



## ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO



A FINAL SALUTE TO THE LAST WWII ITAPETININGA VETERAN

It is with great regret that we announce the death of **ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO**, aged 97, and last World War II Veteran from Itapetininga city, São Paulo State, Brazil, on 29 May 2022. In his posthumous tribute, we would like to present this brief account of his life.

**ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO** was born in Indaiatuba, São Paulo state, Brazil, on 25 February 1925. Son of Mr. Argemiro de Toledo and Mrs. Celestina Arruda Toledo. In 1944, at the age of 19, he joined the Brazilian Army as a recruit for Basic Training at the 5th Battalion of Hunters, headquartered in Itapetininga, São Paulo State, Brazil.

After concluding Basic Training in that unit, private **TOLEDO FILHO** volunteered to join the Brazilian Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.), and was then sent to São Paulo, where he underwent a health inspection and was approved by the medical board.

On 17 July 1944, private **TOLEDO FILHO** was transferred to Caçapava, São Paulo State, where he underwent new health inspections and, on 29 July 1944, he was sent to Rio de Janeiro, where he was integrated into the 4th boarding echelon of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force.

On 23 November 1944, the 4th echelon, under the command of Colonel Mario Travassos, composed of the Personnel Depot and totaling 4,691 men, boarded the North American ship *US General Mann* bound for Italy.

On 7 December 1944, the 4th echelon landed at the Port of Naples. And once in the Italian theater of operations, Private **TOLEDO FILHO** and his comrades from the Personnel Depot were incorporated into the **Fifth Army** of the **15th Allied Army Group**, receiving instruction, uniforms, rations and armament from the U.S. Army.



Private Toledo Filho in Francolise, Italy (1944)

Due to his training as a driver of vehicles during Basic Training at the 5th Battalion of Hunters, Private **TOLEDO FILHO** was transferred to the 1st Infantry Regiment – currently the 1st BI Mtz (Es) – where as a motor transport operator, he was employed in the transport of troops, fuel, rations, weapons and ammunition.



Private Toledo Filho (standing) in Rome, Italy (1945).

Private **TOLEDO FILHO**'s baptism of fire took place on 21 February 1945, when, on that memorable day, the Brazilians 1st, 6th and 11th Infantry Regiments advanced alongside American troops to capture Monte Castello during the **Fifth Army** offensive called *Operation Encore* against the German enemy deeply entrenched in that strong position.

After Monte Castello, Private **TOLEDO FILHO** took part in numerous operations with the 1st Regiment of Infantry in the Apennines, from the Rhine to the Panaro and, later, in the Po Valley, when the city of Lodi was occupied. He also witnessed the surrender of 20,573 members of the German 148th Infantry Division in Fornovo di Taro, on the 29 and 30 April 1945.

From then on, hostilities in the Italian theater of operations became increasingly rarefied. Mussolini was 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 finally declared.

The Allied troops, on the unforgettable day of 20 May 1945, held the Victory Parade in the city of Alexandria and, among them, Private **TOLEDO FILHO** and his companions of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force.

There were a total of 315 days of World War II, which Private **TOLEDO FILHO** experienced from edge to wick, scarred in body and soul by the horrors of the harsh hours, days, weeks and months various sacrifices suffered in the midst of the transport of troops, weaponry, rations and ammunition under the fire of the shootings, the bombings and the tearing of the shrapnel.



Private Toledo Filho in Porreta Terme, Italy (1945).



Back in Brazil on 3 October 1945, Private **TOLEDO FILHO** returned to Itapetininga, finding himself then 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.

On 7 September 1946, **ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO** married Ms. Geni Vieira. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Sao Paulo State Department of Highways (D.E.R.) as a driver, becoming a supervisor of interstate bus lines, and retired in this role in the seventies. After his retirement, he became a Auto School instructor and an automotive vehicle surveyor.

On 5 October 1988, pursuant to Article 53 of the Transitory Constitutional Provisions Act of the Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988, WWII Veteran **ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO** was retired as a private with a pension corresponding to the rank of a 2nd Lieutenant in the Brazilian Army.

On 31 October 2016, the Association of Veterans and Friends of the Army Reserve Training School of Itapetininga (TG 02-076) named "Pracinha Argemiro de Toledo Filho" the Army Reserve Training School of Itapetininga (TG 02-076) main instruction room.



Sala de Instrução do Tiro de Guerra de Itapetininga  
**Pracinha Argemiro de Toledo Filho**

AEA  I  
Associação dos Ex-Altiadores e Amigos  
do Tiro de Guerra de Itapetininga



Also in 2014, **ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO** was awarded the *Heroes of Brazil Medal* of the Veterans Association of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force - São Bernardo do Campo, São Paulo Section and, on the 70th anniversary of the Victory Day (8 May 2015), he was awarded the *Ministry of Defense Victory Medal* by Four-Star General João Camilo Pires de Campos, Brazilian Army Military Commander of the Southeast Military Command (CMSE).



And, on the seventy fifth anniversary of Victory Day (8 May 2020), **ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO** was awarded the Marshal Zenóbio da Costa Medal by the 1st Army Police Battalion (1° BPE).

Widower of Mrs. Geni Vieira Toledo (in memoriam), **ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO** left to his **daughters** Ziza, Vera Lucia and Rita de Cassia; his **grandchildren** Felipe, Fernanda, Francine, Bruna, Helena, Ana Helena and Luciana; and his **great-grandchildren** Beatriz, Lavinia, Lara, Isabela, Guilherme, Helena, Davi, Maria Helena and Luiza, a legacy of a valiant existence, guided by the cult of civics and patriotism.



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

**ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO**, aged 97, was the last Ex-Combatant of the Second World War from Itapetininga to die from a group of thirty-three others who were also from that city.

Our most sincere condolences to the family and friends of **ARGEMIRO DE TOLEDO FILHO**, 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**.



29 May 2022