138th Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information

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

NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND

138th C.B.

138th CB formed from Det. 1018, CBMU 547, 556, and 576 in Alaska.
Location - Alsec-Attu

LOG

3-16-44 - 138th CB located at Attu. CBMU 576 is with the 6th Regiment FPT Attu. (1st Brig. batt report dated 1 Mar'44)

4-20-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 138th CB - CBMU 576 arrived 9 Mar'44 and absorbed into command of 138th CB.

6-29-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 138th CB - operating at Attu.

7-31-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 138th CB - operating at Attu.

9- 4-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 138th CB - operating at Attu.

10-10-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 138th CB - operating at Attu.

11- 2-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 138th CB - operating at Attu. Report endorsed by 9th Reg.

11-30-44 - **1 Nov'44 report of 138th CB - operating at Attu. On 20 Oct'44, 102 men were transferred from the 138th CB to the 68th, while 199 men were transferred from the 68th to the 138th CB.**

1-5-45 - **1 Dec'44 report of the 138th CB - located at Attu. A definite reduction of maintenance personnel is anticipated.**

1-12-45 -- The 138th has been in the Alaskan sector in excess of one year(on the average) while ¼ of the batt have served in this sector about 16 months. Relief is requested. Should be in 2 section - first to arrive at Attu about 1 Feb'45 and the second section to arrive any time beyond 2 weeks after arrival of the first section.(Com 17 Sec. disp to CNO 300100 dtd 5 Jan'45).

1-24-45 - **BuPers requested to make ready 114th CB (Maint) at NCTC Davisville on 1 Apr'45 - to replace the 138th CB at Attu. (CNO ltr Op30-2CK14-rd over (SC)P16-5 over Ser 025830 dtd 17 Jan'45 to Bupers and others)**

138th CB

1-24-45 - **138th CB located at NAS Attu with 26 off. and 1102 men. 1/4 Batt departed Seattle Sep'43; ½ in Dec'43; and 1/4 in Feb'44. Com17 has requested relief for the entire 138th CB - 1st Section to arrive Attu 1 Feb'45, 2nd Section to arrive anytime two weeks beyond that date. (Nav. Const. Forces Alaskan Sector 9 Jan'45 Conf report)**

1-30-45 - **1 Jan'45 report of the 138th CB - located at Attu.**

2-12-45 - **1 Jan'45 report of the 134th CB - 2nd End. by Com17 states that to give temp assistance towards repairs of waterfront structures, 3 off. and 144 men of the 138th CB at Attu have been ordered for temp duty to NOB Adak. This detachment should arrive in Adak about 29 Jan'45.**

2-21-45 -- 1 Feb'45 report of the 138th CB - operating at Attu. The first Detachment of this batt was formed on 25 Jan'45 with 3 officers and 144 men. This unit was transferred 31 Jan'45. to Adak.

4- 3-45 - **1 Mar'45 report of the 138th CB - location not given. A large detachment was transferrred to another base.**

4-20-45 - **1 Apr'45 report of the 138th CB - location not given. 1st detachment stationed at Adak.**

5-11-45 - ETA Seattle 138th CB 29 May'45. (Com17 conf disp 082100 May'45 to CNO)

5-19-45 - Embark on SS CARL SCHURZ due 14 May at Attu the 138th CB (Maint).At Adak, embark all other temp duty assignments of this batt including those retd from Unalaska sector. Proceed to SanFran. Report to Comdt NavDis for transp to rehab center for processing leave and reassignment. (Com17 sec disp 122008 dtd 13 May'45 to Comattusec et al)

5-24-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 138th CB - located at Attu. 1st Det. located at Adak.

138th C.B.

5-31-45 - The 138th CB, consisting of 24 off. and 1087 men, arrived Parks from overseas on 28 May'45. (CBRD Parks TWX 292242 May'45 to Bupers)

6-8-45 - The 138th CB being inactivated by 16 Jun'45. (CBRD Parks sec ltr dtd 31 May'45 to CivOffinCom Parks)

6-14-45 - Latest date personnel of 138th CB will report back from leave to Parks 14 July: to Camp Endicott 19 July. (CBRD Parks restr TWX 111745 to Bupers)

10-8-45 - Comservpac desires to order the following units to 41st Reg.-90, 127, 138 & 38th, Sec. 3 CBs, etc. Comservpac requests 41st Reg. recommendations as to which units shld be for administrative control. (Comservpac sec spdltr ser 003755 dtd 30 Sept '45 to 41st Reg.).

INACTIVATED

DATE	OFFICERS	MEN	AUTHORITY
1 Jul'44	26	1013	MoR
1 Aug'44	27	1015	MoR
1 Sep'44	27	1009	MoR
1 Oct'44	27	1007	MoR
1 Nov'44	26	1103	MoR
1 Dec'44	26	1102	MoR
1 Jan'45	25	1099	MoR
1 Feb'45	24	1094	MoR
1 Mar'45	24	1093	MoR
1 Apr'45	24	1089	MoR
1 May'45	24	1088	MoR
1 Jun'45		39	BNP625

138th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

138CB

The 138th CB formed from the following:

Unit	Date Left ABD	Date Arr'd Loc.	Loc.
Det. 1018	9 Sep'43 (Seattle)	-	Attu
CBMU 547	14 Dec'43 "	-	"
CBMU 556	4 Dec'43	-	"
CBMU 576	23 Jan'44	-	"

Det. 1018, CBMU's 547 and 556 were ~~absorbed~~ dissolved into the 138th CB on 1 Feb'44. CBMU 576 arr'd Attu 9 Mar'44 and absorbed into the 138th.

138th C.B. (maint.)

DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/3/44	-	attw	-	Left U.S. Feb 1944.
1/4/44	"		(com 17 sec disp) 300100 dec)	relief should be furnished.
1/2	-	attw	attw sector sec act disp. dec. 170339.	
1/20	-	—	op30 con) sec 025830 1/17	- refer 300100 dec. CB114 to be made ready Danville NJ as replacement.
1/14/45	-	—	Com 17 sec 122008 May	Embark on S.S Carl Schurz due May 14th at attw; Report San Pran for leave & reassignment.
1/13	-	Parks	Buships memo	returned 28 5/28. - To be inactivated. June 8.

Aug. report shows inactivated.

138 CB

United States Naval Construction Battalion 138

On 21 October 1943, United States Naval Construction Battalion 138 was commissioned at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia, and Commander William T. Wright, CEC, USNR, was appointed Officer in Charge. At Camp Peary, the battalion engaged in advanced military and technical training. However, special drafts levied against it to obtain personnel for other construction units depleted the 138th Battalion. Consequently, it was decommissioned on 20 December 1943, and Commander Wright was alerted for an assignment with United States Naval Construction Forces in Australia.

On 1 February 1944, Naval Construction Battalion 138 was activated again on Attu Island in the Aleutians. It was formed from personnel of Construction Battalion Detachment 1018 and Construction Battalion Maintenance Units 547 and 556. Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 576 also was absorbed into the battalion upon its arrival at Attu on 9 March. The battalion performed maintenance and minor construction at the Attu Naval Air Station. On 25 January 1945, a detachment from the battalion was sent to Adak Island for maintenance duty.

The battalion was reunited in May 1945, and then sailed back to the United States. It arrived at Camp Parks, California, on 28 May, and was inactivated there on 16 June 1945.

History of the

Third United States Naval Construction Brigade

in the Second World War

On 21 January 1944, the Third United States Naval Construction Brigade was activated at Camp Seabee in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. On 1 February 1944, the Base Planning and Construction Section of the Service Force of the Seventh United States Fleet also was established in the same place. Captain William M. Angas, CEC, USN, was appointed Officer in Charge of both organizations, and he assumed his new duties on 4 February 1944. In March, Commander William T. Wright, CEC, USNR, was appointed Executive Officer of both organizations. Because of a shortage of qualified Naval Civil Engineers in the Southwest Pacific Area, the other members of the staff of the Third Brigade also constituted the staff of the Base Planning and Construction Section.

Throughout the campaigns of the Allied Forces against the Japanese in World War II, the Third Brigade exercised administrative and operational control over United States Seventh Fleet construction forces in the Southwest Pacific Area, which were under the overall command of General Douglas MacArthur. The Brigade consisted of three naval construction regiments and more than fifty naval construction battalions and maintenance units, although the actual number frequently fluctuated in accordance with the operational requirements. Seabees of the Brigade worked on hundreds of military

construction projects in Australia, New Guinea, the Schouten Islands, the Admiralty Islands, and the Philippine Islands.

As the Allied Combat Forces advanced along the "Road to Tokyo," the Seabees advanced along with them, all the time fighting and building to help win the war against Japan. They built airfields, camps, roads, naval stations, docks, piers, and PT-boat bases.

Seabees landed at Hollandia on D-day, and also participated in the invasion of the Philippines at Lingayen and Leyte Gulfs. They supported every campaign in the Southwest Pacific Area until victory against the Japanese was achieved.

On 24 June 1945, Captain Angas, who by then had been promoted to Commodore, was relieved as Officer in Charge by Commodore John R. Perry, CEC, USN. The Third Naval Construction Brigade was inactivated at Manila, Luzon, in the Philippines, on 7 December 1945.

DECLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

ITINERARY OF THE 138th NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

1 Feb. 1944	Formed at Attu from personnel of Det. 1018, CBMUs 547 and 556.
9 Mar. 1944	CBMU 576 arrived Attu and absorbed into 138th Construction Battalion
20 Oct. 1944	102 men transferred from the 138th Construction Battalion to the 68th Construction Battalion, while 199 men were transferred from the 68th to the 138th Construction Battalion.
25 Jan. 1945	A detachment of 3 officers and 144 men ordered for temporary duty at NCB, Adak.
28 May 1945	Battalion, including detachment at Adak, arrived Camp Parks.
16 June 1945	Inactivated.

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

Date: 22 September 1945.

138TH
NCB
VICTORY MAKERS

Rock Crusher and Quarry Installation allows product of primary to go direct to trucks or to secondary.

5947-A 9 MAY-44

tion on promontory makes use of seagulls, pumped seawater (see pumps), and heavy combers to dispose of wet garbage.

1960-B-14 NOV-44

#959-I-18 Nov 44

Taking small boats in and out of water where crawler crane and Mary Ann after departure and arrival of Fleet, saves damages as shown in picture in rough Aleutian harbors. See three pictures.