38th Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information

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

NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND

38th C.B.

1st Embarkation

NCTC - Norfolk
ABD - Hueneme
Ready Date - 3 Jan'43
Left ABD - 3 Jan'43 (departed Seattle 9 Jan'43)
Destination - ~~Kodiak~~

2nd Embarkation

NCTC -
ABD - Parks
Ready Date - 1 Nov'44
Left ABD - 25 Nov'44
Destination - ~~P.H.~~ Tinian

LOG

12-16-42 - 38th CB moved from Camp Bradford, Va. to Hueneme 17 Dec'42. (OinC ltr to U.S. Flt P.O. San Fran.)
1- 8-43 - Left Hueneme for Seattle for embarkation.
2- 1-43 - Sailed from Seattle 9 ~~Dec.~~ Jan. (Alsec report dtd 15 Jan'44) Arrived Kodiak 14 ~~Dec.~~ Jan.
4-30-43 - 1st Const. Brigade shows the 38th CB at NOB Kodiak.
7- 1-43 - 38th CB is at Kodiak. (Com 13 to ComAlSec dtd 21 Jun'43 - Sec. disp)
9-21-43 - 38th CB at Adak with Sect. A consisting of 19 officers and 295 men at Kiska.
1-25-44 - 38th CB scheduled to return to U.S. 5 Apr'44. (Alsec conf. report dtd 15 Jan'44)
3-16-44 - 38th CB located at NAS Adak and scheduled to return to U.S. March - June'44. (1st Brig report dtd 1 Mar'44)
5-10-44 - 1 May'44 report of 38th CB - This batt secured 26 Apr'44 for return to U.S. shortly
5-17-44 - 38th CB arrived Camp Parks 11 May'44 with 23 off. and 1023 men. (WRK)

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0-25-44 - Buocks requests transfer of the 38th CB from CBRD Parks to ABRB Hueneme about 5 Nov'44. (Buocks ltr to CNO dtd 25 Oct'44)
1-29-44 - The 38th CB, with 33 off. and 1078 men, departed Parks for overseas 25 Nov'44. (Parks Sec. Disp. to Bupers 260030 NCR 4230 Dtd 26 Nov'44)

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12-16-44 - 38th CB located at Pearl Harbor and is in the 7th Brg. (Com 14 Sec. Disp. to CNO 072103 dtd 13 Dec'44)
1-4-45 - The 38th CB ordered detached from the 32nd Reg. to proceed and report to the OinC 6th Brg.(HANCB conf. ltr HAB-06-HCB/mv over P16-4/00/MM over Ser. 7784 dtd 7 Dec'44 to the OinC of the 38th CB).
1-13-45 -- The 38th CB and 112th CB have loaded for movement to Tinian.(Dirpacdocks Pearl Sec ltr Ser. 00539 to OinC 6th Brg. dtd 23 Dec'44).
1-13-45 - 38th CB is at Tinian. (IsCom Tinian Sec. Disp. to CNO 010938)
1-20-45 -- The 38th CB reported to the 6th Brg. 28 Dec'44 and ordered to the 30th Reg.(6th Brg. 5th End. dtd 28 Dec'44 on HAB ltr 7784 dtd 7 Dec'44 to the OinC 38th CB).
2- 2-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 38th CB - Report endorsed by 30th Reg.
25 Nov'44 - Batt left San Fran aboard an APA for Oahu.
2 Dec'44 - Arrived P.H. Assigned to the 32nd Reg. in the 7th Brg. - Assignment was the 14th ND project #332 at Manana, Oahu.
15 Dec'44 - 18 officers and 512 men left P.H. aboard AP 61.
28 Dec'44 - Arrived Tinian.
16 Dec'44 - Remainder of the officers and men sailed.
4 Jan'45 - 5 officers and 344 men arrived Tinian.
1 Jan'45 - 4 officers and 205 men still enroute.
2-22-45 -- The 38th CB is assigned to the 49th Reg.(CNO conf. ltr Ser. 055130 to CIncpoa and Bupers dtd 10 Feb'45).
3-3-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 38th CB - location not given. Report endorsed by the 30th Reinforced Regiment (49th Reg.).
3- 6-45 - 49th Reg. hereby established effective at once and to consist of the 9th, 38th, 110th, and 112th CBs. (Conf Disp 020050 from CIncpoa Pearl to Comservpac)

Location - Tinian

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3-31-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 38th CB - located at Tinian. Report end. by 49th Reg.

4-25-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 38th CB - located at Tinian. Report end by 49th Reg and 6th Brg.

5- 8-45 - The 38th CB is located at Tinian. (Dirpacdocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)

5-29-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 38th CB - located at Tinian. Report end. by 49th Reg & 6th Brig.

6-2645 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 38th CB - located at Tinian. Report end. by 49th Reg and 6th Brg.

8- 1-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 38th CB - located at Tinian. Report via 49th Reg & 6 Brg.

8-23-45 - In additional CB units my 131837 Aug necessary to use following units:-- 41st CB, 31st (Sp) and 38th CB. 38th CB to be augmented with personnel from your area to form truck operating batt. 31st(Sp) and 38th CB each to be organized for oper. in four separate sections. Req ur concurrence. (Comservpac Sec disp 210105 to Commarianas).

8-29-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of 38th CB. Report came via 29th Reg & 6th Brig. No info as to location.

9-13-45 - 38th CB scheduled forward move. (Direastpacdocks sec location report dtd 20 Aug'45)

10-3-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 38th CB - no info as to location. Report via 29th Reg. & 6th Brig. 106 men left the batt. for discharge under the point system.

10-8-45 - Comservpac desires to order the following units to 41st Reg.-90, 127, 138 & 38th, Sec. 3 CBs. 28th(Sp) & 31st(Sp), Sec. 3 & CBMU 602. Comservpac requests 41st Reg. recommendations as to which shld be for admin. control. Desire also 41st Reg. recommendations for consolidation of 38th CB, Sec. 3 & 31st(Sp), Sec. 3 with other units Yokosuka are to reduce pers. overhead. (Comservpac sec spdltr ser 003755 dtd 30 Sept'45 to 41st Reg.).

Location - ~~Tinian~~ Yokosuka

38th CB

10-30-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 29th Reg- 29th Reg. report states the 38th CB left Tinian for Japan on 23 Sept'45. The remaining three detachments are expected to move out shortly.

12-4-45 - 38th CB, Sec. 1 was inactivated as of 19 Nov'45. (5th Brig conf ltr dtd 19 Nov'45 to CinC, 38th CB, Sec. 1).

12-17-45 - Comservpac reqs Guam inactivate 38th CB, Sec. 4. (Comservpac disp 132055 Dec'45 to RDO, Guam).

12-17-45 - Comservpac reqs Sasebo, Japan to inactivate 38th CB, Sec. 2. Advise Comservpac when inactivation is completed. (Comservpac disp 150204 Dec'45 to RDO, Sasebo, Japan).

12-20-45 - 1 Dec'45 report of 38th CB - 38th CB report states that the Yokosuka Detachment, now the only active unit of the 38th CB left Tinian, Marianas Is. on 23 Sept'45 & arrived in Tokyo Bay on 4 Oct'45.

1-2-46 - 38th CB, Sec. 4 is inactivated as of 1 Jan'46. (5th Brig conf ltr ser 015027 dtd 18 Dec'45 to CinC, 38th CB, Sec. 4).

1-4-46 - Inactivation of 38th CB, Sec. 2 was completed during Nov. (ComGen Aircraft disp 260115 Dec'45 to Comservpac). FMFPAC

1-28-46 - 1 Jan'46 report of 38th CB - located at Yokosuka, Japan. Report via 41st Reg. Batt. is in process of inactivation. Majority of pers. will be transferred to 90th CB. & a few will be transferred to the 31st (Sp). The group (½ of the batt) originally scheduled for Ominato, Japan was absorbed by 5th Brig at Guam. The group sch. for Kure, Japan was also absorbed by the 5th Brig. The group which went to Sasebo, Japan was absorbed by the 31st CB at that location.

2-4-46 - The Yokosuka Detach. was inactivated on 7 Jan'46. this formally closes out the 38th CB. (38th CB conf ltr ser 01816 dtd 10 Jan'46 to BuDocks).

2-8-46 - 38th CB, Sec. 3 was inactivated on 15 Jan'46. (41st Reg. conf 1st end. ser 1539 dtd 16 Jan'46 to BuDocks).

3-6-46 - DirWestPacDocks conf. CB report of 10 Feb 46 states inactivation of 38th CB took place as follows:

Sec. 1	19 Nov 45	Guam
Sec. 2	Nov 45	Omura
Sec. 3	7 Jan 45	Yokosuka
Sec. 4	1 Jan 45	Tinian

INACTIVATED

ON BOARD

DATE	OFFICERS	MEN	AUTHORITY
1 Aug'44	30	548	BNP 625 & R
1 Sep'44		513	BNP625
1 Oct'44		514	BNP625
1 Nov'44		1068	BNP625
1 Dec'44		1077	BNP625
1 Jan'45	27	1061	BNP625 & MoR
1 Feb'45	27	1049	MoR
1 Mar'45	27	1049	BNP625 & MoR
1 Apr'45	28	1037	BNP625 & MoR
1 May'45	28	1025	BNP625 & R
1 Jun'45	29	1034	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	29	1012	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	28	997	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	28	879	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	27	1477	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	15	386	BNP625 & R
1 Jan'46	16	361	BNP625 & R

38th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

38th C. B.

DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
5/30/41	–	Adak		Left U.S. Dec. 1942.
7/19	–	(Camp Parks) 5-44	C.B. report 1 July	
9/12	–	Parks (Pearl)	Cno sec disp. 081545 Sept. also Qu Rocks memo 10/5.	Ready camp Parks 1 Nov – used Pearl. Nov. Skp7 priority
10/27	–	(Hueneme)	Cno Con) disp 261210 Oct. Com 12 312346 oct	About 5 Nov. transfer Hueneme. Slue act checks
11/28	–	Pearl	CB repl depot Cal sec disp. 260030 Nov.	departed for overseas 25 Nov.
2/13	–	FRAY	Com 14 sec act disp 072105 Dec.	> the Brigade
1/13	–	LIRP (Finian)	20 Com Finian sec act disp. 010938 Jan.	added
1/18	–	–	Com 14 sec act disp 112205 Jan.	delete > the Brig.

38th CB Batt.

DECLASSIFIED

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
8/25	–	Finian	Com Serv Pac sec 210105 Aug. "In addition 7.5. 131827 necessary use this Batt.	

THE SAGA OF THE 38TH N. C. B.

The 38th Naval Construction Battalion was commissioned at Camp Allen, Virginia, 18 November 1942, with a complement of twenty-six officers and 1,032 men. It was there that the metamorphosis from civilian to "boot" took place in a series of unforgettable experiences including that first G. I. haircut, shots in the arm, mess duty, and endless hours of drill, drill, drill that even crowded into one's sleep in a most disturbing manner. Primary boot was completed 19 November 1942, and the Battalion moved on to Camp Bradford for a few weeks of advanced training under the expert tutelage of those tough Marine Corps drill-masters.

At this point the organization work was completed, with the Battalion Officers and Chief Petty Officers taking over the command of the companies and platoons. And it was also at this time that the real training program began. It meant three months of training packed into a short three weeks, and brought a new meaning to such terms as hit the deck, duck-waddle, over the side, double time, 6 o'clock sight picture, long thrust, short jab, extended order, and many others on and on from reveille to taps. A typical training day that might start with extended order maneuvers, "hitting the deck" at regular intervals across a muddy field, followed by a double time march across country, through woods, swamp and marsh, would probably wind up with a practice landing attempt from the training barges on the Chesapeake Bay, which meant "over the side" when the barges scraped sand, and then storming a sand dune previously established as the objective. Wet and grimy with sand, those fledgling fighting builders had many "uncomplimentary" thoughts about those Marine Sergeants on the long march back to camp.

Aside from the actual training, the ordinary living conditions at Camp Bradford were a definite part of the toughening-up process. Living in tents during freezing weather, using acid tank "heads" and standing in long chow lines, together with the rigors of training, soon reacted to make the men feel like veterans of a tough campaign. In fact, the experience was referred to as the "Battle of Bradford," and the battle casualties were those who fell victim of the "Bradford Cough."

Then came the day to move on to the embarkation port to be readied for Island "X" and the great adventure. "Scuttlebutt" flew thick and fast, and every possibility from Iceland to Australia was explored as the logical base for the 38th. Then, after a few days at the "outfitting" camp, came the first hint of the contents of sealed and secret sailing orders—and issue of arctic clothing.

The weather was clear and cold that January 13th day when the Battalion got its first glimpse of the snow covered island that had been selected as the locale for its first assignment. The bay was almost ice bound, and huge cakes of floating ice hemmed the ship in on all sides. Landing operations, bringing into play the feverish activities of the ship and port crews, offered a marked contrast to the stillness of the bleak and barren icy background of the hills beyond. It was here that the men of the 38th were to put into use the knowledge of their chosen professions to build Uncle Sam's most far-flung outposts into formidable military bases.

Naturally enough, immediate housing facilities were inadequate. Therefore, 135 men were housed in 63-man barracks. The men were forced to use methods in storing their gear that ordinarily would have been condemned, and until water facilities could be installed, outside "heads" and poor sanitary conditions were accepted as the order of the day. For several weeks the entire Battalion was forced to take its meals at the Navy messhall, which was many miles away and presented a serious transportation problem. Those three daily trips in open trucks, over roads in the making and in all kinds of weather (mostly bad), will long be remembered by the entire personnel.

Becoming acclimated was a problem, but one that the men overcame in their stride. It wasn't long before they were talking more about the rugged beauty of the place than about the cold, the Williwaws, and the severity of the storms.

In spite of adverse weather conditions, the shortness of daylight hours, inadequate clothing and a shortage of tools, the 38th went to work with the "Can Do" spirit that characterizes the Seabees. Most of the men usually started the day by having to clear away the night's snowfall to begin operations, and returned to their barracks at the end of the day, wet and chilled to the bone.

Lumber had to be dug out from under the ice and snow that covered the supply yards, the frozen ground had to be blasted before ditches could be dug, and huge blowtorches were used to keep cement from freezing before it set. But night or day, clear weather or storm, the work

went on at a steady pace. At the same time, new barracks were built and camp facilities and mess halls augmented, which added considerably to the comfort of everyone. Until the men became more seasoned, minor accidents and sprains were prevalent. Other cold weather physical ailments also helped to keep the Sick Bay personnel busy.

In a small, almost ancient village not far from camp, the men sought recreation unavailable in the camp area. Liberty was granted to some of the men as often as once a week, starting at 1300 and ending at 2100, which allowed plenty of time to visit the limited number of restaurants, bars, curio shops, and general merchandise stores. All service men were required to leave the town by 2100. In camp, the men spent their leisure time reading, writing, playing cards, listening to the radio, attending the movies in the recreation hall, or in taking part in some sport. Local talent shows, a band, and an orchestra were organized. These were in great demand by Army and Navy units all over the Base. USO shows were also popular, as were the dances at the Base arranged by the Navy Welfare Department. Scarcity of women made it necessary to limit the dances to 100 men only.

With the first signs of Spring, the ground began to thaw. The Williwaws brought slush and sleet as they came howling and twisting out of the hills; long, yellow splotches of earth soon began to appear through the snow. The early Summer days won their fight against Winter's fury, and the hillsides bloomed with wild flowers in great profusion. In late July the fireweed, blossoming in a riot of color, covered entire hillsides with such grandeur and magnitude as to challenge the majesty of King Winter's blanket of sparkling white.

The 38th offered formidable competition in every branch of sport. During the winter months the boxing and basketball teams took full advantage of the competitive contests arranged at the Base. As soon as it was dry enough, the Battalion had both soft ball and hard ball teams on the field. Fishing was another sport that was enjoyed by many. During July there were a few days that were warm enough to entice a number of the men to peel off and take a "dip" in one of the many small lakes near by—lakes that never lost their wintry chill.

Projects assigned to the 38th were gradually being completed, one by one. During the past months roads had been built where man had never before set foot, docks constructed to welcome the visits of America's growing fighting and merchant fleets, warehouses built to store the supplies and tools of victory, and the large camps were taking on the aspects of towns, with completed waterworks, sewage systems, and electric power projects, augmented with machine shops to meet the exigencies of repair. It was therefore no surprise when orders arrived that the 38th was to move to the West.

The Battalion was divided into three "travel" groups to facilitate transportation problems. Section "A" was the first to depart. Arriving at the advance position, they were forced to live aboard ship until their construction crews could put up temporary tent housing ashore. Section "B" was next to leave, followed a week later by Section "C." The two latter groups met at their destination and established camp together. Section "A" was assigned to a construction task on another island, and it was not until several months later that their assignment was completed and they left to join the main body of the Battalion.

All three sections experienced much the same work, weather, and living conditions. Crews worked under extremely adverse conditions. The Williwaws screamed in the skies and drove the rain in all possible directions simultaneously. Mud ran in rivers down the slopes, inundating roads and low spots until the men were wading about in it knee-deep. And then Sections "B" and "C" again moved to a new camp area, where they were joined by Section "A."

It was here that the Battalion was given another assignment. Again winter challenged progress with its driving rain, shot-like sleet, snow, and gales of almost unheard of velocity. But the work pushed on until, spurred on by the determination to get the job done, no matter what the odds, progress surpassed expectations and the men looked forward to their impending leave with the glowing satisfaction of accomplishment.

Needless to say, it was a weary, weather-beaten 38th that boarded the "leave" ship homeward bound; but it was a Battalion of men who could look back over their year of Foreign Duty with a conscious pride of knowing they had done the job well and had served their country to the best of their abilities.

FOREWORD

by Editor - in - Chief

The pages which follow are intended to show the life and the work of the personnel of the 38th Naval Construction Battalion on its second tour of duty. No attempt will be made here, other than a brief history of the battalion and a few supplements, to depict all of the incidents and to describe the enormous tasks undertaken, but rather this will be a pictorial review compiled so as to illustrate the activities of the battalion at work and at play.

A construction battalion embodies as many personalities as it has men in it. Here, in men of all types and characters, we see a truly representative cross-section of the American people-original and ingenious. For the most part these men are old experienced construction men, but in this case, as in every case, we find the exception to the rule. The prosecution of a war demands enormous numbers of men to meet its extravagant military needs, but there is a limit to the amount of manpower that can be drawn from the civilian construction reservoir and still maintain the needs of a high standard of wartime material production. Because of these two facts younger and inexperienced men had to be spliced in the battalions. Young and inexperienced--yes, but imcompetent--no! When given the chance to work along side other men, these younger men have proven themselves capable of learning and accomplishing any job assigned them.

"Can Do", the slogan of the construction battalions has yet to be forsaken. If the tools for a particular job are not to be had they improvise; and if they have never had experience with the type of job before, it is accomplished through ingenuity. The Seabees, though established hastily only as a wartime measure, have proven themselves far more than capable of all expectations. Their accomplishments have been great and will not soon be forgotten, even though the construction battalions will be almost or totally non-existent in the peacetime world to follow.

In this text, the 38th Battalion is shown in as much color and as much originality as any battalion. Here we see the men as they lived and worked for a common cause. They had all left homes to do their bit and were separated from family and loved-ones by thousands of miles. Inconveniences were innumerable. Personalities, improvised facilities, and a few standard sports had to be relied upon for recreation, while an active mind and a skillful hand provided the few living conveniences. Working conditions and conveniences also relied upon an active mind and a skillful hand. Despite all these handicaps they worked on and on, day after day, week after week, and month after month, doing their job and doing it well, until finally their goal was realized--the successful ending of World War II.

Now they have but one job left before returning to a quiet and peaceful home. The Japanese homeland must be occupied to maintain the peace for which all have worked so earnestly. But when their Navy career is finally ended, they may return with independence and insurance to the life's work of their own free choosing.

This book may always serve as a record of sacrifice and accomplishment for the men of the 38th. It will be a reminder to friends and families that these men were once an intricate part of the greatest force history has ever seen, which fought to win and preserve the freedom the American people enjoy.

BATTALION HISTORY

The 38th Naval Construction Battalion was commissioned at Camp Allen, Virginia, 18 November 1942 with a complement of twenty-six officers and 1032 men. Primary boot was completed 19 November 1942 and the battalion moved on to Camp Bradford for a few weeks of advanced training under the expert tutelage of those tough Marine Corps drill-masters.

Aside from the actual training, the ordinary living conditions at Camp Bradford were a definite part of the toughening-up process. In fact, the experience was referred to as the "Battle of Bradford", and battle casualties were those who fell victim of the "Bradford Cough".

Then came the day to move on to the embarkation port to be readied for Island "X" and the great adventure. After a few days at the "outfitting" camp came the first hint of the contents of sealed and secret sailing orders and an issue of arctic clothing. The day of arrival at the destination was January 13th, 1943. The location was in the Aleutian chain of islands.

In spite of adverse weather conditions, the shortness of daylight hours, inadequate clothing and a shortage of tools, the 38th went to work with the "Can Do" spirit that characterizes the Seabees. The project assigned to it were gradually being completed, one by one. Roads were built where man had never before set foot, docks constructed to welcome the visit of America's growing fighting and merchant fleets, warehouses built to store the supplies and tools of victory, and the large camps were taking on the aspects of towns with completed waterworks, sewage systems, and electric power projects, augmented with machine shops to meet the exigencies of repair. It was therefore no surprise when orders arrived that the 38th was to move to the West.

The battalion was divided into three groups and sent on its way. It was again the same weather conditions, the same problems of construction under adverse circumstances.

The new projects were nearing completion when word spread that the battalion was due to leave back for the states for recuperation and reassigment. After spending 16 months in the Aleutians the 38th set out for home with a conscious pride of knowing they had done the job well and had served their country to the best of their ability.

The battalion was stationed in Camp Parks, California and the veterans went home on a well-deserved leave. New men were assigned into the battalion as replacements and a couple of months were spent in training and reequipping the outfit for the next tour of duty.

On November 23rd, 1944, the battalion boarded ship and set out on a long journey to a new Pacific outpost. On 2nd December the battalion arrived at Oahu, disembarked and quartered in an area previously used by other battalions. Construction duties were immediately assigned to it.

But on 6th December, the battalion was alerted and given ten days to prepare for the next move. On 16th December we left Oahu for the new destination, tinian in the Marianas. We arrived on Tinian December 29th and with little loss of time set to work on the main projects assigned to us: the construction of an airfield for B-29s.

Working round the clock, the 38th jointly with other battalions, engaged in a relentless struggle with the coral from which a giant airfield was constructed in record time. B-29s began to land on West field—the name given the airdrome in April 1945 and the number of planes increased daily till an entire wing was in full operation.

In addition to this main project, a number of minor tasks were completed in the assigned period of time.

V-J day found the 38th on Tinian conscious of its pride in the contributions made to victory. Again the "scuttlebutt" began to fly thick and fast that the 38th is moving further on—this time right into Japan.

On 24th September 1945 the battalion departed for the Japanese mainland. Passing Iwo on the way, we arrived at Tokyo Bay October 4th and began the process of disembarking and unloading. We were to be located at the Yokosuka Naval Base and assigned duties in connection with the occupation of Japan.

U.S. Naval Construction Battalion 38

18 Nov 42	Naval Construction Battalion 38 was established at Camp Allen, Norfolk, Virginia.
19 Nov 42	The battalion moved from Camp Allen to Camp Bradford, Little Creek, Virginia, where they received advanced training.
17 Dec 42	The 38th Battalion departed from Norfolk for the Advance Base Depot, Port Hueneme, California.
23 Dec 42	The battalion arrived at the Advance Base Depot, Port Hueneme, California. While at Port Hueneme, it underwent staging and outfitting for overseas duty.
5 Jan 43	The battalion departed from Port Hueneme for Seattle, Washington and embarkation to Alaska.
9 Jan 43	The battalion embarked from Seattle for Kodiak, Alaska.
14 Jan 43	The 38th Battalion arrived at Kodiak. While at Kodiak the battalion completed work started by a contractor. In addition, it built roads, temporary warehouses, gun emplacements and an Army quonset camp, and operated a saw mill.

Aug 43	The battalion was divided into three detachments. One of the detachments went to Kiska and two of the detachments went to Adak
	The Kiska detachment built a seaplane ramp, a pier, housing, communication facilities, roads and storage yards.
	The Adak detachments worked on a varity of minor projects before starting construction of the Naval Air Station at Andrew Lagoon.
27 Oct 43	The Kiska detachment departed from Kiska for Adak. However, one officer and fifty men of the detachment remained at Kiska to finish the work.
31 Oct 43	The Kiska detachment arrived at Adak and joined the main body of the 38th Battalion.
5 Dec 43	The remainder of the Kiska detachment arrived at Adak From then until their departure from Alaska the 38th Battalion worked on the Naval Air Station at Andrew Lagoon. In addition to the runways and taxiways, the battalion worked on bomber hangars, control towers, administration buildings, fire stations, warehouses, housing facilities, recreation buildings and utilities.
29 Apr 44	The entire battalion departed from Alaska for Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.

11 May 44	The battalion arrived at Camp Parks.
11 May 44 - 25 Nov 44	During this period the battalion was given leave and training. They were also reorganized in preparation for their second overseas tour.
Jul-Aug 44	Two detachments of NCB 38 were sent from Camp Parks to the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve Number 1 in California. These detachments built roads in an oil field.
25 Nov 44	The 38th Battalion departed from Camp Parks for San Francisco, California. They sailed the same day on the USS Mifflin for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
2 Dec 44	The battalion arrived at Pearl Harbor where they spent thirteen days at Red Hill on Oahu.
15 Dec 44	Part of the battalion sailed on the USS Barrow bound for Tinian.
16 Dec 44	The remainder of the battalion sailed from Pearl Harbor on four LSTs. They also were bound for Tinian. The LSTs did make stops at Eniwetok and Guam.
28 Dec 44	The USS Barrow, with the men of the 38th Battalion aboard, arrived at Tinian.
28 Dec 44 - 7 Jan 45	The LSTs carrying the remainder of the battalion arrived at Tinian.

Dec 44 - Oct 45	At Tinian the battalion was one of many to work on West Field. This field had two runways 500-feet by 8,500-feet, several miles of connecting taxiways and hardstands for 220 B-29s. In addition, the battalion constructed warehouses, shops, gun towers, administration buildings and living quarters adjacent to the field. They also quarried and crushed all the aggregate used in the asphalting of West Field, North Field and the roads on Tinian.
Sep 45	The battalion was designated a Truck Operating Battalion. It was divided into four sections to be transferred to Japan. The Omimata Detachment never sailed from Tinian. Personnel were transferred to the Fifth Naval Construction Brigade.
5 Oct 45	The Yokosuka Detachment, including the battalion headquarters, arrived in Tokyo Bay, Japan on the USS Alkaid.
5 Oct 45 - 7 Jan 46	While at Yokosuka, it was employed in public works operations, small construction, maintenance and repair of buildings and structures, and operation of utilities.
19 Oct 45	The Sasebo Detachment reached Japan on the USS Guilford. The personnel of this detachment were soon absorbed by the 31st Naval Construction Battalion.

24 Oct 45	The Kure Detachment arrived at Kure, Japan, on the USS Lauderdale. The men remained aboard the ship in the harbor for several days and then returned to Guam because their assignment had been cancelled. Personnel were transferred to the Fifth Naval Construction Brigade.
7 Jan 46	Naval Construction Battalion 38 was disestablished at Yokosuka, Japan.

38th Naval Construction Battalion

Chronology

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09 Jan 1943	The battalion embarked from seattle for Kodiak, Alaska.
14 Jan 1943	The 38th Battalion arrived at Kodiak. While at Kodiak the battalion completed work started by a contractor. In addition, it built roads, temporary warehouses, gun emplacements and an Army Quonset camp, and operated a saw mill.
Aug 1943	The battalion was divided into three detachments. One of the detachments went to Kiska and two of the detachments went to Adak. The Kiska detachment built a seaplane ramp, a pier, housing, communication facilities, roads and storage yards. The Adak detachments worked on a varity of minor projects before starting construction of the Naval Air Station at Andrew Lagoon.
27 Oct 1943	The Kiska detachment departed from Kiska for Adak. However, one officer and fifty men of the detachment remained at Kiska to finish the work.
31 Oct 43	The Kiska detachment arrived at Adak and joined the main body of the 38th Battalion.
05 Dec 1943	The remainder of the Kiska detachment arrived at Adak. From then until their departure from Alaska the 38th Battalion worked on the Naval Air Station at Andrew Lagoon. In addition to the runways and taxiways, the battalion worked on bomber hangars, control towers, administration buildings, fire stations, warehouses, housing facilities, recreation buildings and utilities.
29 Apr 1944	The entire battalion departed from Alaska for Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.
11 May 1944	The battalion arrived at Camp Parks.

38TH U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

38NCB/GR:rlb
Ser.#574

15 March 1945

C DECLASSIFIED I A L

From: Officer in Charge
To: Chief of Naval Personnel

Via: (1) Officer in Charge, 49th U. S. Naval Construction Regiment
(2) Officer in Charge, 6th U. S. Naval Construction Brigade

Subject: Corrected Itinerary of 38th Naval Construction Battalion

Enclosures: (A) BuPers Confidential Ltr. Pers-2122B-CEC/rc, dated 28 February 1945.
(B) Itinerary of 38th Constr. Battalion based on BuPers Records; same as Enclosure (1) of Enclosure (A).
(C) Corrected Copy of Itinerary of 38th Constr. Battalion based on Battalion Records.

1. Enclosure (A) requests a certified copy of the correct Itinerary of the 38th Battalion. Enclosure (C) is respectfully submitted in accordance with this request.

To Facilitate Administrative Handling Classification changed from: CONFIDENTIAL
To: RESTRICTED
Irvin S. Bramwell
Comdr. CEC(V)(S), USNR

George Rezac
GEORGE REZAC

ENCLOSURE (C)

C DECLASSIFIED

CORRECTED ITINERARY OF THE 38TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

18 November 1942	Battalion formed at NCTC, Norfolk.
17 December 1942	Departed Norfolk for ABD, Port Hueneme.
23 December 1942	Arrived Port Hueneme.
5 January 1943	Departed Hueneme for Seattle and embarkation.
9 January 1943	Embarked from Seattle.
14 January 1943	Arrived Kodiak.
4 August 1943	Section A (12 officers, 296 men) departed Kodiak.
7 August 1943	Section B (13 officers, 500 men) departed Kodiak.
9 August 1943	Section C (3 officers, 250 men) departed Kodiak.
11 August 1943	Section B arrived Finger Bay, Adak.
12 August 1943	Section A departed Dutch Harbor. (Stayed in Dutch Harbor approximately 6 days loading supplies and equipment).
13 August 1943	Section C arrived Finger Bay, Adak.
21 August 1943	Section A arrived Kiska. (Spent approximately 6 days aboard ship in Adak Harbor.)
9 September 1943	Section B moved from Finger Bay, Adak, to Happy Valley, Adak (now NOB); (Section B now included both Sections B and C).
14 October 1943	Section B moved from Happy Valley, Adak, to Andrews Lagoon, Adak.
27 October 1943	Section A departed Kiska. (1 officer and 50 men of Section A left to finish job).
31 October 1943	Section A arrived Adak.
5 December 1943	Remainder of Section A arrived Adak.
29 April 1944	Entire unit departed Adak for U. S.
11 May 1944	38th C.B. arrived Camp Parks.
21 July 1944	5 officers and 78 men reported to Elk Hills Naval

To Facilitate Administrative handling Classification changed from: CONFIDENTIAL to RESTRICTED
Irvin S. Rasmussen
Comdr. CEC-V(S), USNR
Signature

DECLASSIFIED

CORRECTED ITINERARY OF THE 38TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

24 July 1944	2 officers and 80 men reported to Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1.
7 August 1944	2 officers and 54 men reported back to Camp Parks from Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1.
22 August 1944	Remaining officers and men reported to Camp Parks from Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1, except 7 surveyors who reported 29 August 1944.
25 November 1944	38th C.B. departed Camp Parks and embarked from San Francisco same date for overseas.
2 December 1944	Arrived Pearl Harbor.
15 December 1944	18 officers and 512 men departed Pearl Harbor for Tinian.
16 December 1944	8 officers and 543 men departed Pearl Harbor in four sections; and additional one officer and six men remained at Pearl Harbor to act as Rear Echelon Supply and Procurement Detail.
28 December 1944	18 officers and 512 men arrived Tinian.
4 January 1945	5 officers and 344 men arrived Tinian.
7 January 1945	3 officers and 199 men arrived Tinian.
24 February 1945	2 men arrived Tinian from Pearl Harbor. Men were part of Rear Echelon Supply and Procurement Detail.
7 March 1945	1 officer and 4 men (remainder of Rear Echelon Supply and Procurement Detail) left Pearl Harbor for Tinian. Should arrive 21 or 22 March. (Both of these dates are approximate).

Classification
from:
CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED
To:
Irvin S. Freburn
Comdr. C.E.C.V.S. USNR
Signature

Certified a True Copy
Lauress Lee Wise
LAURESS LEE WISE
Executive Aide

THE 38TH

SEABEES

ELECTRIC
BLASTING CAPS
ELECTRIC