

# 34<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Battalion

---

*Historical  
Information*



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



34th C.B.

1st Embarkation

NCTO - Norfolk  
 ABD - Gulfport  
           - Hueneme  
 Ready Date - 7 Dec'42  
 Left ABD - 7 Jan'43  
 Destination - ~~Acorn #4~~ ~~Guadalcanal~~

2nd Embarkation

NCTO -  
 ABD - Hueneme  
 Ready Date - 1 Mar'45  
 Left ABD - 19 Apr'45  
 Location - Okinawa

LOG

- 11- 5-42 - 34th CB to leave Norfolk on 15 Nov'42 for Gulfport. (Budocks ltr to Supers)
- 12- 4-42 - Arrived Hueneme 3 Dec'42. (TWX041315 from Hueneme)
- 1- 5-43 - 26 Officers, 280 white, 880 colored.
- 1- 7-43 - Departed Hueneme.
- 1-26-43 - Acorn 4 (Cactus-Ringbolt proposed) - enroute for construction Halavo Seaplane Base.
- 5-11-43 - 34th CB is located at Tulagi (Acorn 4) - has small detachment in Russell Is.  
(ComNavBasesSoPac area to ComSoPac Sec. ltr dtd 5-11-43)
- 6- 1-43 - From April secret report - 260 men to Guadalcanal 26 Mar'43; 185 men to Russells  
21 and 23 Apr. Expect to reassemble Batt at Florida Is. latter part of June.
- 6-24-43 - Acorn 4 dissolved. 34th CB reports to ComNavBases Tulagi. (RHD)
- 7- 3-43 - 1 Jun'43 report of 34th CB - operating in Solomon and Russell Is.
- 10-20-43 - 1 Sep'43 report of 34th CB - Divided with one-half at Halavo, Florida Is. and the  
other half on Guadalcanal.
- 2- 3-44 - 1 Jan'44 report of 34th CB - operating at Halavo Seaplane Base, Florida Is.,  
Tulagi, Purvis Bay, and Gauvto Is.

34th C.B.

- 4-20-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 34th CB - operating at Halavo, Tulagi, Purvis Bay, Gevutu,  
Tanambogo and Palm Is. 137 colored seamen of CD2159 were rec'd 24 Feb'44.
- 5-27-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 34th CB - Entire batt moved from Tulagi, Florida Is. to  
Guadalcanal from 15 Mar to 27 Mar'44 inclusive. The battalion work at Tulagi  
was secured 21 Mar; at Halavo, 26 Mar.; and Phillips Peninsula, 6 Apr. 212  
colored seamen and 1 Chief assigned temp duty with the 34th CB (Base Unit 19).  
34th was detached from the 18th Reg. taking over the operating of 18th Reg. at  
Guadalcanal as the 18th Reg. moved forward.
- 6- 7-44 - 1 May'44 report of 34th CB - operating at Guadalcanal.
- 6-14-44 - 1 Jun Sec Report of 34th CB -

History of the 34th CB:

24 Oct'42 - Commissioned at Allen.  
 15 Nov'42 - Moved to Gulfport  
 3 Dec'42 - Arrived Hueneme  
 7 Jan'43 - Embarked  
 26 Jan'43 - Arrived Noumea  
 12 Feb'43 - Arrived Halavo, Fla. Is. - Attached to Acorn 4 and assigned duty  
 constructing Halavo Seaplane Base  
 19 Mar'43 - 350 men transferred to Guadalcanal and remained until Nov'43.  
 20 Apr'43 - 200 men transferred to Russells  
           Nov'43 - Entire batt re-united in Tulagi area.  
           Mar'44 - Moved to Guadalcanal latter part of March

- 8-15-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 34th CB - operating at Guadalcanal. Request re-assignment to  
other duty.
- 8-21-44 - The 34th CB is to be returned to the U.S. when transportation is available. Per-

34th C.B.

sonnel received after 1 Sep'43 to be assigned to the 12th (Sp). (Comseronsopac Sec. disp. 180925 NCR 9202 19 Aug'44 to CNB Guadalcanal).

- 8-25-44 - 34th CB located at Guadalcanal - Following data from SoPac as of 1 Jul'44:  
Feb'43 - Arrived Tulagi  
May'43 -  $\frac{1}{2}$  Batt arrived Guadalcanal  
Re-assembled at Tulagi at various intervals '43-'44  
Apr'44 - Moved to Guadalcanal

8-28-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 34th CB - operating at Guadalcanal.

8-31-44 - 34th CB, located at Guadalcanal, ready to sail to U.S. 1 Sep'44 with 19 officers and 769 men. (Comseronsopac Sec. Disp. 272110 NCR 6134 28 Aug'44 to CNO)

9-15-44 -- The 34th CB is located at Guadalcanal. (CNB Guadalcanal Sec. disp. 042252 NCR 10533 to Comseronsopac dtd 13 Sep'44).

10- 9-44 - 34th CB arrived Parks from overseas 1 Oct'44 with 21 off. and 759 men. (O2TWX Oct'44 from Parks)

10-20-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 34th CB - This batt ~~was~~ secured work on 27 Aug. and was detached from the base on 1 Sep'44. Work was turned over to CBMU's 518, 520, 532, and 533. All officers and personnel entering the South Pacific subsequent to 1 Sep'43 were directed for reassignment within the area; 10 officers were re-assigned; 128 colored seamen were transferred to the 12th Special at Russell's.

10-25-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 34th CB - Left Guadalcanal 13 Sep'44.

11-29-44--The 34th CB arrived Hueneme 25 Nov'44 from Parks. (Hueneme Sec. disp to CNO 251857 dtd 26 Nov'44).

34th CB

- 1-17-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 34th CB - located at ABRB Hueneme.  
1-30-45 -- The 34th CB is assigned to BIVE. (CNO Sec. disp to Cincpoa 181821 dtd 18 Jan'45).  
1-30-45 -- Cincpoa requests that the 34th CB be assigned to Sowspac in lieu of the 80th CB. (Cincpoa Sec. disp to Cominch & CNO 182030 dtd 19 Jan'45).  
2- 7-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 34th CB - located at ABRB Hueneme.  
2-7-45 - CNO does not approve Cincpoa's Sec. disp. 182030 (requesting assignment of the 34th CB to Sowspac in lieu of the 80th CB). (CNO conf. disp to Cincpoa 201417 dtd 21 Jan'45).  
3- 1-45 - Early lifting required for the 34th CB now ready at Hueneme. Propose substituting this batt for the 37th or 85th CB. (CNO Sec Disp to Cincpoa Pearl & Adv. Hdqtrs. Bupers. & Budocks 261651 Feb'45)  
3-3-45 --- Hueneme Sec. disp 011818 Mar'45 to CNO - Ref. CNO 261651 - Due to sailing date of 6 Mar'45 for the 85th CB it is considered impracticable to substitute the 34th CB on account of lack of time.  
3-3-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 34th CB - at Hueneme. 44 men to be transf. to Davisville for reassignment first week of Feb.  
3-5-45 --- Cincpoa concurs with CNO to change the 34th CB for the 85th. (Cincpoa Sec. disp to Cominch 011903 Mar'45).  
3- 6-45 - Hueneme Ser 011818 approved. Schedule 85th CB as planned. (CNO conf disp 031535 to Hueneme)  
3-6-45 - CNO proposes substituting 34th CB for the 37th. Requests Cincpoa's advice. (CNO conf. disp 031931 to Cincpoa)  
3-8-45 --- Cincpoa concurs in substitution of the 34th CB for the 37th. (Cincpoa Sec. disp to CNO 070156 Mar'45).  
4- 2-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 34th CB - located at Hueneme.

Location - Okinawa

## 34th CB

- 3-10-45 - The 34th CB is substituted for the 37th CB. Bupers ordered to make the 34th CB ready for immediate shipment. (CNO Sec. disp to ComWesSeaFron and Bupers 071847 Mar'45)
- 4-24-45 - The 34th CB with 24 off. and 1043 men boarded ship on 19 Apr'45. (Muster roll of personnel dtd 19 Apr'45)
- 4-24-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 34th CB - Located at Port Hueneme as of 1 Apr'45.
- 4-26-45 - 34th CB departed for overseas from Hueneme on 19 Apr'45 with 24 off. and 1043 men. (Hueneme Conf Disp 240409 Apr'45 to Bupers)
- 4-30-45 - Comserfor7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45 shows the 34th CB ordered from U.S. to Leyte-Samar.
- 6-26-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 34th CB - Batt left Hueneme for its 2nd tour of duty on 19 April with 24 off. and 1045 men. The first stop was made at the Hawaiian Is. on 26 Apr'45.
- 6-28-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 34th CB - located at Okinawa. Following is log of stops made enroute Okinawa after batt's stop at P.H.I:
- 6 May - Anchored at Eniwetok.
  - 9 May - Left Eniwetok.
  - 14 May - Arrived Eulithia.
  - 15 May - Left Eulithia.
  - 21 May - Arrived Okinawa.
  - 22 May - 1st troops went ashore Okinawa.
- Report via 45th Reg and 11th Brg.
- 7-16-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 34th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 45th Reg and 11th Brg.
- 7-23-45 - The 34th CB is assigned to the 10th Brg and 44th Reg. (CCT APO 331 sec report on assignment of CB units ser 897 dtd 10 Jul'45)
- 7-26-45 - The 34th CB reported to the 10th Brg on 3 Jul'45. Ordered to further report to the 44th Reg for duty. (OinC 10th Brg Sec. end Ser 00218 dtd 3 Jul'45 to 34th CB)

Location - Okinawa

## 34th CB

- 8-20-45- 1 Aug'45 report of the 34th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via the 44th Reg & 10th Brig.
- 10-1-45- 1 Sept'45 report of 34th CB -located at Okinawa. Report via 44th Reg. & 10th Brig.
- 10-17-45 -CNOB, Okinawa requests authority to inactivate the 34th CB. (CNOB, Okinawa conf spdltr ser 0203 dtd 20 Sept'45 to Comservpac).
- 10-24-45 -1 Oct'45 report of 34th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 44th Reg. & 10th Brig.
- 10-30-45 -Comservpac approves the inactivation of the 34th CB. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05522 dtd 6 Oct'45 to Cincpoa).
- 11-14-45 -Comservpac directs Comdt. Okinawa to inactivate the 34th CB. Advise Comservpac when inactivation is completed. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05659 dtd 23 Oct'45 to Comdt., NOB, Okinawa).
- 12-27-45 -34th CB hasbeen inactivated(actual date not given). (CNCT, Okinawa ltr ser 6292 dtd 24 Nov'45 to Comservpac).

INACTIVATED

34th CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

- 15 Nov 42 - To Gulfport from NCTC Norfolk.
- 2 Dec 42 - Arrived Hueneme.
- 7 Jan 43 - Embarked.
- 26 Jan 43 - Arrived Noumea. Continued to Efate and Espiritu Santo .
- 12 Feb 43 - Halavo, Fla. Is. attached to Acorn (Red) Four.
- 19 Mar 43 - Det. of 350 men to Guadalcanal, remained till Nov. 43.
- 20 Apr 43 - Det. of 200 men to Russell Is. (Banika Is.) completed in Aug.
- May 43 - Operating in Solomons and Russells.
- 11 Jul 43 - Operating in Solomons, Russells and Guadalcanal.
- Nov 43 - Battalion reunited in Tulagi area (1/2 batt. at Halavo, other 1/2 over adjacent islands of Tulagi, Savo, and Phillips Penn.
- 3 Feb 44 - Operating Fla. Is., Tulagi, Purvis Bay and Gavutu Is.
- 15 Mar 44 - Battalion moved from Tulagi to the 'canal.
- 27 Mar 44)
- 29 May 44 - Guadalcanal area.

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
5/30/44	-	Guadalcanal	-	Left U.S. Jan. 1943.
6/14/44	-	DIAL (Hungary) Guadalcanal)	CNB Guadal. disp. 060457 June.	
9/2/44	-	U.S.	Comberodora	deta'd duty 1 Sept Sec disp 180925 return to US just available Inspn.?
9/18	-	(U.S.)	Comberodora sec disp. 172305 Sept	Embarked Guadal 13 Sept
4/30	-	U.S.	Guadal sec det disp. Sep 200755	Delete DIAL
10/11	-	Camp Parks	Budochs memo 10/7.	returned US 10/11/44.
10/25	-	(Hueneme)	CNO Com) ol cap 932003 Oct.	Embarked by Cimpoa. 30th Sept. included Transfer to Hueneme 20 Nov.
11/48	-	Hueneme	Hueneme sec. 251957 Nov - (arrived 11/25)	denture ready date 11/1/45

34 ch C. B.

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
12/21	-	Huenume	Cincpoa sec 160015 dec.	request to assist Condens Pac FFA Hawaiian Area Aug
12/26	-	Huenume	C B memo 12/16.	sentatus ready date 2/1/45 Bine (Bu Docho memo 12/23)
1/20	-	-	CNOA sec 191821	for Bine
2/8	-	(Bine)	201417 cond Jan.	negative 192030
3/5	-	-	CNO cond serial 049430 Feb 2.	Ready Huenume 5/15. and Bine, probable May ship
			CNO sec. dec p 261651 Feb.	early lifting required.
			Cincpoa Pearl 011903. Concur change 34 for 35 ch.	propose sub 37 of 85 - March priority list

34 ch

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
3/6	-	(Bine)	Huenume sec 011818 Mar.	ref. 261651. impracticable sub 34 ch unnoted 85 ch - 85 ch go are planned.
3/7	-	"	CNO cond dia p 031931 Mar.	In View 011818 not decided to sub 34 ch for 85 ch propose sub 34 ch for 37 ch.
3/8	-	"	Cincpoa Pearl sec 07056 Mar.	031931. Concur sub 34 ch for 37 ch.
3/8	-	"	CNO sec 071847 Mar.	Modify 048430. 34 ch substituted for 37 ch. Request make 34 ready for shipment. and priority 56334 replacing 37.
3/12	-	"	Bu Docho memo. 2 Mar	CNO ready date 5/15. Probable March 1949.

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
3/15	-	Huenema	Bunlocks memo 3/9.	Ready 3/1/45 -
4/24	-	-	Calif Conf disp 240409 April	Asid Bine - probably April ship, departed overseas 19 April.
5/28	-	-	Concepcion Real ec. 272321 June	suggest samples 34th Real to com

Aug report shows Bine

ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
30 Jun'44	26	909	Rec. p.
1 Aug'44	26	890	MoR
1 Sep'44	20	758	MoR
1 Oct'44	20	759	MoR
1 Dec'44	21	701	MoR
1 Jan'45	21	974	MoR
1 Feb'45	24	1209	MoR
1 Mar'45	26	1193	BNP625 & MoR
1 Apr'45	26	1153	MoR
1 May'45	27	1045	BNP625 & R
1 Jun'45	27	1042	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	27	1039	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45		1011	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		886	BNP635
1 Oct'45	20	166	BNP625 & R

## HITTING THE BEACH

**A**t 1314 the 22nd day of May instructions were received that all cargo and personnel should go to Awassi (Gray Beach). Company "C" was the first group to go ashore, this company left the ship at approximately 1500. Following Company "C" were Companies A, and B. These troops bivouacked at Gray Beach for one night. During this time it had been raining for several days, and the beach was just one great sea of mud. As the troops hit the beach they immediately began setting up their pup tents in an effort to make themselves as comfortable as possible under the extremely adverse conditions found at the beach. A large number of our troops were raw recruits fresh from "boot" camp that were a little skeptical of their surroundings, and would require a constant check to prevent "trigger happiness" or other unintentional misdemeanors that might add to our fatalities. To add to the men's discomfort, the air raids were so frequent that it might have been called one continuous raid lasting all night. Besides this, the battle for Naha, which was only a few miles away, was at its bitterest point. The ships shelling shore positions could be plainly seen, star shells of various colors were constantly arching across the sky, and the constant rumble of the heavy artillery of both sides contributed greatly to a very uncomfortable night. At 0900 the following morning, Headquarters Company landed on the beach and the four companies prepared to move inland to begin setting up the temporary camp. Company "D" remained on board as the unloading crew.

Landing on Okinawa. At this point most of the men were ready to give this rock to the Japs. It was hard to believe that in a matter of days after the Seabees landed, this island was transformed into one of the mightiest air bases used by the Allies.



# MOVING INLAND

**T**HE SITE of the 34th Construction Battalion Camp was located a little over six miles inland. The route from the beach to the camp site was unoccupied and as yet had not been "mopped up". For this reason all trucks moving inland were well guarded and traveled in convoys of six or more trucks. The roads were in very bad shape due to almost constant raining.

The setting up of the temporary camp was as usual a very trying and disheartening task. For the first few days the men lived in pup tents, and ate "K" Rations. Water was scarce even for drinking and cooking purposes, so a bath was just out of the question. There was a stream running through the Camp, but the Doctors prohibited the men from using the water to bathe because the water was polluted.

With officers and chiefs experienced in the construction of camps, the temporary camp began to take shape rapidly, the necessary shelters taking shape almost immediately. Within a week after landing, the temporary camp included a Galley, Heads, 16'x16' tents without decks, Office Buildings, Storage areas and tents, Barber Shop and a Dispensary. All of these structures were roughly constructed using very little, if any, finished lumber which was saved for the permanent camp. The roads presented quite a problem, but were being filled with coral hauled from a nearby coral pit, daily, until in a short time we were pretty well out of the mud. The water purification plant was installed, eliminating the necessity for hauling water from other units and making it possible to construct a "gang" shower to serve the entire Battalion. The "gang" shower was very much appreciated by all hands, who were greatly relieved to wash some of the mud and dirt from their bodies.

*In the early days of our camp construction, mud was our primary obstacle. At no time could one be free from mud even while eating as the men are doing here.*



# CONSTRUCTION

**T**HE ORGANIZATION of a Construction Battalion is very similar to that of a construction company in civil life; however we do have the additional responsibility of taking care of our men twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week which, in addition to the military aspect, is necessary and important. Approximately two hundred of the personnel of the battalion are used in what we like to term our "housekeeping." This includes the work in the Galleys, Offices, Master at Arms (Police Force), Guards etc. Another group approximately the same size takes care of our camp utilities. Remember that we have our own Water System, Light and Power System, Shops (Carpenter, Electrical, Metalsmith, Plumbing, Communications, Sail Loft, Heavy Equipment and Transportation etc.). In these shops much prefabrication of construction items is done, also the finished products used in the buildings, which you will see on the following pages. The balance of the personnel of the Battalion work on the jobs, the pictures of which are shown.

The important projects which were completed on this tour of duty follow:

ABCD Cargo Handling.	Coral Pit Operations.
Automotive and Equipment Spare Parts Depot.	Mine Assembly Depot Number Eight.
Naval Ammunition Depot.	Awashi Air Strip.
JCC Radio Transmitter Station.	34th C. B. Camp.
Magazines for Dynamite storage.	C. B. Provisional Trucking Company.
Road Construction and Maintenance.	

The main feature of the work involved on these projects included the following:

500,000 man hours.	200,000 sq. ft. of concrete
1,750,000 sq. ft. of grading.	7,500 lineal ft. of culverts built.
Over 15 miles of roads built and/or maintained.	42,000 heavy equipment hours.
61,000 truck hours.	77,000 cu. yds. of coral quarried and hauled.

ITINERARY OF THE 34TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

23 October 1942	Battalion commissioned NCTC, Norfolk, Va.
24 October 1942	Completed preliminary training.
15 November 1942	Transferred to ABD, Gulfport, Miss.
17 November 1942	Arrived ABD, Gulfport, Miss., Started 5 day "Boot" leave.
28 November 1942	Transferred to ABD, Port Hueneme, California.
2 December 1942	Arrived ABD, Port Hueneme, California.
7 January 1943	Embarked for overseas duty aboard M.S. Island Mail and M.S. Alcoa Pennant.
26 January 1943	Arrived Noumea, New Caledonia, Troops and Cargo remained on vessels.
4 February 1943	Left Noumea, New Caledonia.
6 February 1943	Arrived Espiritu Santos.
7 February 1943	Left Espiritu Santos.
9 February 1943	Returned to Espiritu Santos (Enemy action in forward Area).
9 February 1943	Left Espiritu Santos.
12 February 1943	Arrived Halavo, Florida Islands.
26 March 1943	259 officers and men transferred to Guadalcanal.
20 April 1943	180 officers and men transferred to Russell Islands.
24 November 1943	Battalion reassembled in the Tulagi area during this month.
13 March 1944	
25 March 1944	Entire Battalion moved to Guadalcanal.
13 September 1944	20 officers and 759 enlisted men departed Guadalcanal for the U. S. aboard M.S. Pennant for rehabilitation in U.S.
1 October 1944	Arrived Camp Parks from overseas.

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ITINERARY OF THE 34TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (Page #2)

25 November 1944 Arrived at Port Hueneme, California.

4 March 1945 Battalion at Port Hueneme, awaiting assignment for second tour overseas duty.

  
C. V. WHITE  
Lt. Comdr. (CEC) USNR

ITINERARY OF THE 34TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (Cont.)

SECOND TOUR OF DUTY

- 19 Apr 1945 - Departed Hueneme for Okinawa.
- 26 Apr 1945 - Stopped at Pearl Harbor.
- 6 May 1945 - Anchored at Eniwetok.
- 9 May 1945 - Left Eniwetok.
- 14 May 1945 - Arrived Ulithi.
- 15 May 1945 - Left Ulithi.
- 21 May 1945 - Arrived Okinawa.
- 1 Sep 1945 - Okinawa.

NOTE: This itinerary has been checked and authenticated by the Officer in Charge of the 34th Naval Construction Battalion.

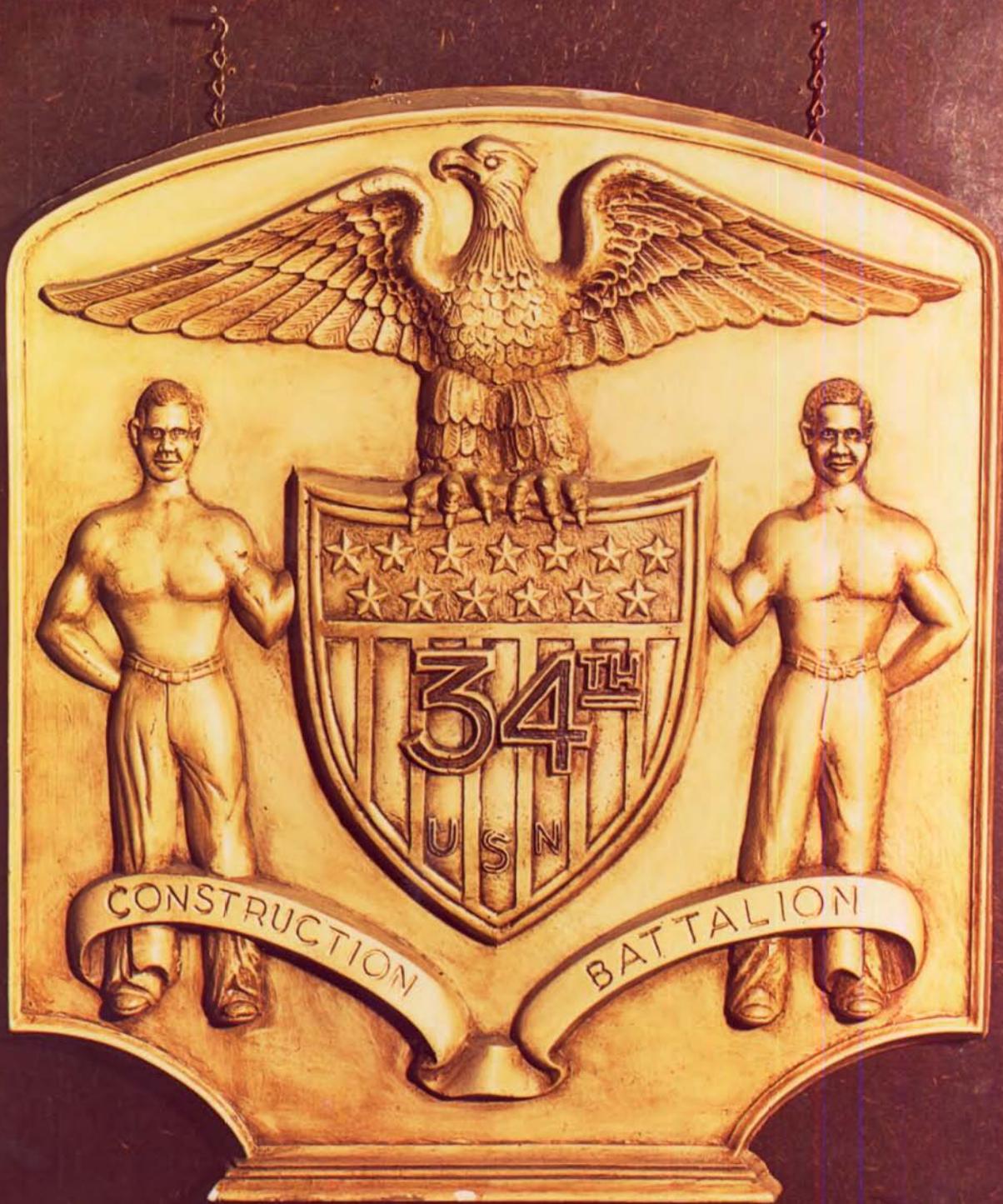
Date: 15 September 1945

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## 34<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Battalion

### Chronology

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02 Dec 1942	Arrived Hueneme.
07 Jan 1943	Embarked.
26 Jan 1943	Arrived Noumea. Continued to Efate and Espiritu Santo.
12 Feb 1943	Halavo, Fla. Island attached to Acorn (Red) Four.
19 Mar 1943	Det. of 350 men to Guadalcanal, remained till Nov. 1943.
20 Apr 1943	Det. of 200 men to Russell Island (Banika Island) completed in Aug.
May 1943	Operating in Solomons and Russells.
11 Jul 1943	Operating in Solomons, Russells and Guadalcanal.
Nov 1943	Battalion reunited in Tulagi area ( ½ battalion at Halavo, other ½ over adjacent islands of Tulagi, Savo, and Phillips Penn.
03 Feb 1944	Operating Fla. Island, Tulagi, Purvis Bay and Gavutu Island
15-27 Mar 1944	Battalion moved from Tulagi, Florida Is. to Guadalcanal.
01 May 1944	34 <sup>th</sup> CB operating at Guadalcanal area.
13 Sept 1944	34 <sup>th</sup> CB left Guadalcanal.
25 Nov 1944	Arrived Hueneme from Parks.
19 Apr 1945	34 <sup>th</sup> CB with 24 officers and 1043 men boarded ship.
26 Apr 1945	The first stop was made at the Hawaiian Island.
03 Jul 1945	The 34 <sup>th</sup> CB is assigned to the 10 <sup>th</sup> Brg. And 44 <sup>th</sup> Reg. 34 <sup>th</sup> CB has been inactivated. (actual date not given)



CONSTRUCTION

BATTALION









