THE COBRA IS SMOKIN' OFFICIAL BRIEFING

FORCA EXPEDICIONARIA BRASILEIRA (BRAZILIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE) IN ITALY, 1944 TO 1945



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THE WORLD WAR II MINIATURES GAME



THE COBRA IS SMOKIN'



The Brazilian 1st Expeditionary Infantry Division (1st DIE, for Divisão de Infantaria Expedicionária) in WWII.

One of the lesser known contributors to the allied cause, the Brazilian Division fought in Italy in the 1944-45 period.

THE BRAZILIAN ARMY

Brazil sent observers to the French Army in World War I subsequently establishing a French Military Mission to assist the Brazilian Army modernize towards the French model. The mission was terminated in 1939 with the start of the war.

The between war years saw the politics of Brazil move economically towards both the United States and Germany. Getulio Vargas came to power with the backing of the Army in 1929. As a dictator, Vargas was sympathetic to the economic woes of Germany and during the thirties commerce between Brazil and the new Nazi regime quadrupled.

The war's outbreak saw Brazil torn between its more traditional economic ties to the US and its new found friend in Nazi Germany. It was not until the Germans declared an economic blockade against the North and South American countries that Brazilian sympathies turned towards the Allies.

BRAZIL ENTERS THE WAR

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When the Japanese attacked the US and Germany followed with its declaration of war, the Germans began to attack Brazilian merchant ships along the Brazilian coast. This together with diplomatic agreements moved Brazil towards the Allied camp.

With the early Axis victories in France and North Africa, the Brazilian bulge became a strategic concern of the US. Naval agreements with the US and Brazilian inclusion in Lend-Lease further solidified Brazilian inclusion within the Allied circle.

The Brazilian declaration of war was preceded by a politicalmilitary agreement with the US on 23 May 1942. The agreement established the employment of Brazilian troops in war operations outside of South America. The US promised naval support for Brazilian coastline defence and provided aid for the arming and equipping of the *Forca Expedicionaria Brasileira* (FEB, Brazilian Expeditionary Force).

Forca Expedicionaria Brasileira

The FEB was organized as a standard American infantry division, complete in all aspects, down to its logistics tail, including postal and banking services. Its manoeuvre units included the 1st, 6th and 11th Regimental Combat Teams (RCT), each of about 5,000 men in three battalions plus supporting units. Each battalion consisted of four companies each.

Made up of regional regiments equipped with German small arms and French artillery, the FEB had to be totally reorganized, expanded from 66,000 to 150,000 men and reequipped and trained in the American model. Mobilisation started in early 1943 with the goal of fielding three Infantry Divisions to be deployed in three echelons.

However, the sheer size of the task in recruiting, training, equipping, and shipping, with a lack of sea transport, ultimately resulted the FEB being one Infantry Division (*Divisão de Infantaria Expedicionária*, or 1st DIE for short), under General Mascarenhas de Moraes, and a fighter squadron of 25,334 men. Though small by most Allied country standards it represented a major effort for Brazil.

The Division comprised the following Infantry Regiments:

- 1[#] Infantry Regiment (Sampaio) from the area of Rio de Janeiro
- 6th Infantry Regiment (Ipiranga) from the area of São Paulo
- 11th Infantry Regiment (Tiradentes) from the area of Minas Gerais

Each Regiment had 3 Battalions, numbered I to III with consecutively numbered companies for a total of 12 per Regiment with the heavy weapons companies comprising the 4^{th} , 8^{th} and 12^{th} .

Each Regiment formed its own Regimental Combat Team (RCT) comprising an Infantry Regiment, a Battalion of towed 105mm Howitzers and an Engineer company from the 9th Engineer Battalion. The Sampiao Regiment had the 2^{nd} Artillery and 3^{rd} Engineers, the Ipiranga the 3^{rd} Artillery and 1^{st} Engineers and the Tiradentes the 1^{st} Artillery and 1^{st} Engineers.

In addition, the Division had at its disposal the 4th Artillery comprising towed 155mm Howitzers and the Divisional Reconnaissance Squadron. The US 751st Tank Battalion (Sherman and Stuart tanks) and 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion (M10 tank destroyers) were placed under command of the 1st DIE from time to time, creating a combined arms force.

FEB IN ITALY

The first echelon of Brazilian troops arrived in Italy totally unequipped on 16 July 1944. They spent the next two months equipping and training finally entering combat on 15 September. Units of the Division were initially involved in reconnaissance and clearing operations in Tuscany, Massarossa, Bozzano, Camaiore, Monte Prano and others.

For the next 45 days the Brazilian first echelon, which included the 6th Infantry Regiment, parts of the 11th Infantry Regiment, one company of engineers, and a platoon from the Reconnaissance Squadron, penetrated forty kilometres into the Serchio valley. The 6th Regiment then fought against German positions in the vicinity of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana. There they succeeded in surprising and routing units of the German-trained Italian fascist army (elements of the *'Monterosa' Alpini* Division of the *Esercito Nazionale*



Repubblicano (National Republican Army), only to be beaten back by a counterattack by nearby elements of the German *148. Infanteriedivision.* By the end of October the first echelon was pulled from the line and reunited with the 2nd and 3rd echelons from Brazil. By November the entire division was together and returned to the line.

In November 1944, the Division moved south of Bologna, in subzero temperatures (with men not used to snow) where alongside Task Force 45 and Gardiner Force of the US Army, they were pitted against German positions on Monte Castello and Monte Belvedere. Following these operations, the 1st DIE took part in the offensive operations into the Po Valley, including the bloody struggle for the town of Montese in 1945.

The Allied advances into the Po Valley saw the Brazilians taking heavy casualties when teamed with lower rated divisions, but performed quite well when paired with the highly trained 10th US Mountain Division.

By April the FEB was operating independently which resulted in the surrender of the entire German *148. Infanteriedivision* to the Brazilians at Collecchio, the very same division that had halted their advance in October. When hostilities ended in Italy the FEB was returned to Brazil.

Generally, the men of the 1st DIE acquitted themselves well, gaining the trust of Italian civilians and combat experience in unfamiliar terrain, though at some cost. They were proud to represent their country and of their divisional patch, a snake smoking a cigar (said to have stemmed from German comments saying that the day Brazilians would join the fighting would be the day snakes started to smoke).



BRAZILIAN SPECIAL RULES



The Brazilian Army went from a regional militia force to the *Forca expeditionária Brasiliera* (FEB) in a little over a year. This expansion left little time for training and the few officers available were quickly promoted above their experience. Some were lucky enough to have had additional training in the US prior to being deployed to Italy.

A Brazillian *Companhia de Infantaria* uses all of the normal US special rules on pages 236 to 240 or the rulebook except for Truscott Trot and Automatic Rifles. Instead they use the following special rules:

FOXHOLE POETS

The Brazilians dug-in quite often, so much so that the experience of laying in trenches and foxholes is a common theme in the memories of the veterans. Foxhole Poets was the name of the literary section in the troop newspaper, where poems and chronicles 'written while inside the foxholes' were published. Advancing under heavy fire on the Gothic Line defences in the rocky hills of Italy, the *Pracinhas* became expert diggers.

Brazilian platoons may re-roll failed Skill Tests to Dig In.

"E A COBRA FUMOU!"

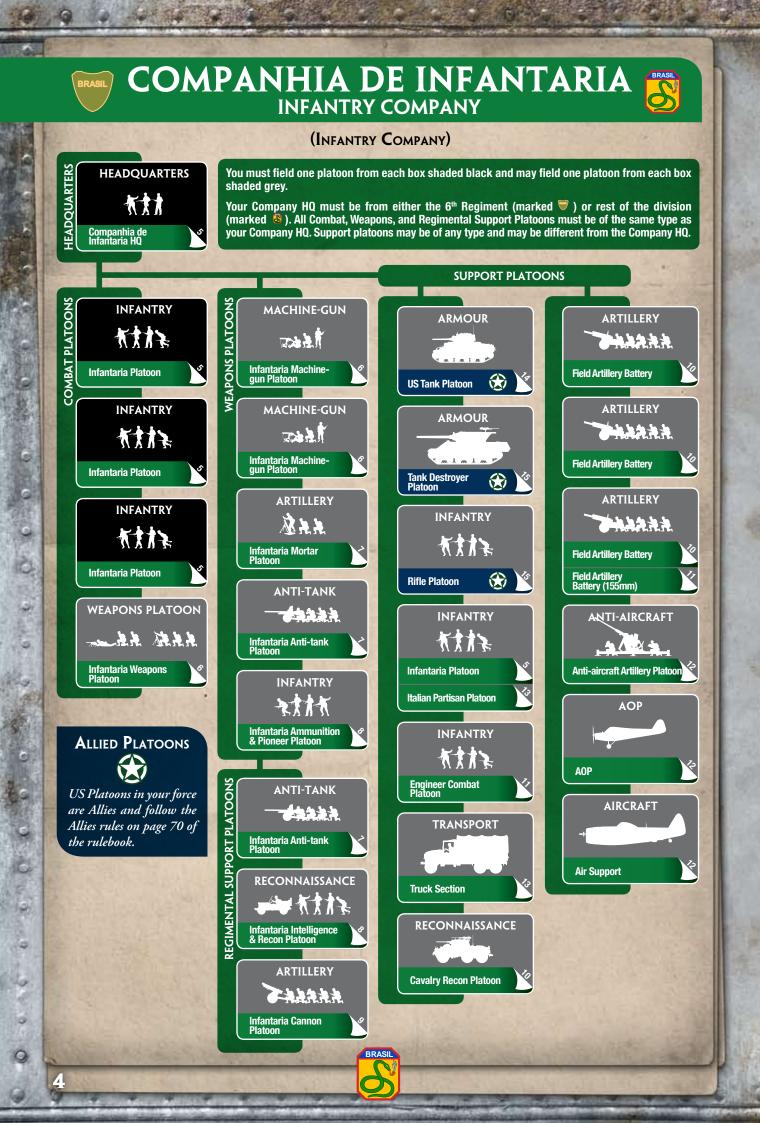
While Brazilian psyche centred on *Karnival* with little thoughts of fielding an Expeditionary Force the '*E A Cobra Fumou*' or 'When the Cobra Smokes', became the euphemism for when they would go to war. '*When the cobra smokes*.'

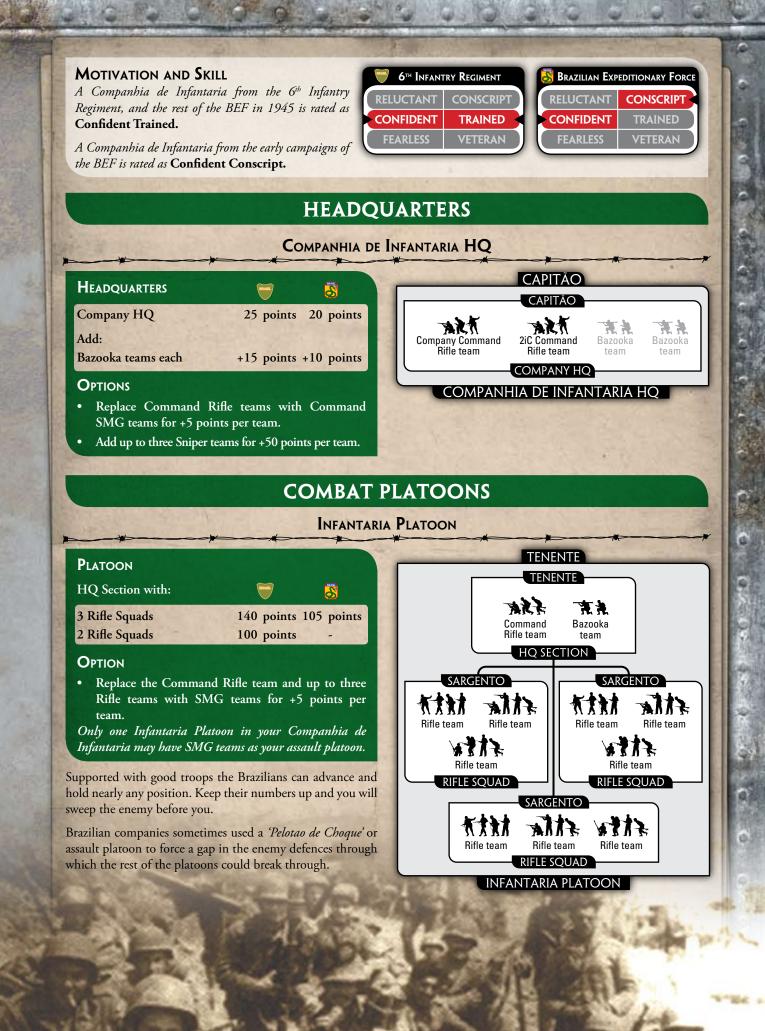
Once the FEB was formed and shipped to Italy the *Smoking Cobra* became their motto and when Brazilian troops were cornered and alone, they fought with a new-found Brazilian pride.

Essential to their morale was the constant presence of high-ranking officers who would add what they could to keep the men's fighting spirits up.

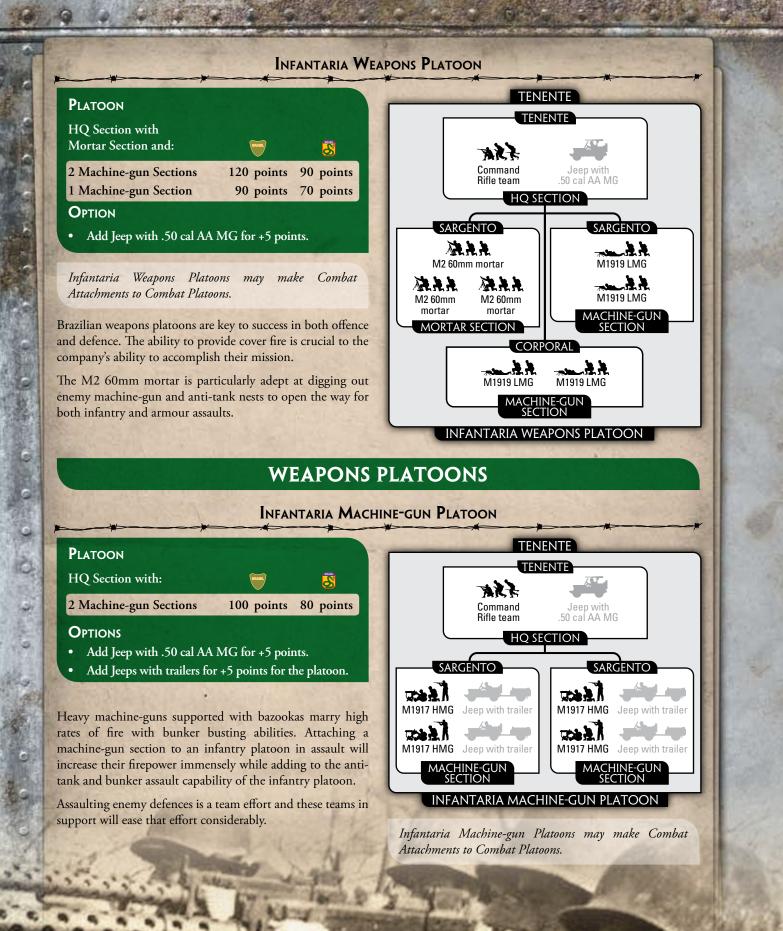
When the 2iC Command Rifle team joins a platoon, it may re-roll all Motivation Tests as though it was a Company Command team.

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BRASIL



BRASIL

INFANTARIA MORTAR PLATOON

PLATOON

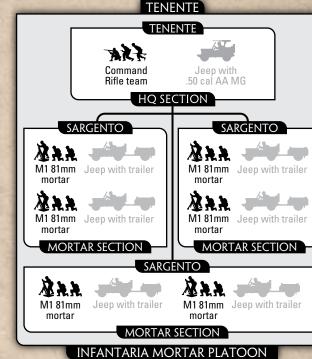
| HQ Section with: | | 8 |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| 3 Mortar Sections | 120 points | 90 points |
| 2 Mortar Sections | 85 points | 65 points |

OPTIONS

- Add Jeep with .50 cal AA MG for +5 points.
- Add Jeeps with trailers for +5 points for the platoon.

A platoon of the larger M1 81mm mortars brings additional indirect support as well as smoke to light infantry in the field. They are very effective against enemy infantry positions and fortifications. Keeping an enemy held in position under cover of smoke or bombardment provides maximum protection for your assaulting infantry platoons.

When facing fortifications, a full smoke bombardment upon any supporting infantry will most probably protect your infantry from enemy fire generated from their fortifications as well. Keep your axis of attack so that enemy infantry is between you and the fortifications and you mortars can do the rest.



INFANTARIA ANTI-TANK PLATOON

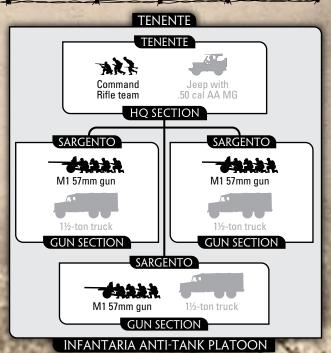
Platoon

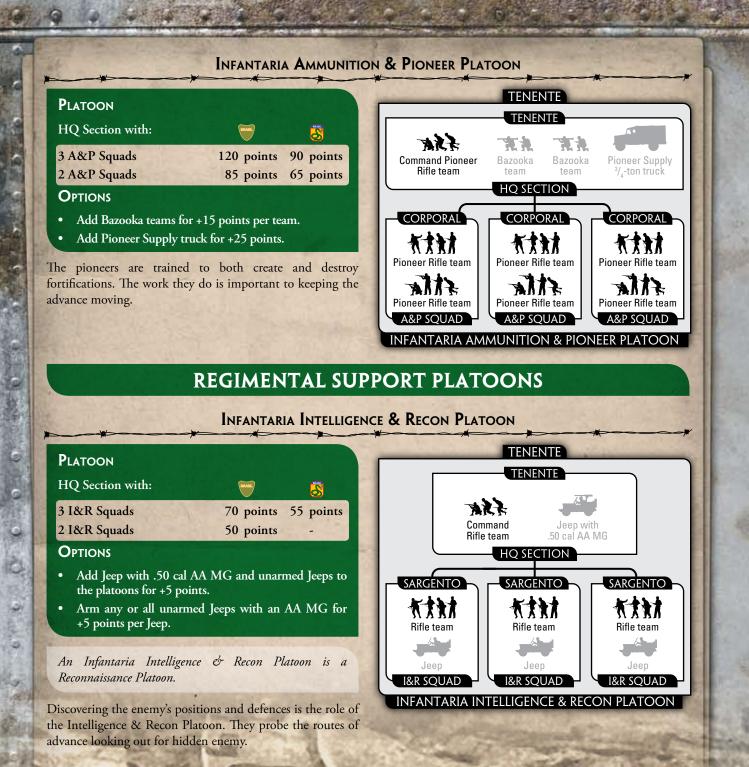
HQ Section with:

3 M1 57mm 70 points 55 points Options

- Add Jeep with .50 cal AA MG for +5 points.
- Add 1¹/₂-ton trucks for +5 points for the platoon.

The M1 57mm anti-tank gun is best used to support your infantry company in either defence or while advancing. Its light weight enables it to keep up with your infantry while still providing over-watch against enemy armour in the area.





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INFANTARIA CANNON PLATOON

PLATOON

HQ Section with:

3 Gun Sections

2 Gun Sections

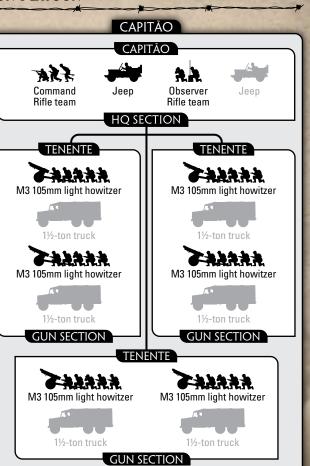
155 points 120 points 105 points 80 points

OPTION

• Add Jeep and 1¹/₂-ton trucks for +5 points for the platoon.

The M3 105mm light howitzer in support of light infantry brings big-gun firepower to those in need. If your mortars are having a tough time digging out enemy infantry then try the cannon platoon. Lots of firepower close at hand.

A smoke mission from this platoon can also keep the enemy completely oblivious to your infantry's movement on the battlefield. They can get your infantry close enough to sweep through the defences and on to the objective.



INFANTARIA CANNON PLATOON



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DIVISIONAL SUPPORT



CONSCRIPT

TRAINED

DIVISIONAL SUPPORT

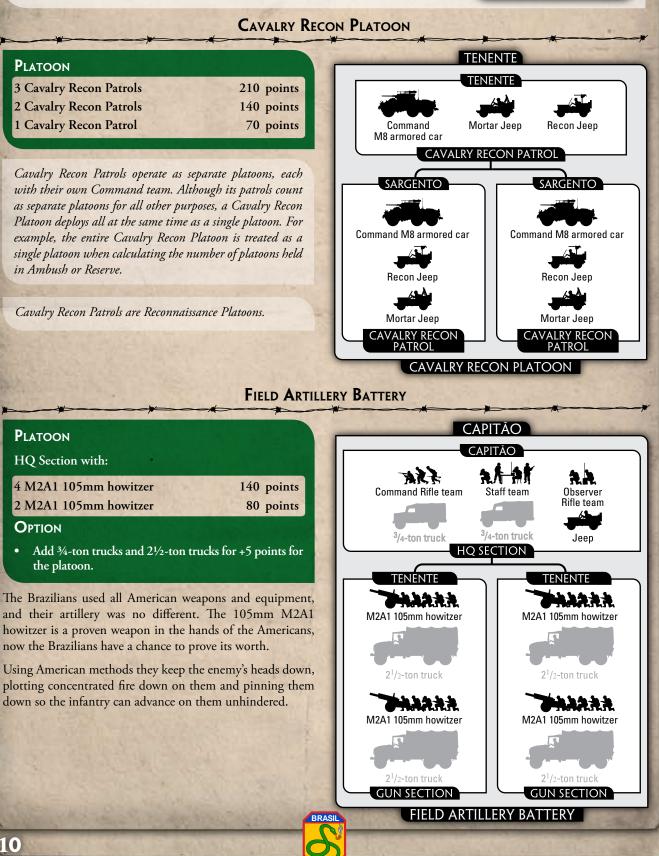
RELUCTANT

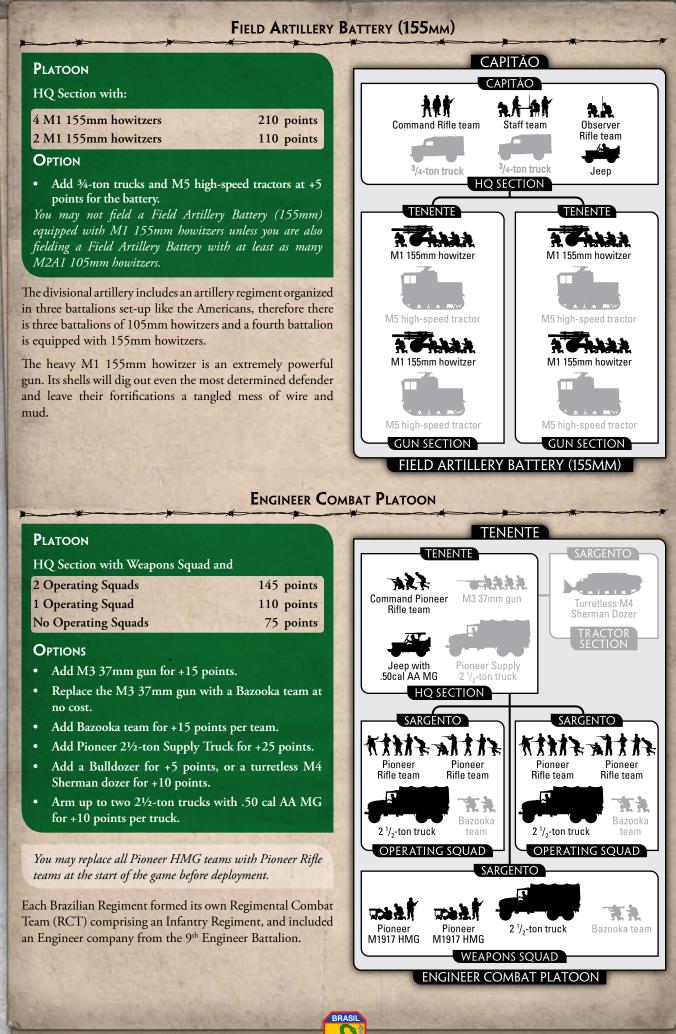
CONFIDENT

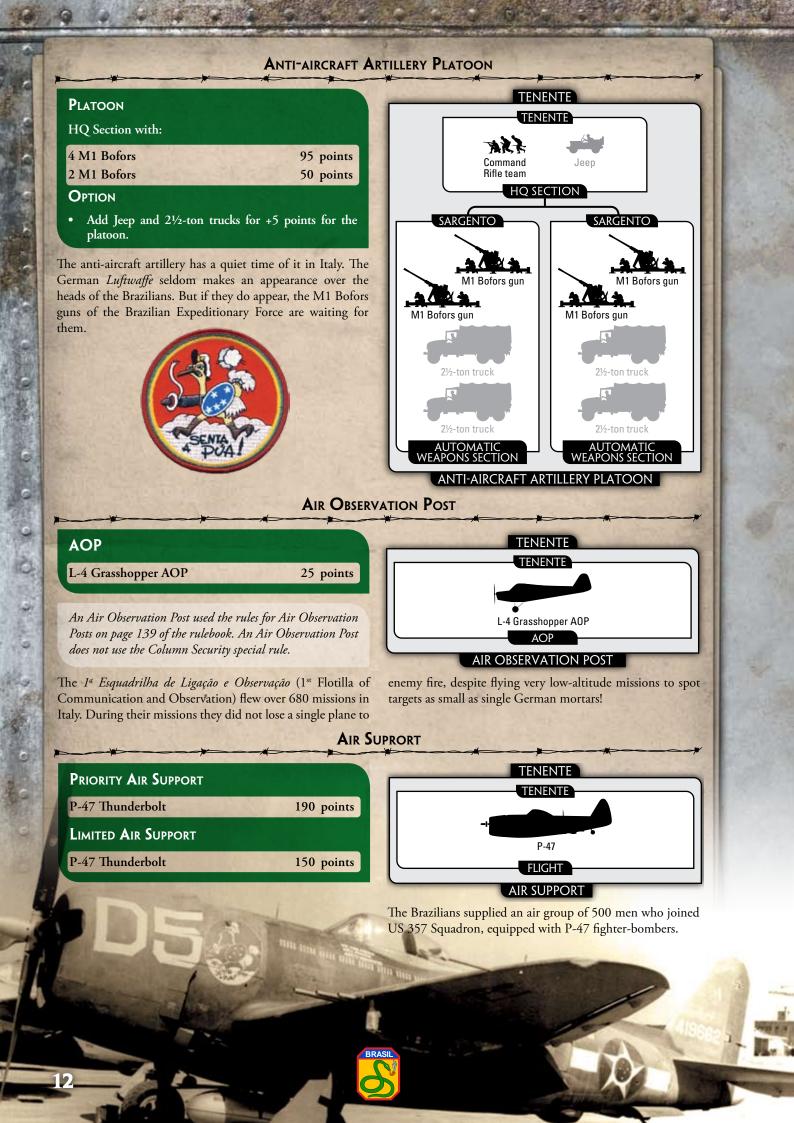
FEARLESS

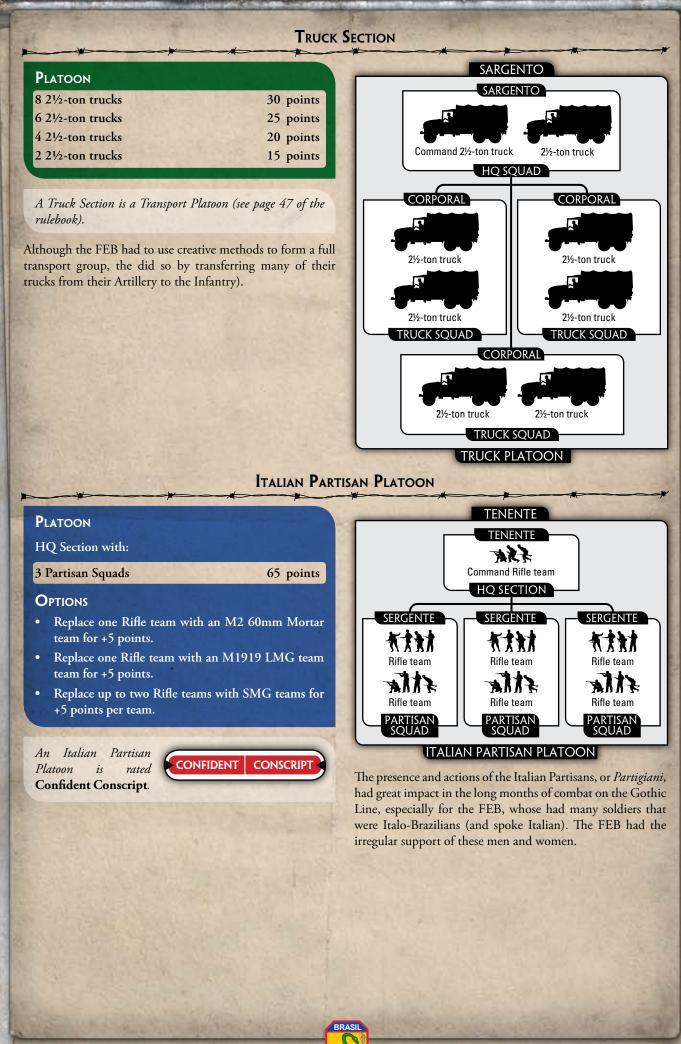
MOTIVATION AND SKILL

Newly trained, but inexperienced, the Brazilian soldiers of the Divisão de Infantaria Expedicionária (1st Expeditionary Infantry Division) fought bravely gaining much experience during the Italian Campaign. Divisional Support Units are rated as Confident Trained, unless noted otherwise.











US SUPPORT



CONSCRIPT

TRAINED

VETERAN

Tank

TANK SECTION

US SUPPORT

CONFIDENT

MOTIVATION AND SKILL

The Brazilians were supported by American units during their time in Italy. US Support Units are rated as **Confident Veteran**, and follow all of the US Special Rules found in the Flames Of War rulebook.

US Platoons in your force are Allies and follow the Allies rules found on page 70 of the Flames Of War rulebook.



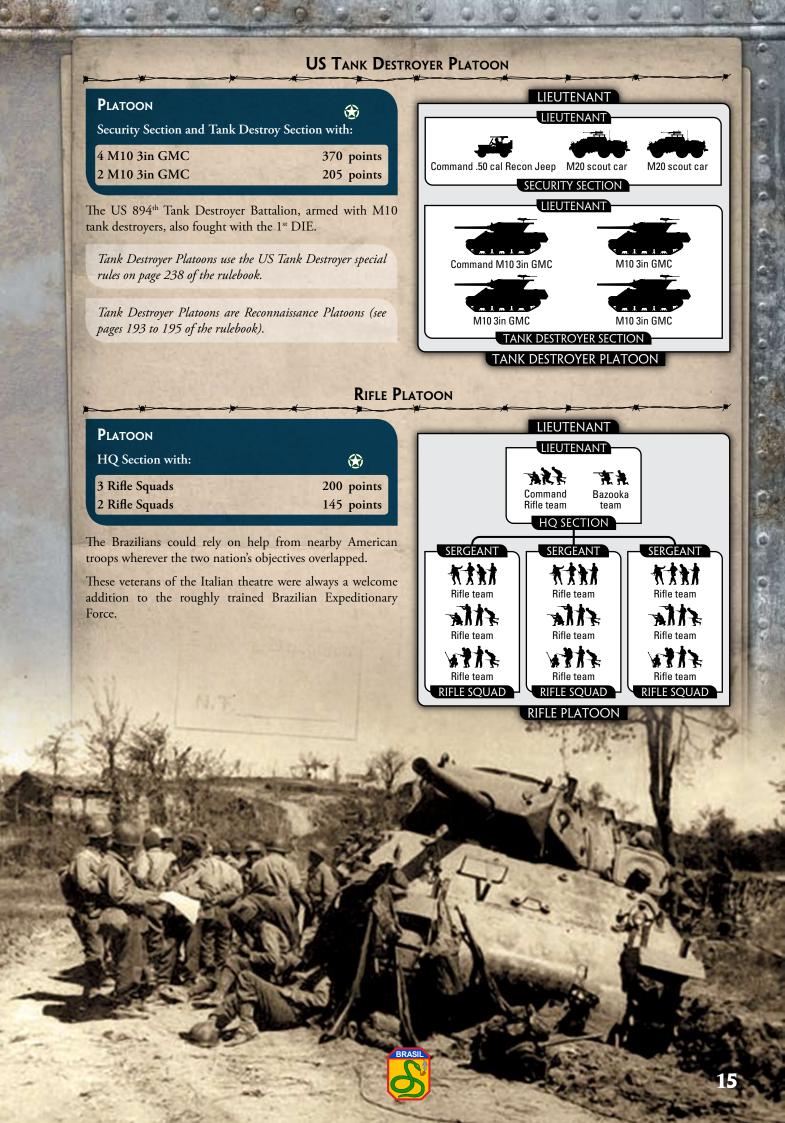
Tank

TANK SECTION

US TANK PLATOON

The US 751st Tank Battalion (Sherman and Stuart tanks) were placed under command of the 1st DIE from time to time, creating a combined arms force.







BRAZILIAN ARSENAL



| TANK TEAMS | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Name Weapon TANKS | Mobility <i>Range</i> | Front ROF | Armour Side <i>Anti-tank</i> | Top Firepower | Equipment and Notes | | | |
| M5A1 Stuart M6 37mm gun | Light Tank 24"/60cm | 4 2 | 2 7 | 1 4+ | Co-ax MG, Hull MG, AA MG. <i>Stabiliser.</i> | | | |
| M4 or M4A1 Sherman M3 75mm gun TANK DESTROYERS | Standard Tank 32"/80cm | 6 2 | 4 10 | 1 3+ | Co-ax MG, Hull MG, .50 cal AA MG. <i>Smoke, Stabiliser.</i> | | | |
| M10 3in GMC M7 3in gun | Standard Tank 32"/80cm | 4 2 | 2 12 | 0 3+ | .50 cal AA MG. Slow traverse. | | | |
| Reconnaissance | | | | | | | | |
| M8 armored car M6 37mm gun | Wheeled 24"/60cm | 1 2 | 0 7 | $0 \\ 4+$ | Co-ax MG, .50 cal AA MG. Slow traverse. | | | |
| Recon Jeep | Jeep | | 15 - 1 | 1 | AA MG. | | | |
| Mortar Jeep M2 60mm Mortar Firing Bombardments | Jeep 24"/60cm 32"/80cm | 2 | - 1 1 | - 3+ 6 | Hull mounted, Portee, Can fire over friendly troops. | | | |
| M2 60mm Mortar | 24"/60cm 32"/80cm | 2 | - 1 1 | | Hull mounted, Portee, Can fire over friendly | | | |

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| Vehicle MG | 16"/40cm | 3 | 2 | 6 | ROF 1 if other weapons fire. |
|--------------------|----------|---|---|----|------------------------------|
| .50 cal Vehicle MG | 16"/40cm | 3 | 4 | 5+ | ROF 1 if other weapons fire. |

GUN TEAMS

| Weapon | Mobility | Range | ROF | Anti-tank | Firepower | Notes |
|--|------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|--|
| M2 .50 cal MG | Man-packed | 16"/40cm | 3 | 4 | 5+ | |
| M1919 LMG team | Man-packed | 16"/40cm | 5 | 2 | 6 | ROF 2 when pinned down or moving. |
| M1917 HMG team | Man-packed | 24"/60cm | 6 | 2 | 6 | ROF 3 when pinned down or moving. |
| M2 60mm mortar Firing bombardments | Man-packed | 24"/60cm 32"/80cm | 2 - | 1 1 | 3+ 6 | Minimum range 8"/20cm. |
| M1 81mm mortar Firing bombardments | Man-packed | 24"/60cm 40"/100cm | 2 | 2 2 | 3+ 6 | Minimum range 8"/20cm, Smoke. Smoke bombardment. |
| M1 Bofors gun | Immobile | 24"/60cm | 4 | 6 | 4+ | Anti-aircraft, Turntable. |
| M3 37mm gun | Light | 24"/60cm | 3 | 7 | 4+ | Gun shield. |
| M1 57mm gun | Medium | 24"/60cm | 3 | 10 | 4+ | Gun shield, No HE. |
| M3 105mm light howitzer Firing bombardments | Heavy | 16"/40cm 56"/140cm | 1 - | 7 4 | 2+ 4+ | Breakthrough gun, Smoke. Smoke bombardment. |
| M2A1 105mm howitzer Firing bombardments | Immobile | 24"/60cm 72"/180cm | 1 - | 9 4 | 2+ 4+ | Breakthrough gun, Gun shield, Smoke. Smoke bombardment. |
| M1 155mm howitzer Firing bombardments | Immobile | 24"/60cm 88"/220cm | 1 - | 10 5 | 1+ 2+ | Bunker buster, Gun shield, Smoke. Smoke bombardment. |

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INFANTRY TEAMS

| Team | Range | ROF | Anti-tank | Firepower | Notes |
|--------------|----------|-----|--------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Rifle team | 16"/40cm | 1 | 2 | 6 | |
| SMG team | 4"/10cm | 3 | 1 | 6 | Full ROF when moving. |
| Bazooka team | 8"/20cm | 1 | 10 | 5+ | Tank assault 4. |
| Staff team | | | cannot shoot | | Moves as a Heavy Gun team. |

Additional Training and Equipment

Pioneer teams are rated as Tank Assault 3.

TRANSPORT TEAMS

| | | | Armour | | 12 Charles and the second of the | | | |
|--|----------------|-------|--------|-----|--|--|--|--|
| Vehicle | Mobility | Front | Side | Тор | Equipment and Notes | | | |
| Trucks | | | | | | | | |
| Jeep | Jeep | - | - | - | Optional Passenger-fired AA MG or .50 cal AA MG. | | | |
| Dodge ³ / ₄ -ton or GMC 2 ¹ / ₂ -ton truck | Wheeled | - | - | - | | | | |
| M5 high-speed tractor | Standard Tank | - | - | - | .50 cal AA MG. | | | |
| Armoured Personnel Carr | RIERS | | | | | | | |
| M20 utility | Jeep | 1 | 0 | 0 | Passenger-fired .50 cal AA MG. | | | |
| Engineer Vehicles | | | | | | | | |
| Turretless M4 Sherman dozer | Standard Tank | 6 | 4 | 0 | Bulldozer. | | | |
| Bulldozer | Very Slow Tank | - | · · · | | Bulldozer. | | | |
| Pioneer Supply Truck | Wheeled | - | - | - | | | | |
| | | it. | 0.000 | | | | | |
| AIRCRAFT | | | | | | | | |

| Aircraft | Weapon | To Hit | Anti-tank | Firepower | Notes |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|
| P-47 Thunderbolt | MG | 2+ | 6 | 5+ | |
| | Bombs | 4+ | 5 | 1+ | |
| CONTRACTOR AND ADDRESS | CONTRACTOR OF THE OWNER OF THE OWNER | A DO THE ALL PROPERTY. | And the Party of t | State of the owner of the second states | A DESCRIPTION OF A DESC |



