The 1882 Statutes specified 11 categories of recipients. These remained stable throughout the order’s 30-year history with minor amendments. There were no limits on the number of recipients that might hold awards at any one time. The following is a direct translation of the original Statutes. The descriptions in square brackets are that employed by modern writers.

- **First Class, First Grade** – for the king or emperor of a country [foreign heads of state]
- **First Class, Second Grade** – for princes, and royal family members and relatives [crown princes and prime ministers]
- **First Class, Third Grade** – for hereditary ministers, general ministers, envoys of the first rank [nobles, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, admirals of the fleet, field marshals]
- **Second Class, First Grade** – for envoys of the second rank [ministers, lieutenant-generals and vice admirals]
- **Second Class, Second Grade** – for envoys of the third rank and general customs commissioners [consul-generals, major-generals and rear-admirals]
- **Second Class, Third Grade** – for counselors of the first rank, higher level military officers, consul-generals and military generals [high officials, school superintendents, brigadier-generals, commodores]
- **Third Class, First Grade** – for counselors of the second and third ranks, the entourage of consul-generals, captains of the first rank, and generals of the third rank [consuls and high officials]
- **Third Class, Second Grade** – for deputy consuls, captains of the second rank and generals of the fourth rank [consuls and high officials; Second Grade – vice-consuls, lesser officials, lieutenant-colonels or commanders]
- **Third Class, Third Grade** – for translators and military officers of the fifth and sixth rank [lower ranking diplomats, majors and captains]
- **Fourth Class** – for soldiers [lieutenants and NCOs]
- **Fifth Class** – for businessmen

The Double Dragon was instituted as a decoration solely for foreigners. Despite early efforts by Hart to broaden the award, it was only extended to Chinese citizens in August 1908 at the request of the Qing Foreign Ministry. Thereafter, it was conferred on Manchu princes and the most senior officials and even then only sparingly.

Most insignia encountered today were therefore originally awarded to foreigners. The few Chinese awards were unlikely to have survived the Warlord period, the Japanese invasions, the Chinese Civil War and the Cultural Revolution. It is perhaps ironic that despite their significance in modern Chinese history, more Double Dragons likely survive outside China than in China.

**The End of Dragons**

Sir Robert Hart had a final audience with the Empress Dowager in April 1908. The Emperor, who was also present, was silent throughout. Shortly after, Hart sailed for England never to return to the country he had called home for most of his life. The greatest friend China ever had died in September 1911 at the age of 76. The only surviving street sign from the Boxer era in Beijing is said to bear the Irishman’s name “Rue Hart.”
After ruling China for half a century, the Empress Dowager Cixi joined her ancestors in November 1908 at the age of 74. Whether by her design or others, her nephew, the Guangxu Emperor, died just one day before her at the age of 36. He had been poisoned. The last years of his life were spent a virtual prisoner, whiling away the time tinkering with watches and clocks. A two-year old boy, Puyi, son of the second Prince Chun, ascended the throne as the Xuantong and last Emperor of China.

On April 2, 1909, the boy Emperor directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Army Ministry and the Administration Bureau to prepare a new system of national awards to replace the Order of the Double Dragon. On March 20, 1911, a Memorial was approved establishing the Grand Precious Order (Da Bao Zhang, simp. 大宝章) intended for the Emperor and foreign sovereigns, the Orders of the Red Dragon and the Yellow Dragon (both for members of royal families) and the Orders of the Blue Dragon and the Black Dragon (for nobles and high officials). The new awards were never fully implemented although specimens of the Colored Dragons exist.

On October 10, 1911, troops of the modernized Hubei New Army based in the city of Wuchang mutinied in support of Sun Yat-sen’s revolutionary Tongmenghui or United League. Like the Yellow River bursting its banks, rebellion soon engulfed the country as province after province declared independence from the Qing Court.

The Order of the Double Dragon was conferred to the very last days of the Qing Dynasty. Appropriately, one of the very last awards was to another Irishman - John Gordon, who received the Third Class, Third Grade on February 6, 1912. Just six days later the Empress Dowager Longyu abdicated the Dragon Throne on behalf of the six year old Puyi. Thus ended over 2000 years of Imperial rule.

Over its 30 year history, the Double Dragon was bestowed in modest numbers. Autengruber and Tammann report that numbers inscribed on bestowal documents indicate that fewer than 1000 First Type insignia of all classes were awarded from 1882 to the outbreak of the Boxer Rebellion in 1900. Around 4000 Second Type insignia of all classes were awarded between 1902 and 1912.

The Qing Dynasty has faded into history. Holding a Double Dragon is to touch a moment in time – when China was ruled by the Son of Heaven from the Dragon Throne, and when she stood on the cusp between her ancient past and modern future. It is also an object of considerable beauty.

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Endnotes:

3. Letter to James Campbell, dated April 17, 1882, Fairbank et al, supra.
4. Memorial and Statutes of the Order of the Double Dragon, 1882. The Memorial is dated the 19th day of the 12th month of the 7th Year of Guangxu (February 7, 1882).
8. Such photos are not conclusive proof as the recipients are shown wearing breast stars of a number of different Orders and typically only one or two decorations around the neck.
9. The date of the Proposal is 11th Day of the 2nd Month of the 23rd Year of the Guangxu Emperor (March 13, 1897)
10. Examples of specimens with named recipients indicate these reduced-size insignia were late awards: Personal communication, Jean-Claude Gelhaar. The indicative sizes provided in Table 1 are for Variations 1 and 2.
14. A photograph exists of Puyi as a young man in the military uniform of the Republic wearing either the Imperial Great Precious Order (Da Bao Zhang) or the virtually identical Republican Great Merit Order (Da Xun Zhang).
THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEXICAN SERVICE MEDAL AND THE BATTLE OF AGUA PRIETA

THOMAS J. NIER

Introduction

The United States Army’s Mexican Service Medal had a total striking of over 15,000 numbered medals. Only the Army Philippine Campaign and the Mexican Border Service Medals had larger strikings with about 41,000 numbered medals being struck for each type.¹ So the Mexican Service medal has never acquired the collector appeal and status of, for example, the Indian Wars or the China Relief Expedition medals. However, researching the historical background and issue varieties of the Mexican Service Medal can reveal some fascinating information. This article presents the story behind one such Mexican Service medal, which it is hoped will hold the reader’s interest.

Background of the Mexican Service Medal

When considering the Army Mexican Service medal, the image that usually comes to mind is that of Brigadier General John J. Pershing’s Punitive Expedition of 1917 chasing Pancho Villa around the wilderness of Northern Mexico. But the medal qualifications also included the Vera Cruz Expedition of 1914 and several border skirmishes over the period 1911 to 1919. The basic campaign medal qualification for any hostile engagement of United States forces required battle casualties, at least wounded, if not killed, American personnel. The official list of engagements² for the Army Mexican Service medal included:

a. Vera Cruz Expedition in Mexico between April 24 and 26 November 26, 1914.
b. Punitive Expedition in Mexico between March 14, 1916 and February 7, 1917.
c. Buena Vista, Mexico, December 1, 1917.
d. San Bernardino Canyon, Mexico, 26 December 1917.
e. La Grulla, Texas, January 8 and 9, 1918.
f. Pilares, Mexico, March 28, 1918.
g. Nogales, Arizona, November 1 to 5, 1915 or August 27, 1918.
h. El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico, June 15 and 16, 1919.
i. Any action against hostile Mexicans in which United States troops were killed or wounded between April 12, 1911 and February 7, 1917.

A typical Mexican Service Medal as acquired at a flea market or antique shop is shown in Figure 1 (obverse) and Figure 2 (reverse). This example is rim numbered at the 6 o’clock position No. 7005 and has a worn, shortened ribbon on a replaced brooch. It was issued to Sergeant Axel H. Lingquist, Company H, 22nd United States Infantry.³ His medal record slip (Figure 3) shows his authorization number 12916, which numerical sequence kept an internal record of the applications for the medal. The authorization number is not directly related to his actual medal number which was assigned to Lingquist on November 14, 1919.

What is most revealing in the Lingquist records from the National Archives is the recommendation letter of July 20, 1919, sent to the Adjutant General in Washington, D.C. from Lingquist’s company commander (Figure 4).