

The RAMPANT COLT®

Summer 2021



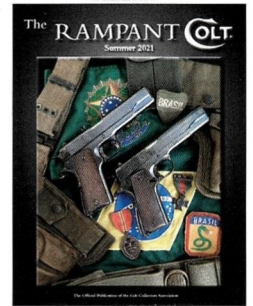
The Official Publication of the Colt Collectors Association

The RAMPANT COLT®

Official Magazine of the Colt Collectors Association, Inc.

Summer 2021

Volume 41, Number 2



About our cover:
Brazilian Contract Government Models C194200 (1937 dated) and C206584 (1940 dated). They are placed over the Brazil National Flag and the Brazilian National Crest and are surrounded by both models of the WWII Brazilian Expeditionary Force patches, the WWII Italy Campaign Medal and the Blood of Brazil Medal (Brazilian equivalent of the US Purple Heart). (Courtesy of Douglas S. Aguiar Jr. collection).

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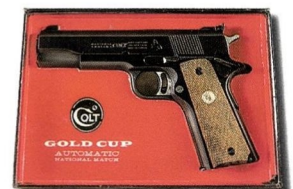
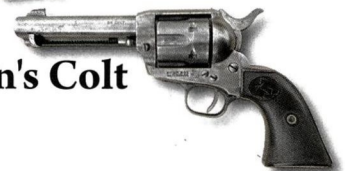
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President's Message

Scott Woller



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Secretary's Message

Diane Layson



Summer is suddenly upon us.

Thankfully as I write this column Covid seems to be under control and mask mandates, social distancing and sanitizing the life out of everything is starting to fade into history.

This is all great news for the CCA! Our annual convention will be back in swing and the opportunity to reunite with old friends as well as add to our Colt collections is on the horizon.

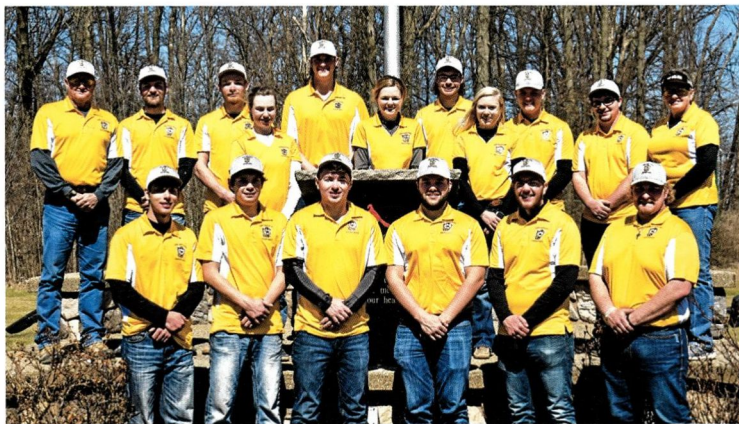
I would like to give you a short Summer to do list:

- Stay healthy!
- Make sure you reserve a room at the Noblesville Embassy Suites for the convention, the blocks always fill early.
- Reserve a show table or take the time to put together a display table.
- Please get your table reservation in sooner rather than later.
- Take a look at some of your favorite Colt's if you have one with interesting history or especially if you collect models with different variations, please write a short article for *The Rampant Colt*, we are always searching for historical as well as informative information about Colt Firearms. Our excellent Editor Paul Goodwin would be happy to assist with input and suggestions on the content. Please share some of your knowledge with the members.

Have a safe and wonderful Summer!

See you in Indiana!

Scott



Seven-time National Champions: Fort Hays State University Shotgun Team is supported by the Elizabeth Colt Legacy Foundation.

Dear Members:

Summer 2021 is starting to look a lot different than Summer of 2020. Hopefully, we will continue to progress toward a more normal existence.

Many thanks to all of our members who renewed their memberships and a warm welcome to our new members. We continue to receive compliments and suggestions as to how we can improve our website and also the content of our magazine. All suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. So, if you have an idea for an article, or a suggestion as to the type of article you would like to see, please let us know. We want to provide the best service we can and will continue to enhance our magazine and website to better serve our members.

I welcome inquires regarding specifics related to the Colt firearm, and our Directors and members are a wonderful resource. So, if you have a question, don't hesitate to pass it along.

Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing everyone in Noblesville, IN in October. It promises to be one of our best attended shows.

Diane



Long time supporters and CCA members Wilmer and Lorena Kellogg welcome and congratulate members and staff of the Fort Hays State University Shooting Team, once again National Champions.

The Brazilian Colt Model 1911A1 Contracts

by Douglas S. Aguiar, Jr. and Luke Mercado



Above and Following Page:
 Mint condition 1937 dated Brazilian Contract Governmental. Guns in this condition are extremely rare given its long service record that lasts for more than 80 years.
 Right side of pistol C194369, showing the "1937" date and the Brazilian Army inventory number. The 8,000 1937-dated pistols were delivered in 1937-38, with inventory numbers ranging consecutively 0001-8000.
 Left side of the Brazilian Contract slide displaying it's exclusive caliber designation.
 Courtesy of Greg Friedmann Collection.
 Photo by Anthony Vanderlinden

The 1937 Brazilian Contract Colt Government Model is one of the most elusive pistols sought by collectors. Little is known of the contract or how these pistols were used. This is, in part, due to a language barrier as most of the related documents are written in Portuguese, limiting access and their understandability. Recent access to unpublished material from Brazilian sources and exclusive information from the Colt archives have allowed the 1937 Brazilian Colt Government Model's story to come to light, revealing a rich history.

Colt automatic pistols were first introduced to the Brazilian military in 1906 when a Navy-Army Joint Commission conducted pistol trials in which three different pistol designs were



Pistol C194200 with its original box and manual. For unknown reasons, Brazilian guns were shipped with instructions leaflets written in Spanish, instead of Portuguese. Courtesy of Douglas S. Aguiar Jr. Collection

submitted by competing manufacturers. These were the: Model 1900 Luger "Parabellum", chambered for the .30 Luger cartridge, submitted by Deutsche Waffen- und Munitionsfabriken (DWM), Germany; FN Browning Model 1903, chambered for the 9mm Browning Long cartridge, submitted by Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre, Liege, Belgium; Colt pistol chambered for the .45 cartridge (believed to be the Model 1905), Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, Hartford, Connecticut, United States of America. Although the trials lasted one year they were still not conclusive. In the end, the Navy decided to continue trials



Below:

Right side of pistol C206584, with "1940" date. This variation comprised 6,500 guns, with inventory numbers going from 8001-14500.

Courtesy of Douglas S. Aguiar Jr. Collection



of the FN Model 1903 and the Army eventually adopted an updated Luger, the Model 1906. While the Army did acquire Lugers, the Navy would wait more than a decade for new handgun.

After the end of World War I the Brazilian Navy turned to Colt to replace its obsolete handguns. When the Brazilian Dreadnoughts "Minas Geraes" and "São Paulo" were refitted and modernized at the Brooklyn Navy Yards (1918-1921), the Brazilian Navy was introduced to the Colt Model 1911 .45 ACP. This led to the purchase of 200 Government Model pistols which were delivered to the Minas Geraes at the Brooklyn Navy Yards in the United States, on September 21, 1921- marking it as a truly historic event! Further orders from the Navy followed in 1922, 1925 and 1935 for a total of 1200 pistols (reference "The First Colt Government Models in Brazil" in *The Rampant Colt Magazine*, vol.39, No. 2, Summer 2019).

By 1930, the Brazilian Army, was dealing with a logistical nightmare due to the many different types of handguns in its inventory. This began in 1919 when the Army began depleting its inventory of pistols by leasing some of its Lugers to police forces throughout Brazil. To make matters worse, uprisings in 1922, 1924 and 1930 brought about a need

for handguns that the remaining inventory of Lugers could not satisfy. Losses and service damage to Lugers and the growth of the Army led to the purchase of several different handgun designs to fill the gap. By the 1930s, to compensate for the low inventory of handguns, the Brazilian Army had acquired a potpourri of handguns which included Smith & Wesson and Colt revolvers and Spanish counterfeit copies. The realities of multiple handgun models and other logistical issues would force Brazil to make a decision to finally update and standardize its handgun inventory.

Years of infighting and abuse of power in Brazil led to a bloodless coup in 1930. The balance of power changed dramatically when the Army installed Getulio Vargas, a failed Presidential candidate in the 1930 elections, as an "Interim President". Shortly after, Vargas suspended Brazil's national constitution and took steps to reduce the influence of the State of São Paulo, Brazil's most powerful state. By taking these steps to consolidate power he enraged the citizens of São Paulo, resulting in the Constitutionalist Revolution of 1932.

Upon facing conflict with the State of São Paulo, a well armed industrialized opponent, the Brazilian Army quickly realized its dilemma. There were not enough handguns and

those available were of varied designs, calibers and states of serviceability. During the Revolution, between July and October 1932, the Army rushed to purchase 1,000 Colt Government Model .45 pistols in an effort to have modern and reliable sidearms.

Due to the rushed nature of this purchase these Colts do not bear any special Brazilian markings or proofs so that they are indistinguishable from other Colt Government Model pistols. They were delivered in August 1932, at the height of the Constitutionalist Revolution and bear the serial numbers of this purchase which are scattered within the C154000 - C164000 range. After the Revolution these Colt pistols remained in the Army's inventory with regulations issued for their use on February 21, 1934.

By the mid 1930s the Brazilian military was keenly aware of the increased risk of military conflicts, both internally and externally. The specter of armed conflicts in Europe, and the realities of the Spanish Civil War and the Brazilian communist revolt in 1935 motivated the modernization of all Brazil's armed forces. Acquiring modern naval vessels, artillery, machine guns, armored vehicles, and sidearms became a priority. The potpourri of revolvers and Luger pistols used by Brazil's armed forces needed to be replaced with a dependable sidearm using standardized ammunition.

In the latter part of the 1930s Brazil's political environment became more turbulent leading to the decision to officially standardize its sidearms around the .45 ACP cartridge. According to Colt archives the Brazilian Army contracted for 14,500 Government Model pistols which were delivered in two separate groups in 1937 and 1940. In addition, in 1937, Smith & Wesson was awarded a contract for 25,000 of its Model 1917 revolver (a further 12,000 were purchased in 1946).

As was common with Colt's foreign contracts, Brazil's pistols came from Colt's commercial production line, with all serial numbers beginning with the "C" prefix and falling within the C188000 - C209000 range, with some exceptions as with a handful in the C213000 block. These pistols were sent in the then standard Colt maroon colored cardboard box (with English and Spanish written on the inside) with a factory commercial leaflet manual written in Spanish, even though the language of Brazil was Portuguese! These were all shipped to the Brazilian War Department in Rio de Janeiro.

Unlike previous Colt pistols purchased by the Brazilian government the 1937 Colt pistols were given very specific and unique markings. On the right side of the slide were the Brazilian National Crest and the inscription "EXERCITO BRASILEIRO" ("Brazilian Army") and an inventory number (1-14500). Below the National Crest was a date of 1937 or 1940, depending on which of the two groups the

pistol was delivered. Although there are reports of "1938" dated Colts, none have been authenticated and the Colt archives have no record of them. The caliber markings were moved to the left side of the slide. Brazil gave these Colt pistols the official nomenclature "Pistola .45 M1911A1".

The 8,000 1937 dated Colt Government Model pistols were shipped in 12 lots between September 22, 1937 and June 28, 1938. The 6,500 1940 dated Colts were shipped in 33 smaller lots between July 5, 1940 and December 23, 1941. The last deliveries happened shortly after the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack. This was followed with Brazil's severing diplomatic relations with the Axis Powers on January 28, 1942.

The inventory numbers on the pistol slides were applied at the Colt factory before shipment, and according to the Colt Archives, there may be an overlap of inventory numbers between 9801 and 9900. This may have occurred in the lots shipped on October 30, 1940 (9801-9900) and November 5, 1940 (9701-9900). It is reasonable to assume that this was a clerical error by Colt as there are missing inventory numbers in the 9900-10000 range. Taking this into account the following chart presented below reflects what is most likely the correct inventory number range for the November 4, 1940 shipment. On the next page, is the complete compilation of the Brazilian 1937 Colt Government Model contract.

The Brazilian Colt Government Model pistol was issued, for the most part, to officers, while non-commissioned officers and other ranks were issued Smith & Wesson Model 1917 revolvers.

When the Colt pistols were first issued in 1937-1938 the Brazilian armed forces were issued olive green Mills web field gear that was patterned after British P37 kit. To accommodate the Colt Government Model pistols a web holster with an attached magazine pouch and garrison belt were adopted. Brass snap fit buttons were used to secure the holster and magazine flaps and the belt had a brass buckle, all of which had "EUB" ("Estados Unidos do Brasil" - United States of Brasil).

After the onset of hostilities in 1939 Brazil's entry in the war as an Allied nation in the fight against fascist Germany and Italy was not certain. The President of Brazil, Getulio Vargas (1882-1954), had formed a dictatorial government in 1937 which had considered a cooperative relationship with Nazi Germany in the years prior to the war. Diplomatic efforts by Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, convinced Vargas, in 1942, to become an ally. A few months afterwards, in August 1942, after several Brazilian merchant ships were torpedoed by U-boats along its coastline, Brazil declared war on the Axis Powers. To actually participate in the war Brazil needed much preparation.



SHIPMENT DATE	NUMBER OF GUNS SHIPPED	SERIAL RANGE	NUMBERS	SLIDE DATE
9/22/1937 (not 100% clear)	500	188xxx - 190xxx	1-500	1937
Late October 1937 (not specified)	500	189xxx - 191xxx	501-1000	
1/06/1937	800	190xxx - 191xxx	1001-1800	
11/22/1937	200	191xxx - 192xxx	1801-2000	
12/20/1937	700	191xxx - 192xxx	2001-2700	
1/17/1938	750	192xxx - 193xxx	2701-3450	
02/07/1938	750	193xxx - 194xxx	3451-4200	
03/08/1938	750	194xxx - 195xxx	4201-4950	
04/04/1938	750	195xxx - 196xxx	4951-5700	
05/02/1938	750	195xxx - 197xxx	5701-6450	
5/31/1938	750	196xxx - 198xxx	6451-7200	
6/28/1938	800	197xxx - 199xxx	7201-8000	
07/05/1940	200	201xxx	8001-8200	
07/08/1940	100	201xxx	8201-8300	
07/11/1940	200	201xxx - 202xxx	8301-8500	
8/22/1940	100	201xxx-202xxx	8501-8600	
8/23/1940	100	201xxx-202xxx	8601-8700	
8/26/1940	100	201xxx-202xxx	8701-8800	
8/27/1940	100	201xxx-202xxx	8801-8900	
8/30/1940	100	201xxx-202xxx	8901-9000	
10/01/1940	500	202xxx	9001-9500	
10/30/1940	100	203xxx	9801-9900	
10/31/1940	100	202xxx - 203xxx	9501-9600	
11/01/1940	100	202xxx - 203xxx	9601-9700	
11/05/1940	200	199xxx - 203xxx	9901-10000(*)	
11/29/1940	100	203xxx	10001-10100	
12/02/1940	100	202xxx - 203xxx	10101-10200	
12/02/1940	100	203xxx	10201-10300	
12/03/1940	100	202xxx - 204xxx	10301-10400	
12/09/1940	100	203xxx - 204xxx	10401-10500	
1/20/1941	200	203xxx - 204xxx	10501-10700	
1/21/1941	100	204xxx	10701-10800	
1/22/1941	100	203xxx - 204xxx	10801-10900	
1/23/1941	100	203xxx - 204xxx	10901-11000	
2/27/1941	100	203xxx - 204xxx	11001-11100	
2/28/1941	200	203xxx - 205xxx	11101-11300	
03/03/1941	200	204xxx - 205xxx	11301-11500	
04/02/1941	500	204xxx - 205xxx	11501-12000	
05/01/1941	500	205xxx - 206xxx	12001-12500	
09/03/1941	500	205xxx - 206xxx	12501-13000	
11/10/1941	200	206xxx	13001-13200	
11/19/1941	200	206xxx - 207xxx	13201-13400	
11/17/1941	100	207xxx	13401-13500	
12/22/1941	200	200xxx-207xx	13501-13700	
12/23/1941	800	207xxx - 209xxx / (**)	13701-14500	
		213xxx		

(*) Inventory numbers as really issued

(**) Only a very small number of guns are in the C213000 block.

Although Brazil had begun a modernization of its armed forces prior to World War II it was not ready to be involved in the conflict raging in Europe. Vargas had agreed to send an expeditionary force to join the fight in Europe, later called the Brazilian Expeditionary Force (Força Expedicionária Brasileira - "FEB"). Since Brazil's fighting partner would be the United States of America it was decided to train and equip the FEB to be an integral part of the U.S. Army. This was not a simple task as the Brazilian Army was formally based on

French military doctrine and its equipment was a blend of German, American, British and Danish. The integration into the U.S. Army would require the FEB to be retrained to follow U.S. military doctrine, tactics and equipment. Regardless, the extra time for these preparations were viewed as too lengthy by the Brazilian public. The sardonic phrase, "it is more likely for a snake to smoke a pipe than Brazil to go to war" became a common saying in Brazil.



Brazilian officers during the 1943 maneuvers in Rio de Janeiro. The soldier at right has his Colt pistol in a Mills pattern web holster - the first pattern issued for the Government Model by the Brazilian Army.

Courtesy of Col. Julio Cezar F. Zary Collection

Starting in 1943 Brazilian field gear was modified to look like and work with U.S. field equipment. One such change was the adoption of the U.S. pistol belt with grommets which allowed the attachment of the Model 1910 style hook for holsters, canteens, first-aid kit pouch, etc. This style of kit was known in Brazil as "N.A. Pattern" ("Norte-Americano" - North American) a designation that is still used today. However, the Brazilian belt retained the Mills-like buckle, which became its trademark.

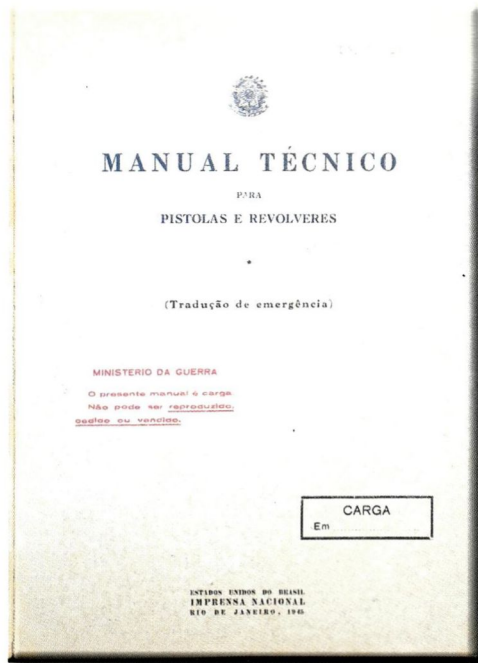
A new model of holster was developed for the FEB with olive green canvas, usually with the U.S. patterned push-snap type buttons. Its design was similar to the previous Mills web holster style, becoming a popular and enduring pattern that lasted with the Brazilian military into the 1970s, with minimal changes. A double magazine pouch based on the U.S. pattern with the same type of button was also issued.



Close up of medical officers at a military parade in March 1944, few months before the Brazilian Expeditionary Force deployment to Italy. The Mills pattern Colt web holster can be clearly seen with the "EUB" ("Estados Unidos do Brasil"- United States of Brazil) in the brass snap fit buttons. (Brazilian National Archives).

Among other additions to Brazilian equipment was a new Portuguese language manual for the Colt Government Model pistol. It was published in 1944 and was a direct translation of the U.S. "TM 9-1295- Technical Manual- Ordinance Maintenance- Pistols and Revolvers". It also had "Emergency Translation" for "Provisory Use by the Expeditionary Force" printed on the cover. The great urgency to get this manual to print is evident given the inclusion of the World War I era U.S. Colt Model 1917 revolver and U.S. Model 1911 pistol in the text. Although neither of these sidearms were ever adopted by the Brazilian Army.

On July 16, 1944, the first echelon of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force (Força Expedicionaria Brasileira -FEB) arrived in Italy. Four other echelons arrived during the following months so that eventually the full division of 25,334 soldiers was sent to Italy. The FEB was comprised of three infantry regiments, each divided into three battalions with



The first official manual issued by the Brazilian Army that contained the Colt Government Model pistols instruction. It was a hastily made translation from the U.S. small arms manual, made specially for the FEB. Courtesy of Douglas S. Aguiar Jr. Collection

four companies, each with supporting units such as artillery, engineering and cavalry (reconnaissance). Since nearly two years had passed after Brazil's declaration of war and in response to earlier criticism towards Brazil's lengthy preparation to participate in the war, the soldiers of the FEB in Italy adopted the motto, "the snake is smoking", which in turn led to their famous divisional patch.



The Italian theater-made, iconic "Smoking Snake" bullion made patch. Most were made by Italian seamstresses locally in different sizes and colors, which to a wide number of variations. Courtesy of Col. Julio Cezar F. Zary Collection

The FEB was led by Brazilian General Joao B. Mascarenhas de Moraes and assigned to the U.S. Army Fourth Corps, Fifth Army under General Mark Clark. The FEB's arrival in Italy was very welcome as they were needed to reinforce Clark's depleted army as part of his army were



attached to the Seventh Army for its invasion of southern France in July 1944. On September 15, 1944 the Brazilian Sixth Infantry Regiment went to the frontline to face the German Wehrmacht's legendary Gothic Line.

With the exception of some officers and the newly created Military Police Company the Brazilian soldiers of the FEB travelled unarmed. Upon arrival in Italy, they were issued their weapons through the U.S. Ordnance's Peninsular Base Station. The weapons were issued by the U.S. Government and paid for by the Brazilian Government. The U.S. model 1903, 1903A1, 1903A3 rifles were the most numerous and remained the main battle rifle throughout the Italian campaign. Also issued were: M1 Carbines; M1 Garand rifles; M1918A2 BAR rifles; M1A1 Thompson and M3 ("grease gun") submachineguns; all of which were supplied by the U.S. government and paid for by the Brazilian government.

Although many of the FEB officers and non-commissioned officers brought their Brazilian issued Colt Government Model pistols and Smith & Wesson Model 1917 revolvers to Italy more handguns were needed. To send the Brazilians to the front with an adequate number of handguns, 636 Lend-Lease U.S. Colt Model 1911A1 pistols were also issued and a supply of U.S. Model 1916 leather holsters. These holsters are frequently seen in period photographs.

One such Brazilian 1937 Contract Government Model pistol, serial number C193746, was carried by First Lieutenant Ary Rauhen. He was killed in action (KIA) during the battle of Montese on April 14, 1945, and his Colt pistol is currently held by the Brazilian Fifth Cavalry Regiment Museum (Lt. Rauhen served in the 5th Cavalry prior to serving in the FEB). Additionally, examples of Brazilian Colt Government Models recovered by the U.S. Ordnance from the battlefields in Italy exist. An example is Colt serial number C199233, is shown in Charles Clawson's book, *Colt .45 Government Models (Commercial Series)*.

The FEB was in the front lines for 239 continuous days fighting the German Army that was deeply entrenched in the mountainous terrain in Italy. The battles fought by the Brazilians were: Monte Castillo, La Serra, Soprassasso, Montese (the bloodiest), Collechio, Massarosa, Camaioere,

Mount Prado, Mount Acuto, San Quirico, Galicano, Barba, Castelnuovo di Vergato, Paravento, Zocca, Mariano sul Panaro and Forno di Taro.

Much of this combat was fought alongside of the U.S. 10th Mountain Division. These battles came at a great cost as the Brazilian forces suffered nearly 500 killed in action and over 2,000 wounded while capturing over 20,000 enemy soldiers.

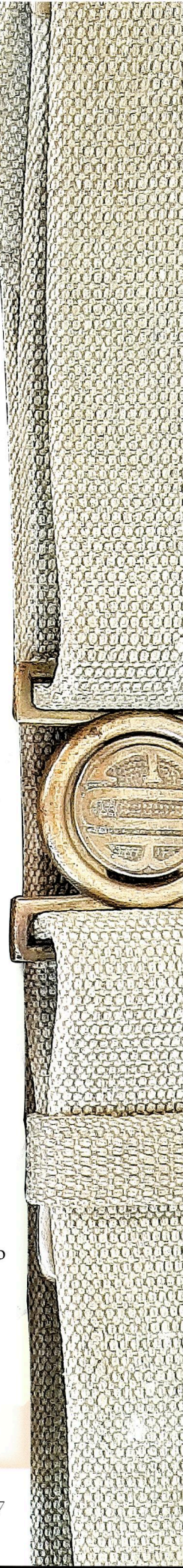
Among the ranks of the FEB was accumulated an impressive battle record earning medals given by Brazil and those awarded by the United States; 130 Bronze Stars, 30 Silver Stars and one Distinguished Service Cross. Sadly, due to a prohibition by the Vargas government, the prestigious Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign and U.S. World War II Victory Medals were not allowed to be officially presented to its soldiers, causing much resentment among veterans.

After the war the Colt Government Model .45 remained as the standard sidearm of the Brazilian armed forces. Both the Brazilian purchased Government model and Lend-Lease Model 1911A1 pistols served continuously in the following decades. In 1946, as part of the American-Brazilian Military Cooperation Agreement, the U.S. Government supplied equipment deemed as military surplus that was used in the manufacture of Model 1911A1 pistols to Brazil to help establish new pistol production.

The manufacture of Model 1911A1 pistol was assigned to the Brazilian government owned company "Fabrica de Itajuba" (Itajuba Factory - "FI") and the machinery



Brazilian 2nd Sergeant (U.S. Staff Sergeant) pictured about the time of his deployment to Europe. He is equipped with the newly issued Brazilian made "N.A." garrison belt, canvas holster and double mag pouch. The "Brasil" stamp is only seen on Brazilian Expeditionary Force field gear. (Brazilian National Archives).



The Brazilian Colt Model 1911A1 Contracts

installation was overseen by American military officers. This factory had been created in 1934 to manufacture Mauser rifle barrels and bayonets and later evolved into the manufacture of all of Brazilian Mauser bolt action rifle parts. FI was later reorganized, in 1975, and renamed "Industria de Materiais Belicos" (War Material Industry).

The production of complete Model 1911A1 pistols in Brazil took longer than expected. The first parts made were replacement slides, barrels, and small parts. It was not until 1961 that completed pistols were produced at FI, with most going to the Brazilian Navy. These first-year production pistols were dated in the same way as the 1937 contract pistol, with the date of manufacture stamp on the right side of the slide under the Brazilian National crest. Pistols produced after 1961 were not marked with a date. The inventory number of the Brazilian made pistols began where the Colt pistols had left



The typical Brazilian N.A. rig issued to the Brazilian Expeditionary Force, with the canvas holster, garrison belt patterned after the M36 U.S. belt (but with a British Mills-type buckle) and a Mills double magazine pouch.

Courtesy of Col. Julio Cezar F. Zary Collection

off at 14,500 with inventory numbers around 25,000 observed.

During this time canvas and leather holsters (Brazilian made leather holsters using the U.S. Model 1916 pattern) were issued at the same time. Also made in Brazil was magazine pouch with U.S. Model 1910 style wire hook attachment to fit on the U.S. style pistol belt or N.A. field gear.

The Brazilian Colt Government Model pistols saw further action during the Dominican Civil War (1965-1966) when the Brazilian Army and Marines were deployed as a part of the Organization of

American States (OAS) intervention, working alongside of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division. In addition, these pistols saw frequent use by the Brazilian armed forces and police in the fight against communist guerrillas in Brazil's highly populous cities and deep within the Amazon rainforest, between 1964 to 1975.



Field gear related to the Brazilian Contract Colts during WWII: (1) the parade belt, with the round "EUB" buckle, first issued in 1937 and (2) the N.A. belt, modelled after the U.S. M36 pistol belt and issued after 1943. Below, the three types of holsters issued (left to right): Mills web, the canvas type, and the U.S. M1916 leather type (Courtesy of Douglas S. Aguiar Jr. Collection)



Brazilian officer using a field telephone in the Italian Theater during late summer 1944. He is armed with the .45 pistol canvas holster with "BRASIL" stamped in its flap. (Brazilian National Archives)

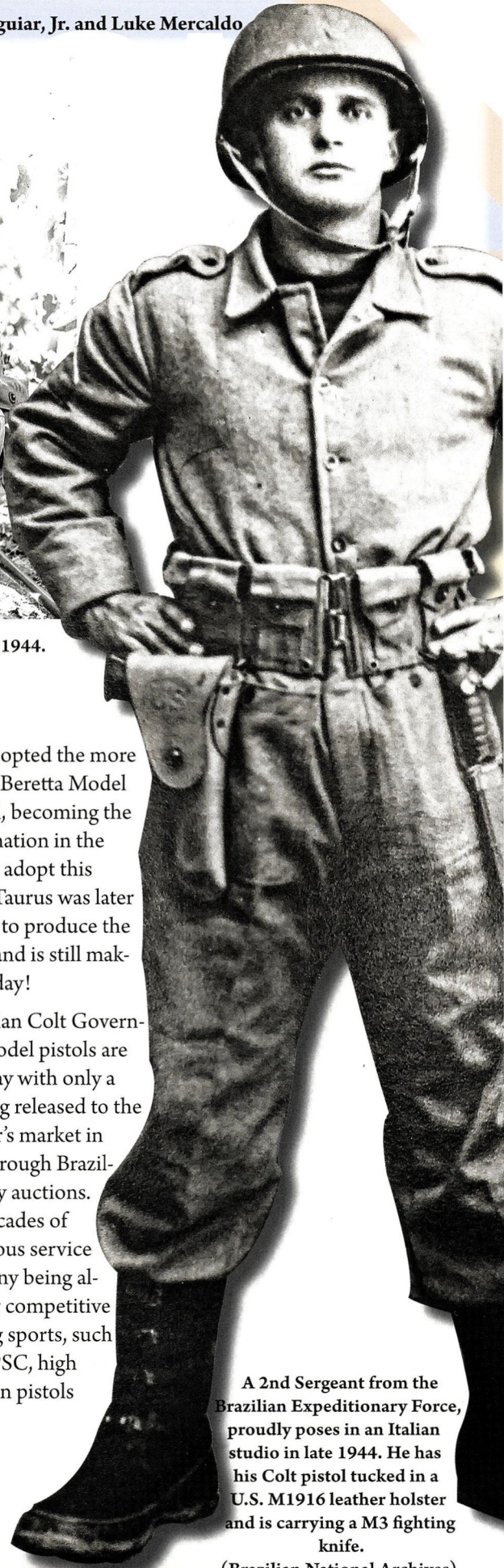


Soldiers from the Brazilian Expeditionary Force Military Police Company during the Victory Parade in São Paulo City, in July 1945. They are all wearing the U.S. made M1916 leather holsters attached to their Brazilian made NA belts. Later, the MPs were officially renamed Polícia do Exército (Army Police) (State of São Paulo Public Library).

In 1973, Brazil adopted a new pistol cartridge; the 9mm Luger. Fabrica de Itajuba began production of its variant of the Government Model in this caliber and designated it, "Pistola 9mm Modelo 973" (PST 9 M973). Brazil then, in

1976, adopted the more modern Beretta Model 92 pistol, becoming the second nation in the world to adopt this design. Taurus was later licensed to produce the Beretta and is still making it today!

Brazilian Colt Government Model pistols are rare today with only a few being released to the collector's market in Brazil through Brazilian Army auctions. After decades of continuous service with many being altered for competitive shooting sports, such as the IPSC, high condition pistols



A 2nd Sergeant from the Brazilian Expeditionary Force, proudly poses in an Italian studio in late 1944. He has his Colt pistol tucked in a U.S. M1916 leather holster and is carrying a M3 fighting knife.

(Brazilian National Archives).

The Brazilian Colt Model 1911A1 Contracts

are extremely rare. Unlike the Brazilian Smith & Wesson Model 1917 revolvers that were sold on the international surplus military marketplace, the Colt Government Models were never sold internationally by the Brazilian government and since the mid-1990s there have been no auctions for them in Brazil.

To this day the Colt Government Model pistol, .45 caliber, is still in the Brazilian Armed Forces inventory where officers can still request them as their sidearm 85 years after the first Colt Government Models were issued in Brazil. A lasting testimony to the dependable durability of John Browning's iconic pistol!

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Brazilian troops during the fight against communist guerrillas in the Amazonia rainforest in late 1960s. The soldier holding the FN FAL rifle and the one with his back turned to the camera are wearing leather holsters, while the one standing at left has a late production canvas holster. (Brazilian National Archives).



Brazilian Expeditionary Force soldiers being welcomed back in Rio de Janeiro, July 1945. This group of veterans displays the typical US armament issued to the Brazilian soldiers: Springfield M1903 and M1 Garand rifles, the M3 Grease gun submachine gun and the M1 carbine. Clearly seen is the now famous "smoking snake" divisional patch. (Brazilian National Archives)



Soldier from the 2nd Battalion of the Polícia do Exército (Military Police) during the 1950s. He is holding his .45 pistol and fully equipped for a peacetime patrol. (Courtesy of Col. Julio Cezar F. Zary collection).



A group of corporals (“cabos”) from the 2nd Battalion of the Polícia do Exército fully dressed for duty in the city of São Paulo in 1964. Most of them are armed with the Colt Government Model pistols in Brazilian made leather holsters. Author’s uncle, Dalcio Antônio Fernandes, is the first on the right in the front row. (Courtesy of Dalcio A. Fernandes).



A 1960s Brazilian made leather holster, with the rare “Arsenal de Guerra - Rio Janeiro” (War Armory - Rio de Janeiro) stamp. (Courtesy of the State of São Paulo Police Museum)



General João B. Mascarenhas de Moraes (second from the left) confers with other officers in an inspection trip to the front in Italy, late 1944. (Brazilian National Archives).



Brazilian soldiers from 5th Company, 6th Infantry Regiment in Montese (Italy), April 1945. (Brazilian National Archives).