

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

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*Historical  
Information*



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



90th C.B.

NOTC - Peary  
ABD - Hueneme  
Ready Date - 8 Sep'43  
Left ABD -  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 2 Oct'43  
              -  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 14 Oct'43  
Location - ~~Pearl Harbor~~ Iwo Jima

LOG

- 9-21-43 - Assigned to Pearl Harbor and 8th Reg. (Conf. Disp. 010010 Sep VCNO to ABD Hueneme)
- 10-18-43 - 270 men of 90th CB left U.S. 2 Oct'43.  $\frac{3}{4}$  batt left 14 Oct.'43.
- 12-11-43 - 1 Nov'43 report of 90th CB - departed Hueneme 31 Sep'43, arriving P.H. 7 Oct'43.
- 1-28-44 - 90th CB arrived P.H. in two sections, 7 and 19 Oct'43. Assigned construction work on Oahu. (Capt. Porter's ltr to Adm. Moreell dtd 4 Jan'44)
- 3- 6-44 - 90th CB located at Red Hill and Iroquois Pt. (2nd Brig batt report dtd 21 Jan'44)
- 3- 9-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 90th CB - operating at Moanalua, Red Hill, Iroquois Pt., and Pearl City.
- 4-20-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 90th CB - operating at Iroquois Pt., Red Hill, and Moanalua.
- 5-10-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 90th CB - operating at Iroquois Pt., Moanalua, Waipio, and Red Hill.
- 6-16-44 - 1 May'44 report of 90th CB - operating at Moanalua, Iroquois Pt., Red Hill Camp, Makalapa, and Waipio.
- 7- 5-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 90th CB - operating at Moanalua, Iroquois Pt., Red Hill, Makalapa, and Waipio.

Location - ~~Pearl Harbor~~ Iwo Jima                      90th C.B.

- 2- 7-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 90th CB - located in Hawaiian area. Report endorsed by the 8th Regiment.
- 2-17-45 -- The 90th CB is located at Pearl Hbr. (Com 14 Sec. disp to CNO 081016 Feb'45).
- 3-16-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 90th CB - location not stated. Report end. by 8th Reg. All jobs secured 8 Jan'45.
- 3-20-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 8th Reg. - A detachment of 1 off. and 26 men was ordered on 5 Jan'45 to ComGen 5th Amph Corps for temp. add'l duty.
- 4-10-45 - The 90th CB is located at Iwo Jima according to Dirpadocks SanFran Sec Report for 15 Mar'45)
- 5- 8-45 - The 90th CB is located at Iwo Jima. (Dirpadocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)
- 5-17-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 8th Reg states that 90th CB embarked from P.H. on 19 Feb'45 headed for Iwo Jima. 1 off. & 26 men on temp additnl duty with 5th Amph. Corps.
- 5-18-45 - 1 May'45 report of 90th CB - location not given. Report end. by 8th Reg & 9th Brg. 8 men on TAD with 95th CB returned to the 90th CB on 30 Apr'45.
- 5-19-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 90th CB - location not given. Report end. by 8th Reg. and 9th Brg. All jobs secured on 8 Jan'45.
- 6- 1-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 90th CB - location not given. Report end by 8th Reg and 9th Brg.
- 6- 1-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 8th Reg - The 90th CB arrived Iwo Jima on 13 March and came ashore on 14 Mar'45. 1 off. and 26 men who were on temp. addtl. duty with Co Gen, 5th Amph Corps, retd. to the batt. on 20 March. 8 men are on temp addtl. duty with 95th CB.
- 6-6-45 - The 90th CB is located at Iwo Jima. (IsCom Iwo Jima sec disp 031027Z Jun to CNO)
- 6-12-45 - Expected availability date of the 90th CB at Iwo Jima is 10 Sep'45. (OinC 9th Brg sec ltr 00137 dtd 28 May'45 to Comservpac)

90th C.B.

- 8-15-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 90th CB - operating at Iroquois Pt., Red Hill, Makalapa, and Waipio.
- 8-29-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 90th CB - operating at Red Hill, Waipio, Moanalua, Makalapa, Iroquois Pt., Hospital Point on Oahu.
- 10-17-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 90th CB - operating at Red Hill, Waipio, Moanalua, Makalapa, Iroquois Pt. and Hospital Point.
- 11-2-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 90th CB - operating at Oahu (Red Hill, Iroquois Pt., Waipio). Report endorsed by 8th Reg.
- 11-3-44 - 90th CB is assigned to the 8th Reg. (CNO conf. ltr Op30-2CK15-UOT over (SC)P16-5 over Ser. 01348230 to Bupers and Cincpoa dtd 27 Oct'44).
- 11-16-44 - The 90th CB is located at Pearl Hbr. (Com 14 Sec. disp to CNO 062243 NCR 15886 dtd 11 Nov'44).
- 11-28-44 - 90th CB will not be alerted until 15 Dec'44. (Dirpacdocks 128 Sec. Ser 00465 to Comserforpacflt dtd 16 Nov'44)
- 12-13-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 90th CB - Report endorsed by 8th Reg. and H.A.B.
- 1-11-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of 90th CB - located on Hawaiian Islands. Report endorsed by the 8th Regiment.
- 1-16-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 8th Regiment - A detachment consisting of 1 officer and 18 men, which had been on temporary detached duty with the 302nd CB, returned on 13 Nov'44. This detachment landed and operated 4 barges in the Palau Islands invasion. They delivered their barges into Anguar Island on D-plus-2 day for that island. Later the detachment operated these barges, taking ammunition to Peleliu Island during the period of military action.
- 2- 6-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 8th Reg. - The 90th CB rec'd 154 men during Dec'44.

Location - Iwo Jima

90th C.B.

- 6-19-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of 90th CB - located at Iwo Jima. Report routed via 8th Reg & 9th Brig.
- 7-10-45 - The 90th CB located at Iwo Jima. (IsCom Iwo Jima sec disp 030753 July to CNO)
- 7-13-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 90th CB - located at Iwo Jima. Report via the 8th Reg and 9th Brig.
- 8-21-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 90th CB - located at Iwo Jima. Report via 8th Reg & 9th Brig.
- 9-12-45 - 41st Reg directed to proceed with 90th CB. This involves 12 officers & men. Upon arrival 41st Reg report to Comflt activities Yokosuka for coordination of CB units that area. (Comservpac sec disp 070135 Sept'45 to Jancommgen, Iwo Jima, 41st Reg).
- 9-13-45 - 90th CB scheduled forward move. (Direastpacdocks sec location rpt dtd 20 Aug'45).
- 9-25-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 90th CB - located at Iwo Jima. Report via 8th Reg. & 9th Brig.
- 9-26-45 - 41st Reg & 90th CB are to be transferred to Comdr. of Fleet Activities, Yokosuka. (Iscom, Army Garrison Force, APO 86 sec ltr ser(not given) dtd 15 Sept'45 to OinC, 9th Brig).
- 10-8-45 - Comservpac desires to order the following units to 41st Reg. - 90, 127, 138 & 38th, CBs, etc. Comservpac requests 41st Reg. recommendations as to which units should be for administrative control. (Comservpac sec splltr ser 003755 dtd 30 Sept'45 to 41st Reg.).
- 11-16-45 - 90th CB was inactivated, date not given. (Comservpac restr ltr ser 130-3-61 dtd 26 Oct'45 to BuPers).
- 11-30-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 90th CB - location not stated. Report via 41st Reg. During Oct. 90th CB spent the month preparing to move from Iwo Jima to Yokosuka, Honshu, Japan. Departure was delayed because of weather.

Location - Yokosuka, Japan 90th CB

- 1-2-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of 90th CB - located at Yokosuka, Honshu, Japan. 90th CB departed Iwo Jima 1 Oct'45 & arrived at Yokosuka, Honshu, Japan on 4 Oct'45.
- 1-29-46 - 1 Jan'46 report of 90th CB - located at Yokosuka, Honshu, Japan. Report via 41st Reg.
- 3-1-46 - 1 Feb 46 report of 90th CB - located at Naval Base, Yokosuka, Japan.
- 3-1-46 - CTF 96 recommends that 90th CB be inactivated as soon as practicable. (CTF 96 disp 270130/Feb to Comservpac) USNR
- 3-11-46 - Comservpac orders 90th CB to be inactivated. GS/enlisted pers. to be transferred to NavSta Yokosuka. USN enlisted and CB ratings to be transferred to 96th CB at Tsingtao. (Comservpac disp 072138/~~Feb~~<sup>Mar</sup> to CTF 96).
- 3-11-46 - Comservpac modifies his 072138. USN enlisted and CB ratings to be transferred to 5th Brig. in connection with inactivation of 90th CB. (Comservpac Disp 102249/Mar to CTF 96).
- 3-22-46 - 1 Mar 46 report of 90th CB - located at Yokosuka. Report states it is estimated that bn. will be inactivated before 1 April 46.
- 4-15-46 - 90th CB was inactivated on 2 April 1946 at Yokosuka, Japan. (OinC ltr ser 1388 dtd 2 April 1946 to BuDocks).

INACTIVATED

90 C.B.

- 16 Oct 45 - ~~Started~~ Took passage for Yokosuka from Iwo.
- 4 " " - Preparation of camp area
- 6 " " - 15 Nov = unloading shipping
- 13 " " - = repairs & services for naval forces at Yokosuka
- 16 " " - 31 Jan 46? = repairs airfield & facilities, Kisarazu & construction of communication facilities

Repair of Japanese facilities for use by US naval forces, using Japanese materials & labor as far as possible.

90th C. B.

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Date	Organization	Location	Referenced	Notes
6/3/44	-	Red Hill, Iwojima At, Moanalua, Oahu	-	Left U.S. Oct. 1943.
7/22	-	FRAY. P.H.	Com 14 sec act disp. 060609 July	
11/13	-	FRAY	Com 14 sec act 7th Brig. disp 062243 Nov.	
11/18	-	(URIK)	Col. Buckle note. (ass'd work)	
2/19	-	FRAY 7th Brig.	Com 14 sec act disp. 081016 Feb.	
3/12	-	-	Com 14 sec act delete	
6/4/45	-	Urisk	disp. 040153 Mar Iwojima sec act disp added 0310372 June	

90 CB

Yokosuka

Began passage to Yokosuka	1 Oct 45	from Iwo	Arrived 4 Oct 45
" preparation of camp area	6 "		
" unloading shipping	6 "		
" repairs & services to naval base Yokosuka	13 "		
" " airfield & facilities Kisarazu	16 "		

Using Japanese materials & labor as far as possible.

\* Came ashore into temporary barracks 19 Oct 45  
Moved to permanent barracks located by 136 NCB on 26 Oct.

Main projects:

- (a) Repair & maintenance of Kisarazu NAS, including overhauling gasoline system & providing housing facilities for NAS personnel & repair & maintenance of airstrip.
- (b) Housing & messing facilities for shore-based personnel of Fleet at Yokosuka Naval Base. (over)

(c) repair of warehouse facilities for Fleet activities at Yokosuka Naval Base

(d) Repair of sheds & erection of quonset huts for housing & messing facilities for Port Director activities at both Yokosuka & Tokyo

(e) Loading gravel from Atsugi River for use in repairing roads & air bases.

Work at the Naval Base Yokosuka - renovation repair & maintenance of huts for housing, office space & quarters - repair & maintenance of roads - electric power, light & telephone systems - 1,000-man galleys

ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
30 Jun'44	32	1045	Recap.
1 Aug' 44	31	1037	MoR
1 Sep'44	32	1021	MoR
1 Oct'44	30	961	MoR
1 Nov'44	31	891	MoR
1 Dec'44	32	859	MoR
1 Jan'45	28	1015	MoR
1 Feb'45	28	1027	MoR
1 Mar'45	28	1011	MoR
1 Apr'45	28	1007	BNP625 & MoR
1 May'45	28	1007	MoR
1 Jun'45	29	999	MoR
1 Jul'45	30	934	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	29	906	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		953	BNP625
1 Nov'45	25	734	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	23	873	BNP625 & R
1 Jan'46	24	636	BNP625 & R
1 Feb 46	30	1187	BNP625 & R
1 Mar 46	90	1182	BNP 625 & R

90th Construction <sup>B</sup>attalion (INACTIVATED)

## **HISTORY and ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

From Peary to Iwo Jima and V-J Day our stirring saga runs.

The inevitable triumph of Allied arms found us deep within the shattered inner perimeter of the Land of the Setting Sun.

This, *The History and Achievements of the 90th United States Naval Construction Battalion*, is our LOG.

Forged from selected skills and brawn, drawn from 47 States and two Territories, and tempered and toughened by training, coordination and firm resolve, the 90th from its inception has been an action outfit. It is our outfit. Ever since we began forming ranks at Camp Peary's USNCTC, in the Old Dominion State, on a hot June morning in 1943 we have kept steady uninterrupted cadence in the March to Tokyo. In the same year of our formation we moved overseas, our organization and training completed, and our ranks closed solid against the then unpredictable problems of the future. We have met these problems with fortitude and courage. We have met them well. Thus, the record, as presented in this pictorial volume, will show.

Our *Constructioners* not only helped to build the essential strong and sure springboards for the all-out final offensive in the Pacific, but in a forward combat area, almost within the shadow of the enemy's homeland fortifications, we have substantially strengthened the sinews in the Allied mailed fist, aimed unswervingly at the heart of Japan. Into our all-important work and military duties performed we poured our sweat and toil and skills and the hallowing life blood of some of our mates. We saw every day and night of our efforts, in their immediate results, strengthen and make more deadly lethal the last knockout blows against the once proud and arrogant Nipponese. We saw our shots strike the target. We have just cause for profound and unending pride.

This is OUR Battalion at work and at play, engaged in recreation and military duties . . . consistently carrying on. In these pictorialized pages we are panoramic . . . on long land and sea safari . . . moving, serving, building. We need not dramatize our record. Our achievements do this.

We are, at "going to press time," two years old, "going on" three. We were activated at Camp Peary on 25 July 1943, when we held our commissioning parade and received our colors—the Stars and Stripes and the Blue and White banner of our outfit. Following 10-days embarkation leave for all hands East of the Rockies, the 90th moved by train to Camp Parks, near San Francisco, California. A few weeks later we again entrained for our embarkation point, ABD, Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, California. And from there, on 13 October

1943 we embarked for overseas. Behind us were boot days and advance training with the Marines at Peary, followed by more training on the West Coast. Ahead was a great war-use construction program, adventure, many days and nights at sea on two voyages—and more military training! The personnel of Company B had shoved off two weeks earlier on a cruiser. We traveled aboard a troop transport. And on Wednesday, 19 October . . . Diamond Head loomed ahead! PEARL HARBOR, again strong and breathing vengeance after the battering Japanese sneak attack, was our goal. Here as recorded in this, our History and Achievements Log, we got in our first hammer and saw blows against the enemy.

During 16 busy, eventful, productive months we laid the foundation and began the building of our splendid performance record. Pearl Harbor then was the gigantic fountain head of supply lines extending deeper and deeper into the Pacific . . . one of the world's greatest depots of equipment, supplies and men. We helped to further develop the Pearl Harbor base. We expanded its ramifications. We helped to make it stronger and to increase its potentialities.

All was not construction and military duty on Oahu. From our Red Hill bivouac we were in close proximity to indescribable scenic beauty . . . to a part of the world strange and new to most of us. . . . We were in the Paradise of the blue Pacific . . . the Hawaiian Islands . . . exotic, fascinating, optics-caressing, Iolani, the palace of the Hawaiian kings; Waikiki; Madame Pele; the magic syllables in Kapiolani, Moanaloa, Kalakaua, Nuana . . . their nomenclature is musical, mysterious, thought-tantalizing, even now . . . after combat area contact with war has steeled and sobered us. Unforgettable: Five Islands, 99, kanaka, Kapu, blackouts and 2200 curfews . . . the mobbed buses, the endless lines for movies, food, drink . . . the constant move and surge of humanity . . . and tens of thousands of men wearing the uniforms of every branch of the United States' armed forces. There we had our last plush, our last starched whites . . . our adios to the comforts of life.

We worked hard . . . day and night shifts . . . we sweated through more military instruction, including jungle training . . . we built for the big push . . . a huge office building for strategy planning, port facilities, warehouses, refrigeration, terminals, the Marine Third Amphibious Corps administration building, facility after facility.

Communications from other Naval authorities, marked "Subject: Commendation", were received. We were proud but the Battalion did not rest upon its laurels. Instead, it drove ahead. Here, as at Peary and on the West Coast, was the persistent call "Let's Go!" The 90th

Battalionees wanted to shove off again . . . to move in closer to Japan . . . to join in the invasion of her stolen islands empire. We did.

September 1944. . . Assigned to a pontoon detachment, a group of 90th men participated in the Marine assaults against Angaur and Pelelieu. This engagement brought the war closer home. And the Battalion collected its first Jap souvenirs!

Autumn 1944 saw the return of U. S. troops to the Philippines, liberated in 1945. From the newly Seabee-built Marianas fields in the Marianas and from carriers American warplanes and our fleet began pounding the tiny inner perimeter island. We saw its name in type . . . a strange, new name in the annals of Pacific offensive warfare.

#### IWO JIMAI

November, December, January came and sifted through the glass, and air and fleet units pounded and battered the dot of sand and rocks.

All 90th work projects were secured. We shifted further into forward drive. More gear was issued, ships were loaded. Pack-laden and with carbines slung, we gangwayed aboard a transport. Our course was chartered for IWO. And as we moved cautiously outward, blacked out from dusk 'til dawn, the Marines were striking at the island fortress . . . our goal. We went ashore, moved to White Beach and dug in while the Battle for IWO still raged. Exactly 26 days after the Marines hit the beach, organized enemy resistance in the toughest and bloodiest fight in the valor-glorified history of their Corps was ended. Eight square miles of hell were "secured." Sporadic clashes and mopping up operations continued for weeks.

Foxholes, K and C rations, soaking rains and searing heat, air raids, a bloody banzai attack, our front seat view of the great air offensive by B-29's and other warplanes against shaking, tortured Japan—all these and much more is indelible upon our memories.

We built ramparts, potent and powerful against the enemy.

We even brought softball, baseball, volleyball and tennis to IWO—but the peculiar Nipponese sense of humor—if they have one—probably cannot absorb this!

On IWO the 90th began breaking ranks . . . as many "charter members" headed home on rotation leave and the "42 plan." We welcomed replacements to our muster roll of the crew.

Constructively, progressively, we expanded our space in the history of a great war—which we fervently hope will be the last to cast its heavy shadows upon the world.

This is your LOG and your History and Achievements of YOUR Battalion.

We need not say "WELL DONE." This the record will show.

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ITINERARY OF THE 90TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

- 25 July 1943 - Battalion commissioned at Camp Peary, Va.
- 11 Aug. 1943 - First train section (10 officers and 350 enlisted men) departed NCTC, Camp Peary, Va. for CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif.
- 12 Aug. 1943 - Second train section (10 officers and 353 enlisted men) departed NCTC, Camp Peary, Va. for CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif.
- 12 Aug. 1943 - Third train section (9 officers and 329 enlisted men) departed NCTC, Camp Peary, Va. for CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif.
- 16 Aug. 1943 - First train section arrived at CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif., from NCTC, Camp Peary, Va.
- 17 Aug. 1943 - Second train section arrived at CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif., from NCTC, Camp Peary, Va.
- 17 Aug. 1943 - Third train section arrived at CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif., from NCTC, Camp Peary, Va.
- 31 Aug. 1943 - Departed CBRD, Camp Parks, Calif. for ABD, Port Hueneme, Calif.
- 1 Sept 1943 - Arrived ABD, Port Hueneme, Calif.
- 2 Oct. 1943 - 4 officers and 226 men left Port Hueneme, Calif. for Pearl Harbor, T. H.
- 6 Oct. 1943 - 4 officers and 226 men arrived Pearl Harbor, T. H.
- 13 Oct. 1943 - 22 officers and 810 men left Port Hueneme, Calif. for Pearl Harbor, T. H.
- 19 Oct. 1943 - 22 officers and 810 arrived Pearl Harbor, T. H.
- 23 July 1944 - 1 officer and 18 enlisted men detached on TAD with pontoon detachments - left Pearl Harbor  
8 Aug. 1944 -
- 13 Nov. 1944 - 1 officer and 18 enlisted men returned from TAD with Pontoon Detachments after participating in the invasions of Anguar and Peleliu

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ITINERARY OF THE 90TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION - Continued

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- 5 Jan. 1945 - 1 officer and 26 men detached on TAD to Commanding General, 5th Amphibious Corps.
- 15 Feb. 1945 - 8 enlisted men detached on TAD with 95th Naval Construction Battalion.
- 19 Feb. 1945 - 26 officers and 974 enlisted men left Pearl Harbor for Iwo Jima.
- 13 Mar. 1945 - 26 officers and 974 enlisted men arrived Iwo Jima from Pearl Harbor. (Debarked 14 Mar. 1945)
- 20 Mar. 1945 - one officer and 26 men on detached duty to Commanding General, 5th Amphibious Corps, returned to battalion at Iwo Jima.
- 30 Apr. 1945 - 8 enlisted men on TAD with 95th Naval Construction Battalion returned to 90th Battalion at Iwo Jima.

8 July 1945

Certified to be a true record  
of itinerary.

  
GEORGE S. BROCKWAY  
Officer in Charge

To Ensign's  
Administrative Unit.  
Change in charge  
from:

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SEA BEE

**CONSTRUCTION  
BATTALION**









