27th Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information

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

NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND

27th C.B.

1st Embarkation

NCTC	-	NCTC	NCTC	-	
ABD	-	Gulfport Hueneme	ABD	-	Hueneme
Ready Date	-	7 Nov'42	Ready Date	-	15 Feb'45
Left ABD	-	28 Nov'42	Left ABD	-	11 Apr'45
Destination	-	EPIC Emirau	Destination	-	Okinawa

LOG

10-22-42 - 27th CB ordered to leave Norfolk 23 Oct'42 for Gulfport. (CO Norfolk P16-4/P16-3/MM/00 over Ser 6731 dtd 22 Oct to Lt. Rynders)

10-23-42 - Routed to Hueneme via Gulfport on account of congestion at Hueneme.

11-28-42 - Departed ABD for embarkation point.

1-20-43 - 27th CB at Kingbolt (Tulagi) constructing PT Boat Base, fuel facilities, etc.

5-11-43 - 27th CB located at Tulagi. (ComNavBasesSoPac area to ComSoPac Sec. ltr. dtd 11 M

1-10-44 - 1 Dec'43 report of 27th CB - moved from Tulagi to Guadalcanal on 19 Nov'43.

2- 7-44 - 1 Jan'44 report of 27th CB - arrived at Auckland, N.Z. 31 Dec'43.

3-27-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 27th CB - at Auckland, N.Z. Ret'd. to Guadalcanal on 7 Feb'4

4-11-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 27th CB - operating at Guadalcanal.

6-14-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 27th CB - Left Guadalcanal in 3 Echelons: 16 Mar, 21 Mar, 26 Mar and 28 Mar'44. Rear echelon of 2 off. and 54 men remained at Guadlacanal Batt operating at Emirau, St. Mathias Is.

6-16-44 - 1 May'44 report of 27th CB - operating at Emirau.

7- 7-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 27th CB - operating at Emirau.

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7-31-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 27th CB - operating at Emirau.

8-21-44 - The 27th CB to be detached from duty at Emirau 15 Sep'44 for first available transportation to the U.S. 125 enl. men rec'd after 15 Sep'44 to be assigned to the 88th CB. (ComSeronSoPac Sec. Disp. 180923 NCR 9353 dtd 19 Aug'44 to CNB Emirau)

8-25-44 - 27th CB located at Emirau - Arrived Tulagi..... Jan'43
" Auckland ... Feb'44
" Guadalcanal. Mar'44
" Emirau..... Mar'44
(Data of SoPac as of 1 Jul'44)

8-29-44 - 27th CB located at Emirau. (CNB Emirau to Addresses 170332 NCR 15233 dtd 17 Aug'

8-31-44 - 27th CB, located at Emirau, ready to sail to U.S. 15 Sep'44 with 24 officers and 707 men. (ComSerOnSoPac Sec. Disp. 272110 NCR 6134 28 Aug'44 to CNO)

9-25-44 - 27 officers and 682 men of the 27th CB departed Emirau on the 22nd for U.S. (Sec Disp 23 Sep from CNB Emirau to Comseronsopac 222110 NCR 6665)

10-17-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 27th CB - 144 men were transferred to the 88th CB on 31 Aug.; 155 men were transferred to the 18th Reg. FFA; the rest were returned to the U.S

10-25-44 - 27th CB, with 29 off. and 682 men arrived Parks from overseas 18 Oct'44. (210003TWX from Parks to Bupers dtd 21 Oct'44)

12-12-44 - The following CB's requested to receive instructions in the use of Bailey and Treadway Bridges: 27th, 58th, 71st, 130th, and145th. (Cincpoa Sec. Disp. to CNO, Comsopac and Comservpac 072356 dtd 8 Dec'44)

12-16-44 - Training use of bridges proposed Cincpoa's disp. 072356 approved - recommend that the 79th CB be substituted for the 27th CB. (CNO Sec. Disp. to Cincpoa 132003 dtd 14 Dec'44)

Location - Okinawa

27th C.B.

1-13-45 - The 58th and 71st CBs are at Guadalcanal. To substitute for the 37th and 27th CBs respectively. (Comservpac Sec Disp to AdCominpac 110201 dtd 11 Jan'45)

1-30-45 - The 27th CB is assigned to BIVE. Will be used for military government requirement. CNO suggests they stage at Saipan. (CNO Sec Disp to Cincpoa 181821 dtd 18 Jan'45)

1-30-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 27th CB - located at CBRD Parks. Batt left Emirau 23 Sep and arrived at Parks on 18 Oct'44. Approx 500 men are considered fit for further advance base duty and are being retained as a nucleus around which the batt is now being reformed.

3- 8-45 - The 27th CB is destined for SEST. (Cincpoa P. Sec Disp to Comionh 040400 Mar'45)

4- 9-45 - The 27th CB is scheduled for departure from Parks 16 Apr'45. (Parks Sec Report of draft movements dtd 29 Mar'45)

4-20-45 - The 27th CB left Parks 16 Apr'45 for overseas with 24 off. and 1051 men. (Parks Sec Disp 171531 Apr'45)

4-30-45 - Comserfor7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45 shows the 27th CB ordered from U.S. to the Leyte-Samar area.

5- 8-45 - Dirpacdocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45 shows the 27th CB located at Okinawa--Civil Affairs Unit.

7-23-45 - The 27th CB is assigned to the 10th Brg and 44th Reg. effective 10 July. (CCT APO 331 sec report on assignment of CB units ser 897 dtd 10 July)

8-8-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 27th CB - located at Okinawa. Departed the U.S. on 16 Apr'45 and arrived at Okinawa on 4 Jun'45. The Batt has been split into 3 sections, the south section departing on 12 Jun'45 with approx 425 men for an emergency assignmnt On 13-15 Jun'45 the Batt hdqtrs moved north approx 10 miles leaving about 250 men at the central location to engage in stevedoring operations. Report via 44th Reg and 10th Brig.

Location - Okinawa

27th C.B.

8-17-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 27th CB - located at Okinawa. As of 20 Jul'45 the personnl that had been assigned to road building at the south end of the island returned to Batt headqtrs. Report via 44th Reg & 10th Brig.

9-19-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 27th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 46th Reg & 11th Brig.

10-24-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 27th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 46th Reg. & 11th Brig.

10-31-45 - For consolidation purposes request inactivation when directed by CNOB, Okinawa the 27th CB. (Comdr.,NOB, Okinawa conf disp 291147 Oct'45 to Comservpac).

12-4-45 - Comservpac reqs NOB, Okinawa to inactivate 27th CB. (Comservpac spdltr ser 5800 dtd 13 Nov'45 to CNOB, Okinawa).

1-28-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of 27th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 10th Brig. 169 men released for separation. 162 men transferred to other units. 15 men returned to U.S. for emergency leaves.

2-5-46 - 27th CB reported inactivated since 31 Dec'45. (Comservpac 012101 Feb'46 disp to BuPers).

3-5-46 - Final date of inactivation of 27th CB - 27 Dec 45. (CNOB OKIE spdltr ser 17-46 to Comservpac dtd 28 January 1946).

Authentic Itinerary of 27th C.B.

23 Oct'42 - Batt departed Norfolk.
28 Nov'42 - Departed ABD Hueneme for embark point.
28 Nov'42 - Sailed from San Pedro.
3 Jan'43 - Co C 27th CB arrd Tulagi. Remainder of batt arrd Tulagi between 5 Jan and 15 Jan'43.
19 Nov'43 - Moved from Tulagi to Guadalcanal.
26 Dec'43 - Departed Guadalcanal.
31 Dec'43 - Arrived Auckland.
7 Feb'44 - Batt retd to Guadalcanal.
16 Mar'44) Batt departed Guadalcanal in echelons on
21 Mar'44) these dates. A rear ech of 2 off. and 54
26 Mar'44) men remained at Guadalcanal. Bal of Batt
28 Mar'44) moved to Emirau.

2.

22 Sep'44 - Departed Emirau for U.S.
18 Oct'44 - Arrived Camp Parks.
1 Feb'45 - Located at Parks.

27TH BATTALION

Commissioned at Camp Allen, the 27th Battalion moved to Port Hueneme on Oct. 23, 1942. Sailing from San Pedro the next month, the outfit arrived at Tulagi Jan. 3, 1943. The Battalion was transferred to Guadalcanal Nov. 19, 1943. Leaving Guadalcanal Dec. 26, the outfit arrived at Auckland, New Zealand Dec. 31, returning to Guadalcanal Feb. 7, 1944. Moving in echelons, which left Guadalcanal between March 16 and March 28, 1944, the Battalion was transferred to Emirau in the Bismarck Archipeligo. Turning homeward on Sept. 22, 1944, the Battalion arrived back at Camp Parks on Oct. 18. In February, 1945, it was alerted at Camp Parks for its second overseas tour, and in April sailed for Okinawa.

TWENTY-SEVENTH U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California.

HISTORICAL REPORT

for

July 15 to 31, 1945

Submitted by: _____
Willard G. Friest,
Officer in Charge.

27th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion Historical Report - July 15 to 31.

During this period, the 27th Battalion's camp at Kochiya, known as the North Camp, was officially named Camp Tippins, in memory of Chief Carpenter's Mate B. A. Tippins, USNR, who died of a heart attack at the South Camp on 27 June, the only mortality from natural causes in the three years of the battalion's existence.

The construction of Camp Tippins, under the direction of Lieutenant (jg) Arnold G. Towle, was completed with the exception of minor details.

To relieve the acute lumber shortage, salvaging of all useable construction materials from existing towns and villages outside Military Government areas was started on 21 June at Kin and 1 July at Motobu Peninsula and Katchin Peninsula. A total of 1,219,600 bd. ft. of materials have been salvaged to date. An average of 807 native laborers are being used on these salvage projects.

In order to augment the supply of materials for building, a lumbering operation was instituted on 22 July in the area north of Kochiya. An average of 1,350 native laborers are used. All timber more than 1½ inches in diameter is being cut and will be used in the construction of temporary and permanent houses. A total of 150,000 bd. ft. have been cut to date.

The salvaged materials and logs are hauled to the sawmills located at Kushi, Karna and Ishikawa where they are sawed and sized for building purposes. In shops adjoining the sawmills, sections of native houses are prefabricated. These sections are then hauled to the building sites where 353 native laborers, under the supervision of 39 Seabees, erect the frames for the houses. Only the frames are built by the Seabees. The native women weave panels from split bamboo for the sides and fix thatch roofs. Each house is 12' x 24' with a

small lean-to for a kitchen. An average of 50 houses are being built each day, and within the next week this will be increased to more than 100 per day.

The native housing program is under the supervision of Lieutenant John L. Hunter and Lieut. (jg) Arnold G. Towle with Ensign Snitzer and Carpenters Platt and Clemo directly in charge of the lumbering operation; Ensign Julius in charge of the Kin salvage; Chief Carpenter Hartmann in charge of the Kanna prefabrication and building; Chief Malone in charge of the Ishikawa prefabrication and building and Lieut. (jg) Berger in charge of the Katchin Peninsula salvage. Lieut. W. L. Hilton is in charge of the salvage operations on the Motobu Peninsula.

It is estimated that a total of 1,600 6-holer benjos will be needed to supply the villages with proper sanitary facilities. On 26 July, Lieut. Colvin, with a small group of men and 30 natives, started building tops for benjos in our carpenter shop. 150 benjos were completed by 31 July. The men call themselves the "Better Benjo Building Company." Their motto - "You Can't Miss With a Better Benjo."

Lieutenant Colvin is also in charge of establishing water supply for the Military Government camps and native villages. At Kochiya, a 126,000 gallon wood stave tank was erected; a pump was installed; and 2,000 feet of 4" pipe, 6,000 feet of 2½" pipe and 1,700 feet of 2" pipe were laid. At Kushi, a 21-foot well was dug, 2,000 feet of 2" pipe were laid, two water tanks built, one purification unit and one chlorination unit installed for G6-63 Hospital. In addition, a carpenter crew built cabinets, tables and chairs for the hospital, and built the galley, mess hall, showers, heads and living quarters for the enlisted men. Erection of quonset huts for the hospital and operating rooms is being started. Work at Ora Wan for both a

Military Government C-Team and a native village included the installation of two 83-gallon per hour Badger distillation units; three 55-gallon per minute pumps; one 500-barrel steel storage tanks, two 500-gallon wood stave tanks and two 3,000-gallon canvas tanks were erected; 1,000 feet of 2½" pipe and 4,300 feet of 2" pipe were laid. The LST Dock at Ora Wan was completed on 29 July 1945.

The installation of communications at various Military Government Headquarters was continued under Chief P. T. Storin. A total of 45 miles of telephone lines and four switchboards have been installed to date.

Chief L. F. Diederich and his crew continued doing carpentry work and plumbing at Military Government Headquarters, Hizoanna.

Survey work under the supervision of Lieut. John F. Poulton was carried on by 24 men. Projects surveyed consisted of Route #13, and proposed native village sites.

The road building program has consisted of two projects. The building of Route #44 from Yonabaru to Baten Ko Pier (Work Order #N112.044), and work on 5 miles of Route #13. The work on Route #44 was secured on 21 July. A week of heavy rain caused considerable damage to the completed portions of Route #13. On 29 July, construction of a new crossing of the Kin River was started. This bridge is located at a point where the road has been realigned to eliminate a bad double-curve and the existing Bailey Bridge. The Bailey Bridge was erected over the ruins of a former native stone-arch bridge which was destroyed by the Japanese during their retreat from this part of the island. A point of interest lies in the fact that four 7-foot boilers, salvaged from sugar mills, will be installed for use as culverts. Lieut. D. B. Hill and Lieut. (jg) D. [illegible] Perkins are in charge of the road construction and have Chiefs Groonan, Lyons, Arney, Sanders and Dicus as their road chiefs. Lieut. Gordon Manley is in charge of bridge and culvert work.

On 27 July, a crew of men under Chief A. C. Taylor, started repairing the Naha Bank, which will be operated under the auspices of the Federal Government by and for American occupation forces. The building is one of the very few that was not completely demolished. Two walls and the interior of the vault, which was blown by our troops, are in need of repair.

The tank salvage at Naha, under Lieut. (jg) D. C. Works, was 90% complete on 31 July.

27th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion Historical Report
August 1--15, 1945.

On 3 August, the Kin salvage was secured and the trucks and personnel were used to haul materials from Ora Wan to the Kushi Salvage Yard where the materials were sorted and stacked. This material had been salvaged on the Motobu Peninsula and was brought to Ora Wan by LST. 110 truck loads were hauled. This job was completed on 7 August 1945. On 9 August, 15 Military Government trucks, which were being used on salvage work, were taken by Military Government to haul supplies and all salvage work was secured. A total of 1,444,000 bd. ft. of materials were salvaged up to the time these operations were secured.

The lumbering operations which were instituted to augment the supply of materials for native houses, were also slowed down on 9 August due to the lack of trucks. This operation has been continued on a very small scale and will be secured on 18 August.

Ten men were used to procure other materials for Military Government Projects.

The building of native houses at Kanna, Ishikawa and Kiskon has been retarded because of the lack of sufficient equipment and hand tools. The building at Kanna is 80% complete, Ishikawa is 50% complete and Kiskon is 75% complete. 14 school houses and 1 civic building were completed at Kanna, and one hoppital 20' x 100' with a wing 20' x 40' was built at Ishikawa. This hospital was constructed with a concrete deck and tile roof.

Building of the 1,600 6-holer benjos for the native villages was continued. This project is 10% complete.

The installation and maintenance of communications for Military Government was continued during this period. It is anticipated that this work will be secured on 18 August and the men will start work on the communications for the 27th Battalion's new camp.

The crew of carpenters and plumbers which had been working on Military Government Headquarters at Hizoanna were moved to the new camp on 14 August to work there.

The survey crews continued to work on Route #13 and the proposed native villages. Two crews started survey work on the battalion's new campsite.

The work of the public utilities crews consisted mainly of the maintenance and operations of water systems, reefers, generators, etc., already installed by this activity for other units.

Work was secured on the Filariasis Laboratory at Jinuza on 8 August 1945 because of the lack of material. This project was 95% complete.

Work on G6-63 Hospital at Kushi continued during this period. The extent of the building program for the hospital is still undetermined. The 27th Battalion will secure this project on 18 August.

The building of Route #13 was continued on a 3-shift basis. This project was approximately 85% complete. The new crossing of the Kin River has been completed with the exception of the fill on the south side which is being completed.

The tank salvage at Naha has been completed and the Naha Bank repair job will be secured on 18 August.

All 27th Battalion Military Government projects are being turned over to the 1344 Combat Engineer Construction Battalion.

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COPY PLAIN

ITINERARY OF THE 27TH SPECIAL U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

1 Apr 1944 - Transferred from Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va. to ABD, Port Hueneme, California.
*COMPLEMENT: 527 MEN: 16 OFFICERS.

7 Apr 1944 - Arrived ABD, Port Hueneme, California.

22 Apr 1944 - Left ABD, Port Hueneme, California for Pearl Harbor.

28 Apr 1944 - Arrived ABRD, Iroquois Point, Pearl Harbor, T. H.

18 Jun 1944 - Four officers and 250 men of Company "A" transferred to CB Detachment 1036.
* COMPLEMENT: 10 Officers; 277 men.

15 Jul 1944 - 6 officers and 250 men transferred from CB Detachment 1041 to 27th Special upon inactivation of CBD 1041.
*COMPLEMENT: 16 Officers; 527 men.

23 Oct 1944 - Embarked from Iroquois Point, Pearl Harbor, T.H. for forward movement.
*COMPLEMENT: 16 officers; 527 men.

19 Nov 1944 - Arrived at Tinian.

20 Jan 1945 - The 27th Spec. Construction Battalion and CBD 1036 consolidated.
*COMPLEMENT: 32 Officers, 1064 men.

29 May 1945 - Battalion secured from work. Alerted for forward movement.

19 Jun 1945 - First echelon (6 officers, 225 men) departed from Tinian.

20 Jun 1945 - Second echelon (6 officers, 225 men) departed from Tinian.

24 Jun 1945 - Third echelon (6 officers, 225 men) departed from Tinian.

25 Jun 1945 - Fourth echelon (14 officers, 389 men) departed from Tinian.

26 Jun 1945 - First echelon disembarked at Okinawa. Reported to CNOB Okinawa FFA to Joint Freight Handling Facilities, Okinawa.

5 Jul 1945 - Second echelon disembarked at Okinawa.

8 Jul 1945 - Third echelon disembarked at Okinawa.

25 Jul 1945 - Fourth echelon disembarked at Okinawa.

*NOTE: Complement figures are approximate and intended to show dates of change from half battalion to quarter battalion to half battalion to full battalion strength.

Note: This itinerary has been checked and authenticated by the Officer-in-Charge of the 27th Special Naval Construction Battalion.

11 December 1945.

27th Naval Construction Battalion

Chronology

	Battalion formed at NCTC, Norfolk.
23 Oct 1942	Departed Norfolk for ADB, Port Hueneme.
28 Nov 1942	Departed ABD, Port Hueneme for embarkation point. Battalion sailed from San Pedro.
03 Jan 1943	Company C, 27th CB arrived Tulagi. Remainder of battalion arrived Tulagi between 5 January and 15 January 1943.
19 Nov 1943	Battalion moved from Tulagi to Guadalcanal.
26 Dec 1943	Departed Guadalcanal Island, British Solomon Islands aboard the USS Rixey.
31 Dec 1943	Arrived Auckland, New Zealand aboard the USS Rixey.
31 Jan 1944	Departed Auckland, New Zealand aboard the USS Tryon.
07 Feb 1944	27th CB returned to Guadalcanal.
16, 21, 26 & 28 Mar 1944	The 27th CB departed Guadalcanal in echelon on these dates. A rear echelon of 2 Officers and 54 men remained at Guadalcanal. Balance of battalion moved to Emirau.
22 Sept 1944	Departed Emirau for the U.S.
18 Oct 1944	The 27th CB arrived Camp Parks.
01 Feb 1945	The 27th CB is at Camp Parks, assigned for 2nd tour of overseas duty.

SECOND TOUR

16 Apr 1945	Left Camp Parks for overseas.
04 Jun 1945	Arrived Okinawa.
01 Sep 1945	Okinawa

7th

NCB

RESTRICTED
REBUILDING
NALIMBU R. BRIDGE
27th NAVAL CONST. BATT.
NAVY 145
FEB. 1944
#4