

# Brazilian Expeditionary Force in World War II: Men at Arms 465

The participation of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force (BEF) in World War II is a largely forgotten chapter in the history of the conflict. This article, based on the comprehensive study presented in the book "Brazilian Expeditionary Force in World War II: Men at Arms 465," aims to shed light on these brave soldiers and their contributions to the Allied victory.



## Brazilian Expeditionary Force in World War II (Men-at-Arms Book 465) by Cesar Campiani Maximiano

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 6607 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 48 pages



## Brazil's Entry into the War

Brazil declared war on Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy in August 1942, becoming the only Latin American country to send troops to fight in Europe during World War II. The decision to join the Allies was motivated by a number of factors, including Brazil's close economic and political ties to the United States, as well as a desire to demonstrate its commitment to democracy and freedom.

The BEF was formed in July 1943 and comprised approximately 25,000 soldiers, making it the largest single foreign contingent in the Italian Campaign. The force was commanded by General Mascarenhas de Moraes and was organized into three infantry divisions, an artillery brigade, and a reconnaissance squadron.

## **Uniforms and Equipment**

The BEF's uniforms were similar to those worn by the American and British forces, consisting of olive drab fatigues, steel helmets, and combat boots. However, the Brazilians also wore distinctive berets in the national colors of green, yellow, and blue. The force was equipped with a mix of American and Brazilian weapons, including M1 Garand rifles, Browning Automatic Rifles, and 60mm mortars.



## Combat Experience

The BEF arrived in Italy in September 1944 and was immediately assigned to the 5th United States Army. The Brazilians saw their first combat in October 1944, when they were tasked with capturing the strategic town of Monte Castello. The battle was a difficult one, with the Brazilians suffering

heavy casualties. However, they eventually succeeded in capturing the town, which was considered a major victory for the Allies.

The BEF continued to fight in Italy for the remainder of the war, participating in a number of key battles, including the Battle of Anzio and the final offensive in the Po Valley. The Brazilians distinguished themselves for their courage and determination, and their contributions to the Allied victory were widely recognized.



Brazilian soldiers fighting in the Battle of Monte Castello. (Image credit: Brazilian Army)

## **Legacy**

The Brazilian Expeditionary Force played a significant role in the Allied victory in World War II. The Brazilians fought bravely and made a valuable contribution to the defeat of the Axis powers. However, their story has been largely forgotten in the years since the war. The book "Brazilian Expeditionary Force in World War II: Men at Arms 465" aims to rectify this by providing a detailed account of the force's history, uniforms, and equipment.

This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of World War II or the role of Latin America in the conflict. It is a tribute to the brave Brazilian soldiers who fought and died for freedom and democracy.

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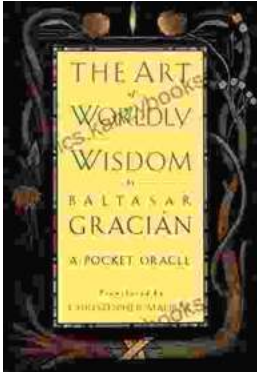


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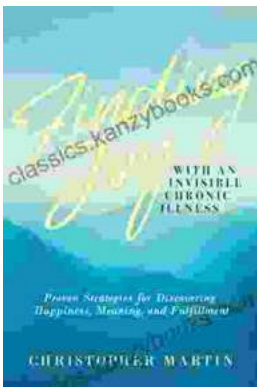
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