

25 Sept 1962

7. Navy

Unitas III Terminates. Phase II of Unitas III terminated 17 September 1962. Four Brazilian destroyers and two Brazilian submarines departed Task Force 86 off the coast of Uruguay and returned to Rio de Janeiro the afternoon of 20 September, thus not participating in the final critique in Montevideo. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The Brazilian Naval Forces did not enter Montevideo as originally planned. The Brazilian law states that military personnel travelling outside of Brazil are paid 2-1/2 times their basic pay in dollars. For the above six ships to enter Montevideo for four days, would have cost the Brazilian Government US\$540,000. Since U.S. dollars are now in short supply in Brazil, plus the additional cost, the Minister of the Navy, Admiral Suzano, decided against permitting Brazilian ships entering Montevideo (doubtless a great disappointment to all the personnel on the Brazilian ships). (CONFIDENTIAL)

8. Air

Air Minister Reynaldo Assumes Office Again. After Brochado da Rocha and his cabinet resigned on 14 September, Air Minister Reynaldo Joaquim Ribeiro de Carvalho Filho was reappointed by the new Prime Minister, Hermes Lima, and took office on 18 September. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Since Brig. Reynaldo remains as Air Minister, it is believed that few changes of key personnel within BAF will be made. (UNCLASSIFIED)

BAF Units Return to 2nd Air Zone. BAF B-26 and F-80 units from Natal and Fortaleza have returned to their home stations after spending a week in the Rio area. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: With the end of the political crisis these units were returned to Brig. Ismar Pfaltzgraff Brasil, Commander of the 2nd Air Zone. Several sources continue to claim that Brig. Ismar will be replaced in the near future. (CONFIDENTIAL)

BAF Officers Pay Homage to Maj. Brig. Gabriel Grun Moss. On 22 September 1962, a group of approximately 90 officers of the Brazilian Air Force held a luncheon at the Aeronautical Club to honor Brig. Grun Moss, who was recently promoted to Maj. Brig. under ex-Air Minister Travassos. Brig. João Adil Oliveira was the keynote speaker who said the AF officers had gotten together "to pay homage to their comrade Brig. Grun Moss, upon reaching the high rank of Maj. Brig. which brings joy to all of us." Brig. Adil praised the performance of Brig. Moss in the past saying the he was always a faithful and devoted soldier. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Maj. Brig. Gabriel Grun Moss (ex-Air Minister under Janio Quadros), along with General Derys, ex-War Minister, and

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By ADK Date 14 Sept 64
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24 May 1961

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Biographic Data - Brazil (U)

(U) NAME: Marshal Odylio DENYS (DEH-nee).

(U) POSITION: Minister of War, since 11 February 1960. - *Sep 1961*

(U) BIRTH: Born 17 February 1892 at Pádua, State of Rio de Janeiro, of French-Swiss paternal, (Portuguese?) Brazilian maternal ancestry.¹ He is brother of Olindo Denys, now retired as a gentleman farmer in the State of Rio de Janeiro, who was Col of Artillery in 1958, who earlier attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth. He is also the uncle of Brig Gen Idalio Sardenberg, (~~Brazilian government-petroleum monopoly~~) and Col Irto Sardenberg¹⁵.

(U) FAMILY: Wife, Helza Cunha¹; married? (close personal friend of Marshal Lott; very popular among high-ranking government and military dignitaries.¹ Children: Three sons, two daughters, names and ages unknown. (all married). Two sons are Army officers, one is a diplomat; both daughters are married to Army officers, one to Lt Col Gabriel Aguiar.¹

(U) CIVIL EDUCATION AND TRAVEL: Civilian elementary and high school. Never accepted a foreign assignment, has been out of Brazil only twice: 22 days in Europe in 1956, one week in Argentina¹ (when?).

(U) LANGUAGES: Native Portuguese; speaks French, understands Spanish; reads English and understands it a little, but does not speak it.¹

(U) RELIGION: Roman Catholic.¹

(U) CAREER:

1912-1915	- Cadet in Military Academy, graduating with appointment 5 Apr 1915 as Aspirante (Brevet 2d Lt). ¹ What branch of service?
1915	- Duty in Bage, Rio Grande do Sul ¹
1916-1921	- Unknown. Promoted to 2d Lt 10 Jan 1917, 1st Lt 24 Jun 1921. ¹
1922	- Assignment unknown. Participated in a revolution. ¹
1923-1931	- Unknown. Promoted to Capt 29 Dec 1927. ¹
1932	- Service in 2d Inf Regt in (suppression of?) Sao Paulo Constitutionalist Revolution. ¹
1933	- Unknown. Promoted to Maj 10 Feb 1933. ¹

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Biographic Data - Brazil (U)

- 1934 - Member of Executive Staff (Gabinete) of Minister of War, Gen Pedro de Góes Monteiro.⁴
- 1937 - Comdr, 7th Lt Inf Bn, Porto Alegre. Promoted to Lt Col 7 Sep 1937.¹
- 1938-1939 - Unknown.
- 1940-1945 - Comdr, Military Police (state guard), Federal District (now Guanabara State), 1,3, reportedly handled this job very well.^{5,9} Promoted to Col 5 Mar 1940, to Brig Gen 29 Dec 1942.¹ Not returned to Active Army service until decree of 7 Jan 1946.⁵; did he command the Military Police until that date?¹⁵
- 1946 - ¹⁹⁴⁶ Comdr, 8th Inf Div, Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul (from 28 Jun¹ to 21 Oct 1946).¹⁰ Promoted to Maj Gen 4 Oct 1946.¹
- 1946-1948 - Comdr, 1st Inf Div, Federal District (now Guanabara State) (from 21 Oct 1946).^{1,6,10}
- 1948-1949 - Comdr, 2d Military Region and 2d Inf Div, São Paulo (from 1 Dec 1948).^{1,7}
- 1949-1950 - Comdr, Central Military Zone (now II Army), São Paulo (from 11 Feb 1949).¹
- 1950(-1952?) - Chief, Administration Dept, War Ministry (from 9 Mar 1950). Promoted to Lt Gen 2 Aug 1952.¹
- 1952-(1954?) - Comdr, Southern Military Zone (now III Army, Curitiba?). (Concurrently?) member of commission to formulate plans for bringing back remains of expeditionary soldiers buried in Brazilian military cemetery at Pistoia, Italy (appointed 10 Oct 1952; served until what date?).
- 1954-1960 - Comdr, I Army (known as Eastern Military Zone until Aug 1956), Rio de Janeiro, the most important and powerful troop command in the Army.¹ Absent on leave to "study" in Paris 5 Oct-7 Nov 1956, 1,13 visiting battlefields in France, Germany, and Belgium (are dates correct? Original stated he was granted leave on 1 Dec 1956 and returned from leave on 7 Nov 1956, after spending 22 days away.).¹ Reached forced retirement for service in grade in Aug 1956, but a special law ("Dénys Law") permitted him to continue until mandatory retirement age of 66,¹¹ when retired 14(17?) Feb 1958 but immediately recalled to active duty^{2,14} by special legislation expiring in Feb 1960.¹¹ Transferred to Reserve 11 Nov 1958 to permit promotion to Marshal (retroactive to 15 Oct 1958) and immediately recalled to active duty a third time, continuing in the same position.¹⁴
- 1960-¹⁹⁶¹ ~~President~~ - Minister of War (appointed 11 Feb 1960).¹ This position allows him to continue on active duty.

(Left office 14 Sep 1961)

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Biographic Data - Brazil (U)

(U) DECORATIONS: U.S. Legion of Merit (grade of Commander); French Officer of Legion of Honor; Portuguese Grand Cross of Military Merit; Paraguayan National Order of Merit (Grand Cross); Peruvian Military Order of Ayacucho; Brazilian Order of Military Merit (Grand Knight), Order of Aeronautical Merit (Grand Officer), Military Medal with Silver Clasp, War Medal, Pacifier Medal, Santos Dumont Medal of Merit (Silver).

(C) PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Handsome,⁸ fairly tall (6'1")¹ and well built, with good military bearing though not a particularly neat dresser. In very fine physical condition for his age.¹ He moves slowly, smiles rarely,¹ speaks with a low voice,¹ does not shout at subordinates,⁸ appears a little pompous by U.S. standards.¹⁸ Not talkative,⁸ very reserved, hard to know. Probably Brazil's best troop commander,¹ makes good use of his staff officers,¹⁷ has a very high reputation in military profession.^{1,8} Strict disciplinarian, believes in maintaining law and order.¹ Appears to be well educated,⁸ though there are conflicting reports concerning his intelligence. His hobby is reading history; is a strong admirer of Napoleon, Rommel, Patton, and Leclerc. He is a heavy smoker, drinks very little, and rarely attends social functions.¹ He is described as opportunistic and ambitious, and some consider this factor could cause a change in any of his political and personal loyalties. Notwithstanding his marital status, an unconfirmed report made in the spring of 1958 by a responsible source stated that Denys rather recently had approached a young soldier with immoral intentions; the incident was referred to as being "top secret" in higher echelons of the Brazilian Army, but the government's opposition press is said to have referred to it in not-unveiled terms.¹⁴

(C) POLITICS: Not an overt politician; reports others' opinions as long as they are not subversive.¹ Denys strongly supports constitutional procedures, as shown in his nonpartisan and objective fulfillment of his important responsibilities as Minister of War during the October 1960 election, even though his long-time close associate Marshal Lott was a candidate. Denys' attitude was so impartial that he probably would have been dismissed if Lott had won. Denys apparently considered it a mistake for an Army officer to seek the Presidency and, like most of the Army, may have considered Lott undesirable as President because of his fiscal austerity toward the Armed Forces (is this true?). Denys has the greatest influence of any individual over the Army, his power depending on personal loyalties or on his position, and favored because he had little overt connection with the November 1955 "counter-coup", by which Marshal Lott ensured his own continuance as Minister of War and the assumption of the Presidency by President Kubitschek. Denys reportedly master-minded that "counter-coup",⁸ however, and Lott considered him indispensable in 1955-1960 to control over the Army.¹² During that period, Denys was said to be very close to Lott, with considerable influence over him.¹⁸ Was a long-time friend

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BRAZIL **MIS 75344**
DENYS, LT. GEN. ODYLLIO, ARMY.
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1958

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Brazilian Strong Man

Odilio Denys

MARSHAL ODILIO DENYS, the "strong man" of the Brazilian Army, has built a reputation during forty-eight years on active duty of being a soldier devoted to keeping his country's laws and upholding the Constitution. He is vigorously anti-Communist. But at critical moments in Brazil's turbulent political history, Marshal Denys (pronounced de-NEE) has always shown himself to be a moderate who stood for civilian rule through constitutional processes.

The 69-year-old marshal, who graduated from the Brazilian army academy the same year President Eisenhower finished at West Point, recently made this statement of his views on the relationship of the armed forces with national politics:

"Politics is a matter for the politicians who it is hoped will know how to do their difficult job well. The job of the armed forces is to serve the law and defend the integrity and honor of the nation."

Marshal Denys is a burly, taciturn career soldier. He has come up the military ladder and his strength within the army has been that he is "a soldier's soldier." He probably knows more about the individuals and conditions that shape the Brazilian army than any other man on active duty.

He Shuns Publicity

Marshal Denys shuns publicity. When Brazil's expeditionary force went to fight in Europe and North Africa with the Allies in World War II, he remained behind. Other military figures sprang to national prominence as wartime commanders, but when they returned Marshal Denys was chief of military police with jurisdiction over Rio de Janeiro, which was then the capital.

Returning troops brought new ideas about the need for democratic Government in Brazil. After fifteen years of one-man rule by President Getulio Vargas, the country felt it was time for a change. A military coup brought about resignation of Dr. Vargas and general elections were called. Marshal Denys stayed on the sidelines during the coup, but he maintained public order in the capital.

In October, 1955, Marshal Denys asserted his powerful position in the army in a manner that affected the political life of Brazil.

That month Brazil held national elections and Dr. Juscelino Kubitschek won the Presidency. There was considerable resistance in the armed forces to Dr. Kubitschek's taking office on the ground that he had been backed by many supporters of Dr. Vargas.

A month after the 1955 election but before Dr. Kubitschek took office, the interim President, Carlos Luz, tried to force the resignation of War Minister Henrique Teixeira Lott, a strong supporter of a legal succession. Dr. Kubitschek's supporters interpreted this move as a prelude to an attempt to block his accession to the



Associated Press

The voice of the army

Marshal Denys then made his move. On the night of Nov. 11, 1955, after General Lott had left the Presidential palace, apparently out as minister, Marshal Denys presided over a meeting of army commanders in Rio. The result of this meeting was a telephone call to General Lott urging him to return to the ministry at dawn in defiance of Dr. Luz.

The next morning troops occupied the streets of Rio. Dr. Luz boarded the cruiser Tamandare with Gen. Juarez Tavora, who had lost the election to Dr. Kubitschek, and made a dash for Santos, the main port of São Paulo State, where the Governor was Dr. Janio Quadros. The plan was to establish the Government in São Paulo.

Army forces were waiting when the cruiser arrived. It was forced to return to Rio and Dr. Luz resigned in favor of the President of the Supreme Court, who ruled until Dr. Kubitschek took office Jan. 31, 1956.

Marshal Denys was due for retirement that year. But Dr. Kubitschek issued a special decree continuing him on active duty as commander of Brazil's eastern army forces. Later he named him War Minister.

He Continues at Post

When Dr. Quadros became President last January he invited Marshal Denys to continue as War Minister, although he changed the navy and air force ministers. This was considered clear recognition that Marshal Denys was the true voice of the army and, as such, stood for keeping the armed force on the side of the Constitution.

After Dr. Quadros took office he consulted Marshal Denys and other top army commanders on nearly all major decisions, including the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and the "hands-off" policy toward Cuba.

The Marshal is as disciplined in his personal life as he expects his subordinates to be in the army. He rises at 6 A. M. and spends a large part of his time inspecting garrisons and interviewing officers on professional and per-

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- (U) NAME: Marshal Odylio DÉNYS (DEH-nee).
- (U) POSITION: Minister of War, since 11 February 1960.
- (U) BIRTH: Born 17 February 1892 at Pádua, State of Rio de Janeiro, of Swiss paternal ancestry. He is brother of Olindo Dénys, Col of Artillery in 1958, who earlier attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, but was no longer in the Active Army in 1959. He is also the uncle of Col Idalio Sardenberg, Director of Petrobras (Brazilian government petroleum monopoly).
- (U) FAMILY: Wife, name and marriage date unknown. Children: Several, names and ages unknown. One son is reportedly an officer in the Army, presumably Maj Roberto Bayma Dénys, born 1923.
- (U) CIVIL EDUCATION AND TRAVEL: Marshal Dénys appears to be well educated. He has visited Europe several times.
- (U) LANGUAGES: Native Portuguese; probably no others.
- (U) RELIGION: Probably Roman Catholic.
- (U) CAREER:
- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1912-1915 | - Cadet in Military Academy, graduating with commission as Aspirante (Brevet 2d Lt). |
| 1915-1940 | - Held increasingly important posts, served on several special military missions abroad, participated in suppression of 1932 São Paulo revolution, was member of staff of Minister of War (Gen Pedro de Góes Monteiro) in 1934. Promoted to Col 5 March 1940. |
| 1940-1945 | - Comdr, Military Police (state guard), Federal District. Promoted to Brig Gen 29 Dec 1942. |
| 1946 | - Comdr, Eighth Military Region, Belém. |
| 1946 | - CG, 3d Inf Div, Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul. Promoted to Maj Gen 4 Oct 1946. |
| 1946-1948 | - CG, 1st Inf Div, Federal District. |
| 1948-1949 | - CG, Second Military Region and 2d Inf Div, São Paulo. |
| 1949-1950 | - CG, Central Military Zone (now II Army), São Paulo. |
| 1950 | - Chief of Administrative Department of the Army. |
| 1952 | - CG, Southern Military Zone. Promoted to Lt Gen 2 Aug 1952. |
| 1954-1960 | - CG, I Army (known as Eastern Military Zone until |

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Biographic Data - Brazil (U)

May 1957), Rio de Janeiro, the most important and powerful troop command in the Army. Reached forced retirement for service in grade in 1956, but a special law ("Dénys Law") permitted him to continue until mandatory retirement age of 66, when retired 14 Feb 1958 but immediately recalled to active duty by special legislation expiring in Feb 1960. Transferred to Reserve 11 Nov 1958 to permit promotion to Marshal (retroactive to 15 Oct 1958) and immediately recalled to active duty a third time, continuing in the same position.

1960 (11 Feb) - Appointed Minister of War. This position allows him to continue on active duty.

(U) DECORATIONS: U.S. Legion of Merit (grade of Commander); French Officer of Legion of Honor; Portuguese Grand Cross of Military Merit; Paraguayan National Order of Merit (Grand Cross); Peruvian Military Order of Ayacucho; Brazilian Order of Military Merit (Grand Knight), Order of Aeronautical Merit (Grand Officer), Military Medal with Silver Clasp, War Medal, Pacifier Medal, Santos Dumont Medal of Merit (Silver).

(C) PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Handsome, fairly tall and well built, Marshal Dénys has good military bearing. He is one of Brazil's most outstanding officers. He is not talkative and does not shout at subordinates, though he appears a little pompous by U.S. standards. There are conflicting reports concerning his intelligence, but he handled his commands well and makes good use of his staff officers. He is described as opportunistic and ambitious, and some consider this factor could cause a change in any of his political and personal loyalties.

(C) POLITICS: Dénys reportedly master-minded the counter-coup in November 1955 by which Marshal Lott ensured his own continuance as Minister of War and the assumption of the Presidency by President Kubitschek. Dénys is second only to Lott in influence in the Army, his power depending on personal loyalties or on his position. He is said to be very close to Lott, with considerable influence upon him, and Lott long considered Dénys indispensable to control over the Army. He was reportedly very pro-Allied during World War II and friendly toward the United States.

(C) GENERAL COMMENT: Dénys political future is largely dependent on that of Lott. He would be expected to play an important role if Lott becomes President.

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Biographic Data - Brazil (U)

of Gen Pedro de Goés Monteiro.⁴ Dénys reportedly was very pro-Allied during World War II.^{5,9} He is anti-Communist and friendly toward the U.S., but oriented more toward Europe than toward the U.S. No U.S. nationals are known to enjoy close friendship with Dénys or have any potential for influencing him. Being a great admirer of General Patton, Dénys has expressed a desire to talk to some high U.S. Army officer who served with Patton.¹

(C) GENERAL COMMENT: Dénys was retained as Minister of War probably because his strong personal influence could be relied upon to ensure the continued non-political attitude of the Army. It appears likely, however, that President Quadros is building up the influence and power of Gen Oswaldo Cordeira de Farias, somewhat behind the scenes, and presumably will replace Dénys later, presumably about the fall of 1961.^{16,17} Thereafter, Dénys would retain considerable personal influence in the Army, but would not be expected to use it against constitutional authority, and probably would remain in retirement (is this estimate considered correct?).

PHOTOGRAPH: R-66-60; ACSI MIS 75344 (1958)

Sources:

1. R-66-60
2. Weeka 14 Nov 58 Uncl
3. R-170-45 2 Mar
4. R-597-45
5. R-58-46 24 Jan
6. R-100-48
7. Weeka 3 Dec 48
8. R-121-54
9. R-6270-43 25 Nov
10. R-724-46 29 Oct Uncl
11. R-36-58
12. R-2-58 Conf
13. R-187-57 Uncl
14. State Dept Biog Feb 1961 Conf
15. Maj Wachholz
16. Arma Cable C-1 3 Jan 61 Conf
17. Arma Cable U-44 17 Mar 61
18. Unknown
19. TDCS 3439493 May 60 Secret
20. TDCS 3493079 13 Mar 61 Secret DAIN 172710

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() POLITICS: Was reported/not strongly in favor of Marshal Lott for President, and removed many pro-Lott officers about that time.^{19/}

After the resignation of President Quadros on 25 Aug 1961, he ~~op~~ attempted to oppose the succession of Vice President Joao Goulart to the Presidency, on the ground that he was too pro-Communist, resulting in a crisis in

Aug-Sep 1961, but failed in this effort. ^{Secret file:} Has (Nov 1961) been in contact with Adhemar de Barros concerning a possible impending Communist uprising in Brazil.^{20/}

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