

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

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## *Historical Information*



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



105th C.B.

NCTC - Peary  
ABD - Hueneme  
Ready Date - 15 Oct'43  
Left ABD - 15 Dec'43  
Location - Milne Bay Leyte - Samar

LOG

- 8-21-43 - Budocks requests transfer of the 105th CB from Peary to Camp Parks 26 Aug'43. (Budocks ltr to CNO dtd 21 Aug'43)
- 10- 3-43 - 105th CB ordered transferred from Parks to Hueneme. (OinC Parks ltr to OinC 105th CB dtd 3 Oct'43)
- 12-22-43 - 105th CB left ABD 15 Dec'43. (WRK)
- 5-13-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 105th CB - operating at Milne Bay.
- 6- 3-44 - 1 May'44 report of 105th CB - operating at Milne Bay.
- 6-28-44 - 105th CB has 300 men at Stringer Bay, M.B., and balance at Gamadodo as of 31 May 1944. (Comservfor7flt Sec. ltr. A-9 over Ser. BP-001407 to Dirpaddock dtd 8 Jun)
- 8-23-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 105th CB - operating at Milne Bay.
- 9- 7-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 105th CB - operating at Willi Gilli and Gamadodo.
- 10-27-44 - 105th CB assigned to Cub 12 for operations at KING 2. (Comservfor7flt Sec. Ltr. to Budocks S31 over Ser BP-001873 dtd 6 Oct'44 - Call No. 13668)
- 11- 4-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 105th CB - operating at Milne Bay. Report endorsed by 12th Reg.
- 11- 8-44 - 105th CB in the 12th Reg. and located at Gamadodo. Assigned to KING 2 operation. (Comservfor7flt Sec. ltr A9-4 over Ser BP-001882 to Budocks dtd 12 Oct'44 monthly report for Sep'44)

105th C.B.

- 11-29-44 - 105th CB located at Tacloban, Leyte. (Comserv7flt Sec. Disp. to DNO 150133 NCR 18921 dtd 24 Nov'44)
- 12-15-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 105th CB - then located at Milne Bay. Report endorsed by 12th Regiment.
- 12-28-44 - The 105th CB left 12 Oct'44 for Leyte with the 12th Reg. (Comservfor7flt Sec. report for Oct'44 dtd 20 Nov'44).
- 1-13-45 - The 105th CB in the 12th Regiment and located at San Juanico Strait, Samar, Tacloban, and Catasian Point. (Comservfor7flt Sec report for Nov'44 dtd 15 Dec'44)
- 26-45 - 1 Nov'44 report of the ~~105th~~ 12th Reg. - The 105th CB moved from Milne Bay to Leyte during Oct'44.
- 27-45 - 1 Nov'44 report of the 105th CB - During the month of Oct. all projects were secured and preparations were made for advance of this unit to a forward area. Batt was divided into 4 parts, 3 of which were scheduled to leave as a 1st Echelon on 3 ships respectively, the 4th remaining to dismantle the camp and load remaining material and equipment on a 4th cargo ship. On approx the middle of the month the 1st Echelon embarked for the forward area. The remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  batt undertook the project of crating material and equipment in preparation for loading a cargo ship to follow as the 2nd Echelon. Air raids, bombing, and strafing from 24 Oct to 29 Oct'44.
- 1-27-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 105th CB - Set up camp on Leyte early part of Nov. 2nd Echelon arr'd approx middle of Nov. Batt has been split into 3 separate sections sufficiently remote from each other to require 3 separate camps.
- 2-14-45 -- The 105th CB is located at San Juanico Strait, Samar, at Tacloban and part at Guinan, Samar. (Comservfor7flt Sec. report for Dec'44 dtd 15 Jan'45).

105th C.B.

- 3- 2-45 - Historical data on Advance Bases - (Comserfor7flt Conf ltr A12 over Ser BB-0172 dtd 7 Feb'45 to Budocks) Base Leyte-
- 24 Oct'44 - "Streamlined elements" of the 12th Reg. arrived in Leyte Gulf. Debarked at Tacloban on same day. The first echelon of streamlined batts included about 830 off. and men of the 75th and 105th CBs, 120 off. and men of Det. 1024, and 36 off. and men of the 12th Reg. The Reg. was joined by the 61st CB with about 1100 off. and men.
- 30 Oct'44 - Detachment of the 88th CB, 580 off. and men, joined the Regiment.
- 1 Nov'44 - The 75th and 105th CBs and Det. 1024 began to move to the vicinity of San Antonio to develop facilities on Samar Is.
- 12 Nov'44 - ~~Detachment~~ of the 93rd CB, 960 off. and men, joined the Regiment.
- 12-14 Nov'44 - Second echelons of the steamlined units arr'd.  
Because of the prohibitive ground conditions, const. of naval base facilities was delayed until further studies and reallocations could be made. During this time, a period of about 1 wk, the 75th, 105th, and Det. 1024 developed camp areas, first in Tacloban, then on Anibong Point, 1 mile to the north.
- 9 Dec'44 - Movement of all regimental and naval base units to Guiuan was begun. (Because the expected compl. date of the Army airstrip could not be met due to poor soil conditions, an area in southern Samar Is. near Guinan was scouted and found suitable for an airstrip and also preferable for other intended installations. Hence, on 9 Dec., it was finally decided to build all naval facilities at Guinan.)

Location - Leyte-Samar

105th C.B.

- 8-20-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 105th CB - located at Lapada, Samar. 19 men are on TAD. Report via the 19th Reg and 7th Brig.
- 8-24-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 19th Reg - The 105th CB is located at Lipata, Samar with the exception of 23 men on detached duty with the 12th Reg Lbr Prod Sec at Balengiga Leyte.
- 9-24-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 19th Reg - 105th CB located at Lipata, Samar. 31 men from the 105th CB are working with CED 1085 located at Balengiga, Leyte. 47 men transferred to U.S. for rotation. 7 men transferred to U.S. for over-age discharges. 20 men transferred to U.S. for discharge under the point system.
- 9-28-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 105th CB - located in Samar area. Report via 19th Reg. & 7th Brig. 74 men transferred to U.S. for leave & discharge under the point system.
- 10-25-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 105th CB - location not stated. Report via 19th Reg. & 7th Brig.
- 11-2-45 - OinCC, Samar requests authority to inactivate 105th CB. (OinCC, Samar ltr ser P65-45 dtd 17 Oct'45 to CCT, Philseafon).
- 1-30-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 105th CB - location not stated. Report via 19th Reg. & 2nd Brig.
- 2-12-45 - Comservpac reqs Samar to inactivate 105th CB. (Comservpac NTX 110054 Dec'45 to Samar).
- 2-19-45 - 105th CB was inactivated on 21 Nov'45. (7th Brig ltr ser 2740 dtd 21 Nov'45 to OinC, 105th CB).

INACTIVATED

Location - Leyte-Samar 105th CB

- 3-14-45 -- Comserfor7flt conf. spdltr Ser. 0376 dtd 2 Mar'45 to CNOB Leyte Gulf - The 105th CB is hereby detached from its presently assigned duties. Shall report to CNOB Leyte Gulf for duty with Commander Construction Forces Leyte-Samar.
- 3-20-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 105th CB - located at Tacloban as of 1 Jan. Report end. by 12th Reg.
- 3-22-45 - Comdt NOB, Tacloban, Leyte orders the 105th CB to further report to the CO, NavSta, Guiuan, Samar for duty with Const Forces headed by Comdr Const Forces and Sr Brg Comr. (Comdt ltr P16-3(1) over Ser 987 dtd 11 Mar'45 to CinC 105th CB)
- 3-27-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 105th CB - located at Guiuan, Samar. Report end. by 12th R.
- 4-7-45 - The 105th CB reported to CO Nav Sta, Guiuan, Samar on 14 Mar'45 - ordered to further report to Const. Forces for duty. (1st end. on CNOB Leyte orders NS/P16-3(1) over Ser 1342 dtd 14 Mar'45)
- 4-10-45 - The 105th CB is located at Samar. (Com7flt Sec. disp to Cominch 250756 Mar'45).
- 4-26-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 105th CB - located at Guiuan. End. by 12th Reg & 3rd Brig. Also operating on Galicoan and Tubaboa Islands.
- 4-27-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of 12th Reg. - 30 men transferred to 105th CB.
- 4-30-45 - The 105th CB is located at Guiuan. Scheduled for Cebu 1 Jul'45. (Comserfor7flt Sec Rep dtd 1 Apr'45)
- 5-8-45 - The 105th CB is shown located at Samar, scheduled for Cebu 1 Jul'45 on the Dirpadocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45.
- 5-10-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 29th CB - 29th CB has 23 men working on 105th CB projects.
- 5-22-45 - 1 May'45 report of 105th CB - located at Guiuan, Samar. Report routed via 12th Reg & 3rd Brig.
- 5-23-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 105th CB - located at Guiuan. Report end by 12th Reg & 3rd Brig.

Location - Leyte-Samar 105th C.B.

- 6-9-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 19th Reg. - The 105th CB Detachment, of about 200 men, was moved to Osmena for constr work. The main portion of the 105th CB is now moving its permanent camp from <sup>Guiuan</sup> Samar to Lipata where it is assigned constr of Tank Farm, Nav Supply Depot, and Welfare & Rec Center.
- 6-15-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of 105th CB - located at Guiuan, Samar. Report routed via 19th Reg & 7th Brig.
- 6-19-45 - 105th CB located at Leyte-Samar--scheduled for Cebu 10/1. (Comserfor7flt Sec CB Location Schedule 7th Flt dtd 5 June)
- 6-26-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 19th Reg. - The 105th CB has moved 8 times in the Leyte Gulf area. Now in process of moving from Guiuan to Osmena-Lipata area. Each unit of the 19th Reg. will be together by the end of June and all will be based within the San Pedro Bay area.
- 7-16-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 105th CB - located in Samar area. Report routed via 19th Reg & 7th Brig.
- 7-24-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 19th Reg states that the 105th CB is under both operational & administrative control of the 19th Reg. The 105th CB completed movement from Guiuan to Lipata during Jun'45. The det. located at Osmena returned to Lipata to the main Batt during Jun'45. 23 men from the 105th CB are still on detached duty with the 12th Reg Lumber Producing Section at Balengiaga.
- 7-27-45 - The 105th CB is located at Guiuan, Samar, constructing Naval Station officers qtrs, galley and mess. Constructing bulk fuel storage and installation of Mayana filter plant and pump station, constructing Naval Station power dist system and sewer outfall. (CCT 7th Flt Sec Rep for June) Attached to 7th Brg and 19th Reg.
- 8-13-45 - The 105th CB is in the 19th Reg and 7th Brg. (Com7flt conf report on CB Organization in Leyte-Samar area ser 04296 dtd 26 July to CNO)

Location:  
Little Creek, Va.

105th Naval Construction Battalion

- 1-27-47 The 105th was activated at NAVPHIBASE Little Creek, Va.  
228 January 1947. 105th is under the operational control  
of ComPhibLant as Task Unit 42.1.9-LCDR. HARRY STEVENS, JR. OMC.  
3- -48 Detachment "B" departed Little Creek, Va., (10 March 1948)  
Arrived USNAA, Navy 214, FPO, NY., NY 20 March 1948. Fifty (50)  
men, One (1) Officer.

*Title Changed Cms ltr of 441 / Ser 235 P 47  
7 31 Oct 1950  
ACB No #2*

On Board

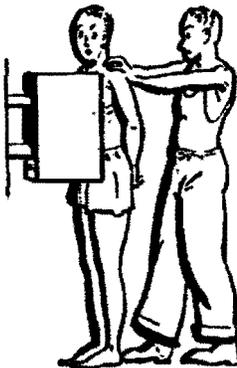
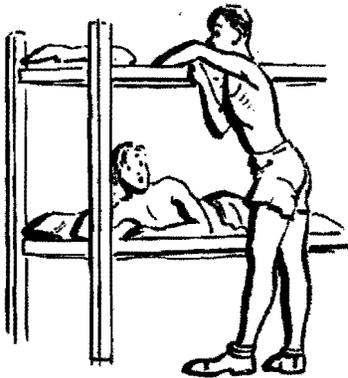
<u>Date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Author.</u>
3-1-47	3	130	BNP625 & Roster
4-1-47	3	130	" "
5-1-47	4	231	" "
6-1-47	4	315	" "
7-1-47	5	440	" "

ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1 Jun'44	25		MoR
30 Jun'44	26	1010	Recap.
1 Aug'44	27	1008	MoR
1 Sep'44	27	1004	MoR
30 Sep'44		993	Recap
1 Oct'44	26	993	MoR
1 Nov'44	31	1050	MoR
1 Dec'44	31	1029	MoR
31 Dec'44		1016	Recap.
1 Jan'45	34	1015	MoR
1 Feb'45	34	1045	MoR
1 Mar'45	38	1027	MoR
1 Apr'45	27	1043	BNP625 & MoR
1 May'45	25	1041	MoR
1 Jun'45	25	1034	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	26	1005	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	28	944	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	25	878	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'45	29	437	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	14	367	BNP625 & R

105th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

Date	Organization	Location	Duty Station
6/3/44	-	Milne Bay	Left U.S. Dec. 1945
7/25/44	-	EDDY "	Comdesw 7th Jct sec act diag 110844 July
11/19	-	H 10	Com. Enroute note
11/25	-	OSSO	Comdesw 7th Jct sec act diag. nov 150133.
3/29	-	# Leyte Gulf (Nau Sta Samar) OSSO-2160	Comdesw 7th Jct sec # present location 260558 Mar. to assignment.



**T**HE SUN has changed from the hot red wafer climbing over the Virginia hills to the white hot promise of a July day.

Along the company streets in Area A-8 of Camp Peary, the platoon chiefs call morning muster. Khaki clad company officers, themselves as fresh from officers' indoctrination courses as the men are from "boot training," observe the ritual with eyes as speciously experienced as they will become actually so later on.

"Hup—tup—three—four, areep for your left. . ."

Down the company street, along the hot dusty road which skirts the warehouse, a few stray dogs following at the heels of the men as dogs always will follow a body of marching men, down past Area A-10 and into the Armory for rifles, for rifles to be used in the business of training men for warfare, march a thousand men.

For this is "advanced training" for the 105th Seabees in Camp Peary in the summer of 1943. This is the advanced training for which our instructors in boot led us through the rudiments of military training, for which we sat during endless lectures in the grateful shade of spreading sycamores, for which we fought with wooden machetes, drilled with dummy rifles, marched in close order drill, filed through the gas chamber. . . Advanced training for a thousand men who are to be welded, or hammered, or trained into a unit of a thousand men.

This is the 105th Battalion marching down the road, a certain pride and swing in its step, marching down to the firing range to use actual firearms and live ammunition for the first time.

The men are strangers still to each other, despite their easy, familiar conversation. Their ties of comradeship, and hardship, are still to come. Commander Mackay, in the first issue of the battalion paper, "CREW BLASTS," writes that "We are each of us his brother's keeper, bound together by a common tie—members of the 105th Construction Battalion."

Strangers still, but each day brings with it something new to imprint its stamp indelibly in the mind of every man—little incidents which are the beginnings of mutual memories, sad memories even, to be recalled at some future time when the mind is hot with thoughts of home.

For now are the first tetanus shots, the men lining up in front of Sick Bay in companies, the trucks waiting to take them to Small Stores for a clothing issue immediately after their shots.

The days that tumble after one another are filled with a series of "firsts." Here is the first smoker, the first issue of the battalion newspaper, the first drill with the marines and the unforgettable obstacle course, the first beer at Topside, the first real scuttlebutt.

"Scuttlebutt," which is the soul and breath of the enlisted man's exchange of information without fact, and which can be likened only vaguely to civilian "rumor," enfers our every day. And now it is Alaska or the Aleutians to which battalion scuttlebutt has us going. An issue of warm clothes at Small Stores, a surmise here, a casual word there, and soon the scuttlebutt is accepted: we are going north.

The days which pass are filled to the brim with activity. Home, and the dimly remembered routine of civilian days, lie in the distant past. The past has receded in a welter of strange details in the forming of a new life. Yet it is but a few brief weeks since the men were civilians pursuing their familiar civilian jobs. It is in looking backward that one is able to grasp how quickly time is passing: the future stretches into an unpredictable infinity.

With the men scarcely aware of its significance, the commissioning of the battalion on 24 July 1943, has come and gone almost as quickly as the brief appearance that Captain Ware made at the exercises. Blues and whites are worn in liberties in Williamsburg and in Richmond. These first liberties are exuberant—pent up releases of the emotions of men who have just gone through the greatest periods of change in their lives in the briefest possible time.

Our eagerly awaited ten day pre-embarkation leave begins on Friday the 13th, in August, but the men are unmindful of the superstitious connotations of the day. All are eager to return to their homes, to swagger, with a certain degree of pardonable pride, in their new blues or whites before their

wives, mothers and sweethearts for the first time.

In this, the pre-embarkation leave which marks the official ending of advanced training, Michigan calls to Indiana, New York bids a cheerful good-bye to Kentucky, while Westport, Vermont, and Rome, Texas, loom with just as much importance in the eager memories of the men as do those of the larger cities. For the one thing it spells for all alike, regardless of city, creed or background, is—HOME.

Home. We are to spend many hours thinking of home in days to come. We are to think more about it with a quiet poignancy, with a dull ache, in the stillness of strange and distant nights.

But time enough to think of that later, NOW we are going home, to our cities and towns, to our wives and mothers, to good times, and beer, and steaks the way we like them. We enjoy them while we can. There is much that lies ahead.

The crisp, cool morning air bites into the men as they stand at attention. This is muster again, but this time it is in California. In California, Camp Parks, in September. This is California with its promise of warmth and sun and perpetual spring.

The men shiver slightly as they stand at attention in the crisp of the early morning, Mt. Diablo piercing the low overhanging clouds to the north.

Behind us lies the first great memory of the men as a battalion: pre-embarkation leave. Stories, tales, and escapades are told and retold while waiting in chow lines, or in the mess halls. The men have begun to refer to their wives by name in the telling of stories concerning home. This is another indication of the growing exchange of confidence.

Then, too, many wives have come west to join their husbands, setting up a semblance of housekeeping in nearby Hayward, Stockton, or Livermore. The single men take their fun in Oakland and San Francisco on liberty nights.

In camp the battalion is developing a smoothness and cooperation built on long hours of practice. Close order drill has become more precise, obedience to orders noticeably quicker and easier. The obstacle course does not take as much out of the men as it did at Peary.

Many west coast men who did not take their leave from Peary do so now from Camp Parks. They are missed by their intimates, their absence scarcely noted by the battalion. Perhaps at some future date life will be like that for us; one company to be detached from the battalion for a special job, its absence taken for granted by the remainder of the battalion. The 105th, as a unit, has already begun to achieve an individuality of its own, divorced from, and larger than, any one man, yet a composite of all the men.

In the evenings here there are shows, movies, ping-pong—and liberty. The men are finding out that they have a good use for their pea coats for the first time. We do not know it now, but this is the coldest weather we will encounter for the next two years.

Perhaps it is just as well that we do not hold the key to what the future holds in store for us. The only thing of which we are reasonably certain is that soon—no one knows when—we must leave Camp Parks for our last Stateside base before shipping out of the States—Port Hueneme, in lower California.

The weeks drag by with a paradoxical swiftness. More memories have been manufactured here. Already the mock battle—but very real fight—for the flag on the hill lies behind us. Also a matter of record now is the first real construction job the battalion has had assigned to it: the erecting of the first quonset huts in Camp Parks for the quartering of incoming personnel. Some have had special liberties out of their working day and night; still others have been disappointed.

In the past, too, lies our memory of that grim gigantic devil—aptly named Mt. Diablo. It was here that we climbed hour after hour, full packs slung across our backs, and tasted of C-rations, and had our grateful smokes during "breaks." It was here on a gentle slope of the mountain that we erected our first tents, set up our own temporary camp, replete with guards and passwords. It was here, too, that we staged our mock warfare, slinking through the undergrowth, squirming through dank, slimy conduits to escape from the "enemy."



The notice to secure at Camp Parks comes suddenly. To some of the men it comes while they are at Mt. Diablo. To all it means having one final liberty.

We feel very much the veteran these days. We have seen new cities and strange towns; we have been at two camps. We have had our first taste of 'round the clock work and have successfully met the first target date. We have traveled across the country by railroad. And there is griping, too. There is much open griping in being merely a member of the 105th, but secretly the men take a deep pride in being in the battalion. You can see it in their eyes on liberty when a stranger mentions the 105th in an unexpected manner; or on their faces when they meet another man in the 105th. The seeds of solidity, fraternity, unity, are taking hold.

It is late of a Sunday evening in early October when we leave Parks. At the station a few women weep. It is always the women who weep. Some of them wave tiny handkerchiefs. A few sailors, going out on liberty, stop and pause a moment, then continue down the road. In the distant blue of the gathering evening Mt. Diablo sits . . . and watches . . . like a great cat sitting on its haunches.

But the men know nothing of this. They are busy scrambling for seats, setting themselves up with as much comfort as they can for the overnight trip to Hueneme, to one step nearer whatever it is that the powers that be have seen fit to call into existence the 105th Seabees.

And on the station the women weep.

The eternal morning muster is still with us. Everything about it is the same—except that this is Port Hueneme now, the last advanced base depot before shipping out of the States. There is a reality and urgency about this base which was noticeably lacking at previous camps. It exists in the trucks carrying equipment to the nearby docks; in the civilian workers employed by a base construction company; in war stocks piled row on row in great warehouses.

The battalion occupies one area in the camp, which is to be our home for the duration of our stay here. For once we have our own mess hall, our own recreation hut, our own quonsets in which to live (will Island X be like this, we wonder?). Topside there is a large beer hall. And at night and over week ends there is liberty to Ventura, Santa Barbara, Hollywood, Los Angeles.

Daily the war creeps closer. Hard-bitten Marines are still our military mentors, sending us through the paces of close order drill, instructing us in the use of '03s, or in camouflage school. There are lectures, too, and hikes have become almost a daily occurrence. We learn to roll infantry packs, set up shelter halves.

At the same time the battalion begins acquiring equipment, some to be issued to the men at once, some to be issued overseas. We are issued gas masks, mess gear, bayonets. Shoes are checked and rechecked, replacements issued for those too badly worn.

No one is quite certain yet what our destination is to be, though by this time it is fairly obvious that it will be somewhere in the South Pacific. Each day brings its own

scuttlebutt that the battalion will secure, that we are ready to ship out in a few days. The recurrent scuttlebutt, and the waiting, sets the nerves of the men on edge. They are eager to get going, to get going on the job for which they enlisted.

And still the war presses closer daily: in the little things we do not say to each other, in the final papers we sign for safekeeping in the personnel office, in instructions for the not too pleasant notification of the next of kin . . . Gruesome information, but necessary information.

Not all is grim, however. Life still has its lighter side, and Hollywood and neighboring towns provide most of it. The Hollywood Canteen. Moving picture stars. Private families who welcome many of the Seabees into their homes. Wives who have followed their husbands here—some of them with children—and who are now living in Oxnard. Life continues in this uncertain world of a nation at war—but the strings are pulled by the 105th, and the men feel and respond. The umbilical cord which binds their destiny to the battalion has become strong and tight, and has come to mean more than merely the cold dry print of Navy Regulations.

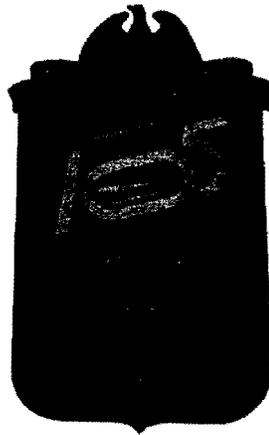
Here also we are given the opportunity of proving that we are builders, endless wooden barracks to be erected, a city to be built and as always be our lot—a target date to be met. Here we for the first of many times, sent men away from the main unit to do construction work miles distant. This time it was the construction of a radar station on San Clemente, done in record time by the men of "C" company. Yes, we were now learning to work together as a unit and a company as well as to live and play.

There is something else we do here. We act. The battalion "goes Hollywood" and acts in a moving picture. "The Fighting Seabees," a Republic picture starring Susan Hayward and Dennis O'Keefe, decides to make use of the 105th Battalion for its battle scenes and other shots. So it is that the cameras record for all time the 105th as it makes a "beachhead"; getting on and off trucks in full battle regalia; standing at attention while Dennis O'Keefe, as a commander, receives a "citation." The men go through boot scenes again for the benefit of the camera, and it is fun. But it is work, too, and one day it must end.

It does so one day when, with startling suddenness, the Commander summons the battalion to a meeting in the large Recreation Quonset Hall. It is more than seven weeks since the battalion arrived at Hueneme. "I can assure you," the Commander tells us that night, "that you will be seeing white caps for Christmas."

This is good news, very good news indeed, for this is already the first week in December.

The Commander is as good as his word. We have already had our last bivouac, some seven miles from the camp, on a beach fronting the Pacific, under simulated battle conditions. In camp, too, we are given, at Small Stores, the priority of a battalion about to ship out. We buy razor blades, shaving cream, tooth paste, handkerchiefs, socks. "Buy enough for at least forty days."



**DECLASSIFIED**

To Facilitate  
Administrative Handling  
Classifications changed  
from:

CONFIDENTIAL

To:

Ervin S. Bremer  
Commander, 1st Marine  
Division

HISTORY OF THE 105TH CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

- 26 Aug 1943 - Formed at MCTC, Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va.
- 28 Aug 1943 - Transferred to CDRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif.
- 3 Sep 1943 - Arrived CDRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif.
- 3 Oct 1943 - Departed Camp Parks for ABBEB, Fort Huachuca, Calif.
- 4 Oct 1943 - Arrived ABBEB, Fort Huachuca, Calif.
- 19 Oct 1943 - Detachment departed for San Clemente Island (225 men)
- 10 Nov 1943 - Detachment returned from San Clemente Island
- 15 Dec 1943 - Departed ABBEB, Fort Huachuca, Calif. for Milne Bay, New Guinea
- 13 Jan 1944 - Arrived Milne Bay, New Guinea
- 14 Jan 1944 - Detachment departed for Milimoi, New Guinea (60 men)
- 14 Jan 1944 - Battalion started disembarking at Stringer Bay, New Guinea.
- 23 Jan 1944 - Detachments started leaving Stringer Bay for Gamadodo, New Guinea.
- 15 Feb 1944 - Milimoi detachment departed for Gamadodo (60 men)
- 1 Apr 1944 - Major part of Battalion (300 men) departed for Gamadodo, leaving a small detachment at Stringer Bay (240 men)
- 5 Apr 1944 - Detachment departed Gamadodo for Milimoi (30 men)
- 4 Sep 1944 - Return of Gamadodo detachment to Stringer Bay started (300 men)
- 14 Sep 1944 - Milimoi detachment returned to Gamadodo (30 men)
- 19 Sep 1944 - Detachment departed from Stringer Bay for Mana Kopa for military training (250 men)
- 29 Sep 1944 - Mana Kopa detachment returned to Stringer Bay (250 men)
- 4 Oct 1944 - Remainder of Gamadodo detachment returned to Stringer Bay
- 11 Oct 1944 - 1st echelon departed Milne Bay for Tacloban, Leyte (636 men)
- 24 Oct 1944 - 1st echelon arrived Tacloban, Leyte
- 25 Oct 1944 - Detachment departed Tacloban for Anabong Point, Leyte (400 men)
- 29 Oct 1944 - 2nd echelon left Milne Bay (230 men)
- 12 Nov 1944 - Part of Anabong detachment departed for San Antonio

To Facilitate  
Administrative Handling  
Classification changed  
from: CONFIDENTIAL

**DECLASSIFIED**

ITINERARY OF THE 105TH CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (cont'd)

RESTRICTED  
To: Irvin S. Brown

- 12 Nov 1944 - 2nd echelon arrived San Pedro Bay (220 men)
- 13 Nov 1944 - Disembarkation of 2nd echelon started - 180 men to San Antonio, Samar; 20 men to Tacloban, Leyte, 10 men to Anabong Point, Leyte, and 10 men remained aboard ship for unloading.
- 23 Nov 1944 - Detachments from Tacloban (25 men), Anabong Point (25 men) and San Antonio (25 men) departed for White Beach, Leyte
- 26 Nov 1944 - Additional detachments from Tacloban (30 men), Anabong Point (30 men) and San Antonio (30 men) departed for White Beach, Leyte
- 6 Dec 1944 - Remainder of Anabong Point detachment (255 men) departed for San Antonio (240 men), Tacloban (5 men) and White Beach (10 men)
- 8 Dec 1944 - Detachments from Tacloban (50 men) and White Beach (10 men) departed for Talosa, Leyte
- 1 Jan 1945 - Additional detachments from Tacloban (20 men) and White Beach (10 men) departed for Talosa
- 3 Jan 1945 - Detachments from Tacloban (25 men) and San Antonio (15 men) departed for Guiuan, Samar
- 5 Jan 1945 - Additional detachments from Tacloban (40 men) and San Antonio (10 men) departed for Guiuan
- 8 Jan 1945 - Detachment from Guiuan departed for Balingaga, Samar (26 men)
- 10 Jan 1945 - Additional detachment from Tacloban departed for Guiuan (200 men)
- 16 Jan 1945 - Remaining detachment at Tacloban departed for Guiuan (45 men)
- 20 Jan 1945 - Additional detachment from San Antonio departed for Guiuan (225 men)
- 25 Jan 1945 - Remaining detachment at San Antonio departed for Guiuan (115 men)
- 3 Feb 1945 - Remaining detachment at White Beach (155 men) departed for Talosa (80 men) and Guiuan (75 men)
- 20 Feb 1945 - Part of Talosa detachment departed for Comana, Samar (50 men)
- 10 Apr 1945 - Detachment from Guiuan departed for Lipata, Samar (25 men)
- 23 Apr 1945 - Detachment from Guiuan departed for Cebu (12 men)
- 28 Apr 1945 - Remaining detachment at Talosa (120 men) departed for Comana (110 men) and Lipata (10 men)

To Yacht  
Administrative handling  
Classification changed  
from

DECLASSIFIED

ITINERARY OF THE 105TH CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (cont'd)

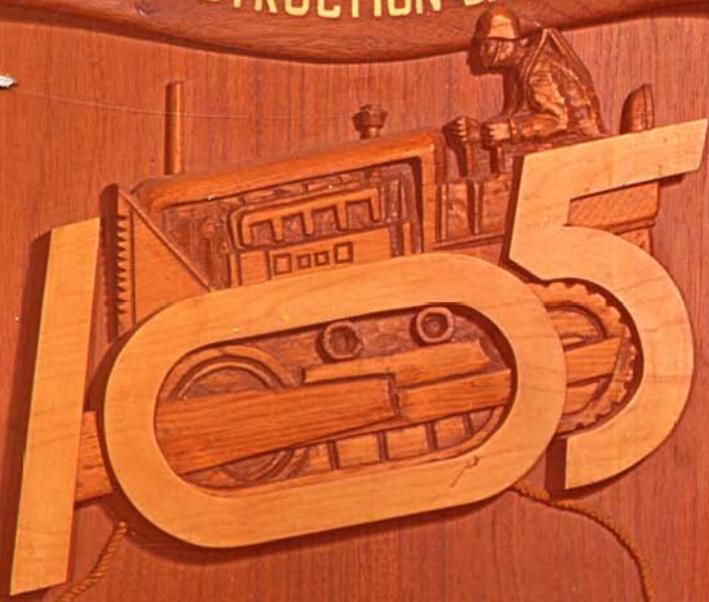
- 30 Apr 1945 - Additional detachments from Guiuan departed for Lipata (75 men)
- 11 May 1945 - Additional detachments from Guiuan departed for Lipata (200 men)
- 12 May 1945 - Detachment from Cebu (12 men) returned to Guiuan (4 men) and Lipata (8 men)
- 20 May 1945 - Additional detachments from Guiuan departed for Lipata (175 men)
- 1 Jun 1945 - Additional detachments from Guiuan departed for Lipata (125 men)
- 15 Jun 1945 - Detachment at Csmena departed for Lipata (160 men). This detachment increased to 200 men who will commute by boat daily between Csmena and Lipata.
- 16 Jun 1945 - Additional detachment from Guiuan departed for Lipata (50 men), leaving 15 men at Guiuan for supply purposes.

Certified to be a correct copy of itinerary of 105th Naval Construction Battalion.

A. J. ...  
Comdr., USNR  
Officer-in-charge



NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION



Pride of the  
Seven Seas









