

# Patriot



# Aztec Eagles

Mexico Air Force Squadron 201

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Mexico declared war against the Axis powers in May 1942. As a result Mexico formed the “Fuerza Aerea Expedicionaria Mexicana”, a three hundred man Air Force Squadron, known as Squadron 201. These three hundred members became the only veterans of foreign wars in the history of Mexico.

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Among the 300 men, were 38 experienced pilots and 252 ground crewmen. Squadron 201 received training in the United States - using the P-47 Airplane. They arrived in the Philippines on April 30, 1945.

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Although only in the Philippines for six months, the squadron participated in 59 combat missions, dropped 1038 bombs and fired over a million rounds of ammo. In all the 201st Squadron totaling over 1,290 hours of fight.

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Five 201 pilots died - One was shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire; one died in a crash, and three ran out of fuel, crashed and died at sea after being lost in bad weather.

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The men of the Mexican Expeditionary Air Force were highly decorated:

- Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
- Mexican Medal of Valor
- World War II Victory Medals
- U.S. Air Medals

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The pilots became national heroes of Mexico. They were decorated by the President of Mexico with the **Medalla Por Servicio en el Lejano Oriente**, a special medal that was the only decoration ever awarded for foreign combat by Mexican military personnel.

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201st Squadron  
Commander Colonel  
Antonio Cardenas  
Rodriguez



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Officers of the 201<sup>st</sup> Mexican Fighter Squadron pose for the cameraman at Majors Field, Greenville, Texas.

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201<sup>st</sup> Squadron pilots in flight gear, (left-right), 1<sup>st</sup> LT. Julio Cali Y Mayor Sauz, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. Miguel Moreno Arreola, 1<sup>st</sup> LT. Carlos Garduno Nunez, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. Praxedis Lopez Ramos, 1<sup>st</sup> LT. Reynaldo Perez Gallardo, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. Angel Sanchez Rebollo.

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P-47s of the 201st Mexican Fighter Squadron (FAEM) with Mexican tail and wing insignia and American P-47, on the right, using same air strip, Porac, Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

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“Monument honoring “El Escuadron 201”

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