

# 72<sup>nd</sup> Naval Construction Battalion

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*Historical  
Information*



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



72nd C.B.

NCTC - Magruder - Davisville  
ABD - Davisville  
Ready Date - 18 Apr'43  
Left ABD - 14 Mar'43 for Parks; 25 Apr for SanFran  
Location - ~~Pearl Harbor~~ - Guam

LOG

- 1-29-43 - To Davisville from Camp Peary.
- 4-25-43 - Entrained for San Fran FFT Pearl Harbor.
- 6- 4-43 - 3rd Reg. report (3CR A3-1-11 217-43 dtd 4 May'43)  
May 3'43 - The entire Batt consisting of 27 off. and 1066 men arrived P.H.  
Due to their late arrival, this batt, remained aboard ship and disembarked early  
on 4 May'43, and were taken to Barber's Point. Scheduled for duty at the Ewa  
Marine Air Station and NAS Barber's Point.
- 6-24-43 - 1 Jun'43 report of 72nd CB - reported to CO, NAS Barbers Point, Oahu, T.H. 4 May'43
- 8-13-43 - 1 Jul'43 report of 72nd CB - located at Barbers Point, Oahu, T.H.
- 1- 7-44 - 1 Dec'43 report of 72nd CB - located at Barber's Point, Ewa and Iroquois Pt.
- 3- 6-44 - 2nd Brig. report of 21 Jan'44 - located at Barber's Point and Ewa.
- 4-20-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 72nd CB - operating at Barbers Pt.
- 5-10-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 72nd CB - operating at Barbers Pt.
- 5-18-44 - 72nd CB assigned to 27th Reg. (AES 5/15/44)
- 6-18-44 - 72nd CB ordered to report to ComAirPac for further assignment to Acorn 33.  
(2nd Brig. ltr 2NCCBr-DJM/Zhc over P16-4 to CinC 72nd CB dtd 17 Apr'44)

72nd C.B.

- 6-16-44 - 1 May'44 report of 72nd CB - operating at Barbers and Iroquois Pts.
- 6-22-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 72nd CB - no indication as to location.
- 10-21-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 72nd CB - location not stated. Embarked for forward area  
18 Jun'44 and arrived at its destination during the month of Aug. Report endorsed  
by 27th Reg.
- 10-24-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 72nd CB - Batt was enroute to forward area during July. Report  
endorsed by 27th Reg.
- 10-24-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 72nd CB - Location not indicated. Constructi on of permanent  
camp and moving of personnel began 19 Aug'44. Estimated date of completion of  
present assignment is 15 Oct'44. Report endorsed by 27th Reg.
- 10-25-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 5th Br'g. - 72nd CB landed on 7, 10, 15 Aug'44.
- 10-30-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 72nd CB - No info on location except that batt is operating in  
area of Agana<sup>Guam</sup>. Report endorsed by 27th Reg.
- 11-11-44 -- The 72nd CB is located at Guam.(Is.Com. Sec. airmailgram to CNO 011201 NCR 14731  
dtd 6 Nov'44).
- 12-1-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 72nd CB - located at Guam. Report endorsed by 27th Regiment.
- 1-3-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of 72nd CB - located at Guam. Report endorsed by 27th Regiment.
- 1-30-45 -- The 72nd CB is located North of Agana. on Guam.(5th Brg. War Diary 1 Dec thru 31  
Dec'44).
- 2- 2-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 72nd CB - located on Guam. Report endorsed by 27th Reg.
- 2-28-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 72nd CB - located on Guam. Report endorsed by 27th Reg.
- 4-3 -45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 72nd CB - located on Guam.
- 4-10-45 --- The 72nd CB is located N of Agana(Guam).(5th Brg. War Diary 1 Feb to 28 Feb'45).
- 4-16-45 - The 72nd CB is located N of Agana on Guam and is attached to the 27th Reg. (5th  
Brg War Diary of 1 Apr'45)

Location - Guam

72nd C.B.

- 4-17-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 72nd - Located at Guam. Routed via 27th Reg. & 5th Brig. 102 men temporarily attached for administrative purposes only & are working for foreign Economic Administration. On the 8 Mar'45 a detail of ninety men were assigned to assist another battalion on construction of an Army General Hospital. Should be released during early part of April.
- 5- 8-45 - The 72nd CB is located at Guam with Acorn 33. (Dirpadocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr)
- 5-19-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 72nd CB - located at Guam. 204 men were ret'd to States. Total replacements to this date number 106. 100 Foreign Econ Adm personnel are on board as supernumeraries. Report end by 27th Reg. and 5th Brg.
- 6-19-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of 72nd CB - located at Guam. 14 men arrived as replacements during May'45. 114 FEA personnel are on board as supernumeraries. Report routed via 27th Reg & 5th Brig.
- 7-16-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 72nd CB - located at Guam. 28 men rotated to U.S. 56 men rec'd as replacements. 113 FEA personnel are on board as supernumeraries. Report via 27th Reg and 5th Brg.
- 8-17-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 72nd CB - located at Guam. 139 men were transferred to the U.S. for leave and rehabilitation and 62 replacements were received during Jul'45. 114 Foreign Economic Administration personnel are on board as supernumeraries. 12 men were discharged during Jul'45. Report via 27th Reg and 5th Brig.
- 8-28-45 - Remove from alerted status my 091943 July of higher classification, CBs 23, 72, 92, 107, 110, 121. (Comservpac Sec disp 242213 to Commarianas).
- 9-19-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 72nd CB. No info as to location. Report via 27th Reg & 5th Brig. 39 men were transferred for over-age discharges. 14 men transferred to U.S. for leave & reassignment. 110 Foreign Economic Adm. pers are on board as supernumeraries.

Location - Guam

72nd CB

- 10-8-45 - The following units are to report to 40th Reg.-25th, 48th, 56th, 72nd & 94th CBs on 20 Sept'45. (OinC, 5th Brig. ltr ser 10606 dtd 19 Sept'45 to above units via 26th Reg.).
- 11-1-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 40th Reg. - 40th Reg. states that the 72nd CB detached 158 men for transfer to U.S. for discharge under the point system.
- 11-6-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 72nd CB - location not stated. Report via 40th Reg. & 5th Brig. 158 men transferred to U.S. for discharge under the point system. 110 men assigned to FEA have been transferred to 103rd CB.
- 11-27-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 40th Reg states that the 72nd CB was detached from duty with 40th Reg. 16 Oct'45. 72nd CB departed from Guam 16 Oct'45 for a fwd. movement.
- 12-6-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 72nd CB - location not stated.
- 1-14-46 - Recap Sheet on the 72nd CB states that the batt. was inactivated on 29 Dec'45. (Recap Sheet dtd 29 Dec'45).
- 1-29-46 - Final report of 72nd CB - location not stated. Pers. remaining on 29 Dec. were transferred to the 31st CB.
- 2-14-46 - 1 Dec 45 report of 72nd CB - located at Sasebo, Kyushu, Japan.

INACTIVATED

72 CB

Sasebo Japan

Left Guam 16 Oct 45 - arrived Sasebo 22 Oct - unloading completed by ~~25 Oct~~ <sup>2 Nov</sup> - Bu moved ashore 26 Oct.

250 men quartered in a warehouse near repair basin } repaired & some improvements  
300 " " " " " at Fleet Landing }

Complete clearance begun 26 Oct & construction of camp.

Mission: construct 2000-man camp - compl. 13 Dec

two 200-bed hospitals

recreational facilities

The Sasebo area was found to be almost completely lacking in acceptable material as source of concrete aggregate or road surfacing. A sand gravel deposit was finally found in a tidal basin about 20 miles away & was developed.

Inactivated 29 Dec 45

DATE	ON BOARD		AUTHORITY
	OFFICERS	MEN	
1 Jun '44	35	1085	MoR
30 Jun '44		1079	Recap.
1 Jul '44	34	1079	MoR
1 Aug '44	34	1077	MoR
1 Oct '44	32	1071	MoR
1 Nov '44	33	1065	MoR
1 Dec '44	33	1079	MoR
1 Jan '45	33	1065	MoR
1 Feb '45	29	1057	MoR
1 Mar '45	28	1049	MoR
1 Apr '45	28	1040	BNP625 & MoR
1 May '45	31	939	BNP625 & R
1 Jun '45	28	923	BN P625 & R
1 Jul '45		918	BNP625
1 Aug '45	25	906	BNP625 & R
1 Sept '45	35	928	BNP625 & R
1 Oct '45		1068	BNP625
1 Nov '45	25		R
1 Dec '45	21	740	BNP625 & R

72nd C. B.

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/3/44	acoin 33	Barber's Point <i>at sea</i>	-	Left U.S. April 1943.
9/18	-	Cinc poa	C. B. report 1 September	
10/14	-	Guam	C. B. report 1 October.	
11/10	-	DUVA (Guam)	20 Com Guam No act disp 011201 Nov.	

## **72ND BATTALION**

The 72nd NCB was organized at Camp Peary in January 1943, then jumped to Hueneme via Davisville and Parks. Leaving San Francisco April 24, the Battalion arrived at Pearl Harbor May 4 and was assigned to duty at Barbers Pt., Iroquois Pt. and Ewa, on Oahu. The 71st left the Hawaiian Islands June 18, 1944, landing on Guam in early August. At the war's end the unit was still operating there. In September the Battalion was scheduled for movement to Nagasaki, Japan.

## 72<sup>nd</sup> Naval Construction Battalion

### Chronology

Jan 1943	Formed at NCTC, Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va.
29 Jan 1943	Departed NCTC, Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va.
30 Jan 1943	Arrived NCTC, Davisville, R.I.
14 mar 1943	Departed NCTC, Davisville, R.I.
20 Mar 1943	Arrived CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.
09 Apr 1943	Departed CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.
10 Apr 1943	Arrived ABD, Port Hueneme, California.
24 Apr 1943	Departed ABD, Port Hueneme, California, for San Francisco FFT to Pearl Harbor.
04 May 1943	Arrived Pearl Harbor (assigned duty at Barbers Point, Iroquois Point and Ewa, all on the island of Oahu).
18 Jun 1944	Departed Oahu.
04 Aug 1944	Arrived Agat Bay, Guam.
07,10, 15 Aug 1944	Landings on Guam.
05 June 1945	72 <sup>nd</sup> Naval Construction Battalion still located at Guam.
14 Aug 1945	Informal notification of selection for movement of battalion to Sasebo, Kyushu, Japan.
16 Sept 1945	ComMarianas dispatch to Iscom Guam officially designated battalion for movement to Sasebo.
20 Sept 1945	Battalion secured from further work on Guam and alerted for early mounting for Sasebo.
03 Oct 1945	ComMarianas forwarded written orders directing battalion to mount as directed for forward movement to report to Commanding Officer, Marine Air Base, Sasebo, Japan
04 Oct 1945	Began loading battalion gear aboard cargo ship (AK) Joseph Priestly.
06 Oct 1945	Began loading household hear, water, commissary stoves, and Field Officer gear aboard troopship (AP175) USS Starlight.
12 Oct 1945	Sent advance engineering party to Sasebo by air as requested by Cub 18.
16 Oct 1945	Completed loading of cargo ship. Embarked battalion on troopship.
22 Oct 1945	Arrived in Sasebo Harbor.

ENCLOSURE (A)

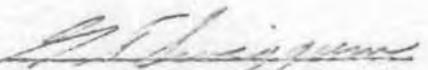
DECLASSIFIED

5 June 1945

ITINERARY OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

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7, 10 & 15 Aug. 1944 - Landings on Guam.  
5 June 1945 - Still located at Guam.

A true copy. Attest:



G. T. Swiggen, Lt. Cdr.  
CEC - USN

To Facilitate  
Administrative Handling  
Classification changed  
from:

**CONFIDENTIAL**

To:

**RESTRICTED**

Irvin S. Beattie  
Comdr. CEC-1001 USN  
Signature



CONSTRUIMUS

72<sup>ND</sup>



BATTALION

BATUIMUS U.S.N.



AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND





