# 35th Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical Information*

***"Construimus, Batuimus"***
***"We Build, We Fight"***

NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND

## 35th C.B.

**1st Embarkation**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NSTC | - | Davisville |
| ABD | - | Davisville |
| Ready Date | - | 11 Dec'42 |
| Left ABD | - | 14 Dec'42 |
| Destination | - | NPIC ~~Manus~~ |

**2nd Embarkation**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NCTC | - | (CBRD Parks) |
| ABD | - | |
| Ready Date | - | 1 Mar'45 |
| Left ABD | - | 18 May'45 |
| Location | - | Manila |

### LOG

11-27-42 - 35th CB transferred from NCTC Davisville to ABD Davisville 26 Nov'42. (TWX 271732/11/42 from OinC ABD Davisville)

12-14-42 - Departed ABD Davisville 14 Dec'42. (TWX 151014/12/42 from OinC ABD Davisville)

12-17-42 - Sailed from Norfolk.

1-20-43 - Arrived Noumea enroute Espiritu Santo for general base construction.

- 17 Dec'42 - Sailed on USS John Penn
- 18 Jan'43 - Arrived Noumea
- 22 Jan'43 - Left for Espiritu Santo
- 27 Jan'43 - Arrived Espiritu Santo

2-27-43 - 12 officers and 500 men arrived Russell Is. OinC makes recommendation that the ½ Batt located on the Russell Is. be relieved and sent back to U.S. due to mental cracking up due to incessant bombings - not concurred in by ComNavBases. (1 Apr'43 report of 35th CB)

5-11-43 - The 35th CB is located at Russell Is. (ComNavBasesSoPac area to ComSoPac Sec. ltr dtd 5-11-43)

6-14-43 - 1 May report of 35th CB - operating at Banika, Russell Is.

7-14-43 - 1 Jun'44 report of 35th CB - 2nd Sect., consisting of 11 off. and 504 men, located at Banika, Russell Is.

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## 35th C.B.

9- 1-43 - 1 Jul'44 report of 35th CB - 17 off. and 150 men at Banika, Russell Is.

10- 5-43 - 1 Sep'44 report of 35th CB - located at Russell Is. On 21 Aug'43 the part of batt. from Espiritu Santo arrived in Russell Is.

12- 4-43 - 1 Nov'43 report of 35th CB - operating in the Russell Is.

1- 6-44 - 1 Dec'43 report of 35th CB - operating at Banika, Russell Is.

1-25-44 - 35th CB ordered to Auckland, N.Z. for 30 days rest after 8 Jan'44. (Sec. File No. SC P16-5 - 6279 ComNavBase Russells to OinC 35th CB Ser 00219)

3- 2-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 35th CB - Left Russell Is. on 9 Jan'44 for a month at New Zealand

4- 3-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 35th CB - left Auckland the last of Feb'44 for Russell Is.

5-17-44 - 35th CB is located at Manus. (AES 5/16/44)

6- 3-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 35th CB - Operations at Russells secured 19 Mar'44 and left 3 days later for SoWesPac with the 5th Reg.

6-19-44 - 1 May'44 report of 35th CB - operating at Manus.

6-26-44 - 35th CB is located at Manus as of 31 May'44. (Comserfor7flt Sec ltr A-9 over Ser. BP-001407 to Dirpacdocks dtd 8 Jun'44)

7- 7-44 - 35th CB is located at Lombrum Pt., Manus Is. (Comserfor7flt sec. ltr A-9-4 over Ser 00673 to Budocks dtd 14 Jun'44)

7-27-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 35th CB - operating at Lorengau also.

8-10-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 35th CB - operating at Manus.

8-25-44 - 35th CB located at Manus - Following data of SoPac as of 1 Jul'44:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan'43 | - | Arrived | Espiritu Santo |
| Mar'43 | - | " | Russells |
| Jan'44 | - | " | Auckland |
| Mar'44 | - | " | Russells |
| Mar'44 | - | " | Manus |

## 35th C.B.

8-29-44 - Scheduled return date to U.S. of 35th C.B. changed to 1 Dec'44. (Com7flt sec. disp. 310103 NCR 951 to Cincpac dtd 21 Aug'44)

9-30-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 35th CB - operating at Manus. Comserfor7flt states in the 4th endorsement that the batts now attached to the 4th Brig are to return to the SoPac command upon completion of the present assignment in the Admiralty Islands.

10-24-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 35th CB - operating at Manus.

10-24-44 - The 35th CB is located at Lorengau, Manus Is. To be released about 1 Nov'44 to return to the U.S. Operating under the 5th Reg.(Comserfor7flt monthly report for Aug'44 to Budocks Ser. BP001815 Secret dtd 12 Sep'44).

11-8-44 - 35th CB is in the 5th Reg. and is located at Lorengau. It is estimated that the 35th will be released on or about 1 Nov'44 to return to the U.S. (Comserfor7flt Sec. ltr A9-4 over Ser BP-001882 to Budocks dtd 12 Oct'44 monthly report for Sep'44)

11-29-44 - 35th CB located at Manus. (Comserv7flt Sec Disp to CNO 150133 NCR 18921 dtd 24 Nov'44)

12-6-44 - 35th CB with 23 officers and 700 men arrived from overseas 22 Nov'44. (Parks TWX 0613 24 Nov'44)

12-18-44 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 35th CB - Batt embarked for the U.S. on 5 Nov'44 and arrived at Camp Parks on 22 Nov'44. All officers and men who were out of the States less than 12 mos. were transferred to other batts prior to embarkation.

1-3-45 - 1 Oct'44 report of the 35th CB - Was located at Manus during Sep'44. Report endorsed by the5th Regiment.

1-5-45 - 1 Nov'44 report of the 2nd Reg. - The 58th CB rec'd a draft of 122 men during Oct'44 from the 35th CB.

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## 35th CB

1-11-45 - 1 Nov'44 report of the 35th CB - Endorsement by 4th Brig. states that the 35th CB left Manus for the States on 4 Nov'44.

1-30-45 -- The 35th CB will be available from Parks for Samar 1 Mar'45.(CNO Sec. disp to Com7th Flt 181805 dtd 19 Jan'45).

1-30-45 -- Cincpoa requests that the 35th CB which is assigned to Sowespac be assigned to the 7th Brg.(Cincpoa Sec. disp to CNO 25-121 dtd 25 Jan'45).

2-7-45 -- The 35th CB will be assigned to the 7th Brg.(CNO conf. disp to Comservpac, Cincpoa and Com7flt 291535 dtd 29 Jan'45).

3-13-45 -- No ships allocated in Mar'45 for the lifting of the 11th, 35th, 68th or 80th CB's. (ComWestSeaFron Sec. disp to Comserpac 110038 Mar'45).

3-16-45 - Comservpac requests earliest possible April shipping of the 11th, 35th, 68th, and 80th CBs to Samar. (Comservpac Sec Disp 132333 dtd 14 Mar'45 to Comserv7flt)

4-9-45 - 35th CB approx. sailing date is 20 Apr'45. (Parks Sec report of draft movements dtd 29 Mar'45 to Bupers)

4-19-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 35th CB - located at CBRD Camp Parks.

4-30-45 - Comserfor7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45 shows the 35th CB ordered from U.S. to Leyte-Samar area.

5- 2-45 - The 35th CB ETD SanFran 14 May'45. (ComWesSeaFron Sec Disp 260120 dtd 26 Apr to Cincpoa P)

5- 8-45 - The 35th CB assigned 7th Brg. in Leyte-Samar area. (Dirpacdocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)

5-15-45 - Subic is confirmed as destination of the 11th, 35th, and 80th CBs. (GHQ SWPA Sec disp 031308Z dtd 10 May to Cincpoa P)

5-16-45 - WM T COLEMAN loaded with equip of 35th and 80th CBs due Eniwetok 19 May'45 for onward routing for Okinawa. Dest. these units has been changed to Subic Bay. (Cincpoa P Sec Disp 090134 dtd 9 May to PD Eniwetok)

35th C.B.

5-19-45 - Lift CBs 11, 35, and 80 to Subic Bay. My 302115 and CNO ser 0039230 of 2 Feb modified. (Cominch sec disp 122102 dtd 13 May to Comwesseafron)

5-23-45 - 35th CB, consisting of 24 off. and 1068 men, departed Parks for overseas on 18 May'45. (CBRD Parks Sec disp 212330 May'45 to Bupers)

6-21-45 - On arrival NAB Subic, the 35th CB shall be detached by CNAB Subic Bay and shall proceed and report to CNOB Manila-Subic for duty with CNAB Manila. Comserfor7flt will arrange supplemental transp from Subic to Manila as necessary upon request for same. It is requested that Comserfor7flt be advised by CNAB Subic of arrival of subj batt at Subic Bay and the date the batt departs for Manila. It is directed that CNOB Manila-Subic locate a suitable camp site for subj batt in the Manila area. (Comserfor7flt sec orders ser 00500 dtd 10 June to CNB Subic and CNOB Manila

7-10-45 - Comserfor7flt sec loc schedule dtd 25 Jun'45 shows the 35th CB enroute Manila from the U.S. - ETA 6/25/45.

7-25-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 35th CB - located at Manila. On 18 May'45 the 35th CB left the U.S. for its 2nd tour of overseas duty. The dates of arrival and departure of the Batt are:

12 May'45-departed San Francisco.
24 May'45-Arrived at Pearl Harbor.
25 May'45-Departed from Pearl Harbor.
2 Jun'45-Arrived at Eniwetok.
4 Jun'45-Departed from Eniwetok.
8 Jun'45-Arrived at Ulithi
9 Jun'45-Departed from Ulithi.
12 Jun'45-Arrived at Leyte.
13 Jun'45-Departed from Leyte.
13 Jun'45-Arrived at Samar.
19 Jun'45-Departed from Samar.
19 Jun'45-Arrived at Leyte.
23 Jun'45-Departed from Leyte.
25 Jun'45-Arrived at Manila.

On 15 Jun'45 while at Samar 8 men were sent to Manila for communication work(Cont'd on next card)

Location - Manila 35th CB

(Cont'd) and have since rejoined the Batt. Since arrival at Manila the 35th CB has been assisting the 63rd CB and by 20 Jul'45 will take over all projects assigned to the 63rd CB. Report via 3rd Reg & 3rd Brig.

7-27-45 - The 35th CB is attached to the 3rd Reg and 3rd Brg. Located at Manila, constr hdqtrs for the 7th Flt and CNOB. (CCT 7th Flt Sec Rep for June)

7-27-45 - The 35th CBwas diverted to Manila while enroute to Subic Bay by Comservpac conf disp 121321 Jun to CNOB Leyte Gulf. (Comserfor7flt Conf ltr ser 01697 dtd 11 Jul to CNB Subic Bay and CNOB Subic Bay)

8- 1-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 63rd CB - All 63rd CB projects at Manila were turned over to the 35th CB for completion on 20 July.

8-14-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 77th CB - 70 men were transfd to the 77th CB from the 63rd CB and these men are now assigned TAD with the 35th CB located at Manila.

8-18-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 3rd Brig states that the 35th CB just recently arrived in the CCT 7th Flt area has been assigned to the 7th Flt area previously being constructed by the 63rd and 119th CBs. The 35th CB is attached to the 3rd Reg & 3rd Brg.

8-29-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 35th CB. Report came via 3rd Reg & 3rd Brig. Located at Manila.

9-26-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 35th CB - located at Manila. Report via 3rd Reg. & 3rd Brig.

10-17-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 3rd Reg - location Manila. 375 men transferred for discharge under the point system.

10-24-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 35th CB - located at Manila. Report via 3rd Reg. & 3rd Brig.

11-23-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 35th CB - located at Manila. Report via 3rd Reg. & 3rd Brig.

2-14-46 - Report received from 35th CB, Section II, dtd 15 Jan 46 statesSec II was formed from CB personnel remaining from activities inactivated in area. Location - Subic Bay, Zambales, Luzon, P.I.

Location - Manila

35th CB ~~(1st Section)~~

12-26-45 - 1 Dec'45 report of 35th CB - located at Manila.

3-1-46 - Section II of 35th CB formed from CB personnel remaining from all CB activities inactivated in area. (35th CB Sec II 1 Feb 46 report).

3-1-46 - 1 Feb 46 report of 35th CB, Sec I - located at Manila. Report via 7th Brig.

3-1-46 - 1 Feb 46 report of 35th CB, Sec II - located at Subic Bay. " " " "

3-22-46 - 1 Mar 46 report of 35th CB, Sec II - locatedat Subic Bay. Report via 7th Brig.

3-28-46 - 1 Mar 46 report of 35th CB, Sec I - located at Manila. Report via 7th Brig.

4-19-46 - 35th CB, Sec II discontinued and functions absorbed by 35th CB at Manila. (1 Apr 46 report of 7th Brig.)

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~~4-28-46~~ -

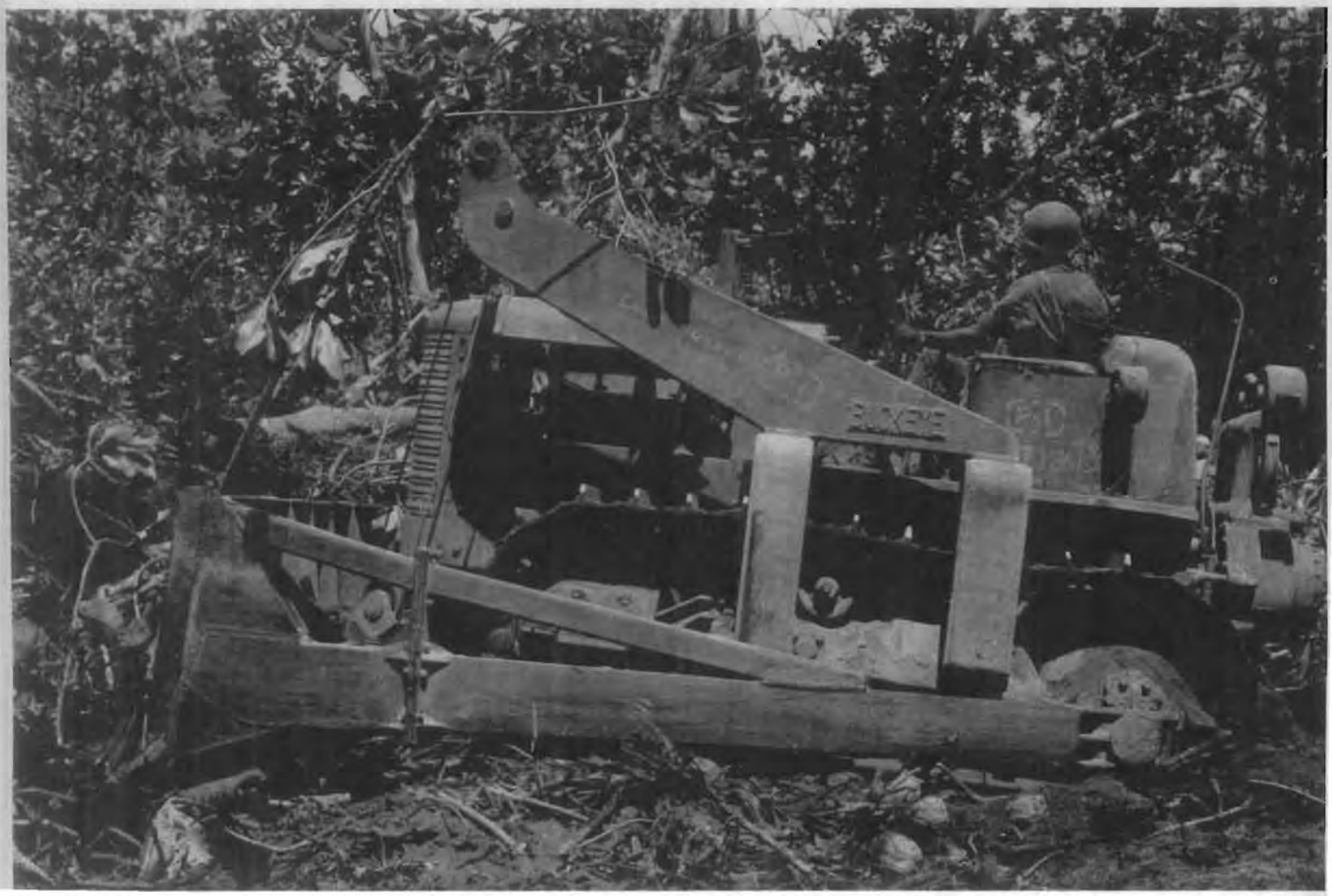
6-13-46 - Comservepac directs 7th brigade to inactivate 35th CB; follow usual procedure. (Comservepac dispatch 120008 via rdo Manila to 7th CB brigade)

7-10-46 - INACTIVATED, in accordance with authority contained in ltr. OinC, 7thNCBr/A4-2(1) Ser. 3987 dtd. 6-6-46. All personnel transferred to other units and all material, supplies and equipment distributed and all accts. closed in accord. with current directives. Records disposed of in accord. with CB Cir. ltr. 20-44.

# The History of the Seabees

Aside from their motto—"Construimus Batuimus" (We build, we fight)—there is nothing classical about the Seabees. This newest branch of the Navy, the Seabees—262,000 strong—is composed of the toughest, most resourceful and energetic bunch of builders, dockwallopers, repair men, and anti-boobytrap operators this war has seen. As such, the Seabees are something of an anomaly in the ceremonies and traditions of the Navy. But old traditions are somewhat foreign to this outfit of horny-handed, cussing, gun-toting construction workers. Not young themselves—their average age is around 28—the Seabees have built a lusty new tradition of their own. "Can Do" is the Seabee watch word from the Arctic wastes of the Aleutians to the steaming jungles of the southwest Pacific, from the central Pacific to the Atlantic.

**A Seabee and his heavy bomber (bulldozer) at work in a South Pacific jungle. Notice the fallen coconuts.**



**Equipped to work AND fight, this Seabee leads the disembarking procession down the gangplank on the arrival of a transport at a South Pacific port.**

This war's two-ocean Navy and its air arm are impotent without their global girdle of bases, and an island remains useless until it has been transformed into a base. Without the back-breaking work of the Seabees, there would be fewer front-page stories of Jap flotillas or aircraft sent

BEN MOREELL
Vice-Admiral

to watery graves. Never has any Navy been called on to scramble from island to island to set up advance base after advance base with which to attack the enemy; for a large-scale attack is impossible unless there are well-equipped suitable bases from which to operate.

Incidentally, the Seabees, too, have their heroes. The name of Aurelio Tassone is largely unknown, yet this 28-year-old ex-state-road bulldozer operator performed one of the most ingenious heroic feats of the war. During the Treasury Island landings in the Solomons, he roared down the ramp of an LST in his 20-ton bulldozer to attack Jap snipers in a coconut-log pillbox. Using the steel blade of the bulldozer as a shield, he charged the pillbox, dropping the blade when he was virtually upon the Japs. The bulldozer literally swept the pillbox from its foundations and buried the 12 Japs in the debris. There are many other such stories.

The Navy learned many lessons at Wake, Bataan, Corregidor, and Guam, among them that unarmed civilian construction workers, though willing, could not be expected to pitch in and defend what they built. As an outcome, the first Seabee regiment, consisting of some 3,300 officers and men, was authorized on December 28, 1941.

Navy ratings were offered to skilled construction workers to give up highly paid civilian jobs and volunteer for service with the Seabees. From

Water Tender Lonnie F. Suder (right) quickly set up his water works after he landed with the second wave of Marines on Bougainville. With a tractor he cut a road through to the Koromokina River to operate his water filtering unit. Suder's name has been mis-spelled in "Sudder Circle" but Painter H. W. Miller (left) later corrected the spelling on the sign.

An airstrip takes shape in the virgin jungle on one of the Marshall Islands.

the ranks of 59 different building trades, men began to answer the call—veterans of the last war eager to get their licks in, men with large families eager to do their bit, blacksmith, crane operators, plumbers, oilers, electricians, welders.

Before long, because the volunteers included many men in their forties (the age limits were set at 17 to 50), the Navy began to call the Seabees "Grandpops." However, events have shown that those "grandpops" had the stuff and are one of the best parts of the Navy.

Only meager training facilities and equipment

**Seabees roll in the barrels. The drums are filled with aviation gasoline.**

were available for the first Seabees, because the program was organized so quickly. The first Seabees were sent overseas under-equipped. Typical of the early phases of the war when the whole country was so unprepared, these men of the construction battalions called themselves "confused bastards." By the spring of 1942, however, Seabee training camps were being set up.

For the past year or so, the Seabee "boot" has been given eight to 12 weeks of intensive training. He has learned close and extended order drill like an infantryman. He has learned to run a hellish obstacle course complete with pyramids, water hazards, dugouts, gun emplacements. He has learned marksmanship and use of the bayonet.

Parks and the other Seabee camps are equipped with schools for nearly every building skill. In the machine shop the Seabee learns how to do repair work which will fall to him overseas. Be becomes familiar with the types of bulldozers he will operate in clearing an airplane landing strip or a barracks site. He has met his vesatile all-purpose mechano set, the pontoon gear.

The over-all Seabee organization is broken down

The jungle doesn't stand a chance against this Seabee equipment.

into five different types of units in which exist a high degree of specialization and jack-of-all-trade versatility. The first is the Seabee construction battalion, totaling 1,080 men and 32 officers. Within this battalion are super-specialists with each man sifted in training into the niche for which he is best fitted; there is no such thing as a Seabee company made up only of iron workers, or carpenters, or bulldozer operators. While each gang has its specific work to perform the Seabee scheme necessitates that all turn to and serve as helpers to any other trade. When there is a wood barracks to be built, the iron workers, the steam fitters, and the electricians lend a hand to the carpenters who lead the show. Similarly, if the job is in metals, the carpenters pass the tools and take

A Seabee tractor backs from shore to ramp over a submerged steel mat. The shot was taken at Port Hueneme, California.

orders from the metal workers. This diversification has been largely responsible for making each Seabee battalion into a versatile, closely-knit team capable of performing construction miracles.

The second type of Seabee unit is the "specialist battalion"—a euphemistic name for the Seabee stevedores who have done so much to relieve the cargo loading and unloading bottleneck which threatened logistics earlier in the war. Each special battalion consists of 1,010 men and 34 officers, most of them "dockwallopers" who've learned to call themselves logisticians.

Not many months ago, freighters were being lost only a few hundred yards from their destination, waiting their turn to be unloaded by civilians or untrained members of the combat services.

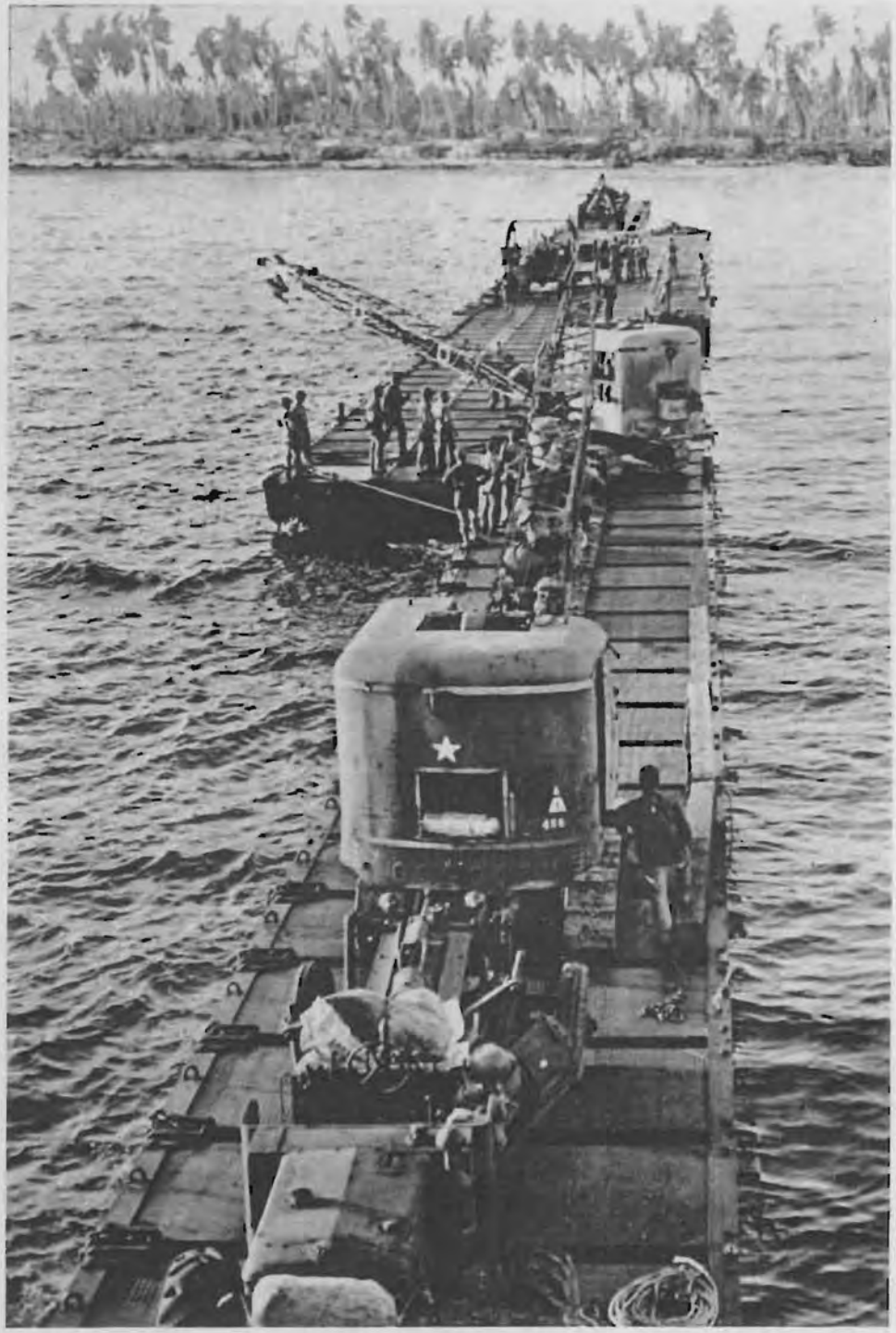
Trees and logs are put in place by Marines and Seabees for a bridge across a jungle stream on New Britain Island.

Ships tied up for days, even weeks, were perfect targets for enemy attack. This situation was relieved only by the arrival of hook-slinging Seabee specials, who on one recent occasion handled 31 ships with a total of 61,891 tons of freight in the remarkable time of 23 days. Today Seabee specials are getting ships unloaded and turned around days ahead of old schedules.

The third type of unit is the Seabee maintenance unit. Today, when a construction battalion has completed the work of building a base, it is generally relieved by a maintenance unit. A battalion in miniature of 275 men and officers, the maintenance units defend what their mates have built, repair and improve and where necessary finish left-over projects.

The fourth type of unit is little known but extremely important—the Seabee Marine detachment. In order to release fighting Marines on a hazardous landing from the specialized job of running equipment ashore, a Seabee Marine detachment is attached to each Marine division. These Seabees wear Marine uniforms, and as an integral part of the Marines in landing and fighting operations, they not only do the regular job of a construction battalion, but form important Marine combat units as well.

The fifth type of unit, the demolition unit, handles the man-killing job of destroying obstructions and traps, placed to hinder beach landings. These units, made up of one officer and four men each, many of them former "hard rock men," have undergone a special toughening-up. They have been



This LST-borne pontoon causeway went into use in the Marshall Islands invasion. The heavy gear brought in by the LSTs begins to move ashore. Note the side-rule fashion of joining the pontoon's sections together. When the equipment reaches the end of the last pontoon, "ducks" will drag it the rest of the way to shore.

coached in the uses of dynamite. They have been taught how to destroy bridges, mine fields, roads, barbed wire entanglements and docks. They have learned to lay mine fields and booby traps and how to detect and dismantle the enemy's. They work on the land but they also work under sea.

A Seabee goes to work on Tarawa after the Marines had wrested it, with much bloodshed, from the Japs.

Before the first assault wave lands, Seabee demolition units are at work, often in the dead of night, unearthing from the sea near the beach "horn scullies," those upended and sharpened rails placed in V formation which can rip the bottom out of an LCT.

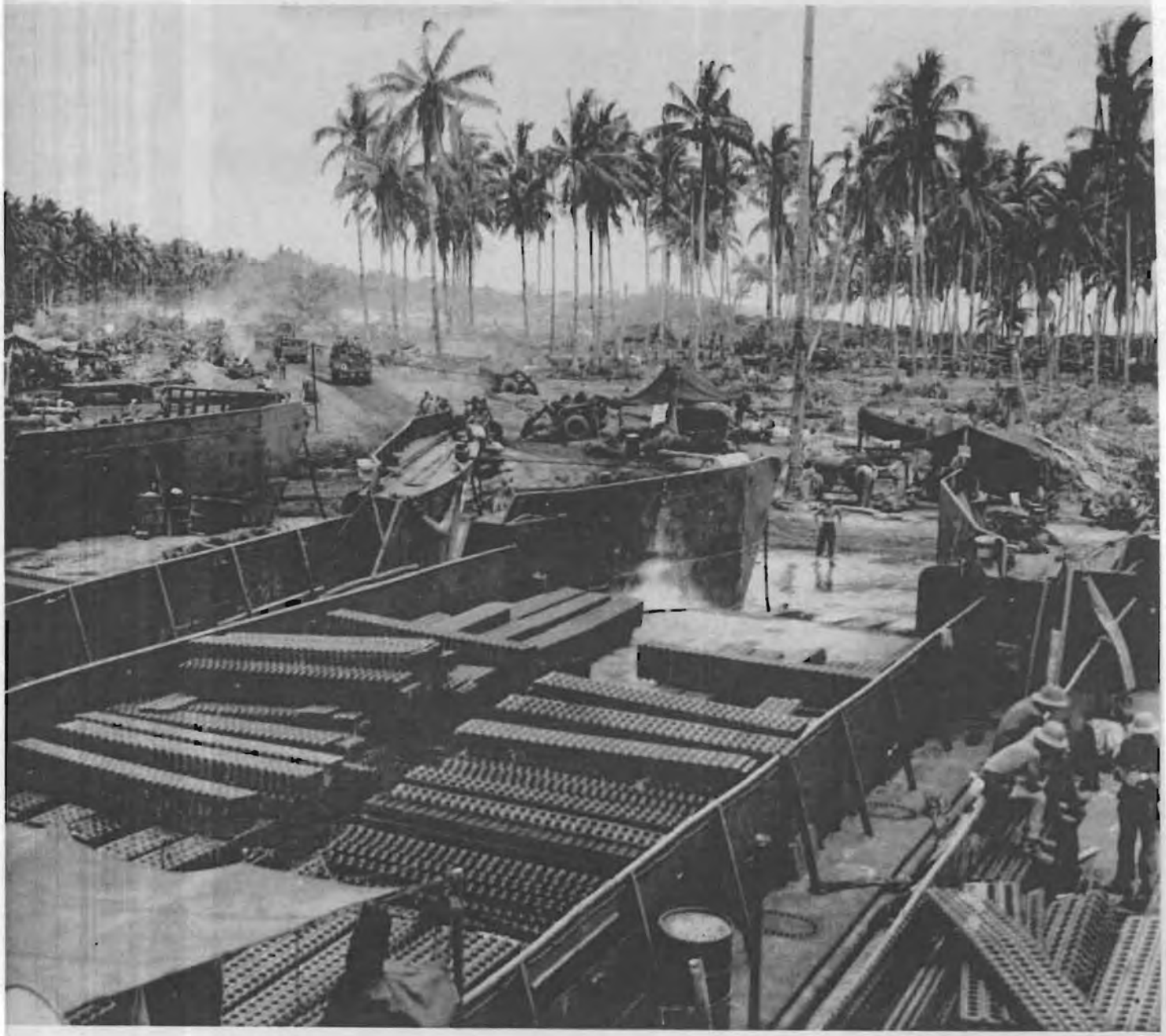
The demolition units know how to clear the harbors choked with our own and enemy debris. Because they know how to use explosives under water, the demolition of a sunken ship is a comparatively simple job for them. They are also skilled in placing explosives alongside a grounded ship in such a way that the suction which holds it is broken, thus enabling tugs to extricate it.

The Seabee's Island X is everywhere, from Iceland to Asia. But a list of X's tells nothing of the obstacles overcome and the skill and ingenuity shown by the fighting Seabees. At Attu and Kiska, the Seabees were among the first to land. There they swung from ropes in a driving rain to chisel footholes in the solid rock of steep cliffs in order to construct a tract for a traveling carriage. Before the last assault boat had landed, the Seabees were at work replacing poorly constructed

Jap installations. In the teeth of gales, bottomless tundra, sleet, snow, and fantastic williwaw storms, they hacked landing strips out of solid rock in record time. Swampy tundra gave way to smooth hard roads. Seabees dove into icy waters to erect wharves and docks. They worked in short spurts in water up to 108 feet deep, and so cold that hose carrying air to them frequently froze. For many Seabees, there was never a three-day period when they were not in the bone-chilling water.

Seabee battalions have been in with the assault waves on almost every amphibious operation in the

Seabees unload their supplies and equipment, to clear the jungles, roll the airport and put the metal strips together to form an airfield. The scene is in the Bougainville jungles.



This is the Bougainville airstrip, in preparation.

South Pacific. They attack the job of hacking airfields out of the island jungles with assurance. Often these airfields were completed in days instead of weeks. On Munda, for example, the bomb-ravaged Jap field was put into usable condition in eight days. On Tarawa, the airstrip

A little difficulty is encountered in the building of a jungle road. But the Seabees soon had everything under control.

Bringing the war to the Italians, LST formed a large part of the huge armada that landed men and supplies on the shores of Sicily. Jeeps roll from one craft as another stands by, jaws open, ready to unload. Notice the pontoon causeway over which the jeep comes ashore.

which hours before had been a major threat to the U. S. position in the Pacific, was put into shape for U. S. planes by the time the last Jap had been exterminated.

In other theatres of the war, the Seabees have been equally active. They were the first American detachment to land in Africa. They were in the first wave at Casablanca. As the U. S. and British forces rolled eastward, the Seabees rolled with them. The Seabee demolition units were out in front blasting barbed wire entanglements, locating and detonating booby traps and land mines. They built housing and hospital facilities. Water supply and purification were also in their hands. Seabees were in the vanguard at Sicily and at Salerno. With the invasion forces under a hell of fire from the shore batteries, enemy bombers, and tiger tanks which blasted men and equipment to bits on every side, the Seabees unloaded thousands of pieces of equipment, cleared space for dressing stations, blasted barbed wire entanglements and took part in the fight. Within two days they had turned the bloody beach of Salerno into a temporary base of operations.

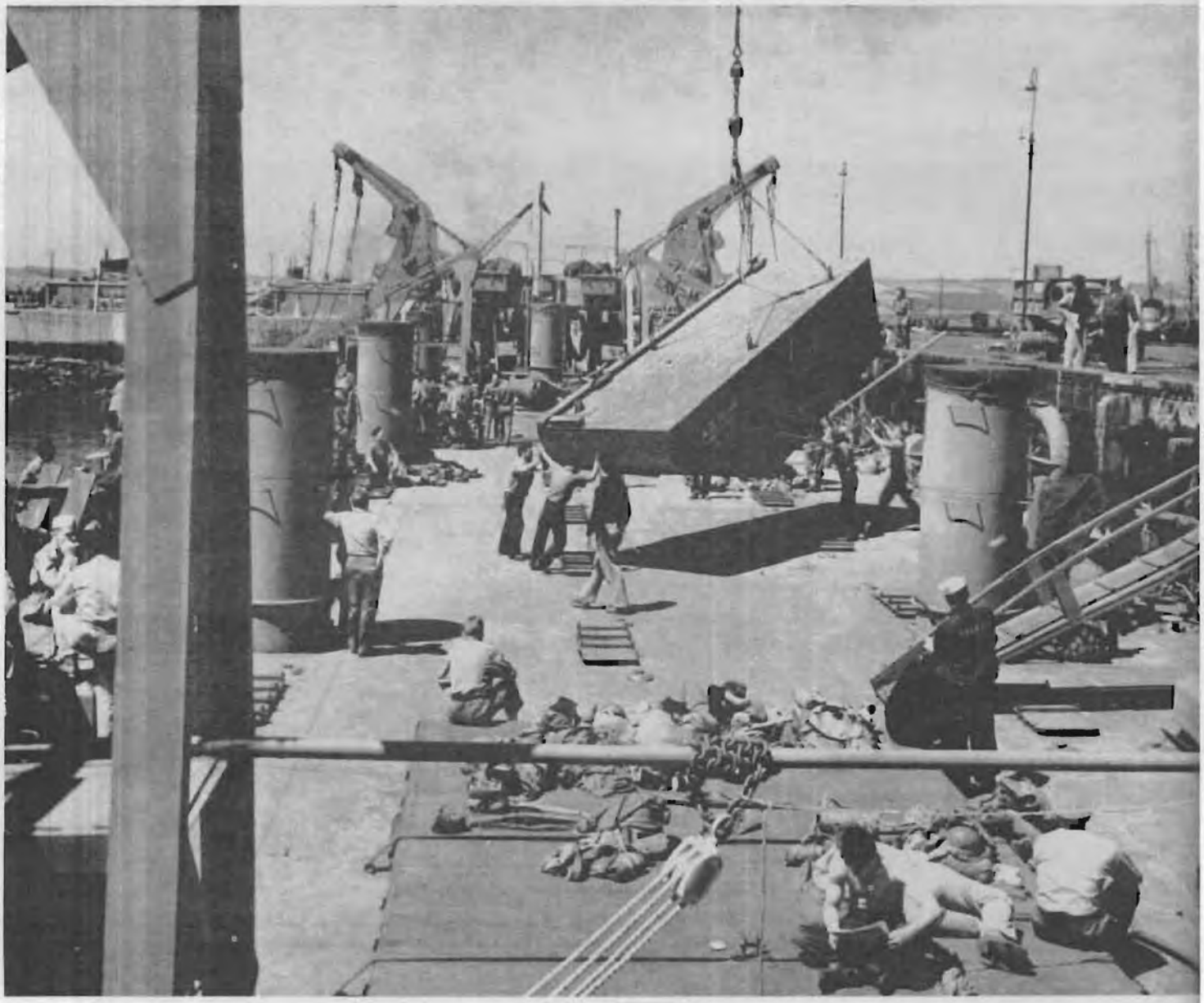
Seabees landed in France with the first of the assault forces.

Seabees have improvised materials, tools, and parts wherever they have been stationed. Ma-

hogany and teakwood have been used to build the humblest sheds and shelters. Coke bottles have been used as insulators when a power line had to be extended. Empty gasoline drums have been drafted for a variety of uses—roofing, shoring, drainage systems, shower baths, culverts, ovens, grills, trusses, baffles, piping, and even canoes.

In the midst of a world dedicated to destruction, the Seabees are busy building, repairing, salvaging, and fighting to maintain what they have wrested from the jungle and the waste. When victory comes, we believe that it will be in no small part due to the achievements of the fighting Seabees.

Seabees rush materials aboard ship for the voyage to Cherbourg, France. There the Seabees helped British and U. S. Army units in restoring the harbor to Allied shipping.



# OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 35TH SEABEE BATTALION

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## OUR FIRST OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

FRED C. SNELL
Lieutenant Commander (CEC), USNR

The 35th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion was formed at Camp Endicott, Davisville, Rhode Island, and was formally commissioned there in October 1942, with Lieut. Comdr. Fred C. Snell as the Officer-in-Charge. The officers of the Battalion received their indoctrination at Camp Allen, Norfolk, Virginia, while the enlisted personnel received their preliminary training at Camp Endicott.

In December 1942, after an intensive training program, the Battalion left Camp Endicott for Norfolk, Virginia, from where it embarked for the South Pacific.

After a trip through the Panama Canal, and a short stop at Noumea, New Caledonia, the Battalion reached its first place of duty, Espiritu Santo, in the New Hebrides group. During the following three weeks, a camp was established and work on many projects just started when one-half the Battalion, under the command of Lieut. Comdr. Snell, was ordered to proceed to Banika, in the Russell Islands. At Banika, the Battalion completed two important advance air strips in addition to building roads, docks, a Supply Depot, and a Naval Hospital. At Espiritu Santo, the remaining one-half of the Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant (now Lieut. Comdr.) H. E. Hochenedel, was assigned the construction of a Naval Hospital, a P.T. Base, roads, and a communications system.

Upon completion of this work at Espiritu, the half battalion moved up and rejoined the first group at Banika.

From Banika, the Battalion proceeded to New Zealand for a 30-day rehabilitation leave. At the conclusion of the leave, it was returned to Banika to be re-equipped for a new assignment. At this time, Lieut. Comdr. Snell received orders to return to the United States and Lieut. Comdr. Richard Roth was designated as Officer-in-Charge of the Battalion.

**OUR SECOND OFFICER-IN-CHARGE**

**RICHARD ROTH**
Lieutenant Commander (CEC), USNR

Early in 1944, the Battalion landed on Manus in the Admiralty Islands, shortly after it was taken from the Japs. Here the Battalion constructed roads, ammunition dumps, warehouses, bridges, a Supply Depot, Naval Base Headquarters, and a Motor Overhaul Depot. At Manus, after 24 months in the South Pacific war zone, the welcome news was received that the entire unit was to be returned to the United States.

On Thanksgiving Eve 1944, the Battalion arrived at San Francisco, with great rejoicing. It moved into Camp Parks, California, where the officers and men were given their leave orders. After the 30-day leave period, the 35th Battalion returned to Camp Parks, where it was reorganized and put through intensive refresher training in preparation for a second tour of overseas duty. Lieut. Comdr. Roth was transferred to an assignment in the States, and Lieut. Comdr. F. E. Byrns was assigned to duty as Officer-in-Charge of the reorganized Battalion. Lieut. Comdr. H. E. Hochenedel remained as Executive Officer.

During its first tour of overseas duty, the 35th Battalion received a number of highly laudatory official commendations, copies of four of which follow this outline.

35th Naval Construction Battalion

Chronology

| | |
|---|---|
| 22 Oct 1942 | Battalion formed at NCTC, Davisville, R.I. |
| 26 Nov 1942 | Transferred to ABD, Davisville, R.I. |
| 14 Dec 1942 | Departed ABD, Davisville, for Norfolk. |
| 15 Dec 1942 | Embarked from Norfolk for overseas. |
| 18 Jan 1943 | Arrived at Noumea. |
| 22 Jan 1943 | Departed Noumea. |
| 27 Jan 1943 | Arrived Espiritu Santo. |
| | 12 officers, 500 men of 35th CB arrived Russell Islands. |
| 17 June 1943 | 6 officers 150 men of 35th CB arrived Russell Islands. |
| 21 Aug 1943 | Remainder of 35th CB arrived Russell Islands from Espiritu Santo. |
| 09 Jan 1944 | Departed Russell Islands for rehabilitation at Auckland. |
| 19 Feb 1944 | Departed from New Zealand for Russell Islands. |
| 23 Feb 1944 | Arrived at Russell Islands. |
| 22 Mar 1944 | Departed Russell islands for Manus. Located at Lorengau, On Manus Island. |
| 14 Apr 1944 | Arrived Manus. |
| 05 Nov 1944 | Departed Manus for the U.S. |
| 22 Nov 1944 | Arrived Camp Parks. |
| 01 Feb 1945 | Battalion at Camp Parks assigned for 2nd tour overseas duty. |

DECLASSIFIED

ITINERARY OF THE 35TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION.

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To Facilitate Administrative Handling Classification changed from: CONFIDENTIAL
To: RESTRICTED
Irvin S. Rasmussen
Comdr. CEC USNR
Signature

Certified to be a correct itinerary of this Unit's dates of arrival and departure from each location.

H. E. Hochsmedel

H. E. HOCHSMEDEL
Lieut. Comdr. CEC USNR

35
CONSTRUCTION
BATTALION

BU AER 170513

Project No. V-a-32-02 35th Construction Battalion May 16,1944
Description; Obtaining fill for roads and warehouse foundations

Project: No. V(a) 32-02 35th Construction Battalion 16 June 1944

35"