120th Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information

"Construimus, Batuimus"
"We Build, We Fight"

NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Remarks
6/3/44	-	Oran, Agadir, Lyautey	-	Left U.S. [illegible]
6/6/44	-	United States	ComNavNaw Sec disp. 230933-may	returned to [illegible] 8 June
6/6/44	-	Davisville, R.I.	ComNavNaw sec disp. 011317-June	proceed as planned, report to NCTC Davisville
9/18	-	Inactivated	C.B. report 1 September	

Training Schedule 120th CB

NCTC -
ABD - Davisville
Ready Date -
Left ABD -
Location - Casablanca -Oran

Log

6 Feb.'43 - Ordered transferred from Davisville to NYC FFT. (53rd [illegible])
- - - - The 120th C.B. is composed of 2nd Section of the 17th C.B. and 2nd Section of 53rd.
- - - - The 120 C.B. is at Casablanca.
6-5-43 -- April Report. Part of 17th CB to North Africa Nov. 1942; Feb. 19, 1943 2nd Section 53rd CB and 2nd Section 17th CB joined to form 120th CB.
10 June'43-120th C.B. Hdqtrs at Arzew - from ComNavVaw Bonf. desp. 081358 June'43.
20 June'43- Officer list checked and corrected from May 25'43 report.
7-23-43 - Officer list checked and ok from June Mo. report.
8-10-43 - Officer roster checked and ok from 30 July'43 report.
8-13-43 - Headquarters at Oran, one company at Arzew; one company in Morocco; 185 men at Casablance; remainder at Port Lyantey. Sould be out of Morocco by 15 July. (ltr. 29 June'43 T. L. Devey, Loncrahnaw to Capt. Manning)
8-27-43 - Lt.(jg) Galarno, Carp. Kotrba and Meisburger assigned from the 29th CB(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 2 August 1943)
9-1-43 - July report 120 CB operating at Oran, La Senia, Port Lyautry, Casablanca, Algiers Jura, Zaca, Gavu, Dizo, and Span.

120th CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (Formed from 17th CB, 2nd Sect. & 53rd CB, 2nd Sect)

17CB (2nd Section) - destination Hulk, Blot, Snob

15 Sept 42	At Gulfport.
22 Sept 42	Left for Davisville
1 Oct 42	VCPNAV-Conf. dis. 011821 Oct. 42 authority granted to transfer 2nd Sect. by units.
1 Oct 42	Unit under Lt. M. A. Walker to RecSta NOB Norfolk.
5 Oct 42	Unit under Lt. Charles G. Day to rept to RecSta Long Beach, N.Y.
19 Oct 42	Unit under Lt. (jg) C. W. Manly to CO RecSta, Long Beach, N.Y.
20 Oct 42	CO Davisville TWX 201430 8/10/42 3rd det., 2nd Sect. 17th CB left for Long Beach last of 17th CB at Davisville.
22) Oct 42 23)	RecSta NOB Norfolk, misc. detachs. of men assigned to ships.
5 Nov 42	Waves 2 & 3 en route.
11 Dec 42	A-OinC 3rd detach-17th CB-2nd Sect. ltr muster roll & ships to which assigned.
9 Jan 43	17th in CasaBlanca.
3 Feb 43	53rd at Davisville - OPNAV issuing orders-(WA Seabees TWX031041-2-43).
7 Feb 43	53rd left Davisville for embarkation.
19 Feb 43	17th CB, 2nd Sect. & 53rd CB, 2nd Sect. formed 120th CB.
10 Jun 43	120th HQ at Arzew - ComNavNaw. Conf dis 081358 June.
29 Jun 43	120th HQ at Oran, operating at Arzew, Morocco, Casablanca, Pt. Lyautey. (Landcrabnaw to Capt. Manning).

120th C.B. ITINERARY OF THE 120TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

19 Feb'43 — The 2nd Section of the 53rd and 2nd Section of the 17th CB were joined at Casablanca and designated as the 120th CB.

The 120th CB took part in assault operations at Casablanca, Fedala and Safi.

1 Jun'43 — Batt. moved to Oran. Detachments were left at Casablanca, Safi, Fedala and Port Lyautey. A detachment was also assigned to the 70th CB at Arzew for work preparatory to the Sicilian Invasion. Men of the 120th CB took part in operations at Agadir, Mostaganem, Algiers, Gela, Licata, Port Empedocle, Palermo, Termini, Ustica, Salerno, Nisida and Caserte. The batt. was relieved by CBMU 513 and 567 and CBD 1040 and 1045.

14 Jun'44 — 8 officers and 280 men arrived NCTC, Davisville.
15 Jun'44 — 31 officers and 764 men arrived NCTC Davisville.
15 Aug'44 — The 120th CB was inactivated at NCTC, Davisville.

—Info furnished Enl. Pers. Files Section by CB operations.

Itinerary of the 120th Const. Batt.

120th CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (Formed from 17th CB, 2nd Sect. & 53rd CB, 2nd Sect) Cont'd.

July 43	Monthly rept - operating at Oran, LaSenia, Pt. Lyautey, Casblanca, Algiers, Jura, Zaca, Gavu, Dizo & Span.
Sept 43	Operating in Africa - detachments at Sofi, Casablanca, Pt. Lyautey, Palermo Sicily & Termini.
29 Dec 43	Operating at Oran (Secret: P16-5-5392 ComNavNaw to CNO).
1 Jan 44	Monthly rept - HQ at Oran, units at: Palermo, Sicily, Algiers, Mostaganem, Arzew, La Senia, Pt. Lyautey, Casablanca & Agadir.
Feb 44	Monthly rept - operating at Agadir, Pt. Lyautey, Oran, La Senia, Algiers, Palermo, Salerno.
Mar 44	Monthly rept - operating at Agadir, Pt. Lyautey, Oran Algiers, Palermo, Salerno, Caserta (Italy), Naples, & Ajaccio. (petroleum group at Corsica-Personnelfrom this group may volunteer for trans. to Detach 1045).
2 May 44	10 men volunteered & were trans. to 1045.
29 May 44	Operating - Oran, La Senia, Pt. Lyautey, Casablanca, Algiers, Palermo, Corsica, Salerno, Naples, Nisida. Batt. expects to ret. soon.
1 Jun 44	Rept - preparing for sailing as of 20 May: Oran, 585 men; Pt. Lyautey, 456. Ten men trans. to Det. 1045 at Ajaccio. CBMUS 566 & 567 taking over.
3 July 44	Arrived at NCTC Davisville: 14 June 280 men & 8 off; 15 June 764 men & 31 off.

120th CB

9-16-43 - Lt.(jg) Balurdo detached to Peary(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated Sept. 10'43)
9-16-43 - Carp. Atwood assigned from 54th CB(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated Sept. 10, 1943)
10-6-43 - Officer roster checked with 30 Aug'43 roster and ok except few late detachments,etc.
10-16-43--Carp. Stebbins detached to Peary(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated Oct. 13, 1943).
10-23-43--Officer roster checked with Sept'43 report. ChC officer detached to Tunis for duty.
10-23-43--From Disp. from ComNavNAW to Bupers 211033 NCR 36608 21 Oct'43 - Authority is requested that Lt. Chas. S. Whitaker, MC replace Lt. Welfare who is to return to US.
10-26-43--Sept. mon. report - 120the CB operating in Africa, with detachments at Sofi, Casablance, Port Lyanty, Palermo, Sicily and Termini.
11-29-43--Lt Charles S Whitaker to report to Batt for duty. (Comnavnaw despatch dated 10 Nov'43)
11-29-43--Lt Charles B Welfare detached & to return to US. (Comnavnaw despatch dated 10 Nov '43)
12-29-43--120th CB is at Oran.(Secret: P16-5 - 5392 Comnavnaw to CNO).
1-8-44 --Officer roster checked with 1 Dec'43 monthly report. Carp. Gorman still with this batt.-was ordered to 29th CB in August. Added Ens. Hanssen, SC.
1-13-44--Carp. Overbee assigned from CBMU 578(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 8 Jan'44).
2-3-44 --Officer roster checked with 1 Jan'44 monthly report - Carp. Gorman still with this battalion but was assigned to 29th in Aug'43 - am adding to 120th CB. The 120th CB has headqtrs in Oran with units at Palermo, Sicily, Algiers, Mostaganem, Arzew, LaSenia, Port Lyautey, Casablanca and Agadir.
2-26-44 -Officer roster checked with Jan'44 report - detached Lt.(jg) McCloughry,SC. Distribution as of 31 Jan'44 - 295 men at Oran(Hdqtrs), 22 men at LaSenia, 359 men at Port Lyautey and 2 men at Rabat, Casablanca 48 men, 63 at Algiers, 234 men at Palermo and 65 men at Agadir - total of 1078 men.

120th CB

4-6-44 - 120th CB located at Oran, Agadir and Lyautey according to Yeo. Wolf - 4-4-44.

4-11-44--Officer roster checked with 1 Mar'44 roster and OK - 120th CB monthly report for Feb'44. 120th CB operating at Agadir, Port Lyautey, Oran, ~~XXXXX~~, LaSenia, Algiers, Palermo, Salerno, CBMU 566 took over operations at Casablanca. 175 men of CBMU 513 are scheduled to arrive in Oran early in March. CBMU 567 have arrived at Palermo. Transfer of personnel of 120th CB into Det. 1045 to be voluntary.

4-27-44 - Lt. Coombe and Lt. Leeper detached to CBD 1045(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 17 Apr'44).

5-12-44 - 120th CB report for Mar'44 - Operating at Agadir, Port Lyautey, Oran, Algiers, Palermo, Salerno, Caserta(Italy), Naples, and Ajaccio(petroleum group at Corsica consisting of 1 officer and 46 men - personnel from this group will be allowed to volunteer for transfer into Det. 1045).

5-29-44 -Officer roster checked with 1 May'44 report - added Carps. Conner, Davies, Elam, Hueneke, Hummel, Kehm, Lukacsy, Morgan, Samuel, Swanson, Tapella and Zalusky. 120th CB is operating at Oran, LaSenia, Port Lyautey, Casablanca, Algiers, Palermo, Corsica, Salerno, Naples, Nisida. The batt. expects to return to U.S. in near future.

6-8-44 - Lts. Coombe and Leeper's orders to Det. 1045 cancelled - to continue with 120th CB. (Bupers ~~Sgt~~ disp. to Com8flt 191617 dated 19 May'44).

6-20-44--Carp. Conner detached to Vernon Calif.(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 3 Jun'44).

6-22-44--Officer roster checked with 1 Jun'44 report - detached Lt. Williams, SC and added Ens. Art, SC. The division of manpower as of 20 May'44 preparing for sailing - at Oran, Algeria - 585 men. At Port Lyautey - 456 men. CBMU 566 to take over operations at Lyautey. Operations at Palermo, Sicily turned over to CBMU 567. A Group from Det. 1040 assigned at Salerno. Work at Naples turned over to Det. 1040. Nisda project was completed 26 Apr'44. 10 men of 120th CB transferred to Det. 1045 at Ajaccio, Corsica.

120th CB

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7-3-44 - 120th CB arrived at NCTC Davisville 14 Jun'44 with 8 off. and 280 men. 31 off. and 764 men arrived 15 Jun'44.

7-3-44 - Officer roster checked with 15 Jun'44 roster - detached Ens. Art, SC.

7-3-44 - Lt. Harper, Leeper, Moore and Lt.(jg) Galarno detached to Endicott(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 28 Jun'44).

7-3-44 - Carp. Atwood, Davies, Elam, Gorman, Hueneke, Hummel, Kehm, Kotrba, Lukacsy, Meisburger, Morgan, Overboe, Samuel, Swanson, Tapella and Zalusky detached to Endicott(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 28 Jun'44).

7-3-44 - Lt.(jg) Hunter detached to Endicott(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 28 Jun'44).

8-11-44 - 120th CB final report dtd 2 Aug'44 gives brief history of 120th CB. -- The 120th CB was formed at Casablanca 19 Feb'43. It was made up of the second half of the 17th and second half of the 53rd CB's. The batt had first wavers in the assault operations at Casablanca, Fedala and Safi; a const. force was estab. at Port Lyautey Air Station in Nov'42. The batt moved to Oran 1 Jun'43. Detachments were left behind at Casablance, Safi, Fedala and Port Lyatuey. Men of 120th CB were detailed to 70th CB(Arzew)for work prepartory to Sicilian invasion. This same group of men also were with the 54th CB, Det. 1005 and 1006. In Africa 120th CB operated at Agadir, Mostaganem, and Algiers. All shore facility work in entire Sicilian operations was done by 120th CB - at Gela, Licata, Port Empedocle, Palermo, Termini and Ustica. Operated at Salerno, Nisida and Caserta. CBMU 566 relieved the Batt. at Casablanca, Port Lyautey & Agadir. CBMU 513 relieved them at Oran and Mers El Kebir. CBMU 567 took over at Palermo and Italy. The Det. 1040 helped relieve at Italy. Det. 1045 relieved the 120th in Corsica. Tour of duty - approx 20 months.

[illegible] INACTIVATED [illegible]

	ON BOARD		
DATE	OFFICERS	MEN	AUTHORITY
1 Jun'44	40	1042	BNP625

120th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

120TH BATTALION

The 120th NCB was formed overseas in Casablanca, North Africa, Feb. 19, 1943. Personnel were gathered from the second sections of the 17th and 53rd NCB. In June 1943, headquarters were set up at Oran, with units operating at Arzero, Casablanca and Pt. Lyautey. Later, other units were stationed at Algiers, Span, Jura and other North African localities. In September, detachments were sent into Palermo, Sicily and Termini. The Battalion continued to operate in the Mediterranean area until June 1944, when it was sent back to the States and inactivated in August 1944.

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ITINERARY OF THE 120TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

This battalion formed at Casablanca from the 2nd Section, 17th CB, and 2nd Section, 53rd CB.

Nov 1942	-	The 2nd Section, 17th CB, left U. S. some time during this month. Date of arrival unknown.
9 Jan 1943	-	17th in Casablanca.
7 Feb 1943	-	2nd Section, 53rd CB, left Davisville, R.I., for embarkation.
19 Feb 1943	-	120th CB formed at Casablanca from above units.
10 Jun 1943	-	Headquarters at Arzeero.
29 Jun 1943	-	Headquarters at Oran, operating at Arzeero, Morocco, Casablanca, and Pt. Lyautey.
Jul 1943	-	Operating at Oran, La Senia, Pt. Lyautey, Casablanca, Algiers, Jura, Zeea, Gavu, Diso, and Span.
Sep 1943	-	Detachments at Safi, Casablanca, Pt. Lyautey, Palermo, Sicily, and Termini.
Mar 1944	-	Operating Agader, Pt. Lyautey, Oran, Algiers, Palermo, Salerno, Caserta (Italy), Naples, and Ajaccio.
Jun 1944	-	Ten men transferred to CB Det. 1045 at Ajaccio.
14 Jun 1944	-	280 men and 8 officers arrived at Davisville.
15 Jun 1944	-	764 men and 31 Officers arrived Davisville.
15 Aug 1944	-	Inactivated.

NOTE: The above information is based on records available in the C. B. Operations Section of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

15 September 1945

U.S.A.
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BATTALION

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