

27th Special Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



pecial)

NCTC - Peary
ABD - Hueneme
Ready Date - 25 Apr'44
Left ABD - 22 Apr'44
Location - Gropac-10 - Group-9 - Tinian Okinawa

LOG

- 3-18-44 - CNO orders transfer of the 27th (Sp) about 1 Apr'44 from Peary to Hueneme. (Conf. Disp. 181521 NCR 2029 from CNO to Peary dtd 18 Mar'44)
5-22-44 - 27th (Sp) left ABD 2 Apr'44. (WRK)
7-11-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 27th (Sp) - Staging in P.H. area.
7-18-44 - This activity redesignated 27th (Sp). Det. 1041 joins this batt - inactivating the Det. 1041. The 160 men on temp. duty with Det. 1036 are to remain with Det. 1036 on permanent duty. (CNO Sec. 051445 Jul'44 Disp.)
8-7-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 27th (Sp) - 13 men transferred to Det. 1036 (Sp) for duty. 3 officers and 160 men of Co. A detached to Det. 1036 temporarily for a forward move. No info. on location - with Gropac 10.
8-12-44 - 27th (Sp) detached from Gropac 10 - ordered to Gropac 9. (CO GroPac 10 ltr Pl6-4/00 over Ser 1729 over (244822) dtd 11 Jul'44 to OinC 27th (Sp))
8-29-44 - 27th (Sp) report for Jul'44 - Co. A and 47 men of hdqtrs Co. detached to Det. 1036. Det. 1041 reported to 27th (Sp) during Jul'44)
10-9-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 27th (Sp) - no info on location.
11-30-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 27th (Sp) - Co. B arrived on the 29th of April and started stevedoring operations on 3 May. Co. C (formerly the Det. 1041) arrived about 15 Apr'44.

27th (Sp)

- 12-29-44 - The 27th (Sp) is located at Tinian. (IsComTinian Sec. disp 010733 dtd 8 Dec'44 to several addressees).
1-4-45 - Detachment 1036 (Sp) inactivated and absorbed by the 27th (Sp). This consolidation will be effective upon such date as Cincpac may specify. (CNO conf. ltr OpSO-23K14-UOT over (SC)Pl6-5 over Doc. NO. 147008 over Ser. 01437330 to Cincpac dtd 22 Dec. 1944).
1-16-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 29th Regiment - The 27th (Sp) reported to the 6th Brigade on 20 Nov'44. Operating under the 29th Reg.
1-25-45 - Cincpac and Cincpoa requests orders be issued carrying out the inactivation of Det. 1036 (Sp) by consolidation with the 27th (Sp) effective 20 Jan'45. (Cincpac and Cincpoa ltr to Comservpac Pl6-5 over Ser 0322 dtd 12 Jan'45) (Conf ltr)
2-7-45 - CBD 1036 (Sp) inactivated this date (27 Jan'45) - all personnel transferred to the 27th (Sp). (Comservpac conf. disp to the 6th Brdg. 270303 dtd 28 Jan'45).
2-9-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 29th Reg. - On 2 Oct'44, the 27th (Sp) secured from work assignments and entered a 12-day program of military training to prepare for embarkation to an advanced base. Batt embarked on 23 Oct'44, arriving at advanced base on 19 Nov'44.
2-10-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 27th (Sp) - Entire batt was secured from all work assignments on 2 Oct and commenced military training.
2-3-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 29th Reg. - The 27th (Sp) and Det. 1036 were consolidated effective 20 Jan'45.
3-16-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 27th (Sp) - location not stated. Report end. by 29th Reg.
3-21-45 - Type Comdr of Seabees requests the complement of the 27th (Sp) be revised making it a standard (whole) CB (Sp). The combining of Det. 1036 (Sp) makes this action necessary. (Type Comdr Seabees, Comservpac to Comservpac conf memo dtd 7 Mar'45)

Location - Tinian Okinawa

27th C.B. (Sp)

- 4-2-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 27th (Sp) - located at Tinian. End. by 29th Reg.
- 4-24-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 27th (Sp) - located at Tinian. End. by 29th Reg & 6th Brig.
- 4-28-45 - 27th (Sp) listed as scheduled for FINK. ETD approx April. (Comservpac Sec ltr Ser 001581 dtd 11 Apr'45 to ComFwdAreaCenPac)
- 5-25-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 27th (Sp) - location not given. Report routed via the 29th Reg and 6th Brdg.
- 6-2-45 - 1 May'45 Sec Rep of Dirpadoocks P shows the 27th (Sp) located at Tinian, scheduled for Okinawa.
- 6-9-45 - The 27th (Sp) detached from present duty. Proceed in accordance with shipping instr and report to Comdr Const Troops APO 331. (Comservpac sec disp 042241 Jun to Com Mariannas)
- 6-26-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 29th Reg - The 27th (Sp) was secured from work on 29 May.
- 6-26-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 27th (Sp) - located at Tinian as of the 1st. 33 men were trfd to other batts; 60 S2C and 4 rated men were transferred to the Batt. Report via 29th Reg and 6th Brdg.
- 7-2-45 - 27th (Sp) detached from the 29th Reg and 6th Brig. Ordered to proceed to Okinawa for duty. (OinC 6th Brdg. conf orders srl (0147) dtd 7 Jun'45 to OinC 27th (Sp)).
- 7-31-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 29th Reg - The 27th (Sp) was detached from duty 6 June. The last echelon of the 27th (Sp) departed 27 June.
- 8-11-45 - You will report to CCT on 25 July 1945. To further report to CMOB Okinawa for duty. (CCT APO 331 end ser 0287 dtd 25 July to OinC 27th (Sp))
- 9-10-45 - 12th Brig. 53rd Reg & 54th Reg all activated 1 Sept'45. Regs & Batts in 12th Brig as follows:-47th Reg-3, 4,11,12,23,27,36(? disp jumbled) Sp batts. 53rd Reg-2 - 148 CBs. 54th Reg-137 & 139 CBs. (CMOB, Okinawa conf disp 010654 Sept'45 to Cincpoa, P.).

Location - Okinawa

27th CB (Sp)

- 9-20-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 27th CB(Sp) - no info as to location. 10 men were transferred for over-age discharges.
- 11-2-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 27th(Sp) - location not stated. Report via 47th Reg. & 12th Brig. 115 men transferred to U.S. for discharge under the point system.
- 11-14-45 - Req Cincpoa's approval to inactivate 27th(Sp), etc. (Comservpac TWX 112035 Nov'45 to Cincpoa).
- 11-14-45 - G/C HedPearl approved inactivation of 27th(Sp). (G/C HedPearl TWX 132120 Nov'45 to Comservpac).
- 11-23-45 - Comservpac reqs NOB, Okinawa to inactivate 27th(Sp). (Comservpac 220022 Nov'45 TWX to NOB, Okinawa).
- 12-29-45 - 1 Dec'45 report of 27th CB(Sp) - location not stated. Report via 47th Reg. & 12th Brig. 27th(Sp) report states the unit was inactivated on 30 Nov'45. 108 men transferred for discharge. Upon inactivation of 27th(Sp) 283 men transferred to U.S. for leave & reassign., 111 men to 3rd(Sp) & 88 men to 36th(Sp) & 100 men transferred to U.S. for discharge.
- 1-14-46 - NavPers 625 states that the 27th CB(Sp) was inactivated on 30 Nov'45. (NavPers 625 dtd Dec'45).

27th GB (Spec.) 2nd Sec.

NCTC - Peary
 ABD -
 Ready Date -
 Left ABD -
 Location -

Log

- 3-20-44 - Lt. (jg) Hastilovich, Ens. Ciarietta, and Baugh, Carp. DeCamp and Bosn. Bradford detached to C. B. Detachment #1052 Spec. (BuDocks ltr to BuPers dated 17 Mar '44).
 3-20-44 - Lt. (jg) Levitt, Carps. Little, Lightfoot, and Ross detached to C. B. Detach #1042 Spec. (Budocks ltr to Bopers dated 17 Mar '44). + HASELOFF ETC.
 3-24-44 - Lt. Davies, Ens. Lancaster and Carn. Snyder detached to Peary (Budocks ltr to Bopers dated 20 Mar '44).

27th GB Special

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/13/44	Stopac 10	Calw	C.B. report 1 June.	
7/5	Stopac 9			
7/22	Stopac 9	FRA Y. P.H.	Com 14 sec act. disap. 060609 July	
7/18	-		Com 14 sec act.	Delete FRA Y.
7/18	-		disap. 040056 Sept.	
7/18	-	FRA Y	"	Add frag-161
7/18	-	1/2 LIRP (Liniar)	Com 14 sec 080058 Sept	Left from 2nd
7/18	-	LIRP	to 3rd	
7/29	-	-	20 Com Liniar sec act disap. Dec 010733	
7/29	-	-	Com 14 sec 080058 Sept	Com 14 sec 0148280.

27 CB Special
Date Organization Vacantion Preference
6/12 - - - -
Aug 1944 - - - -
Comdeupoc sec diag flocked present
04 23H1 June. duty - periods
report Cdr. Encl
Groups Apo-301.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ON BOARD</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
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<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1 Jul'44	13	486	MoR
1 Aug'44	13	593	MoR
1 Oct'44	13	516	MoR
1 Nov'44		522	BNP625
1 Dec'44		521	BNP625
1 Jan'45	19	519	MoR
1 Feb'45	33	989	BNP625 & MoR
1 Mar'45	35	982	MoR
1 Apr'45	34	973	BNP625 & MoR
1 May'45	32	963	BNP625 & R
1 Jun'45	30	986	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	31	1037	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	32	1025	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	29	1006	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'45	34	874	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	28	725	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	20		R

27th Construction Battalion (Special) - 1st-3505. (INACTIVE)

27TH U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (SPECIAL)
FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

HISTORY OF THE 27TH U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (SPECIAL):

Though the 27th Special Battalion has established an enviable record in the past thirteen months of stevedoring at Tinian and Pearl Harbor, probably no other battalion has ever had its organizational face lifted quite so often. The story of the 27th finds CB Detachments 1041 and 1036 inter-twined throughout. Of the four present day companies in the 27th, Company "C" is the only one that has been with the battalion since its formation at Camp Peary on February 5, 1944.

Commander William A. Seibert, D-M, USNR, was the original Officer in Charge, and Lt. Clarence P. Romig, CEC, USNR was the Executive Officer.

On April 1, 1944, the battalion was commissioned as a half battalion, with Lt. Romig as skipper and Lt. Arvon L. Davies, CEC, USNR as Executive Officer. Commander Seibert was transferred to the 20th Special and companies "B" and "D" were formed into Detachments 1042 and 1052.

The battalion moved to Hueneme, California on April 2, and to Iroquois Point, Pearl Harbor on April 22, where it began stevedore operations.

In June 1944, Company "A" was transferred to CBD 1036 and sent on the invasion of Tinian. This company was replaced by the disbanded CBD 1041. 1041 left the 25th Special on February 26 with Lt. Wilbur G. Beck, CEC, USNR as Officer in Charge and Ensign Philip F. Tear, CEC(S), USNR as Exec. The detachment left Peary on February 26 and left Hueneme on April 10, and started stevedoring at Iroquois Point.

In October, 1944, the battalion moved from Pearl Harbor to the Marianas and joined 1036 in performing the stevedoring at Tinian. In December 1944, the 1036 Detachment was made a part of the 27th, bringing the 27th to full-battalion strength, and bringing "A" Company back to its old place. Lt. Comdr. Harold A. Fager, CEC(S), USNR was made Officer in Charge.

The original 1036 Detachment had started as Company "D" in the 18th Special Battalion. Commissioned as a detachment on 22 December 1943, with E. L. Craft, Lt, CEC, USNR as skipper and Lt. (jg) Edward Anctil, USN as Executive Officer, 1036 left Camp Peary on the same date. 1036 left Hueneme on February 20, 1944 and did stevedoring at Iroquois Point until June 18, 1944, when it was increased in strength to a half battalion and sent to Tinian.

1036 arrived at Tinian on "D plus 10" and unloaded all the cargo ships for the invading forces. Between July 27 and December 1, 1944, the detachment discharged 37 ships of various types, handling a total of approximately 94,000 weight tons of cargo. They averaged 12.9 tons of cargo moved for each gang hour worked. There was not a single time during the entire period when the two companies had their full complement of stevedores.

Living conditions were "rugged" for the first two months. The men lived in pup tents on the beach until a camp could be built and the island could be cleaned of pestilence and disease. All told, a total of 1876 man days were lost due to sickness and a few injuries and for a while it appeared as if dengue fever, dysentary, and the "Chinese Rot" had the men down for the "nine" count.

Stevedoring conditions were even worse. Tinian had a harbor in name only and all ship to shore transfer of cargo had to be done by means of unloading vessels in the open stream and transferring cargo to the beach by means of LCT's. The first few ships were unloaded "under fire", but the Marines had to have ammunition--and they got it. When the battle was over, the Pacific started a battle of her own which was even worse. By that time heavy equipment was beginning to come in--huge bull dozers, cranes, and carry-alls for building the air strips. But the "hook" kept moving and the jumbo booms lowered one lift after another into the bouncing LCT's.

The majority of the heavy equipment used by other Seabee outfits in building up Tinian and constructing the air-strips was discharged in the stream long before the docks were completed.

Since December, the 27th has operated as a full battalion. Petty rivalries as to who came here in the invasion and who got here too late to see Betty Hutton have been overcome. The camp area has been built up so that the chow hall, sick bay, ship's store, and outdoor movie theatre live up to "state-side" specifications. The worse disease is what some call "going island-happy".

Present Officer in Charge is Lt. Arthur B. Carson, CEC, USNR, whose home is 1415 Surrey Lane, Philadelphia, Penna., while Lt. Wilbur G. Beck, CEC, USNR, of 46 Perrylea Place, Pittsburgh, Penna. is Executive Officer. Other Executive Officers have been Lt. (jg) Robert R. Lawler, USN; Lt. (jg) Henry Yeager, USN; and Lt. (jg) Joy L. Sherwood, CEC, USNR.

The story of the 27th Special is not a story of glamour. It is a story of eternal change in organization. It is a story of a hook which keeps moving.

P. F. Tear,
Lt.(jg) CEC(S) USNR

NAVY DEPARTMENT

TWENTY-NINTH U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

23 April 1945.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 29TH U. S. N. CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

Prepared for William B. Huie.

FORMATION AND COMPOSITION

The 29th U. S. Naval Construction Regiment was activated 8 July 1944 by Commander Task Group 10.12 in accordance with authority issued by the Chief of Naval Operations dated 3 June 1944. The Regiment as ~~originally~~ activated consisted of the following battalions: *Reconstituted*

- 18th CB (when released by ComGen 5th AmphibCorps)
- 92nd CB
- 107th CB (upon joining from mounting point)
- 1036th CB Detachment (Stevedore)

Immediately upon activation of the Regiment, Commander Marvin Y. Neely, CEC(S), USNR, then Officer in Charge of the 92nd Construction Battalion, was designated acting Officer in Charge of the 29th Regiment by Captain Paul J. Halloran, CEC, USN, Officer in Charge of the Sixth U. S. Naval Construction Brigade. Commander Neely's appointment was confirmed by the Chief of Naval Personnel on 5 October 1944. The Regiment first assumed operational control in the field of its battalions on 3 August 1944, at which time the 18th CB, 92nd CB, and 1036th CBD had landed. The 107th Battalion joined the Regiment at Tinian on 10 September 1944, having come by LST from Ryukyu, its previous duty station. On 19 November, the 50th Battalion arrived from Hawaii and was assigned to the 29th Regiment. On 19 November, the 27th Construction Battalion (Special) arrived from Hawaii and was assigned to the 29th Regiment. On 20 January 1945, the 1036th C. B. Detachment was decommissioned and the personnel absorbed by the 27th Special C.B.

CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS - TINIAN

From the very first the 29th Regiment was assigned by the Brigade to be the lead Regiment in waterfront work, camp construction, and public works. The Regiment has maintained its original assignments although it has been called upon to divert large portions of its heavy equipment and practically all of its dump trucks to airfield construction. The following is a list of the Regiment's major tasks:

Fuel Storage Facilities

The Regiment has constructed a tanker mooring and submarine fuel line, 165,000 barrel capacity Avgas tank farm storage, 20,000 barrel capacity Mogas tank farm storage, 11,000 barrel capacity diesel fuel storage, and 86,000 feet

NAVY DEPARTMENT

TWENTY-NINTH U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Water Supply

From the development of existing wells and drilling of new ones, the Regiment has developed a water supply system of one million gallons per day capacity.

Camps and Hospitals

The Regiment has constructed 27 camps, housing a total of 32,000 men; constructed five hospitals totaling 1,500 beds.

Supply Facilities

The 29th Regiment has constructed the Naval Supply Depot consisting of 24,000 square feet of warehousing and 150,000 square feet of outside storage area; an oxygen plant of 62,000 cubic feet per day capacity; an acetylene plant of 16,000 cubic feet per day capacity; an Army quartermaster depot containing 37,000 square feet of inside storage, and 750,000 square feet of outside storage; a refrigerator plant of 23,000 cubic feet storage space; the Advance Base Construction Depot containing 21,000 square feet of inside storage and 575,000 square feet of outside storage space; a spare parts depot containing 24,000 square feet inside storage.

Ordnance

The 29th Regiment has constructed two bomb dumps and a mine assembly depot. The bomb dumps contain a total of 700 revetted storage areas 25' x 75'. The coral surfacing has been equivalent to that required by one and one-half VLR air strips.

Roads

The Regiment has constructed 16 miles of primary roads, all of which have been coral surfaced. The Regiment also has maintained 35 miles of primary roads.

Waterfront

The Regiment constructed all temporary harbor facilities required during the early developments. It has constructed the permanent harbor facilities consisting of a cellular breakwater and wharfage for accommodating eight AK ships.

Civil Affairs

Construction work for Civil Affairs began as early as 26 July 1944, when the 15th Battalion began providing temporary housing for civilians. The

NAVY DEPARTMENT

TWENTY-NINTH U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIAMiscellaneous Construction

The 29th Regiment has constructed a vulcanizing plant; a joint communications center for the island, a radio beacon station, and VHF hearing tower; and an Army airways communications system. It has also dismantled five 200 foot radio towers for future use, and has provided skilled personnel for dismantling the old sugar mill.

Personnel Notes

2000-11-10 TAD

The 29th Regiment has had only one Officer in Charge. He is Commander Marvin Y. Keely, CEC(S), USNR, Noble Hill, Abington, Pennsylvania. The Executive Officer is Lieutenant Commander Joseph B. Barnwell, CNO, USN, 1447 West Main Street, Decatur, Illinois.

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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, 339 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
Special
BATTALION









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