

128th Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



Det. 1006 inactivated by BuPers 20TWK1710 Sep'44.
34 men sent to Dets. 1027, 1031, and 1032, - Balance
of Detachment going into the reactivated 128th CB.

Det. 1006 left ABD Davisville 30 Mar'43.

128th CB (Pontoon)

NCTC - Davisville
ABD - Parks
Ready Date - 15 Nov'44
Left ABD - 25 Nov'44 ✓
Location - ~~SANITEX~~ Guam

LOG

- 10-2-44 - 128th CB reactivated as a Pontoon Operating Battalion similar to the 70th CB utilizing the personnel of of Det. 1006 and 1047 to a great extent. (Bupers 20TWK1710 Sep'44 to Endicott).
- 10-26-44 - 128th CB ordered transferred from Davisville to Parks on 23 Oct'44. (Rest. ltr from Davisville to Parks NM24-4/P16-4(7) Ser 4597 over HWW;jb dtd 19 Oct'44)
- 11-1-44 - 128th CB with 66 officer and 1146 men arrived Parks from Davisville 28 Oct'44. (Parks 290010 TWX OCT'44 to Budocks).
- 1-29-44 - The 128th CB, with 66 officers and 1132 men, departed Parks for overseas 25 Nov'44. (Parks Sec. Disp. to Bupers 260030 NCR 4230 dtd 25 Nov'44)
- 12-7-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 36th Reg. - It is proposed to assign the 128th CB to the 36th Regiment upon arrival of the batt.
- 12-16-44 - 128th CB located at Pearl Harbor and is in the 8th Brg. (Com 14 Sec. Disp. to CNO 072103 dtd 13 Dec'44)
- 1-20-45 - The 128th CB is at Guam (moving to Guam in echelons). (Comincpac&poa conf. ltr Ser. 0198 dtd 6 Jan'45 to CNO).
- 1-22-45 - 3 officers and 69 men ordered to proceed immediately and report to the Comdr. Amph. Force, US PacFlt for temp. duty as a unit of the 128th CB Pontoon Detachment. Upon completion of this temporary duty and when directed by proper authority to return to the Cinc 128th CB for resumption of regular duties. (Cinc 36 Reg. ltr to the officers in charge of the men 06NCR-01-ATD/egw dtd 21 Dec'44)

128th C.B.

- 1-27-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 128th CB - Batt departed from Camp Parks 25 Nov'44. No info on present location. Report endorsed by 8th Brg. and H.A.B.
- 2- 5-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 8th Brg. - The 128th CB arrived at Iroquois Pt. on 2 Dec'44 and was assigned to the 36th Reg. 16 officers and 350 men on detached duty.
- 2- 7-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 128th CB - located in Hawaiian area. Report endorsed by the 36th Regiment. 6 detachments of 1 off. and 22 men each were detached on 27 Dec'44; 2 detachments of 5 off. and 109 men each were detached on 28 Dec'44 -- all under the operational control of PhibsPac.
- 2-14-45 -- The 128th CB is located at Guam (part??).(IsComGuam Sec. disp to CNO 030621 dtd 8 Feb'45).
- 2-17-45 -- The 128th CB is located at Pearl Hbr.(Com 14 Sec. disp to CNO 081016 Feb'45).
- 3- 5-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 128th CB - location not given. Report endorsed by the 36th Reg.
- 3-8-45 -- According to Dirpadocks San Fran 15 Feb'45 report the 128th CB is located at Guam.
- 3-10-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 5th Brg. - Advanced detachment of the 128th CB (approx 290 men) reported to the 5th Brg. in Jan. This detachment has been placed under the 5th Brg. for adm control only--for operational control to report to Adm. Com. Amph Forces US PacFlt.
- 4- 9-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 8th Brg. - Batt hqtrs & personnel were moved from ABERD Iroquois Pt to the 36th Reg. Camp, Intrepid Pt., Oahu on 26 Jan'45. 41 off. and 789 men on detached duty.
- 4-10-45 -- The 128th CB is located SE of Piti(Guam).(5th Brg. War Diary 1 Feb to 28 Feb'45).

Location - Guam, Adcomphibspac

128th C.B.

- 4-13-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 128th CB.- Battalion secured work details 1 Mar'45 to prepare for forward move. All battalion personnel not on temp. additnl duty with ADCOMPHIBSPAC embarked from Iroquois Point, Oahu, 7 Mar'45. As of 31 Mar'45 battln had not yet disembarked from ship at destination. 48 off. and 996 men on detached duty under operational control of AdComPhibPac.
- 4-16-45 - The 128th CB is located S.E. of Piti, Guam. (5th Brg War Diary of 1 Apr'45)
- 4-18-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 36th Reg. - The remaining detach. of the 128th CB and the forwd echlon of the 36th Reg. embarked for forwd area (Guam) on 12 Mar and arrived at the camp on 31 Mar'45. Units of the batts of the 36th Reg. are participating in forward operations under command of the Amph Forces.
- 4-25-45 - 128th CB included in list of units deleted from 14ND. (Com14 Sec Airmailgram NCR 13634 to CNO dtd 10 Apr'45)
- 4-26-45 - Causeways at Okinawa being operated by 128th CB. (Comphibspac Conf Disp 062325 dtd 19 Apr'45 to Budocks)
- 5- 8-45 - The 128th CB is located at Guam with about 300 men on forwd move. (Dirpadocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)
- 5-17-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 128th CB - 17 off. and 199 men disembarked at Guam on 1 Apr'45. The advance detachment which included 15 off. and 248 men and which were detached on 28 Dec'44, reported back to the batt on 7 Apr'45. 32 off. and 654 men on detached duty with Adcomphibspac. Report routed via the 36th Reg. and 5th Brg.
- 5-21-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 36th Reg - 70th & 128th CBs are jointly operating assembly yard in Marianas. 53 men assigned to the 128th CB during Apr'45 by 36th Reg.
- 5-21-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 128th CB - located at Oahu as of 1 March. 46 off. and 906 men on detached duty with Adcomphibpac.

Location - Guam, AdcomPhibspac

128th C.B.

- 6-11-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 36th Reg. - Elements of the 70th and 128th CBs ret'd from operations in the Ryukyu Islands with the Amph Forces.
- 6-28-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 128th CB - located at Guam. From 8 May'45 to 23 May'45 28 officers & 549 men returned to 128th CB hdqtrs from detached duty. There are 6 officers & 88 men on detached duty with AdComPhibsPac. Report routed via 36th Reg & 5th Brig.
- 7-18-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 36th Reg - The Amph Forces Pont Assembly Yd, Marianas is operated jointly by the 70th and 128th CBs.
- 7-20-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 128th CB - located at Guam. All off. and men of the batt. not on detached duty with AdComPhibsPac are now aboard at Guam. The last groups on detached duty with AdComPhibsPac ret'd during the month. Report via 36th Reg and 5th Brig.
- 7-27-45 - Dirnackocks P Sec Report of 10 July shows the 128th CB at Guam, scheduled for Okinawa.
- 8-17-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 128th CB - located at Guam. 14 officers and 200 men are on detached duty with AdComPhibsPac. Report via 36th Reg and 5th Brig.
- 9-14-45 - Adcomphibspac is authorized to release the 128th CB about 1 Nov'45. (Comphibspac conf disp 110400 Sept'45 to Adcomphibspac).
- 9-17-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 128th CB - no info as to location. Report via 36th Reg & 5th Brig. All officers & men are on board at DUVA or on detached duty with AdComPhibsPac.
- 9-18-45 - Present hdqtrs of the 36th Reg on Guam are the 70th & 128th CBs. (1 Sept'45 report of 36th Reg).

Location - Guam

128th CB

- 9-24-45 - Officers & men of 128th CB will report to CO, Administrative Command, Phibforces, Marianas for tempdu. Upon completion of tempdu report to CinC, 128th CB. (CinC, 20th Reg conf ltr ser TDO-83 dtd 23 Aug'45 to Lt. Ginner via 128th CB).
- 10-10-45 - 128th CB to be inactivated on approx 1 Nov.'45. Inform Comservpac when inactivation is completed. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05466 dtd 1 Oct'45 to 5thBrig)
- 10-25-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 128th CB - located at Guam. Report via 36th Reg. & 5th Brig. All officers & men are on board at Guam or on detached duty with AdComPhibsPac.
- 11-26-45 - 128th CB is inactivated as of 20 Nov'45. (5th Brig conf ltr ser 13264 dtd 8 Nov'45 to CinC, 128th CB).
- 11-28-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 128th CB - location not stated. Report via 36th Reg. & 5th Brig. 21 off. & 450 men returned from duty having participated in the landing of Occupation Forces in Japan, Korea & China. 845 men returned from duty including 366 men from 70th CB & 50 men from 111th CB.

INACTIVATED

ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1 Nov'44		1143	BNP625
1 Dec'44	66	1130	MoR
1 Jan'45	66	1119	MoR
1 Feb'45	65	1110	MoR
1 Mar'45	64	1103	MoR
1 Apr'45	64	1103	MoR
1 May'45	63	1149	MoR
1 Jun'45	63	1138	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	63	1093	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	63	1093	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		1111	BNP625
1 Oct'45	51	1011	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	29	878	BNP625 & R

128th Construction Battalion(Pentoon) (INACTIVATED)

128th C.B. (Pentoon)

DECLASSIFIED

<u>Date</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Notes</u>
	<i>Inactivated</i>			
7/29	-	(Cincpoa (Pentoon))	C. O. memo 23 Sept. also 14/5.	Ready Camp Barks November 15 and cincpoa (Pentoon)
10/13	-	(Camp Barks)	CNO conf diag 121955 Oct	Decision to transfer to Barks about 25 Oct.
10/20	-	Endicott	Endicott memo 10/24.	Ready Nov 15 and Aluel Harbor. no. ship priority
1/9	-	In Transit	" 28 Oct	Ready at Barks 11/15 as'd cincpoa. no priority
1/27	-	Rear (?)	Shoemaker cal sec 260030 NR	departed vessel NR 25.
2/12	-	FRAY	Com 14/sec act diag. 072103 Dec.	8th Brigade
2/12	-	PUVA	Steam sec act	added.
4/21	-	-	diag. 030621 Feb. Com 14/ sec diag 14/AMid	added Fray.

129 C. B

9/13 ... -

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Comphichapoc release about
\$ 110400 Sept. 17 Nov.

United States Naval Construction Battalion 128

United States Naval Construction Battalion 128 was originally activated at Camp Peary, Virginia, 2 September 1943. On 9 September 1943, the battalion, numbering about 1,100 men, was transferred to Camp Endicott, Davisville, Rhode Island, for advanced military and technical training. The Officer in Charge until October 1943 was Lieutenant Commander Rupert A. Sterzik, CEC, USNR. On 19 October, the battalion was transferred to Camp Parks, Pleasanton, California, for overseas assignment. However, its personnel shortly became part of the operating force at the United States Naval Construction Battalion Replacement and Recuperation Center at Camp Parks, and the battalion was inactivated there on 31 January 1944.

The 128th Naval Construction Battalion (Pontoon) was activated again on 28 September 1944 at Camp Endicott with Lieutenant Commander Alexander C. Husband, CEC, USN, as Officer in Charge. In July and August of that year, Seabees, who previously had demonstrated the effectiveness of the "magic box" at Salerno, Anzio, and Normandy, were arriving at Davisville. These were the pontoon veterans of United States Naval Construction Battalion Detachments 1006 and 1047. The greater portion of both units formed the nucleus of the 128th.

After a brief training period, the battalion, comprising about 1,200 men, entrained in three echelons for the West Coast. On 27 and 28 October 1944, it arrived at Camp Parks, Pleasanton, California, for further training. On 25 November, the battalion boarded the USS Sibley for duty in the Pacific Ocean Area.

The Sibley reached Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, on 2 December. The Seabees of the battalion disembarked, took up quarters at the Advance Base Receiving Depot at Iroquois Point, and were assigned to the Thirty-sixth United States Naval Construction Regiment. At nearby Intrepid Point, where the battalion moved its headquarters in late January 1945, the battalion assembled pontoon equipment in preparation for amphibious operations.

In December 1944, the battalion formed into Pontoon Barge Platoons and Pontoon Causeway Platoons, and each platoon consisted of 1 officer

and 22 enlisted men. Late in the month, the platoons began to depart for the Western Pacific. The platoons traveled singly aboard Tank Landing Ships, and during operations were attached to Commander, Amphibious Forces, United States Pacific Fleet. Other platoons followed at intervals through 4 March 1945, and by that date over 800 men were so engaged.

Aboard the LSTs, the Seabees of the battalion stood signal watches and pontoon causeway watches, and assisted in hauling, storing, and loading. The highly-specialized pontoon units spread out across the Pacific. In the Russell Islands, platoons practiced amphibious landings. Eleven LSTs bearing 128th Seabees arrived in the Philippines for cargo operations in February and March of 1945. Seven of these departed after a month to take part in the pending invasion of Okinawa, while four plied among the Philippine Islands until July. In addition, platoons were at Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Tulagi, Ulithi, and Saipan.

While its personnel were engaged at these far-flung locations, the headquarters of the 128th, together with the forward echelon of the Thirty-sixth United States Naval Construction Regiment, arrived at Guam on 31 March 1945.

On Guam, the battalion constructed a camp and a pontoon assembly yard, while at Leyte-Samar and other locations its LST-based pontoon crews were preparing for the invasion of Okinawa.

The invasion of Okinawa and other Ryukyu Islands, one of the major amphibious operations of the war, saw the reconvergence of several 128th platoons. Four days before D-day three causeway platoons of the 128th landed with a force of Marines in the Kerama Retto, a small group of islands off Okinawa, and emplaced causeways while under air attack and sniper fire. The main force hit the western beaches of Okinawa on D-day, Easter Sunday, 1 April 1945, and 669 men of the battalion, under the leadership of Commander Husband, took part in the assault. The 128th Seabees had the first causeways in the water by 0800 on D-day and beached several causeways by noon. Troops, ammunition, fuel, and cargo were landed by pontoon barges by the day after D-day. At Red Beach, a 1,425-foot floating pontoon pier was in operation by 3 April. In all, the platoons placed 28 sets of 2-section by 30-section pontoon causeways.

More than 64,000 troops landed dry-shod, and over 110,000 tons of cargo were unloaded over these structures, which were used more extensively than in any previous Pacific operation.

At Ie Shima, 5 miles west of Okinawa, three platoon crews landed and encountered the most intensive beach resistance of the Ryukyu landings. Casualties did not deter the 128th Seabees from placing causeways to accelerate the invasion. Another dangerous job was the repair of battle damage to the ships screening the invading forces from the incursions of Kamikaze planes. At Kerama Retto, about 100 men of the 128th Seabees made on-the-spot repairs to ships under hazardous battle conditions.

Pontoon warping tugs assembled and manned by the battalion kept piers and caseways in place during a severe storm on 4 April. The tugs also cleared the beaches of scores of landing craft and barges beached by the storm tides.

The operational platoons returned to Guam from May through July where they were outfitted and redeployed to various locations. Five caseway platoons landed on Banika Island in the Russell Group of the British Solomon Islands on 24 July 1945. There they assembled 25 strings of 1-section by 30-section causeways and 40 sets of operational gear, most of which they then loaded aboard LSTs. On 17 October 1945, these 128th Seabees assisted in the camp evacuation and final cleanup and returned to the 128th Battalion Headquarters on Guam. Other barge and caseway platoons traveled between the Marianas, Ryukyus, and the Philippines in July and August.

Pontoon operations continued after V-J Day. In September and October 1945, about 450 men of the battalion participated in the landing of occupation forces in Japan, Korea, and China. At Aomori, Japan, pontoon barges were used to assist the Army in unloading cargo. The 128th Seabees unloaded seven caseway sets of Yokohama and operated barges in Hokkaido. In Korea, they launched three causeways near Inchon.

At Shanghai, cheering throngs, firecrackers, and clashing cymbals attended the arrival of the Allied troops. On the Whangpoo River at Shanghai, Seabees of the 128th Battalion operated four pontoon barges and placed a pontoon caseway. They also placed a caseway at Tientsin, China.

The platoons deployed to Japan, Korea, and China returned to Guam in October 1945, where they were joined by the platoons just returned from Banika Island. The 128th Seabees prepared for redeployment home. In the organizational changes incidental to demobilization, the 128th Construction Battalion was shifted on 24 October from the Thirty-sixth to the Thirty-fifth Naval Construction Regiment. Battalion personnel were transferred to other units for return home. The battalion was inactivated at Guam on 20 November 1945.

ROUGH DRAFT

3/23/67

ITINERARY U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 128

- Sep 43 The United States Naval Construction Battalion 128 was activated at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia. The Officer in Charge was Lieutenant Commander Rupert A. Sterzik, CEC, USNR.
- 9 Sep 43 The battalion moved to Camp Endicott, Davisville, Rhode Island .
- 19 Oct 43 The battalion was transferred to Camp Parks, Pleasanton, California. At the U. S. Naval Construction Battalion Replacement and Recuperation Center, Camp Parks the personnel became part of the camp operating force.
- 31 Jan 44 128 NCB was inactivated at Camp Parks.
- 28 Sep 44 The 128th NCB was reactivated as a Pontoon Battalion at Camp Endicott, Davisville, R.I., with Lieutenant Commander Alexander C. Husband, CEC, USN as Officer in Charge.
- 27-28 Oct 44 The battalion arrived at Camp Parks to undergo training.
- 25 Nov 44 The battalion embarked on the USS Sibley and left the continental United States.
- 2 Dec 44 The battalion disembarked at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and was quartered at the Advance Base Receiving Depot at Iroquois Point as part of the Thirty-sixth U.S. Naval Construction Regiment.

ROUGH DRAFT

Dec 44

In Hawaii the battalion trained in the assembly of pontoon equipment and for amphibious landings. The battalion was broken up into Pontoon Barge Platoons and Pontoon Causeway Platoons. The platoons consisted of 1 officer and 22 enlisted men.

Dec 44-Feb 45

The platoons of NCB128 began deploying to the Western Pacific on LST as components of the Commander, Amphibious Forces, United States Pacific Fleet. Some of the platoons went to the Russell Islands to practice amphibious landings.

Mar 45

11 platoons of 128th Seabees arrived in the Philippine Islands for cargo handling. During these months the 128th had platoons on the Philippine Islands, Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Tulagi, Ulithi, and Saigon and Guam in the Marianas. Guam was made headquarters of the 125th battalion. On Guam the 128th was attached to the 36th Naval Construction Regiment. The men of the battalion constructed a pontoon assembly yard on Guam while the platoons at other locations trained for the coming invasion of the island of Okinawa in the Ryukus.

28 Mar 45

Three causeway platoons took part in landings on Kerama Retto Islands of the Ryukus group.

1 Apr 45

The main body of the 128 NCB, 669 men landed on the western beaches of Okinawa. The pontoon causeways and barges were used to land troops, ammunition, fuel and other supplies for the invading forces.

ROUGH DRAFT

- Apr-May 45 The elements of the battalion continued to work on Okinawa, working on their pontoons, unloading men and cargo and at Kerama Retto even repairing.
- May-Jul 45 A number of platoons continued working on Guam while others returned to Guam for reoutfitting and then were redeployed.
- 24 Jul 45 Five causeway platoons landed on Boniha Island in the Russell Islands to assemble causeways.
- Jul-Oct 45 The five causeway platoons continued working on Boniha. Other platoons traveled and worked in the Marianas. Ryukus and Philippines.
- Sep-Oct 45 Men of the battalion participated in landings in Japan, Korea and China. The Seabees operated pontoon barges and installed causeways.
- 17 Oct 45 The 128th Seabees returned to their headquarters on Guam.
- 24 Oct 45 The 128th Construction Battalion was transferred to the 35th Naval Construction Regiment and battalion personnel was transferred to other units for transfer home.
- 20 Nov 45 MCB-128 was inactivated on Guam.

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