

# 24<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Battalion

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*Historical  
Information*



*“Construimus, Batuimus”  
“We Build, We Fight”*



1st Embarkation  
 NCTC - Norfolk  
 ABD - Gulfport  
           Hueneme  
 Ready Date - 15 Oct'42  
 Left ABD - 27 Nov'42  
 Destination - Epic Russells

24th C.B.

2nd Embarkation  
 NCTC -  
 ABD - (CBRD Parks)  
 Ready Date - 15 Mar'45  
 Left ABD - 17 May'45  
 Location - Okinawa

LOG

- 9-28-42 - 24th CB ordered from NCTC Norfolk to Gulfport on 29 Sep. (CO Norfolk ltr NCTC/ NB2 over P16-4/P16-3/MM/oo over Ser 53261jb dtd 28 Sep to Lt. Lee)
- 10- 7-42 - 24th CB ordered from Gulfport on 7 Oct to Hueneme. (OinC Gulfport ltr to Lt. Comdr. Whittaker dtd 7 Oct)
- 9-29-42 - Battalion routed to Gulfport instead of Hueneme because of congestion of latter point. (TWX 261435 9-26-42 from Lt. Comdr. Fay)
- 10- 7-42 - Entrained for Hueneme.
- 11-27-42 - Entrained for embarkation point minus 5 officers and some men, detached for 2nd Construction Regiment.
- 1-20-43 - At White Poppy constructing base facilities, tank farms, pier, etc.
- 3- 8-43 - 130 Seamen left Camp Peary for Hueneme FFT to CB 24.
- 4-18-43 - 130 Seamen departed from Hueneme as replacements.
- 5-11-43 - 24th CB is at Noumea. (ComNavBasesSoPac area to ComSoPac Sec. ltr dtd 5-11-43)
- 8-10-43 - 1 Jul'43 report of 24th CB - moved from Epic to Guadalcanal. 2nd Echelon at Koli Point, the first having moved up maneuvers.
- 11-10-43 - 1 Oct'43 report of 24th CB - is at Munda, assisted by the 73rd CB.

24th CB

- 3-15-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 24th CB - operating at Munda.
- 4- 1-44 - 24th CB is scheduled to move to a metropolitan area for rehabilitation shortly prior to next assignment. (15 Reg. report for Jan'44)
- 4-20-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 24th CB - operating at New Georgia.
- 5- 9-44 - 24th CB is scheduled to be detached from 15th Reg. during Mar'44 and sent out for rehabilitation. (Feb'44 report from 15th Reg.)
- 5-29-44 - 24th CB left YELP (Auckland) 4 May'44 for the Russells. (AES 5-29-44)
- 6-14-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 24th CB - operations at New Georgia were secured 10 Mar'44 preparatory to batt. movement scheduled for 14 Mar'44. At sea 1 Apr'44.
- 6-14-44 - 1 May'44 report of 24th CB - This batt left Bradford Sep'44; left Hueneme 27 Nov '42; left Noumea 26 May'43. Operated at Guadalcanal, Rendova, and nearby islands and Munda. Left Munda Mar'44 going to Auckland. Left Auckland for Russells 3 May'44.
- 7- 4-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 20th CB - 2nd Sect. - It is expected that the 24th CB will take over the operations of ABCD Annex, Russells, and also men with less than 10 mos. service with 20th CB 2nd Sec. will be transferred to the 24th CB.
- 7-19-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 24th CB - operating at Russells.
- 8-10-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 24th CB - operating at Russells.
- 8-21-44 - 24th CB to be detached from present duty 15 Oct'44 to be returned to U.S. when transportation is available. Operation of the ABCD Annex to be turned over to the 145th CB. (Comseronsopac Sec. disp. 180856 NCR 9214 dtd 19 Aug'44 to CNB Russ.)
- 9-25-44 - 24th CB located at Russells - Following from data of SoFac as of 1 Jul'44:  
           Arrived Noumea..... Jan'43                   Arrived Auckland.....Mar'44  
           "       New Georgia. Aug'43                   "       Russells.....May'44

Location - Okinawa

24th CB

- 8-31-44 - 24th CB, located at Russells, ready to sail to U.S. 15 Oct'44 with 17 officers and 858 men. (Comseronsopac Sec. Disp. 272110 NCR 6134 28 Aug'44 to CNC)
- 9- 8-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 24th CB - located at Russells.
- 10- 3-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 24th CB - located at Russells.
- 10- 9-44 - 24th CB arrived Parks from overseas via S.F. 30 Sep'44 with 23 off. and 864 men. (TWX 2129 Sep'44 from Parks)

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- 1-30-45 - The 24th CB is scheduled for BIVE. (CNO Sec. disp to Cincpoa 181821 dtd 18 Jan'45).
  - 1-30-45 - The 24th CB will be ready for shipment to Cincpoa 1 Feb'45. (Cominch Sec. disp to Cincpoa 211829 dtd 21 Jan'45).
  - 2-26-45 - The 24th CB will be ready for Cincpoa 15 Mar'45. (Cominch Sec. disp to Cincpoa 222134 dtd 23 Feb'45).
  - 3-8-45 - The 24th CB is destined for BIVE. (Cincpoa P.H. Sec. disp to Cominch 040400 Mar'45.
  - 4- 9-45 - 24th CB approx. sailing date is 1 May'45. (Parks Sec report of draft movements dtd 29 Mar'45 to Bupers)
  - 4-23-45 - ~~24th CB consisting of 24 off. and 1061 men departed Parks for overseas 16 Apr'45. (CBRD Parks Sec Disp 171531 dtd 17 Apr to Bupers)~~
  - 5-23-45 - The 24th CB, consisting of 25 off. and 1070 men, departed Parks for overseas on 17 May'45. (CBRD Parks sec disp 201640 May'45 to Bupers)
  - 7-19-45 - The 24th CB reported at Hdqtrs CCT APO 331 on 3 July. Ordered to further report to OinC 11th Brg for duty. (CCT APO 331 conf end ser 0178 dtd 4 July)
  - 7-23-45 - The 24th CB is assigned to the 11th Brg and 46th Reg effective 10 July. (CCT APC 331 sec report on assignment of CB units ser 897 dtd 10 July)

Location - Okinawa

24th C.B.

- 8-20-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 24th CB - The 24th CB embarked at San Fran 17 May'45 and arrived at Nakagusuku, Okinawa on 2 Jul'45. Report via 46th Reg and 11th Brg.
- 9- 6-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of 7th Brig. Camp was established at Tengan on 3 July'45 in the 46th Reg. area.
- 9-28-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 24th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 46th Reg. & 11th Brg.
- 10-17-45 - CNOB, Okinawa requests authority to inactivate the 24th CB. (CNOB, Okinawa conf spdltr ser 0203 dtd 20 Sept'45 to Comservpac).
- 10-17-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 24th CB - location not stated. Report via 46th Reg. & 11th Brig.
- 10-30-45 - Comservpac approves the inactivation of the 24th CB. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05522 dtd 6 Oct'45 to Cincpoa).
- 11-14-45 - Comservpac directs Comdt. Okinawa to inactivate the 24th CB. Advise Comservpac when inactivation is completed. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05659 dtd 23 Oct'45 to Comdt., NOB, Okinawa).
- 11-20-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 24th CB - location not stated. Report via 46th Reg. & 10th Brg. This report states that the 24th CB was inactivated on 4 Oct'45.
- 1-31-46 - CNCT, Okinawa to CSP ser 6512 dtd 1 Dec states the 24th CB was inactivated on 28 Nov'45. (Dirwespackdocks conf rpt. dtd 10 Jan'46).

IN.30.37.122

## 24TH BATTALION

Organized on Sept. 4, 1942, the 24th NCB moved to Gulfport Oct. 1 and to Hueneme Oct. 7 before embarking Nov. 27 from San Pedro with destination Noumea, New Caledonia. After five months' duty at Noumea, the 24th, in two echelons, switched to Guadalcanal early in June 1943. The first echelon of 370 men left the 'Canal June 13 for maneuvers at New Hebrides, returning June 29 and leaving the same date for Rendova. The second echelon of 450 men left Guadalcanal and reached Kokurana and Baribuna July 18. From Aug. 7 to 15, the entire Battalion moved to Munda, New Georgia, via small landing boats for a seven-months' stay. Following a rehabilitation leave at Auckland, New Zealand from April 3 to May 4, 1944, the 24th reached Banika in the Russell Islands May 9 for a four-months' assignment before returning to the States and Camp Parks Sept. 29. The Battalion remained there until the Spring of 1945, when it shipped out for Okinawa. Japan's surrender found the 24th still on Okinawa.

24th NCB

Commissioned September 1942, Camp Bradford. Inactivated November 1945.

Noumea, Guadalcanal, New Hebrides, Rendova, Kokurana, Baribuna, Munda, Auckland, Banika, Okinawa.

Built 2 piers, roads, pontoon pier, warehouses, tank farms, pipe line, open storage areas during tour in Noumea.

May 1945 the Battalion was divided in 2 echelons. The first to participate with a task force of Army, Navy and Marine units in establishing a beachhead on Guadalcanal. The second to carry the heavy equipment and household gear to Guadalcanal for staging when the beachhead would be ready to receive it.

On July 2nd the Jap planes broke through, the Battalion lost 21 men and officers. On August 5th the airfield at Munda was taken and the Battalion started construction of roads, coconut log crib guays at the beaches for LST's and Pontoon lighters, tank farm, distribution system, tanker berth for aviation gasoline, base hospital, dispersed bomb dump and splinter proof radio communications center.

Leave was spent in New Zealand and then the Battalion was sent to Banika of the Russell Islands group. A new camp was completed for Special Task Air Group #1 and after completion the Battalion returned to the States.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ITINERARY OF THE 24TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

4 September 1942 24th CB was commissioned at NCTC, Norfolk, Va.

29 September 1942 Battalion left for ABCD, Gulfport, Mississippi. <sup>ABD</sup>

1 October 1942 Arrived ABCD, Gulfport, Mississippi. <sup>FCU</sup>

7 October 1942 Departed ABCD, Gulfport, Mississippi for ABCD, Port Hueneme, California. <sup>ABU</sup> <sup>ABD</sup>

11 October 1942 Arrived ABCD, Port Hueneme, California. <sup>ABD</sup>

27 November 1942 Entrained at Port Hueneme for embarkation at San Pedro, California. Boarded ship same date.

28 November 1942 Sailed for Noumea, New Caledonia.

11 December 1942 Arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia.

14 May 1943 123 men arrived from Port Hueneme as replacements for 24th CB.

24 May 1943 41 men arrived from Port Hueneme as replacements for 24th CB.

25 May 1943 2nd echelon of 24th CB of approximately 450 men departed Noumea, New Caledonia for Guadalcanal.

1 June 1943 2nd echelon arrived Guadalcanal.

7 June 1943 1st echelon of 24th CB of approximately 450 men departed Noumea, New Caledonia for Guadalcanal.

11 June 1943 1st echelon arrived Guadalcanal.

13 June 1943 1st echelon of approximately 370 men departed Guadalcanal for maneuvers at New Hebrides. <sup>To facilitate</sup> <sup>action changed</sup>

29 June 1943 1st echelon arrived Guadalcanal. <sup>from:</sup> Departed same date for Rendova.

30 June 1943 1st echelon of approximately 500 men arrived Rendova. <sup>CONFIDENTIAL</sup>

13 July 1943 2nd echelon departed Guadalcanal. <sup>To:</sup> <sup>RESTRICTED</sup>

18 July 1943 2nd echelon of approximately 450 men arrived Kokurana and Baribuna. <sup>John S. ...</sup> <sup>Sign</sup>

ASSIFIED-DOD. DIR. 5200.9, 27 Sept. 1958

ITINERARY OF THE 24TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION  
(CONT'D)

7 August 1943 to  
15 August 1943      Battalion moved to Munda, New Georgia via small landing  
boats.

22 March 1944      Battalion departed for Auckland, New Zealand.

3 April 1944      Arrived Auckland, New Zealand, for rehabilitation.

4 May 1944      Departed Auckland for Russell Island.

9 May 1944      Arrived Banika, Russell Islands.

14 September 1944      Battalion departed Russell Islands for United States.

29 September 1944      Battalion arrived Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.

7 March 1945      24th CB at Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.

DECLASSIFIED  
To Facilitate Editing  
Administrative Changes  
Classification Changed  
from: CONFIDENTIAL  
RESTRICTED  
To: UNCLASSIFIED  
Compliance with E.O. 13526  
DATE 27 Sept 1978

ITINERARY OF THE 24TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION  
(CONT'D)

7 Aug. 1943      Battalion moved to Munda, New Georgia via  
to                    small landing boats.  
15 Aug. 1943

22 Mar. 1944      Battalion departed from Munda for Auckland,  
New Zealand.

3 Apr. 1944       Arrived Auckland, New Zealand, for rehabilita-  
tion.

4 May 1944        Departed Auckland for Russell Island.

9 May 1944        Arrived Banika, Russell Islands.

14 Sept. 1944     Battalion departed Russell Islands for United  
States.

29 Sept. 1944     Battalion arrived Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif.

7 Mar. 1945        24th CB at Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif.

SECOND TOUR OF DUTY

17 May 1945       Embarked at San Francisco, Calif.  
2 July 1945        Arrived Okinawa.

Date: 17 September 1945.

DECLASSIFIED-DOD  
To Facility  
Administrative Reading  
Classification changed  
from:  
CONFIDENTIAL  
To: RESTRICTED  
Date: 27 April 1988  
Conf. Control  
Signature



NEVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

24TH





B-17 U. S. Naval Advanced Base, Noumea, New Caledonia, 25 December 1942.  
24th Construction Battalion at church service Christmas morning in  
Battalion square.



B-8 U. S. Naval Advanced Base, Noumea, New Caledonia, 13 December 1942.  
24th Construction Battalion temporary field kitchen. View looking  
north.



B-6 U.S. Naval Advanced Base, Noumea, New Caledonia, 13 December 1942.  
24th Construction Battalion being welcomed by New Zealanders near  
camp site. View looking northwest.



D-8a Munda, B. S. I., 12 September 1943. 24th Construction Battalion.  
View showing LST's moored to landing, being unloaded.

