

118th Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/3/44	-	Milne Bay EDXR	Comserfor7th flt sec act disp. 110844 July.	Left U.S. Feb 1944.
11/25	-	Edison	Comserfor7th flt sec act disp. Nov. 150133	
3/29	- 1st sec. #	Zamboanga. (New Se Base).	Comserfor7th flt sec. 260558 Mar	# present location of assignment.
	2nd sec	ABCD Milne Bay, Zamboanga.		

118th C.B.

- NCTC - Peary, Davisville
- ABD - Gulfport
- Ready Date - 15 Jan'44
- Left ABD - 25 Feb'44.
- Location - Milne Bay, Subic Bay

LOG

- 8-14-42 - CNO orders transfer of the 118th CB about 19 Aug'43 from Peary to NCTC Davisville. (Conf. Disp. 141347 NCR 5792 from VCNO to Peary dtd 14 Aug'43)
- 9-21-43 - CNO orders transfer of the 118th CB about 28 Sep'43 to ABD Gulfport. (Conf. Disp 201641 NCR 1951 from VCNO to Davisville dtd 21 Sep'43)
- 3- 6-44 - 118th CB left ABD 25 Feb'44. (WEK)
- 6-29-44 - 118th CB is operating at ABCD, Gamadodo as of 31 May'44. (Comserfor7flt Sec. ltr A-9 over Ser BP-001407 to Dirpaddock's dtd 8 Jun'44)
- 7-10-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 118th CB - operating at ABCD and ASPD Gamadodo. Not in a reg.
- 7-31-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 118th CB - operating ABCD at Navy 166 and ASPD Navy 178.
- 8-26-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 118th CB - operating at Milne Bay.
- 9-23-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 118th CB - operating at Milne Bay.
- 9-24-44 - The 118th CB is operating the ABCD at Milne Bay. (Comserfor7flt mo. report for Aug'44. Ser. BPO01815 to Budocks dtd 12 Sep'44)
- 9-21-44 - ASPD Milne Bay was detached from the 118th CB on 5 Sep'44 - Total no. of men detached was 40. (30 Sep'44 Recap Sheet)
- 1-16-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 118th CB - operating ABCD Milne Bay.
- 2-16-44 - The 118th CB, ASPD EDUR and PAD #3 are operating the ABCD EDUR. PAD #3 and ASPD were combined and because this unit is being operated by the 118th CB the enlisted complements of the 3 activities are combined to avoid duplication of reports. (Comserfor7flt conf. ltr P16-1(2) over Ser. (MP-141) to CINC ABCD EDUR dtd 11 Oct'44)

118th CB

- 12-29-44 - The ABCD Milne Bay is operated by the 118th CB. This ABCD has administrative control of PAD #3, ACEPD and Auto & Equip. Repair Sec. (Comserfor7flt Sec. report for Oct'44 dtd 20 Nov'44).
- 1-2-45 - 1 Nov'44 report of 118th CB - The complement of this activity has been combined with that of PAD #3 and SPD EDUR under authority of ComSerFor7flt on 11 Oct'44.
- 2- 2-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 118th CB - operating ABCD Milne Bay.
- 3-19-45 - The regular OinC of the 118th CB detached from the main body of the 118th CB to proceed in charge of Det. "A" of 118th CB with temp duty at NB Gilli Gilli to operate ABCD EDUR. Lt. House to take charge of the main body of the 118th CB. (OinC 118th CB 1st End. dtd 5 Mar'45 to Lt. House on CNE 717 conf ltr P16-3(3) Ser 1020 dtd 27 Feb'45)
- 4-10-45 - The 118th CB is located at Zamboanga operating PT Base. Proposed to be transferred 1 Jul'45. (Com7flt Sec. disp to Cominch 250756 Mar'45).
- 21-45 - Comserfor7flt Sec. Rep for Feb'45 shows 4 Cos of the 118th CB ordered to NABU 8. 1 Co. is to operate ABCD until rolled up.
- 1-24-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of ABCD EDUR - The 118th CB is in process of moving forward. Of the 22 off. and 968 men on bd, 1 off. and 66 men (Det A) are to remain at ABCD EDUR to assist with the roll up of ABCD.
- 5- 1-45 - Comserfor7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45 shows 4/5 of 118th CB enroute to Zamboanga. 1 Co. operating ABCD Milne Bay--to Zamboanga 1 Jul'45.
- 5- 8-45 - The 118th CB is shown located at Mindanao with NABU #8, 1 Co. to operate ABCD Milne Bay, on the Dirpacdocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45.
- 5-17-45 - 1 May'45 report of 118th CB - located at Mindanao. 63 men on detached duty with Det. "A" at Milne Bay. 1 Det. of 3 officers & 100 men were moved to Zamboanga on 6 Apr'45 to work on Navy Base hdqtrs. Estimated completion of assignment is 15 Aug'45.

Location - Mindanao, Milne Bay 118th C.B.

- 22-45 - 1 May'45 report of ABCD EDUR (118th CB-Det. "A") - located at Milne Bay. The work of ABCD EDUR is carried on by 65 men of the 118th CB Det. "A" assisted by 60 men of the Eqpt.Repr.Sect. & 200 men from a Base Co. Eqpt. Repr. Sectn. has been alerted for a forward movement.
- 31-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 118th CB - located at Mindanao. On 1 Mar'45 Det. "A" consisting of 67 men took over the operation of ABCD Milne Bay. The 118th CB consisting of 19 officers & 900 men sailed from Milne Bay on 5 Mar'45 & arrived at Mindanao on 30 Mar 6 officers & 66 men from NABU #8 accompanied by the 118th CB in the forward movement.
- 19-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of 118th CB - located at Mindanao. Det. "A" consisting of 64 men and 1 officer are still at Milne Bay operating the ABCD. Det. of 100 men still located at Zamboanga.
- 7-10-45 - The 118th CB is located at Zamboanga less 1 Co. (Comserfor7flt Sec Loc Sched of 25 Jun'45)
- 7-20-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 118th CB - Location of the Batt as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>Men</u>
Main Camp, Isabela de Basilan	18	709
Saw Mill, Santa Clara de Basilan	1	16
Combat Patrol "		21
Det "A", ABCD Milne Bay	1	61
Det "B", Zamboanga, P.I.	3	113
Det "C", 63rd CB, Manila, P.I.		11
Total	23	931

Report via 3rd Brg.

Location - Zamboanga; Milne Bay 118th C.B.

- 7-27-45 - The 118th CB is located at Zamboanga, constructing NavBase fac. 1 off. and 64 men will remain at Milne Bay to operate ABCD. Attached to 3rd Brig. (CCT 7th Flt Sec Rep for June)
- 8-17-45 - The 118th CB secured from all presently assigned projects. Proceed on transp furnished to Subic Bay. Upon arrival report to CinC 24th Reg for oper duty. Adm control remains with the 51st Reg. (Comserv7flt sec disp 120337 Aug to CNOB Zamboanga)
- 8-18-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 3rd Brig states that the 118th CB is constructing a base at Zamboanga and is attached to the 51st Reg and 3rd Brig.
- 8-20-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 118th CB - Located as follows:
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Main Camp, Isabela de Basilan | 18 off. | 696 men |
| Saw Mill, Santa Clara de Basilan | 1 | 16 |
| Combat Patrol, Santa Clara de Basilan | | 21 |
| Det A, ABCD Milne Bay | 1 | 59 |
| Temp Duty, 118th CB | <u>1</u> | |
| | 23 | <u>909</u> |
- Report via 51st Regiment and 3rd Brigade.
- 8-23-45 - When directed by CCT, 7thflt 118th CB detached 51st Reg proceed via transportation furnished by Comserv7thflt to Subic Bay report CinC, 24th Reg for duty. (Comservfor7thflt conf spdltr dtd 10 Aug'45 ser 01964 to CCT, 7thflt).
- 9-13-45 - 51st Reg established 6 July'45. Includes following CB units:-54, 84, 113, 118 CBs, CBMUs 546, 565, 609. Under 3rd Brig. (CCT, PhilSeaFron conf spdltr ser 0224 dtd 5 Sept'45 to Cominch & others).
- 9-25-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 118th CB - no info as to location. Report via 24th Reg. & 3rd Brig. 25 men assigned tempdu with other batts.

Location - Zamboanga; Milne Bay 118th CB

- 11-1-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 24th Reg. - 24th Reg. report states that the 118th CB was inactivated in accordance with ComPhilseafron ltr CCT, A1-3 serial 4138 of 18 Sept'45. All off. & 449 men have been transferred into the 11th CB. 215 men transferred to the 102nd CB. Date of actual inactivation not given.
- 11-21-45 - Comservpac directs Comphilseafron to inactivate 118th CB. (Comservpac TWX 172246 Nov'45 to Manila, /Rad/ Comphilseafron).
- 12-7-45 - 118th CB was inactivated(actual date not given). (Comservpac ltr ser 1322-3-61 dtd 23 Nov'45 to BuPers).
- 1-6-46 - 118th CB reported inactivated since 20 Dec'45. (Comservpac, Pearl disp 022103 Jan'46 to BuPers).

INACTIVATED

ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1 Jul'44	33	1039	R & MoR
1 Aug'44	33	1047	R & MoR
1 Sep'44	24	1041	MoR
1 Oct'44	24	996	MoR
1 Nov'44	24	See Below	MoR
1 Dec'44	20		MoR
1 Feb'45	See ABCD EDUR		
1 Mar'45	see ABCE EDUR		
1 Apr'45	21	996	BNP625 & MoR
1 May'45	22	962	MoR
1 Jun'45	23	957	MoR
1 Jul'45	23	931	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	23	909	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		899	BNP625
1 Oct'45		58	BNP625

1 Nov'44 on-board figure of men included with that of ABCD EDUR, See card for that unit.

118th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)



Chief of Civil Engineers

TO THE MEN OF THE 118TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION ASSOCIATION

On the occasion of your eighteenth reunion, it is with great pleasure that I extend warm greetings from your fellow SEABEES in the United States Navy. The men of the 118th NCB will long be remembered for their service to the nation at New Guinea, in the Sulu Archipelago, and on Mindanao and Luzon in the Philippine Islands.

You can be truly proud of the accomplishments of your battalion, especially the construction of the Advanced Base Construction Depot at Milne Bay in New Guinea; the Motor Torpedo Repair Base at Isabela on Basilan Island; the Naval Section Base Headquarters at Zamboanga; and the other myriad construction tasks you were called upon to execute in the South Pacific. From its establishment in August 1943 until its deactivation in October 1945, the battalion upheld the highest traditions of the United States Navy, and all of you who stepped forward to join the 118th during World War II have fully earned and are truly deserving of the title of "SEABEE".

It was men of your mettle who paved the way for the present-day SEABEE, an intrepid man in his own right. Inspired by the deeds of his World War II fighter-builder predecessor, today's SEABEE is performing an outstanding service for God and country. You can be proud of him, and remember, once a SEABEE always a SEABEE!

The officers of the Civil Engineer Corps of the United States Navy and the men and women of the Naval Construction Force join me in saluting the men of the 118th Naval Construction Battalion and wishing each of you fair winds and good sailing in the years ahead.

30 June 1977

D. G. ISELIN
Rear Admiral
Civil Engineer Corps
United States Navy

118TH BATTALION

Commissioned in the Summer of 1943 at Peary, the 118th NCB moved to Davisville in August, then to Gulfport in September. On Feb. 25, 1944, the Battalion shipped out, arriving at Gamadodo, Milne Bay, sometime the next month and remained there on duty until March 1945, when 19 officers and 900 men departed for Mindanao, P. I., leaving a small detachment behind. While at Gamadodo, the 118th operated at ABCD and ASPD at Milne Bay. On April 6, a detachment of 100 men left Mindanao for Zamboanga on additional duty orders. When the war ended, the Battalion had orders to move to Subic Bay, in the Philippines.

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ITINERARY OF THE 118TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

- 19 Aug. 1943 Transferred from Camp Peary, Virginia to Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I.
- 28 Sept 1943 Transferred to Gulfport, Mississippi.
- 25 Feb. 1944 Left for overseas destination.
- 31 May 1944 Operating at ABCD and ASPD, Gamadodo, Milne Bay, as of this date. Exact date of arrival unknown.
- 5 Sept 1944 ASPD detached from 118th Construction Battalion.
- 1 Mar. 1945 Detachment A consisting of 67 men took over operations at ABCD, Milne Bay.
- 5 Mar. 1945 19 officers and 200 men departed Milne Bay, leaving Det. D.
- 30 Mar. 1945 Arrived Mindanao, P.I.
- 6 Apr. 1945 A detachment of 3 officers and 100 men moved to Zamboanga to work on Navy Base Headquarters.
- 10 Aug. 1945 Ordered to proceed and report to Cinc 24th Regiment, Subic Bay, for duty when directed. No further word as to actual movement.

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

Date: 13 September 1945.

**U.S. NAVAL
CONSTRUCTION BATTALION**



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**"THE PILLAR"
BATTALION**





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