

22nd Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



22nd C.B.

From the Chronological History of the 1st Brigade:

- 7 Dec'42 - 2nd Sec. arrived Sitka from U.S.
- 6 Jul'43 - Left Sitka for Attu.
- 14 Jul'43 - Arrived Attu.
- 14 Mar'44 - Left Attu for U.S.

(Com 17 Sec. ltr ND17/A12-1/L7 over 50/2b over Ser 0096 to Budocks dtd 6 Nov'44)

22nd C.B.

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Training Schedule

NCTC Norfolk
AED Hueneme, 26 Sept'42
Ready date 11 Oct'42
Left AED 19 Nov'42
Destination: Alaskan Sector

LOG

- 26 Sept'42 -- 25 Officers, 1043 men left
NCTC Norfolk for Hueneme.
- 28 Oct'42 -- This battalion reassigned to Alaska
Sector. Require re-equipping.
- 4 Nov'42 -- Battalion re-equipped and available.
- 19 Nov'42 -- Departed for Alaskan Sector via Seattle.
- 24 Dec'42 -- Now at Sitka, Alaska
- 3 May'43 -- 70 Seamen replacements departed for 22nd C.B. w
- 4-30-43 -- According to 1st Brigade Report the 22nd Batt is
- 6-9-43 -- Officer list checked with roster in April Mon. R
- 7-1-43 -- 22nd is at Adak (Com 13 to ComAlSec dated 6-21-43
- 7-13-43 -- From May monthly report Corp. D. M. Falconer dies
- 7-7-43 -- 22nd C.B. transferred 7 July 1943 , 28 officers
to new regiment, the 9th.

22nd C.B.

- 7-22-43 - May report 22nd B.B. scheduled to move to Attu at once.
- 8-10-43 - Lt.(jg) Ohl assigned coming from 42nd(Budocks to Bupers ltr dated 20 July 1943)
- 8-19-43 - Officer roster checked with 1st Brigade report dated 1 Aug. 1943.
- 8-27-43 - Officer roster checked with 1 Aug. report & ok.
- 9-1-43 - 22nd C.B. arrived at Attu 14 July '43.
- 9-9-43 - Chap. Kopp sent to Wash. - ltr from OinC 22nd CB to off. dated 15 Aug'43)
- 10-11-43 -Lt.(jg) Ridge, Ens. Dildine, Carp. Covert temporarily assigned 22nd CB coming from Detachment 1018.(Copy of endorsement No. 11 from 22nd CB to sub. off. File 279441 over F16-3/00/CB22/bsw dated 27 Sept'43).
- 10-14-43 -Comdr. Noble detached to become OinC of 6th Regiment(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 9 October 1943)
- 10-14-43 -Lt. Comdr. Bathke becomes OinC of 22nd CB(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 9 Oct'43)
- 11-3-43 -Officer roster checked with 1 Oct'43 roster. Lt. Comdr. Murphy, MC assigned to 9th regiment. Lt. Omdr. Verhaag, MC, replaces the officers
- 12-4-43 -Officer roster checked with 1 Nov.'43 roster from 9th Regiment and OK.
- 12-28-43 -Officer roster checked with Nov'43 monthly report. Lt.(jg) Faison and Shulman, SC officers replaced by Ens. Nielson and Cundiff.
- 1-6-44 -Lt.(jg) Coe detached to U.S.(OinC 22nd CB ltr F16-4/22CB/gel over COE/00/178665 to subject officer dated 20 Dec'43).
- 1-25-44 -22nd CB scheduled to return to US 18 Feb'44(Alsec report dated 15 Jan'44 - Conf)
- 1-28-44 -Officer roster checked with 1 Jan'44 monthly report - Lt.(jg) Samuelson not listed.
- 2-28-44 -Officer roster checked with Jan'44 monthly report - Lt.(jg) Samuelson, CEC, now listed.
- 3-16-44 -22nd CB located at Attu and scheduled to return to U.S. in Mar'44.(1st Brig.Report for March 1, 1944.

22nd CB

- 4-1-44 - Officer roster checked with 1 Mar'44 report - Lt.(jg) Samuelson, CEC, now listed. Added Carp. Steele.
- 4-1-44 - ~~22nd~~ CB arrived at Camp Parks with 23 officers and 997 men 28 Mar'44.(WRK)
- 4-13-44 -Lt. Bathke detached to Quoddy(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 8 Apr'44).
- 5-17-44 -Lt. Comdr. Ketler assigned from Peary as OinC of 22nd CB(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 13 May'44).
- 5-17-44 -Carp. Donnell detached to 2nd CB(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 4 May'44).
- 5-17-44 -Lt. O'Leary detached to Parks(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 4 May'44).
- 5-17-44 -Lt. Daigle and Lane detached to Parks(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 4 May'44).
- 5-17-44 -Lt.(jg) Bradley detached to Dirpadocks(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 29 Apr'44).
- 5-17-44 -Lt. Vranek detached to NAS Seattle(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 4 May'44).
- 6-15-44 -Officer roster checked with 1 May'44 roster - added Lt.(jg) Watkins, MC. Lt.(jg) Samuelson and Kraft not listed.
- 6-15-44 -Lt.(jg) Ohl detached to Parks(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 7 Jun'44).
- 6-15-44 -Lt. Huey detached to NOB Norfolk(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 7 Jun'44).
- 6-15-44 -Lt.(jg) Scott assigned from Parks(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 7 Jun'44).
- 6-15-44 -Lt.(jg) Johnson, Carp. Allen, Cunningham, Littlejohn, Norton assigned from 1st CB. (Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 17 May'44).
- 6-15-44 -Lt.(jg) January assigned from Parks(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 17 May'44).
- 6-15-44 -Carp. Barnes, Flagg, Sperry assigned from Parks(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 20 May'44).
- 6-15-44 -Ens. Heffron, Priestler, Roubush assigned from Endicott(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 17 May'44).
- 6-15-44 -Ens. Dorman and Carp. Larson assigned from 2nd CB(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 17 May'44).
- 7-1-44 -Officer roster checked with 1 Jun'44 roster and detached Lt. Lenahan, MC, Lt. Wolf, DC, and Lt. Comdr. Verhaag, MC. Lt.(jg) Samuelson and Kraft not listed. Lt. Omdr. Curtiss, Lt. Pierzynski, Carp. Stone and Dingess listed -(due to disbanding of this batt.-not entered on roster.

Unit 2.1.

Date	Description	Location	Reference
5/30/44		(Camp Barker) 3 44	
7/19	-	Inactivated	- C.B. report 1 July

History of
United States Naval Construction Battalion 22

United States Naval Construction Battalion 22 was commissioned on September 2, 1942, at the United States Naval Construction Training Center, Camp Allen, Norfolk, Virginia. Commander Charles M. Noble, CEC, USNR, was the first Officer in Charge of the battalion.

The battalion, consisting of 25 officers and 1,045 enlisted men, departed by train from Norfolk on September 26, 1942, and arrived at Camp Rousseau, Advance Base Depot, Port Hueneme, California on October 1. At Port Hueneme, the 22nd Seabees underwent advanced military and technical training and were outfitted and equipped for overseas duty. After winning many of the Camp Rousseau contests, some of which were judged by Admiral Ben Moreell, the 22nd Seabees became known as "The Famous 22nd."

The battalion was assigned to duty in Alaska and departed from Port Hueneme in two sections. The first section left Port Hueneme by rail on November 17, 1942, arrived two days later at Harbor Island, Seattle, Washington, sailed the same day on the SS Alaska, and arrived at Sitka, Alaska on November 28.

The second section left Port Hueneme on November 18, arrived at Seattle on November 20, and laid over for two weeks while awaiting transportation. On December 4, the second section boarded the returned SS Alaska, sailed the same day, and arrived at Sitka, Alaska on December 7.

At Sitka, the reunited 22nd Seabees took over projects already started by civilian contractors. A gradual conversion from contractor to battalion construction was handled with facility and with a minimum of friction and confusion under the personal supervision of Commander Noble. It was not a simple task to transfer the construction projects because the original organization of the battalion had to be changed. Work hours had to compensate for the shortage of equipment and the lack of effective working time. The lack of effective working hours resulted from long hours of darkness and the prevailing blackout regulations. The 22nd Battalion, however, worked 7 days a week and 20 hours a day.

During its tour of duty in the Sitka area, the battalion completed

14 projects started by the contractors and also started and completed another 14 of its own projects. Among these projects was work for the U.S. Army's Second Expansion Program, which consisted of the construction of magazines, a fire station, hospital, officers quarters, and many other essential structures. Other projects included fresh water storage tanks, housing, piers, and facilities and airstrips for the Port Althorp Naval Auxiliary Air Facility.

With the cessation of civilian contract work, detachments of Seabees in the immediate area completed the remaining work. Eight detachments consisting of a total of 7 officers and 350 enlisted men were employed by April 1943.

After seven months of building in the Sitka region, the 22nd battalion left on July 6, 1943, aboard the USS Chaumont and moved further westward to Attu in the Aleutian chain. Attu, about 740 miles from Dutch Harbor, is an island of tundra and windswept mountains. On July 14, 1943, the 22nd was the second construction battalion ashore at Massacre Bay. United States Army units had landed on Attu only two months earlier to capture the island from the Japanese. Upon landing on Attu Island, the battalion became an integral part of a provisional United States Naval Construction Regiment that later became the Ninth Naval Construction Regiment.

The primary task of the 22nd Battalion on Attu was to build an airfield for United States bombers. The airstrip work began on July 16. The Seabees worked on a 24-hour a day basis in violent unpredictable weather. Aside from the weather, muskeg a kind of bog and a difficult type of soil to move was the main obstacle to construction.

After eleven days of constant work the 22nd Seabees completed the first usable section of runway. In September 1943, the first plane, a Navy trainer, landed on the initial 3,000 feet of runway. The construction work continued at this brisk pace, and before winter the 22nd Battalion had two 5,000-foot runways in operation. At the same time the 22nd Seabees had built hangars, Quonset huts, and a PT-boat dock. They also helped the 23rd Construction Battalion build the naval operating base's main dock.

On October 13, 1943, nine Japanese aircraft attempted to bomb Attu. Both the United States Army and Navy were alert and readily warded off the attack.

Commander Charles Noble, CEC, USNR, was relieved as Commanding Officer of Naval Construction Battalion 22 on 14 October 1943, by Lieutenant Commander Ernest Bathke, CEC, USN, the former Executive Officer of the battalion.

On March 14, 1944, the 22nd Naval Construction Battalion boarded the SS Henry Failing and departed from Attu for the United States. For its extraordinary achievements at both Sitka and Attu, the 22nd Battalion merited acclaim, and the acclaim came from many sources. For example, The Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station, Sitka, Alaska claimed that "By their organization, supervision and marvelous spirit of cooperation and will-to-do, they set the standard by which all future Seabee organizations in this area will be gauged."

The 22nd Battalion arrived at Seattle, Washington, on March 25, 1944, departed the next day, and arrived at the Construction Battalion Replacement Depot at Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California on March 28, 1944.

On May 2, 1944, Lieutenant Commander Bathke was transferred to Camp Lee-Stephenson, Quoddy Village, Maine, and Lieutenant Commander Albert C. Ketler, Jr., CEC, USNR assumed command.

United States Naval Construction Battalion 22 was inactivated at Camp Parks on June 22, 1944.

22ND SPECIAL U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
o/e Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

CONFIDENTIAL

ITINERARY OF 22ND SPECIAL U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

- 30 January 1944 - First section arrived at ABD, Fort Huoname, California from Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia
- 31 January 1944 - Second section arrived at ABD, Fort Huoname.
- 1 February 1944 - Third section arrived at ABD, Fort Huoname.
- 7 April 1944 - - Left Fort Huoname.
- 18 May 1944 - - - Arrived at Manus Island, U. S. Navy Base No. 3205. The original camp was set up close to the deck area on Les Negres Island, a small island off the coast of Manus Island. Major stevedoring operations carried on at Les Negres Island docks and on ships in the stream. At various times engaged in stevedoring operations at Manus Island. Battalion was not split for these operations.
- 17 June 1945 - - On this date the battalion was split into two sections at the request of the CMB Manus, one section remaining at Les Negres Island and the other section comprising 8 officers and 392 men quartered at Manus and engaged in stevedoring at Lorengau.
- 1 August 1945 - Battalion continued to be divided into two sections. The strength of the Manus detachment was 10 officers and 490 men.
- 1 September 1945 - Battalion continued to be divided into two sections. The strength of the Manus detachment was 10 officers and 517 men.

Date: 28 September 1945.

Certified corrects



M. B. GER
Comdr., CEC, USNR
Officer in Charge

22th Naval Construction Battalion

Chronology

- 02 Sept 1942 United States Naval Construction Battalion 22 was commissioned at Camp Allen, Norfolk, Virginia. Commander Charles M. Noble, CEC, USNR, was the Officer in Charge.
- 26 Sept 1942 The 22nd Construction Battalion, consisting of 25 officers and 1,043 enlisted men, left Norfolk, Virginia.
- 01 Oct 1942 The 22nd Construction Battalion arrived at Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, California and began advanced military and technical training.
- 17 Nov 1942 Section I of the 22nd Construction Battalion, consisting of companies A and C and half of the Headquarters Company, left Port Hueneme, California by train.
- 18 Nov 1942 Section II of the 22nd Construction Battalion, consisting of companies B and D and the other half of the headquarters Company, left Port Hueneme by train.
- 19 Nov 1942 Section I arrived at harbor Island, Seattle, Washington and sailed on the passenger ship SS Alaska.
- 20 Nov 1942 Section II arrived at Harbor Island, Seattle, Washington. This section was laid over for two weeks at Harbor Island while waiting for transportation.
- 28 Nov 1942 Section I of the battalion arrived at Sitka, Alaska. At Sitka the battalion took over civilian construction projects.
- 04 Dec 1942 Section II sailed from harbor Island, Seattle, Washington aboard the SS Alaska.
- 07 Dec 1942 Section II of the battalion arrived at Sitka, Alaska and joined the first section in taking over the completion of the civilian construction projects.
- 01 Apr 1943 Eight detachments consisting of a total of 7 officers and 350 enlisted men were employed to complete the remaining civilian contract work.
- 06 Jul 1943 The 22nd Battalion left Sitka for Attu, Alaska aboard the USS Chaumont, a troop transport. By the time of their departure, the 22nd Seabees had completed 28 projects at Sitka.
- 14 Jul 1943 The 22nd Battalion was the second construction battalion to land at Massacre Bay, Attu. The battalion was assigned an urgent project of constructing an airstrip for United States bombers.
- 16 Jul 1943 Construction of the bomber airstrip began.
- 28 Aug 1943 A navy Trainer was the first plane to land on the initial 3,000 feet of the main runway. Construction of two 5,000-foot runways was completed before winter.

13 Oct 1943 Nine Japanese aircraft attempted to bomb Attu. Both the United States Army and Navy were alerted and readily warded off the attack.

14 Oct 1943 Commander Charles M. Noble, CEC, USNR, was relieved as Commanding Officer by Lieutenant Commander Ernest Bathke, CEC, USN.

14 Mar 1944 The 22nd Naval Construction Battalion left Attu for the United States aboard the SS Henry Failing.

25 Mar 1944 The 22nd Battalion arrived at Seattle, Washington.

26 Mar 1944 The battalion departed for the Construction Battalion Replacement Depot at Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.

28 Mar 1944 The 22nd Battalion arrived at Camp Parks.

02 May 1944 While on leave, Lieutenant Commander Bathke was transferred to Camp Lee-Stephenson, Quoddy Village, Maine, and Lieutenant Commander Albert C. Ketler, Jr., CEC, USNR, assumed command.

22 Jun 1944 United State Naval Construction Battalion 22 was inactivated at Camp Parks.

22nd Naval Construction Battalion

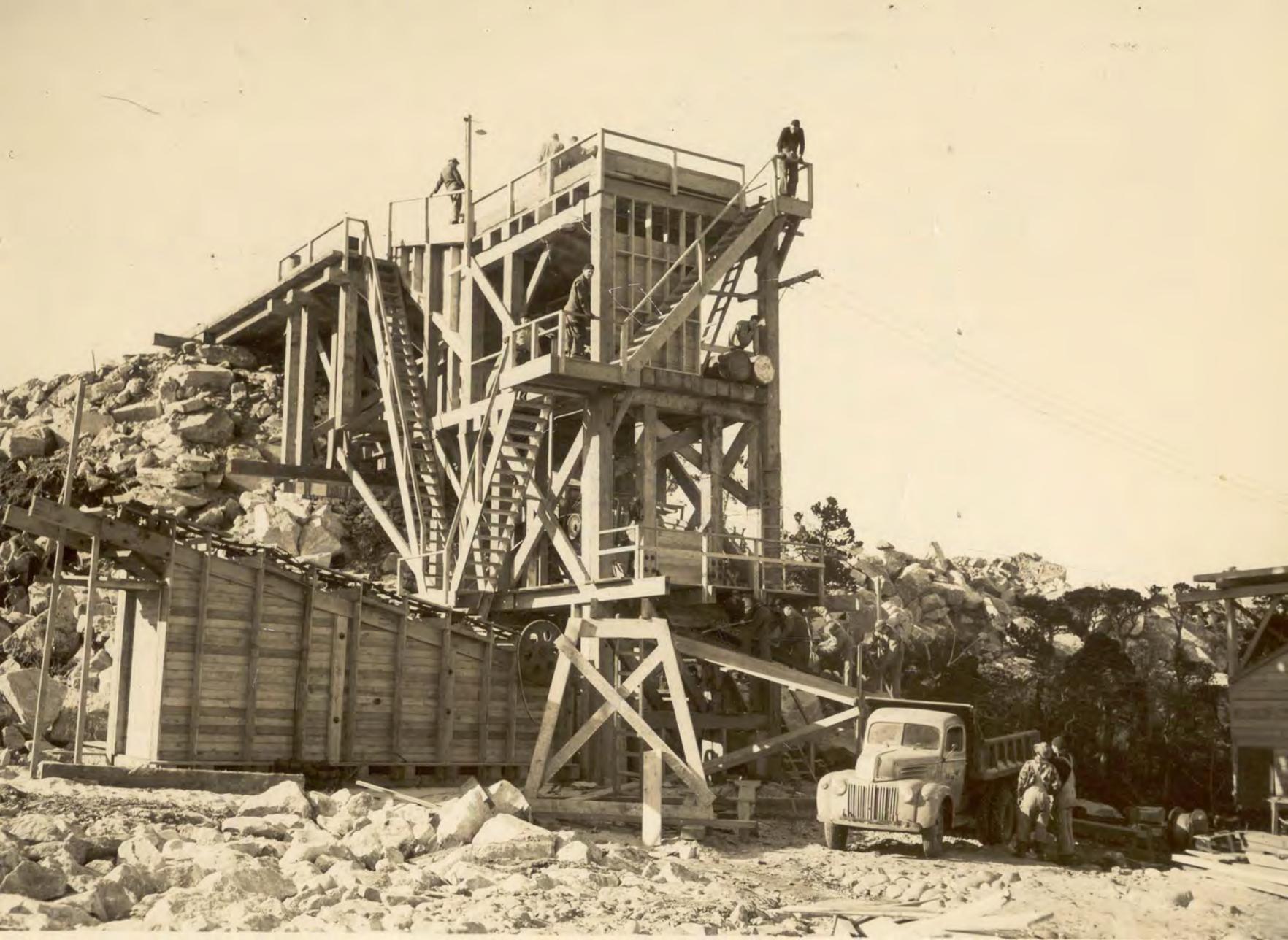
Officers in Charge

Commander Charles M. Noble, CEC-V(S), USNR	02 Sep 1942 – 14 Oct 1943
Lieutenant Commander Ernest S. Bathke, CEC, USN	14 Oct 1943 – 02 May 1944
Lieutenant Commander Albert C. Ketler, Jr., CEC, USNR	17 May 1944 – 22 Jun 1944

Executive Officers

Lieutenant Commander Ernest S. Bathke, CEC, USN	02 Sept 1942 – 14 Oct 1943
Lieutenant William B. Whittock, CEC-V(S), USNR	14 Oct 1943 – 22 Jun 1944









#589-14 MAR.



#417-8 DEC

