

137th Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information



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



Location - Okinawa

137th C.B.

NCTC - Davisville
ABD - Hueneme
Ready Date - 16 Apr'45
Left ABD - 26 May & 8 Jun'45
Location - Okinawa

LOG

- 1-31-45 - 137th CB assigned to BIVE from the U.S. (CNO Sec ltr Op30-2CK12-UOT over (SC) P16-5 over Ser 0019030 to distr. list dtd 15 Jan'45)
- 3-6-45 - CNO orders transfer of the 137th CB (Truck Oper) about 19 Mar'45 to Hueneme for outfitting and FFT. (Conf Disp 021503 from CNO to NCTC Davisville)
- 3-8-45 -- The 137th CB is destined for BIVE. (Cincpoa P.H. Sec. disp to Cominch 040400 Mar'45.
- 3-23-45 -- The 137th CB departed Endicott for Hueneme in 4 sections 20 Mar'45 with 21 officers and 1188 men. (Endicott NTX 222118 Mar'45 to Bupers).
- 3-30-45 -- The 137th CB arrived Hueneme 25 Mar'45 with 356 rated and 833 non-rated totaling 1189 men and 21 officers. (Hueneme NTX 271821 Mar'45 to Bupers).
- 6-6-45 - The 1st echelon of the 137th CB departed 26 May'45 for overseas with 13 off. and 635 men. (Hueneme conf disp 291703 May'45 to Bupers)
- 6-14-45 - 2nd echelon 137th CB departed Hueneme for overseas on 8 Jun'45 with 10 off. and 574 men. (Hueneme conf disp 091717 June to Bupers)
- 8-18-45 - 1 Aug '45 report ^(137 CB) located at Okinawa.
- 9-10-45 - 12th Brig, 53rd Reg & 54th Reg all activated 1 Sept'45. Regs & Batts in 12th Brig as follows--47th Reg-3,4,11,12,23,27, 36 (6 disp jumbled) Sp batts. 53rd Reg-28 & 148 CBs. 54th Reg-137 & 139 CBs. (CNOB, Okinawa conf disp 010654 Sept'45 to Cincpoa, P.).

Location - Okinawa

137th CB

- 9-26-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 137th CB - located at Okinawa.
- 10-25-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 137th CB - location not stated.
- 11-14-45 - Comservpac reqs Cincpoa's approval to inactivate 137th CB, etc. (Comservpac TWX 112035 Nov'45 to Cincpoa).
- 11-14-45 - C/C HedPearl approved inactivation of 137th CB. (C/C HedPearl TWX 132120 Nov'45 to Comservpac).
- 11-23-45 - Comservpac reqs Okinawa to inactivate 137th CB. (Comservpac 220032 Nov'45 TWX to NOB, Okinawa).
- 11-26-45 - 137th CB was inactivated on 23 Nov'45. (Comdr. of Comdespac Rep Marianas Area TWX 230637 Nov'45 to Comservpac).
- 12-14-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 137th CB - location not stated.

INACTIVATED

ON BOARD

<u>date</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1 Mar'45		770	BNP625
1 Apr'45		1191	BNP625
1 May'45		1230	BNP625
1 Jun'45		1231	BNP625
1 Jul'45	26	1212	Roster & ReCap Sheet
1 Aug'45	26	1205	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	26	1193	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'45	24	1057	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	17	854	BNP625 & R

137th Construction Battalion (Truck Oper.) (INACTIVATED)

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
Inactivated				
12/13	(Lion 8)	Camp Endicott	Bufdocs memo 9 Dec.	ready Thueneme 4/16/45 Asid Lion 8. (Bine - Bufdocs memo 10/23)
1/22	-	"	op 30 serial 0019030 1/15.	cancel assignment to Lion 8 - asid Bine.
2/23	-	(Bine)	Bufdocs memo 17 Feb.	Ready 4/16/45 - asid Bine - probable May ship.
3/9	-	"	CNOCM disp 021503 Mar	Transfer about 19 Mar. to Thueneme for outfitting to flight.
3/15	-	"	Bufdocs memo 3/9.	Ready 4/16/45 - asid Bine 1/2 ship in April (probable)

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
5/12	-	(Bine)	CNO sec disp 071935 May.	Asid priorities being shipd. Bine may be early June.

United States Naval Construction Battalion 137

United States Naval Construction Battalion 137 was originally activated at the Naval Construction Training Center, Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia, in October or November 1943. In late November the battalion moved to Gulfport, Mississippi, where it underwent military and technical training. On 25 February 1944 the battalion was broken up into United States Naval Construction Battalion Maintenance Units 595, 596, 597, and 598, and was inactivated as a battalion. (NOTE: Because of a lack of documentation, the above information is necessarily sketchy; but the research will be pursued further.)

On 22 January 1945, the 137th was activated again as a trucking battalion at Camp Endicott, Davisville, Rhode Island. Commander Eugene J. Peltier, CEC, USNR, was appointed Officer in Charge and undertook the task of forming the reestablished battalion. United States Naval Construction Battalion 137 (Trucking) was commissioned at the Advance Base Depot, Camp Thomas, Davisville, Rhode Island, on 10 February 1945.

The battalion underwent training at Davisville until 20 March 1945. On that date, it departed in four sections for the Advance Base Depot, Port Hueneme, California. The 21 officers and 1189 enlisted men arrived at Port Hueneme on 25 March and began trucking and mechanic training. They were then outfitted for overseas deployment. On 26 May the first echelon of the 137th Naval Construction Battalion departed Port Hueneme on the SS Santa Isabel, and the second echelon departed on 8 June.

On 5 July 1945, the 137th Naval Construction Battalion (Trucking) arrived at Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands, erected a camp of Quonset and Butler huts, and began trucking operations. The battalion was charged with the operation of the Katchin Hanto Dock, where the dispatch office was located. The battalion's principal assignment was the trucking of cargo from the dock to the supply dumps in the area. During four months of operation on Okinawa, the battalion's vehicles traveled over 628,295 miles and hauled in excess of 190,000 tons of cargo.

While on Okinawa, the 137th Naval Construction Battalion was assigned to the Twelfth United States Naval Construction Brigade and the Fifty-fourth United States Naval Construction Regiment, which respectively were activated on 25 September and 26 September 1945. On the date of the regiment's activation, Commander Peltier was detached from the 137th Naval Construction Battalion and became Officer in Charge of the regiment. Lieutenant H. E. Hegarty, CEC, USNR, became Acting Officer in Charge of the battalion and served until Lieutenant Commander J. A. Erickson, CEC, USN, assumed command in October.

Naval Construction Battalion 137 was inactivated at Okinawa on 10 November 1945, with Lieutenant (jg) James C. Roberts, CEC, USNR, Acting Officer in Charge, responsible for the disposal of the battalion records and equipment.

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**NO
PHOTOS
AVAILABLE**