

1ST NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

*Historical
Information*



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



1st Const. Brig.

8 May '42 1st Const. Brigade set up by authority of VCNO as of 8 May - Letter Op30K33-EP
Serial 569430. To consist of the 1st and 6th Regs.

14 May '43 Comdr. Bronson, Staff temporary Executive off. coming from 1st Reg.
Comdr. R. T. Hall, on staff temporarily coming from 6th Reg.
Comdr. E. C. O'Brian, MC, is staff medical officer from 21st C.B.

4-20-43--Lt. MacGregor and Ens. Milburn assigned coming from 1st Reg. (BY&D to Pers).
4-20-43--Lt. Comdr. Hall ordered to report to BuY&D, Wash. D.C. (Temp). (BY&D to Pers).
4-20-43--Comdr. Bronson ordered to report to BuY&D, Wash. D.C. (Temp). (BY&D to Pers).
5-20-43--Lt. McLennan, Lt. Ameel, and Lt.(jg) Spiller assigned coming from the 13th CB.
(BY&D to Pers).

4-30-43--From 1st Const. Brigade report shows locations of batts in last 6 months(Oct.'43)
Sitka - - 1 Kodiak - - 4 Dutch Harbor - 4 Adak - - - 4
Amchitka - - 2 West Amchitka - - 5.

7-23-43 Lt. (jg) Ives assigned to this unit from 1st Regiment (Miss Fisher)

7-23-43 - Lt. Comdr. Marx detached to 1st Reg.(Budocks ltr. to Pers dated 11 July '43)
7-24-43 - Lt. MacGregor detached to 6th Regiment.(Budocks to Pers dated 11 July '43)
8-5-43 -- Comdr. E. M. Kelly becomes Temp Exec of the 1st Brigade coming from the 8th CB.
(8th CB June Monthly report)

8-5-43 -- Headquarters 1st Brigade moved from Dutch Harbor to Adak by order Comalsec.
(ltr. OinC, 1st Brigade to Budocks dated 13 July 1943)

8-16-43 - Comdr. Kelly returns to 8th CB. Lt. Comdr. Dominy becomes Exec. Bart W. Gillespie is acting CinC during Meades absence. (Ltr from R. H. Meade dated 28 July 1943)

8-19-43 - Officer roster checked from report dated 1 August 1943. Added Cmdr. Love and
and Capt. Gorecki.

8-26-43 - Lt. McLennan, Lt. Ameel, Lt(jg) Spiller & Ens. Milburn detached and ordered to Peary. (BuDocks ltrs to BuPers dated 19 Aug'43)

1st C.Brigade

9-25-43 - Comalsec disp. 180302 NCR 15378 24 Sept'43 to Bupers - request orders that Capt. Gorecki be transferred to 5th C.B.(Special).

11-5-43 - Capt. Meade assigned additional duty on ComAlSec staff (Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 2 Nov 43).

11-9-43 - Comdr. Bay assigned from 85th C.B. (Budocks ltr to Bopers dated 3 November 1943).

11-9-43 - Lt.(jg) Durden assigned from the 6th Regiment(Budocks ltr to Bopers dated 3 Nov'43)
11-13-43 -Lt.Comdr. Dominy detached to become CinC of the 32nd CB(Budocks ltr to Bopers dated
11 November 1943).

2-16-44--Officer roster checked with 1 Feb '44 report - detached Comdr. O'Brien, MC and Lt. Col. Ives, O-V.

3-16-44—1st Brigade located at Adak(1st Brigade batt report dated 1 Mar '44).

3-20-44 -Officer roster checked with 1 Mar '44 report and OK.

3-31-44 -Comalsec proposes that the 1st Brigade disband June 1, 1944. On disbanding of the 1st Brigade, Comalsec proposes to decentralize command of Seabees, on Subsector basis, to Senior OinG of each Subsector who will report for this duty to the Subsector Commander. The five subsectors are administered from Sitka, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, Adak and Attu.(1st Brigade report for 15 Mar'44).

4-11-44 -Officer roster checked with 1 April '44 report and OK. CNO Amg #131513 Mar '44 to Comalsec authorizing disbanding of First Naval Brigade 1 June '44.

4-28-44 -Comdr. Ray detached to 17th ND as PWO(Budocks ltr to Bopers dated 14 Apr '44).

5-12-44 -Officer roster checked with 1 May '44 report and OK except for recent changes.
Enlisted personnel transferred from the Brigade to returning battalions in view of
disbanding 1 June '44.

5-19-44 - Lt. (jg) Durden detached to DirAldocks(Budocks ltr to Bopers dated 15 May'44).

5-19-44 - Comdr. Meade detached to Budocks(Budocks ltr to Bopers dated 5 May'44).

(Later orders with no date requests that he be ordered to CinCopea).

5-19-44 - 1st Brigade inactivated - Coml7 Conf. disp. 04136 May'44. ^{HOWLAND IS MAIL 1304}

12-14-44 - Chronological history of the 1st Brigade:

24 Apr'43 - 1st Brig. authorized with hdqtrs. at Dutch Harbor.

30 May'43 - Hdqtrs Co. arrived Dutch Harbor from the States.

10 Jul'43 - Hdqtrs moved from Dutch Harbor to Adak, arriving Adak 12 Jul'43
(5 off. & 13 men)

1 May'44 - 1st Brig. disbanded. 3 off. & 6 men left for the States.
(Com 17 Sec. ltr ND17/A12-1/L7 over 50/2b over Ser 0096 to Budocks dtd 6 Nov'44)

1st Brigade disbanded during first part of May'44 (Coml7 Conf 04136 May'44)

INACTIVATED

CAPT. R. H. Meade *act.*
 Exec - Lt. Comdr. J. A. Dominy *act.*
 Comdr. E. O. O'Brien
 Lt. (jg) G. S. Ives
 Lt. Comdr. T. G. Love *deceased*
 Capt. C. L. Gerecki
 Lt. (jg) James T. Durden
 Comdr. Frederick G. Hay *act.*

		ON BOARD	
	Off.	Men Total	
CEC USN			
CEC USN	Off.	13	(MuR)
-MO-USMR 6-30-43			
-O-V-USMR 30 Sept '43		12	(MuR)
-SC-USMR			
CEC USMR 1 Feb '44	4	2	11 MoR
CEC USMR 1 Mar '44	4	7	1st BrigRep.
CEC USMR 31 Mar '44		7	Recap.

1st Brigade disbanded during first part of May '44.
 /Coml7 Conf 04136 May '44/

1st Construction Brigade (*INACTIVATED*)

1st N. C. BRIGADE
 Alaskan Sector
 (Hdqtrs - Adak)

1st REGIMENT	A B D	4th REGIMENT	6th REGIMENT	9th REGIMENT
Dutch Harbor Area	Dutch Harbor	Kodiak Area	Adak-Amchitka Area	Advance Area
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
(N) 8th Batt.	1/2 8th Spec Batt	(N) 38th Batt	12th Batt	22nd Batt
(N) 13th Batt		(A) 41st Batt	32nd Batt	23rd Batt
(A) 21st Batt		(A) 43rd Batt	42nd Batt	56th Batt
(a) 51st Batt		(N) 45th Batt	52nd Batt	*68th Batt
**7th Special		** 1/2 8th Special	** 5th Special	

** Under Brigade for Administrative Purposes Only

* 79th Batt. to remain at Kodiak for base maintenance in lieu of 68th Batt originally assig

(A) On army projects (N) On navy projects to be completed approximately as follows:

8th Batt at Dutch Harbor	July 31
13th " " Kokia	Aug. 31
38th " " Kokia	July 31
45th " " Kokia	Aug. 31

Organization of 1st Brigade

27 June 1943

P. W. Roberts

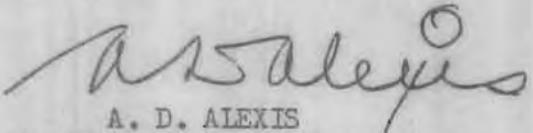
NAVFAC
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ASCA-44-4

REPORT
on
ALASKAN SECTOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES
of the
BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS
1 JULY 1942 TO 1 MARCH 1944

this report is downgraded to
PLAIN
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ALASKA DIVISION
BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
1 MARCH 1944

Acknowledgment is made of the invaluable assistance rendered in the preparation of this report by the Commandant of the Thirteenth Naval District, Commander of the Northwest Sea Frontier, the Commanding General of the Alaskan Department, U. S. Army, the Commander of the Alaskan Sector, the District Engineer, U. S. A. at Seattle, the Commandants and Commanding Officers of the various stations in the Alaskan Sector, the Commanding Officer of Fleet Air Wing Four, the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station, Seattle, the Officer in Charge of the First Naval Construction Brigade, the Officers in Charge of the Naval Construction Regiments and Battalions in Alaska, the Contractors for the construction of the Alaskan Air Stations, and all others who were concerned or involved in its preparation. Their assistance in the expediting and furnishing of detailed information and the preparation of photographs, plans, layouts, and maps made possible the compilation of the information contained in this report.


A. D. ALEXIS
Captain (CEC), United States Navy
Director Alaska Division

REPORT ON ALASKAN SECTOR
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS
1 July 1942 to 1 March 1944

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INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for the purpose of presenting in a concise, compact, and handy form, information on the Alaskan activities of the Bureau of Yards and Docks during the period of September 1939, to March 1944. Although more detailed and more complete information is available in the records and files of the construction contract and the office of the Alaska Division of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, it is believed that the report presents an accurate picture of the work accomplished and the problems encountered, both by the Naval Contractors and the Construction Battalions engaged in the construction of Naval facilities in the Alaskan Sector.

Detailed information has been included on the organization of the Naval construction forces and on planning and the development of the shore facilities required for the operation of Naval forces. There is included in the report, a list of facilities constructed at each activity, as well as information on structures constructed and on special items, such as pierced plank and bolted tanks, and how such items satisfied planning needs. The report further includes a summary of information on clothing and information on shipping problems that confronted the activities responsible for maintaining the flow of construction materials, supplies, and equipment required to complete Naval construction in Alaska. There are included in the Appendices, for handy references, lists of facilities, photographs of installations, and layouts of standard structures, as well as layouts of complete activities.

The problems which confronted construction men in Alaska were many, not the least of which were those caused by weather, distances between activities, and long distances involved in shipping materials and equipment from their source of procurement in the States to the locale of the construction activity in Alaska. The successful completion of the work can be attributed to the "Can-do" spirit of the construction personnel in the Alaskan Sector.

CHAPTER IV
CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL

In late 1940, the tempo of the construction program was stepped up in order that the completion of the facilities in the Alaskan Sector would be accomplished ahead of the schedule proposed in the initial dealings with the Contractor, Siems Drake Puget Sound. To accomplish this early completion, civilian personnel forces were increased and the type of construction altered materially. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, it was evident that the Alaskan theatre would, at an early date, become an active combat area; and the number of Naval personnel being sent to Alaska for operation of the Naval facilities was substantially increased. Construction forces at that time had been increased about 60%, and the Contractor began to feel that the bottom of the manpower bucket had been scraped due to increased tempo, not only in the Alaskan Sector but in all other areas where civilian personnel was being used. With the declaration of war and the bombing of Dutch Harbor on June 3, 1942, it became evident that the use of civilian construction forces in Alaska, particularly in the Aleutian chain which was actually the war front area, could not be continued. Furthermore, additional construction workers were required to hasten the completion of the projects. These could not be supplied from civilian sources; therefore, the Bureau of Yards and Docks, having formed the Naval Construction Battalions, approved the discontinuing of the construction in Alaska under contract and the completing of the work and the accomplishing of new construction under Naval supervision by Naval Construction Battalions.

The first infiltration of the Seabees began in June, 1942, with the arrival of the Fourth Battalion at the Naval Air Station, Dutch Harbor. The number of Contractor's forces began to decrease at that time, with only the personnel required to close out the contract remaining by April, 1943. In rapid succession, the 8th, 13th, 12th, 21st, 23rd, 22nd, 32nd, 38th, 42nd, 43rd, 41st, 45th, 51st, 52nd, 66th, and 68th Construction Battalions were brought into the Sector and assigned to work by the Commander of Alaskan Sector. The number of Seabee and Navy Contract personnel working in Alaska during this period were as shown on Figure 2 and as follows:

		SEABEES		CONTRACT
		Officers	Enlisted Men	NOy-3570 Civilian Employees
June	1942			5,813
July		46	2,160	5,483
August		69	3,240	5,257
September		92	4,320	5,082
October		115	5,400	5,243
November		138	6,480	5,651
December		184	8,640	5,774
January	1943	299	14,040	4,501
February		345	16,200	3,269
March		402	16,092	1,872
April		427	16,632	527
May		445	17,571	211
June		513	19,674	161
July		527	19,667	136
August		643	21,410	99
September		652	21,948	32
October		569	20,425	
November		576	20,118	
December		547	19,692	
January	1944	506	19,032	
February		495	19,024	

These Battalions were distributed throughout the Sector as the work load requirements varied at Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, Adak, Amchitka, Attu, Kiska, and Tanaga, and as the combat forces moved to the westward as follows:

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	DEPARTURE SEATTLE
4th Battalion	NOB, Dutch	27 June 1942
8th Battalion	NOB, Dutch	8 July 1942
13th Battalion	NOB, Dutch	8 August 1942
12th Battalion	NOB, Adak	6 September 1942
21st Battalion	NOB, Dutch	12 October 1942
23rd Battalion	NAS, Attu	2 November 1942
22nd Battalion	NAS, Kodiak & Attu	19 November 1942
32nd Battalion	NOB, Adak	9 December 1942
38th Battalion	NOB, Adak & NAF, Kiska	9 January 1943
42nd Battalion	NOB, Adak & NAF, Amchitka	30 December 1942
43rd Battalion	NOB, Kodiak	9 January 1943
41st Battalion	NOB, Kodiak	20 January 1943

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DEPARTURE SEATTLE</u>
45th Battalion	NAF, Tanaga, NOB, Kodiak & NAS, Sitka	20 January 1943
51st Battalion	NOB, Dutch	12 February 1943
52nd Battalion	NOB, Adak &	
66th Battalion	NFD, Sand Bay	12 February 1943
68th Battalion	NOB, Adak	21 August 1943
	NAS, Attu	11 July 1943

17 Due to the increase in construction activity, it became necessary to establish full engineering control in Alaska. Prior to that time, the Commander Alaskan Sector had been using the services of the Resident Officer in Charge at Kodiak as the Civil Engineer advisor for the Alaskan Sector. In December, 1942, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations approved the establishment of the First Naval Construction Regiment at Naval Operating Base, Dutch Harbor, by serial 0332930. Duties of the Regiment were to coordinate the activities of the Battalions throughout the Sector and to administer the three Battalions operating at Dutch Harbor. As the number of forces increased, other Regiments were established as follows:

- 4th Regiment, NOB, Kodiak - Vice Chief of Naval Operations serial 0328230, dated 18 December 1942, to Commander Alaskan Sector.
- 6th Regiment, NOB, Adak - VCNO serial 0417530, dated 5 February 1943, to Comalsec.
- 9th Regiment, NAS, Attu - VCNO serial 076813, dated 22 July 1943, to Commandant, Thirteenth Naval District.

To coordinate properly the activities of the Regiments and Battalions, the First Naval Construction Brigade was organized on 24 April 1943 by the order of the Commander Alaskan Sector. Commander R. H. Meade (CEC) USN was appointed Officer in Charge and assigned command duties for all Construction Regiments, Battalions and Advance Base Depots, and made directly responsible for the execution of all approved construction projects in the Alaskan Sector. The function of Advance Base planning and the approval of projects was placed under the immediate staff of the Commander Alaskan Sector.

In May, 1943, the 23rd Battalion moved in with the combat forces at Attu; and after the elimination of the Japanese, were reinforced with additional Construction Battalions. One-half of the 38th Battalion accompanied the amphibious forces on the landing at Kiska in August 1943, and work required for the construction of the Naval Air Facility established at that location was completed by the Battalion.

To meet the need for skilled personnel to accomplish the unloading and loading of vessels and the warehousing of materials received in Alaska, Naval Construction Special Battalions were ordered to the Alaskan Sector as follows:

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DEPARTURE SEATTLE</u>
5th Special Battalion	NOB, Adak	10 April 1943
7th Special Battalion	NOB, Dutch & NFD, Sand Bay	22 June 1943
8th Special Battalion	NOB, Kodiak & NAS, Attu	2 August 1943

These Special Battalions assumed the full responsibility for the receipt and shipment of cargoes, the arranging of storage areas, and the delivery of materials and equipment as received by vessel to the activity ordering the items. During the initial stages, these Special Battalions functioned under the Supply Officers of the Naval activities. Later, more in accordance with the directives from the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, the Special Battalions were considered operational units and placed directly under the Commanding Officers of the stations for administrative purposes with each Battalion Commander assuming full military and work control over the Battalion.

One of the first problems that presented itself was the maintenance and repair of construction equipment. To meet this situation, Equipment Repair Units 1022 and 1018 were organized and sent to Alaska in August and were assigned to duty at Adak and Attu respectively. At Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, units were organized from the Battalions assigned to the bases. The Equipment Repair Units at each of the above four activities organized the equipment repair facilities, thereby decreasing the number of non-operative hours for the vehicles and construction equipment in the areas.

In February, 1944, a Spare Parts Warehouse was established at Naval Operating Base, Adak. Such activity, it was found, was necessary due to the time lag in the filling of requisitions for spare parts caused by the distance of the source of supply and the time required to fill the orders.

To meet the problem of toning down and camouflage painting, three Camouflage Units were organized and sent to the First, Sixth and Ninth Construction Regiments. These units arrived in Alaska in June, 1943.

After the completion of the approved construction, the regular Public Works functions were turned over to Naval Construction Maintenance Units. These organizations reported to the activities at about the time the Construction Battalions were completing parts of their work and as follows:

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DEPARTURE SEATTLE</u>
79th Const. Batt. M. U.	NOB, Kodiak	6 May 1943
86th Const. Batt. M. U.	NOB, Adak	20 May 1943
85th Const. Batt. M. U.	NOB, Kodiak Dutch	25 May 1943
509th Const. Batt. M. U.	NAF, Amchitka	20 May 1943
510th Const. Batt. M. U.	NAF, Otter Point, NAAF, Cold Bay & NAAF, Atka	20 May 1943
512th Const. Batt. M. U.	NAS, Sitka	11 July 1943
138th Const. Batt. M. U.	NAS, Attu	15 January 1944

The Vice Chief of Naval Operations approved the return of Seabee personnel from overseas after 12 months of duty in the Alaskan Sector. A schedule for the return of the Construction Battalions was established; and Battalions have been, or are being, returned as follows:

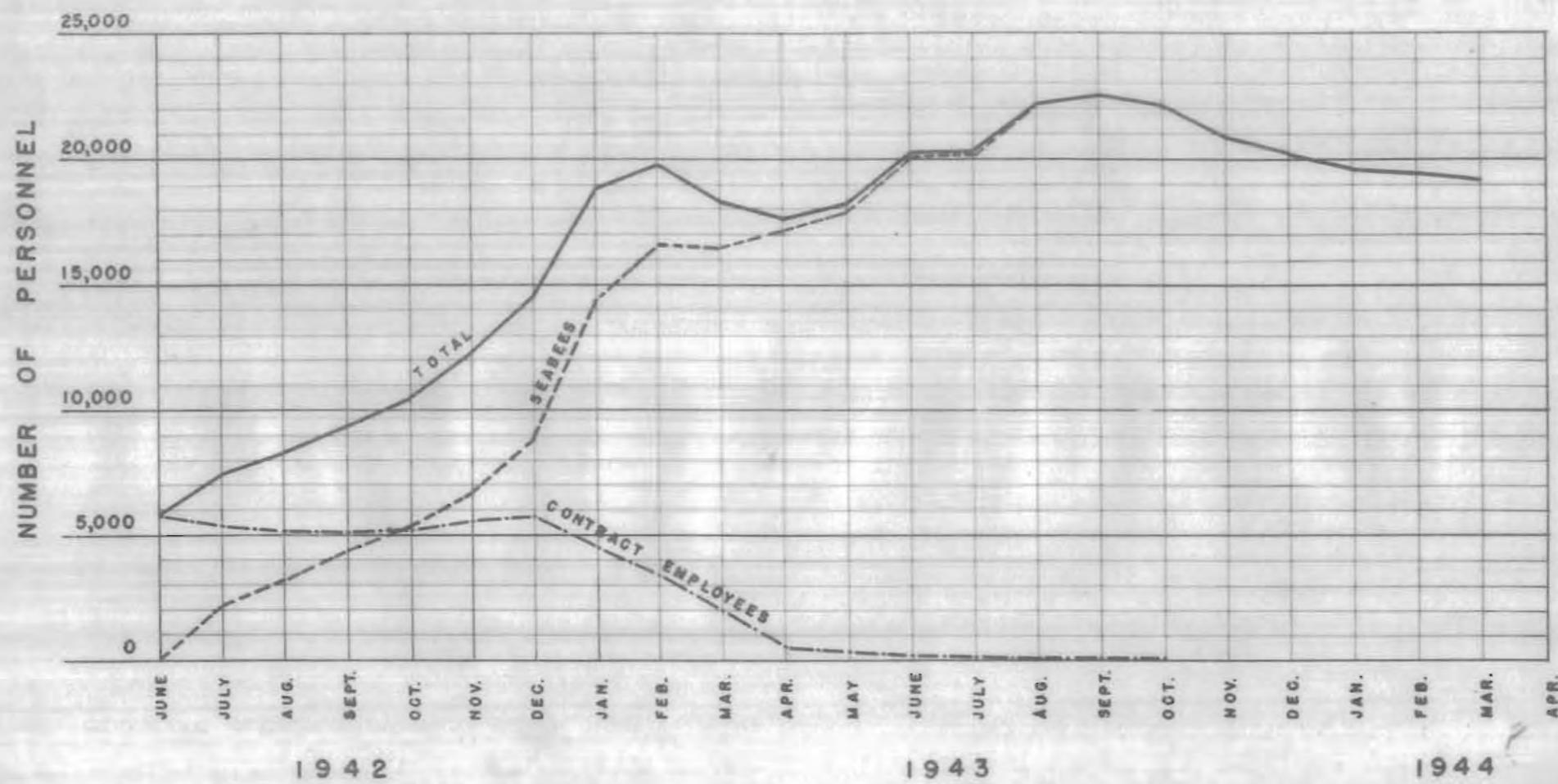
<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>RETURN U. S.</u>
4th Battalion	15 June 1943
8th Battalion	13 August 1943
13th Battalion	20 August 1943
12th Battalion	7 September 1943
21st Battalion	4 December 1943
23rd Battalion	12 January 1944
22nd Battalion	10 March 1944*
32nd Battalion	17 February 1944
38th Battalion	1 February 1944*
42nd Battalion	1 March 1944*
43rd Battalion	18 January 1944
41st Battalion	15 March 1944*
45th Battalion	1 April 1944*
51st Battalion	3 March 1944*
52nd Battalion	1 May 1944*
66th Battalion	Date not established - 12 Dec 1944
5th Spec. Battalion	17 February 1944

*Proposed date of return

The return of the other Special Battalions and of the Maintenance Battalions has not been scheduled as yet since the need for their services continues and their tour of duty has been less than 12 months.

The return of those units will undoubtedly require replacements as their duties are in connection with shipping and maintenance. As the return of the Seabees is partially dependent upon the availability of troop-carrying vessels, any schedule to be established for the return of Battalions will, of necessity, be modified accordingly. This has been demonstrated by numerous modifications in the return schedule of the Construction Battalions as listed above. The fact that the return date, in many cases, is in excess of the 12-month period is due at least in part to necessity of accommodating the schedule to suitable available transportation.

SEABEE & CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL ALASKAN SECTOR





P.T. BASE FACILITIES



BACKGROUND:

FOREGROUND:

HAMMERHEAD LODGE & MOFFET HALL
HOSPITAL AREA & FINGER BAY ROAD







450 Ton & 5000 Ton Dry Docks

