

## GUATEMALA



**Flag Description:** three equal vertical bands of light blue (hoist side), white, and light blue with the coat of arms centered in the white band; the coat of arms includes a green and red quetzal (the national bird) and a scroll bearing the inscription LIBERTAD 15 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1821 (the original date of independence from Spain) all superimposed on a pair of crossed rifles and a pair of crossed swords and framed by a wreath

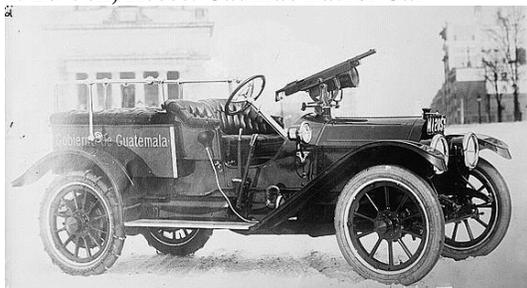


**Background:** The Maya civilization flourished in Guatemala and surrounding regions during the first millennium A.D. After almost three centuries as a Spanish colony, Guatemala won its independence in 1821. During the second half of the 20th century, it experienced a variety of military and civilian governments, as well as a 36-year guerrilla war. In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the conflict, which had left more than 100,000 people dead and had created some 1 million refugees.

**Geography Guatemala.** Location: Central America, bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between El Salvador and Mexico, and bordering the Gulf of Honduras (Caribbean Sea) between Honduras and Belize. Area: total: 108,890 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly smaller than Tennessee. Land boundaries: total: 1,687 km. Border countries: Belize 266 km, El Salvador 203 km, Honduras 256 km, Mexico 962 km. Coastline: 400 km. Climate:

tropical; hot, humid in lowlands; cooler in highlands. Terrain: mostly mountains with narrow coastal plains and rolling limestone plateau. Natural resources: petroleum, nickel, rare woods, fish, chicle, hydropower. Natural hazards: numerous volcanoes in mountains, with occasional violent earthquakes; Caribbean coast extremely susceptible to hurricanes and other tropical storms. Environment - current issues: deforestation in the Peten rainforest; soil erosion; water pollution. Geography - note: no natural harbors on west coast. **Military branches:** Army, Navy (includes Marines) and Air Force. (CIA Fact Book 2006)

### 1918 Veh, Recce. Cadillac Patrol Car.



Above: Cadillac Patrol Car as delivered to Guatemala Army circa 1918. (Photo: Library of Congress)

**Remarks:** A single Cadillac Patrol Car was completed for the Guatemala Army circa 1918. In the above photo it is armed with a Colt .30 caliber light machine gun. Brakes for the vehicle were dual mechanical (one external, one internal), operating on the two rear wheels. Although wire wheels were available, wood artillery

wheels with demountable rims were used as it was thought that they were stronger on back or unimproved roads. Price for this vehicle was approximately \$2400 (US circa 1918).

**Vehicle Data:** Weight empty, 3,925 lbs (1782 kg). Wheel Base, 125 in (3175 mm). Wheel Tread, 56 in (1422 mm). Drive, 4x2. Armor, n/a. NBC Protection, n/a. **Armament:** (1) Colt .30 cal LMG. Elevation & traverse, manual. Aux wpns, crew sidearms. **Capacity:** Fuel, gasoline. Crew/Passengers, 2/2. **Engine:** (1) Cadillac, V8, water-cooled, gasoline engine producing 31 hp (23 kW) @ 2000 rpm. Location, front. **Transmission System:** Manual with 3-fwd and 1-rev gear. **Suspension System:** Leaf spring. Wheels Steerable, front pair. Turning Radius, unk. No of wheels, 4. Tire Size, 5x37. **Usage:** Only the one vehicle seems to have been delivered to Guatemala. **Manufacturer:** Cadillac Motor Company.

**1925 Veh, Recce. Truck, FWD.**



Above: FWD truck with two heavy machine guns. Tires are solid rubber. (Photo: Author's collection)

**1994 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Danto APC.**

**Remarks:** Locally designed and produced wheeled APC.

**1943 Veh, Recce. M3A1 Scout Car.**

**Remarks:** Between 1943 and 1946 the US supplied at least four M3A1s to Guatemala as part of the Lend-Lease program. The UN Armoured Vehicles and Heavy Equipment listing for Latin America shows six M3A1s as still being in service as late as 1990 (see US for vehicle details).

**1960 Car, Armd, 6x6. M8 Greyhound.**

**Remarks:** Post-WWII, Guatemala received 14 M8s from the US as part of Military Aid, as of 1990 five of these cars were still in service (see US for vehicle details).

**1965 Car, Armd, 4x4. Commando V100.**

**Remarks:** During the 1960's Guatemala received seven Commando V100s from the US as part of the Military Aid Program, these cars were still in service as of 1990 (see US for vehicle details).

**1981 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. APC, Armadillo.**

**Remarks:** Locally designed and produced wheeled APC.

**1990 Car, Armd, 4x4. IMI RBY-1.**

**Remarks:** UN records show that by 1990 at least 10 RBY-1s had been delivered from Israel. These cars were later rebuilt in Guatemala.