

17th Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



17th C. B. - 2nd Section

Training Schedule

Equipment

NCTC (Norfolk)
 ABD (Gulfport, 1 Sept.⁴²
 Davisville, 22 Sept.⁴²
 Ready Date 13 Sept.
 Left ABD 1st wave, 23 Oct.⁴² (4 off. 50 men)
 2nd wave, 7 Oct.⁴² (5 off. 384 men)
 3rd wave,
 Destination Dowager (Hulk, Snob, Blot)

LOG

23 Oct.⁴² 1st wave, 4 off. 50 men, sailed.
 7 Oct.⁴² 2nd wave, 5 off. 384 men, sailed.
 - 3rd wave, 3 off. approx. 104 men,
 waiting for transportation at
 Long Beach, N. Y.
 9 Jan.⁴³ - Request for additional Company Seabees and \$20,000
 allotment. Comdr. Fay favors sending 1/2 Battalion.
 7 Mar.⁴³ - 2nd Section of 53rd C.B. joined with 2nd Section of 17th C.B. on 19 Feb. 1943
 in Casablanca forming the 120th C.B.

17th C.B.

1ST EMBARKATION

2ND EMBARKATION

NCTC - Norfolk
 ABD - Gulfport, 1 Sep'42
 Davisville, 21 Sep'42
 Ready Date - 13 Sep'42
 Left ABD - 30 Sep'42 (Sec 1); 23 Oct'42 (Sec 2)
 Destination - Argentina

NCTC - Davisville
 ABD - Hueneme
 Ready Date - 10 Sep'44
 Left ABD - 11 Sep'44
 Location - Saipan Okinawa

LOG

9-12-42 - 17th CB split into 1st and 2nd sections.
 9-17-42 - Deficiencies of 1st Section ordered filled from 2nd as of date of movement from
 ABD.
 9-30-42 - 17th CB departed ABD for Argentina via Staten Island with 468 men and 10 officers.
 10-15-42 - Argentina Construction Battalion Detachment comprising approx. 70 men transferred
 to and made part of 1st Section, 17th CB.
 1-23-43 - 17th CB to be composed of 1st Section old 17th and 1004 Detachment in Argentina -
 3/4 regular battalion. To be dispatched to Argentina as follows: Can take care
 of 1004 at once, 1 Co. plus Hdqtrs 24 Feb., one company each 3/15, 4/1, 4/15.
 2-22-43 - 270 misc. ratings transferred to 1004.
 2-25-43 - 4 officers and 270 enl. men arrived ABD Davisville.
 12- 3-43 - 17th CB arrived from overseas at NCTC Davisville 11/30/43.
 5-17-44 - 17th CB arrived Hueneme 14 May'44 from AEDRB Davisville. (Hueneme Disp. 151920
 16 May'44)
 - - - - -
 9-15-44 -- 17th CB left Hueneme 11 Sep'44 for HOME. (ABD Hueneme Sec. disp. 131700 NCR 8030
 to CNO dtd 14 Sep'44).

1. Authenticated Itinerary of the 17th C.B.

- 8 Aug'42 - Batt commissioned at Camp Allen, Norfolk.
- 9 Aug'42 - Arrived at Camp Bradford, Little Creek, Va.
- 1 Sep'42 - Embarked from Camp Bradford to Gulfport, Miss.
- 3 Sep'42 - Arrived Gulfport, Miss.
- 21 Sep'42 - Embarked for ABD, Davisville--First Sec only, composed of 11 off. and 483 men. (Batt was split into 2 secs at Gulfport)
- 24 Sep'42 - 2nd Sec embarked for ABD Davisville.
- 23 Sep'42 - 1st Sec arrived at ABD Davisville.
- 26 Sep'42 - 2nd Sec arrived at ABD Davisville.
- 30 Sep'42 - 1st sec departed ABD Davisville for Staten Is. and embarkation. Dest - Argentina.
- 1 Oct'42 - 1st Sec embarked from Staten Is for Argentina.
- 12 Oct'42 - 1st Sec arrived at Argentina.

2.

- 23 Oct'42 - 2nd Sec began embarkation on this date for Casablanca. Went out in 3 Waves.
- 19 Feb'43 - 2nd Sec of 17th CB and 2nd Sec 53rd CB were joined at Casablanca and designated the 130 C.B. 2nd Sec 17th CB thereby inactivated.
- 17 Mar'43 - Det 1004 arrived at Argentina and joined the 1st Sec of 17th CB to make a complete Batt.
- 17 Nov'43 - 17th CB embarked from Argentina for U.S.
- 20 Nov'43 - 17th CB arrived at NCTC Davisville.
- 12 Mar'44 - 17th CB moved to ABD Davisville.
- 9 May'44 - Departed ABD Davisville for ABRB Hueneme.
- 14 May'44 - Arrived ABRB Hueneme from ABD Davisville.
- 15 Jun'44 - Moved to Pt Mugu (AATD) from ABRB Hueneme.
- 11 Sep'44 - Departed from Hueneme for Saipan.
- 6 Oct'44 - Arrived Saipan.
- 7 Mar'45 - Still operating at Saipan.

Det. 1004 arrived Argentina 17 Mar'43 to join with 1st Section 17th CB, forming the complete 17th CB.

Location - ~~Saipan~~

17th CB

- 11-17-44 - The 17th CB is located at Saipan. (Island Com Saipan Sup to CNO Sec. disp 040700Z NCR 16454 dtd 14 Nov'44).
- 11-21-44 - The 17th CB is located at Saipan. (IsComSaipan Sec. disp to CNO 110211Z NCR 17595 dtd 19 Nov'44).
- 11-24-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 17th CB - No info on location. Report endorsed by 39th Regiment.
- 12-12-44 - ~~17th CB located at Peleliu. (IsComPeleliu Sec. Disp. to CNO 011016 dtd 9 Dec'44)~~
(This dispatch apparently referred to the 17th CB (Sp).)
- 1-3-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of 17th CB - No info on location. Report endorsed by 39th Reg. Batt was subjected to bombing attacks throughout November.
- 1-26-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 17th CB - No info on location. 3 enemy bombing attacks during Dec.
- 2-28-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 17th CB - located with the 39th Reg. The 17th CB left continental U.S. on 11 Sep'44.
- ~~2-28-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 44th CB -~~
- 4- 4-45 - The 9th, 17th, and 10th CBs have been designated for the FINK operation. (Comservpac Sec Ltr Ser 90-VE/wh over Ser 001193 dtd 22 Mar to CNO)
- 4-18-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 17th CB - located at Saipan.
- 4-28-45 - 17th CB scheduled for FINK. ETD April. (Comservpac Sec Ltr Ser 001581 dtd 11 Apr'45 to Comfwdareacpac)
- 5- 8-45 - The 17th CB is located at Saipan. Assigned forwd operation. (Dirpadocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)
- 5-22-45 - 1 May'45 report of 17th CB - Located at Saipan. Re
- 6- 2-45 - The 17th CB is located at Saipan, scheduled for Okinawa. (Dirpadocks P Sec Rep of 1 May'45)
- 6-7-45 - The 17th CB detached from present duty. Proceed in accord with shipp instr and

Location - Okinawa

17th C.B.

- 6-7-45 - (cont) report to Comar Const Troops APO 331. (Comservpac sec disp 042341 Jun'45 to Com Mariannas)
- 6-25-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 17th CB - location not given. Report via 39th Reg.
- 7-10-45 - The 17th CB is assigned to the 10th Brg and 44th Reg. effective 10 July. (COT APO 331 sec report on assignment of CB units ser 897 dtd 10 July)
- 7-25-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 17th CB - located at Okinawa. The 17th CB secured all work at Saipan on 19 May'45. On 20 May'45 1 officer and 12 men were transported by plane to Okinawa as an advance Survey party. On 19 Jun'45 30 officers and 917 men boarded ship and on 20 Jun'45 set sail for Okinawa. On 27 Jun'45 18 officers and 549 men arrived at Okinawa and unloading was completed on 30 Jun'45. Report via 44th Reg and 10th Brig.
- 7-26-45 - The 17th CB report to the 44th Reg on 3 Jul'45. Ordered to further report to the 44th Reg for duty. (OinC 10th Brg Sec. end Ser 00195 dtd 3 Jul'45 to 17th CB)
- 8- 2-45 - The 17th CB reported to the 44th Reg on 4 July. (44th Reg sec end dtd 4 July to OinC 17th CB)
- 8-13-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 17th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 44th Reg, 10th Brg
- 8-11-45 - Inactivation of following CB units approved Comservpac disps 291935, 290051 & 290007 all Aug:- 4, 5, 7, 17, 20, 66, 74, 78 & 87 CBs. Okinawa. (Cincpoa conf seditr ser 032559 dtd 4 Sept'45 to Comservpac).
- 8-13-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of the 17th CB. Report via 44th Reg & 10th Brig. No info as to location.
- 8-14-45 - Adcomphibspac is authorized to release the 17th CB about 1 Nov'45. (Comphibspac conf disp 110400 Sept'45 to Adcomphibspac).

- 9-29-45 - Comservpac directs to inactivate the following CBs 4, 6, 7, 17, 20, 66, 74, 78 & 87. Inform Comservpac when inactivations are completed. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05174 dtd 11 Sept'45 to Comdt., MCB, Okinawa).
- 10-10-45- 1 Oct'45 report of 17th CB - location not stated. Report via 44th Reg. & 10th Brig.
- 11-20-45 -1 Nov'45 report of 17th CB - location not stated. Report via 44th Reg. & 10th Brig.
- 12-4-45 -17th CB ordered inactivated by Comservpac. (Adcomphibspac TWX 292127 Nov'45 to BuPers).
- 12-28-45 - 17th CB has been inactivated(actual date not given). (CNCT, Okinawa ltr ser 6290 dtd 24 Nov'45 to Comservpac).
- 3-6-46 - DirWestPacDocks conf. monthly CB report of 10 Feb 46 states 17th CB was inactivated on 24 Nov 45 at Okinawa.

INACTIVATED

<u>ON BOARD</u>			
<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1 Jun'44	31		BNP625- R
1 Aug'44		1073	BNP625
1 Sep'44		1059	BNP625
1 Oct'44		1055	
1 Nov'44	31	1053	MoR
1 Dec'44	32	1053	MoR
1 Jan'45	31	1052	MoR
1 Feb'45	30	1048	MoR
1 Apr'45	29	1024	BNP625 & MoR
1 May'45	31	995	BNP625 & MoR
1 Jun'45	31	988	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	31	924	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	31	900	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		750	BNP625
1 Oct'45	20	599	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	13	311	BNP625 & R

11 - 110
 Date Organization Location Reference Notes
 6/12 - - - Comdesopac sec detached
 disp. 042341 present duty -
 June. proceed & report
 Cdr. Conant
 Invoops APO331.

7/3 - - - Comdesopac release report
 (copy) 1 November
 copy (Manassas)

cont. of 1703 was part of 1703
 to Casablanca, role, with augmented strength,
 was redesignated Fl 120 CB

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
5/30/44	-	(Camp Thomas) 11-43	-	-
5/30/44	Acorn 38	Hueneme	Burbocke memo 22 May. Compoa sec disp July 310141 and Cno sec disp July 311915.	Ready June 15. Remain at Hueneme not immediately needed 14th N.D.
7/5	-	SAIPAN H O D E	Cno sec disp - 242001 acq.	Ready Hueneme 10 Sept. Assigned H O D E.
9/19	Acorn 38	"	Hueneme sec disp. 131700 sept.	Departed Hueneme 11 Sept. for H O D E.
11/13	-	"	Saipan sec act disp. 0407002 hr.	
4/15	Cdr. Bunke note -	-	Compoa sec 1000399 - asst. Bu...	
5/17	-	-	Cdr. Bunke note " alerted to Buil by 0700399"	

SinC---Lt. G. A. Rezac (CEC) USNR
 Staff* Lt. (jg) C. R. Welfare (ME) USNR
 . Ens. J. M. McCloughry #2 (SC) USNR
 HQ Co--Ens. J. E. Hunter, Jr. (CEC) USNR
 "A" Co--Lt. C. G. Day (CEC) USNR
 . Lt. (jg) Clint Moore (ME) (CEC) USNR
 . Ens. R. H. Matson (CEC) USNR
 "D" Co--Lt. M. A. Walker (CEC) USNR
 . Ens. W. F. Manning (CEC) USNR
 . Carp. F. Balurdo (CEC) USNR
 LT W M COLLINS (DS)

On Board

	<u>Off.</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Total</u>
20 Sept.	<u>11</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>510</u>
12 Oct.	<u>12</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>552</u>

Now part of 120 CB.

This section joined with 2nd section of 53rd Batt. and formed the 120th Batt. Joined at Casablanca 19 Feb. 1943.

8096, 7, 8, 9

Mail address: Navy 8095 FPO NY
 Acc. Number: 8916

17 Construction Battalion - 2nd Section

Naval Construction Battalion 17

Naval Construction Battalion 17 was established on 9 August 1942 at Camp Allen, Norfolk, Virginia, and was transferred to the adjoining Camp Bradford, Little Creek, Virginia. There the men received training in quonset-hut erection, pontoon assembly, and welding. On 1 September the battalion left Camp Bradford for the Advance Base Depot at Gulfport, Mississippi, where it arrived two days later. At Gulfport construction training continued, with practice in welding, pipefitting, diesel mechanics, quonset-hut placement and erection, tank assembly, and demolition.

On 12 September the battalion was split into two sections. The First Section departed from Gulfport on 21 September for the Advance Base Depot, Davisville, Rhode Island, and arrived there on 24 September. The Second Section left Gulfport on 24 September and arrived two days later at Davisville. Here both sections were readied for shipment to widely separated overseas areas.

The Second Section began embarkation on 23 October as part of the forces gathering for the invasion of North Africa on 7 November 1942. This section, commanded by Lieutenant George A. Razac (CEC), USNR, departed in three echelons for Casablanca, Morocco. Headquartered there, it had detachments assigned to Safi, Fedhala, Port Lyautey, and Oran, Algiers.

The Second Section's duties consisted of building and maintaining pontoon barges and platforms, and in laying and maintaining oil lines. Its chief function was maintenance.

On 19 February 1943 Section 2 merged at Casablanca with the Second Section of Construction Battalion 53 to form a new unit designated Naval Construction Battalion 120, thereby inactivating Section 2 of Construction Battalion 17.

From then on it was around Section 1 as a nucleus that Construction Battalion 17 continued operations. The First Section departed from Davisville on 30 September 1942, via Staten Island, New York, for Argentina, Newfoundland, where it arrived on 12 October. The

Argentia base was a 60 million dollar complex of base and air-station structures and utility systems.

By the time Section 1 arrived at Argentia, the civilian contractors, George A. Fuller Company and Merritt-Chapman and Scott Corporation, had nearly completed construction of the base facilities. Assisting them in this had been the Argentia Construction Battalion Detachment, a unit of about 70 men which had originated at the Naval Construction Training Center at Norfolk. ~~and, second,~~ and, second, a pool of Newfoundlanders which included several hundred skilled laborers.

The rapid construction had outstripped operations and maintenance capability. The First Section conducted an analysis of the problems from 16 to 18 October and immediately began to take over all maintenance and operations. On 15 October, the Argentia Construction Battalion Detachment was integrated into the 17th Battalion. Operations were transferred from the contractors in their entireties, one by one. Within two weeks' time, seventy percent of operations and maintenance were officially in the hands of the battalion. By 9 November the transferral was complete. Battalion operations included the following: electric-power and steam-generating plant and distribution; electrical, communications, fire-alarm, transportation, refrigeration, fuel-oil and gasoline, and water and sewage systems.

On 17 March 1943 Naval Construction Battalion Detachment 1004 arrived from the United States and was integrated into Section 1 to fill out the 17th Construction Battalion complement. On 30 April it numbered 1029 men and 20 officers. The augmented Battalion was placed under the command of Lieutenant Commander Robert S. Seddon (CEC), USNR.

A number of small construction projects occupied the battalion, including grading, erection of one 40-by 300-foot Public Works warehouse, and the expansion of the water-supply system. But its mission was largely maintenance. Most new construction was in the hands of the 64th Construction Battalion, which arrived in sections at Argentia on 27 March and 4 April 1943. On 30 April the contractors were relieved of all construction activities.

By September 1943 the diminishing menace to Allied operations in the North Atlantic led to the recall of the 17th Construction Battalion. Leaving behind a small contingent of 45 picked enlisted men to train maintenance replacements, the battalion departed from Argentina on 17 November 1943; and three days later it arrived at the Naval Training Construction Center, Davisville, Rhode Island. The period of its stay in Argentina had been 13 months. A training and organizational interim of ten months in the United States followed.

The 17th Construction Battalion transferred on 12 March 1944 from the Naval Construction Training Center, Davisville, to the Advance Base Depot at that location. Two months later the Battalion entrained for the Advance Base Receiving Barracks, Port Hueneme, California. It arrived there on 14 May. After a month at Port Hueneme, the battalion moved on 15 June to nearby Point Mugu, California. On 11 September 1944 the 17th Seabees set sail from Port Hueneme aboard the USAT Sea Marlin for Saipan in the Mariana Islands.

Along with the 39th, 101st, and 117th Construction Battalions, the 17th Seabees arrived at Saipan on 6 October 1944 to begin construction of the key Naval Base. Under adverse weather conditions the battalion began to construct a temporary camp, to lay down roads, and to prepare the site for a permanent camp on 9 October.

Two days later the cargo ship arrived; and construction got underway on coral roads and on two 100-by 300-foot transit sheds, a mine-assembly depot, Naval hospital buildings, the Naval Supply Depot buildings, wells, and a fence around the statue of Tojo. The battalion worked under air attacks, which numbered five in November and three in December 1944, and two in January 1945.

By February 1945 the Naval Supply Depot was complete. It consisted of 64 steel, arch-rib warehouses, 11 refrigeration sheds, and 8 quonset huts for administration. A 400-bed hospital was finished early in 1945, containing 40 quonset huts.

The battalion also erected quonset and wood-frame buildings for Army General Hospital 39 and Army Station Hospital 176, each of 600-bed capacity. For construction of the medical facility, the 17th Seabees were commended by Colonel Elliot G. Colby, Office of the Surgeon,

Western Pacific Base Command, in a letter dated 17 May 1945, forwarded over the signature of Major General Sanderford Jarman, Commanding. The battalion was commended further for its outstanding work by the 39th United States Naval Construction Regiment in a letter dated 11 May 1945, signed by Commander Michael J. Burke.

On 20 May 1945 an advance survey party left Saipan by plane for Okinawa. From 1 June on the main body of the battalion at Saipan serviced, packed, and loaded equipment aboard ships. On the 19th the main body, consisting of 917 enlisted men and 30 officers, boarded five LST's and sailed the following day for the Ryukyus. Arriving at Okinawa 27 June, the battalion completed unloading 30 June. The Seabees undertook a program of road, camp, and medical-facility construction. Quarrying coral, the battalion completed roads on Okinawa and on the nearby islands, Banare and Ikei Shima, as well as an eighty-foot timber bridge over the Ishikawa River. The Seabees installed plumbing and electrical systems. Construction was completed at Chimu air field. The battalion built a dental lab for the 10th Brigade.

When on 9 October 1945 a typhoon destroyed eighty percent of the 17th Construction Battalion's housing and extensively damaged other base facilities, the battalion repaired, within the same month, the greater part of the storm damage.

Contact with the enemy during the battalion's Okinawa stay was slight. Organized resistance had ended on 21 June, but the battalion encountered guerillas throughout July and August 1945.

With the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay began the rapid demobilization of the battalion. By 1 November 1945 its numbers had decreased to 311 enlisted men and 13 officers. The 17th Construction Battalion was inactivated on Okinawa on 6 November 1945.

Naval Construction Battalion 17

Officers in Charge

Lieutenant Commander Robert T. Hall, CEC, USNR 9 Aug 42 - 22 Sep 42

Officers in Charge, Section 1

Lieutenant Louis J. Kern, CEC, USNR 22 Sep 42 - 17 Mar 43

Officers in Charge, Section 2

Lieutenant George A. Rezac, CEC, USNR 22 Sep 42 - 19 Feb 43

Naval Construction Battalion 17

Officers in Charge

Commander Robert S. Seddon, CEC, USNR 17 Mar 43 - 6 Sep 45

Lieutenant James E. Morelock, CEC, USNR 6 Sep 45 - 21 Sep 45

Lieutenant Holmes, W. Smith, CEC, USNR 21 Sep 45 - 6 Nov 45

as written by battalion in Oct 45

Type
Public
Class

HISTORY OF THE 17th BATT.

Following is the History of the 17th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion as compiled by the Progress Office and submitted to the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Washington D. C.; abolition of censorship regulations permits publication in its entirety for the first time:

1. Name, rank, and home address of Cinc: Robert S. Seddon, Commander, CEC, USNR, Quincy, Massachusetts
2. Date Battalion was commissioned: 8 August 1942 *established 9 Aug 42*
3. Date Battalion departed from U. S.: 1 October 1942 *(initial roll pickup)*
4. Details of first construction job:
 - a. Location: Argentia, Newfoundland
 - b. Major Construction Jobs:

All construction work was performed under most unsatisfactory weather conditions: winds up to 90 knots, almost constant fog, as many as seven changes in types of weather in an hour's time; precipitation up to 120" a year and temperatures averaging below 40 degrees throughout the year. The entire area of construction was covered with a layer of soft, green peat 20' to 40' deep. This peat had to be removed and filled in with granite rock, quarried from near-by hills. The peat was underlain by granite rock and residual glacial waste rock. Post holes had to be blasted.

<u>Type Job</u>	<u>Time Involved</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>Radar Station, Cape Race</u> Radar for protection of U.S.A. from German subs and surprise attack.	120 days	Isolated area; no roads, communications.
<u>Submarine Cable, Gate Vessel</u> Installation, maintenance and repair of submarine communications cable to Harbor Entrance Gate Vessel.	Continuous	Rough seas and treacherous navigation in "Newfie" weather made constant repair work most hazardous.
<u>Radio Installations, C.A.A.</u> Base Radio Communications	60 days	
<u>Marginal Wharf</u> Dock facilities for British, Allied and American Fleets of the North Atlantic	Continuous	
<u>Gas Farm & Gasoline System Piers</u> Fuel for ships and planes of the Atlantic Patrol	140 days	
<u>Dry Dock and Facilities</u> For repair of allied ships; complete area for repairs and business and living quarters of personnel.	150 days	
<u>Runway Extensions</u> Extensions to three runways totalling about 3500 feet.	120 days	Built to accommodate PBAY Navy Bombers on patrol of the entire North Atlantic.
<u>Quonset Hut Village</u> Living quarters for Air Forces	93 days	
<u>Dispensary Addition</u> 100-bed building, frame	90 days	Hospital facilities for casualties in N. Atlantic.
<u>Extension of Electric, Telephone, Fire Alarm, Water, Storm, Sewer and Drainage System of the Whole Naval Base of 3 square miles.</u>	Continuous	Completed and extended the work begun by a private contractor.
<u>Nurses Quarters</u> Complete housing facilities for 32 nurses.	90 days	

<u>Type/Job</u>	<u>Time Involved</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>Public Works Maintenance Buildings</u> Base carpenter, paint, machine, electrical, pipes, sheet metal and saw-mill shops.	120 days	
<u>Officers Quarters Buildings</u> Quarters for 500 officers, recreation facilities, mess, etc.	150 days	
<u>Roads, Walks and Soil Erosion Control</u>	Continuous	Extension of existing facilities on entire base.
<u>Rock Quarry Operations</u>	Continuous	Blasted and crushed granite rock used as fill over the entire base.
<u>Asphalt and Aggregate Plants</u>	Continuous	Produced asphalt and concrete for all construction.
<u>Northeast Arm Recreation Facilities</u>	30 days	Fishing and hunting lodge for 100 men.

Over a hundred other small jobs, besides 2600 maintenance work job orders, some of which were major construction projects. Maintenance of all base facilities built by the contractor from January 1942 to April 1943, as well as maintenance of all Seabee construction work. Operation of all base transportation and maintenance of all equipment.

5. Date of return to U. S.: 20 November 1943.

6. Date of second departure from U. S.: 11 September 1944. *From PORT HUENEME CAL.*

7. Details of second construction job:

a. Location: Saipan, Marianas Islands

b. Major Construction Jobs: C

<u>Naval Supply Depot</u> 2 - 100' x 334' Transit Sheds; 64 - 40' x 100' S.S.A.R. Warehouses; 11 - 40' x 100' Reefer Sheds; 8 - 20' x 56' S.S.A.R. Administration Buildings; Roads, Utilities, Open Storage Areas.	62 days usably complete	Supplies for the Fleet for operations and invasions against Japan.
<u>Naval Hospital</u> 400 beds, 76 - 20' x 56' Tropical Quonsets, offices, operating rooms, wards, galleys, laundry, warehouses, mess halls, living quarters, all utilities.	62 days usably complete	For casualties from Iwo Jima and Okinawa.
<u>Naval Industrial Area</u> 8 - 20' x 56' S.S.A.R. Shops, 9 - 40' x 100' S.S.A.R. Shops, miscellaneous access facilities, buildings and all utilities, roads and hardstands.	47 days usably complete	Repair of ships used in Pacific Operations against the Jap Mainland.
<u>Naval Industrial Area, Automotive and Equipment Repair</u> 3 - 40' x 100' shops, 2 - 20' x 56' shops; utilities, roads and miscellaneous facilities.	34 days	Naval Base Equipment Repair
<u>Army Ordnance Warehouses</u> 3 - 100' x 304' Frame warehouses, utilities, access roads, hardstands.	82 days	Ordnance for Okinawa Invasion.
<u>Army 39th General Hospital</u> 600-bed pre-fabricated wood frame wards, offices and living quarters; recreation, theater, walks, roads and	28 days	Okinawa casualties

<u>TYPE JOB</u>	<u>TIME INVOLVED</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<u>2803 Engineer Depot</u> Camp, roads and utilities for 4,000 men.	14 days	Replacement depot for Army personnel going to Okinawa.
<u>23rd Army Replacement Depot</u> Camp, roads and utilities for 10,000 men.	43 days	Replacement depot for Army personnel going to Okinawa.
<u>Gas Generating Plant</u> 2 - 40' x 100' S. S. A. R. shops barracks, utilities, roads, open stor- age area, and miscellaneous facilities.	49 days	Acetylene, oxygen and car- bon dioxide for ships, re- pair and fire-fighting e- quipment. Base and Fleet
<u>Army Troop Port Command Camp</u> Camp, recreation, showers, heads, utilities, roads and other facilities.	119 days	All facilities for Command Camp for all army troops in this area.
<u>Submarine Cable</u> Laying 1 mile teletype cable	5 days	Involved underwater blast- ing of coral rock.
<u>Mine Assembly Depot</u>	19 days	Facilities for the assem- bly of mines for B-29s to sew in Tokyo Bay.
<u>176th Army Station Hospital</u> Erection of S.S.A.R. Quonset Huts and supervision of Army personnel on construction of this 600-bed hospital.	63 days	Western Pacific casualties.
<u>Army Engineer Depot Facilities</u> 4 - 40' x 100' warehouses, 1 - 20' x 96', 6 - 20' x 48', electrical ser- vices to all warehouses.	22 days	Army supplies for Okinawa invasion.
<u>Coral Pit</u> Quarried 350,000 cubic yards of coral rock.	Continuous	Used on all construction and made available to other units.
<u>Water Wells - 4</u>	10 days	Averaging 300' in depth through the hardest of coral rock.
<u>W X L D Studio</u> Erected S.S.A.R. 20' x 56' addi- tion with full facilities.	14 days	Saipan's only radio sta- tion.
<u>Coca-Cola Plant</u> Completed installation of water, electrical and mechanical services to 60,000-bottles-per-day plant.	21 days	

And about 25 other projects including: Black-topping Decks of Warehouses, 39th NCR Housing and Quarters, Fence Protection For Statue of Matsue Haruji, 17th C. B. Camp Area, Army Mess Hall, Gropac Housing, Furniture, Ordnance Camp Roads, Additional Camp Facilities for 31st Special Batt., Supervision of Construction in Civilian Camp Susupe, L.S.T. Ramps.

Difficulties encountered on all Construction Projects: tropical horizontal storms, sudden storms, heavy rainfall, impassable heavy clay, tropical wind storms, lack of materials, equipment and parts.

8. Date of third assignment: Left Saipan, Marianas Islands on 19 June 1945. Arrived at Gushikawa, Okinawa Shima, Ryukyus Islands on 26 June 1945. (A 17th-Battalion Engineer Detachment, 12 men and one officer, left Saipan 19 May 1945 and arrived on Okinawa 23 May 1945.)

Major construction jobs:

<u>Chimu Airfield Facilities</u>	28 days	Vital for attacks on Japan
<u>Road Construction</u> 15 miles of coral road, 8 miles of which was 7 lanes wide	continuous to present	Vital haul roads for ammu- nition and other war mater-

<u>TYPE-JOB</u>	<u>TIME INVOLVED</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<u>Road Maintenance</u> Includes watering and blading as well as furnishing equipment to push vehicles out of mud and deep holes. Roughly 30 miles of road.	continuous to present	Vital temporary roads for haul of necessary war materials.
<u>Materials Depot, 10th Brigade</u> Hardstands, actual work of sorting, storing and care of all materials belonging to the 10th CB Brigade.	continuous to present	
<u>Naval Ammunition Depot and Camp</u> Tent city and facilities for 600-man camp. 60 ammunition huts. Difficulties encountered: heavy rainfall, typhoon season, lack of surfaced roads or drainage for existing trails, lack of materials of all kinds.	10 days	

9. List participation in enemy action, giving places, dates, number of casualties and type of action. (Bombing, shelling, ground fighting, opposed landings, etc.):

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CASUALTIES</u>
Saipan	3 Nov. '44	Bombing	None
Saipan	7 Nov. '44	Bombing	None
Saipan	13 Nov. '44	Bombing	None
Saipan	26 Nov. '44	Bombing	None
Saipan	27 Nov. '44	(Bombing)	None
Saipan	7 Dec. '44	(Bombing)	None
Saipan	25 Dec. '44	Bombing	None
Saipan	26 Dec. '44	(Bombing)	None
Saipan	2 Jan. '45	Bombing	None
Saipan	3 Jan. '45	Bombing	None
Saipan	10 Feb. '45	Sniper fire; Jap Guerillas in hills fired on 17th C. B. Guard	Guard wounded
Saipan	19 Feb. '45	Mortar shelling; five mortars fired by Jap Guerillas into 17th C. B. Camp from adjacent hills. (Total air-raid alerts on Saipan - 33)	None
Okinawa	7 July '45	Japs infiltrated 17th C. B. Camp; 1 Jap killed, 1 wounded	None
Okinawa	8 July '45	1 Jap killed	None
Okinawa	9 July '45	Japs infiltrated 17th C. B. Camp; several apparently wounded	None
Okinawa	10 July '45	Japs infiltrated 17th C. B. Camp; 1 killed	None
Okinawa	28 July '45	Japs infiltrated 17th C. B. Camp; 1 killed, 1 wounded	None
Okinawa	5 Aug. '45	Bombing	None
Okinawa	9 Aug. '45	Enemy detected and fired upon at the N.A.D. Camp adjacent to the 17th C. B.	None
Okinawa	21 Aug. '45	Enemy detected and fired upon at the N.A.D. Camp adjacent to the 17th C.B. Camp	None
Okinawa	23 Aug. '45	1 Jap killed by 17th C. B. Guard at the Ishikawa Bridge near 17th C. B. materiel. Another Jap was wounded but escaped. (Air-raid alerts on Okinawa innumerable; estimated average 2 daily.)	None

10. List all CGMC's of Battalion giving names, ranks and dates:
 Lt. Commander R. T. Hall, CEC USNR, 7 Aug. '42 to 22 Sept. '42
 Lieutenant Louis J. Kern, CEC USNR, 22 Sept. '42 to 17 March '43
 Commander Robert S. Sedon, CEC USNR, 17 March '43 to 6 Sept. '45.
 Lieutenant James M. Morelock, CEC USNR, 6 Sept. '45 to 21 Sept. '45
 Lieutenant Holmes H. Smith, CEC USNR, 21 Sept. '45 to inactivation.

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ITINERARY OF THE 17TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

Battalion formed at NCTC, Norfolk.

21 September 1943 Arrived AHD, Davisville, R. I.

At AHD, Davisville, the battalion was split into two sections.

30 September 1943 The 1st Section departed AHD, Davisville for Staten Island and embarkation. Destination Argentina.

1 October 1943 Embarked for overseas duty.

13 October 1943 Arrived Argentina.

23 October 1943 The 2nd Section began embarkation on this date for Casablanca. 1st wave embarked on this date. Dates of embarkation of the other 2 waves is not available.

19 February 1943 1st Section 17th CB and 2nd Section 53rd CB were joined at Casablanca and designated the 130th CB. 2nd section 17th CB was thereby inactivated.

17 March 1943 Detachment 1004 arrived Argentina and joined the 1st section 17th CB to make a complete battalion.

8 December 1943 17th CB arrived NCTC, Davisville from Argentina.

14 May 1944 17th CB arrived ABRA, Port Moresby from NCTC, Davisville.

11 September 1944 Departed Port Moresby for Laipan.

6 October 1944 Arrived Laipan.

1 February 1945 17th CB is still operating at Laipan.

NOTE: The above itinerary is based upon information available in the U. S. Operations section of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

SEABEE UNITS ASSIGNED TO SAIPAN

WORLD WAR II

18th NCB -- Went ashore with the Marines during the assault (June 15 - July 9, 1944).

121st NCB -- Went ashore with the Marines during assault.

Repaired Aslito Airfield. Also repaired roads. In late July moved to Tinian.

92nd NCB -- Small echelons landed with Marines during assault.

67th NCB -- Small echelons landed with Marines during assault.

17th NCB -- Arrived in October 1944 to build the Naval Operating Base, Saipan. Built naval supply depot and 400-bed naval hospital. Helped build two Army hospitals.

39th NCB -- Arrived in October 1944 to build naval base. Constructed seaplane base at Tanapag; also built tank farm. Helped build a 2,000-bed Army hospital.

101st NCB -- Arrived in October 1944 to build naval base. Built ammunition pier and causeway at Garapan. Also constructed 3000-bed convalescent hospital. Operated a coral pit for the construction of Marpi Airfield. Built 500-acre ammunition storage area.

117th NCB -- Arrived in October 1944 to build the naval base. Constructed housing for naval personnel. Also developed Tanapag Harbor.

301st NCB -- A detachment from this battalion helped to dredge Tanapag Harbor.

31st Special Battalion -- Arrived in October 1944 to unload supplies for construction of naval base.

SEABEES ASSIGNED TO SAIPAN

2.

51st NCB -- Arrived at Saipan in December 1944. Constructed Marpi Airfield. Helped build Kagman Airfield.

CBMU 595 -- Arrived in Saipan during the fall of 1944. Helped the 39th NCB build the seaplane base at Tanapag.

CBMU 614 -- Assigned to Saipan during the fall of 1944. Assisted in the construction of Marpi Airfield.

CBMU 616 -- Arrived at Saipan in April 1945. Assigned to duties at NAB Marpi Point.

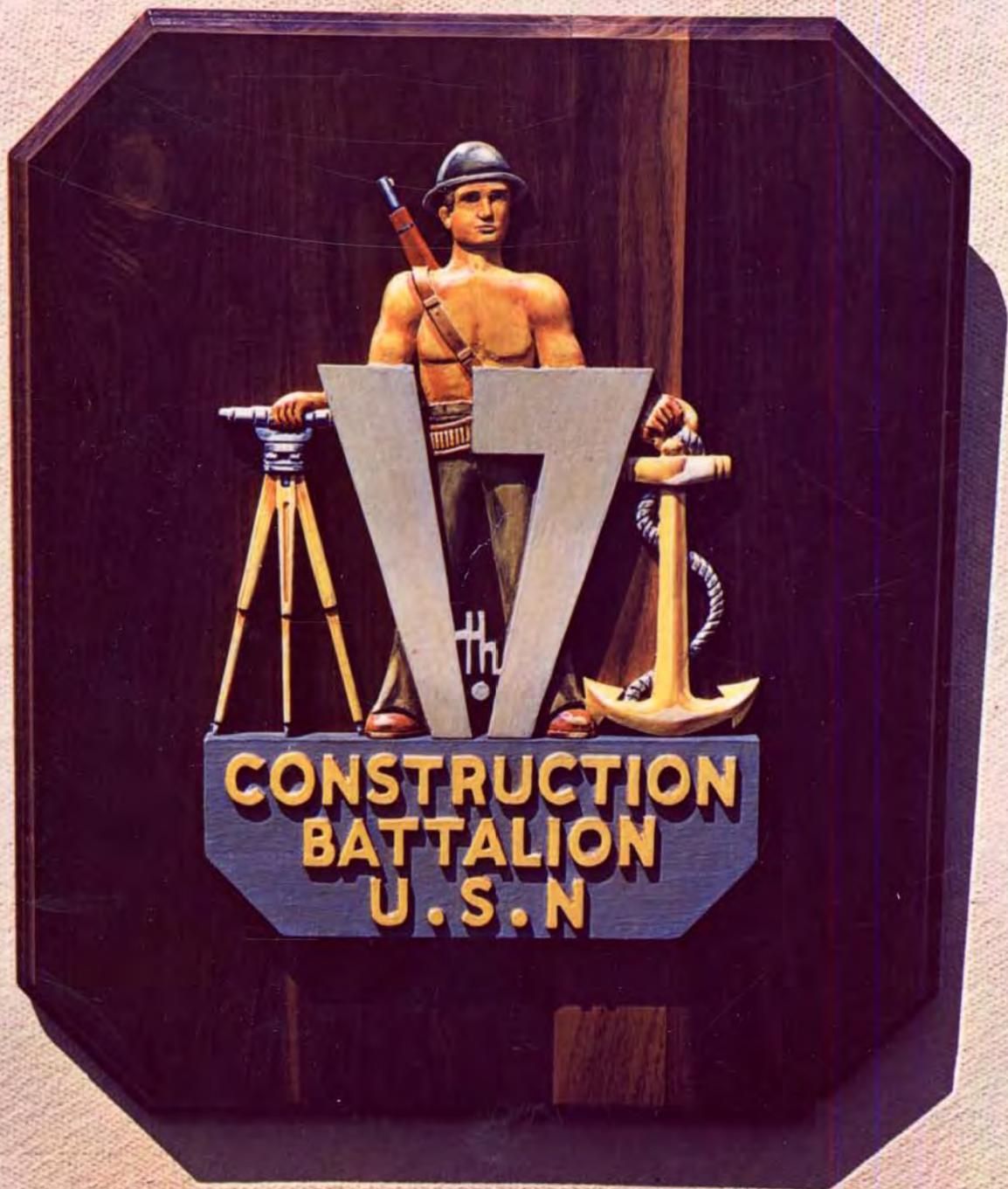
CBMU 505 -- Activities on Saipan unknown. Disestablished there in November 1945.

CBMU 510 -- Activities on Saipan unknown. Disestablished there in December 1945.

CBMU 545 -- Activities on Saipan unknown. Disestablished there in October 1945.

CBD 1093 -- Activities on Saipan unknown. Disestablished there in January 1946.

NOTE: Most of the information on this list came from Building the Navy's Bases in World War II, volume II, pp. 337-43.



**CONSTRUCTION
BATTALION
U.S.N**



REPAIRED BY
CERD. NO. 6380
Lilester Co.

A black and white photograph of a man in a white uniform standing next to a concrete marker. The marker has two sections with text. The man is leaning against the top section of the marker. In the background, there is a building with a curved roof and some trees.

17 TH.
N
C
B

CAMP
TIETJENS





