

112th Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information



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



112th C.B.

NCTC - Peary
ABD - Hueneme
Ready Date - 20 Jan'44
Left ABD - 24 Feb'44
Location - Pearl Harbor ~~Tinian~~ Okinawa

LOG

- 9- 6-43 - Budocks requests transfer of the 112th CB on 12 Sep'43 from Peary to Quoddy. (Budocks ltr NM24/A1-1 over NM24 (112)/A1-1 over A08 to CNO dtd 6 Sep'43)
- 12- 5-43 - CNO orders transfer of the 112th CB to Hueneme about 8 Dec'43. (Conf. disp. 042011 NCR 4812 from CNO to Quoddy dtd 5 Dec'43)
- 12-18-43 - 112th CB arrived Hueneme 16 Dec'43 from Quoddy. (Rest. Disp. 180500 NCR 37975 from Hueneme to addressees)
- 3- 6-44 - 112th CB left ABD Hueneme 24 Feb'44. (WRK)
- 3-27-44 - 112th CB reported to 2nd Brig. and assigned to 7th Reg. 2 Mar'44. (2nd Brig. 2nd end. dtd 2 Mar'44 on Hueneme ltr NT4-59/P16-4 Ser 513)
- 5-11-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 112th B - operating at Moanalua and Kaneohe. Arrived destination Mar'44.
- 6-16-44 - 1 May'44 report of 112th CB - operating at Moanalua, Kaneohe, and Aiea.
- 7- 7-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 112th CB - operating at Moanalua, Kaneohe, and Aiea. 9 off. and 500 men reported to 56th CB 4 Mar'44 for temp. duty.
- 8- 9-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 112th CB - operating at Kaneohe NAS, Haiku, Heeia, Moanalua Ridge, and Aiea.
- 8-30-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 112th CB - operating at Mokepu Peninsula and Kaneohe.

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- 9- 9-44 - A detachment of 5 off. and 253 men from the 74th CB assigned to the 112th CB for temp. duty. (OinC 74th CB ltr 74NGBr/PFA:dc P16-3(2) Ser 60 dtd 1 Sep'44 to Lt. Parry)
- 10-12-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 112th CB - This batt has been in the field 6 months, having arrived at P.H. 1 Mar'44. Has been operating 2 months as a full batt.
- 10-23-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 112th CB - operating at Mokepu Peninsula and Kaneohe. Report endorsed by 7th Reg.
- 11-15-44 - The 112th CB is assigned to the 31st Reg. (Comserforpacflt Sec. ltr 55-CXW/apk over Ser. 001008 to CNO dtd 4 Nov'44).
- 1-16-44 -- The 112th CB is located at Pearl Hbr. (Com 14 Sec. disp to CNO 062243 NCR 15886 dtd 11 Nov'44).
- 1-16-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 112th CB - Operating at NAS Mokepu Peninsula, Oahu.
- 2-28-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 112th CB - operating at Kaneohe Bay. Report endorsed by 31st Regiment.
- 1-4-45 - 112th CB ordered detached from the 31st Reg. to proceed and report to the 6th Brg. for duty. (HANGCB conf. ltr HAB-06-HCB/mv over P16-4/00/MM over Ser. 7781 dtd 7 Dec '44 to OinC 112th CB).
- 1-11-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of 112th CB - no info on location.
- 1-13-45 -- The 38th and 112th CB have loaded for movement to Tinian. (Dirbudocks Pearl Sec. ltr Ser. 00539 to OinC 6th Brg. dtd 23 Dec'44)
- 1-13-45 - 112th CB is at Tinian. (IsCom Tinian Sec. Disp. to CNO 010938 Jan'45)
- 2-22-45 - The 112th CB is assigned to the 49th Reg. (CNO conf. ltr Ser. 055130 to Cincpoa and Bupers dtd 10 Feb'45).

Location - Tinian

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- 3- 5-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 112th CB - location not given. Report endorsed by the 30th Reg. Reinforced.
- 3- 6-45 - 49th Reg. hereby established effective at once and to consist of the 9th, 38th, 110th, and 112th CBs. (Conf Disp O20050 from Cincpoa Pearl to Comservpac)
- 3-29-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 112th CB - located in the Mariannas. Report end. by 49th R.
- 4-24-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 49th Reg. - The 112th CB working at Tinian.
- 4-25-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 112th CB - located at Tinian. Report routed via 49th Reg and 6th Brg.
- 5- 8-45 - The 112th CB is located at Tinian. (Dirpaddock's S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)
- 5-29-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 112th CB - located at Tinian. Report end by 49th Reg & 6th Brg.
- 6-5-45 - The 112th CB has been assigned to advanced base ARTU by CNO for airfield const. (Comservpac sec ltr ser 002038 dtd 8 May'45 to CNO)
- 6-8-45 - The 112th CB detached from present duty. Proceed in accord with shipping instr and report to Comdr Const Troops APO 331. (Comservpac sec disp 042341 Jun'45 to Com Mariannas)
- 6-26-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 49th Reg - The 112th CB was alerted for move to forward area on 17 May and on 28 May it was secured from all work projects.
- 6-29-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 112th CB - located at Tinian. Preparing for forward movement. Report end. by 49th Reg & 6th Brig.
- 7-23-45 - The 112th CB is assigned to the 17th Reg and 8th Brg effective 10 July. (CCT APO 331 sec report on assignment of CB units ser 897 dtd 10 July)
- 7-30-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the ~~112th~~ 49th Reg - The 112th CB was secured from all work projects on 28 May and spent entire month of June in preparation for a forward move.

Location - Okinawa

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- 7-30-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 112th CB - located at Tinian as of 1 July preparing for forward move. Report via 49th Reg and 6th Brg.
- 8-11-45 - 112th CB reported to CCT on 24 July 1945. Ordered to further report to CinC 8th Brg for duty in the 17th Reg. (CCT IsCom APO 331 conf end ser 1259 dtd 28 July to CinC 112th CB)
- 8-17-45 - The 112th CB reported to the 8th Brg on 24 Jul'45. Ordered to further report to CinC 17th Reg for duty. (8th Brg conf end ser 0219 dtd 28 July to CinC 112th CB)
- 8-22-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 112th CB. During July batt was detached from Tinian & transported to APO 331 and attached to 17th Reg of the 8th Brig. Report came via 17th Reg, 8th Brig. No info as to location.
- 8-23-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 17th Reg - The 112th CB reported to the 17th Reg for duty on 24 Jul'45. First ship to dock debarked on 17 July '45 & the batt. was totally ashore on 23 July '45.
- 8-23-45 - 112th CB reported to the 17th Reg 24 July '45 for duty. (17th Reg conf end dtd 29 July '45 to CinC, 112th CB).
- 9-26-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 112th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 17th Reg. & 8th Brig.
- 10-17-45 - CNOB, Okinawa requests authority to inactivate the 112th CB. (CNOB, Okinawa conf spdltr ser 0203 dtd 20 Sept'45 to Comservpac).
- 10-30-45 - Comservpac approves the inactivation of the 112th CB. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05522 dtd 6 Oct'45 to Cincpoa).
- 11-6-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 112th CB @ location at Okinawa. Report via 17th Reg. & 8th Brg.
- 11-14-45 - Comservpac directs Comdt. Okinawa to inactivate the 112th CB. Advise Comservpac when inactivation is completed. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05659 dtd 27 Oct'45 to Comdt., NOB, Okinawa).

- 11-20-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 112th CB. Located at Okinawa. Report via 17th Reg. & 8th Brig. 377 men returned to U.S. for leave & reassignment. 322 men transferred for discharge under the point system.
- 1-28-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of 8th Brig. states that the 112th CB was inactivated on 15 Nov'45.

INACTIVATED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ON BOARD</u>		<u>AUTHORITY</u>
	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	
1 Jul'44	28	984	R & BNP625
1 Aug'44	29	996	R & MoR
1 Sep'44	30	1013	R & BNP625
1 Oct'44	31	979	BNP625 & MoR
1 Nov'44	29	935	MoR
1 Dec'44	29	931	MoR
1 Jan'45		982	BNP625
1 Feb'45	28	989	MoR
1 Mar'45	27	985	MoR
1 Apr'45	27	981	BNP625 & MoR
1 May'45	28	973	BNP625 & R
1 Jun'45	30	1002	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	30	1019	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45		984	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		984	BNP625
1 Oct'45	26	819	R & BNP625
1 Nov'45	18	120	BNP625 & R

date	designation	location	reference
6/3/44	-	Pearl Harbor	-
11/13	-	FRAY	Com 14 sec act disp 060607 July.
1/13	-	FRAY	Com 14 sec act 2nd Brig. disp. 062243 Dec.
1/13	-	LIRP (Yimian)	In com Yimian sec added. act disp. 010938 Jan.
1/98	-	-	Com 14 sec act delete 2nd Brig. disp. 112205 Jan.
6/12	-	-	Comberpac sec detached present duty - disp. 042341 June. proceed to report Cdr Const. Troops APO-331.

Aug report shows in sec R...

112TH BATTALION

After formation at Peary, the 112th NCB moved to Quoddy Village, Maine, Sept. 12, 1943. From Quoddy, the Battalion moved to Hueneme arriving there Dec. 16, then shipped out Feb. 24, 1944, disembarking at Pearl Harbor March 2. **The outfit worked at Pearl until Dec. 23,** when they loaded for Tinian. During its stay at Pearl, the 112th temporarily assigned half its personnel to the 56th Battalion and received 253 men from the 74th. On Tinian, the Battalion worked until May 1945, when the unit again prepared for forward movement, shipping out for Okinawa in July. When the war ended, the 112th was still on duty at Okinawa.

CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF THE
HISTORY OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH
U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

CAMP PEARY,
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

The 112th Naval Construction Battalion received its training and was commissioned 29 July 1943 at Camp Peary, Virginia. The Officer in Charge was Commander Douglas S. Fuller and the Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Dean L. Murray. The battalion entrained for Quoddy Village, Maine, 12 September 1943 upon returning from pre-embarkation leave.

QUODDY VILLAGE, MAINE

The 112th Battalion arrived at Quoddy Village, Maine on 13 September 1943 and began initial construction and repairs necessary to converting the luxurious NYA Camp into what is now NCTC, Camp Lee-Stephenson. Considerable military and construction experience was gained. "Procuring", an art of SeaBees, was developed as a result of plentiful NYA equipment.

"Virgin territory" at the nearby liberty towns of Eastport and Calais, Maine, and St. Stephens, Canada, were exploited and enjoyed by the exploiters as well as by the exploited. Renovation continued and Camp Lee-Stephenson was dedicated and commissioned.

Lieutenant Commander Murray was detached from the battalion 10 December 1943. The battalion entrained for Port Hueneme, California on 12 December 1943.

PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA

The battalion arrived at Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, California, 16 December 1943 after a zig-zag 4,000 mile trek across the United States. On 12 January 1944, Commander Fuller was detached from the battalion. Military training ensued and was terminated by the battalion being outfitted for overseas duty.

Lieutenant Commander Frank E. Wade reported aboard 2 January 1944 as Executive Officer. On 13 January 1944, Commander David Y. Taylor reported aboard as Officer in Charge.

The battalion embarked from the shores of the United States for Island X, 24 February 1944.

PEARL HARBOR, OAHU, T. H.

The battalion arrived at Pearl Harbor and moved into tents on the muddy slopes of Moanalua Ridge 1 March 1944. The principle activities were the construction of roads and housing at the Moanalua Ridge CB Camp. Companies A and D were assigned to airport and housing construction at Kaneohe Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay. One officer and sixty riggers were detached as a special crew to assist in the erection of storage tanks at Kwajalein.

The battalion became self-supporting with the completion of its own Ship's Service Store and Theatre. The 112th Battalion soon became known as the battalion of champions, having won the Central Pacific All-Navy CB Track and Field Championship and placing fourth in the AAU Meet. Further laurels were gained with the battalion's doubles tennis team, composed of Lieutenants James C. Stokes and Vernon L. Plattner won the All-Navy Tennis Doubles Championship. R. A. Leake Sic, gained recognition by winning the Central Pacific Area Diving Championship.

The entire battalion was assigned to airport construction 25 June 1944 at the "Country Club of the Pacific", Kaneohe Naval Air Station. The airport comprised the construction of a 5000' x 400' runway, a connecting taxiway and the development of adjoining areas. The strip was paved with 2½" of asphaltic concrete. The entire project was constructed on a coral fill, the material being dredged from the bay by means of a hydraulic dredge.

The first casualty of the battalion, Charles P. Pinkes, Jr., WT1c, was instantly killed while testing a boiler at the battalion operated asphalt plant.

Suddenly, on 6 December 1944, the battalion was alerted and secured for movement to an advanced area. Ten days later the battalion was completely outfitted and embarked for Island X-2.

TINIAN, MARIANAS ISLANDS

After an uneventful trip of 3,300 miles across the Pacific, the first ship arrived at Tinian on the 28th of December 1944. Immediately, construction of fox holes and temporary camp among the ruins of a Jap radio station was initiated. Cane fields were cleared and the permanent camp, dedicated as Camp Pinkes, was constructed.

As a battalion of the Sixth Brigade, construction was started on one of the largest air bases in the world, providing facilities for the Army's B-29 Superfortresses. Haul roads were built through the cane fields and new coral pits opened. A salt water line was constructed to provide a half-million gallons of water per day for the airport construction. The B-29 Air Base comprised the construction of two 8500' x 500' strips, 200 B-29 hardstands and two service aprons, including warehouses, airplane repair facilities, roads, and utilities. In a total of 5,000,000 yards of fill material used in the construction, over 2,000,000 yards was coral, which was hauled by a fleet of 400 trucks.

A Japanese Shrine Area, situated in the middle of everything, necessitated enumerable changes in plans and lay-outs.

Improvisation with the expended Japanese equipment became common practice, hereto referred as SeaBee ingenuity. Portable flood-light towers on Jap truck chassis were built. Underground electric duct systems made from demolished sugar mill tubing and 105 mm. shell casing sleeves were installed.

The first Tinian-based B-29 raid to the Jap homeland was witnessed.

Four KP's on a hike captured two Japs. Eight more surrendered voluntarily later, making the total of ten prisoners credited to the 112th Battalion.

On 28 May 1945 the battalion was secured for movement and forty-one days later its last echelon embarked from Tinian and joined a convoy which departed from Saipan the same date for Island X-3.

OKINAWA JIMA, RYUKYUS ISLANDS

Okinawa was spotted on the morning of 14 July 1945 after six days of very smooth sailing. The first echelon of personnel bivouaced on the 17th of July and the last echelon on the 23rd of July.

Under orders from our parent body, the 8th Brigade, work was started on a 400-bed Special Augmented Hospital the day after our first echelon bivouaced ashore. This was to be part of a 5000-bed system of hospitals being built on the island.

The construction of a Radio Direction Finder and Supplementary Radio Receiving Facilities supplied the south end of the island with a powerful radio station which aided immeasurably in communications. A total of 31 Japs that were captured on the job site has confirmed the SeaBees' motto, "We build, we fight."

Improvement, relocation and maintenance of roads has been a large item on the battalion's project list. Small amounts of rain every hour of two each day and night accompanied by typhoons every week or two made for much mud and consequently intensified the need for all-weather roads.

After V-J Day the battalion was engaged in winding up a few jobs necessary to post-war Okinawa. Many days were spent reinforcing storm damaged tents while cursing the everpresent mud, and disseminating prolific scuttlebutt concerning embarkation for the States, points, leaves and possibilities of the chow improving!

DECLASSIFIED

ITINERARY OF THE 112TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

12 Sep. 1945 Transferred from HCFB, Camp Peary, Virginia to HCFB, Quoddy Village, Maine.

3 Dec. 1945 Transferred from Quoddy Village to HCFB, Port Huensme, California.

16 Dec. 1945 Arrived Huensme from Quoddy Village.

24 Feb. 1944 Departed Huensme for overseas.

2 Mar. 1944 Arrived Pearl Harbor. Operating at Monalua and Kaneohe, and surrounding areas.

4 Mar. 1944 9 officers and 500 men reported to the 56th Construction Battalion for temporary duty.

1 Sep. 1944 5 officers and 253 men from the 74th Construction Battalion assigned to the 112th Construction Battalion for temporary duty.

23 Dec. 1944 Loaded for movement to Tinian. Exact date of arrival unknown.

17 May 1944 Alerted for movement to forward area.

23 May 1944 Secured from work. Spent entire month of June in preparation for forward move.

July 1945 During this month battalion detached from Tinian and transported to Okinawa. First ship to dock debarked on 17 July and battalion was totally ashore on 23 July 1945.

NOTE: This itinerary based on records available in C. E. Operations and Personnel Section of Bureau of Naval Personnel.

Date: 18 September 1945.

Administrative Handling
Classification changed
from

RECEIVED
1945
To: [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

112TH SEABEES













