# 81st Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical Information*

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

NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND

## 81st C.B.

| | 1st Sect. | 2nd Sect. |
|---|---|---|
| NCTC | Norfolk | |
| ABD | Davisville | Davisville |
| Ready Date | 1 Aug'43 | 1 Aug'43 |
| Left ABD | 20 Aug'43 | |
| Location | Scotland | Scotland |

| 2ND EMBARKATION | |
|---|---|
| NCTC | Davisville |
| ABD | (NCTC Davisville) |
| Ready Date | 18 Jan'45 |
| Left ABD | 22 Jan'45 |
| Location | ~~DIVE~~ Okinawa |

### LOG

6- 5-43 - 81st CB to ABD Davisville about 3 Jun'43 for outfitting and FFT with Lion 3.

8-31-43 - 81st CB has 16 off. and 515 men at Base 2. (Conf. disp. 271734 Aug NCR 3587 from ComNavEu to VCNO)

9- 1-43 - 81st CB 1st Section departed for destination 20 Aug'43.

9-21-43 - 1 Sep'43 report of 81st CB - arrived destination (Scotland) 26 Aug.

10-23-43 - 2nd Section arrived Base 2 on 26 Sep'43. (from 1st Sect. Sep'43 report)

10-23-43 - 1 Oct'43 report of 81st CB - 1st Section at Base 2.

11-15-43 - 81st CB is now one unit effective 15 Nov'43. (Op30K33-DM over (SC) P16-5 over Ser 080083)

12- 6-43 - 81st CB 2nd Section arrived Base 2 on 26 Sep'43. (from 1st Sect. Sep'43 report)

12-16-43 - Distribution of personnel in Europe (Conf. disp. Comnaveu to CNO 141536)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Base 2 | 0 off. | 10 men | St. Mawes | 1 off. | 30 men |
| Milford Haven | 11 | 356 | Fowey | 1 | 66 |
| Petarth | 14 | 331 | Salcombe | 1 | 81 |
| Falmouth | 4 | 124 | Bicester | 1 | 29 |

## 81st C.B.

2-18-44 - 1 Jan'44 report of 81st CB - operating at Milford Haven, Penarth, Falmouth, St. Mawes, Fowey, Salcombe, and Bicester with Hdqtrs at Penarth, Wales.

3-29-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 13th Reg. - 81st CB hdqtrs is at Dartmouth, Devon.

4- 1-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 81st CB - operating at Penarth, Plymouth, Salcombe, Dartmouth, Exeter, Falmouth, Fowey and Milford Haven. This report states that 81st CB hdqtrs are at Penarth which disagrees with the 13th Reg. report.

4- 8-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 81st CB - operating at Falmouth, St. Mawes, Fowey, Milford Haven, Penarth, Plymouth, Salcombe and with hdqtrs at Dartmouth.

5- 5-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 81st CB - operating at Dartmouth (hdqtrs), Falmouth, St. Mawes, Fowey, Milford Haven, Newton Abbot, Penarth, Plymouth, and Salcombe.

6- 2-44 - 1 May'44 report of 81st CB - operating at Falmouth (hdqtrs), London, Plymouth.

6- 8-44 - According to the 25th Reg. Daily Report dtd 30 Apr'44, the 81st CB is operating at Salsey, Milford Haven, Penarth, Falmouth, Dartmouth, London, Newton Abbott.

7- 6-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 81st CB - approx. 32 officers on temp. duty with 81st CB.

8-15-44 - 81st CB operating Rhino Ferries and pontoon tugs at UTAH beginning on D-Day and are now at UTAH operating Rhino Ferries and will construct base at MALVERN. (ComNavEu Sec. Memo to Adm. H. R. Stark dtd 25 Jul'44)

8-30-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 81st CB - operating Rhino Ferries at Beach UTAH. Began assembling at Falmouth on 17 Apr. for training in Rhino ferry operation. Movement to the marshalling area at Dartmouth was made during the week of 27 May - 2 June.

9-25-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 25th Reg. - During August, the 81st CB operated Rhino Ferrys, Causeway and Beach Camp at Utah Beach which has been redesignated U.S. Naval Advanced Base No. 12.

## 81st CB

10- 3-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 81st CB - operating Rhino Ferries at UTAH Beach.

10-18-44 - 81st CB with 45 off. and 1000 men scheduled to return to U.S. about 20 Oct'44. (Comnaveu Sec. disp. 171413 NCR 7672 to CNO dtd 7 Oct'44).

10-20-44 - When directed by proper authority one-half of the 81st CB(1st Ech) to be detached from the 13th Reg.(Comphibsukay conf. disp. 121007A NCR 19608 to 13th Reg).

10-20-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 25th Reg. - The 81st CB operated Rhino Ferries, Causeways, and the beach camp at USNAB Twelve, and began winterizing program for this activity. 25th Reg. states that the 81st is available for immediate service in other theaters.

10-24-44 - The 81st CB departed France 6 Oct'44 and reported to the 13th Reg. for duty 10 Oct '44.(13th Reg. 5th End. dtd 10 Oct'44 on COUSNAB 12 to OinC of 81st CB Ser. 1896, dtd 6 Oct'44).

11-1-44 - 81st CB 1st Section with 22 officers and 482 men reported to Davisville from overseas 29 Oct'44.(NCTC Davisville 302126TWX OCT'44 to Bupers).

11-3-44 - 2nd Ech. of 81st CB - 18 officers and 541 men embarked on USS General Squires for Davisville.(Comnaveu conf. disp to PD N.Y. 311812 NCR 8541 dtd 1 Nov'44).

11-17-44 - 81st CB 2nd Echelon with 18 off. and 540 men arrived Davisville 10 Nov'44 from overseas.(NCTC Davisville 112113 TWX Nov'44 to Bupers).

11-20-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 81st CB - located in France during Sep'44. Report endorsed by 25th Regiment.

11-29-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of the 25th Reg. - 81st CB operated at USNAB 12 until 18 Oct'44 when it was relieved by a detachment from the 114th CB. The 81st proceeded to U.K. to await transportation to the U.S.

12-6-44 -- The 81st CB arrived UK from France 7th, 8th, 9th, 17th and 20 Oct'44. Departed UK for U.S. 23 & 27 Oct'44.(13th Reg. Oct'44 monthly report.

## 81st CB

1-17-45 - 1 Nov'44 report of the 81st CB - Project at UTAH Beach was completed on 20 Oct'44. Construction phase of Paris assignment by a detachment of 1 officer and 31 men was completed and turned over to a maintenance unit effective 14 Oct'44. All Rhino Ferries and Tugs at UTAH Beach, Normandy were turned over to the 114th CB on 20 Oct'44. The first echelon departed UTAH Beach 6 Oct'44 and reported to the OinC 13th Regiment, Plymouth on 10 Oct. Reported aboard USS WAKEFIELD 19 Oct'44, docked New York 28 Oct, and reported to NCTC Davisville 29 Oct'44. During the voyage the 81st CB personnel, in addition to other duties, had the job of guarding approx 2,000 Nazi prisoners. The 2nd echelon departed UTAH Beach 17 Oct'44, reported Teignmouth, Devon on 18 Oct, reported aboard USS GENERAL GEO. O. SQUIER 27 Oct, arrived New York 9 Nov., and reported to NCTC Davisville 10 Nov'44.

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1-17-45 -- The 81st CB is assigned by CNO to Cincpoa.(CNO Sec. ltr Op30-2CK12-UOT over (SC)P16-5 over Ser. 0016830 to Bupers and others dtd 12 Jan'45).

1-30-45 -- The 81st CB assigned to BIVE.(CNO Sec. ltr Op30-2CK12-UOT over (SC)P16-5 over Ser. 0619030 to distribution list dtd 15 Jan'45).

1-30-45 -- The 81st CB departed Davisville 22 Jan'45 aboard APA 102 with 51 officers and 1117 men.(Davisville Sec. disp to Bupers 232250 dtd 24 Jan'45).

2- 9-45 - 81st CB requests that a pontoon batt complement be established from 1153 men to 1363. (81st CB conf ltr to Bupers dtd 27 Jan'45)

2-15-45 - The 81st CB departed Davisville 22 Jan'45 for FRAY on USS Riverside consisting of 51 officers and 1117 men.(Davisville conf. disp to Dirpacdocks San Fran 082031 dtd 9 Feb'45).

## 81st C.B.

3- 1-45 - The 81st CB reported to the HAB on 16 Feb'45 - ordered to report to the 20th Reg. for duty pending further assignment. (HAB 3rd end (on Davisville orders dtd 19 Jan'45) to the OinC 81st CB dtd 16 Feb'45)

3-17-45 -- HAB Sec. ltr Ser. 03639 dtd 10 Mar'45 to the 81st CB - when directed by proper authority to proceed to a point in the Pacific Area. Upon arrival will report to IsCom BIVE for further assignment to the 47th Reg. Upon embarkation at mounting point the 81st CB is detached from the 20th Reg.

3-23-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 81st CB - Embarked for Pacific area on 22 Jan'45; passed thru Panama Canal on 30 Jan'45. Report endorsed by the 20th Regiment.

4-10-45 - The 81st CB is located at P.H. according to Dirpacdocks SanFran Sec report for 15 Mar'45)

4-17-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 81st CB - On 28 March, the 81st boarded the APA 191 for transportation to Okinawa. On 1 Apr'45 the battalion was still enroute. 3 officers & 68 men of Detachment "A" arrived at Guam on 17 Mar'45 to supervise reshipment of pontoons to the 81st. First ten days in March 81st CB furnishd a crew of 400 men daily to assist the 302nd CB. 21 men rec'd from a casual draft. End. by 47th Reg.

5- 8-45 - According to Dirpacdocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45, the 81st CB is to be relieved at Okinawa by the 148th CB.

5-15-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 81st CB - On 15 Feb'45, the Batt was detached from USS RIVERSIDE at P.H. Batt was attached to the 20th Reg. and 2nd Brg for adm purposes. On 27 Feb'45, 2 off. and 68 men were sent forward to Guam as Detachment A. This detachment will supervise the care and reshipment of pontoons which the 81st CB will use in operations. Will report to the 5th Brg. at Guam.

5-22-45 - The 81st CB reported aboard the USS PONDERA (APA 191) for transportation on 29 Mar'45. This vessel anchored off Hagushi, Okinawa on 26 Apr'45. (USS PONDERA (APA 191) sec orders ser 002 dtd 3 May to OinC 81st CB (1st end on HMNCB orders P16-4/00(03639 10 Mar'45)

Location - Okinawa

## 81st C.B.

5-24-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 81st CB - located at Okinawa with a detachment of 3 off. and 68 men (Det A) at Guam supervising the reshipment of pontoons to the 81st CB. Movement of Batt as follows:

28 Mar'45 - 81st CB, 47 off. and 1053 men, boarded ship at Iroquois Pt.
6 Apr'45 - Ship dropped anchor at Eniwetok.
11 Apr'45 - Departed Eniwetok.
15 Apr'45 - Ship dropped anchor at Ulithi.
22 Apr'45 - Departed Ulithi.
26 Apr'45 - Ship arrived at Nagushi Bay, Okinawa.
2 May'45 - Departed on 2 May for Nakagusuku Wan, Okinawa.

6-13-45 - Dirpacdocks SF sec report of 15 May shows the 81st CB at Okina with 70 men at Guam. To be relieved at Okinawa by 148th CB.

6-25-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 81st CB - located at Okinawa. The 81st CB disembarked at Nakagusuka Wan on 3 May'45. Set up camp on the Awase Peninsula on the east coast of Okinawa. Operations as follows: 518 men at Nakagusuku Wan, 495 men at Hagushi Beaches, 35 men at Ie Shima; 3 off and 68 men of Det "A" are at Guam supervising the care and reshipment of pontoons to the 81st CB.

7-23-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 81st CB - located at Okinawa. 2 offcrs and 68 men of Det."A" are still at Guam supervising the gear and reshipment of pontoons to this area. 36 men are stil located at Ie Shima operating pontoonsBarges. On 8 Jun'45 the 28th CB arrived at Hagushi and by 11 Jun'45 had relieved the 81st CB of all West Coast operations except the Detail at Ie Shima. Report via 47th Reg.

8- 2-45 - Request you direct OinC 81st CB to report by disp for adm control to theOinC 36th Reg and for oper control to Comphibspac. (Comservpac sec disp 310207 July to IsCom Okinawa)

Location - Okinawa 81st C.B.

8-11-45 - The 81st CB reported to the 36th Reg. for duty 3 Aug. (OinC 81st CB sec disp 032341 to Comphibspac and OinC 36th Reg)

8-22-45 - 1 Aug '45 report of the 47th Reg. Located at Okinawa. 21 men transferred to U.S. for discharge. 2 off & 68 men left Guam on 14 July'45 & arrived at Okinawa 30 July'45 to rejoin battalion. 1 off & 35 men on duty at Ie Shima.

9- 7-45 - 81st CB added to list of activities at Guam. (IsCom, Gaum sec disp 010621 Sept'45 to CNO).

9-18-45 - 805 men of the 81st CB are on Guam at the hdqtrs of 36th Reg. the remainder of the 81st CB including hdqtrs is at present transferring to Guam from Okinawa. (1 Sept'45 report of 36th Reg).

9-29-45 - Cincpoa approved inactivation of 36th Reg. & 81st CB. (Cincpoa TWX 232138 Sept'45 to Comservpac).

9-29-45 - Comservpac desires to inactivate 36th Reg. & 81st CB in Oct. Comservpac requests Cincpoa's approval. (Comservpac conf disp 202245 Sept'45 to Cincpoa).

10-1-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 81st CB - no info as to location. Report via 36th Reg. & 5th Brig. 19 men transferred for discharge under the point system. 1 off & 35 men who were on duty at Ie Shima returned to 81st CB on 4 Aug'45. Detach."A" of 81st CB left Okinawa 8 Aug'45 & arrived in Guam on 15 Aug'45, consisting of 40 officers and 771 men.

10-10-45- 81st CB to be inactivated on approx 10 Oct.'45. Inform Comservpac when inactivation is completed. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05466 dtd 1 Oct'45 to 5thBrg).

11-15-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 81st CB - location not stated. Report via 36th Reg. & 5th Brig. This report states that the 81st CB was inactivated on 10 Oct'45. 678 men transferred to other units. 162 men transferred to U.S. for discharge under the point system.

INACTIVATED

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Location - Okinawa 81st CB

11-16-45 - 81st CB was inactivated 10 Oct'45. (81st CB conf ltr dtd 10 Oct'45 to Comservpac).

INACTIVATED

DECLASSIFIED

| Date | Organization | Location | Reference | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6/3/44 | – | Dartmouth, Rosneath, Milford Haven, Pembroke | – | Left U.S. Aug. 194 |
| 9/18 | – | France | C.B. report 1 September. | |
| 10/9 | – | " (U.S) | Com Nav Eu sec disp. 071413 Oct. to CNO 09 1911 Oct. | return U.S about 20 oct. report Davisville |
| 10/18 | – | " (Davisville) | Comphibs 2K Conf disp Oct 112023A | when directed proper authority 1/2 of 81st return US |
| 10/24 | – | " (U.S.) | Comphibs 2K Ray Conf disp. 201131A Oct. OP 30-01337730 21 Oct | when directed proper authority 1/2 of 81st (and sch) det'd 13th regt. |
| 11/9 | – | " US. | Bu Docks memo 11/44. | returned US 10/26 1/2 ready 2/1/45 - Lammon Eniwetok |

DECLASSIFIED

81st C.B. (pontoon) page 2

| Date | Organization | Location | Reference | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12/15 | – | Camp Endicott | Bu Docks memo 9 Dec 1944. | ready at Hueneme 2/1/45 - and Rion 8. |
| 1/2/45 | – | " | Cno sec disp 011625 dec. | for Rine – ready 18 Jan. proposed ship from East Coast to Fray FET. request embarking personnel 81st CB in Riverside (apa-102) Etd Davisville 22 Jan for FRAY. |
| 1/22 | – | " | OP30-0019030 1/15 | assid Rine – ready Davisville 4/1/45. |
| 2/10 | – | – | Davisville Conf. disp. 082031 Feb. | APA 102 - left Riverside departed Davisville 22 Jan for FRAY. |
| 2/15 | – | (Rine) | Pac Docks Regal sec. 080136 Feb. | Expected FRAY on Riverside 12 Feb. destined Rine. |
| 4/17/45 | – | Guam | 20 Com Marianas Conf act disp. 011922 April | added. |

81st C.B. (pontoon) page 3

| Date | Organization | Location | Reference | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8/14 | Aug. report shows at Rivet | | | |
| 10/1/45 | — | — | | Consolopac desire to inactivate in October. Conf. 2022H5 Sept. |

| DATE | ON BOARD OFFICERS | ON BOARD MEN | AUTHORITY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Jul'44 | 55 | 977 | MoR |
| 1 Aug'44 | 49 | 1030 | MoR |
| 1 Sep'44 | 50 | 1018 | MoR |
| 30 Sep'44 | | 1009 | Recap |
| 1 Oct'44 | 44 | 1009 | MoR |
| 1 Nov'44 | 40 | 1037 | MoR |
| 1 Feb'45 | 51 | 1117 | MoR |
| 1 Mar'45 | 51 | 1109 | MoR |
| 1 Apr'45 | 52 | 1121 | MoR |
| 1 May'45 | 52 | 1120 | MoR & R |
| 1 Jun'45 | 50 | | Roster |
| 1 Jul'45 | 49 | 1094 | Roster & BNP625 |
| 1 Aug'45 | | 1086 | BNP625 & R |
| 1 Sept'45 | | 1059 | BNP625 |
| 1 Oct'45 | 43 | 923 | BNP625 & R |

81st Construction Battalion (Pontoon) (INACTIVATED)

| DATE | ON BOARD OFFICERS | ON BOARD MEN | AUTHORITY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Jul'44 | 55 | 977 | MoR |

81st Construction

81st US Naval Construction Battalion
c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

HISTORY OF THE 81ST N.C.B.

The 81st N.C.B. was commissioned on February 13, 1943 at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., under the command of Commander William P. Greenawalt, (CMC) USNR. The Battalion was transferred from Camp Peary to NCTC Davisville, R.I.. The first section of the Battalion left A.B.D. for England on 20 August 1945 and the second section on 4 September 1945. While in England, the Battalion was engaged on construction work as listed below.

Milford Haven, Pembroke, Walec - Construction of 900 men hut camp and 200 bed hospital unit, and improvement of water-front facilities. Work done by 350 men in 4 months.

Ponarth, Olamorgan, Walec - Construction of hut camp for 170 men including the renovation of 11 residences, improvement of water-front facilities, and the construction of a 50 bed hospital unit. Work done by 300 men in two and one half months.

Eowey, Cornwall, England - Construction of USNAATSB, a 1000 man hut camp, a 500 man hut camp, a 150 bed hospital unit, shops and other facilities. Work done by 125 men in 4 months.

Falmouth, Cornwall, England - Completion of USNAAB, involving erection of two 750 men hut camp, a 1000 man tent city, renovation of St. Michael's hospital, and miscellaneous structures. Work done by 100 men in 5 months.

St. Nawes, Cornwall, England - Construction of USNAATSB, involving erection of 264 man camp and the renovation of 12 hotels. Work done by 30 men in 5 months.

Bicester, Oxfordshire, England - Construction of radio receiving and transmitting facilities. 47 steel towers were erected in the first 26 days. Work done by 30 men in two and one half months.

Salcombe, Devon, England - Construction of USNAAB, involving a 1200 man camp. Work done by 100 men in 4 months.

Bandridge Park, Dartmouth, Devon, England - Completion of USNAAB, involving an 800 man hut camp, renovation of hotels and construction of a 95'x175' hangar store house. Work done by 220 men in 3 months.

Newton Abbott, Heathfield, Devon, England - Construction of a temporary tent camp. Job completed by 29th CB. Work done by 70 men in one month.

Plymouth, Devon, England - Construction of additional naval facilities including 60 - 20x48 huts, two 40x100 and two 95x195 hangars. Work done by 130 men in a month and a half.

London, England - Construction of St. Christopher's School to a U.S. Naval Dispensary. Work done by 50 men in one month.

This battalion participated in the invasion of Normandy arriving with rhino barges and tugs at Utah Beachhead. On D-Day, June 6, 1944 some barges succeeded in unloading their cargo on that day. One barge suffered a direct hit from a German bomber resulting in 12 casualties. Marvin A. Krull, Slc, subsequently died of wounds. Barge crews were subject to intermittent shell fire and frequent strafing but no further casualties were suffered. It was estimated that from D-Day until D-7, 12,000 vehicles or 36% of all vehicles landed were brought ashore on rhinos. The battalion participated in salvage work made necessary by the havoc wrought by the storm of June 19th. Operation of Rhino barges and their repair was conducted from D-Day until about October 7, 1944.

On D plus 4, a headquarters construction group arrived at Utah Beach and commenced construction of a bivouac area adequate for 1500 men. A headquarters operations group arrived at Omaha Beach on D-3 and joined the headquarters construction group in their activities. A1000 man camp was erected and winterized, and alterations were made on the Chateau de Prunay in Paris.

Until July 21, a pontoon assembly detachment remained at Falmouth for the purpose of assembling and fitting out rhino barges and tugs.

Upon completion of work in the E.T.O., the Battalion returned to the United States, the first section arriving in the states on 20 October 1944 and the second section on 4 November 1944. After rehabilitation leave, the Battalion reassembled at NCTC Davisville and was reorganized to fit the new complement for a pontoon battalion. On 1 January 1945, Commander L.C. Coxe, (CEC) USN relieved Commander W.P. Greenawalt as Officer-in-Charge. On 22 January 1945, the battalion embarked on the APA 102 (U.S.S. Riverside) at A.B.D. Davisville. The trip to Hawaii took 25 days which included a one-day stop in Balboa, C.Z..

In Hawaii intensive training was given all hands for the part the battalion was to play in the invasion of Okinawa. Men were assigned to the pontoon yard operated by the 302nd N.C.B. for training in the assembly and operation of barges. Intensive instruction in rifle range, sanitation, barge operation in surf, gas defense, A.A. fire, bivouac and all day hike under full pack, scramble net, first aid, signaling and many other subjects were given. Outfitting of the Battalion was also completed in Hawaii. On 28 March, the Battalion embarked on the APA 191 (U.S.S. Pondora) for Okinawa. Enroute to Okinawa, a seven day stop was made at Eniwetok and a six day stop at Ulithi. Assault landings from LCVP's and LCH's were practiced at these places and recreation parties were sent ashore whenever possible. On 22 April, the advance on Okinawa was started and the Battalion arrived at Okinawa on 26 April. Disembarkment was delayed until 3 May when the Battalion landed on Awase peninsula in Buckner Bay (Nakagusuku Wan). The battalion made camp on Awase and sent a detachment on 10 May to relieve the 70th and 128th

Battalions on the west coast of Okinawa. An additional detail of one officer and 35 men was sent to operate barges at Io Shim. From 10 May to 11 June, the 81st Battalion operated all barges on Okinawa as well as constructing barges, repair facilities, camps etc. On 11 June the 28th Battalion relieved the 81st of all work on the west coast of Okinawa. Operations on the east coast ( Buckner Bay) expanded rapidly. In July, the battalion brought ashore 78,000 weight tons of cargo and were commended by Cinevac via Joint Freight Handling Facilities for their part in getting cargo ashore. One officer and seven men on a 4x12 barge were towed 40 miles behind a fleet tug to assist in the invasion of Aguni Shima. The battalion also constructed a 400 man camp for the Joint Freight Handling Facilities. On 3 August, the Battalion reported to ComPhibsPac, for operational control and the 5th N.C. Brigade for administrative control. On 8 August, 771 men and 40 officers left Okinawa on the U.S.B. Niagara for Guam to stage for the invasion of Japan. This detachment arrived in Guam on 15 August 1945, the day hostilities with Japan ceased. In Guam, the Battalion worked on construction jobs for AdComPhibePac and also in the pontoon yard. The remainder of the battalion in Okinawa was brought to Guam and on 10 October, 1945 in compliance with ConServPac's directives, the 81st Battalion was inactivated.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE BATTALION IN THE PACIFIC

1. The trip from Panama to Pearl to Okinawa and back required 67 days aboard ship of which 53 days were at sea harbor.

2. A total of 99 officers have attached to the Battalion during its existence.

3. The battalion was shelled while aboard ship anchored off Okinawa, was just missed by a Kamikaze plane, was aboard ship anchored next to two ships that were hit by suicide boats (one ship sunk) went through 103 recorded air alerts; its barge crews narrowly escaped suicide planes and friendly fire, yet not one man was killed or died from any cause whatever during the entire Pacific Campaign.

4. The average age of the men in the battalion was 24 1/2 years, the oldest 50 years, the youngest 17 years.

5. The bulk of men were easterners with 57.3% coming from the Northeast section of the country.

6. The Battalion was formed from men of every state and Canada except Nevada and Utah.

7. The average man of the Battalion was born on or about Nov. 15, 1920 in the neighborhood of New York City and was now rated a third class petty officer.

8. The Battalion was noted for its camp on Awase and for good food. Army and Marines came from 10 miles away to attend movies at the "Globetrotter" Theater at Camp Awase.

9. In addition to barges, the repair barges, known as floating palaces, repaired LCM's, LCVP's, Picket Boats, LCT's and LSM's.

10. The 81st softball team made history in Pearl, Eniwetok and Okinawa, never losing a game at the two former places.

11. One barge was alongside a liberty ship when it was struck by a suicide plane. Three weeks later the same barge was alongside an LST when it was struck by another suicide plane. The barge crew continued right along with their work, but kept an anxious eye on the sky.

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Chronology of U. S. Naval Construction Battalion 81

13 Feb. 1943 - The 81st U. S. Naval Construction Battalion was commissioned at the Naval Construction Training Center, Camp Peary ~~at~~, Williamsburg, Virginia.

10 Apr. 1943 The Battalion was transferred to the Naval Construction Training Center at Davisville, Rhode Island.

3 Jun. 1943 The 81st Battalion was transferred to the Naval Advance Base Depot at Davisville, R.I.

5 July 1943 The Battalion was split into two sections.

19 Aug. 1943 The ~~1st~~ first section consisting of 16 officers and 516 men departed from the Naval Advance Base Depot at Davisville.

20 Aug. 1943 The ~~1st~~ first section left the United States.

26 Aug. 1943 The ~~1st~~ first section arrived at Rosneath, Scotland.

4 Sept. 1943 The ~~2nd~~ second section, consisting of 16 officers and 523 men, departed from the Naval Advance Base Depot at Davisville.

5 Sept. 1943 The ~~2nd~~ second section departed from the United States.

23 Sept. 1943 The ~~2nd~~ second section arrived at Rosneath, Scotland.

5 Oct. 1943 The ~~1st and 2nd~~ first and second sections were reunited under orders of the Commander in Chief of the 13th Naval Construction Regiment. This was confirmed by orders of the Bureau of Personnel ~~which were dated~~ on 20 November, 1943.

Oct. 1943 During ~~this month~~ October the Battalion operated at Rosneath which was its headquarters, Milford Haven and Penarth, Wales, as well as Fowey, England.

Nov. 1943 The Battalion continued to operate at Rosneath, Milford Haven, Penarth and Fowey and began operations at Bicester, Falmouth, Salcombe, St. Mawes, and Dartmouth.

Dec. 1943 Headquarters was moved to Penarth and the Battalion continued to operate at Milford Haven, Fowey, Bicester, Falmouth, Salcombe, St. Mawes, and Dartmouth.

Jan. 1944 The Battalion continued to operate at Penarth, which remained its headquarters and also Milford Haven, Fowey, Bicester, Falmouth, Salcombe, St. Mawes, and Dartmouth.

Feb. 1944 Battalion headquarters was moved to Dartmouth and the 81st continued to operate at Penarth, Milford Haven, Fowey, Falmouth, Salcombe, and St. Mawes.

Mar. 1944 The Battalion, with headquarters at Dartmouth continued to operate at Dartmouth, Penarth, Milford Haven, Fowey, Falmouth, Salcombe, and St. Mawes and began operations in Newton Abbot and Plymouth.

Apr. 1944 The Battalion operated at Penarth, Milford Haven, Fowey, Falmouth, Salcombe, St. Mawes, Dartmouth, Newton Abbot, Plymouth and London. Headquarters was moved to Falmouth. During this month the detachments at Dartmouth, Fowey, St. Mawes, Newton Abbot, and Penarth were secured and the personnel transferred to Falmouth.

May 1944 The detachments at Milford Haven, Plymouth, London, and Salcombe were secured and all personnel were transferred to Falmouth.

6 June 1944 The 81st Battalion began operations at Utah Beach in France.

6 Sept. 1944 One officer and 30 men departed Utah Beach for Paris.

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 Oct. 1944 | The first echelon of 21 officers and 496 men departed from France. |
| 10 Oct. 1944 | The first echelon arrived at Plymouth, England. |
| 14 Oct. 1944 | The Paris detachment was secured and its personnel joined the second echelon for return to the U. S. |
| 17 Oct. 1944 | The second echelon, consisting of 12 officers and 539 men, departed from France. |
| 18 Oct. 1944 | The second echelon arrived at Teignmouth, Devon. |
| 19 Oct. 1944 | The first echelon left the United Kingdom enroute to the United States. |
| 27 Oct. 1944 | The second echelon left the United Kingdom for the United States. |
| 28 Oct. 1944 | The first echelon arrived in the United States. |
| 29. Oct. 1944 | The first echelon arrived at the Naval Construction Training Center at Davisville, Rhode Island. |
| 9 Nov. 1944 | The second echelon arrived in the United States. |
| 10 Nov. 1944 | The second echelon arrived at the Naval Construction Training Center at Davisville. |

SECOND TOUR OF DUTY

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| 22 Jan. 1945 | The 81st Battalion left the Naval Construction Training Center for an overseas assignment. |
| 30 Jan. 1945 | The Battalion passed through the Panama Canal. |
| 15 Feb. 1945 | The Battalion arrived at Pearl Harbor. |
| 17 Mar. 1945 | A detachment of 3 officers and 68 men arrived at Guam. |

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| 28 Mar 1945 | The Battalion boarded a ship enroute to Okinawa. |
| 6 Apr 1945 | The ship containing the 81st Battalion dropped anchor at Eniwetok where the battalion was given practice in assault landings and recreational parties were formed. |
| 11 Apr 1945 | The Battalion left Eniwetok. |
| 15 Apr 1945 | The Battalion arrived at Ulithi where they were given recreational leaves and more practice in assault landings. |
| 26 Apr 1945 | The Battalion's ship dropped anchor off Hagushi Beach, Okinawa. |
| 2 May 1945 | The Battalion departed from Hagushi Beach. |
| 2 May 1945 | The 81st Battalion arrived off Nakagusuki Wan, Okinawa. |
| 3 May 1945 | The Battalion disembarked and set up camp on Awase Peninsula, Okinawa. |
| May 1945 | The Battalion operated at Hagushi Beach, Kuba Saki and Nakagusuki Wan with headquarters on the Awase Peninsula. |
| 17 May 1945 | One officer and 35 enlisted men arrived at Ie Shima. |
| 8 June 1945 | A detachment of 1 officer and 7 men left Hagushi for Aguni Shima. |
| June 1945 | The Battalion operated at Kuba Saki, Nakagusuki Wan, Ie Shima, and Aguni Shima. During the month the detachment at Hagushi Beach was relieved. |
| 14 June 1945 | Two hundred and fifty two men were returned from Hagushi Beach after having been relieved by the 28th Naval Construction Battalion. |

1 July 1945 All 42 year old men, of whom there were 18, were transferred to the U.S. for release to inactive duty.

30 July 1945 Detachment "A", with Lieut. W.P.Larsen in command of 70 men arrived at Camp Awase from Guam.

3 Aug. 1945 The Battalion reported for duty to the Commander of Amphibious Forces in the Pacific for operational control and to the 36th Naval Construction Regiment which had administrative control.

4 Aug. 1945 The detail of one officer and 35 men returned to Camp Awase from Ie Shima where they had been serving.

8 Aug. 1945 Detachment "A" of the 81st Naval Construction Battalion with Comdr. Coxe in command of 40 officers and 771 men departed for Guam on the USS Niagara. The remaining men, under the command of Lieut. Larsen moved from Camp Awase to Baten Ko.

15 Aug. 1945 Hostilities with Japan cease. Detachment "A" arrived at Guam and was encamped with the 70th and the 128th Naval Construction Battalions.

22 Aug. 1945 Nineteen men who were eligible for release to inactive duty were sent home from Okinawa.

Aug. 1945 Detachment "A" worked on Guam in the Amphibious Forces Pontoon Assembly Yard and on the Advance Commander Amphibious Forces in the Pacific, Marianas Camp Area. The Okinawa contingent was at work constructing a camp at Baten Ko.

8 Sept. 1945 Comdr. Coxe and ~~Comdr.~~ Childs ~~fly~~ flew from Guam to Okinawa.

12 Sept. 1945 — The Okinawa detachment of 254 men and four officers left for Guam aboard 8 Landing Ships, Men leaving one officer and seven men in Okinawa.

15 Sept. 1945 — Commanders Coxe and Childs return to Guam by air.

19 Sept. 1945 — After a very rough trip the Okinawa detachment arrived in Guam.

21 Sept. 1945 — The remainder of the Okinawa contingent, one officer and seven men, left for Guam aboard an APH.

27 Sept. 1945 — The 81st Battalion ~~is~~ was reunited as the officer and seven men arrived at Guam from Okinawa.

27 Sept. 1945 — A party was given by the 81st Battalion for all hands of the 81st, 70th and the 128th Naval Construction Battalions and the personnel of the 36th Naval Construction Regiment.

Sept. 1945 — The Battalion continued to work in the Amphibious Forces Pontoon Assembly Yard and the Advance Commader Amphibious Forces in the Pacific Marianas Camp Area. The latter job was discontinued and the Battalion began work on the Advance Commander Amphibious Forces in the Pacific Administrative Area.

2 Oct. 1945 — Farewell ceremonies, which featured addresses by Comdr. Coxe and Chaplain Farrel, were held at the Tropicana Theatre.

5 Oct. 1945 — By 5 October, 1945 all work in the Pontoon Assembly Yard and the Administrative Area was completed. Thiry nine men were transferred to other battalions and a total of twelve officers were either transferred for release to inactive duty or to other battalions.

10 Oct. 1945 The 81st Naval Construction Battalion was officially inactivated in compliance with the Commander of Service Forces in the Pacific letter 05466 dated 1 October 1945 and the 5th Naval Construction Brigade letter, serial number 011723 dated 10 October, 1945. All equipment and material was disposed of and personnel was either transferred for release to inactive duty or to other Sea Bee units. This Battalion had been designated to participate in the assault phases of ~~of~~ both of the operations, "Olympic" and "Coronet." the invasion of Japan

U.S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
EIGHTY FIRST

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