

# 302<sup>nd</sup> Naval Construction Battalion

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*Historical  
Information*



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



C. B. # 302 - pending

7/24 - 2nd Comdt. Brigade. CNO Op 30 Conf serial 01160030 & 0 July approval to re-organize the following into a single unit det 1035; 1038; 1039; 1043; 1054.

7/19 - FRAY Com 14 sec act (pontoon assembly) disp. 040856 Capt.

4/13 - FRAY Com 14 sec act 8th Div. disp. 062245 Nov.

1/12 - Note Com 14 sec act show at Gray & 8th Div 081016 Feb

8/11 - Com 14 sec act disp delete Fray. Comp. 110400 Sept

- Location - Oahu 302nd C.B.
- 8-10-44 - Detachments 1035, 1038, 1039, 1043, and 1054 are being combined to form 302nd C.B. (CNO ltr to Distribution List Op30-2CK14/Dm over (SC)P16-1/QR9 over Doc. 126613 over Ser 01160030 dtd 20 Jul'44).
  - 9-15-44 - 302nd CB became effective 26 Aug'44 with Lt. Comdr. Dallas as CinC. (Cincpac Conf. disp. 092045 NCR 5241 to CNO dtd 10 Sep'44).
  - 10-12-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 8th Reg. - Detachments 1035, 1038, 1039 and 1043 lost their identity on 26 Aug'44 and reported to the batt on that date. Det. 1054 has not received orders to report to the batt but are being carried for operating and administration purposes as part of the batt until the CinC and men on forward operation return when they will be attached to the batt.
  - 10-18-44 -- Det. 1035, 1038 and 1039 of 302nd CB is no longer at Pearl Harbor (Com 14 Sec. disp. 042028 NCR 17923 to CNO dtd 9 Oct'44).
  - 1-15-44 -- The 302nd CB is assigned to the 36th Reg. (Comserforpacflt Sec. ltr 56-CRW/apk over Ser. 001008 to CNO dtd 4 Nov'44).
  - 1-16-44 -- The 302nd CB is located at Pearl Hhr. (Com 14 Sec. disp to CNO 062243 NCR 15886 dtd 11 Nov'44).
  - 1-17-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 302nd CB - Following are on forward amphibious operation:  
 Operation #4 - Det. 1054 with 24 officers and 346 men.  
 Operation #5 - 16 officers and 262 men.  
 Operation #6 - 18 officers and 512 men.  
 Report endorsed by 36th Regiment. Batt reports one casualty on 17 Jun'44 while aboard LST in Mariannas operation.
  - 1-21-44 - GBD 1054 of CB 302 is located at Peleliu. (Is. Com Peleliu Sec. disp to CNO 050300 NCR 17368 dtd 17 Nov'44).

302nd C.B.

- 11-22-44 - Lt. Comdr. McGaraghan ordered to take charge of the detachment of 302nd CB consisting of 16 officers and 510 men and to proceed to a verbally designated port and upon arrival to report and assume regular duties. (CO Leyte conf. ltr. to officer dtd 2 Nov'44)
- 12-8-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 302nd CB - 1038 men are on forward amph. operation - 509 of which are reported returning to Batt. Det. 1054 has not reported to the Batt as yet being on a forward amph. operation. Hdqtrs Section (1 off. and 35 men) of this Detachment are working with the Batt on the present base.
- 12-8-44 - According to Com 3rd Amph Force Conf. 1st End. to NAB #3201 conf. ltr dtd 2 Nov to Lt. Comdr. J.J. MCGaraghan, he and officers and men in his charge, reported 9 Nov'44. 1st End. dtd 9 Nov'44.
- 12-15-44 - On 2 Oct'44, a unit of Det. 1054, consisting of 10 off. and 151 men, rec'd orders to be transferred to a rear area. These officers and men were members of the pontoon barge and causeway platoons who landed during the assault phase of the operation from "D" Day (15 Sep'44) to "D" plus 2, and operated continuously until 2 Oct'44. Dets. 1035 and 1038 came aboard from Angaur Island. (OinC Rest. ltr to Cominch Pac Flt dtd 10 Nov'44 - report on unsatisfactory messing aboard the U.S.A.T. Cape Canso)
- 1-11-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of 302nd CB - Operated pontoon structures on invasion of Peleliu from 15 Sep to 12 Nov'44. Operated pontoon structures on invasion of Angaur from 17 Sep to 6 Oct'44. Operated pontoon structures on invasion of Leyte from Jig plus 1 to unknown day.
- 1-30-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of PAD #1 - 3 officers and 102 men of the 302nd CB were quartered with PAD #1 from 12 Nov to 1 Dec'44 in connection with assembly of equipment for their unit.

302nd C.B.

- 2- 6-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 8th Brg. - 47 officers and men on forward amph operation. Copy of letter of commendation to one of the officers of this batt for service as OinC of a Pontoon Barge unit during the assault and capture of Seipan from 15 Jun to 9 Jul'44 and during the assault and capture of Tinian from 24 Jul to 1 Aug'44.
- 2- 7-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 302nd CB - located in Hawaiian area. Report endorsed by the 36th Regiment. 472 men are on a forward amph. operation.
- 2-12-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of PAD #1 - 3 off. and 102 men of the 302nd CB Detachment who were quartered with PAD #1 the last half of Nov'44 departed 2 Dec'44.
- 2-13-45 - Adcomphibspac conf. disp to Cincpoa 310614 Jan'45 - requests that CBD 1027, 1031 and 1032 composed of 10 officers and 100 men be ordered to Hawaiian Area Brigades for consolidation into the 302nd CB.
- 2-13-45 - Cincpoa concurs with AdComphibspac 310614 Jan'45. (Cincpoa conf. disp to CNO 020031 Feb'45).
- 2-13-45 - CNO conf. disp to Cincpoa 071745 Feb'45 - CBD 1027 ordered to ATB Little Creek. CBD 1031 and 1032 returning to Davisville - needed for 134th CB (Pontoon) - negative ur 020031.
- 2-15-45 - The 302nd CB (Det) is located at Luzon. (Comser7flt Sec. disp to CNO 020659 dtd 9 Feb'45).
- 2-17-45 - The 302nd CB is located at Pearl Hbr. (Com 14 Sec. disp to CNO 081016 Feb'45).
- 3-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 36th Reg. - A detachment of the 302nd CB, consisting of 477 off. and men, have been on forward operations participating in the invasions of Leyte and Luzon.
- 3-10-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of 302nd CB - location not given. End. by 36th Reg. 477 off. and men on forward amph. operation.



Location - Intrepid Point 302nd CB

- 10-10-45 - Inactivation ~~of~~ 302nd CB is directed upon completion of disposition of pers. Inform Comservpac when inactivation is completed. (Comservpac conf spltr ser 05503 dtd 4 Oct'45 to 302nd CB).
- 10-18-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 36th Reg. - 36th Reg. states that the 302nd CB was detached from the 36th Reg. on 15 Sept'45.
- 10-18-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 302nd CB - location not stated. 48 men rec'd from RecSta, Pearl Harbor, T.H., these men have over 41 points & are awaiting necessary points for discharge. 149 men rec'd as replacements. 138 men transferred to U.S. for discharge. 308 men transferred for leave & reassignment.
- 11-15-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 302nd CB - location not stated. 30 men rec'd during Oct. 75 men transferred for discharge.
- 12-27-45 - 1 Dec'45 report of 302nd CB - located at Intrepid Pt., T.H.
- 12-28-45 - 302nd CB was inactivated on 10 Dec'45. (OinC, 302nd CB ltr ser 1181 dtd 10 Dec'45 to Comservpac).

INACTIVATED

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>MEN</u>                    | <u>AUTHORITY</u>              |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Aug'44    | 64              | 1132                          | Combined Mo. Reports of Det.  |
| 1 Sep'44    | 39              | 766 - <i>does not include</i> | 1035, 1038, 1039, 1043 & 1054 |
| 1 Oct'44    | 38              | 381 + 795 <i>Oct 1954</i>     | MoR                           |
| 1 Nov'44    | 38              | 800                           | MoR                           |
| 1 Nov'44    | 25              | 373 - <i>Det 1054</i>         | MoR                           |
| 1 Dec'44    | 62              | 1104                          | MoR                           |
| 1 Jan'45    | 61              | 1070                          | MoR                           |
| 1 Feb'45    | 62              | 1053                          | MoR                           |
| 1 Apr'45    | 51              | 1015                          | MoR                           |
| 1 May'45    | 55              | 1036                          | BNP625 & R                    |
| 1 Jun'45    | 54              | 1133                          | BNP625 & R                    |
| 1 Jul'45    | 52              | 1085                          | BNP625 & R                    |
| 1 Aug'45    | 51              | 1132                          | BNP625 & R                    |
| 1 Sept'45   |                 | 890                           | BNP625                        |
| 1 Oct'45    |                 | 668                           | BNP625                        |
| 1 Nov'45    | 19              |                               | R                             |
| 1 Dec'45    | 11              | 173                           | BNP625 & R                    |

302nd Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

302nd CB formed from the following on 26 Aug'44:

| <u>Unit</u> | <u>Left ABD</u> | <u>Date Arr'd Loc.</u>                     | <u>Loc.</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Det 1035-   | 11 Dec'43       | late Dec'43                                | P.H.        |
| Det 1038-   | 2 Feb'44        | 9 Feb'44                                   | P.H.        |
| Det 1039-   | 22 Dec'43       | -  | P.H.        |
| Det 1043-   | 19 Jan'44       | About 1 Feb'44                             | P.H.        |
| Det 1054-   | 3 Jul'44        | 10 Jul'44 (left<br>for Russells 17 Jul'44) | P.H.        |

United States Naval Construction Battalion 302

One of the most unique Seabee groups which fought in the Pacific in World War II was Naval Construction Battalion 302.

The 302nd Battalion was formed at the Honolulu Seabee Base, Maui, T.H., August 26, 1944 by combining five Construction Battalion Pontoon Detachments into a construction battalion.

The detachments chosen were the 1035, 1038, 1039, 1043, 1054, rugged outfits which had already racked up enviable reputations for combat assaults on beaches in the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Guam, Anguar and Peleliu. Officer in Charge of the new battalion was Lieutenant Commander William B. Dallas. Named as executive officer was Lieutenant Commander Jack J. McGaraghan.

Apparently the 302nd was quickly gotten together because trained and experienced veterans of beach assaults were needed for the invasions of the Philippine Islands. The detachments were gathered up from their scattered outposts in the South and Central Pacific and returned to Pearl Harbor

and the Seabee training base on Maui to prepare for the great invasion.

The code name for the Leyte portion of the Philippine invasion was Mustketeer, King II. However, prior to the Philippine assault, the battalion on August 1, 1944 started work on assembly and loading of 31 pontoon causeways for a proposed assault on Yap Island, code named operation Stalemate, Phase II. Many battalion personnel were still in the Marianas following their work in Operation Forager. While these men trickled back to the Hawaiian Islands, the Officer in Charge directed the executive officer to form a detachment for the Yap Island assault. This detachment formed the crews of 31 LSTs barge carrying parties which would assist a platoon to assemble two large pontoon causeways to bridge the wide coral fringes of Yap Island. In all 510 men composed the detachment. The detachment was divided into two parts, one for each causeway and embarked for Yap.

Enroute to the staging area, the battalion was ordered to join the Southwest Pacific forces forming for the assault on Leyte, the Yap assault being cancelled.

The causeways assembled by the battalion were revised into 4 x 30 barges to transport cargo ashore. H-hour for A-day was 1000 in the Philippine assault, October 10, 1944. The battalion's LSTs arrived off Leyte at 0730.

The assault operation for the detachment was divided into three locations. A unit was assigned to Group Amphibious Forces for beaches Yellow and Violet. The group assigned to Group 6 Amphibious Forces operated on Blue-Orange beaches.

Yellow-Violet beaches group of the detachment went ashore with their pontoons at Jig hour plus one and began building a pier for unloading at Dulag under enemy fire. Other pontoons were rigged into cargo carries. The unit remained on the beach until A-plus 8 when it was sent to Tacloban, Leyte. Casualties were 4 men wounded.

The Blue-Orange beaches unit went in with the second wave of the assault and began unloading LSTs with cargo carrying pontoons made up from the broken up causeway previously slated for Yap. Eight barges were assembled

and put into operation on A-day. On A-plus 1 the number of barges increased to 20 with independent propulsion units moving them over the water from ships to shore. The unit also built several diagonal unloading causeways which had to be revised to shorter causeways in order to increase unloading room on the beach. The Unit built causeways and a large pier to the extent that all cargo with the exception of one transport unit had been unloaded in two days. Casualties from enemy action were light.

In both beach operations, the high surf plagued the detachment, ripping apart causeways and piers, damaging cargo carriers and wrecking propulsion units. The detachment overcame all difficulties and little or no cargo was delayed due to any pontoon failures. Following the Leyte invasion the detachment was sent to Hollandia, New Guinea to regroup.

After replacements filled empty holes in the ranks of the detachment, preparations were made on New Guinea for the invasion of Luzon at Lingayen and San Fabian. The detachment was still under the command of Lieutenant Commander Jack McGaraghan, veteran of Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian and Leyte.

Attack group Able under Lieutenant (jg) R. L. Stephenson, CEC, USNR, was scheduled to go ashore on Crimson and Yellow beaches, Lingayen. Attack group Baker was assigned Green and Orange beaches under Lieutenant A R. Singleton, CEC, USNR, and had 10 LSTs to carry pontoons and causeways. This was supported by five other LSTs carrying pontoons for cargo handling. The San Fabian attack force under Lieutenant (jg) J. A. Bold, CEC, USNR, carried five causeways on three LSTs and a large group of 3 x 7 and 3 x 12 pontoons on. This force went ashore at White beach at Group Baker. Group Able under Lieutenant (jg) K. McDonald went into Blue beach with eight LSTs.

The detachment sustained casualties from enemy mortar and artillery fire but was not deterred from fulfilling assignments. In the first few hours of operations numerous LSTs were unloaded to give logistic support to Army invasion infantry. The Army cooperated with the detachment, lending the landing force bulldozers and other equipment to facilitate operations. The day following the invasion high surf wreaked havoc with pontoons, causeways

and piers, but the detachment managed to keep the beach gear in repair so that operations in unloading went smoothly.

After completion of the Lingayen Gulf landings and operations, the detachment was sent back to the Hawaiian Islands for rest and replacements.

The men of the 302nd Battalion had participated in four major assaults in less than six months and the ranks were depleted with casualties and fatigue.

Eleven men had been killed in action and 89 officers and men were wounded.

In a confidential letter, Commander Plichta, Force Civil Engineer for

Commander, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet recommended relief for the

battalion as "Dallas' outfit, the 302nd Battalion, was badly shot up and

would need 40% to 50% replacements."

The bulk of the men in the battalion spent the remainder of the war at the Seabee Amphibious Force Pontoon Assembly Center, Intrepid Point,

Pearl Harbor. The battalion was deactivated 15 December 1945 at Pearl Harbor.

ITINERARY OF THE 302nd NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

26 Aug. 1944 Formed at Pearl Harbor from the following:

| <u>Det.</u> | <u>UNIT</u> | <u>LEFT U.S.</u> | <u>DATE ARRIVED P. H.</u> |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------------|
|             | 1035        | 11 Dec. 1943     | late Dec. 1943            |
|             | 1038        | 2 Feb. 1944      | 9 Feb. 1944               |
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|             | 1043        | 19 Jan. 1944     | About 1 Feb. 1944         |
|             | 1054        | 3 July 1944      | 10 July 1944              |

(1054 left Pearl Harbor for Russells 17 July 1944 and engaged in forward operations as detachment of the 302nd Construction Battalion).

15 Sept. to 12 Nov. 1944 Operated pontoon structures on invasion of Peleliu.

17 Sept. to 6 Oct. 1944 Operated pontoon structures on invasion of Angaur. Same operations on invasion of Leyte. but date unknown

1 Jan. 1945 Located Oahu with 472 men on forward amphibious operation at Leyte and Luzon.

Apr. 1945 Detachments at Okinawa

1 Sept. 1945 Located at Oahu, Hawaiian Islands.

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

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**DECLASSIFIED**

PLAIN

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- 1 Sept. 1945 Located at Oahu, Hawaiian Islands.

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Date: 22 September 1945.

UNITED STATES  
NAVY



CONST 302 BATT









