

17th Special Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



	ON BOARD		
DATE	OFFICERS	MEN	AUTHORITY
30 Jun'44	32	924	Recap.
1 Sep'44	29	982	MoR
30 Sep'44		1008	Recap
1 Nov'44	33	990	MoR
1 Oct'44	33	1008	MoR
1 Jan'45	33	980	MoR
1 Feb'45	32	981	MoR
1 Mar'45	33	1128	MoR
1 Apr'45	32	1117	MoR
1 May'45	31	1113	BNP625 & R.
1 Jun'45	29	1073	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	29	1049	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	31	1035	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		1071	BNP625
1 Oct'45	31	778	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	5		R

17th Construction Battalion (Special) (INACTIVATED)

17th C.B. (Sp)

NCTC - Peary
 ABD - Hueneme
 Ready Date - 15 Dec'43
 Left ABD - 16 Dec'43
 Location - ~~Cub-12~~ Banika, Russell Is. & Emirau Is. Russells Peleliu
 Ulithi, Angaur Leyte-Samar, Guam

LOG

- 11- 9-43 - CNO orders transfer of the 17th (Sp) to ABD Gulfport about 13 Nov'43. (CNO conf. disp. 082007 NCR 620 dtd 9 Nov'43 to Peary)
- 11-22-43 - CNO orders transfer of the 17th (Sp) to ABD Hueneme about 30 Nov'43. (CNO conf. disp. 221719 NCR 2746 dtd 22 Nov'43 to Gulfport)
- 12-22-43 - 17th (Sp) left ABD 12/16/43. (WRK)
- 2-15-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 17th (Sp) - Batt arrived at Banika 9 Jan'44.
- 3-21-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 17th (Sp) - no information on location.
- 5- 6-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 17th (Sp) - 1st Echelon of 15 officers and 505 men landed on Emirau, Admiralty Is. The other half batt. is at Russells, and expects to rejoin shortly at Emirau.
- 5-30-44 - 1 May'44 report of 17th (Sp) - Batt is located at Emirau Is. except for the Rear Echelon which is still at Russells.
- 7-10-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 17th (Sp) - Operating at Emirau.
- 8-12-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 17th (Sp) - operating at Emirau. Estimated completion date is 15 Jul'44.

17th (Sp)

- 8-25-44 - 17th (Sp) is located at Emirau - Following info from data of Sopac as of 7/1/44:
Arrived Russells Jan'44
" Emirau Mar'44
Assigned to Cub 12
- 8-29-44 - 17th (Sp) arrived Russells from Emirau 14 Aug'44 (in part). (ONE Russells Air-mailgram 150147 NCR d 14207 dtd 21 Aug'44 to Comseronsopac)
- 10- 2-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 17th (Sp) - located at Russells. Staging for forward movement. Draft of 65 colored seamen received.
- 11-21-44 - The 17th (Sp) is located at Peleliu. (IsComPeleliu Sec. Disp. to CNO 050300 NCR 17368 dtd 17 Nov'44)
- 12-8-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 17th (Sp) - located at Peleliu. Report endorsed by 38th Reg.
- 12-14-44 -- The 17th (Sp) is located at Peleliu. (IsComPeleliu Sec. Disp. to CNO 011016 dtd 9 Dec'44). This dispatch read as the 17th CB.
- 1-1-45 - 1 Oct'44 report of 17th (Sp) - located at Peleliu. Report endorsed by 38th Reg. Batt was aboard ship until 15 Sep'44, when the 1st section went into combat. On 28 Sep., they were detached from the shore party of the 1st Marines and began discharging ships of the 1st Echelon. The first section of the 17th (Sp) consisted of 629 men and 15 officers who were attached to the 1st Pioneers of the 1st Marine Division for shore party work. Landed H-Hour plus 2 of D-Day on Peleliu Is. Shore party operations continued till Sep 28th. Reinforced the Marines in some sectors and in one case manned a 37 MM gun. 33 wounded and 6 dead.
- 1-13-45 - 17th (Sp) located at Peleliu. (IsCom Peleliu Sec Disp to CNO 030037 dtd 11 Jan'45)
- 2-10-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 17th (Sp) - no info on location. Report endorsed by 38th Reg.

17th CB (Sp)

- 2-12-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 38th Reg. - The 17th (Sp) is under the operational control of the IsCom, Peleliu, and under the 38th Reg. for administration purposes only.
- 2-15-45 - The 17th (Sp) is located at Peleliu. (IsComPeleliu Sec. disp to CNO 020415 dtd 8 Feb'45).
- 3-10-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 17th (Sp) - located at Peleliu.
- 3-21-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 38th Reg. - 17th (Sp) located at Peleliu.
- 4- 3-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 17th (Sp) - no info on location. Batt has been split into 2 sections, one section operating Comseron TEN.
- 5- 1-45 - 17th (Sp) Sec 1 at Peleliu. (Dirpadocks P Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45)
- 5- 1-45 - 17th (Sp) Sec 2 at Ulithi with Comseron 10. (Dirpadocks P Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45)
- 5- 8-45 - The 5th (Sp) is shown located at Peleliu on the Dirpadocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr
- 5-15-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 17th (Sp) - located as follows:
1st Sec. - Peleliu
2nd Sec. - Ulithi
3rd Sec. - Angaur (193 men and 6 off. were sent to Angaur on 26 Apr'45)
- 5-17-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 17th (Sp) Sect.1 - The 17th (Sp) has been split into two sections with 1st section at Peleliu & on 16 Feb'45 498 men & 16 officers were detached with the 2nd Sect. for duty operating Comseron 10. OinC of the 2nd Sec. is Lt. Comdr Fitzgerald. Administration is being retained by OinC 1st Section.
- 5-30-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 17th (Sp) - located at Peleliu and Comseron 10.
- 6-6-45 - Comservpac desires a transfer of 1/2 18th (Sp) to Peleliu to relieve Sec 1 of the 17th (Sp) and to return entire 17th (Sp) to P.H. where the batt. will stage. (Cont. on following card)

Loc. - Peleliu, Ulithi, Angaur
Leyte-Samar Guam

17th C.B. (Special)

- 6-6-45 - (Cont. from prec. cd) It is requested that 6 Logistic Support Cos. be made available to Comservpac, 2 to be ordered to report to Comservon 10 as relief for the 18th (Sp) 2 to be ordered to Comservon 10 as relief for the 17th (Sp) Sec 2, and 2 to be ordered to Comservon 10. (Comservpac 4th end dtd 18 May'45 to 18th (Sp) ltr ser 55-45 dtd 3 Mar'45)
- 6-9-45 - Cincpac approves the recommendations made by Comservpac with the following exceptions: 17th (Sp) should be transferred to Guam instead of Pearl for staging. 5 Base Cos. should be furnished Comservon 10 in lieu of 6. (Dep Cincpac and For conf ltr ser 04848 - 5th end on 18th (Sp) ltr 55-45 dtd 3 March to Comservpac)
- 6-15-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 17th (Sp) - located at Peleliu (adm. hqtrs), Angaur, and Leyte-Samar. The 2nd Sec., consisting of 15 off. and 487 men, left Ulithi 19 May and arrived at Leyte-Samar 25 May'45. 45 men were transferred to the Replacement Pool, P.H.
- 7- 5-45 - Compliance ComMariannas 13CL-L-44. Delete 17th (Sp) Peleliu. Add CED 1086 Peleliu. (IsCom Peleliu Sec disp 030101 to CNO)
- 7- 7-45 - The 2nd Sec of the 17th (Sp) left its former location at Ulithi on 24 May and arrived at its present location in the Philippines 27 May, resuming cargo operations with Comservon 10. This section has recd no direct orders to again move. However, it is understood that tentative plans call for the 2nd Sec to rejoin the 1st Sec at Guam, leaving here in about a month. (OinC 17th (Sp) Sec 2 ltr dtd 25 Jun'45 to Budocks)
- 7-18-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 17th (Sp) Sec 1 - The Peleliu detachment, consisting of 15 off. and 589 men, was secured on 21 June and boarded ship for movement to Guam. Arrived Guam 26 June and disembarked on 30 June. The C Division of Sec 1 terminated cargo operations at Angaur on 21 June and was transferred to Guam.

Location - Leyte-Samar Guam 17th C.B. (Special)

- 7-18-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 17th (Sp) Sec 1 (Cont.) - Comservpac has ordered Comservon 10 to release the 2nd Sec, and it is expected that they will join the 1st Sec. at Guam in the near future. Report via 28th Reg and 5th Brg.
- 8-3-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 28th Reg. states that the 17th (Sp) Ser. 1 arrived at Guam on board ship on 26 Jun'45 and disembarked on 30 Jun'45.
- 8-13-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 17th (Sp) Sec 1 - located at Guam. Cargo operations began on 3 July under the oper. control of the 16th (Sp). Operating at Cabras Is. and Agaña Bay. Release of the 2nd Sec. by Comservon 10 is expected during the month of August. It is anticipated that the 2nd Sec will join the 1st Sec at Guam at that time. Report via 28th Reg and 5th Brg.
- 8-18-45 - 17th CB (Sp) report of 1 Aug'45. No info as to location.
- 8-24-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 5th Brg. - Approx 1/2 of the 17th (Sp) arrived 30 June from Peleliu.
- 8-31-45 - 17th (Sp), 1st Sec. arrived early in July. 2nd Sec of this batt is located on Samar. (5th Brig. end on 17th (Sp) report dtd 4 Aug'45).
- 9-12-45 - 17th CB (Sp) report dtd 1 Sept'45. Rpt came via 28th Reg & 5th Brig. The 2nd Sec will not join the 1st Sec until approx. 1 Oct. No info as to location.
- 9-20-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 17th CB (Sp), Sec 1 - located not stated. Report via 28th Reg & 5th Brig.
- 10-24-45 - Desire to inactivate 17th (Sp), Sec. 1. Cincpac approval is requested to inactivate 17th (Sp). (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05558 dtd 9 Oct'45 to Cincpac).
- 11-8-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 17th (Sp), Sec. 1 - location not stated. Report via 28th Reg. & 5th Brig. 17th CB (Sp), sec. 1, report states that the 2nd Sec. will not join the 1st Sec. at Guam. Inactivation of 1st Sec. is anticipated at an early date.
- 11-8-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 17th (Sp), Sec. 2 - location not stated. Report via 28th Reg. & 5th Brig.

Location - Leyte-Samar Guam 17th CB (Special)

- 11-14-45 - Comservpac directs Commarianas to inactivate the 17th Sp. Sec. 1. Advise Comservpac when inactivation is completed. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05656 dtd 23 Oct'45 to Commarianas).
- 11-16-45 - 17th(Sp) was inactivated, date not given. (Comservpac restr ltr ser 346-3-61 dtd 26 Oct'45 to BuPers). Section 2
- 1-21-46 - Inactivation of 17th(Sp)/CB completed on 1 December 1945. Inactivation of 17th(Sp), Section 1 was completed 31 October 1945. (OinC 17th(Sp) Sec. 3, ltr dtd 1 Dec 1945 to BuPers).
- 1-29-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of 17th(Sp), 2nd Sec. - location not stated.
- 2-18-46 - Inactivation of 17th(Sp) 2nd Section was completed on 7 January 1946. (OinC ltr to ComPhilSeaFron dtd 7 January 1946).

INACTIVATED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/19/44	-	Emirau, Admiralty Is. RASI	C. B. report 1 June.	Left U. S. Dec. 1943.
2/7/44	-	(Russells)	Combesonobae sec disp. 022200 August.	detached present duty. about 10 Aug report Russells Temporary duty.
7/2/44	-	Russells	Emirau sec disp. 110210 Aug.	departed Emirau - destination Russells tender
7/9	-	(DAWE)	Russells sec act disp. 012143 Sept.	Delete from Russells.
8/19	-	(VAWS)		
11/20		VAWS (Bellevue)	20 com Bellevue sec act disp 050300 Nov. 8 030037 Jan.	
7/3			20 com Bellevue sec	delete Vauvau.
7/1	20 com Guam Sec 300128 June	Ouvu	act disp. 030101 July.	- added.

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
8/19	-	Aug. report shows at Ouva;	0550-4 ed.	

17TH SPECIAL BATTALION

In quick succession after activation Sept. 19, 1943, the 17th Special jumped to Gulfport Nov. 15, to Hueneme Nov. 30, and overseas Dec. 16. The 17th landed at Banika in the Russell Islands Jan. 9, 1944, and went on its first push in March when 505 men and 20 officers took part with the Fourth Marine Division in the occupation of Emirau Island in the St. Matthias group. Remainder of the Battalion followed in April. It returned to the Russells Aug. 14, staging for the Palau Island invasion. The First Section of 500 men landed on White and Orange Beaches at Peleliu H-Hour plus two of D-Day Sept. 15, attached to the First Marine Division. The Battalion split into two sections in Feb. 1945, with Section Two going to Uli-thi with Comseron Ten. The First Section remained at Peleliu, then divided, with half going to adjacent Angaur April 26. The First Section rejoined forces in June, and moved to Guam for the duration of the war, with the Second Section transferring to Leyte, where it remained on duty until the end of the war. Comservpac, on May 18, 1945, desired to return the entire 17th Special from Peleliu.

Angaur and Leyte, to Pearl Harbor, for staging, but plans were altered.

ITINERARY OF THE 17TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (SPECIAL)

- 20 Sep 1943 - Formed at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va.
- 13 Nov 1943 - Ordered to ASD, Gulfport, Miss.
- 30 Nov 1943 - Transferred to ASD, Port Hueneke, California.
- 16 Dec 1943 - Departed ASD, Port Hueneke, California.
- 9 Jan 1944 - Arrived Honika, Russell Is., British Solomon Is.
- 15 Mar 1944 - 15 officers and 505 men left Russell and arrived at Miliran, Bismarck Arch. on 20 March 1945.
- 20 Apr 1944 - Remainder of battalion arrived at Miliran after leaving Russell.
- 14 Aug 1944 - Entire battalion returned to Russell to stage for forward movement.
- 15 Sep 1944 - 15 officers and 529 men arrived at Peleliu and landed H-Hour plus 2 of D-Day, as attached to the 1st Pioneers of 1st Marine Division.
- 29 Sep 1944 - Balance of battalion arrived at Peleliu and stevedoring operations began.
- 16 Feb 1945 - Battalion was split into two (2) sections, 2nd Section consisting of 15 officers and 498 men transferred to Ulithi with ComBaton 223, the 1st Section remaining at Peleliu.
- 26 Apr 1945 - The 1st Section split into two sections, forming a 3rd Section of 193 men and 6 officers who were sent to Angaur, Palau Group.
- 19 May 1945 - The 2nd Section, consisting of 15 officers and 487 men, left Ulithi and arrived at Leyte/Samar on 25 May 1945 to continue stevedoring operations.
- 23 Jun 1945 - The 1st and 3rd Section, once more formed into the 1st Section, left Peleliu and Angaur with 15 officers and 589 men, and arrived at Guam, Marianas Islands, on 30 June 1945, attached to the 28th NCR Regiment and 5th NCBrigade.

NOTE: The above itinerary has been checked and authenticated by the Officer in Charge of the 17th Naval Construction Battalion (Special).

17 September 1945

ITINERARY OF 17th NCB (SPECIAL)

(DECLASSIFIED)-N-T-I-A-L

20 Sept. 43	Formed at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va.
13 Nov. 43	Ordered to ABD, Gulfport, Miss.
30 Nov. 43	Transferred to ABD, Port Hueneme, California.
16 Dec. 43	Departed ABD, Port Hueneme, California.
9 Jan. 44	Arrived Banika, Russell Is., British Solomon Is.
15 March 44	15 officers and 505 men left Russells and arrived at Emirau, Bismarck Arch. on 20 March 1945.
20 April 44	Remainder of battalion arrived at Emirau after leaving Russells.
14 Aug. 44	Entire battalion returned to Russells to stage for forward movement.
15 Sept. 44	15 Officers and 629 men arrived at Peleliu and landed H-Hour plus 2 of D-Day, as attached to the 1st Pioneers of 1st Marine Division.
29 Sept. 44	Balance of battalion arrived at Peleliu and stevedoring operations began.
16 Feb. 45	Battalion was split into two (2) sections, 2nd Section consisting of 16 officers and 498 men transferred to Ulithi with ComSeron TEN, the 1st Section remaining at Peleliu.
26 April 45	The 1st Section split into two sections, forming a 3rd Section of 193 men and 6 officers who were sent to Angaur, Palau Group.
19 May 45	The 2nd Section, consisting of 15 officers and 487 men, left Ulithi and arrived at Leyte/Samar on 25 May 1945 to continue stevedoring operations.
25 June 45	The 1st and 3rd Section, once more formed into the 1st Section, left Peleliu and Angaur with 15 officers and 588 men, and arrived at Guam, Marianas Islands, on 30 June 1945, attached to the 26th NCR Regiment and 5th NCB Brigade.

NOTE: The 2nd Section is still at Leyte/Samar, but is expected to join this section shortly at Guam.

17 September 1945

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE:

Lieut. John A. Hardie, CWO, USMC,
Executive Officer.

17th SPECIAL STEVEDORE
Battalion



"They shall not want"









