

97th Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



97th C.B.

NCTC - Peary - Davisville
ABD - Davisville
Ready Date -
Left ABD - 12 Sep'43
Location - ~~Ireland, Londonderry~~ Heathfield

LOG

- 6-11-43 - 97th is scheduled to move from Peary to NCTC Davisville 18 Jun'43.
- 11- 4-43 - 1 Oct'43 report of 97th CB - This unit embarked 12 Sep'43 and arrived destination 18 Sep'43.
- 12-16-43 - 97th CB located at Londonderry, London, Dunkeswell. (Conf. disp. ComnavEu to CNO 141536)
- 1-11-44 - 1 Nov'43 report of 97th CB, Sect. 1 - located at Londonderry with detachments at London and Devonshire.
- 3- 2-44 - 1 Jan'44 report of 97th CB - 18 off. and 765 men at NOB #1, 9 men at London, 4 off. and 154 men at Exeter.
- 3-29-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 13th Reg. - 97th CB, 1st Sect., hdqtrs is at Londonderry, Northern Is.
- 5- 6-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 97th CB - 17 off. and 732 men at NCB #1, 1 off. and 33 men at London, 4 off. and 154 men at Exeter.
- 5-19-44 - 97th CB, 1st Sect., is to be known as the 97th CB.
- 5-29-44 - 1 May'44 report of 97th CB - 15 off. and 613 men at NOB #1 (Londonderry), 4 off. and 177 men at Dunkeswell, 1 off. and 33 men at London, 1 off. and 92 men at Roseneath.

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- 6-20-44 - 2 off. and 153 men assigned from 28th CB at Base 2 to 97th CB at Base 2. Report by ltr to CinC 97th CB at Base 1. (ComlanCrab rest. disp. 141615 NCR 16103 22 May to ComBase 2).
- 6-22-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 97th CB - 4 off. and 177 men transferred to 28th CB. 2 off. and 167 men transferred from 28th CB to 97th CB at Base 2. Distribution of personnel - 15 off. and 604 men at NoB #1, 2 off. and 96 men at NOB #2, 7 men at Exeter, 23 men at London, 1 off. and 9 men at Heathfield.
- 8-15-44 - 97th CB now maintaining and operating Base 1, Base 2, London and Heathfield. (ComNavEu Sec. Memo to Adm. H.R. Stark dtd 25 Jul'44)
- 8-15-44 - Upon decommissioning of Base 1, the 97th CB will replace the 29th CB at that location - the 29th CB to be returned to the U.S. (ComNavEu Sec. Memo to Adm. H. R. Stark dtd 25 Jul'44)
- 8-19-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 97th CB - hdqtrs at Londonderry. Probable duration of assignment is estimated to be 1 Sep'44.
- 9-30-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 13th Reg. - the 97th CB relieved the 29th CB during August.
- 10-13-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 97th CB - 97th CB officially relieved the 29th CB on 22 Aug'44. On 8 Aug'44, 4 off. and 200 men departed from N.O.B. #1 to set up Batt Hdqtrs. at Heathfield, Devon. On 19 Aug'44, 178 men were transferred to the 97th CB from the 29th CB. 97th CB is now maintaining the following bases: Heathfield, Plymouth Exeter, Fowey, Milford-Haven, Falmouth, Dartmouth, Salcombe, Southampton, Teignmouth, Portland-Weymouth. Report endorsed by 13th Reg.
- 10-28-44 -- 13th Reg. now consists of the 97th and 10th (Sp) 2nd Sec. Authority req ested to disband the 13th Reg. and the batts to report to Comphibsukay. (ComnavEu to CNO conf. disp 211216 NCR 101 dtd 21 Oct'44).

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- 10-30-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 97th CB - operating at Heathfield and maintaining other bases in England as listed in the 10-13-44 entry. Report endorsed by 13th Regiment.
- 10-31-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of the 13th Reg. - The last remaining personnel of the 97th CB at Base I, Londonderry were removed to Southern England thereby closing off Seabee maintenance responsibilities at that location.
- 11-11-44 - The 97th CB ordered to report to Comphibsuk for duty as the 13th Reg. is hereby inactivated. (Comnavcu conf. disp to Comphibsuk 081451 NCR 6265 dtd 8 Nov'44).
- 11-30-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 97th CB - During Sep. maintained the following bases: Heathfield, Plymouth, Exeter, Falmouth, Dartmouth, Salcombe, Southampton, Teignmouth, Portland-Weymouth, NOB #2. Report endorsed by 13th Regiment.
- 2-7-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 97th CB - located in U.K. 48 enl. men were transferred to the 114th CB on 12 Dec'44.
- 2-28-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 97th CB - located in U.K.
- 3-27-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 97th CB - located at Heathfield, Plymouth, Exeter, Roseneath with small detachments at Dartmouth, Salcombe, Falmouth, Southampton, Portland-Weymouth, London. 1 off. and 89 men are engaged on the Bovington Aerodrome project.
- 4-10-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 97th CB - At listed bases this Battalion has detachments as ntd.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enl. Pers.</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Plymouth, Devon	4	104	USNAAB
Dartmouth, Devon	3	64	USNAAB
Heathfield (Headquarters)	10	135	USNCB
Exeter, Devon	3	143	USNASB
Salcombe, Devon	1	33	USNAAB
Falmouth, Cornwall	2	41	USNAAB
Southampton, Hants	1	22	USNAAB

(Continued on next card)

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<u>Location</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enl. Pers.</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Portland-Weymouth, Dorset	1	34	USNAAB
Roseneath, Scotland	6	244	N.O.B. #2
Exeter, Devon	1	6	USNSANX
London	1	17	
Bovington Aerodrome	1	98	

- 5-10-45 - Comphibsukay orders transfer of 148 enl personnel to NCTC Davisville furas. (Comphibsukay TWX 031245 May'45 to OinC 97th CB Heathfield)
- 5-11-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 93rd CB - Located at Samar. 19th Reg. 1st end. dated 16 Apr'45 states that 93rd CB only under administrative control of 19th Reg & 3rd Brig. 68 men of the 93rd CB are on detached duty with the 12th Reg. Report end by 3rd Brig & 19th Reg.
- 5-17-45 - 1 May'45 report of 97th CB - located at Heathfield, Eng. At listed bases this Batt. has detachments as noted.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Heathfield, Devon	8	223	Batt. hqtrs.
Dartmouth, Devon	4	109	USNAAB
Exeter, Devon	3	142	USNASB
Salcombe, Devon	1	47	USNAAB
Falmouth, Cornwall	2	41	USNAAB
Southampton, Hants	11	18	USNAAB
Portland-Weymouth, Dorset	1	34	USNAAB
Roseneath, Scotland	5	235	NOB #2
Exeter, Devon	3	69	USNASB

(Continued on next card)

Location - England

97th C.B.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Exeter, Devon	1	5	USNSANX
Plymouth, Devon	1	21	PWO
London, England	1	17	PWO

- 5-26-45 - Comnaveu draft #132 from overseas recd at Davisville on 20 May'45 from the 97th CB consisting of 1 off. and 148 men. (NCTC Davisville TWX 222051 May'45 to Bupers)
- 6- 5-45 - 97th CB detachment, 2 off. for nearest ND and 99 men for Davisville, listed as passengers aboard USAT Geo Washington. (Comnaveu conf disp 021612 Jun'45 to CNO)
- 6-21-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 97th CB - located in England. Hdqtrs, 7 off. and 225 men, located at Heathfield. Detachments at Plymouth, Exeter, Salcombe, Falmouth, Southampton, Portland-Weymouth, Rosneath, Exeter, 43 men recd on board for duty from CBMU 627. 15 men recd on board from USNAB Falmouth. 149 men were transferred to Davisville. On 28 May, 99 men were transferred to ComBase 2 FFT.
- 6-30-45 - The 97th CB has 30 off. and 730 men on board as of 15 June. Since 10 May, 3 off. and 206 men of the 97th CB have been ret'd to U.S. Plans are made to return the remaining personnel of the 97th CB (less those who have been in the U.K. 12 mos or less--these will be transferred to the 69th CB for maint of bases) during the next 6 wks or prior to 1 Aug. Personnel required to bring CBD 1049 to total strength is being obtained from the 97th CB (men who have been in the ETO less than 1 yr), from the 69th CB personnel and CBMUs 627 and 629. Except for 4 off. and 150 men which have been formed into CBMU 636 for duty at Bremen and Bremerhaven, the personnel of the 69th CB is staged at Germany for return to U.K. to relieve the 97th CB on maint. of southern bases. This personnel is being ret'd to U.K. by air. Schedule calls for the last group to reach U.K. about 6 July. (Cont on following card)

Location - England

97th C.B.

- 6-30-45 - (Cont.) CBMU 627 has been deactivated and the few remaining personnel of this unit have been transferred to the 97th CB and CBD 1049. A portion of the personnel of CBMU 628 is on duty at ComnavforFrance at Paris. The remainder of this unit has been released and is being assimilated into the 97th CB and CBD 1049. (Dir-lantdocks conf memo ADYD-00431 dtd 23 June to Nav Insp Gen--Copy of Conf memo for Adm Stark dtd 18 June "Distribution of CB Personnel in the ETO as of 15 Jun'45)
- 7- 6-45 - Comnaveu draft 137 casuals from 97th CB arrived Davisville 2 July from R/S Norfolk. (NCTC Davisville TWX 041752 to Bupers)
- 7- 6-45 - Draft of 117 men of the 97th CB reported Davisville 30 Jun'45. (NCTC Davisville TWX 021942 Jul'45 to Bupers)
- 7-12-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 97th CB - Approx 60 men recd from CBMU 627 during June. Approx 50 men transferred to CBD 1049. Location of Batt as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>Men</u>
Heathfield, Devon (HQ)	9	212
Plymouth, Devon	5	121
Exeter, Devon	5	170
Falmouth, Cornwall	1	38
Southampton, Hants	1	20
Rosneath, Scotland	1	5
Exeter, Devon (USNSANX)	1	4
Plymouth, Devon (USNARB)	1	15
London	2	33
Paris	1	
	<u>27</u>	<u>618</u>

Location - Heathfield (Hdctrs) 97th C.B.

- 7-14-45 - In view of accelerated rate base roll up believe to best interests Navy to retain elements 97th CB in present assignment rather than replacing by 69th CB. Propose return 69th CB to U.S. Continue to return elements of the 97th CB as available. Request concurrence. Propose return 1st draft 69th CB consisting of 2 off. and 100 men about 5 July. (Comphibsukay conf disp 271601B dtd 9 July to Comnaveu)
- 7-14-45 - When directed by proper authority on or about 23 July, 3 off. and approx 170 men of the 97th CB 1st echelon ordered to proceed to U.S. (Comphib Bases U.K. restr TWX 131423B to OinC 97th CB)
- 8- 2-45 - The 3rd echelon, 2 off. and 79 men, included in list of passengers on SS QUEEN MARY. (Comnaveu conf disp 301301 July to CNO)
- 8-11-45 - The 1st echelon of the 97th CB, consisting of 3 off. and 170 men, reported aboard from overseas. Request info whether unit is to be inactivated and treated as casuals or Maintained as a unit. (Davisville TWX 041914 Aug to Bupers)
- 8-13-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of CBMU 584 states that 11 men from CBMU 584 were transferred to the 97th CB during Jul'45 for further duty.
- 8-17-45 - Upon departure of the 97th CB on or about 20 August, Heathfield will be disestablished as a CB depot and at that time the personnel will be reduced to approx 1 off. and 30 men who will report to the OinC of CBD 1049 at Exeter for adm purposes. (ComNavFor Europe ltr ser 8967 dtd 1 Aug to CO USNASB Exeter)
- 8-17-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 97th CB - located at Heathfield with detachments at Plymouth, Exeter and Falmouth. On 9 Jul'45 48 men were transferred to the 97th CB from CBMU 628 for duty and on 23 Jul'45 10 men from CBMU 584 were received. On 25 Jul'45 3 officers and 170 men departed from Heathfield to a port of embarkation for transportation to the U.S. as the 1st ech of the 97th CB.

Location - 97th CB

- 8-24-45 - Upon departure 97th CB for U.S. 24 Aug '45 Heathfield disestablished in accordance my ser 8967 dtd 1 Aug'45 not to all. Additional duty OinC, 97th CB as OinC, Heathfield completed. Cousnasb Exeter assume responsibility Heathfield as satellite activity. (Comnaveu disp 231632 to BuDocks, OpNav., BuPers).
- 8-29-45 - *1 Aug'45 report of 97th CB. 13 men rec'd on 6 Aug'45 from CBMU 628. 170 men were transferred from this batt. to CBD 1049. Heathfield, Devon, on 20 Aug'45, there were 15 officers & 322 men aboard, waiting transp. to U.S.
*(This is not the 1 Aug'45 report, this is the closing report of batt. activities in the field. The 97th CB is being returned to the U.S. on or about 23 Aug'45.
- 9-10-45 - 97th CB reported 31 Aug'45 with 15 off & 321 men. Inactivation completed 6 Sept'45 (NCTC, Davisville, R.I. 061917 Sept'45 TWX to BuPers.)

INACTIVATED

97th C.B. - 2nd Sect.

NCTC - Peary - Davisville
ABD - Davisville
Ready Date - 1 Sep'43
Left ABD - 20 Oct'43
Location - Scotland

LOG

- 10-21-43 - 19 off. and 805 men departed ABD for embarkation point 20 Oct'43. (RHD)
12-16-43 - 97th CB, 2nd Sect., located at Base 2 and Plymouth. (Conf. disp. ComNAVEu to CNO 141536 NCR 6120 Dec.)
2-17-44 - 1 Jan'44 report of 97th CB, 2nd Sect. - operating at Base 2 and Plymouth.
3-10-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 97th CB, 2nd Sect. - operating at Base 2, Plymouth, and Netley.
3-29-44 - 97th CB, 2nd Sect., hdqtrs is at Roseneath, Scotland. (13th Reg. report of 1 Feb)
3-20-44 - 97th CB, 2nd Sect., report of 1 Feb'44 - operating at Roseneath, Scotland, and Plymouth.
4- 8-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 97th CB, 2nd Sect., - operating at Roseath, Plymouth, and Netley, Eng.
5- 6-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 97th CB, 2nd Sect. - operating at Roseneath, and Netley, Eng.

97TH BATTALION

The 97th NCB spent nearly two years in England after its formation at Camp Peary June 18, 1943. Arriving in the United Kingdom Sept. 18, the 97th was located at NOB One, Londonderry, N. I. During the months that followed, the Battalion sent detachments to London, Dunkeswell, Exeter, Heathfield and Lough Neagh. On Sept. 1, 1944, the 97th was operating as a maintenance unit at the following bases: Plymouth, Salcombe, Exeter, Dartmouth, Teignmouth and Heathfield, all in Devon; Southampton, Hants, Portland-Weymouth, Dorset, Fowey and Falmouth, Cornwall; Milford-Haven, Wales; Rosneath, Scotland, and London.

97th Naval Construction Battalion

Chronology

18 Jun 1943	Battalion formed at USNCTC, Camp Peary, Va.
19 Jun 1943	Transferred to USNCTC, Camp Endicott, R.I.
12 Sep 1943	Embarked for overseas duty.
18 Sep 1943	Arrived United Kingdom and located at NOB #1, Londonderry, N.I.
01 Nov 1943	Battalion Headquarters at NOB #1 with detachments at London and Dunkeswell Aerodrome.
01 Jan 1944	Battalion Headquarters at NOB #1 with detachments at London and Exeter.
13 Apr 1944	One (1) officer and 92 enlisted men left NOB #1 for NOB #2.
15 May 1944	Two (2) officers and 30 enlisted men left NOB #1 to do new construction work on the terminus to Naval Trans-Atlantic seaplane freight and passenger ferry service at Lough Neagh, N.I.
01 Jun 1944	Battalion Headquarters at NOB #1 with detachments at NOB #2, London, Heathfield and Lough Neagh.
09 Jul 1944	Job at Lough Neagh, N.I. began 15 May 1944, was completed.
29 Jul 1944	Two (2) officers and 150 enlisted men left NOB #1 for Heathfield.
08 Aug 1944	Four (4) officers and 199 enlisted men left NOB #1 for Heathfield. Battalion Headquarters moved to Heathfield.
21 Aug 1944	Two (2) officers and 5 enlisted men left NOB #1 for Heathfield.
22 Aug 1944	97 th USNCB relieved 29 th USNCB as maintenance battalion for amphibious base, Heathfield Construction Battalion Depot and Heathfield Construction Battalion Personnel Center.
23 Aug 1944	One (1) officer and 7 enlisted men left NOB #1 for Heathfield.
25 Aug 1944	One (1) officer and one (1) enlisted man left NOB #1 for Heathfield.
28 Aug 1944	One (1) officer and 170 enlisted men left NOB #1 for Heathfield.
31 Aug 1944	One (1) officer and remaining 42 enlisted men left at NOB #1 left for Heathfield.
01 Sep 1944	Battalion operating in United Kingdom as a maintenance unit maintaining the following base: USNAAB Plymouth, Devon 13 th CR Plymouth, Devon USNAAB Salcombe, Devon USNAAB Exeter, Devon USNAAB Dartmouth, Devon USNAAB Teignmouth, Devon USNCBD Heathfield, Devon USNAAB Southampton, Hants

Itinerary of the 97th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion

18 Jun 43 Battalion formed at USNCTC, Camp Peary, Va.

19 Jun 43 Transferred to USNCTC, Camp Endicott, R.I.

12 Sep 43 Embarked for overseas duty.

18 Sep 43 Arrived United Kingdom and located at NOB #1, Londonderry, N.I.

1 Nov 43 Battalion Headquarters at NOB #1 with detachments at London and Dunkeswell Aerodrome.

1 Jan 44 Battalion Headquarters at NOB #1 with detachments at London and Exeter.

13 Apr 44 One (1) officer and 92 enlisted men left NOB #1 for NOB #2.

15 May 44 Two (2) officers and 30 enlisted men left NOB #1 to do new construction work on the terminus to Naval Trans-Atlantic seaplane freight and passenger ferry service at Lough Neagh, N.I.

1 Jun 44 Battalion Headquarters at NOB #1 with detachments at NOB #2, London, Heathfield and Lough Neagh.

9 Jul 44 Job at Lough Neagh, N.I., began 15 May 1944, was completed.

29 Jul 44 Two (2) officers and 150 enlisted men left NOB #1 for Heathfield.

8 Aug 44 Four (4) officers and 199 enlisted men left NOB #1 for Heathfield. Battalion Headquarters moved to Heathfield.

21 Aug 44 Two (2) officers and 5 enlisted men left NOB #1 for Heathfield.

22 Aug 44 97th USNCB relieved 29th USNCB as maintenance battalion for amphibious bases, Heathfield Construction Battalion Depot and Heathfield Construction Battalion Personnel Center.

23 Aug 44 One (1) officer and 7 enlisted men left NOB #1 for Heathfield.

25 Aug 44 One (1) officer and one (1) enlisted man left NOB #1 for Heathfield.

28 Aug 44 One (1) officer and 170 enlisted men left NOB #1 for Heathfield.

31 Aug 44 One (1) officer and remaining 42 enlisted men left at NOB #1 left for Heathfield.

1 Sep 44 Battalion operating in United Kingdom as a maintenance unit maintaining the following bases:

USNAAB Plymouth, Devon	USNAAB Southampton, Hants
13th CR Plymouth, Devon	USNAAB Portland-Weymouth, Dorset
USNAAB Salcombe, Devon	USNAAB Fowey, Cornwall
USNASB Exeter, Devon	USNAAB Falmouth, Cornwall
USNAAB Dartmouth, Devon	USNAAB Milford-Haven, Wales
USNAAB Teignmouth, Devon	NCB #2, Roseneath, Scotland
USNCBD Heathfield, Devon	ComNavEu, London, England

21 Sep 44 Two (2) officers and a detachment of approximately 40 enlisted men left Heathfield to do new construction work at Southampton, Hants. Job completed 4 October 1944.

17 Oct 44 USNAAB Milford-Haven, Wales decommissioned approximately this date. One (1) officer and approximately 26 enlisted men returned to Heathfield.

3 Nov 44 One (1) officer and detachment of approximately 25 enlisted men left Fowey, Cornwall, which was decommissioned, for Heathfield.

11 Nov 44 One (1) officer and 47 enlisted men left Heathfield for Bovingdon Aerodrome, Hertford Co., England, to do new construction work. Personnel engaged on this project later increased to 98.

25 Nov 44 Work completed at Teignmouth, which was decommissioned. One (1) officer and 19 enlisted men returned to Heathfield.

13 Apr 45 Work at Bovingdon Aerodrome completed this date. One (1) officer and 98 enlisted men returned to Heathfield.

10 May 45 One (1) officer and 10 enlisted men were assigned to USNARB Vicarage, Plymouth, for base maintenance duties.

15 May 45 USNAAB Dartmouth decommissioned. One (1) officer and 55 enlisted men returned to Heathfield.

18 May 45 Battalion maintaining the following bases:

ComNavEu, London	USNAAB Falmouth, Cornwall
ComPhibsUKay, Plymouth, Devon	USNAAB Portland-Weymouth, Dorset
USNCBD Heathfield, Devon	U.S. NOB #2 Roseneath, Scotland
USNAAB Salcombe, Devon	USNAAB Southampton, Hants
USNANX Plympton, Devon	USNAAB Plymouth, Devon
USNASB Exeter, Devon	USNARB Plymouth, Devon

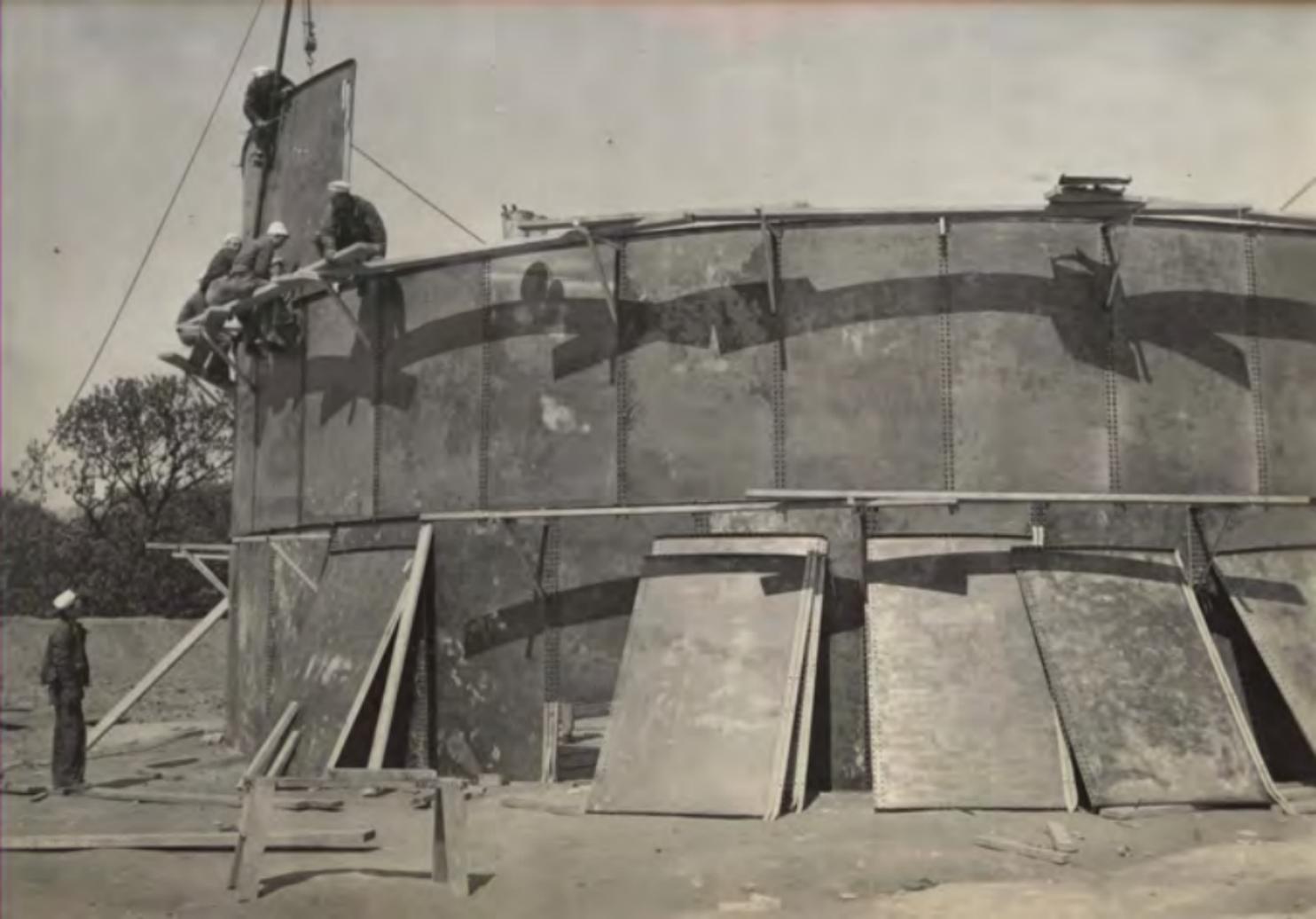
31 Aug 45 Arrived U.S.

6 Sep 45 Inactivated.













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87-5/1/24