

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Naval Construction Battalion

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*Historical  
Information*



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



23rd C.B. (Special)

NOTC - Peary  
ABD - Hueneme  
Ready Date - 10 Mar'44  
Left ABD - 1 May'44  
Location - Pearl Harbor Iwo Jima

LOG

- 1-26-44 - 23rd (Sp) arrived Hueneme 24 Jan'44 from Peary. (Rest. Disp. 252015 NCR 39129 from Hueneme to addressees)
- 5-22-44 - 23rd (Sp) left ABD 1 May'44. (WBK)
- 6-21-44 - 23rd (Sp) reported to the 2nd Brig. 9 May'44 and was assigned to the 20th Reg. for duty. (2nd Brig. 5th End. dtd 12 May'44 on Hueneme ltr NT4-59/P16-4 Ser 1196 dtd 27 Apr'44 to Oinc)
- 7-10-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 23rd (Sp) - operating in P.H. area. Left U.S. 2 May'44.
- 8- 1-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 23rd (Sp) - Operated at NSD P.H. from 1 Jun'44 to 8 Jun'44. From 9 Jun to 30 Jun'44 operated at Iroquois Pt. and West Loch. Also handled ammunition at Lualualei and West Loch.
- 8-29-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 23rd (Sp) - Stevedoring at Iroquois Pt. and W at Loch Docks, Pearl Harbor; also handling ammunition at Lualualei and West Loch ammunition dumps. The Battalion camp site was moved from Moanalua Ridge Camp to Iroquois Pt. on 8 Jul'44.
- 10-10-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 23rd (Sp) - Stevedoring at Iroquois Pt. and West Loch. 511 men on detached duty at Naval Ammunition Depots at Lualualei, Waikale.

23rd C.B. (Special)

- 0-15-44 - The 23rd (Sp) is assigned to the 20th Reg. (Comservforpacflt Sec. ltr 55-CKW/apk over Ser 001008 to CNO dtd 4 Nov'44)
- 1-16-44 - The 23rd (Sp) is located at Pearl Harbor. (Com 14 Sec. Disp. to CNO 062243 NCR 15886 dtd 11 Nov'44)
- 1-30-44 - The 23rd (Sp) 1 Oct'44 report - operating at West Loch and Iroquois Point.
- 2- 6-44 - Comservpac Sec. Disp. to CNO 020143 dtd 2 Dec'44 requests that the 23rd (Sp) (now assigned to the 2nd Brig. and 20th Reg.) be assigned to the 9th Brig. and 8th Reg. to replace the 35th (Sp), now assigned to the 8th Reg. by CNO 111601 Oct. Request that the 35th (Sp) be ordered to 2nd Brig. for further assignment.
- 2-6-44 - CNO Conf. Disp. to Comservpac 021515 dtd 2 Dec'44 approves Disp. 020143 -- the reassignment of the 23rd and 35th (Sp)'s.
- 2-28-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 23rd (Sp) - located at Iroquois Pt.. Report endorsed by 20th Regiment.
- 2-29-44 - Co. A & B of 23rd (Sp) assigned temp add. duty with 5th Phib Corps. Upon completion will report to IsCom and for further assignment to the 9th Brg. and 8th Reg. (Cincpoa Sec. disp to ComGenFMFPac 190205 dtd 19 Dec'44).
- 1-4-45 - The 23rd (Sp) ordered detached from the 20th Reg. to proceed and report to the 7th Brg. and 8th Reg. for duty. (HANCE conf. ltr HAB-06-HCB/mv over P16-4/00/MM over Ser. 7816 dtd 8 Dec'44 to the Oinc 23rd (Sp)).
- 1-5-45 - The 23rd (Sp) reported to the 8th Reg. on 9 Dec'44 for duty. (8th Reg. 4th End. Conf. on HAB ltr HAB-06-HCB/mv, P16-4/00/MM, Ser 7816 dtd 8 Dec'44)
- 2- 1-45 - The 23rd (Sp) is with the 2nd Brg. (Com 14 Sec Disp to CNO 112205 dtd 18 Jan'45 - Changes in shipping designations at P.H.)

23rd CB (Sp)

- 2- 6-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 8th Reg. - 36 men of the 23rd (Sp) were detached on 26 Dec'44 for temp addtl duty under the Commanding General, 5th Amph Force.
- 2- 7-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 23rd (Sp) - no info on location. Report endorsed by the 8th Regiment.
- 2-13-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 23rd (Sp) - located at West Loch and Iroquois Pt., Oahu.
- 3-10-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 20th Reg. - The 23rd (Sp) was detached from the 20th Reg. on 8 Dec'44.
- 3-16-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 23rd (Sp) - location not stated. Report end. by 8th Reg. 150 Seamen were rec'd on board 24 Jan'45 from USN Barracks #919.
- 3-20-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 8th Reg. - 11 off. and 332 men were detached during Jan. for temp. add. duty to ComGen 5th Amphib Force; 36 men ret'd in Jan. from this operation.
- 5- 8-45 - The 23rd (Sp) is located at Iwo Jima with Cos A & B TAD 5th Amph Corps. (Dirasdocs S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)
- 5-17-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 8th Reg states that the 23rd (Sp) embarked from P.H. in Jan'45 and arrived at Iwo Jima 24 Feb'45.
- 5-17-45 - 1 May'45 report of 23rd (Sp) - located at Iwo Jima. Report end. by 8th Reg & 9th Brig.
- 5- 1-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 23rd (Sp) - located at Iwo Jima. Cos A & B and 5 men from Hdqtrs were attached to the 5th Amph Corps for temp duty in Jan. These cos were at target with the 8th Marine Field Depot and landed on D plus 4. The O echelon arrived Iwo Jima 2 Mar'45. 8 off. and 425 men debarked on 3 March. The 1st ech arrived 7 Mar'45. 2nd ech arrived 13 March. Report routed via the 8th Reg and 9th Brig.

Location - ~~Iwo Jima~~

23rd C.B. (Special)

- 1-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 8th Reg - The 23rd (Sp) arrived Iwo Jima on 24 Feb'45. 26 men ret'd 10 Mar'45 from temp addtl duty under Co Gen 5th Amph Corps. 11 off. and 306 men ret'd 9 Mar'45 from temp addtl duty under Co Gen 5th Amph Corps.
- 6-8-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 23rd (Sp) - In transit entire month of Feb'45. Report end by 8th Reg & 9th Brig.
- 7-16-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 23rd (sp) - located at Iwo Jima. 5 LSTs were made available on 28 June at Guam for movement of Batt. 3 off. were dispatched to Guam to expedite reoutfitting of Batt and loading the LSTs which will proceed to Iwo Jima to pick up personnel. 15 men discharged. 13 men transf'd for rehab. Report via 8th Reg and 9th Brig.
- 7-20-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 9th Brig states that the 23rd(Sp) has been alerted for movement to another base.
- 7-26-45 - In compliance with CinCPoa Adv sec. dispatch 240839 dtd Jun'45 you are authorized to transfer the 23rd(Sp) to the Island Command Okinawa for such duty as may be assigned. (Island Command AGF APO 86 sec ltr dtd 12 Jul'45(Call #21713 to 9th. Brig)
- 7-31-45 - When directed by proper authority the 23rd (Sp) detached from the 9th Brig and 8th Reg. Ordered to proceed to IsCom Okinawa ffa for duty. (9th Brig sec orders ser 00231 dtd 12 July to CinC 23rd (Sp))
- 8-2-45 - reported 30 July'45 to 23rd(Sp) & further reported to Comar., Nav 1 Corps Operations, NOB, for duty. (Comdt. NOB, 3250 Sec end dtd 30 July'45 ser 233000 to Comdr. H.W. Geuer, DM, USNA, CinC, 23rd(Sp)).
- 8- 4-45 - 23rd (Sp) detached, when directed by proper authority, with 8th Brig & 9th Reg. Upon arrival report to the IsCom, Okinawa. (CinC, 9th Brig sec ltr ser 233000 dtd 13 July'45 to CinC, 23rd (Sp)).

- 2-10-45 - 10th Brig, 53rd Reg & 54th Reg all activated 1 Sept'45. Reg's Batta in 10th Brig as follows: 47th Reg-3,4,11,12,23,27,35(?) dis: jumbled) 3 Batta. 53rd Reg-148 CBs. 54th Reg-137 & 139 CBs. (COMB, Okinawa conf dis: 010654 Sept'45 to Cincpa, P.).
- 9-25-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of 23rd(Sp). Located at Okinawa. 15 July'45 detached from 5th Brig & 8th Reg at Iwo Jima, for further assignment to Okinawa. Arrived at Okinawa for duty on 30 July'45.
- 10-31-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 23rd(Sp) - location not stated. Report via 47th Reg. & 12th Brig. 101 men were transferred to U.S. for discharge under the point system. 437 men rec'd from the 34th CB.
- 11-30-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 23rd(Sp) - location not stated. Report via 47th Reg. & 12th Brig. 550 men transferred to U.S. for discharge. 79 men rec'd.
- 12-4-45 - Conservpac reqs NOB, Okinawa to inactivate 23rd(Sp). (Conservpac TWX 282219 Nov'45 to NOB, Okinawa).
- 1-29-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of 23rd(Sp) - location not stated. Report via 47th Reg. & 12th Brig. 166 men transferred to U.S. for discharge. 367 men transferred for re-assignment. 451 men transferred to 5th Brig at Guam. On or about 1 Dec. the remaining pers., totaling 113 men will returned to U.S. for reassignment.
- 1-31-46 - Com NOB Okinawa to CSP 030425 Dec'45 disp states that the 23rd(Sp) was inactivated on 1 Dec'45. (Dirwespacdocs conf rpt dtd 10 Jan'46).

INACTIVATED

23rd CB Special

DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/19/44	-	Oahu	C.B. report 1 June	Left U.S. May 1944.
7/22/44	-	FRAY-T.H.	Com 14 sec act disp. 060609 July.	
11/13	-	FRAY	Com 14 sec act disp. NW 062243.	2nd Brig.
2/1	-	"	2nd Brig disp. 021515	
12/1	-	"	Com Conf. disp 021515 sec.	Approved 020143
2/20	-	"	Cincpa sec disp. 190205 sec.	Cos A & B used Sem Adl duty with 5th Phil Corp.
1/18	-	"	Com 14 sec act disp Jan. 112205.	Shows delete 2nd Brig & Add 2nd Brig - believe it should be add. g/ks
6/11/45	-	Uruk	2nd Jima sec 0310272 sum.	added

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ON BOARD</u>		<u>AUTHORITY</u>
	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	
30 Jun'44	29	945	Recap.
1 Aug'44	28	940	MoR
30 Sep'44		790 <i>with - 101</i>	Recap
1 Oct'44	26	901	MoR
1 Nov'44	23	883	MoR
1 Jan'45	31	856	MoR
1 Feb'45	29 <sup>30</sup>	999 <sup>996</sup>	MoR <i>m.o.r</i>
1 Apr'45 <i>man's</i>	30	994	MoR
1 May'45		991	MoR
1 Jul'45	30	968	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	23		Roster
1 Sept'45	34		R
1 Oct'45	27		R
1 Nov'45	26		R
1 Dec'45	9		R

23rd Construction Battalion (Special) (INACTIVATED)

LIST OF SPECIAL BATTALIONS  
WITH COLORED PERSONNEL

Ref: NCTC, Camp Peary TWX 091606-1-44 and  
06TWX1516-4-44.

<u>SPECIAL BATTALION</u>	<u>PERCENT COLORED</u>
12th	54.5
14th	53.2
15th	47.9
16th	51.0
17th	76.2
19th	74.8
20th	76.6
21st	81.0
22nd	80.1
23rd	75.5
24th	76.3
26th	75.0
29th	79.0
30th	80.0

## 23RD SPECIAL BATTALION

A part of the 23rd Special, attached to the Fifth Marine Amphibious Corps, hit the beach at Iwo Jima on D-Day-plus-four. Included were Companies A and B and six men from headquarters company. A few weeks later, the rest of the outfit moved in to hump cargo on this most advanced link in the island chain to Tokyo. On V-J Day, the stevedores had again moved up, this time to Okinawa, where they were working at the Naval Operating Base. For their job in the Pacific, the men of the 23rd trained at Hueneme and put the final polishing to their dock techniques in six months at Pearl Harbor.

DECLASSIFIED-DOE. DIR. 5200.9, 27 Sept. 1

ITINERARY OF 23RD (SP) C.B. UNDER COM. H. H. TAYLOR.

- 24 Jan 1944 - Arrived ASD, Fort Huachuca, California from Camp Peary, Virginia.
- 1 May 1944 - Left Fort Huachuca.
- 9 May 1944 - Arrived Pearl Harbor.
- Jan 1945 - Embarked from Pearl Harbor during latter part of this month.
- 24 Feb 1945 - Arrived Iwo Jima.
- 1 Apr 1945 - Monthly report of 23rd (Sp) C.B. for March states location Iwo Jima. Cos A and B and 6 men from headquarters were attached to the 5th Amphibious Corps for temporary duty in January. These companies arrived at target with the 8th Marine Field Depot and landed on D-Day plus 4. The O echelon arrived Iwo Jima 2 March 1945. 8 officers and 425 men debarked on 3 March 1945. The first echelon arrived 7 March 1945. Second echelon arrived 13 March 1945. Report from the 8th Naval Construction Regiment dated 1 April 1945 states that 23rd (Sp) C.B. arrived Iwo Jima on 24 February 1945, that 26 men returned 10 March 1945 from Temporary additional duty under Co. Gen. 5th Amphibious Corps, and that 11 officers and 308 men returned 9 March 1945 from Temporary additional duty under Co. Gen. 5th Amphibious Corps.
- 12 Jul 1945 - Ordered to Okinawa for duty.

NOTE: This itinerary based on records available in C. B. Operations and Personnel Section of Bureau of Naval Personnel, <sup>to which</sup> Admin. <sup>files</sup> <sup>of the</sup> <sup>unit</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>being</sup> <sup>checked</sup>.  
Classification changed from:

Date: 12 September 1945.



**NO  
LOGO  
AVAILABLE**

