19th Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information

"Construimus, Batuimus"
"We Build, We Fight"

NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND

19th C.B. (1st Marines)

1st Embarkation

NOTC - Norfolk
ABD - (Norfolk)
Ready Date - 15 Sep'42
Left ABD - 8 Sep'42 (Sailed from U.S. 19 Sep'42)
Destination - ~~1st Marine Division Russells Noumea~~

2nd Embarkation

NOTC - (CBRD Parks)
ABD - Hueneme
Ready Date - 15 Apr'45
Left ABD - 12 Jun'45
Location - Okinawa

LOG

8- 4-42 - 19th CB assigned to Marines Organization: 3 Const. Co's plus 3/4 HQ Co. to 1st Marines. One Const. Co. plus 1/4 HQ Co. to replacement group (to be known as "19" replacement group") See separate file for latter unit.

9- 9-42 - Transferred to FMF Depot, Norfolk.

11- 5-42 - 19th CB attached to the 1st Marine Division now located in a combat area.

9-19-42 - Left Norfolk.

11-11-42 - Arrived Epic.

1-20-43 - Assigned 2nd Mar. Amph. Corps at White Poppy.

3- 9-43 - 19th CB changed location from Epic to Maze.

3- 2-43 - 19th CB scheduled to leave for Melbourne, Australia, reporting to Com. Gen., 1st Marine F.

3-31-43 - Left Epic on 14 March for Maze. Arrived Maze 22nd March.

4- 3-43 - By Division General Order No. 74 of 3 Apr'43 - First Marine Division the 19th CB designation will be as follows in the future, while attached to First Marine Div., Fleet Marine Force.----Third Battalion, Seventeenth Marines (Engineers) c/o FPO San Francisco, Calif.

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5-11-43 - 19th CB (3rd Batt. 17th Marines, 1st Div.) is located at Melbourne, Australia. (ComNavBasesSoPac area to ComSoPac Sec. ltr dtd 5-11-43)

7-22-43 - 19th CB at Melbourne with a Marine Division. (Sec. report 6-13-43 - PWO 7th Flt to BuDocks)

12- 9-43 - 19th CB main body of personnel left Gown for Egat 29 Oct'43. (Special report of activities from July 23 to Oct. 24 - dtd 16 Nov'43)

12-29-43 - 19th CB located at Goodenough Island, expected to move to forward area in Dec. (Secret NB166/A1-1 - 5455/Com7thflt to Budocks dtd Nov'43)

1-10-44 - 1 Dec'43 of 19th CB - arrived complete at Goodenough Is. during November.

3-13-44 - 1 Jan'44 report of 19th CB - moved from Gooenough Is. to Oro Bay, New Guinea on 17 Dec'43. Moved from Oro Bay to Cape Glouchester, New Britain 27 Dec'43.

4-11-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 19th CB - operating at Cape Glouchester.

5-27-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 19th CB - operating at Cape Gloucester.

6-14-44 - 19th CB arrived Russells 2 Apr'44 (CNB Russells to Comseronsopac disp. 030025 Jun'44 (SC)).

6-17-44 - 19th CB is under the Administrative and Operational control of the 3rd Amph. Corps at Russells - to be known independently as the 19th CB. (Comsopac disp. to ComGen 3rd Amp. Corp. 162154 May'44 - Sec.)

6-26-44 - 19th CB is located at Cape Gloucester as of 31 May'44 (Comserfor7flt Sec. ltr. A-9 over Ser. BP-001407 to Dirpacdocks dtd 8 Jun'44). (Preparing to leave SoPac Area).

7-31-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 19th CB - located at Russells for rest period.

7-31-44 - Previous history of 19th CB from 19th CB report of 1 Jun'44:

19 Sep'42 .....Sailed from U.S.
11 Nov'42 to 12 Mar'43..... ....at Noumea
21 Mar'43 to 11 Jul'43 ....at Melbourne
17 Jul'43 to 29 Oct'43 .....at Cairns
1 Nov'43 to 17 Dec'43 .....Staging at Goodenough Is. **
27 Dec'43 to 4 May'44 .....Combat period at Cape Gloucester **
12 May'44 to 1 Jun'44 .....at Russells

** No location given in report - gleaned from previous reports.

8-19-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 19th CB - located at Russells. "The 19th CB has been detached from the operational control of the 1st MarDiv. This unit has been ordered and will move in the near future to Noumea" - from 2nd end. by Comseronsopacfor dtd 28 Jul'44 of 19th CB report.

8-21-44 - 19th CB to be returned to U.S. when transportation is available. Men rec'd since 1 Sep'43 to be assigned to 18th Reg. for disposition. (Comseronsopac (S) disp. 180948 NCR 9398 dtd 19 Aug'44 to CNB Noumea)

8-24-44 - 19th CB located at Russells (Pavuvu) - Arrived Noumea Oct'42 (duty with 1st Marinediv.)
" Russells May'44
(Data of SoPac as of 1 Jul'44)

8-29-44 - 19th CB departed Russells 3 Aug'44 (part to Noumea). (CNB Russells Airmailgram 150147 NCR 14207 dtd 21 Aug'44 to Comseronsopac - Sec.)

Location - Noumea

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8-31-44 - 19th CB located at Noumea is ready to sail to U.S. with 18 officers and 739 men. (Comseronsopac Sec. Disp. 272110 NCR 6134 28 Aug'44 to CNO)

9-12-44 - 19th CB, consisting of 20 officers and 761 men, arrived Parks from overseas via S.F. 6 Sep. (Conf disp. NC124 080005 NCR 4056 GR89 from Parks to Bupers)

9-19-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 19th CB - located at Parks.

11-4-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 18th Reg. - 19th CB reported to the 18th Reg. on 10 Aug'44. Was detached for shipment to U.S. on 23 Aug'44. 45 men were transferred to the 18th Reg. FFA.

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1-30-45 --- The 19th CB will be ready for shipment to Cincpoa 1 Feb'45.(Cominch Sec. disp. to Cincpoa 211829 dtd 21 Jan'45).

1-30-45 --- The 19th CB is scheduled for BIVE.(Cominch Sec. disp to Cincpoa 181821 dtd 18 Jan'45).

2-13-45 --- Parks ordered to transfer the 15th and 19th CB's to Hueneme about 20 Feb'45 - these batts are assigned to BIVE.(CNO conf. disp to Parks 081455 Feb'45).

2-24-45 -- The 19th CB consisting of 25 officers and 724 men departed Parks for Hueneme 21 Feb'45.(Parks TWX222228 Feb'45 to Bupers).

2-26-45 -- The 19th CB will be ready for Cincpoa 15 Apr'45.(Cominch Sec. disp to Cincpoa 222134 dtd 23 Feb'45).

3-23-45 - 19th CB ready for BIVE 15 Apr'45. (Cominch Sec Disp to Cincpoa P & Adv Hq 201905 Mar'45)

6-16-45 - 19th CB departed for overseas on 12 Jun'45 with 1068 men and 25 off. (Hueneme conf disp 140319 June to Bupers)

7-23-45 - The 19th CB is assigned to the 46th Reg and 11th Brg. effective 10 July. (CCT APO 321 sec report on assignment of CB units ser 897 dtd 10 July)

Location - Okinawa

19th CB

8-22-45 1 July'45 report of 19th CB. Located at Okinawa. 19th CB embarked for Centpac on 12 June '45. Was still in transit at the end of June '45. Report came via 46th Reg, 11th Brig.

8-25-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 19th CB - located at Okinawa. Departed Port Hueneme on 12 Jun'45 and landed on Okinawa 24 Jul'45 and set up camp at Tengan, Okinawa. Report via 46th Reg and 11th Brig.

9- 6-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of 7th Brig, comments re 19th CB. 19th CB departed Pt. Hueneme, Calif. on 12 June'45 & debarked at Okinawa on 24 July'45. 19th CB now located in the 46th Reg area at Tengan.

9-28-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 19th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 46th Reg. & 11th Brig.

10-24-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 19th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 46th Reg. & 11th Brg. 119 men transferred to the U.S. 161 men were rec'd by 19th CB.

10-31-45 - For consolidation purposes request inactivation when directed by CNOB, Okinawa the 19th CB. (Comdr.,NOB, Okinawa conf disp 291147 Oct'45 to Comservpac).

11-27-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 19th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 46th Reg. & 10th Brg. 511 men transferred to this batt. 331 men departed for discharge.

12-4-45 - Comservpac reqs NOB, Okinawa to inactivate 19th CB. (Comservpac spdltr ser 5800 dtd 18 Nov'45 to NOB, Okinawa).

2-6-46 - 19th CB reported inactivated since 31 Dec'45. (Comervpac 012101 Feb'46 disp to BuPers).

3-5-46 - Final date of inactivation of 19th CB - 27 Dec 45. (CNOB Okin. spdltr ser 17-46 to Comservpac dtd 1-28-46) INACTIVATED

19th CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

4 Sep. 1942	(BuDocks ltr 20 Aug. 42 to CNO) From NOTC NOB Norfolk to Com 5 for duty with Fleet Marine Force, Base Depot, Norfolk, for duty with 1st Marine Div.
9 Sep. 1942	(BuDocks ltr 29 Aug. 42 to CNO) Modifying above date and regt of personnel be entrained from Camp Bradford, Little Creek, Norfolk.
19 Sep. 1942	Left Norfolk.
11 Nov. 1942	Arrived Noumea.
20 Jan. 1943	Assigned 2nd Marine Amphib Corps at white Poppy.
9 Mar. 1943	Move from Noumea to Melbourne
22 Mar. 1943	Arrived at Melbourne
3 Apr. 1943	Div. Gen. Order No. 74 - "Third Batt., 17th Marines(Engineer)" and Cos. A, B, and C are changed to Cos. G, H, and I. Desgn. of 19th CB.
11 May. 1943	Melbourne, Australia.
22 July 1943	Still at Melbourne (PWO 7th flt. to BuDocks - Secret rept. 6-13-43).
29 Oct. 1943	Main body personnel left Gown for Egat (Spec. Activities rept. 23 July to 24 Oct., dated 16 Nov. 1943).
Nov. 1943	Located at Goodenough Is. (secret NB166/A1-1, 5455, Com 7th FH to BuDocks).
17 Dec. 1943	Moved from Goodenough to Oro Bay, N.G.
27 Dec. 1943	From Oro Bay to Cape Gloucester, New Britain.
Jan. 1944	At Cape Gloucester.
1 Apr. 1944	At Cape Gloucester.
2 Apr. 1944	Arrived Russells (CNB Russells to Comseronsopacfor dis 0300 25 June 44(SC))
16 May 1944	To be independently known as 19th CB(comsepac dis 162154 of May 44)
31 May 1944	At Cape Gloucester (comserfor 7flt sec. ltr A-9, ser BP-001407 to Dirpacdocks 8 Jun 44). (Preparing to leave SoPac Area).

DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
5/30/44		Cape Gloucester, New Britain	–	Left U.S. Sept. 1942
6/16/44	–	O U C H (Russell Is.)	CNO Russell's sec disp. 030025 - June	arrived OUCH 2 May.
7/7	–		Comsoboc sec. disp. 060038 July.	detached 3rd Phib Corps.
7/9	–	Noumea	Comsexonsoboc sec disp. 022310 aug.	Transfer about 5 aug. report Noumea,
7/5	–	–	Comsexonsoboc sec disp. 180948 aug.	ded'd present duty when tpsn. available to U.S.
9/18	–	Camp Parks	Camp Parks conf disp. 080005 Sept	arrived via San Jran 6 Sept.
9/18	–	"	Russell's sec act disp. aug. Noumea sec act disp 192249 Sept	delete from OUCH delete from Noumea

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DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
9/29/44	–	Camp Parks	Bu Docks memo 9/25/44. 610/2	returned U.S. 9/6/44. Ready = Jan 1 '45 – Earmarked by Cincpac
2/23	–	Camp Parks	C.B. memo 12/16.	Tentative ready date 2/1/45. Bine - (Bu Docks memo 12/23)
1/4	–	"	Repdep calif conf disp. dec. 310245.	Can make ready with present personnel aboard by 15 Jan.
		–	CNO sec disp 181821 Jan	Suggest [illegible] for Bine (vice 68). CNO plans schedule for Bine.
			Cincpac sec 130152 Jan	[illegible] priority - May.
2/3	–	"	Bu Docks memo 27 Jan.	Ten. ready date 2/15/45. Earmarked Bine.
4/8	–	(Bine)	CNO conf serial 048430 feb 2.	Ready Docks 4/15/45. Assd Bine probable may 1 [illegible]

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
1/10	—	Kwajalein (Bine)	Cno (Ow). disp. 081455 Feb.	About 20 Feb. Left to Kwajalein.
2/18	—	"	Calif sec disp 051720 Feb.	(men left to fill strength of 11th, 35 to 68 now has 621 (rates 101 non rated.)
5/12		(Bine)	Cno sec disp 011935 May	assd priority — being shipped Bine May or early June.

ON BOARD

DATE	OFFICERS	MEN	AUTHORITY
1 Jun'44	26	833	MoR
1 Jul'44	28	826	MoR
1 Aug'44	28	829	R & BNP625
1 Sep'44	20	761	MoR
1 Nov'44		641	MoR
1 Dec'44	~~[illegible]~~	933	BNP625 & MoR
1 Jan'45		1006	BNP625
1 Feb'45		1077	BNP625
1 Mar'45		714	BNP625
1 Apr'45		744	BNP625
1 May'45	25	907	BNP625 & R
1 Jun'45	24	756	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	25	1067	Roster & ReCap Sheet
1 Aug'45	26	1044	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		934	
		95 trans.	BNP625
1 Oct'45	22	927	
		145 Trans.	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	16	1153	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	16	538	BNP625 & R
1 Jan 46	6	64	BNP 625 & R

19th Construction Battalion (1st Marines) (INACTIVATED)

NCB 19

IN REPLY
REFER TO

NINETEENTH U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

The 19th Battalion recalls that it has many "firsts" to its credit--being the first C.B. group to receive "boot" training at Camp Bradford, Virginia, and being officially ordered to the Fleet Marine Service was the first outfit attached to the Marine Corps with sanction to wear the Marine uniform.

NEW CALEDONIA: The battalion landed at Noumea, New Caledonia, November 11, 1942--52 days after embarkation on Naval Transport at Norfolk, Virginia--having passed through the Panama Canal and having made Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Balboa, PCZ ports of call.

During four months at Noumea, the Nineteenth constructed 144 warehouses, built docks and roads, as well as refurnishing and redecorating Hotel Du Pacifique as an Officers' Mess and building the largest bar in the South Pacific area--90 feet in length. For this work the battalion was given a "well done" and highly commended by General Vogel, Commanding General.

Preliminary to construction was a mammoth grade job to the total of more than 100,000 cubic yards. Concrete mixing and rod cutting were done by hand. Rock crushers were put into immediate action, and coral pits were working twenty-four hours a day. Of the 144 warehouses, 75 were of the Ducose Penninsula type, (all steel), constructed for the 1st Marine Air Corps. Additional warehouses were contructed for the Naval Air Dept, Signal Corps, and PX supplies. PX warehouses were 40' by 98' while the NAD warehouses were 40' by 120' and utilized metal siding and roofing.

Water was badly needed! Geologic experts from the 1st MAC reported the job "impossible"--too much coral--strata too deep. 19th well drillers completed the job to the satisfaction of the MAC's Commanding General almost before the "impossible" order traversed official channels to his desk. Six barges were operated twenty-four hours a day, 3-100 tonners and 3-50 tonners. A pontoon dock was constructed for the 1st MAC in record time. A 3000 volt power line was run from the Noumea Power Company to the 1st MAC, and a communication line of twenty-five miles connected Tantouta Airport with the outstanding organizations within the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA: March 1943, construction completed, the battalion was ordered to report to the Commanding General, First Marine Division, which was undergoing a training and recuperative period at Melbourne, Australia after its bitter campaign at Guadalcanal. Men of the "Old Nineteenth" fondly refer to this period as the Ninety Day Stand.

The outfit was designated as the THIRD BATTALION of the SEVENTEENTH MARINE ENGINEERING REGIMENT and immediately went into a training period under the supervision of Marine Corps instructors in preparation for combat eingineering. In addition, the Seabees conducted heavy equipment schools for the Marines and did construction in and around the Marine Camp. As a

final stand for the "Battle of Melbourne" the Marine Corps rifle instructors invited experts from the Nineteenth to a match, primarily to demonstrate fire superiority of the Marines. The battalion placed first while the Marine instructors took a second and third.

CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND: July 1943, the Battle of Melbourne over, the Nineteenth was ordered to Mt. Martha, Queensland some 2200 miles to the north to work with the U.S. 6th Army Engineers. The project was to build a power of Cairns for use as a large Army Operations Base. Work included a power plant, railroad supr, roads, campsites, and a large drainage project aimed at reclaiming the malarial swamp area adjacent to the city. Here the Nineteenth added another "first" by going on an atabrine "diet".

The malarial control drainage, 30 feet wide and 3000 feet long was aided by the use of a 3/4 yard dragline. Wharves were constructed with the aid of floating pile drivers, and a Rex Steam Powered Paver, (wt. 15 tons, bucket 1 yd.) hastened road construction. The Port Director's area was established, and igloo type warehouses were constructed. The engineering office building was 198' x 47'. Again water-wells were drilled to the depth of 150 feet to supply 3000 gallons of water per hour, and an electrical reticulation unit carried 6900 volts to the railroad right-of-way.

GOODENOUGH ISLAND: Later in October 1943: H.M.A.S. Westralia carried the Nineteenth out through the great barrier reef and up to Goodenough Island where it rejoined the First Marine Division. During a short stay the Nineteenth built bridges, maintained roads, and constructed a major Army Hospital for the area's first contingent of Army Nurses. Here air-raids were first experienced--later to become an accustomed occurrence. Speculation was high that this was to the "jumping-off place" for invasion.

Bridges built were either 23' x 65' or 12' x 40'. The hospital was comprised of 32 wards 20' x100'; 16 utility huts 20' x 20'; and a surgical ward 20' c 72'--all concrete decks and corrugated metal roofing. Novel to the Nineteenth was Amphibious Tractor salvage by special request of the Commanding General. Tractors and other valuable utilities were raised from great depths.

ORO BAY and CAPE GLOUCESTER: By LST the battalion was moved to Oro Bay, New Guinea to receive final instructions for the amphibious assaulton New Britain. Christmas Morning--along with two battalions of Marine Engineers, the Nineteenth again boarded LSTs and moved on to Cape Gloucester to hit the beach at dusk on D-Day plus one. In record time the landing craft were unloaded by dark and the next morning moved into the bivouac area. Work began immediately--roads, bridges, and communications.

Cape Gloucester's prime taks was to keep communication open to the front lines, and the battalion was limited to the natural materials at hand, sea gravel, volcanic ash, teak and mahogany. General Sherman tanks firing armor-piercing 75MM shells to a depth of ten feet superceded pneumatic drilling and dynamite crews in the opening lava pits. Working

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twenty-four hours a day, a total of 75,000 cubic yards of lava were removed from these pits for road surfacing. This Sherman Method of drilling increased production 350%. Piers were thrown out for LST and LCM landing and a sawmill was erected to turn out finished lumber. Continual rain and spotty sniper fire were no aid to progress.

While on Cape Gloucester, the battalion experienced well over 125 red alerts and 95 actual bombings. The Purple Heart was awarded to twenty-seven members of the battalion, five of them posthumously. Chester Perkins, NMlc, (CB) USNR, flew a Marine Corps Observation plane over enemy territory dropping flares and directing artillery fire, as well as dropping supplies to the fighting units. He also transported high ranking officers. Perkins, besides receiving meritorious promotion in the field from Major General Ruperts, Commanding General of the First Marine Division, received the Navy Air Medal and a citation from the Admiral of the First Fleet.

PAVUVU - NEW CALEDONIA - U.S.A.: Early May 1944--Orders--"Leave Cape Gloucester and return with the First Marine Division to Pavuvu in the Russell Islands". Until relieved by the 33rd NCB and sailing to New Caledonia for rest, the Nineteenth built installations and facilities for the Pavuvu Marine Rest Camp, and though the New Caledonia stop was primarily recuperative in purpose, beginnings were made on a Seabee staging area. Order to sail for the U. S. A. halted the project, and on September 6th, 1944 the Swedish Liner Torrens carried the returning complement under the Golden Gate--ending a two year cruise about the South Pacific. Transportation had been under the flags of four nations, on seven transports, and six LSTs. Returned, the Nineteenth voted a new name, the GLOBETROTTERS, which was later to become the name of the battalion newspaper. Three men had married Australian girls and another had become engaged to a French girl in Noumea.

STATESIDE - PARKS - HUENEME: It was at Camp Parks, California that the Globetrotters underwent reorganization, training, and recuperation. Many men who had been the victims of malaria were transferred to the Naval Hospital.

On February 21 the battalion transferred to Port Hueneme to pick up its final contingent before embarking on a second tour of duty. Most new men were fresh from "boot" and an additional training period was required while trained men were working as stevedores. Many men were able to live with wives and families through facilities of the Navy Homoja Project, and it was not until the 12th of June that troops embarked on APA #6, the Heywood.

TUNGAN, OKINAWA: A trip of 42 days gave the battalion stops at Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok in the Marshalls, and Ulithi in the Carolines before going ashore on Okinawa Shima the evening of July 24th, one month and two days after the island was finally secured.

The composite, located on the south shore of Kimmu Bay on the Pacific side of the Island, comprised some thirty acres, twelve of them being

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actively used for quarters and battalion activity. In addition to quarters were seven quonsets, one Butler building used by Supply, and a composite of three Butler buildings fabricated for a T shaped Mess Hall and Galley. "Post-Typhoon" - a number of wooden barracks were erected as well as corrugated steel heads and showers.

Prior to August 15th, the Tengan area was destined to be converted as a huge supply and warehousing area. The Nineteenth was one of the battalions used for this task. In the BPDC area some 50,000 cubic yards of earth were moved preparatory to the construction of seventeen proposed Multiple Arch Warehouses, 100' x 400', better known as Mae West warehouses. Only one of these was erected with surrounding drainage and one modified quonset (SSAR).

In the GSK area, earth moving, grading, and surfacing greatly outweighed the pending building job. More than a half million cubic yards of earth were moved and an intricate drainage system developed. Concrete pads were poured for five multiple arch warehouses 100' x 400'. Four were erected. An area of 300' x600' was graded and surfaced for an Ordnance Open Storage and warehouse. The warehouse did not materialize.

In the NSD Camp Area approximately 25 quonsets, (SSAR's) were constructed with an additional fifteen combination 120 man heads and showers. Electric, sewer, and water lines were extended. An Officers' Mess of four buildings was also erected: one 40' x 100' Butler building and three 20' x 48' quonsets.

The Tengan Fire Station was erected and area completed with three quonsets 20' x 56' and one combination head and shower. At NSD Captain's Quarters were built; two quonsets with adjoining lean-to's.

It is estimated that 75% of all standing structural work on Mae West warehouses was destroyed in the great typhoon of October 9 and 10. Nearly all buildings were reconstructed or repaired and in many cases previously installed foundations of timber, etc., were replaced by concrete. All the buildings were reinforced and thoroughly storm-proofed, a gigantic job in itself.

The Nineteenth had a hand in many other projects: It provided an underground main for electrical distribution in the Medical and Ordnance storage areas from the LOSCO generators; maintained telephone lines to the 46th Regiment and the 11th Brigade with an average ten man crew watching over these and on generator watch; operated Regimental garbage dump; completed a four million gallon per day water pumping and purification unit started by the 65th Battalion; graded and surfaced open storage area for Oxy-Acetylene plants 100' x 300'; and built a generator station for five 75 KW generators in the NSD Transportation area as well as transmission lines both underground and overhead for warehouses #1 and #2 and NSD Administrative and Dispensary Areas. Coral fill of an unestimable amount was furnished for the NSD Docks. There was a continual call for smaller working parties for other projects giving the 19th a hand in numerous other projects not mentioned herein.

Although the island had been secure more than a month on the date of our landing, we lost one man by enemy action and experienced many air alerts and attendant anti-aircraft fire.

One of the most important functions performed by the battalion during its' closing days was that of receiving and transferring men for discharge and release to inactive duty. From 1 September to 10 December 1945, approximately 700 men were transferred to the United States for discharge. In the vicinity of 1,000 men were transferred to other units.

FINIS

19th Naval Construction Battalion

Chronology

15 Aug 1942	U.S. Naval Construction Battalion 19 was established at the Naval Construction Training Center, Camp Bradford, Norfolk, Virginia.
19 Sep 1942	The battalion departed from Norfolk for an overseas destination.
11 Nov 1942	The battalion arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia.
13 Nov 1942	The battalion debarked and set up a camp; the men built docks and roads, as well as 144 warehouses for the Marine Corps.
24 Mar 1943	The battalion embarked on a transport for Melbourne, Australia to join the First Marine Division. They undertook training and were designated 3rd Battalion, Seventeenth Marine (Engineer) Regiment.
11 Jul 1943	The battalion embarked on trains for Cairns, Australia.
19 Jul 1943	The 19th Battalion arrived at Cairns where it began working with Army Engineers. They did surveying and began several projects to build the Port of Cairns, including a power plant, a railroad spur, roads, docks, a campsite. They drained a swamp area.
01 Nov 1943	The first echelon arrived at Goodenough Island and joined then First Marine Division to prepare for the invasion of Cape Gloucester in New Britain.
08 Nov 1943	The second echelon left Cairns.
12 Nov 1943	The second echelon arrived at Goodenough Island. On the island the battalion built bridges, patrolled roads and experienced its first air raid.
17 Dec 1943	The advance echelon embarked on a tank landing ship for the staging area at Oro Bay, New Guinea. The advance echelon arrived and debarked at Oro Bay.
25 Dec 1943	The advance echelon embarked on an LST and sailed from Oro Bay.
27 Dec 1943	The advance echelon landed at Cape Gloucester on D-day plus 1 and was designated 3rd Battalion, Seventeenth Marines (Engineer). They were assigned to building roads and bridges with local materials.
28 Feb 1944	The rear echelon sailed from Goodenough Island.
03 Mar 1944	The rear echelon landed at Cape Gloucester. The battalion experienced 85 bombings, and received 27 Purple Hearts.
05 May 1944	The battalion departed Cape Gloucester in two sections for Pavuvu in the Russell Islands.
07-12 May 1944	The battalion arrived at Pavuvu island and commenced working on a camp, mess facilities and showers for Marines.
03 Aug 1944	The battalion embarked and sailed from Pavuvu Island.

09 Aug 1944	The 19th Battalion arrived and debarked at Noumea for rest and recreation and to await a ship for the United States.
23 Aug 1944	The battalion sailed for the United States, and left their equipment with the Eighteenth Regiment.
06 Sep 1944	The 19th Naval Construction Battalion arrived at San Francisco, California, and went to Camp parks, California. At Camp Parks leaves were given, the 19th Battalion was reorganized and trained for a second overseas deployment.
21-22 Feb 1945	The 19th naval Construction Battalion entrained and arrived at Port Hueneme, California, for training and reoutfitting.
12 Jun 1945	The 19th naval Construction Battalion departed from Port Hueneme on Attack Transport #6 – stopping at Pearl Harbor, Hawaiian Island; Eniwetok, Marshall Islands; and Ulithi, Caroline Islands.
24 Jul 1945	The battalion arrived at Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands and set up camp on Chimu Wan. At Okinawa the 19th naval Construction Battalion was assigned to the Eleventh naval Construction Brigade, Forty-sixth naval Construction Regiment under the Commander Construction Troops, Army Service Command I.
18 Aug 1945	The battalion was located and erected a camp in the Tengan Area. They worked on a site preparation, erected warehouses, camp areas, and the Tengan Fire Station.
09-10 Oct 45	A typhoon destroyed 75 percent of the construction. The battalion repaired and rebuilt the damaged buildings.
01 Sep- 10 Dec 1945	The battalion became a receiving and transferring unit for personnel. 700 men were Transferred to the United States and 1,000 to other units.
27 Dec 1945	The battalion was inactivated on Okinawa.

19TH
USNCB
1
GUADALCANAL

REC. HALL