



Graphic summary of the role played by the bandeirante expeditions.
(HEB, v. 1, p. 225)

The **Bandeiras** (de Limite) were paramilitary organizations composed of the inhabitants of the land, divided into ten squadrons of 25 men each, reinforced by a thousand or more native Brazilians and inhabitants. They were subordinate to the Capitão-Mor and served as "bases for the organization of the permanent army" (HEB/EME/IBGE, V1, p 44). The *Bandeiras de Limites*, created by Dom Sebastião on December 10, 1570 _ *Regiment of the Capitães-Mores and More Captains and Officials of the Companies of Cavalry and Infantry* (HEB, V1, p. 23:44) _ were intended by the government to open several land routes for the conquest, settlement, and economic exploitation of the wild west.

In recognition of the heroic deeds of Bandeiras de Limites, today the main roads leading to what was then the "wild west" all bear the names of *bandeirantes*: *Anhanguera, Bandeirantes, Fernão Dias, and Raposo Tavares*.