

116th Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information



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



1150 7.7.

FROM: Station Loc: Alou To: Hawaii

6/3/44 - Pearl Harbor - Left 1.5 Feb.
 CNO FRAY Com 14 sec.
 Act. disp. 060609
 July

11/13 - FRAY Com 14 sec act 8th Brig.
 disp. 062243700.

2/26 - Com Sempac sec asid Yemda
 231911 Feb. with marcorp.

3/2 - Com Sempac sec Request Arrangements
 dup. 250211 Feb. Transport to allow desire
 reach destination by 1 May

(147 substituted for Bice)

4/17 - Com 14 sec act
 151857 200

116th C.B.

NCTC - Peary, Davisville
 ABD - Hueneme
 Ready Date - 10 Jan'44
 Left ABD - 28 Feb'44
 Location - ~~Iroquois Pt., Barbers Pt.~~ Hawaii

LOG

- 8-11-43 - CNO orders transfer of the 116th CB from Camp Peary to NCTC Davisville about 15 Aug'43. (Conf. Disp. 101621 NCR 4982 from VCNO to Peary dtd 11 Aug'43.)
- 9-18-43 - CNO orders transfer of the 116th CB about 24 Sep'43 from Davisville to ABD Gulfport. (Conf. Disp. 181443 NCR 1652 from VCNO to Endicott dtd 18 Sep'43)
- 1-11-44 - CNO orders transfer of the 116th CB about 17 Jan'44 to ABD Hueneme. (Conf. Disp. 111315 NCR 887 from CNO to Gulfport dtd 11 Jan'44)
- 3-6-44 - 116th CB departed ABD Hueneme 28 Feb'44. (WRK)
- 3-27-44 - 116th CB reported to the 2nd Brigade and assigned to 8th Reg. 5 Mar'44. (2nd Brig. 3rd end. (on Port Hueneme orders NTP4-59/P16-4 dtd 25 Feb'44) dtd 5 Mar'44)
- 5-11-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 116th CB - operating at Iroquois Pt. Batt arrived at its destination 21 Mar'44.
- 6-16-44 - 1 May'44 report of 116th CB - operating at Iroquois and Barbers Points.
- 7-6-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 116th CB - operating at Iroquois and Barbers Points.
- 8-11-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 116th CB - operating at Iroquois and Barbers Point.
- 10-17-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 116th CB - operating at Barbers Point.

116th CB

- 11-15-44 - The 116th CB is assigned to the 35th Reg. (Comservforpacflt Sec. ltr 55-CKW/ask over Ser. 001008 to CNO dtd 4 Nov'44).
- 11-16-44 - The 116th CB is located at Pearl Hbr. (Com 14 Sec. disp to CNO 062243 NOR 15886 dtd 11 Nov'44).
- 11-17-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 116th CB - operating at NAS Barbers Pt., Oahu. Report endorsed by 35th Regiment.
- 12-7-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 116th CB - operating at NAS Barbers Pt. - in 35th Reg. 39 men men on TAD from NAS and 7 men on temporary duty from the 43rd CB. Report endorsed by H.A.B.
- 1-17-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 116th CB - Location not stated. Report endorsed by the 35th Reg., 8th Brg., H.A.B.
- 2- 7-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 116th CB - located in Hawaiian area. Report endorsed by the 35th Regiment.
- 2-15-45 -- The 116th CB ordered detached from 35th Reg. 27 Jan'45 to report to the 7th Reg. for duty. (8th Brg. conf. ltr Ser. C-69 to CinC 116th CB dtd 25 Jan'45 to the CinC 116th CB).
- 2-17-45 -- The 116th CB is located at Pearl Hbr. (Com 14 Sec. disp to CNO 081016 Feb'45).
- 2-26-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 116th CB - located with HANCB and the 7th Reg.
- 27-45 --- The 116th CB assigned temp duty with the MarCorps for a future Cenpac operation. Upon completion of assault duties and when directed by CG 10th Army to report to ComConstruction Troops for further assignment. (Comservpac Sec. disp to Cincpoa 231911 Feb'45 Ref: Cincpoa 150005).
- 3- 6-45 - Comservpac requests arrangements to transport the 116th CB to Hilo. Desires it to reach destination by 1 May'45. (Conf Disp from Comservpac to FD Pearl 250211 Feb)

Location - Guam Hawaii 116th C.B.

- 3-20-45 - The 147th CB for tank farm work is to replace the 116th CB. (Comservforpacflt Sec ltr 00100 dtd 10 Mar'45 to CNO)
- 4-14-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 116th CB - 700 men moved from Barbers Pt. to Hilo in March.
- 4-16-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 7th Reg. - The larger parts of the 98th & 116th CB had been moved to the staging area by 31 Mar'45.
- 5- 1-45 - 116th CB located at NAS Barbers Pt., Oahu. Tent assign Marines. (Dirpaddock P Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45)
- 5- 8-45 - The 116th CB is shown located with 5th Amph Corps (temp duty), assigned Okinawa on the Dirpaddock Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45.
- 5-19-45 - 1 May'45 report of 8th Brig states that 116th CB is located at Guam.
- 5-19-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 116th CB - located at Barbers Point. Report end. by 7th Reg & 8th Brig.
- 6-7-45 - The 116th CB is located at Hawaii with the 5th MarDiv, 5th PhibsCorps. (Comservpac conf spdltr 02787 dtd 29 May'45 to CNO)
- 6-12-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 116th CB - location not given. Batt on Military Training during May'45. Report end. by 7th Reg.
- 6-13-45 - Dirpaddock SF sec rep of 15 May'45 shows the 116th CB located at P.H - assigned Okinawa.
- 6-22-45- 1 May'45 report of the 7th Reg. (Item 4) - The 116th CB moved from NAS Barbers Pt to Camp Tarawa, Is of Hawaii. Movement was made in several echelons beginning 20 March with last arrival date at new station 16 Apr'45.
- 7-13-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 116th CB - Batt in training status but also constructing reservoir at Camp Tarawa, Marine Camps, Island of Hawaii. Report via 7th Reg.

- Location - ~~Hawaii~~ Sasebo, Kyushu 116th C.B.
- 8-14-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 116th CB - Batt is in a training status at the present time. Engaged in projects at Camp Tarawa. Report via the 7th Reg.
 - 9-24-45 - Following CBs attached 7th Reg - 43, 98, 116 CBs. (Com 14 sec disp 116th CB to OMO),
 - 10-18-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 116th CB - location not stated. Report via 7th Reg. Enroute to fwd. area except 2 off. & 39 men of the rear ech. which remained at the U.S.NAS Hilo, Hawaii. Departed from Hilo, Hawaii, T.H. 23 through 27 Aug'45.
 - 10-18-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 116th CB - location not stated. Report via 7th Reg. 116th CB in transit approx. 23 Aug to 22 Sept. from Camp Tarawa, T.H. to Sasebo Aircraft Factory Area, Sasebo, Kyushu, Japan.
 - 10-30-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 7th Reg. - 7th Reg. states the 116th CB landed in the Sasebo area with units of the 5th Amph. Corps on Sept. 22, 23, 24.
 - 11-20-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 116th CB - location not stated. Report via 7th Reg.
 - 12-21-45 - 116th CB was inactivated as of 5 Dec'45. (7th Reg. conf ltr ser 0520 dtd 5 Dec'45 to OinC, 116th CB).
 - 12-29-45 - 1 Dec'45 report of 116th CB - location not stated. Report via 7th Reg.

INACTIVATED

ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
30 Jun'44	30	1026	Recap.
1 Aug'44	30	1037	MoR
1 Sep'44	30	1038	MoR
1 Oct'44	30	1023	MoR
1 Nov'44	29	990	MoR
1 Dec'44	28	982	MoR
1 Jan'45	29	1004	MoR
1 Feb'45	28	998	MoR
1 Mar'45	27	952	MoR
1 Apr'45	27	952	MoR
1 May'45	30	971	BNP625 & R
1 Jun'45	30	1018	BNP625
1 Jul'45	29	1010	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	27	1005	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	28	1006	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'45	28	988	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	26	775	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	15	457	BNP625 & R

116th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

Left Hilo 23-27 Aug 45 - Arrived Basels Aircraft Factory Area 22 Sept 45. - Movement planned as a combat operation & loaded as such; as a result, only equipment & shore party work was brought forward, plus an outfit for a bridge-building unit. As soon as the shore-party phase of the operation was concluded, the Bn was assigned the duty of renovating a barracks to accommodate the main element of the 5th Marine Div. Lack of all classes of tools & difficulty of adapting Japanese installations to Am. living habits made progress painfully slow. Operation also hampered by bad weather including a typhoon.

5th Marine Div. camp at Ainoura, Kiyushu - repairs, additions, maintenance
 Rehabilitation & construction 5 miles of road from A to Basels
 Operation of a quarry adjacent to road work, using Japanese labor
 Extensive repairs to assembly bldgs at Aircraft Factory, for use as barracks
 Typhoon 10 Oct 45

In Nov, Bn started rehabilitation & construction of an alternate 5 miles of road from camp to Basels. Repaired & constructed roads in main

Camp area.
 Continued operation of one Japanese quarry & made - crushing plant, producing approximately 100 cubic yds. crushed rock per day.
 Continued hauling rock from site to CB - operated crusher, producing approximately 300 cubic yds. per day.
 On 23 Nov started operation of second Jap quarry (crushing plant).
 Construction program - but camp to have 400 leaders at aircraft factory, repairs, began 5 Nov

HISTORY -- 116TH SEABEES

THE 116TH NCB WAS FORMED IN JULY, 1943 AT CAMP PERRY, VIRGINIA. IN AUGUST IT WAS SENT TO DAVISVILLE, RHODE ISLAND WHERE IT WAS COMMISSIONED IN AUGUST, 1943. NOVEMBER, 1943 WE WENT TO GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI AND TRAINED IN AMPHIBIOUS LANDING AND MANEUVERS. DECEMBER, 1943 THE BATTALION SHIPPED TO PORT HUENEME, LIVED IN TENTS THERE AND SOME QUONSETS. FEBRUARY, 1944 THE BATTALION SHIPPED TO OAHU.

THE BATTALION SAW WHAT WAS LEFT OF PEARL HARBOR AT THIS TIME STILL NOT PUT TOGETHER. IT WAS A REMINDER WHY WE WERE AT WAR WITH JAPAN. WE WERE STATIONED AT BARBERS PT. WHERE WE BUILT COMPLETE ENGINE REBUILDING FACTORY BASED ON FORD MOTOR'S ASSEMBLY LINE. AT THE SAME TIME WE HAD FOUR OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS GOING, EIGHT ENGINE TEST BLOCK HOUSES (SIGHT) GUNNERY RANGE, QUARRY FOR ROCKS TO REBUILD ROADS AND PARKING AREAS, BUTLER HUT WAREHOUSES THAT WERE 40 FT. BY 100 FT. ALSO SOME PIER AND DOCK WORK.

WE WERE FORTUNATE TO SEE PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT TOUR THE BASE. SPEAK TO SOME, SHAKE THEIR HANDS AND WISH THEM WELL. RETURNED OUR SALUTE WITH STYLE FAMILIAR TO MANY. THIS WAS PRIOR TO HIS PASSING AWAY IN GEORGIA.

IN 1945 WE WENT TO THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII ON THE NAVY LUXURY LINERS (LST'S). WE WENT UP TO CAMP PARK ON THE PARKERS RANCH TO JOIN THE 5TH MARINE DIVISION WHO WERE RETURNING FROM IWO JIMA. WE WENT INTO TRAINING FOR A BIG PUSH. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE. THE LAST OF JULY WE SHIPPED OUT ON LST'S. AFA. AND AKA'S. ONE MORNING WE WOKE UP AND WE SAW SHIP'S FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE. THEN WE KNEW IT WAS A BIG EVENT COMING UP. AT SEA WE GOT THE WORD THAT JAPAN HAS SURRENDERED. WE FOUND OUT WE WERE GOING TO INVAD E KYUSHU JAPAN AT BLACK BEACH.

INSTEAD WE WENT INTO SASABO OR WHAT WAS LEFT OF IT FOR OCCUPATION. SOME MEN WERE DETACHED TO GO TO CHINA TO WORK WITH MARINES BRINGING BACK JAPANESE PRISONERS.

THE BATTALION STAYED AT THE SASEBO NAVAL ACADEMY TILL IT WAS DECOMMISSIONED IN FEBRUARY. SOME MEN STARTED HOME IN NOVEMBER IN A SLOW TRICKLE. BY FEBRUARY, 95% OF THE MEN WERE GONE. REMAINDER WERE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER OUTFITS.

A FEW MEN IN MINNISOTA GOT TO SEEING EACH OTHER AND STARTED TO HAVE SMALL REUNIONS IN THE 1970'S. THEN IT WAS HELD EVERY TWO YEARS SOME WHERE IN ANOTHER LOCATION. MORE MEMBERS WERE FOUND LIVING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE U. S. THE BATTALION STARTED HAVING THE REUNIONS IN THE HOME STATE OF THE HOST MEMBER. THEREBY GETTING TO KNOW MORE PEOPLE AND SEE MORE PLACES. IN THE 1980'S DUE TO THE AGE OF THE MEMBERS. IT WAS DECIDED TO HAVE THE REUNION EVERY YEAR. SO WE COULD BE WITH OUR FRIENDS. OVER THE YEARS MANY OF THE MEMBERS HAVE PASSED ON. BY COUNT WE FIGURED WE HAVE LOST

OVER HALF OUR BATTALION. YOU MUST REMEMBER OUR AVERAGE AGE WAS 35-37 YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME OF WW1. AND HERE WE ARE 52 YEARS LATER.

OUR REUNIONS HAVE BEEN HELD IN PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, FLORIDA, MASSACHUSETTS, WISCONSIN, COLORADO, UTAH, IDAHO, WASHINGTON, CALIFORNIA, ILLINOIS, MARYLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, NEVADA, MINNESOTA, AND I FORGET WHERE ELSE.

WE HOPE TO HOLD THE REUNION TILL THE LAST MAN WHO WILL GET TO DRINK THE BOTTLE OF BRANDY BEING HELD FOR THAT OCCASION.

DECLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

ITINERARY OF THE 116TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

15 Sept 1943 Transferred from Camp Peary, Williamsburg,
Virginia to Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I.

24 Sept 1943 Transferred from Davisville to ABD, Gulfport,
Mississippi.

17 Jan. 1944 Transferred to ABD, Port Kuenema.

23 Feb. 1944 Departed for overseas.

5 Mar. 1944 Reported to 2nd Naval Construction Brigade,
Pearl Harbor.

21 Mar. 1944 Operating Iroquois Point. Later at Barbers
Point.

20 Mar. to The 116th Construction Battalion moved from
16 Apr. 1945 NAS Barbers Point to Camp Tarawa, Island of
Hawaii. Movement was made in several echelons
beginning 20 March with last arrival date at new
station 16 April 1945.

1 Aug. 1945 Battalion in training status, assigned Okinawa.

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

Date: 13 September 1945.

RECEIVED
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.
SEP 15 1945

U.S. NAVY

116th NCB



on the ball





← Color Guard





