

—SERVING A DEVELOPING
NATION'S NEEDS IN WAR AND PEACE—

THE ARMY OF BRAZIL



Major PAUL F. WACHHOLZ

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The Brazilian Army enjoys a special respect and affection in the hearts of its countrymen. Symbolic of the Army's role, in war and peace, are two Brazilian national heroes—the "Duke of Caxias" Luis Alves e Lima; and the "Protector of the Indians," Mariano Rondon.

General Caxias, the patron saint of the Army, served Brazil as the warrior who put down revolts and the diplomat who turned revolted into loyal subjects during the period of the Empire, 1822-1899. The crowning military service of Caxias to his country was the defeat of the Paraguayan dictator, Francisco Solano López. This defeat ended a bitter five-year war in 1870. August 25th, the anniversary of Caxias' birth in 1808, is celebrated today as the "Day of the Soldier".

General Rondon, best known in the United States as companion of President Theodore Roosevelt on his Amazon expedition in 1913, spent most

of the 50 years of his Army service (1890 to 1940) erecting telegraph lines through Brazil's remote interior. The Service for the Protection of the Indians is the result of Rondon's understanding of and affection for the Indians during these years. An independent government agency, the Service is staffed by people sworn to offer their own lives rather than to inflict physical injury on the aborigines entrusted to their protection.

As reflected in the lives of Caxias and Rondon, the principal activities of the Army during Brazil's first century of independence were the political consolidation of its immense area, garrisoning of the border outposts, development of its communications, and bringing civilization to the underdeveloped regions of the interior. Only once within the last century was the Army called upon to defend Brazil's continental borders. This call came when the Paraguayan forces of dictator Francisco Solano López invaded the State of Matto Grosso

in 1864. This invasion precipitated the Paraguayan War (1865-1870) which ended in the complete annihilation of the dictator's forces by the Brazilians under Caxias.

Although Brazil did not take an active military part in World War I, it made legal common cause with the United States and the Allies by its declaration of war against Germany in October 1917. In World War II, a Brazilian Expeditionary Force under command of General Joao Baptista Mascarenhas de Moraes (now in retirement

as a marshal) fought alongside its allies of the multi-national Fifth Army in Italy. During 239 continuous days of action in the snow and bitter cold of the Apennines, Brazilian soldiers, far away from their tropical homeland, captured more than 20,000 German prisoners and suffered 2,500 casualties.

Brazil's most recent action reflecting its acceptance of international commitment was the dispatch of the Brazilian "Suez Battalion" to the United Nations Emergency Force on the Gaza Strip between Egypt and Israel in January 1957. A volunteer force, its personnel were selected from elements of the capital's Army garrison. The Battalion joined other United Nations Forces from Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, India, Indonesia, Norway, Sweden and Yugoslavia. Average strength of the Battalion has been maintained at about 600.

ACTIVE participation in World War II not only gave Army leaders valuable experience in modern warfare but impressed upon Brazil's leadership and its people the necessity for maintaining the nation's armed forces in readiness in our troubled times. Since 1945 the Brazilian Army has modernized its educational system, tactical doctrines, organization and training. The Army budget for 1959 calls for expenditures of approximately 20 billion cruzeiros which, converted at current exchange rates, totals approximately \$ 145,000,000.

Brazilian Army officers are products of a comprehensive system of education. After graduation from the three-year course at the Military Academy of **Agulhas Negras** (called "Black Needles" from the beautiful, dark needle-like peaks nearby), the young officer is given the opportunity for a lifetime of military education and training for high-ranking staff and command responsibilities. He progressively attends

BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

Major Paul F. Wachholz, US Army Staff has a long-standing interest in South America, its people, history and armed forces. He was born in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil in 1915 where his missionary parents reside in the early 1900's. He was educated in the US, receiving a Bachelor's degree at Valparaiso University, Indiana and a Master's degree from American University, Washington, D. C. The thesis submitted for his degree was, "The Gaucho and the German Homesteader - Brazilian Regional Types".

In 1940, he enlisted in the U. S. military forces and was commissioned a 2d Lieutenant of Artillery in 1941. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in 1943, Captain in 1945 Major in 1951.

He served in the South Pacific from 1941-1943; and in the European Theater during 1944-45. He is graduate of the Advanced Anti-Aircraft Artillery School and the U. S. Army General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. He was assigned to the Department of Portuguese at the Army Language School, Presidio of Monterrey, California from 1947-1949. During 1949-1952 he served in Brazil as Assistant G-3 of the Joint Brazil - US Military Commission.

From 1952-56, Major Wachholz was a member of the staff and faculty of the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth Kansas, assigned to the Allied Officers Section. Several Colombian officers are included among the illustrious Free World leaders with whom he associated in the conduct of instruction of the Allied Officers course at Fort Leavenworth. He is author of the US Army text, "Military English for Allied Officers". In Korea during 1956-57, he served as Deputy Public Information Officer with the Eighth U. S. Army and Deputy Information Officer with the United Nations Command. Since 1958 he has been assigned to the Director of Foreign Intelligence, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army.

the school of his arm or service and the advanced course of the Arms School at the **Villa Militar**, near the capital.

Selected on the basis of stiff competitive examinations, captains, majors and lieutenant colonels later attend the Army General Staff College or the Technical School at **Praia Vermelha**, the beautiful Red Beach at the foot of Rio's famous Sugar Loaf. After staff and command assignments, selected Army officers may attend the Armed Forces Staff College course with brother officers of the Navy and the Air Force. The toplevel National War College course is attended by both military and civilian leaders at the **Escola Superior de Guerra**. These two high-level courses are conducted at historic Fort Sao Joao (Saint John) near the entrance to Guanabara Bay, harbor of Rio de Janeiro.

Tactical doctrines taught at the Arms School and the General Staff College closely parallel those of their sister schools in the United States but are adapted to Brazil's specific requirements and capabilities. Brazilian and U. S. Army officers attend each others' staff colleges on a reciprocal basis; Brazilian officers have served at Fort Leavenworth as guest instructors, and as co-editors of the **Military Review** which is circulated in Brazil in a Portuguese edition.

The Brazilian Army is organized on a territorial basis into four Army Zones and a special command for the Amazon area. The Army Zones are divided into ten Military Regions with headquarters in the larger cities. The Army's units range in size and type from airborne, armored, cavalry and infantry divisions stationed near populations centers and vital areas to independent platoons on Brazil's distant borders. According to published, unofficial estimates average peacetime strength of the Brazilian Army is about 200,000.

ALL Brazilian males between the ages of 21 and 45 are subject to military duty under a selective service system. One year of this service is active duty in Army ranks. This active year, followed by 8 more years in the reserves, constitutes the "first line" service. The following fourteen years of the reserve obligation is known as the "second line" or inactive reserve period. The one-year recruit is normally assigned to an active unit near his home for his military training.

In a recent survey of an artillery unit near Rio, the average recruit was found to be 18 years old, 5 feet 5 inches tall, and weighing 129 pounds. High school and college students usually satisfy their military training assignments by service in Reserve Officers Training units (CPOR). Because of the great distances and transportation costs, recruits are normally given their basic training at the highest military echelon stationed in the vicinity of their homes. For example, the Infantry Battalion Headquarters at a distant coastal or interior station gives basic training to the recruits assigned to the unit and then reassigns them to the individual companies upon completion of their training. The training program is established at the Army General Staff level for the whole army.

Selected trainees are offered the opportunity for a career as noncommissioned officers or specialists. They continue their military education at enlisted specialist or noncommissioned officer's schools. Competition for assignments to the Military Academy as officer cadets is exceptionally keen. Entrance is based on rigorous physical and educational competitive exams.

Among the physical requirements of officers and sergeants for assignment to the Airborne Division are ability to climb a 13-foot rope without using legs or feet, to carry 110 pounds for 100 me-

ters in 30 seconds and to run 5 kilometers (3 $\frac{1}{8}$ miles) in 30 minutes. In June 1958 this unit completed its 100,000th jump in a demonstration of a heavy drop of a 155mm. howitzer and 200 paratroopers from C-82 type aircraft.

At this unit messes the Brazilian soldier enjoys the national diet of rice, beans and dried beef supplemented by fresh milk, fresh meat, fruits and green vegetables. The Brazilian Army's combat ration includes the corned beef hash, frank-furters, soluble coffee and cigarettes so well known to his fellow soldiers in the U. S. Army. Distinctively Brazilian items of his ration are chicken paste; canned rice, meat and black beans; and guava candy. In common with soldiers the world over, the Brazilian trinee is taller, heavier, stronger and healthier upon return to civilian life after a year in service.

THE principal mission of the Brazilian Army continues to be the defense of Brazil's borders and internal order and security of the nation. In this sense it follows the historic tradition

inherited from the Army of Caxias. The tradition of public service and of good relations with its people willed to it by General Rondon also endures.

The Directory of Railroads and Highways under the Director General of Engineers continues its contributions to the economic development of the nation. Its engineer construction battalions labor almost silently, but continuously, in the survey and construction of Brazil's highways and railroads. Such a unit is the Battalion "Mauá" working on the construction of the trunk North-South highway through the difficult terrain between Rio and Porto Alegre. Another, the 1st Engineer Group, is combating nature in the Northeast "disaster zone" by constructing reservoirs, irrigation and flood control systems. Of their achievements Arnaud Pierre, a Brazilian journalist from Rio's *O Globo*, writes: "It is only by contact with the unsophisticated interior of Brazil that the soldier really understands his true worth. Here he suddenly discovers himself as the teacher, the judge, the counselor and the father, . . . a true soldier of peace".

A soldier who is properly motivated, patriotic and proud of being a soldier has a strong basic defense against enemy psychological warfare. The proper motivation of the citizen, that is, instilling pride in country and a willingness to serve it even under adversity cannot be wholly accomplished after he is brought into the armed forces. It is a project that must be initiated in his basic education and training in normal life. The armed forces can help. They can expand on the foundation developed in the citizen's prior training and, in addition, develop other attitudes and skills prerequisite to sound defense against psychological attack. A commander who fails to prepare his men for this defense has failed in every sense as much as had he not properly trained his men to use their weapons, or provided them with ammunition or food.

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