



*3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 15 Regt  
I Company*



President Roosevelt and former Prime Minister Churchill decided on the invasion of North Africa they told their army chiefs to select crack divisions for the amphibious operation, the toughest operation in the books. The 3rd was picked to hit the west coast of French Morocco and capture the highly important port of Casablanca.

Next amphibious operation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division was Sicily. It was rough. Not only were Italians and Germans fighting to hold on to Sicily but it was mid-July, hottest time of the year in a hot country. Water was scarce; climbing one mountain meant only another mountain to climb.

But with the new year, a switch in plans sent the 3rd to the Naples staging area to prepare for a landing 30 miles south of Rome, an operation that was to roll back the enemy on the southern Italian front. The 3rd landed Jan. 22 near the little resort towns of Nettuno and Anzio. Anzio was paid for in guts -- American and British guts. More than 6000 men died during the next few months to protect 100 square miles of beachhead.

**BLUE AND WHITE DEVILS PIERCE "UNDERBELLY OF EUROPE"**

Aug. 15, 0800: VI Corps poured more men on the Riviera beaches than splashed on the Normandy shores at H-hour. Military experts labeled it a perfect amphibious operation. It couldn't have been otherwise. For the 3rd, the fourth D-Day. So expert was the landing that within the first 24 hours, "Blue and White Devils" rounded up 1000 PWs and began dashing parallel to the coast toward Toulon and Marseille. Sealing off the two ports later captured by the French for landing of additional troops, the 3rd now whipped north along the Rhone River valley.

**Campaigns:**

Tunisia 17 Nov 42-13 May 43, Sicily 9 Jul -17 Aug 43, Naples -Foggia, 9 Sep 43 -21 Jan 44, Anzio 22 Jan 44 -24 May 44, Rome-Arno 22 Jan 44 - 9 Sep 44, Southern France 15 Aug 44 -14 Sep 44, Rhineland 15 Sep 44 -21 Mar 45, Central Europe 22 Mar 45 -11 May 45.

Co. I Hq.

1st Plt.

2nd Plt.

Co. HMG Plt.

AT (57mm) Plt Bn

Attachments

M4 (Sherman) Tk Plt. 756th Tank Bn.

M10 TD Plt. 601st TD Bn.

Battery B (105) 141st artillery Bn.

Air support (P47)