

36th Engineer Regiment WWII Campaigns

ALGERIA-FRENCH MOROCCO (with Arrowhead)
8 November 1942 - 11 November 1942

Ground elements of the United States Army entered World War II in the European-Middle East-North African Theater on 8 November 1942 as part of a combined operation with British Forces to open a Western Front in North Africa. Axis and Allied Forces had been fighting in North Africa along the Mediterranean Coast for almost two years focused on Egypt and the strategically important Suez Canal.

On 8 November 1942, the 36th Engineer Regiment (minus the 2nd Battalion) landed at Fedala, Morocco as part of Task Force West. The Regiment operated the Port of Fedala and conducted training at Rabat until February 1943.

The 2nd Battalion, attached to the 39th Infantry Regiment, landed at Algiers to continue amphibious training as part of Task Force East.

Decorations: Campaign Streamer

PRE-INVASION OPERATIONS

As Part of Task Force East, the 2nd Battalion, 36th Engineer Regiment departed to England to inherit Six Corps, 39th Infantry Regiment on September 1942.

Upon arrival to England, the 2nd Battalion, started amphibious training in preparation for the Invasion of Europe.

While attached to the 3rd Infantry Division, the 36th Engineer Regiment, minus the 2nd Battalion, conducted amphibious training at Camp Pickett, Virginia on 10 October 1942. On 24 October 1942, the Regiment sailed from Norfolk, Virginia for the landing at Fedala, French Morocco to become part of Task Force West.



POST CONFLICT OPERATIONS

On 1 May 1945, the 36th Engineer Combat Group Headquarters made its last move of the war to Oberau. The disposition of the Battalions were as follows: 2826th Engineer Battalion situated in Fussen, 2827th Engineer Battalion located in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, and the 2828th Engineer Battalion located in Mittenwald. About this time the pursuit of the enemy had ceased and the Battalions were assigned the tasks of road maintenance, clearance, and bridge building in their respective areas.

The 36th Engineer Combat Group conducted reconnaissance for engineer materials and secondary roads, filling craters, and guarding and maintaining bridges were the principal engineer task engaged during this period. During this time the Group constructed one Treadway, four Bailey, and five Timber bridges. In general, the 36th Engineer Combat Group Headquarters were in charge of the Civil Affairs and Reconstruction of the towns of Oberau, Fussen, Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Mittenwald.

CENTRAL EUROPE
22 March 1945 - 11 May 1945

Seventh Army crossed the Rhine for a second time after the commencement of the spring offensive. Stiff resistance in the Seventh Army sector limited the initial Allied gains. After the German resistance was broken, the Army reoriented to the south and southeast in an operational exploitation to prevent the establishment of a German "National Redoubt" in the southern German Alps. Resistance steadily decreased until the end of hostilities. Elements of Seventh Army occupied a East-West line covering the Austrian entrance to the Alps.

The 36th Engineer Regiment provided extensive mobility support across the numerous rivers that crossed Seventh Army's path. In light of the regiment participation on the numerous battles, the battalions were renumbered into 2826th, 2827th, and 2828th Engineer Combat Battalions, and the 36th Engineer Regiment was redesignated as the 36th Engineer Combat Group. The Group focused on the repair and maintenance of roads, and crossing sites of notable rivers such as the Rhine, the Mosel, the Danube as well as many other smaller streams.

Decorations: Campaign Streamer

ARDENNES-ALSACE
16 December 1944 - 25 January 1945

The Allied forces tenacious defensive operations prevented the enemy forces from seizing any of the exits to the Vosges mountains. The conclusion of the campaign marked the end of German presence on French soil and set the conditions for Seventh Army's attack into Central Europe.

The 36th Engineer Regiment again reorganized to fight as infantry and held multiple sectors. After executing several skilled withdrawals both in and out of contact, the Regiment was removed from the front line in order to refit for the closing campaign of the Second World War.

Casualties during this campaign; 40 Wounded, 9 Killed in Action, and 10 Missing in Action.

Decorations: Campaign Streamer

RHINELAND
15 September 1944 - 14 December 1944

During the Rhineland Campaign, General Patch's Seventh Army made the deepest penetrations of the Axis defensive positions of any of the Allied Armies with a daring attack through the Vosges Mountains and into the Rhineland exploiting a gap between the German First and Nineteenth Armies.

The 36th Engineer Regiment alternated between supporting assault bridging operations, improving mobility on existing lines of communications and fighting as infantry. From 11-15 December 1944, the 36th Engineer Regiment constructed a total of 31 bridges in the vicinity of Lautenberg.

Casualties during this campaign; 71 Wounded in Action, 14 Killed in Action, and 1 Missing in Action.

Decorations during this campaign: 6 Bronze Stars, 7 Purple Hearts with Oak leaf cluster, 16 Purple Hearts and Campaign Streamer

SOUTHERN FRANCE (with Arrowhead)
15 August 1944 - 14 September 1944

The Seventh Army landings in Southern France complemented both the Allied Drive north in Italy and the June Normandy landings in the west. The Allied forces consisted of the United States Sixth Corps with three divisions and a French Corps with six divisions. This campaign resulted in the rapid capture and rehabilitation of the southern French ports and road networks that supported subsequent allied campaigns in the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe.

The 36th Engineer Regiment conducted their final amphibious landing into Southern France on 24 August 1944 and immediately began establishing beachhead supply points and improving the road networks. During follow on actions, the Regiment finished clearing and improving the port facilities that would provide one third of the supplies to the Allied forces.

Decorations: Campaign Streamer

TUNISIA
17 November 1942 - 13 May 1943

Allied Forces from Algeria and French Morocco pushed east into Tunisia, made contact with the British Eighth Army attacking west from Egypt and eventually destroyed the Afrika Corps ending Axis presence in North Africa.

The 36th Engineer Regiment headed east in February 1943 to the Fifth Invasion Training Center in Arzew, Algeria for further amphibious training and then continued on to Ferryville, Tunisia to support combat operations and continue to prepare for the amphibious assault on Sicily and the Italian mainland.

Decorations: Campaign Streamer

SICILY (with Arrowhead)
9 July - 17 August 1943

Once North Africa was secure, the Allies shifted their focus to the Island of Sicily. Sicily had to be seized before Allied forces could land on the Italian Mainland to secure the Mediterranean Sea. After landing on 10 July 1943, Patton's Seventh Army famously raced Montgomery's Eighth Army to Messina where the last German defenders surrendered or escaped on 17 August 1943.

The 36th Engineer Regiment again performed their duties as Amphibious Engineers for the 3rd Infantry Division on the Western Flank for this operation. The Regiment landed and seized the port of Licata and ran that port until 19 August 1943 when they returned to the training bases in Bezerte, Tunisia to prepare for landings yet to come.

Decorations: Campaign Streamer

NAPLES-FOGGIA (with Arrowhead)
9 September 1943 - 21 January 1944

After Achieving success in Sicily and with pressure to take the fight to Continental Europe, the Allies decided to open a front in Italy. Montgomery's Eighth Army crossed into the "Toe" of Italy while Clark's Fifth Army landed around Naples. The landings created a successful beachhead on the continent. This expanded quickly as the Axis Forces withdrew. But as autumn turned to winter, the Axis Forces established a defense along the Gustav Line in the rugged Apennine Mountains of the Italian Peninsula.

The 36th Engineer Regiment landed on 10 September 1943 with H Company supporting the Rangers in Amalfi while the balance of the Regiment went ashore with Sixth Corps. The Regiment fought several times as infantry early in the Campaign and worked on building three Bailey bridges to support the Ranger Regiment and the 36th Infantry Divisions forward movement.

Casualties during this campaign; 3 Killed in Action, 10 Wounded and 2 Missing in Action.

Decorations: Campaign Streamer

ANZIO (with Arrowhead)
22 January 1944 - 24 May 1944

Allied Forces in Italy were stationary. The German Army was able to use a small force to prevent Allied advances. The Allies needed to start the line moving again to keep pressure on Germany. A bold decision was made to execute a winter amphibious landing into Anzio. The landing was a quick success because of surprise and the Allies had a beachhead close to Rome. Fighting would continue until the Gustav Line finally failed and the Anzio Force would join forces with the Fifteenth Army Group.

The 36th Engineer Regiment here earned their name from the German Defenders as the "Little Seahorse Division" as they routinely fought as infantry. The Regiment was instrumental to the quick opening of the Port of Anzio allowing a huge build-up of material. The Regiment also built bridges, revetments, and maintained roads.

Casualties during this campaign; 74 Wounded in Action, 336 Killed in Action.

Decorations: Campaign Streamer

ROME-ARNO
22 January 1944 - 9 September 1944

The Naples-Foggia Campaign transitioned into the Rome-Arno Campaign for Allied Forces not engaged at Anzio. The Army gained contact with the Anzio Beachhead on 24 May 1944 as the entire front became more mobile. The Allies pushed through Rome on 4 and 5 June 1944 and continued to pressure the German Army.

The 36th Engineer Regiment joined the Rome-Arno Campaign with the Fifteenth Army Group on 25 May 1944 and joined the march north to Rome. They supported the 36th Infantry Division through the move North constructing roads, bridges and bypasses. Notably they bridged the Tiber River five miles southwest of Rome. The Regiment was pulled from the line on the 23 June 1944 and began preparations for their fifth and final amphibious assault into France.

Casualties during this campaign; 19 Killed in Action, 2 Missing in Action, 102 Wounded in Action and 265 Prisoners of War captured.

Decorations: Campaign Streamer

36th Engineer Brigade Vision
A Brigade of disciplined and professional engineers that can fight and build in support of any force in any environment.

