cause in **February 1911** as part of the rural troops, he was sent to the south of the country and after the murder of Madero and Pino Suárez he took up arms and his participation was decisive in the victory in Michoacán against the usurper Victoriano Huerta. In **July 1914** he obtained the rank of **brigadier general** and the following **October** that of general of brigade. He was part of the troops under the command of General Álvaro Obregón during the *faction struggle*, he participated in the defeat of Villa in El Bajío in 1915. He enjoyed a reputation for being austere and energetic and his troops were hated for the excesses they caused. . After the triumph of the constitutionalists he had military activity in the center of the country and in **1918** he was named head of the Ojinaga sector. In **1920** he **allied** himself with **Obregón** and became his trusted man; after the assassination of Carranza, with Obregón as president, he was named **division general**, at the **age of 31** in July of that year and was appointed chief of military operations of the third military zone, based in Saltillo and It included the states of Coahuila, Nuevo León and San Luis Potosí; During his stay in Saltillo he reorganized his troops, undertook an education and discipline program for them and he himself expanded his academic, cultural and discipline knowledge such as horse riding, gymnastics, swordplay and shooting. In Saltillo **he married** the daughter of General Manuel Izaguirre, a member of her general staff, in 1921, **after winning her in a bet** (13). He was Secretary of War and Navy during the periods of government of Presidents Calles, Ortiz Rubio, and Portes Gil, from 1924 to 1931, in this period he reorganized the leaders and troops that emerged from the Revolution, implemented discipline and technique and promoted activities cultural and sports in the army. **Director of the Military College** from 1931 to 1935, during his period he created the General Directorate of Military Education and the Higher War School, later he was director of Military Education and head of the military region of the Isthmus. In **1939** he signed a manifesto (14) asking the people of Mexico to support a civic struggle so that in the process of presidential succession (15) the course of the country would be corrected and the errors committed would be rectified. He was always active in the military until his **death in 1952**.

Francisco L. Urquiza.-

Originally from Coahuila, he joined the ranks of Maderismo at the end of **1910**, as a soldier; he was part of the personal guard of President Francisco I. Madero. He was taken prisoner by the troops of the usurper Victoriano Huerta after the murder of Madero and Pino Suárez, he was 22 years old, and upon being released he joined Carranza as captain of his general staff, he had military activity in the northeast of the country, first under the command of Pablo González Garza and then with General Antonio I. Villarreal; in June **1913 he published** a pamphlet on the organization of the

constitutionalist cavalry, which earned him promotion to major; in June 1914 Carranza commissioned him to organize the Supreme Powers brigade, which Urquiza presided from that date until 1919. In **August 1915** he was promoted to **brigadier general** and intervened in important reforms to the military union; he continued at Carranza's side and was even one of the few soldiers who **accompanied** him when Carranza was **assassinated** in **1920**; Like all the generals related to Carranza, they were **discharged from the army** and had to leave the country; Urquiza went into exile in Spain, **returning** to Mexico in **1926**. He held lower-level public positions, until **he re-entered the army in 1934**, he was recognized in 1939 as a veteran of the Revolution, he was promoted to **division general in November 1940**, he was head of the military zones of Tampico and Monterrey. Being Undersecretary of National Defense he flagged down Squadron 201 that participated in World War II and received them as Secretary of National Defense when they returned. He continued to be linked to the army and its improvement; from 1951 to 1953 he was commander of the Mexican Legion of Honor (17); in **1953** he was a member of the board of the newly created National Institute of Historical Studies of the Mexican Revolution (**INEHRM**). He was the author of books such as: *From Mexico to Tlaxcalaltongo* (1932), *Tropa Vieja* (1942), *Pages of the Revolution* (1956), *Six Years with Carranza* (1959), *Origin of the Constitutionalist Army* (1964) (16). In **1967** he received the Belisario Domínguez medal awarded by the Senate of the Republic, for his military merits and his contribution to the historical knowledge of the Mexican Revolution. He **died** in **1969** at the **age of 78**.

Notes:

1 Op. Cit. by: Frank A. Knapp Jr., historian: "Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada, who was the intelligence behind the stubborn courage of Juárez, during the time of the French intervention, who stood out as one of the prominent lawyers of liberalism and who was a proud nationalist, who held the most diverse public positions until reaching the first magistracy, is, in a very strange way, one of the forgotten patriots and statesmen of Mexico."

2 Op. Cit. by: Carmona, Dora Alicia, in Political Memory of Mexico: Lerdo's figure was overshadowed because his performance as ruler occurred between those of the two most important personalities in Mexico in the 19th century.

3 Benito Juárez held the presidency of the Republic, from January 1858 to July 1872, 15 years. Within his presidential terms the Reform War (three years) and the French Intervention (6 years) occurred.

4 Porfirio Díaz's first term was in legal time and it cannot be considered that he did not respect his motto of Effective suffrage, no re-election, since he handed over power at the end of his mandate. In his second period of government, which began in 1884, he failed to comply with his motto of no re-election and left power until May 1911.

5 Op.cit. by: García Audelo, Miguel in: "Short course on the History of Mexico from pre-Hispanic times to the present day" for Taller de Historia de Parras, 2021.

6 Op, cit.:

https://www.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/productos/prod_serv/contenidos/espanol/bvinegi/productos/nueva_estruc/HyM2014/17.%20Sector%20externo.pdf Pags. 6 y 7.

7 In the Editorial Section on this page, the article *Behind the vignette: Victoria de Torreón-1914*, mentions General Ángeles in the context of this battle.

8 El Partido Nacional Cooperativista had a short life, it began in 1917 and disappeared in 1924.

9 Riot for political purposes, according to the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language.

10 Adolfo Ruiz Cortines was Treviño's brother-in-law from Ruiz's first marriage, because they were married with sisters, and his private secretary. Ruiz Cortines was president of Mexico from 1952 to 1958.

11 To see details of the decree: <https://www.memoriapoliticademexico.org/Textos/6Revolucion/1914-DCP-CA.html>

12 For more information on the Labor Law of the state of Veracruz, see: <https://jornadaveracruz.com.mx/cultura/de-veracruz-la-primera-ley-del-trabajo-en-mexico/>

13 Op. Cit in <https://vanguardia.com.mx/coahuila/joaquin-amaro-afortunado-en-el-juego-de-las-apuestas-LD2410692>

14 Op. Cit. in: <https://www.memoriapoliticademexico.org/Textos/6Revolucion/1939ManifAmaro.html>

15 The presidential period referred is about to end, is that of Lázaro Cárdenas, which was from 1934 to 1940.

16 First-hand references, some of his books can still be found.

17 *Legión de Honor Mexicana* it is a reserve corps of active, retired or resting personnel of the Mexican Army in order to preserve the experience gained through years of service.

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