146th Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information

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

NAVAL HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMAND

DECLASSIFIED

12/9	-	(Hueneme)	Cno Conf disp. 041513 Dec.	Davisville Transfer to Hueneme about 10 Dec.
12/14			op 30 sec xer 0141 30 30 dec	Acted [illegible] ready [illegible]
2/15	-	Camp Endicott	Bedfordshire memo 12/9.	"
2/21	-	-	Cincpoa sec 160015 dec.	request be cancel Comservpac FF1 Hawaiian Area Brig Bine (Bedfordshire memo 12/23).
1/17	-	-	Cno sec dis 101545 Jan to Cincpoa.	As CB 146 - ready 2/26 for Bine - not requested by you propose postpone readiness dated.
1/22	-	-	op 30-0019030 1/15. Cincpoa sec 130159 Jan	Cancel assignment Div 8 (and Bine) (Estimates on priority 2 off 50 men March left Mediterranean May)

146th C.B.

Location - ~~Plymouth~~ Cherbourg

2-26-44 - 146th CB (or the portion in Iceland) ordered to report to U.K. at FOXY (Rosneath, Scotland). (OinC of 146th CB ltr P16-4/00/aml over 179898 to Lt. Wilson dtd 2 Feb'44) This order only includes Lt. Wilson and Lt. (jg) Richtmyre and 43 men.

5- 6-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 146th CB - operating at Ufford Camp, Plymouth, Devon Eng. 35 men are on temp. duty with 97th CB.

6- 1-44 - 1 May'44 report of 146th CB - operating at Plymouth.

6- 8-44 - 146th CB is distributed at Plymouth (hdqtrs), London, Base 1, Base 2, Portsmouth, and Bristol. (25th Reg. daily report dtd 30 Apr'44)

7- 4-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 146th CB - no info on location.

7-26-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 146th CB - no info on location.

8-15-44 - 146th CB designated as the P.O.L. unit. 125 men were at OMAHA on D-Day installing P.C.L. facilities. 150 men were assigned to WATSON. P.C.L. facilities at all bases will be provided for by this group. (ComNavEu Sec. Memo to Adm. Stark dtd 25 Jul'44)

8-30-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 146th CB - during June and July operated at OMAHA Beach, Normandy; UTAH Beach, Normandy; Cherbourg, Normandy; and Plymouth, Devon. The detachment of 1 officer and 19 men destination Cherbourg, were on Beach UTAH from 14 June until 3 Jul'44.

(Continued on next card)

146th C.B.

9-15-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 146th CB - operating at Cherbourg. During August, the entire batt with the exception of a small maintenance section left at the home base, Plymouth, Eng., shipped to Cherbourg.

9-25-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 25th Reg. - During August, the 146th CB completed the construction of P.O.L. installation of Cherbourg during this period and began the repair of a caisson in Drydock No. 5 in the Arsenal.

10-18-44 -- The 146th CB is scheduled to return to the U.S. about 20 off. and 500 men about 11 Oct'44.(Comnaveu Sec. disp. 071413 NCR 7672 to CNO dtd 7 Oct'44).

10-20-44 -- The 146th CB is located at Plymouth.(Compaibukay Sec. disp. 091453A NCR 19320 to CNO dtd 16 Oct'44).

10-20-44 -- The 146th CB consisting of 10 off. and 247 men left on WEST POINT for Davisville. (Comnaveu conf. disp. 161946 NCR 5779 to PD Boston dtd 17 Oct'44).

10-20-44 -- The 146th CB consisting of 12 officers and 259 men embarked on the HERMITAGE. (Comnaveu Conf. disp. 161947 NCR 5741 to PD New York dtd 16 Oct'44).

10-30-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 146th CB - During Sep'44, the batt personnel was divided between Cherbourg, France and Plymouth, England. Report endorsed by 25th Reg.

11-3-44 -- Draft #1 of 146th CB(12 off. and 259 men) arrived NCTC Davisville 26 Oct'44. (NCTC Davisville 271410 TWX OCT'44 to Bupers).

11-3-44 -- Draft #2 of 146th CB(11 off. and 247 men) arrived NCTC Davisville 22 Oct'44. (NCTC Davisville 271416 TWX OCT'44 to Bupers)XXX

11-29-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of the 25th Reg. - 146th CB departed for U.K. on 5 Oct'44 to await transportation to the U.S.

12-6-44 - The 146th CB arrived UK from France 7 Oct'44 and departed for the US 11 and 12 Oct'44.(13th Reg. monthly report for Oct'44).

146th CB

2nd Tour of Duty Begins Here

12-8-44 - CNO orders the transfer of the 146th CB to Hueneme about 10 Dec'44. (CNO Conf. Disp. to Parks 041513 dtd 4 Dec'44)

12-28-44 - The 146th CB arrived Hueneme from Davisville 16 Dec'44.(Hueneme conf. disp to CNO 181731 dtd 19 Dec'44).

1-31-45 - The 146th CB assigned to BIVE . (CNO Sec ltr Op30-2CK12-UOT over (SC) P16-5 over Ser 0019030 to Dist. list dtd 15 Jan'45)

1-31-45 - The 146th CB will be ready for shipment to Cincpoa in Mar'45. (CominCh Sec Disp to Cincpoa 211829 dtd 21 Jan'45)

2-15-45 - CD 2546 is to be made a part of the 2nd Ech. of the 146th CB ready 1 May'45 thereby changing total complement of the 146th CB to 36 officers and 1142 men.(CNO conf. ltr Op30-2CK14-rc over Ser. 060530 to Bupers and Budocks dtd 9 Feb'45).

3-23-45 - The 146th CB (with CD 2546) ready for BIVE 1 May'45. (Cominch Sec Disp to Cincpoa P & Adv Hq 201905 Mar'45)

3-26-45 - The 146th CB has been designated to operate ABCD BIVE. (Comservpac Sec Ltr Ser 90-PGP/wh over A4-2/NB(2) over Ser 00789 dtd 26 Feb'45 to Budocks)

4-17-45 - The 146th CB (ABCD) 1st Echelon, consisting of 2 off. and 50 men, departed from Oxnard, Calif. 11 Apr'45. Will arrive Oakland, Calif. 12 Apr FFT Pre-embarkation Barracks, Treasure Is., S.F. (Hueneme TWX 120038 to Bupers dtd 12 Apr'45)

6-6-45 - The 1st echelon of the 146th CB departed Hueneme for overseas 31 May'45 with 881 men and 23 off. (Hueneme conf disp 012256 Jun'45 to Bupers)

6-7-45 - The 1st ech of the 146th CB sailed from Hueneme on 31 May'45 for Base Nakagusuku, Okinawa. (Report of changes dtd 31 May'45)

6-7-45 - 3rd echelon of the 146th CB departed Hueneme for overseas on 4 Jun'45 with 2 off. and 149 men. (Hueneme conf disp 052202 Jun'45 to Bupers)

Location - Okinawa 146th C.B.

6-7-45 - 1st echelon of the 146th CB left Hueneme on 11 Apr'45 with 2 off. and 50 men. (Hueneme TWX 180003 Apr'45 to Bupers)

6-14-45 - 4th echelon 146th CB departed Hueneme for overseas on 8 Jun'45 with 2 off. and 51 men. (Hueneme conf disp 091717 Jun'45 to Bupers)

6-20-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 11th Brg. - The "tailor-made" spare parts P13-#4 is now being unloaded from shipboard. The 50 men and 2 off. of the 146th CB have also come ashore and are placing the spare parts in order. Temp operations of ACEPD will begin 1 Jun'45 from tents and open storage.

6-21-45 - P-13 Component (ACEPD) originally scheduled for FINK has been diverted to BIVE. This component now enroute BIVE. Due to desirability of having spare parts supply centrally located, this P-13 comp. including personnel, being incorporated with ACEPD now at BIVE under the 146th CB. 1 off. and 55 men scheduled to operate P-13 being ordered from ABCD P.H. to report to CCT APO 331. (Comservpac sec spdltr dtd 13 June to CoGen 10th Army APO 357)

6-25-45 - The 146th CB, 1st echelon, reported to IsCom Okinawa on 23 May'45. Ordered to further report to 11th Brg for duty. (3rd end by IsCom APO 331 dtd 23 May on Hueneme orders ser 1969 dtd 29 March to 146th CB 1st ech) 4th end by 11th Brg dtd 23 May states that the 146th CB 1st Ech reported to the 11th Brg for duty.

9-11-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 146th CB - located at Okinawa. Batt traveled in 4 echelons as follows:

Echelon #1 (2 off. and 50 men):
- 11 Apr'45 - Left Hueneme
- 15 Apr'45 - Departed cont. U.S.
- 23 May'45 - Arrived Okinawa
- 17 Jun'45 - Supplemented by 40-man draft from ABCD P.H.

Location - Okinawa 146th C.B.

9911-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 146th CB (cont.) -

Echelon #2 (Main body of batt--23 off. and 879 men):
- 31 May'45 - Departed Hueneme
  Lay-over at Eniwetok
- 14 Jul'45 - Arrived Okinawa.

Echelon #3 (2 off. and 150 men):
- 4 Jun'45 - Left Hueneme
- 14 Jul'45 - Arrived Okinawa.

Echelon #4 (2 off. and 60 men):
- 8 Jun'45 - Departed Hueneme
- 24 Jul'45 - Arrived Okinawa.

A 55-man draft arrived on 15 July from ABCD P1H. Estimated compl date of ABCD is 1 Feb'46; est compl date of ACEPD is 1 Dec'45. Report via 11th Brg.

10-6-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 146th CB - location at Okinawa. Report via 11th Brig.

11-2-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 146th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 11th Brig. 139 men transferred to U.S. for discharge. 100 men rec'd from CBD 1081 on 19 Sept'45.

11-20-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 146th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 11th Brig. 198 men transferred to U.S. for discharge. 80 men transferred to this battalion.

1-29-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of 146th CB - located at Okinawa.

1-31-46 - 1 Jan'46 report of 146th CB - location not stated. Report via 48th Reg.

2-20-46 - 1 Feb 46 report of 146th CB - location not stated. Report via 48th Reg.

4-3-46 - Comservpac orders NOB Okinawa to inactivate 146th CB. (Comservpac disp 0221117 APRIL to NOB Okin.).

4-25-46 - 1 Apr 46 report of 146th CB - location not stated. Report via 48th Reg.

Location - Okinawa

146th CB

5-16-46 - 146th CB inactivated on 7 May 1946. (OinC ltr ser 295-46 to OinC 48th Reg. dtd 7 May 1946).

6-3-46 ditto above (ltr file P16-5 Ser 1735 fm ComNOB Navy3256 to ComSERVPac) 9 May 46

INACTIVATED

ON BOARD

DATE	OFFICERS	MEN	AUTHORITY
1 Aug'44	23	530	R & BNP625
1 Sep'44	23	509	BNP625
1 Oct'44	22	508	BNP625 & MoR
1 Feb'45		1044	BNP625
1 Mar'45		1159	BNP625
1 Apr'45		1308	BNP625
1 May'45	35	1232	BNP625 & R
1 Jun'45	35	1143	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	35	1181	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	39	1258	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		1180	BNP625
1 Oct'45	33	1165 96 Trans.	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	37	1028	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	36	1904	BNP625 & R
1 Jan'46	39	1699	BNP625 & R
1 Feb 46	28	1372	BNP 625 & R
1 Mar 46	31	1411	BNP 625 & R

146th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

146th C.B.

1st Tour of Duty

Co "A" and 1/4 Hdqtrs Co of the 28th CB (4 off. and 237 men) transferred from Iceland to U.K. to form a nucleus for the 146th CB in Feb'44.

2nd Tour of Duty

NCTC -	(CBRD Parks)
ABD -	Hueneme
Ready Date-	1st Ech - 1 Mar'45
	2nd Ech - 1 May'45
Left ABD: -	1st Ech - 11 Apr'45
	2nd Ech - 31 May'45
	3rd Ech - 4 Jun'45
	4th Ech - 8 Jun'45
Location -	Okinawa

Co. "A" and 1/4 Hdqtrs Co. of the 28th CB (4 off. and 237 men) transferred from Iceland to U.K. to form a nucleus for the 146th CB - Feb'44.

The 28th CB left ABD Davisville 15, 25 Nov'42 and 2 Dec'42 for Iceland.

146th C.B.

DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
1/24	-	Huneme	Bureacks memo 1/20 -	1st Ech ready Huneme 8/1/45 asid Bine - Probable Mar 8 1989. 2nd ech. ready Huneme 5/1/45 asid Bine - probable May 8 1989
5/12	-	(Bine)	Cno sec disp 071935 may.	(2nd Ech) asid priority - being shpd Bine May or early June
5/13	-	"	Bureacks memo of 8 June.	4th ech. June shpg. ready may 1.
6/6	-	"	Huneme conf disp 052202 June.	(3rd ech) departed 4 June for overseas duty. 149 men & 2 offs

Avg report shows Bine EAROCO.

146th C.B.

DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/3/44	-	United Kingdom Plymouth	-	-
7/18	-	Cheshourgh	CB report 1 Sept.	Left Feb 1944
7/20	-	"	Comsubs France sec disp 171233A	Sinc will report to Sinc 11th for duty.
10/9	-	" (U.S)	Com NAO Eu sec disp. 071413 oct. & 091911 from cno.	Return U.S. about 11 oct, Report Davisville.
10/14	-	(U.S.) Davisville	Comphibs U Key conf disp. 081227A	when directed - det'd from 15th regt. report Davisville - 2 echelons 1st - 11 oct; 2d 12 oct.
10/18	-	"	Com NAO Eu conf disp. 161947 oct.	Embarked for Davisville 12 offs and 6 & 39 enlisted.
11/9/44	-	US	Bureacks memo 11/4	(1st Section) ret'd 2d 10/26 - ready 2/15 assigned - Cuiepoa (Earmarked)
11/16	act disp. 081005A Delete NARO.			

146TH BATTALION

Company A and part of Headquarters Company of the 28th Battalion were moved from Iceland to England in February 1944, to form the 146th NCB. The

on temporary duty with pontoon barge equipment with ARD 16 and 17, and the seventh unit aboard the USS Alkes for transportation and quarters. In July 1944, the fiirst had moved to Roi-Namur, the second was at Guam, the third was still handling material and supplies for Service Squadron 12, and the fifth, sixth and seventh detachments had completed operations at Kwajalein and were proceeding to Saipan for dredging operations. On Dec. 1, 1944, various units of the 301st were located at Saipan, Peleliu and Pearl Harbor. In April 1945, the main part of the Battalion was at Guam. Other detachments were located as follows: the third at Pearl, the eighth at Tinian, the ninth had returned from Peleliu to Guam, the tenth was at Saipan, while the first echelon of the 11th detachment was working at Iwo Jima. In May, the 12th detachment was moved to Okinawa. At

war's end, the units of the 301st harbor reclamation Battalion were still at their various stations throughout the Pacific.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE 146TH U.S.
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

The 146th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion (January 1944 - May 1946) was distinguished from other World War II Seabee units in several respects:

a. It was one of the few -- and possibly the only -- naval construction battalions formed outside of the continental United States.

b. It served in both the European and Pacific Theaters of Operations.

c. It participated in two of the most important engagements of the war, the invasion of Normandy and the conquest of Okinawa.

d. It functioned at different times in two unrelated specialized capacities. At Normandy it was a petroleum-oil-and-lubicants (POL) unit that planned, constructed, and operated petroleum facilities. In Okinawa, in contrast, it constructed and operated an advance-base construction depot (ABCD), where construction supplies and equipment were stored and the equipment was overhauled.

The 146th NCB was established in Iceland in January 1944 to to fill an urgent need for a unit of POL specialists who would provide beachhead services during the planned invasion of France. The nucleus of the unit was supplied by Company A of the 28th NCB, which had been operating and maintaining the U.S. Naval Fuel Depot, Iceland, until the Navy transferred the facility to the British in January 1944. The balance of the battalion was made up of carefully picked construction men organized into Casual Draft 2296 at the Advance Base Receiving Barracks (Camp Thomas), Davisville, Rhode Island.

25 Jan. 1944 -- The detachment composed of Company A of the 28th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion, with 4 officers and 271 enlisted men, was redesignated Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 583. This detachment, which had been maintaining the U.S. Naval Fuel Depot, Iceland, was earmarked for duty with a POL unit to be established in England. Acting officer in charge (OIC) of CBMU 583 was LCDR Edward J. Brook, CEC, USNR, formerly in charge of the detachment.

27 Jan. 1944 -- CDR Edward H. Gessner, CEC, USNR, was relieved of duty as officer in charge of the 64th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion and ordered to duty as OIC of the 146th NCB.

29 Jan. 1944 -- CBMU 583 was redesignated the 146th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion.

2 Feb. 1944 -- An advance echelon of one officer and 43 enlisted men under LT D. S. Wilson, CEC, USNR, departed from Iceland for Great Britain.

14 Feb. 1944 -- The rear echelon of the 146th NCB under LCDR Brook departed from Iceland for Great Britain aboard the USS Merak.

17 Feb. 1944 -- The rear echelon arrived at the U.S. Naval Operating Base (NOB), Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

20 Feb. 1944 -- The rear echelon departed from Londonderry, leaving behind a detachment of 36 shipfitters and welders to perform services for an LST program at NOB Londonderry. Warrant Officer E. J. Epperson took charge of the troop movement while LCDR Brook reported for temporary additional duty to Commander, Naval Forces in Europe, London.

27 Feb. 1944 -- The 146th NCB arrived at their camp site at Efford Colony, Plymouth, Devon, England, where they commenced building a camp, starting with very few men and little equipment.

2 March 1944 -- CDR Gessner arrived and took command as officer in charge. He reported the battalion for duty under Commander, Landing Craft and Bases, 11th Amphibious Force (ComLanCrab11thPhib), and was ordered to the OIC of the 13th U.S. Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) for duty.

15 March 1944 -- The manpower of the 146th NCB was increased by the assignment to the battalion of Casual Draft 2296 -- 268 enlisted men constituting the equivalent of one standard construction company and one-fourth of a headquarters company. Casual Draft 2296 was then in training at the Advance Base Receiving Barracks, Davisville, Rhode Island.

26 March 1944 -- The 230 enlisted men and 3 officers at Efford Colony, Plymouth, moved into Camp Efford, whose first increment was then approximately 85 percent complete. At this time a detachment of 36 men remained at Base I (Londonderry); an officer and 2 men were at London; an officer was at Portsmouth, Hampshire; and Casual Draft 2296 was still at Davisville, RI.

27-28 March 1944 -- The battalion's main body at Camp Efford experienced its first air raid.

6 April 1944 -- Casual Draft 2296 left the Advance Base Depot, Davisville, RI, to board the SS Exchequer for transportation to England.

18 April 1944 -- Casual Draft 2296 arrived at Plymouth and reported for duty with the 146th Battalion at Camp Efford.

28 April 1944 -- LT Frank Lauer, CEC, USN, and three enlisted men (MM3c Robert Garside, CM3c William G. Black, and CM3c Clifford L. Meadows) departed from Camp Efford for duty with a DREW (Commander, Captured Ports) reconnaissance party. The four were to undergo intensive training prior to departing for the Continent, where the DREW's were slated to restore and operate ports liberated from the Germans.

28 April 1944 -- The 36-man detachment at NOB, Londonderry, completed its assignment on the LST program for Base I.

29 April 1944 -- The DREW detachment arrived at Base II, Rosneath, Scotland.

30 April 1944 -- Camp construction at Efford Colony was complete, and the men of the 146th NCB were engaged in constructing and operating near-shore (i.e., United Kingdom) petroleum facilities under the 13th NCR. They were also undergoing training

in swimming, gunnery, bomb disposal, air-raid protection, first aid, and the technical aspects of POL operations for their impending role in the invasion of France.

5 May 1944 -- The 36-man detachment from Londonderry arrived at Efford.

23 May 1944 -- The DREW reconnaissance party departed from Rosneath, Scotland.

25 May 1944 -- LT Donald Wilson left the battalion to serve temporary additional duty with Force PLUTO (Pipeline Under the Ocean) as liaison officer between the Royal Navy and the U.S. Army in placing ship-to-shore petroleum lines at Beach Martoc off St. Honorine, France.

31 May 1944 -- The battalion ceased all work at 1700 hours and turned over its duties to personnel of the 13th NCR in preparation for embarking on 6 hours' notice to participate in the invasion of Normandy.

1 June 1944 -- The 146th NCB went on alert at 0001 hours.

5 June 1944 -- The DREW reconnaissance party boarded the SS Joseph Farrell at Southampton, England, to join a convoy sailing for the coast of France.

8 June 1944 -- POL Unit No. 1 (also termed "Task Force A"), with 4 officers and 97 enlisted men commanded by LCDR Brook, departed from England aboard the MT 246 (Eleazer Wheelock) and the SS Jesse Applegate.

8 June 1944 -- The four men with the DREW reconnaissance party set sail from Southampton, England.

9-25 June 1944 -- POL Unit No. 1 of the 146th NCB constructed and maintained the U.S. Navy POL installations at Omaha Beach. The detailed plans made prior to landing had to be revised to meet actual conditions on the beach, which differed considerably from those described in advance information.

10 June 1944 -- LT Lauer and the three Seabees with the DREW reconnaissance party landed at Utah Beach.

13 June 1944 -- The main body of the battalion at Camp Efford was alerted to move on or after 15 June on 6 hours' notice.

14 June 1944 -- POL Unit No. 2 of the 146th NCB, composed of 19 enlisted men commanded by LT Thomas W. Oliver, CEC, USNR, landed at Utah Beach to await further movement to Cherbourg, France, after that city was wrested from the Nazis.

16 June 1944 -- All required POL services and installations were completed at Omaha Beach, in spite of the necessary field changes in the construction plans.

19 June 1944 -- A severe storm damaged some of the POL installations at Omaha Beach, but services were not seriously impaired.

25 June 1944 -- POL Unit No. 1 completed its work on the diesel, gasoline, and water lines and tanks, and then prepared to move to Cherbourg, leaving a small detachment of 10 men and 2 officers behind to operate the facilities at Omaha Beach. According to the commander of the U.S. Naval Advance Base, Omaha Beach, the 146th NCB had not only provided the vital services for replenishing small craft, but had also installed a freshwater line from the water source to the Navy camp and the headquarters group.

26-27 June 1944 -- The DREW reconnaissance party -- including LT Lauer and Petty Officers Garside, Black, and Meadows -- was the first naval unit to enter the port city of Cherbourg, along with the 79th U.S. Army Division. The four participated in clearing pockets of German resistance at the Naval Arsenal. The citations accompanying the award of the Bronze Star to the three enlisted men early in 1945 credited them with sharing in the action when "approximately four hundred of the enemy were cleared from the arsenal."

28 June 1944 -- Accompanying CDR Quentin R. Walsh, U.S. Coast Guard -- who commanded the port reconnaissance party -- LT Lauer entered Fort du Homet in the vicinity of the Naval Arsenal, and under a white flag of truce assisted in convincing the German commander to surrender his forces and release 52 U.S. Army paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division, who had been mistakenly dropped near Cherbourg on D-Day.

3 July 1944 -- POL Unit No. 2 moved from Utah Beach to Cherbourg and commenced construction and restoration of petroleum facilities and services.

8 July 1944 -- LT Wilson completed his duties with Force PLUTO and joined the elements of the 146th NCB at Cherbourg.

13 July 1944 -- The four men with the DREW reconnaissance party were detached to join POL Unit No. 1 at Omaha Beach.

14-20 July 1944 -- The beachhead detachment and other scattered elements of the 146th NCB converged on Cherbourg to reinforce POL Unit No. 2. Ten men remained at Omaha Beach.

21 July 1944 -- The battalion's main body at Camp Efford, Plymouth, England, under CDR Gessner, was put on alert for movement forward on or after 26 July on 6 hours' notice.

2 Aug. 1944 -- The POL detachment at Omaha Beach, under LT Wilson, was relieved of duty there and sailed back to England to rejoin the battalion at Camp Efford.

Ca. 12 Aug. 1944 - The main body of the 146th NCB, consisting of 12 officers and 275 enlisted men, departed from Camp Efford. A rear echelon of 3 officers and 67 enlisted men remained behind to continue the near-shore functions of the battalion.

14 Aug. 1944 -- The main body of the 146th NCB arrived at Cherbourg to join POL Unit No. 2 in salvaging old port facilities and installing new ones. For the first time, all the battalion's personnel except the rear echelon were deployed in France. On the same day, a major POL project was completed at Port des Flamands, Cherbourg Harbor.

17 Aug. 1944 -- An explosion of a nearby ammunition dump severely damaged the bunker-oil facility at the recently completed POL project at Port des Flamands.

19 Aug. 1944 -- The battalion commenced reconstruction of the damaged bunker-oil installation,

31 Aug. 1944 -- The battalion finished rehabilitating the bunker-oil facility.

1 Sept. 1944 -- A crew from the 146th NCB completed repairs on a barge for one of the Army's floating cranes in Cherbourg harbor.

17 Sept. 1944 -- The 146th Battalion was assigned to duty with the 114th NCB.

19 Sept. 1944 -- The 146th NCB reported for duty with the 114th NCB. On the same day CDR Gessner was transferred to become officer in charge of the latter battalion.

20 Sept. 1944 -- LCDR Brook became OIC of the 146th NCB.

3 Oct. 1944 -- The 146th NCB was directed to return to the United Kingdom to await return to the United States.

5 Oct. 1944 -- The 146th Battalion returned to England.

11 Oct. 1944 -- The first echelon of the 146th NCB, consisting of 12 officers and 259 enlisted men under LCDR Brook, departed from England aboard the USS Hermitage.

12 Oct. 1944 -- The second echelon, with 10 officers and 247 enlisted men under LT Lauer, left England.

22 Oct. 1944 -- The second echelon arrived at the Naval Construction Training Center (Camp Endicott), Davisville, RI.

26 Oct. 1944 -- The first echelon arrived at NCTC, Davisville.

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SECOND DEPLOYMENT

5 Dec. 1944 -- The 146th Battalion was redesignated as the 146th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion (ABCD) and and was assigned as the advance base construction depot battalion for Lion 8, forming at Port Hueneme, California. The battalion's authorized strength was increased to 34 officers and 1,082 enlisted men.

9 Dec. 1944 -- LCDR Brook was detached from the 146th NCB, and LT Wilson became acting officer in charge.

11 Dec. 1944 -- The 146th NCB, consisting of 7 officers and 408 enlisted men, departed from the Naval Construction Training Center, Davisville, Rhode Island.

16 Dec. 1944 -- The 146th NCB arrived at the Advance Base Receiving Barracks (Camp Rousseau), Port Hueneme, California, to receive the "maximum amount of tactical training

and training in advance base construction depot operations prior to the tentative ready date of 26 February 1945." LCDR Richard Hon, CEC, USNR, took command as officer in charge; and LT Wilson became the executive officer.

26 Jan. 1945 -- At 2330 hours LCDR Hon deployed 13 officers and most enlisted personnel of the 146th NCB as area guards after the officer of the day at Camp Rousseau notified the battalion of a report about a "surprise Jap landing on the beach at Hollywood-by-the-Sea," a nearby beach community. The alert lasted less than an hour.

9 Feb. 1945 -- Casual Draft 2546, consisting of 60 men selected to operate an advance-base tire repair unit (ABTRU) within the Advance Base Construction Depot, was made a part of the 146th NCB.

14 Feb. 1945 -- Three hundred specialists trained in spare parts methods were assigned to the 146th Battalion to operate the Automotive and Construction Equipment Parts Depot (ACEPD) of the ABCD.

11 April 1945 -- Two officers and 50 men became the first echelon of the 146th NCB to depart from Port Hueneme. These men, under the command of ENS F. E. Mott, CEC, USNR, were parts specialists for the ACEPD branch of the Advance Base Construction Depot.

12 April 1945 -- The first echelon arrived at Oakland, California, and was transferred to the Preembarkation Receiving Barracks, Treasure Island.

15 April 1945 -- The first echelon left the United States aboard the USAT Cape Douglas.

23 April - 20 May 1945 -- Several classes of men from the tire repair unit were sent to major tire firms in the Los Angeles area for instruction in industrial tire-repair methods and equipment.

23 May 1945 -- The first echelon of the 146th Battalion arrived at White Beach on Katchin Hanto Peninsula, Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands.

23 May - 24 July 1945 -- The 50-man first echelon erected a temporary camp on White Beach and began operating the Advance Base Construction Depot, with assistance from detachments

of the 24th, 145th, 34th, and 79th Battalions. In addition to these duties, the first echelon pioneered a road from White Beach to the new battalion camp site about 2 miles across the peninsula, and then graded the camp area for temporary facilities and established an interim water supply.

31 May 1945 -- The second echelon of the 146th Battalion, comprising the main body of 23 officers and 879 enlisted men under LT C. H. Lloyd, CEC, USNR, departed from Port Hueneme aboard the USAT Sea Devil.

1 June 1945 -- The 34th NCB started construction of five 40-foot by 100-foot Quonset-hut structures for the 146th Battalion's ACEPD.

4 June 1945 -- The 146th NCB's third echelon, with 2 officers and 150 enlisted men commanded by LTJG J. R. O. Adams, CEC, USNR, departed from Port Hueneme aboard the USS George F. Elliot.

6 June 1945 -- LCDR Hon arrived at Okinawa by air and took command of the battalion and the Advance Base Construction Depot.

8 June 1945 -- Tire specialists formed the fourth echelon of 2 officers and 60 enlisted men, who left Port Hueneme aboard the USS Florence Nightingale.

10 June 1945 -- A draft of 55 men departed from the Advance Base Construction Depot, Pearl Harbor, to become part of the 146th NCB.

17 June 1945 -- The first echelon at White Beach was supplemented by a draft of 40 parts specialists sent from the ABCD, Pearl Harbor.

18 June 1945 -- A draft of 30 additional men departed from the ABCD, Pearl Harbor, to augment the 146th Naval Construction Battalion.

26 June 1945 -- After stopping at Eniwetok Atoll to await formation of a convoy and assisting in construction of facilities for a fleet recreation area there, the second echelon of the 146th NCB continued its journey to Okinawa.

10 July 1945 -- The 101st Naval Construction Battalion commenced erection of an administration building for the ABCD.

14 July 1945 -- The second and third echelons of the 146th NCB arrived at Okinawa.

15 July 1945 -- The 55-man draft from Pearl Harbor arrived at Okinawa. Temporary tents were pitched for the newly arrived personnel. Meanwhile, the 101st NCB began erecting two 100-foot by 100-foot "Mae West"-type warehouses for the Automotive and Construction Equipment Parts Depot.

17 July 1945 -- Work started concurrently on construction of ABCD, ACEPD, and camp facilities and roads, while ABCD and ACEPD services were simultaneously inaugurated. On the same day, the 30-man draft arrived from Pearl Harbor.

18 July 1945 -- The 34th NCB completed construction of the ABCD office building.

20 July 1945 -- The new ABCD offices were put into operation.

20 July 1945 -- The 34th NCB also completed construction of three new 40-foot by 100-foot Quonset-hut buildings -- one for ACEPD offices and two for use as parts warehouses. Detachments from the 34th and 79th NCB's were relieved by work parties of the 146th Battalion detailed to finish building the remaining ACEPD facilities. Thus, the 146th NCB became more heavily involved in construction, as well as in operating the Advance Base Construction Depot.

24 July 1945 -- The fourth echelon of 2 officers and 60 enlisted men arrived to operate the Advance Base Tire Repair Unit. This group brought the 146th NCB to full augmented strength of 39 officers and 1256 enlisted men.

26 July 1945 -- The 101st Battalion finished erecting the ABCD administration building.

1 Aug. 1945 -- The ABCD and the ACEPD set up 24-hour-a-day service, using staggered 12-hour shifts.

August 1945 -- Construction of shops and warehouses continued throughout the month. The 146th Battalion provided ABCD and ACEPD services on an accelerating basis. As a result, camp construction lagged.

16 Sept. 1945 -- A typhoon caused extensive damage to military installations on Okinawa, including those of the Advance Base Construction Depot. The 146th Battalion began making repairs at the expense of progress in new construction.

23 Sept. 1945 -- LCDR Hon was relieved of duty for return to the U.S. and was replaced by CDR Arthur H. Castelazo, CEC, USNR, as the new officer in charge.

31 Sept. 1945 -- The Commander, Naval Construction Troops, Okinawa, orally ordered a halt to most new construction and the curtailment of some repairs to typhoon-damaged structures.

9 Oct. 1945 -- A second typhoon extensively damaged or totally destroyed many of the structures at the ABCD and ACEPD. The battalion again launched rebuilding and repair projects. Because of the manpower shortage created by demobilization and the heavy demand for ABCD services, however, progress on repairs was slow.

16 Oct. 1945 -- The Commander, Naval Construction Troops, Okinawa, ordered a halt to construction of the Tire Repair Unit. Its personnel were limited to issuing new tires in exchange for old ones and inspecting and stockpiling trade-ins. Some permanent camp construction was stopped,and some ABCD activities curtailed.

10 Nov. 1945 -- All personnel of Construction Battalion Detachment 1081, which had been operating a vehicle overhaul and repair facility adjacent to the ABCD, were transferred to the 146th NCB to operate an automotive- and construction-equipment overhaul and repair plant (ACEORP) to receive, classify, and store used automotive and construction equipment turned over to the ABCD by other naval activities.

11 Nov. 1945 -- The battalion completed construction of its camp, including a galley and enlisted men's mess hall, a beer hall, a laundry and ships-service building, and a warehouse.

12 Nov. 1945 -- The Commander, Naval Construction Troops, Okinawa, ordered a halt to all new construction or reconstruction. The battalion resorted to makeshift expedients to provide necessary space. Manpower shortages were remedied by the addition of 200 men from other battalions in the 10th Naval Construction Regiment and 300 men sent from the U.S.

November 1945 -- A liaison officer was appointed to represent the ABCD in working with the Excess Property Disposal

Board to arrange the transfer of serviceable equipment to American facilities in other geographical areas or to the governments of Allied countries.

1 Jan. 1946 -- The 146th NCB was assigned to the 48th Naval Construction Regiment for duty and further ordered to report to the supply officer in command, Naval Supply Depot, Tengan, Okinawa, for operational control.

1 Feb. 1946 -- CDR Arthur H. Castelazo was relieved of duty for return to the U.S. and was replaced by CDR Vincent G. Lauters, CEC, USNR, as officer in charge of the 146th NCB.

February 1946 -- The ACEORP was divided into two sections -- the Receiving and Salvage Yard and the Used Construction Equipment Storage and Maintenance Yard.

1 May 1946 -- Inactivation procedures were begun, and all enlisted men were transferred to other naval activities on Okinawa.

7 May 1946 -- The inactivation of the 146th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion (ABCD) was completed.

Prepared by NAVFAC Historian's Office
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ITINERARY OF 146th NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
FIRST TOUR

Feb. 1944	Co. "A" and ¼ Hdqtrs. Co. of the 28th C.B. transferred from Iceland to United Kingdom to form nucleus for the 146th C.B. (The 28th C. B. left ABD, Davisville, R. I. 15, 25 Nov 1942 and 2 Dec 1942 for Iceland.) Operating at Plymouth, England.
June - July 1944	Detachments operating at Normandy and Cherbourg. Omaha Beach and Utah Beach.
Aug. 1944	Entire battalion with exception small maintenance section shipped to Cherbourg.
5 Oct 1944	Returned to England to await transportation to U. S.
11 - 12 Oct 1944	Departed for U. S.
22 - 26 Oct 1944	Arrived Davisville, R. I.

SECOND TOUR

16 Dec 1944	Arrived Port Hueneme, California, from Davisville, R. I.
11 Apr 1945	1st echelon (2 officers and 50 men) left Port Hueneme, California.
15 Apr 1945	Left U. S.
23 May 1945	Arrived Okinawa.
17 June 1945	Supplemented by 40 man draft from ABCD, Pearl Harbor.
31 May 1945	2nd echelon 23 officers and 879 men) departed Port Hueneme, Calif. - layower at Eniwetok.
14 July 1945	Arrived Eniwetok.
4 June 1945	4th echelon (2 officers and 60 men) departed Port Hueneme, California.
24 July 1945	Arrived Okinawa.
1 Aug. 1945	Entire battalion at Okinawa.
7 May 1946	146th NCB inactivated at Okinawa

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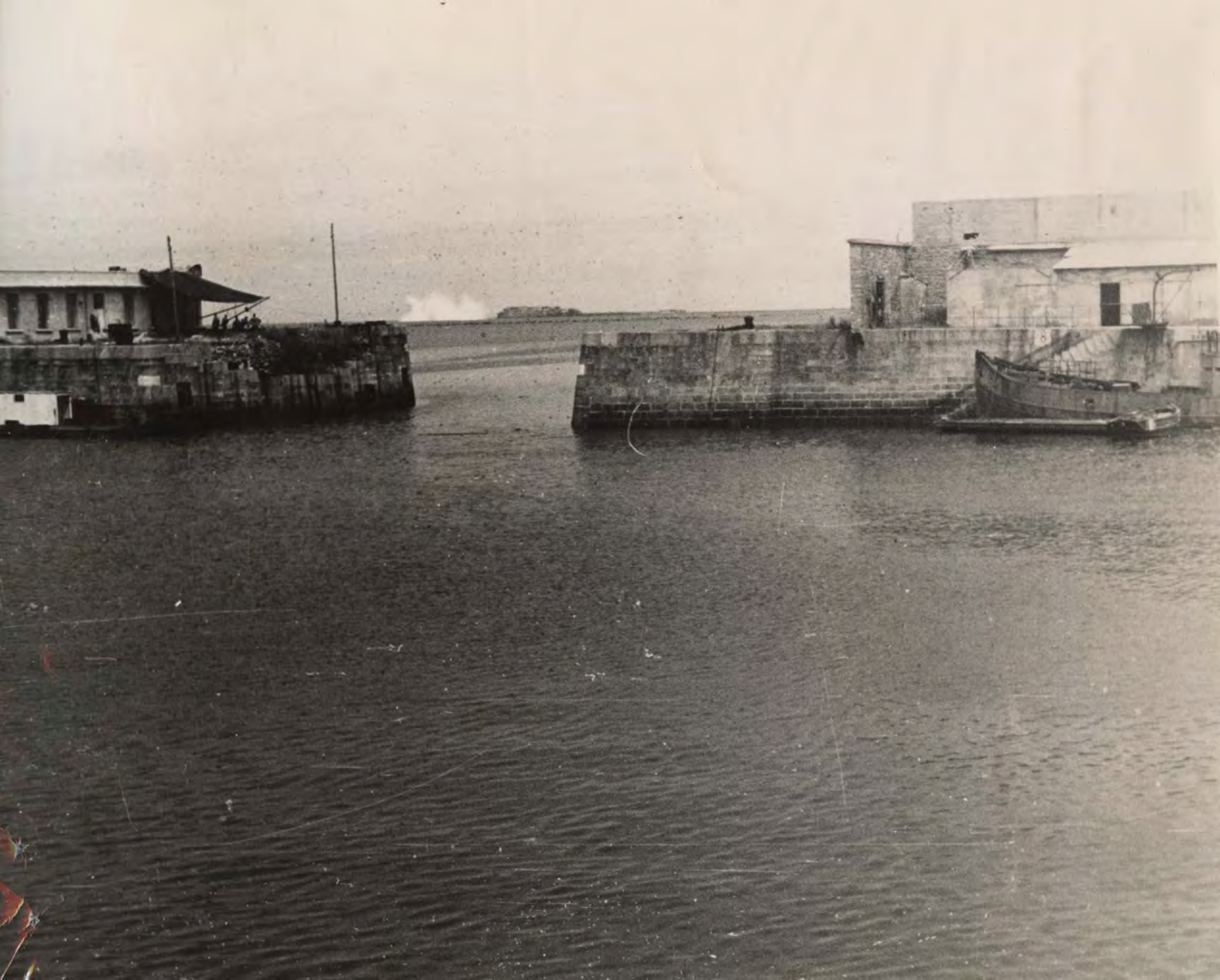
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