

18th Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



18th C.B.

NCTC - Norfolk
 A - Davisville, 11 Aug'42
 AED - Davisville
 Ready Date - 15 Sep'42
 Left AED - 11 Sep'42 - ~~11 Sep'42~~ 0.5. 195 ~~11 Sep'42~~
 Destination - 2nd Marine Div. Gilbert Is. (12-1-43)
 Hilo, Hawaii, P.H. Tinian

LOG

- 7-30-42 - 18th CB consisting of approximately 22 officers and 1071 men to be transferred from Norfolk to Davisville on 11 Aug'42.
- 8- 4-42 - 18th CB assigned to Marines. Organization as follows: 3 Const. Co's and 3/4 HQ Co. to 2nd Marines. 1 Construction Co. and 1/4 HQ Co. to "18th Replacement Group".
- 9-11-42 - 18th CB transferred to FMF Base Depot, Norfolk, Va.
- 11-11-42 - 18th CB arrived New Caledonia.
- 12- 6-42 - 18th CB arrived Cactus.
- 2- 4-43 - 18th CB at Guadalcanal at least from 1 Oct to 31 Dec'42. (Fitness)
- 2- 8-43 - To be relieved by 53rd CB and to form Co. "C" of new 53rd when it arrives San Diego from New River.
- 2-20-43 - Assigned 1st Mar. Amph. Corps at Cactus. Repairs to Henderson Field, Construction Fighter Strips No's 1 & 2.
- 7-22-43 - 1 Jun'43 report of 18th CB - With 3rd Batt. 18th Marines (Engr) 2nd Marine Div. FMF, in the field, located at Cactus.

18th C.B.

- 1-26-44 - 1 Dec'43 report of 18th CB - operating in Gilbert Islands. Has a detachment at Tarawa.
- 3-13-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 18th CB - Distribution of personnel: 22 officers and 779 men at Marine Camp (ADIP area), 3 officers and 90 men at ADIP (Hilo). The officers and men who remained on Tarawa after the operation embarked 6 Jan'44 and arrived at Hilo 21 Jan'44.
- 4-20-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 18th CB - operating at Hilo.
- 5-10-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 18th CB - operating at Hilo.
- 5-17-44 - 18th CB is in the 29th Reg. (AES 5/15/44).
- 6- 3-44 - 1 May'44 report of 18th CB - operating at Hilo; expect to move with division soon
- 6-22-44 - 18th CB assigned to 29th Reg. (See Kardex card under 29th Reg. of same date)
- 10-24-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 18th CB - Location of personnel as of 31 Jul'44 as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>Men</u>
LIRP (TINIAN)	18	609
HODE (SAIPAN)	1	65
Enroute to HODE	2	78
CEMA (enroute)	1	4
FRAY	0	1

18th CB landed on Tinian J plus 2 Day.

- 10-26-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 18th CB - Batt was in transit during May'44.
- 10-26-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 18th CB - Located at HODE with a detachment at ADIP. Was in target area June 15-30th. On 29 Jun'44, all shore party functions were transferred to the Island Commander and the batt, less 9 off. and 140 men, were transferred to the operational control of the Army Garrison Forces.

18th C.B.

11-17-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of the 18th CB - As of 31 Aug, the personnel of the batt were distributed as follows:

	Tinian	24 off.	751 men
(Enroute to)	CEMA	0	4
	P.H.	0	1

On 1 Aug'44, the batt was detached from the Northern Troops and Land Forces and reported to the Island Commander of Tinian; assigned to the 6th Brig. and 29th Regiment.

- 11-24-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 18th CB - Batt left States 19 Sep'42. Has served at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian. Approx 500 men are entitled to wear the 2nd MarDiv Presidential Unit Citation for Tarawa permanently. Report endorsed by 29th Regiment. The report also states that the original members are entitled to a minimum of three bronze stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Ribbon.
- 11-29-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 18th CB - No info on location. Report endorsed by 29th Reg.
- 12-12-44 - The return of the 18th CB approved when replacements arrive at Tinian. Comservpac is requested to provide the replacements if requested to do so. Those on duty away from mainland over 20 months may be replaced and sent to U.S. (Cincpacflt Conf. ltr Ser. 06942 dtd 26 Nov'44 to ComFwd Area CentPac)
- 12-16-44 - One-half of 18th CB located at Pearl Harbor and is in the 2nd Brig. (Com 14 Sec. Disp. to CNO 072103 dtd 13 Dec'44)
- 1-5-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 18th CB - No info on location. Report endorsed by 29th Regiment. Air Raid attacks during Nov.
- 1-16-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 29th Regiment - The 18th CB received 305 men during the month of Nov'44.

18th CB

- 1-20-45 -- The 18th CB is to return to the U.S. on a replacement basis. (Comincpac&poa conf. ltr Ser. 0198 dtd 6 Jan'45 to CNO).
- 2- 6-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 18th CB - no info on location. Report endorsed by 29th Regiment.
- 2- 9-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 29th Reg. - On 13 Dec'44, the Cinc 6th Brg. requested Cincpac's approval of return of eligible personnel as a unit identified as the 18th CB, rather than as casual drafts. By ltr dtd 26 Nov'44, to ComFwdArea, Central Pacific, Cincpoa approved the return to the mainland of all 18th CB personnel who have served overseas continuously for 20 or more months. Action is awaiting arrival of orders.
- 3- 3-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 29th Reg. - On 27 Jan, Cincpoa by despatch to ComFwdArea requested an estimate of the earliest possible date the 18th CB could be ret'd to the mainland without relief. ComFwdArea advised that the Const. program would not permit return before 15 May'45.
- 3-8-45 -- According to Dirpacdocks San Fran 15 Feb'45 report the 18th CB(Whole unit) is located at Tinian.
- 3-10-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 18th CB - location not given. End. by 29th Reg.
- 4- 2-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 18th CB - location not given.
- 4-10-45 - The 18th CB is located at Tinian. (Dirpacdocks SanFran Sec Rep. for 15 Mar'45)
- 4-25-45 - By copy of this dispatch, CNO authority requested to inactivate the 18th CB effective when work completed, estimated about 1 Jun'45. (Cincpoa Adv Hdqtrs 180637 to Comservpac dtd 19 Apr'45)
- 4-25-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 29th Reg. - 18th CB participated in 4 major combat operations--Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian. Batt was attached to the 2nd MarDiv as the 3rd Batt, 18th Mariens. There were 788 men that shipped from the States on 19 Sep'42.

Location - Tinian

18th C.B.

- 4-25-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 18th CB - located at Tinian. Report end by 29th Reg. and 6th Brg. Took over duties of CBMU 593 on 27 Mar'45.
- 5- 1-45 - 18th CB located at Tinian. To be inactivated. (Dirpaddocks P Sec Rep of 1 Apr)
- 5- 3-45 - Cincpoa disp 180637 to Comservpac approves inactivation of 16th CB and 1/2 of 6th (Sp) effective 20 Apr'45. This disp further requests that the 18th CB be inactivated upon completion of its work at Tinian. Accordingly, Comservpac will inactivate subj units and inform CNO of date of inactivation of 18th CB. The above inactivations reduce area CB complement and thereby make possible the activation of CB 134 (Truck Oper) at Guam as requested by Rmf Comservpac disp 242157 to CNO. (CNO conf ltr Ser 0170530 dtd 26 Apr to Comservpac)
- 5-29-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 18th CB - located at Tinian. Report end. by 29th Reg & 6th Brig.
- 6-7-45 - Reur conf disp 190706 May. Direct OinC 6th Brg to inactivate 18th CB. Transfer all enl personnel who will be out of U.S. cont 21 mos as of 1 June to West Coast RecSta for leave and reassignment. Transfer other nl personnel to other units of the 6th Brg. Transfer off. to 6th Brg on tempduty. Advise Comservpac when inactivation completed. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 02837 dtd 31 May'45 to IsCom Tinian)
- 6-14-45 - Inactivate the 18th CB in accordance my ser 02837 of 31 May. OinC 6th Brg already has authority to effect transfers. (Comservpac conf disp 082343 Jun to IsCom Tinian)
- 6-27-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of 18th CB - located at Tinian. 614 men and 27 officers are on brd as of 1 Jun'45. 174 men including 54 from the 6th Brig arrived during May'45. 590 men have been transferred to CBRD Camp Parks for rehabilitation. Report end by 29th Reg & 6th Brig.

Location - Tinian

18th C. B.

- 7-5-45 - Decommissioning Muster Roll of the Crew of the 18th CB dtd 15 Jun'45 received.
- 7-19-45 - The 18th CB was inactivated as of 20 June 1945. (6th Brg conf ltr ser (0150) dtd 26 June to Comservpac)
- 7-30-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 18th CB (Decommissioning Report) - 35 men ret'd to U.S. for discharge, 136 men ret'd to U.S. for rehab; the remaining 444 men were transf'd to various units of the 6th Brg for duty. Work for the large part was suspended on 10 June upon transfer of projects to other units. Report via 29th Reg and 6th Brg.
- 3-6-46 - DirWestPacDocks conf. montly CB report of 10 Feb 46 states that 18th CB was inactivated on 20 June 45 at Tinian.

INACTIVATED

2/2/96

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION EIGHTEEN

By LTJG Michael A. Lukshin

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eighteen (NMCB 18) was formed during World War II in 1942 as Naval Construction Battalion Eighteen (NCB 18) in Davisville, RI., NMCB 18, a reserve unit in the Naval Construction Force, has had and continues to have a lively historical background.

The structure of a NCB was much different than today's NMCB, but not any less capable for a Seabee unit. After building a camp in Davisville, NCB 18 became an active participant in the Pacific theater of operations. NCB 18 was first deployed to Nomea, New Caledonia on November 11, 1942. That same month, a part of the battalion went to Guadalcanal to build an airport for the First Marine Division; where in spite of heavy rain, mud and air raids, the first plane took off in sixteen days!

On November 20, 1943, about two-thirds of NCB 18 was deployed to Tarawa during that campaign with the Second Marine Division; one of the toughest and most costly operations in Marine Corps history. Despite the lack of equipment and sniper fire, the Japanese airfield on Betio was ready for use twenty-four hours after work started! After two months on Tarawa, the battalion rejoined the Second Marine Division in Hawaii for further training.

When the Second Marine Division moved out for the Saipan operation in early 1944, NCB 18 deployed with them and landed shortly after the first assault wave. Digging into the beaches, they worked around the clock getting supplies from barges into dumps. In addition, they rooted out and killed a number of the enemy, who had then been passed over by the assault troops. When volunteers were called for to take supplies to the front, details were soon filled by men of NCB 18. In addition to working as a shore party, they accomplished considerable road construction and built a hospital. Very little equipment was available, and snipers, rain, mud and bombing raids were daily events. After Saipan had been secured, NCB 18 moved on to Tinian with the Marines in the later part of 1944. The officers and men of NCB 18 spent thirty-two long months overseas during World War II before returning home. NCB 18 was decommissioned soon after the end of the war.

In June 1960, the Chief of Naval Operations authorized the establishment of eighteen Reserve Naval Construction Battalions. Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eighteen (RNMCB 18) was first commissioned and established by the Bureau of Naval Personnel on March 31, 1962. At that time the

battalion was officially known as "Construction Battalion Command Eighteen." Later that year, the battalion was re-designated RNMCB 18. The staff of RNMCB 18 began meeting monthly in Building 27 at the Naval Base, Seattle, WA, upon activation. The battalion's headquarters, along with several United States Marine Corps Reserve unit headquarters, moved into a new \$10 million building on FT Lewis, WA in January 1995.

In March 1963, RNMCB 18 assembled for the first time as an integral unit for training at Port Hueneme, CA. Since then the battalion has had annual training consisting of military training, construction projects, and individual training. Annual training has taken the battalion in whole or in part from Japan to the Middle East and from Alaska to Belize. In 1990, over thirty members of the battalion were mobilized in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm in the Persian Gulf; and in 1992, eight Seabees were recalled for Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

In 1991, RNMCB 18's name was changed to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eighteen (NMCB 18), signifying the integration of the reserve units with the active duty units in the Naval Construction Force. Today, NMCB 18 is part of the Ninth Construction Regiment of the Third Naval Construction Brigade. The battalion consists of fifteen detachments scattered throughout the Pacific Northwest covering eight states:

DETACHMENT	LOCATION
0118	Great Falls, MT.
0218	Tacoma, WA.
0318	Boise, ID.
0418	Everett, WA.
0518	Spokane, WA.
0618	Billings, MT.
0718	Eugene, OR.
0818	Sacramento, CA.
0918	Pocatello, ID.
1018	Stockton, CA.
1118	Central Point, OR.
1218	Reno, NV
1418	Portland, OR.
1618	Anchorage, AK.
1718	Missoula, MT.

There have been numerous individual decorations and awards presented to the officers and Seabees of the battalion. NMCB 18 has been awarded the Admiral John R. Perry Trophy for best of type three times. The battalion was the first reserve unit to be so honored in 1966 and the first battalion to win it a second time in 1970.

HISTORY OF NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 18

7 The 18th Naval Construction Battalion was ~~formed~~ on 18 June 1942 and ~~commissioned~~ on 20 June 1942 at NCTC, Norfolk, Virginia (Camp Allen);

with Lieutenant Commander L. E. Tull, CEC, USNR as Officer in Charge.

The men and officers of the battalion were just getting acquainted when the battalion was transferred to NCTC at Davisville, Rhode Island. The battalion trained intensively for the next month since it was slated for early overseas duty.

The first detachment to ^{leave} the battalion was Company "C" which was sent to San Diego, California as replacements for the Fleet Marine Force. Five days later, on 11 September 1942, the battalion was formally assigned to the second Marine Division and sent to the FMF base Depot at Norfolk for outfitting for overseas duty.

The battalion embarked aboard ship for overseas assignment to Noumea, New Caledonia on 19 September 1942, arriving at the destination on 11 November 1942.

At Noumea, the battalion was engaged in miscellaneous construction projects such as camp improvement, fighter strip maintenance and general construction. The battalion didn't languish in New Caledonia too long for on Christmas day 1942 it arrived on Guadalcanal with orders to construct fighter strip number 1. The battalion tackled the job with alacrity and finished the project in 44 days, though the men were subjected to bombings by Japanese aircraft during the day and naval bombardment at night.

On Guadalcanal the battalion also built new roads and maintained the airfields. For their leadership and hard work Officer in Charge Lieutenant Commander L. E. Tull and Executive Officer, Lieutenant R. E. Clausen, CEC, USNR, received the Legion of Merit.

The battalion finished the chores on Guadalcanal and on 11 April 1943 embarked for New Zealand to join the Second Marine Division. On April 26 the battalion was designated as the Third Battalion, 18th Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division. The battalion began intensive amphibious

training and combat exercise in preparation for a combat assault on an enemy beach. The battalion trained for six sweaty months until it was deemed ready to join the Marines in the proposed assault.

Two thirds of the battalion loaded aboard ship and accompanied the Second Marines across the long reach of the Pacific Ocean for the invasion. The remainder of the battalion stayed on Guadalcanal as the rear echelon.

After a month at sea the battalion looked out across the blue water on November 21 and watched the Navy bombard the little atoll of Tarawa. In the ensuing five days following their arrival, the men of the battalion went ashore with the Marines--almost a third of the battalion participated in the savage fighting. Many of the men were wounded as the battalion repaired the Japanese Airfield under enemy fire in the first 30 hours of the invasion.

The battalion made other repairs to bombarded facilities, built camps and aid stations and had the grisly chore of cleaning out dead Japanese from the wrecked blockhouses and trenches. The men of the battalion bulldozed long trenches in the coral sands of the atoll and dumped the

hundreds of Japanese corpses in them. The battalion reworked the airfield, laying down Marston^N/~~y~~ Matting, and parking facilities for aircraft.

The men of the battalion who actually participated in the invasion and the fighting on Tarawa were allowed to wear the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the 18th Marines by President Franklin Roosevelt. More than a dozen of the men were wounded and awarded the Purple Heart decoration.

A portion of the battalion was sent to Hilo, Hawaii from the Gilbert Islands and Guadalcanal while a third of the battalion stayed at Tarawa to finish construction projects there. The Tarawa detachment left the Gilberts on 8 January 1944 and rejoined the battalion at Hilo to bring the battalion up to strength.

In Hawaii the battalion helped construct the Second Marine Division camp, built a small service airstrip and engaged in a new training program. The battalion also maintained^{AIN} the new camp and airstrip and improved facilities.

The battalion was redesignated the 18th Construction Battalion and assigned to the Fifth Amphibious Corps for further assignment with the Second Marine Division on 1 April 1944.

Between 5 May 1944 and 11 May the battalion embarked for the Marianas Islands with the Marines with the assignment to act as shore party for the invasion of Saipan. On 15 June the battalion went ashore with the Marines in the amphibious ^{ASSAULT} on Saipan's beaches. The battalion carried out its major assignment as the invasion shore party, unloading supplies, constructing pontoon piers and effecting salvage of wrecked equipment. While engaged in these duties the battalion was under constant mortar and small arms fire and sustained numerous casualties. In addition to the main duty of beach support, the battalion also built several roads and a hospital.

Six enlisted men and two officers of the battalion volunteered to assist the amphibious landing on Tinian Island on "J" day. The Seabees were presented with a unique problem of landing men and supplies because of the peculiar configuration of the Tinian invasion beach. Commander P. J. Halloran designed a wooden ramp which folded back over the top of

✓
the LST and would drop forward over the bow when the craft grounded on the beach. The high ramp would then allow the combat personnel and supplies to be landed across the ramp over the cliff-like Tinian shoreline.

The remainder of the battalion arrived on Tinian two days after the invasion and set up a permanent camp. The Seabees also, in part, helped to establish Camp Churo. The camp was erected for the Civil Affairs people of the Second Marine Division who were charged with the care of the 11,000 civilian Japanese and Koreans on Tinian. The building of the camp was a monumental task and included all housing, sanitation facilities, food and water supply and security perimeter. Also, the Seabees had to build a camp for the garrison force guarding the civilians and a G-5 Hospital Unit for the Japanese and Koreans.

For more than six months following the invasion, the battalion endured constant sniper fire and several banzai attacks by the remaining die-hard Japanese who refused to surrender. Five men of the battalion were killed in action and thirty seven enlisted men and one officer were awarded the Purple Heart decoration for wounds from enemy attacks. Also,

five men of the 18th Construction Battalion were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism.

It was common for the Seabees, individually or in small groups, to go "Jap hunting" when their construction chores were done for the day.

On numerous occasions small parties of Seabees and a few rugged individuals would arm themselves with grenades and a rifle or submachinegun, and clean out Japanese soldier^s skulking in the innumerable caves on the island. On one occasion an enlisted man killed five Japanese hiding in a cave by throwing in a grenade. In ~~the~~^{ANOTHER} instance a Seabee of the 18th charged into a cave and grabbed a live grenade from the Japanese defender, throwing the bomb further into the cave to avoid getting hit. One time, two enlisted men working on a road were fired upon by a group of Japanese hidden in a dugout nearby. The Seabees grabbed their weapons and attacked the dugout and killed nine enemy soldiers.

Combat activity, though dramatic, was sporadic for the Seabees made their greatest contribution to the war effort in building tank farms for lube oil and aviation gasoline storage. The big projects were servicing

facilities for the B-29s operating from North Field and West Field on Tinian. The huge Army Air Corps bombers were raiding Japan daily and the Seabees were the men who built and maintained the airstrips, tank farms, bomb dumps and other support facilities for the airmen. Included in the construction were the aircraft revetments and the fuel lines from the tank farms to the airstrips.

The 18th Construction Battalion also built roads and streets, maintained and enlarged Camp Churo for the military government and drilled wells to obtain fresh water for various camps. The 18th also built a large camp for the Quartermaster Corps and a depot. The project entailed the construction of over 100 buildings, warehouses and barracks, a mess hall, heads and bakery.

With all the construction and combat activity, the men of the 18th found time to rig an ingenious cobbler's shop and a ^ddie press resembling a cookie cutter to make rubber heels for boots out of discarded tires. Using the die and automobile jack and a block of wood, the men made heels and soles for Seabee and Marine boots which were wearing out very quickly on the coral studded island.

The battalion continued building and maintaining tank farms and roads right up to the day it was inactivated, June 15, 1945.

In the last month of duty before inactivation, Commander L. E. Tull was transferred to another battalion and Lieutenant Commander G. W. Reed, CEC, USNR became officer in charge on 16 May 1945. In this last month most of the men of the battalion were sent back to the mainland to be mustered out of the service at Camp Parks, California. Some were transferred to other battalions. Five men of the battalion would remain on Tinian forever, for they lay sleeping in the military cemetery after giving "the last full measure" of their lives in defense of their country.

EIGHTEENTH 1945 15 NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

DECLASSIFIED

CBL8-~~100~~/jrd
0135-~~20~~

15 March 1945

From: Officer in Charge
To: The Chief of Naval Personnel

Via: (1) Officer in Charge, 29th USN Construction Regiment
(2) Officer in Charge, 6th USN Construction Brigade
(3) Island Commander
(4) ComFwdArea, CenPac
(5) ComServPac
(6) DirPacDocks, Navy 128

Subject: Itinerary of 18th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion

Reference: (a) BuPers Conf., ltr. file Pers-2122B-CEC/rc over QR9

Enclosure: (A) Itinerary of 18th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion from date formed to current date.

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (A) is submitted.

L. E. Tull To Facilitate
L. E. TULL Administrative Reading
Classification of
from: **CONFIDENTIAL**

To: RESTRICTED
Irvin S. Rasmussen
Comdr. CEC-V(S), USNR

Signature

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ITINERARY OF THE 18TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (Cont'd)

6	January	1944	Rear Echelon from Wellington, New Zealand arrived in Hilo (3 officers and 68 enlisted men).
8	January	1944	Detachments of "H" and "I" Companies departed from Tarsawa (9 officers and 280 enlisted men).
21	January	1944	Detachments of "H" and "I" Companies arrived at Hilo, Hawaii. Completing the movement of entire battalion from Wellington, New Zealand to Hilo, Hawaii. (Detachments via Tarsawa).
1	April	1944	Redesignated 18th USN Construction Battalion and assigned as Corps Troops, V Amphibious Corps. Remained attached to 2nd Marine Division.
5-11	May	1944	Battalion minus rear echelon departed from Hilo, Hawaii, (21 officers and 719 enlisted men).
15	June	1944	D-day, Seven (7) shore party platoons land on Saipan, (9 officers and 319 enlisted men).
16	June	1944	D-plus 1, Nine (9) shore party platoons land on Saipan (14 officers and 360 enlisted men).
17	June	1944	D-plus 2, One (1) shore party platoon landed on Saipan (4 officers and 40 enlisted men).
24	July	1944	J-(Jig) day, 2 officers and 6 enlisted men landed on Tinian.
26	July	1944	J-day plus 2, 16 officers and 613 enlisted men landed at Tinian (the remaining 1 officer and 66 enlisted men stayed on Saipan, arrived at Tinian in small groups over the period of the next ten days).
June & July		1944	The rear echelon (2 officers and 100 enlisted men) departed from Hilo in small groups; the last group arriving at Tinian on 5 September 1944.
15	March	1945	The entire Battalion has been on Tinian since 5 September 1944, until current date.

To Pacific
Admin's (air)
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from
changed
CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED
Irvin S. H...
Comdr. CECV...

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ITINERARY OF THE 18TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (Cont'd)

25	December	1942	Detachments of Companies "A", "D", & Hdq's, (3 officers and 17 enlisted men) disembarked.
7	April	1943	Battalion minus rear echelon embarked and sailed from Guadalcanal (17 officers and 722 enlisted men).
11	April	1943	Rear echelon embarked at Guadalcanal, (2 officers and 19 enlisted men).
16	April	1943	Battalion arrived at Wellington, New Zealand, (17 officers and 722 enlisted men).
20	April	1943	Rear echelon arrived at Wellington, New Zealand, (2 officers and 19 enlisted men).
26	April	1943	Battalion disembarked at Wellington, New Zealand, redesignated this date as 3rd Battalion, 18th Marines (Engineers), 2nd Marine Division (18 officers and 730 enlisted men).
31	October	1943	Companies "H", "I" and Hdq's detachments, (11 officers and 592 enlisted men) sailed from Wellington, New Zealand as ships platoon's.
21-23 25-26	November	1943	290 men and 3 officers of "H" and "I" Companies and Hdq's detachments disembarked at Betio Island (Tarawa).
29	November	1943	"G" Company Detachment and Hdq's detachment departed from Wellington, New Zealand, (9 officers and 260 enlisted men).
5	December	1943	Balance of "H" and "I" Companies and their Hdq's detachments that did not land at Tarawa arrived and disembarked at Hilo, Hawaii, (8 officers and 242 enlisted men).
12	December	1943	"G" Company Detachment and Hdq's detachment arrive at Hilo, Hawaii, (9 officers and 260 enlisted men).
12	December	1943	Personnel section of Hdq's Company (11 enlisted men) left Wellington, New Zealand.
22	December	1943	Rear echelon departed from Wellington, New Zealand, (3 officers and 68 enlisted men).
25	December	1943	Personnel Section of Hdq's Company arrived at Hilo, Hawaii, (11 enlisted men).

To Facilitate
Administrative Non-
Classification change
from: B.S.II,
To: RESTRICTED
CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

ITINERARY OF THE 18TH NAVY CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

18-19-20	July	1942	Battalion formed at NCTC, Norfolk, Virginia.
11	August	1942	Battalion Commissioned and transferred to NCTC, ABD, Davis Island, (24 officers and 1007 enlisted men)
6	September	1942	"C" Company transferred to C. B. Replacement Group FMF, San Diego, California. (6 officers and 259 enlisted men).
11	September	1942	Battalion transferred to FMF Base Depot, Norfolk Virginia. (20 officers and 792 enlisted men).
19	September	1942	Departed for overseas duty. (20 officers and 788 enlisted men)
11	November	1942	Arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia. (20 officers and 786 enlisted men).
24	November	1942	"A", "D", & Hdq. Companies disembarked at Noumea, New Caledonia, (14 officers and 557 enlisted men).
28	November	1942	"B" Company sailed from Noumea, New Caledonia, (5 officers and 234 enlisted men)
3	December	1942	"B" Company arrived at Guadalcanal, B.S.I., (4 officers and 200 enlisted men transferred to SS Joseph Teal for unloading).
6	December	1942	"B" Company detachment of 1 officer and 34 enlisted men disembarked at Guadalcanal, B.S.I.
7	December	1942	"A", "D", & Hdq's Companies sailed from Noumea, New Caledonia, (3 officers and 150 enlisted men aboard USS Betelgeuse and 11 officers and 382 enlisted men aboard USS American Legion)
3-8	December	1942	"B" Company unloading SS Joseph Teal at Guadalcanal (4 officers and 200 enlisted men)
11	December	1942	Company "B" disembarked at Guadalcanal, B.S.I., (4 officers and 200 enlisted men).
12	December	1942	Detachments of Companies "A", "D" & Hdq's, on USS American Legion, arrived and disembarked at Guadalcanal, B.S.I., (11 officers & 382 enlisted men).
19	December	1942	Detachments of Companies "A", "D", & Hdq's (3 officers and 150 enlisted men) aboard USS Betelgeuse arrive at Guadalcanal.

PLAIN

To Facilities administrative buildings (see instruction copy) from:

PLAIN

REFRESH

CONFIDENTIAL

ITINERARY OF THE 18TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

- 18,19,20 July 42 Battalion formated at NCTC, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 11 Aug 42 Battalion Commissioned and Transferred to NCTC, ABD, Davisville, Rhode Island, (24 officers and 1007 enlisted men).
- 6 Sept 42 "C" Company transferred to C.B. Replacemnt Group FMF, San Diego, California. (6 officers and 259 enlisted men).
- 11 Sep 42 Battalion transferred to FMF Base Depot, Norfolk, Va. (20 officers and 792 enlisted men).
- 19 Sep 42 Departed for overseas duty. (20 officers and 788 enlisted men).
- 11 Nov 42 Arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia. (20 officers and 786 enlisted men).
- 24 Nov 42 "A", "D", and Hdq. Companies disembarked at Noumea, New Caledonia, (14 officers and 552 enlisted men).
- 28 Nov 42 "B" Company sailed from Noumea, New Caledonia, (5 officers and 234 enlisted men).
- 3 Dec 42 "B" Company arrived at Guadalcanal, B.S.I., (4 officers and 200 enlisted men transferred to SS Joseph Teal for unloading).
- 6 Dec 42 "B" Company detachment of 1 officer and 34 enlisted men disembarked at Guadalcanal, B.S.I.
- 7 Dec 42 "A", "D", & Hdq's Companies sailed from Noumea, New Caledonia, (3 officers and 150 enlisted men aboard USS Betelguise and 11 officers and 382 enlisted men aboard USS American Legion).
- 3-8 Dec 42 "B" Company unloading SS Joseph Teal at Guadalcanal(4 officers and 200 enlisted men).
- 11 Dec 42 Company "B" disembarked at Guadalcanal, B.S.I., (4 officers and 200 enlisted men).
- 12 Dec 42 Detachments of Companies "A", "D" & Hdq's, on USS American Legion, arrived and disembarked at Guadalcanal, B.S.I., (11 officers and 382 enlisted men).

Itinerary of the 18th Naval Construction Battalion.

19 Dec 42 Detachments of Companies "A", "D", & Hdq's (3 officers and 150 enlisted men), aboard USS Petalga arrive at Guadalcanal.

25 Dec 42 Detachments of Companies "A", "D", & Hdq's (3 officers and 150 enlisted men) disembarked.

7 Apr 43 Battalion minus rear echelon embarked and sailed from Guadalcanal, P.S.I., (17 officers and 722 enlisted men).

11 Apr 43 Rear echelon embarked at Guadalcanal, (2 officers and 19 enlisted men).

16 Apr 43 Battalion arrived at Wellington, New Zealand, (17 officers and 722 enlisted men).

20 Apr 43 Rear echelon arrived at Wellington, New Zealand, (2 officers and 19 enlisted men).

26 Apr 43 Battalion disembarked at Wellington, New Zealand, redesignated this date as 3rd Battalion, 18th Marines (Engineers), 2nd Marine Division (18 officers and 730 enlisted men).

31 Oct 43 Companies "H", "I" and Hdq's detachments, (11 officers and 532 enlisted men) sailed from Wellington, New Zealand as ships platoon's,

21-23
25-26 Nov 43 290 men and 3 officers of "H" and "I" Companies and Hdq's detachments disembarked at Betio Island (Tarawa).

29 Nov 43 "G" Company Detachment and Hdq's detachment departed from Wellington, New Zealand, (9 officers and 260 enlisted men).

5 Dec 43 Balance of "H" and "I" Companies and their Hdq's detachments that did not land at Tarawa arrived and disembarked at Hilo, Hawaii, (8 officers and 242 enlisted men).

12 Dec 43 "G" Company Detachment and Hdq's detachment arrive at Hilo, Hawaii, (9 officers and 260 enlisted men).

12 Dec 43 Personnel section of Hdq's ~~Company~~ Company (11 enlisted men) left Wellington, New Zealand.

22 Dec 43 Rear echelon departed from Wellington, New Zealand, (3 officers and 68 enlisted men).

Itinerary of the 18th Naval Construction Battalion.

- 25 Dec 43 Personnel Section of Hdo's Company arrived at Hilo, Hawaii, (11 enlisted men).
- 6 Jan 44 Rear echelon from Wellington, New Zealand, arrived in Hilo, Hawaii, (3 officers and 68 enlisted men).
- 8 Jan 44 Detachments of "H" and "I" Companies departed from Tarawa, (5 officers and 280 enlisted men).
- 21 Jan 44 Detachments of "H" and "I" Companies arrived at Hilo, Hawaii. Completing the movement of entire battalion from Wellington, N.Z. to Hilo, Hawaii, (Detachments via Tarawa).
- 1 Apr 44 Redesignated 18th USN Construction Battalion and assigned as Corps Troops, V Amphibious Corps. Remained attached to 2nd Marine Division.
- 5-11 May 44 Battalion minus rear echelon departed from Hilo, Hawaii. (21 officers and 719 enlisted men).
- 15 Jun 44 D-day. Seven (7) shore party platoons land on Saipan. (3 officers and 319 enlisted men).
- 16 Jun 44 D-plus 1, Nine (9) shore party platoons land on Saipan (14 officers and 360 enlisted men).
- 17 Jun 44 D-plus 2, One (1) shore party platoon landed on Saipan (4 officers and 40 enlisted men).
- 24 Jul 44 J-(Jig) day, 2 officers and 6 enlisted men landed on Tinian.
- 26 Jul 44 J-day plus 2, 16 officers and 613 enlisted men landed at Tinian (the remaining 1 officer and 66 enlisted men stayed on Saipan, arrived at Tinian in small groups over the period of the next ten days).
- Jun & Jul 44 The rear echelon (2 officers and 100 enlisted men) departed from Hilo in small groups; the last group arriving at Tinian on 5 September 1944.
- 15 Mar 45 The entire Battalion has been on Tinian since 5 Sept. 1944, until current date.

NOTE: This itinerary has been checked and authenticated by the Officer-in-Charge of the 18th Naval Construction Battalion.

5 April 1945

CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE
HISTORY OF
18th USN CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

20 Jul 1942 Battalion formed at NCTC, Norfolk, Virginia

11 Aug 1942 Battalion commissioned and transferred to NCTC, Davisville, Rhode Island. The first battalion to go directly from Camp Allen to Davisville. Lieutenant Commander L. E. Tull, Officer in Charge.

6 Sep 1942 "C" Company transferred to west coast as FMF Replacements.

11 Sep 1942 Battalion officially assigned to 2nd Marine Division and transferred to FMF Base Depot, Norfolk, Virginia for outfitting.

19 Sep 1942 Departed for overseas duty.

11 Nov 1942 Battalion arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia and assigned miscellaneous construction.

25 Dec 1942 Battalion at Guadalcanal, major assignment to construct Fighter Strip #1, which was completed in 44 days, other miscellaneous projects such as roads, airfield maintenance, etc., were carried out. The Officer in Charge, Commander L. E. Tull and Executive Officer, Lieutenant R. E. Clausen, received the Legion of Merit.

11 Apr 1943 Battalion embarked for Neq Zealand to join 2nd Marine Division. Here a strenuous training program was carried out for the forecoming operation.

26 Apr 1943 18th Construction Battalion redesignated as 3rd Battalion, 18th Marines, 2nd Marine Division.

31 Oct 1943 Two-thirds of battalion sailed with 2nd Marine Division to Tarawa.

21-26 Nov 1943 Approximately one-third of battalion landed on Tarawa. Major assignment to repair Jap airfield which was done in 30 hours, in spite of lack of equipment and sniper fire. Other miscellaneous construction on camps, cleaning dead Japs out of blockhouses, burying bodies, etc., was carried out. Men actually present at Tarawa were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation as part of 18th Marines.

8 Jan 1944 Men in Gilberts embarked for Hawaii to rejoin battalion and 2nd Marine Division. In Hawaii the battalion helped construct Division's camp and in charge of maintenance after completion, a small airstrip was also constructed. Other minor projects were carried out, as well as a training program.

1 Apr 1944 Battalion redesignated as 18th Construction Battalion assigned to V Amphibious Corps for further assignment to 2nd Marine Division.

5-11 May 1944 Battalion embarked with 2nd Marine Division for Saipan and Tinian as shore party.

15-17 Jun 1944 Battalion lands on Saipan and carries out major assignment, although construction on roads and a hospital were also carried on.

24 Jul 1944 2 officers and 6 enlisted men volunteered to assist landing amphibious ramps "J" Day on Tinian which were designed by Commodore P. J. Halloran.

26 Jul 1944 Battalion arrives on Tinian. Battalion in part assisted in establishment of Camp Churo, (Civil Affairs) for some 11,000 civilians. This involved food and water supply, sanitation facilities and erection of shelters, camp for garrison force and G-5 Hospital Unit for civilians was also constructed. Supervision of maintenance and construction at Camp Churo has continued to present date. Battalion was also assigned to other major projects such as installation and maintenance of tank farms and pipe lines, construction of roads, camps, warehouses and bomb dumps. For action under combat on Saipan and Tinian 37 enlisted men and 1 officer received the Purple Heart and 5 men were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

16 May 1945 Lieutenant Commander G. W. Reed, Officer in Charge -- Commander Tull transferred.

15 Jun 1945 Battalion inactivated on Tinian. Most of enlisted men sent to Camp Parks for mustering out of Navy.

CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE HISTORY OF 18th USN CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (Cont'd)

Officer in Charge

L. E. Tull, Comdr., CEC USNR
From: 12 August 1942
To: Current date

Home Address

17 Rural Place
Delmar, New York

Executive Officer

J. R. Cross, Jr., Lt. Comdr., CEC USNR
From: 8 October 1944
To: Current date

Home Address

5834 N. Washtenaw Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

Former Executive Officers

R. E. Clausen, Lieut., CEC USNR
From: 11 August 1942
To: 26 March 1943

Home Address

El Segundo Refinery
El Segundo, California

E. E. Gibson, Lt. Comdr., CEC USNR
From: 27 March 1943
To: 10 October 1944

Home Address

113 Ashley Ave.
Charleston, South Carolina



18TH SUPER
Battalion



FIRE STATION



203

18 Bn.
DISBURSING
OFFICE

U.S. TREASURY
DEPARTMENT
Guadalcanal Branch
NO CHECKS CASHED!

HATS OFF
IN
MESS HALL

BE GOOD!
MAYN' BE -
IN MESS HALL
AT



18th CB
USN

