



## VICTÓRIO NALESSO



A FINAL SALUTE TO THE ANTEPENULTIMATE WWII ITAPETININGA VETERAN

It is with great regret that we announce the death of **VICTORIO NALESSO**, aged 98, and antepenultimate World War II from Itapetininga city, São Paulo state, Brazil, on 12 April 2022. In his posthumous tribute, we would like to present this brief account of his life.

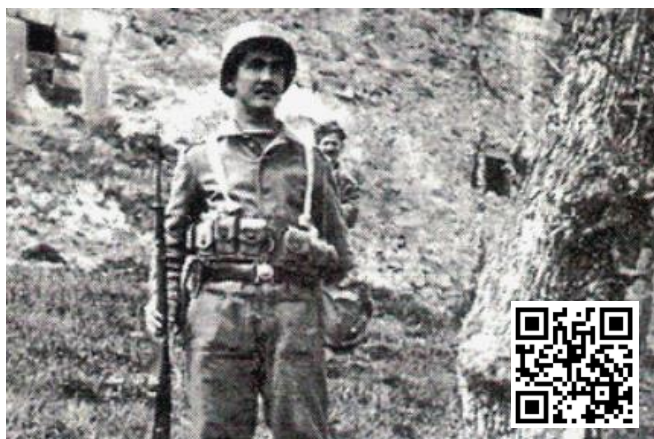


**VICTORIO NALESSO** was born on 4 July 1922 in the Chapadinha neighborhood, in Itapetininga, São Paulo, son of Mr. Moysés Nalesso and Mrs. Anna da Conceição. Belonging to a family of farmers, at the age of 23 he joined the Brazilian Army for Basic Training on 29 February 1944 in the 5th Battalion of Hunters (5th BC), an infantry battalion headquartered in the premises of the current building of the São Paulo State Department of Highways (D.E.R.).

On 9 March 1944, the Recruit **VICTORIO NALESSO** was declared Private **NALESSO**, number 983, to the 2nd Company of the 5th BC. After concluding Basic Training, he volunteered to join the Brazilian Expeditionary Force and underwent a health inspection in the capital of São Paulo, being approved.

On 17 July 1944, Private **VICTORIO NALESSO** was sent to Caçapava, São Paulo State, where he underwent new health inspections and, on 29 July 1944, transferred to Rio de Janeiro, where he was incorporated into the 11th Infantry Regiment (currently 11th BI Mth) which within a few months would constitute the 3rd boarding echelon of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force.

On 20 September 1944, the 2nd echelon composed of the 1st Infantry Regiment (1st RI) and the 3rd echelon composed of the 11th Infantry Regiment (11th RI) set sail for Italy, respectively, on US ships *General Mann* and *General Meighs*, totaling 10,314 men.



On 6 October 1944, the two echelons disembarked at the Port of Naples. And once in the Italian theater of operations, Private **NALESSO** and his companions were incorporated into the **Fifth Army** of the **Fifteenth Allied Army Group**, receiving instruction, uniforms, rations and weaponry from the United State Army.

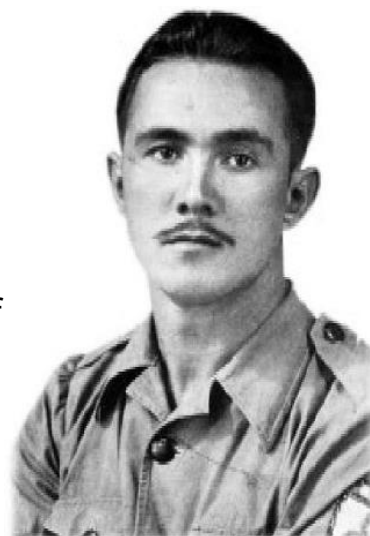
Belonging to the 3rd Platoon of the 3rd Company of the 1st Battalion of the 11th RI, the baptism of fire of Private **NALESSO** took place on 24 November 1944, when on that day and the next, the 25th, Brazilian troops advanced to take Monte Castello, but this strong enemy position was only conquered on February 21, 1945 and at the cost of many lives.

Private **NALESSO** also participated in all the other engagements of the 11th RI, particularly the bloody capture of Montese on 14 and 15 April 1945 and the conquest of Fornovo di Taro, having witnessed the surrender of the 20,573 members of the German 148th Infantry Division on 29 and 30 April 1945.

From then on, hostilities in the Italian theater of operations became increasingly rarefied.

Mussolini had been killed on 28 April 1945 and Hitler had committed suicide on 30 April 1945. On 8 May 1945 the long-awaited end of the Second World War was declared.

The allied troops, on the unforgettable 20 May 1945 held the Victory Parade in the city of Alexandria and, among them, seasoned Private **NALESSO** and his companions from the Brazilian Expeditionary Force.



There were a total of 329 days which private **NALESSO** experienced from end to end during the WWII, scarred in body and soul by the horrors he experienced in the hard hours, days, weeks and months of constant shootings, shrapnel from grenades and various sacrifices suffered by the cold of the trenches and the fire of the bombings.

On 4 September 1945, Private **NALESSO** left Italy aboard the same ship *General Meighs* that almost a year before had brought him there.



Upon arriving in Itapetininga, on 7 October 1945, Private **NALESSO** found himself reintegrated into civilian life as a 1st Class Reservist in the Brazilian Army, having received the honorable *Medal of Campaign* for his participation in the Brazilian Expeditionary Force during war operations in Italy, without any discrediting note.

**VICTORIO NALESSO** returned to his activities on the family farm in Bairro da Chapadinha. On 16 February 1946, he married Ms. Lucinda Nunes da Costa. On 2 January 1952, he joined Sorocabana Railway Company, retiring as telegraph operator on 1 August 1975.

Exemplary citizen, family man and fervent Catholic, **VICTORIO NALESSO** was known to have dedicated his life to the well-being of others, particularly through the Vincentian Conference and the Nossa Senhora Aparecida Conference, entities to which he belonged and dearly collaborated.



With the 1988 Brazilian Constitution, **VICTORIO NALESSO** was retired with the rank of Private with a pension correspondent to the rank of a 2nd Lieutenant in the Brazilian Army, due to his status as a veteran of the WWII, which also earned him the following honorary titles:

Honorary Citizen of Montese (Italy), Emeritus Collaborator of the Brazilian Army, Collaborator of Army Reserve Training School of Itapetininga (TG 02-076), Collaborator of Army Reserve Training School of Sorocaba (TG 02-068), Honorary Member of the Historical Geographic and Genealogical Institute of Itapetininga, Patron of the Class 2012 of graduates from the Army Reserve Training School of Itapetininga (TG 02-076) and Patron of the Portal of Ex-Combatants of Itapetininga.



And the following medals:

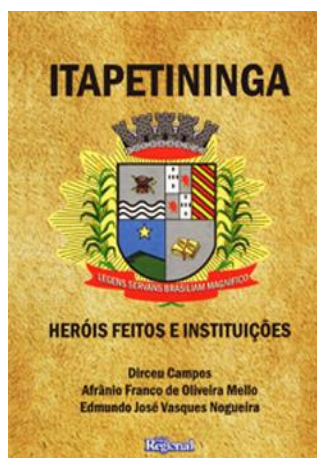
Expeditionary Medal (AECB-SP), Heroes of Brazil Medal (ANVFEB-SBC), General Plínio Pitaluga Medal (AECB-Valença/RJ), Gold Jubilee Medal of Victory in World War II (AECB-RJ), Itapetiningano Merit Medal (IHGGI), Medal Aspirant Mega (ANVFEB-PE), Medal Tribute to the Battle of Montese (ABRAMMIL), Medal of Victory (Ministry of Defense) and Medal Marshal Zenóbio da Costa (1st BPE).



On 31 October 2016, the Association of Former Shooters and Friends of the Army Reserve Training School of Itapetininga (TG 02-076), inaugurated the Museum "Pracinha Victório Nalesso" of the Expeditionary Force in Army Reserve Training School of Itapetininga (TG 02-076) instruction room. The Museum collection brings together pieces and photographs from the Second World War that belonged to Private **NALESSO** during the WWII (<https://bit.ly/3rcKyUC>).



## Museu da Força Expedicionária Brasileira Pracinha Victório Nalesso



**VICTORIO NALESSO** also had his life story told in the book:

**Diary of a Combatant:** *the memories of a soldier about the participation of the FEB in the Second World War* (Regional, 2005).

And also in the second chapter of the book  
**Itapetininga:** *Heroes, Deeds and Institutions* (Regional, 2012).



Widower of Mrs. Lucinda Nunes da Costa Nalesso (in memoriam), **VICTORIO NALESSO** left to his **son** João Mateus Nalesso and **daughters** Ana Nalesso Bonifácio and Cleide Aparecida Nalesso de Queiroz; to his **grandchildren** Adriana Nalesso Bonifácio, Marcelo Nalesso Bonifácio, Lídia Maria Nalesso Bonifácio Lorz-ing, André Vítor Nalesso Bonifácio, Leonardo Nalesso de Queiroz and Miguel Nalesso de Queiroz and to his **great-grandchildren** Pietro Bonifácio Rodrigues, Éttore Nalesso Bonifácio de Paula, Cauã Murat Bonifácio, Maria Fernanda Bonifácio Rodrigues, Samuel Bonifácio Ro-drigues, Letícia Murat Bonifácio and Lorenzo Nalesso Bonifácio Lorz-ing, the legacy of an exemplary and virtuous existence, worthy of all praise for humility, civility and love.



Veterans Argemiro de T. Filho and Victório Nalesso in a parade on 7 September 2019

Veteran **VICTORIO NALESSO** also leaves his companion from the Brazilian Expeditionary Force, veteran **ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO**, aged 97 (born 25 February 1925), who now is the last living Ex-Combatant of WW II of Itapetininga from 33 others who were also from this city and fought in Italy.

Our most sincere condolences to the family and friends of **VICTORIO NALESSO**, because today, on this sad date, an exemplary citizen, honorable father of a family and dedicated patriot left us and also left us, as an unfading legacy, **HIS EXAMPLE**.



12 April 2022