

8th Naval Construction Regiment

*Historical
Information*



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



ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFF.</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
30 Jun '44	13	51	Roster and Rec'd.
1 Aug '44	13	63	MoR
1 Sep '44	14	61	MoR
1 Oct '44	13	34	MoR
1 Nov '44	5	27	MoR
1 Dec '44	6	25	MoR
1 Jan '45	8	31	MoR
1 Feb '45	8	79	MoR
1 Mar '45	8	74	MoR
1 Apr '45	8	74	MoR
1 May '45	8	53	MoR
1 Jun '45	8	51	BNP625 & R
1 Jul '45	8	31	BNP625 & R
1 Aug '45	6	29	BNP625 & R
1 Sept '45		29	BNP625

8th Construction Regiment (INACTIVATED)

Location - Pearl Harbor

8th C. Reg.

- 13 May '43 - Lt. Comdr. Taggart becomes OinC, coming from 62nd C.B. (BY&D to Pers 13 May).
 6-11-43 - From OinC, 62nd C.B. dated 5-26-43 assigns Lt. Paul, Ens. Fisher, Lt.(jg) Shaid
 and Lt.(jg) Kornrumpf coming from the 62nd C.B. (Lt. Albertson assigned in same ws
 7-1-43 - Ens. J. I. Mullen, CEC, assigned coming from 3rd Reg. 6-10-43 (Miss F)
 7-1-43 - Lt. Comdr. H. I. Bixby assigned coming from 62nd.
 7-23-43 - Lt.(jg) VanRyn assigned from 76th Batt. (Miss Fisher)
 8-3-43 - Officer roster checked with June Monthly report and added Lt.(jg) Moyer.
 10-28-43 - Lt. Albertson detached to Peary(Budocks ltr to Bopers dated 25 Oct '43).
 1-7-44 - Officer roster checked with 1 Dec '43 monthly report - added SC officer - Kliese.
 1-28-44 - 8th Regiment consists of the 62nd, 72nd, 76th, 90th and 94th C.B's. (Capt. Porter's
 ltr to Amd. Moreell dated 4 Jan '44).
 2-5-44 - Officer roster checked with 1 Jan '44 report and OK.
 3-9-44 - Officer roster checked with 1 Feb '44 monthly report - Lt. Lange listed (from 62nd C
 on temp. duty.)
 4-21-44 - Officer roster checked with 1 Mar '44 roster - Added Lt. Lange from 62nd CB and Ens
 Jamison from 72nd CB.
 5-19-44 - Carp. Anna assigned from 76th CB (Budocks ltr to Bopers dated 26 Apr '44).
 5-19-44 - 72nd CB detached from the 2nd Brig. and ordered to Acorn 33. (2nd Brdg. ltr 2NCBr-DJ
 / whc over P16-4 to OinC 72nd CB dated 17 Apr '44).
 5-29-44 - Officer roster checked with 1 Apr '44 report and OK.
 6-16-44 - Officer roster checked with 1 May '44 report and OK except for recent change. Batt
 consists of 62nd, 72nd, 76th, 90th, 94, 116th, 117th, 125th, Det. 1035, 1038, 1039 &
 1043.

8th Reg.

- 8-6-44 - Officer roster checked with 1 Jun'44 report and OK.
- 8-12-44-Officers and men of 43rd CB reported to 2nd Brig 11 Jul'44 - ordered to further report to 8th Reg. for duty (OinC 2nd Brig ltr 2NCBr-06-JRH/lk over P16-4 dtd 28 Jul'44 to OinC 43rd CB).
- 8-12-44-Officers and men of 100th CB reported 2nd Brig 5 Jul'44 - ordered to further report to 8th Reg. for duty (OinC 2nd Brig ltr 2NCBr-06-HCB/lk over P16-4 dtd 12 Jul'44 to Comdr. Cavin).
- 8-12-44-Det. 1054 reported to 2nd Brig. 10 Jul'44 and ordered to report to 8th Reg for further assignment to Pontoon Detachments (OinC 2nd Brig ltr 2NCBr-06-HCB/fnf over P16-4 dtd 11 Jul'44 to OinC Det. 1054).
- 8-29-44-8th Reg. report for Jul'44 covered activities of 8th, 43rd, 62nd, 90th, 94th, 98th, 100th, 116th, 117th, 125th, 136th CB's. Dets. 1035, 1038, 1039, 1043 and 1054.
- 10-12-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 8th Reg. - Following units are attached to this Reg.: 8th CB, 43rd, 62nd, 90th, 94th, 98th, 100th, 116th, 117th, 125th, 136th, 302nd, Det. 1054. 8th Reg. is under the 2nd Brig. and is located at Hawaii.
- 10-18-44 - 94th CB detached from the 8th Reg. and ordered to report to the 5th Brg. for duty(2nd Brg. conf. ltr 2NCBr-06-HCB/fnf over P16-4/00/MM to OinC of 94th CB dtd 18 Sep'44).
- 10-27-44 - Upon embarkation to a point in the Central Pacific area the 117th CB is detached from the 8th Reg. and will report to the 39th Reg. (Hawaiian Area NC Brigs conf. ltr HAB-06-HCB/fnf over Ply-4/00/mm over Ser 6088 to the 117th CB dtd 27 Sep'44)
- 10-28-44 - 9th Brigade established composed of the 8th and 41st Regiments effective when directed by Cincpoa.(CNO conf. disp 231903 NCR 1823 to Cincpoa dtd 24 Oct'44).

8th Reg.

- 10-31-44 - The 8th Reg. is composed of the 8th, 62nd, 90th and 95th CB's.(2nd Brg. conf. ltr 2NCBr-06-HCB/kb over P16-4/00/MM over 9339 to OinC 8th Reg. dtd 14 Sep'44).
- 10-31-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 8th Reg. - located on Hawaiian Is. Is composed of the following 8th, 62nd, 90th, 95th, 117th CB's. Report endorsed by 7th Brigade.
- 11-1-44 -- 62nd CB ordered when directed to the Port of the 5th Amph Corps for Temp additional duty. Upon completion will report to the Island Commander for reassignment to the 8th Reg.(HANCB Sec. ltr HAB-06-HCB/fnf over P16-3(18)/00/MM Ser. 02448 to OinC 62nd CB dtd 17 Oct'44).
- 11-1-44 -- 133rd CB ordered to the 4th MarDiv for temp. additional duty and upon completion to report to the Island Commander for assignment to the 8th Reg.(HANCB Sec. ltr HAB-06-HCB/fnf over P16-3(18)/00/MM over 02447 to the OinC of the 133rd CB dtd 17 Oct'44).
- 11-3-44 -- 9th Brg. established to consist of the 8th and 41st Regs. The 8th Reg. to consist of the 8th, 90th, 95th, 106th 2nd Sec., 35th (Sp) and CRD 1042 (Sp).(CNO conf. ltr Op30-20K15-UOT over (SC)P16-5 over Ser. 01348230 to Bupers and Cincpoa dtd 27 Oct'44)
- 11-15-44 - The 8th Reg. assigned to the 7th Brigade under HANCB. To be composed of the 8th, 90th and 95th CB.(Note: This is not in line with entry above).(Comserforpacflt Sec. ltr 55-CW/apk over Ser. 001008 to CNO dtd 4 Nov'44).
- 12-6-44 - Comservpac Sec. Disp. to CNO 020143 dtd 2 Dec'44 requests that the 23rd (Sp) (now assigned to the 2nd Brig. and 20th Reg.) be assigned to the 9th Brig. and 8th Reg. Request to replace the 35th (Sp) now assigned to the 8th Reg. by CNO 111601 Oct. Request that the 35th (Sp) be ordered to the 2nd Brig. for further assignment.
- 12-6-44 - CNO Conf. Disp. to Comservpac 021515 dtd 2 Dec'44 approves the above dispatch 02014 --the reassignment of the 23rd and 35th (Sp)'s.
- 12-13-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 8th Reg. - In the 7th Brig. and consists of the following CB's: 8th, 62nd, 90th, 95th.

8th Reg.

- 12-28-44 - 9th Brg. established effective upon embarkation at mounting ports of units concerned. The 41st and 8th Regs. to report to the 9th Brg. for duty. (Cincpac Sec. disp to Comserpac 172204 dtd 18 Dec'44).
- 12-28-44 - Co. A & B of 23rd (Sp) assigned temp add. duty with 5th Phib Corps. Upon completion will report to IsCom and for further assignment to the 9th Brg. and the 8th Reg. (Cincpac Sec. disp to ComGenFMFPac 190205 dtd 19 Dec'44).
- 1-3-45 - The 8th Reg. consists of the 8th, 90th, 95th and 23rd (Sp)(TAD with 20th Reg.). (ComserforUSPacFlt Sec. ltr Ser. 55-CKW/apk over Ser. 001389 to CNO dtd 18 Dec'44).
- 1-4-45 -- The 23rd (Sp) ordered detached from the 20th Reg. to proceed and report to the 7th Brg. and the 8th Reg. for duty. (HANCB conf. ltr HAB-06-HCB/mv over P16-4/00/MM over Ser. 7816 dtd 8 Dec'44 to OinC 23rd (Sp)).
- 1-5-45 - The 23rd (Sp) reported to the 8th Reg. on 9 Dec'44 for duty. (8th Reg. 4th End. Conf. on HAB ltr HAB-06-HCB/mv, P16-4/00/MM Ser 7816 dtd 8 Dec'44)
- 1-12-45 -- The 62nd CB upon completion of temp. add. duty with the 5th Amph. Corps will report to the Is. Com for assignment to the 41st Reg. in lieu of the 8th Reg. (HANCB Sec. ltr HAB-06-HCB/mv over P16-4/00/MM over Ser. 03037 to the OinC 62nd CB dtd 23 Dec'44).
- 1-12-45 - The 133rd CB upon completion of temp add. duty with the 4th MarDiv to report to the Is. Com where located for assignment to the 41st Reg. in lieu of the 8th Reg. (HANCB Sec. ltr HAB-06-HCB/mv over P16-4/00/MM over Ser. 03036 to the OinC 133rd CB dtd 23 Dec'44).
- 1-16-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 8th Regiment - Report endorsed by the 7th Brig. and H.A.B. Covered activities of the 8th, 62nd, 90th, and 95th CBs. With the return of the 2 pontoon detachments to their batts there remains only one detachment of the Regiment away, that being a Garrison Beach Party attached to Cub 12. Its return in the immediate future is doubtful.

Location - Oahu Iwo Jima8th Reg.

- 2- 6-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 8th Reg. - No info on location. Report endorsed by the 7th Brg. and H.A.B. Units of the 23rd (Sp) and 62nd CB have begun movements to the forward. Ultimately the Regiment in its entirety will have moved from its present location. Report covered comments on the 8th, 62nd, 90th, 95th CB's and the 23rd (Sp).
- 3-20-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 8th Reg. - Location not given. Consists of the 8th, 90th, 95th CB's and the 23rd (Sp). Copy of letter of commendation to the OinC of the 8th Reg. included in connection with construction of facilities at the 14th ND from 17 May'43 to 28 Nov'44.
- 4-10-45 - 8th Reg. is at Iwo Jima according to Dirpacdock SanFran Sec Report for 15 Mar'45
- 5- 7-45 - The 8th Reg. is located at Iwo Jima. (Dirpacdock S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)
- 5-17-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 8th Reg. - 2 offrs & 4 men departed P.H. on 5 Feb'45 and landed on Iwo Jima on 3 Mar'45. Remainder of Reg. departed P.H. on 19 Feb'45 & landed on Iwo Jima on 14 Mar'45. As of 1 Mar'45 the 8th, 23rd(Sp) & 95th CBs were attached to the 8th Reg. Report end. by 9th Brig.
- 5-22-45 - 1 May'45 report of 8th Reg. - location not given. The 8th, 23rd (Sp), 90th, 95th & 106th CBs are attached to the 8th Reg. Report routed via 9th Brig.
- 6- 1-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 8th Reg. - The Reg in its entirety has during the past 3 mos moved from P.H. to Iwo Jima. 2 off. and 4 men of the Reg Staff arrived with the 8th CB on 3 March, 6 off and 21 men arrived with the 90th CB on 14 March, and 2 men arrived on 24 March with the rear ech. The 8th, 23rd (Sp), 90th, 95th, and 106th CB, Sec 2 are attached to the Reg. Report routed via the 9th Brg.
- 6-6-45 - The 8th Reg is located at Iwo Jima. (IsCom Iwo Jima Sec disp 031027Z Jun'45 to CN
- 6-12-45 - The 8th Reg. available at Iwo Jima 1 Nov'45. (OinC 9th Brg sec ltr 00137 dtd 28 May'45 to Comserpac)

Location - Iwo Jima

8th Reg.

Being inactivated

- 6-27-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 8th Reg - located at Iwo Jima. Comments re 8th, 90th, 95th, 106th & 23rd (Sp) CBs. Report routed via 9th Brig.
- 7-10-45 - The 8th Reg is located at Iwo Jima. (IsCom Iwo Jima sec disp 030753 Jul to CNO)
- 7-12-45 - Comservpac requests Cincoa's approval to inactivate the 8th Regiment on 1 Oct'45. (Comservpac conf ltr ser 03590 dtd 30 June to Cincoa)
- 7-20-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 8th Reg - located at Iwo Jima. The 8th, 90th, 95th & 106th, Sec.2, CBs and the 23rd (Sp) are attached to the 8th Reg. Report via 9th Brig.
- 7-31-45 - When directed by proper authority the 23rd (Sp) detached from the 8th Brg and 8th Reg. Ordered to proceed to IsCom Okinawa for duty. (9th Brg sec orders ser 00281 dtd 12 July to OinC 23rd (Sp))
- 8-2-45 - 9th Brg ltr to Comservpac ser 0187 dtd 12 June contained recommendations for consolidation and reoutfitting of 9th Brg units including the inactivation of the 62nd, 106th CB Sec II, 95th CB, and 8th Reg. Cincoa 1st end ser 030878 dtd 8 July to Comservpac's ltr approved the inactivation of these units. In accordance with Cincoa's ltr, inactivate these units on the dates recommended by the 9th Brg. Transfer enl personnel who have been out of U.S. cont for 21 mos to the nearest W.C. RecSta. Transfer other enl personnel to the 31st, 90th, and 133rd CBs. Dispose of all records of the 62nd, 95th, 106th Sec II, and 8th Reg. Inform Comservpac and all info addressees when inactivation has been completed. (Comservpac conf ltr ser 04110 dtd 21 July to OinC 9th Brg.)
- 8-21-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 8th Reg - located at Iwo Jima as of 1 Aug'45. The 8th, 90th, 95th & 106th, CBs, sec.2 are attached to the 8th Reg. Report via 9th Brig.
- 8-21-45 - The date of inactivation of the 8th Reg and 95th CB will remain at 1 Oct '45. (Comservpac conf ltr dtd 10 Aug '45 ser 04576 to OinC, 5th Brig).

Location- Iwo Jima

8th Reg.

- 9-25-45 - Inactivation of 8th Reg. completed 10 Sept'45. (OinC, 8th Reg. ltr ser 1738 dtd 10 Sept'45 to Comservpac).
- 10-2-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 8th Reg. Located at Iwo Jima. Report via 9th Brig.
- 10-8-45 - 8th Reg. was inactivated on 10 Sept'45. (OinC, 9th Brig conf ltr ser 0284 dtd 10 Sept'45 to Comservpac).

INACTIVATED

DECLASSIFIED

REF ID: A65115

8th Regiment

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/22/44	-	Pearl Harbor	c. B. report 1 June	62nd, 90th, 94th, 98th, 116th, 117th, 125th, det. 1035, 103rd, 1039, 1643.
10/14	-	Pearl Harbor (7th brig.)	c. B. report 1 October	8th, 62nd, 90th, 95th

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

The 8th Naval Construction Regiment was commissioned May 17, 1943, at Pearl Harbor. The original personnel were transferred from the 62nd Battalion on that date. Commander R. Y. Terrell was designated as Officer-in-Charge, and with him went Lts. Paul and Albertson, Lts. (jg) Shaid, Fisher, and Komrumpf. Tappana and Collogan share the distinction of being the first enlisted personnel of the regiment. The original offices were in the BOQ on Red Hill, while the officers lived in Naval Housing Area. Tap and Speck lived at Camp Catlin and Aiea before moving to quarters on Red Hill in early October, when the Regimental offices moved to Damon Tract. These first few months of function found the regiment co-ordinating the construction activities of the 62nd, 72nd, and 76th Battalions. About the 1st of October, the regiment had grown with the addition of Anderson, Chaney, Russell, Weiss, Cunningham, Cawthorn, Katz, Coleman, Prater, Conklin, Mayne, Adolison, Huster, Kim, Auerhamer, Baston, Bennett, Burkhead, Hamman, Hinton, Hotopp, Howard, LaVerdure, Skummy, Stephenson, and Turner. Four more officers had joined the staff by this time: Lt. Comdr. Bixby (MC), Lt. Kiese, Lt. (jg) Moyer, and Ens. Mullen.

By Christmas, the 90th and 94th NCBs, had become part of the regiment and more personnel arrived—Hinch, Atkinson, and Vann. Among the officers, Lt. (jg) Lange had replaced Lt. Albertson, who went back to the states. Christmas was celebrated in fine style, in a quiet way. For some, it was a lonely one.

In April, 1944, the regiment saw more changes. The men had moved across the road into quonset quarters, and the number had increased with the arrival of Dickerson, Reed, Tyson, Dugger, Elliott, Feehan, Kane, and Woods. Some had left us too, by this time: Burkhead, Hamman, Howard, and Vann. Additions among the officers included Lt. (jg) Holloran and Ens. Jamison. The 116th, 117th, and 125th NCBs had joined the regiment by this time and an ever-increasing amount of work was keeping everyone busy.

It was Spring in Hawaii and very much like the rest of the year. Saturday afternoons found most of us brushing up on marksmanship at the

Puuloa Rifle Range. Many Saturday nights were featured by entertainment from the "music-makers"—guitars and fiddle and lots of western enthusiasm. Those less enthusiastic climbed the steep hill to the Red Hill Theater, while the liberty hounds had gone for the weekend.

Spring stretched into Summer, and June saw more men coming into the regiment. A large draft had come from the states and most were quartered with the 90th. Those who joined our "family" include Griffin, Hackman, Hansen, Schultz, Sheets, Gretkowski, Guile, Hall, Hamilton, Hand and Tucker. Others who had joined us by this time were Carr, French, Mellenthin, Sazma, and Trenor. We had said goodbye to some of the guys: Adolison, Bennett, Coleman, Elliott, Hinton, Russell and Stephenson.

Almost every Sunday called forth a swimming party to a more remote part of the island. Occasionally, a big party was arranged and provided everyone with a good time; of course, the refreshments (beer, pop, sandwiches, etc.) helped immeasurably. For some reason, most of the fellows preferred the beaches on the Ewa side of the island Nanakuli and Maili.

Summer found everyone enthusiastic about softball, and there was a game or practice session almost every evening. None of us will forget the big game which pitted the enlisted men against the officers, the officers seeing defeat by a 12-to-1 score.

In September, major changes were made in the organization of Seabees at Hawaii. At this time, the total number of men under cognizance of the regiment totalled 13,653. The number of battalions was cut down from 13 to 4 by the commissioning of new regiments. The 8th Regiment personnel were given extra work in setting up the 7th Brigade and 32nd and 33rd Regiments in addition to our own work. These few weeks found all units short of manpower and confusion reigned. Soon, the activities took on the semblance of functioning and personnel were shifted to various units. In this operation, many of the regiment's personnel were transferred. We lost Anderson, Baston, Carr, Conklin, Dugger, Feehan, Gretkowski, Guile, Hall, Hamilton, Hand, Hotopp, Kane, LaVerdure, Mellenthin,

thin, Moody, Prater, Sazman, Skummy, Trenor, Tucker, Turner, and Woods. Of the officers, Paul, Bixby, Moyer, and Auerhamer (now a warrant officer) went back to the states. Shaid, Holloran, Van Ryn, Kliese and Kornrumpf were all transferred to different units.

Some new men came into the regiment shortly after this reorganization. By New Year's, we had welcomed Blank, Cordes, Bridges, Krogmann, Martindale, Posner, West and Zeller. We also had a new executive officer by this time—Comdr. Scheve; other new officers included Lt. Comdr. Clarke (DC) and Lt. (jg) Keating (SC). Foster and Hardie had joined us in autumn, but had been transferred by this time.

In December, we decided to put our recreation fund to a good use. Through a welfare agency, we discovered a family with a run of hard luck. There were eight children, their ages ranging from six months to ten years. Almost everyone had a share in buying a complete Christmas for the family. Each child had presents, a fully trimmed tree was furnished, more than enough turkey and all the trimmings made certain that they would be free from want on Christmas.

Competition of the volleyball court was keen, especially against the 7th Brigade personnel. The mad, noisy encounters lasted until too dark to see the ball. In autumn, professional talent was offered almost every weekend at Furlong Field, with many major league ball stars performing for servicemen. About the first of the year, football fans were kept happy by a host of well-known players. Climax of the season was the big Army-Navy All-Star game which found the Army sadly lacking.

By the first of the year, we were wondering just where we would be going and how long it would be before leaving Hawaii. Plans were being made, ships being loaded, and rumors flying amid the confusion of a major movement. The 8th, 90th, 95th, and one section of the 106th NCBs and 23rd Special NCB were under the regiment at this time. Four men—Collogan, Chaney, Cordes, and Reed, along with Lt. Lange and Comdr. Taggart—left in an early echelon. Before leaving, the Commander was presented with a citation from Admiral Nimitz for "outstanding service . . . in organizing, administer-

ing, and supervising construction of various projects. He contributed in a major degree to the successful and expeditious completion of facilities vital to the District's support of the Fleet."

Weiss and Hansen were left with the equipment ship and most of us left Pearl Harbor the middle of February. Bridges went back to the states just before we left. We had an eight-day stopover at Eniwetok and enjoyed the recreation center at Parry Island. We had known Iwo Jima was our destination shortly after leaving Pearl Harbor and we arrived in the middle of March. We were soon more than well acquainted with fox-hole life.

We left our fox-hole "homes" in May and enjoyed spacious (comparatively speaking) pyramidal tents. At this time, we welcomed Bernardo, McEwan, Montgomery, Owens, and Risbrudt to the clan. Some of the men had put in more than two years of overseas service by this time and during June and July, Walker, Atkinson, Tappana and Collogan received orders for leave. Lts. Lange, Fisher, Mullin and Jamison also went home and were replaced by Lts. Smith, Grad, Freidak, and Moran. Comdr. Taggart was detached in July and was succeeded by Comdr. Scheve. It didn't take long for life to get monotonous with nowhere to go and nothing to do. Every event called for a special beer party and was enjoyed by all. French left the regiment the end of August after accepting a warrant officer's rank. Lt. Keating was eligible for rotation and left in August.

The inactivation of the Regiment was completed on the 10th of September. Ten men, Cowthorn, Chaney, Cunningham, Dickerson, Huston, Katz, Mayne, Reed, Tyson, and Weiss, were happily homeward bound, having been overseas 18 months or more. The others were wondering just what part of Japan they would enjoy the most. Comdr. Scheve, Lts. Freidak and Moran went into the 90th NCB, Lts. Grad and Smith into the 41st Regiment.

And thus ended the two and one-half year span of the 8th Regiment—2½ years of activity and accomplishment, a period of friendships and good times shared by all of us that truly made it "our outfit."

THE RECORD

Some may ask what has been accomplished since the Regiment's conception in May, 1943? Has our existence been justified and have we materially aided the cause of the war? From the Project Files the following paragraphs have been compiled, and from these we may draw our own conclusions.

For a fleet to exist, it must have a base. In 1943, Pearl was that base for our Fleet, and from there our westward operations were launched. By the time the Regiment was formed, the destruction wrought by the Japanese, on December 7th, 1941, had almost disappeared and the expansion of the base was in progress.

A portion of our task, in the overall scheme, was the completion of a barely started Submarine Base, which when finished was to be one of the finest in the world. Plans called for a modern machine shop, pattern shop, galvanizing and tinning shop and shipfitters shop, to list a few of the major buildings. Thousands of feet of electrical duct line had to be laid, bombproof powerhouses and electrical substations built. Quaywalls had to be extended, pumphouses erected, water and fuel services installed. Broad streets had to be laid out and paved, storm drains to carry off excess water had to be put in, in addition to the installation of the regular drainage system. Personnel facilities were added, barracks that could house 250 men a piece were thrown up, a laundry was commissioned and built, a Post Office and Ships' Service Building, which became the finest on the island, was put in service together with all the little things that constitute a small city. All this was combined to help supply the needs of the Navy's "silent service."

The storage of the vast supplies of the Fleet entailed additional construction at the Naval Supply Depot, Kuahua. Warehouses, large enough to literally accommodate a ball game complete with spectators, within their walls, became the major part of the program. Wide, paved aprons surrounded each building with a network of roads knitting it all together. A truck and car loading platform was built, and to meet the needs of the anticipated trucking operations, even a modern service station. For the employees, a cafeteria and bus terminal was needed, so these were also added to the already long list of projects. Then, the entire Kuahua area was tied in with the Sub-Base and Navy Yard to constitute the very heart of the great base planned.

From this nucleus, a myriad of installations sprang up, crowding out cane fields and everything else that stood in their way, until they reached from Honolulu, around the great harbor, and out past Barber's Point. It was our Regiment that was responsible for a large percent-

age of this construction, in addition to the work load already assigned us in the Sub-Base, Kuahua, and Navy Yard Projects.

The 6th Base Marine Storage Depot, the largest Marine Depot west of the Coast, now stands where once cane was harvested; and alongside, the great 3,000 bed Moanalua Quonset Hospital where many of the battle casualties are received. Storehouses for submarine parts at Damon Tract, Pacific Fleet Schools at Camp Callin, with the equipment necessary for the training of radiomen of the Fleet, were built. The 6th Base Ordnance Depot, for the overhauling of Marine equipment after combat, together with the electrical distribution for a greater part of the area, were only a small part of that assigned us. To this was added the 6,000 man addition to Aiea Receiving Station, complete with messing facilities; the major portion of our own camp at Red Hill to include housing for four of our battalions. The erection of the ComSer for Building, to house the Commander Service, Pacific Fleet and his staff, next to CinC-Pac, in the record of thirty days. The construction of the Third Fleet Headquarters from where strikes by Admiral Halsey were to be planned. Additional work in the Navy Yard such as the Personnel Building, Cold Storage Building and still more barracks. The turning of a mire into Halawa Fleet Landing Area which included the Mail Concentration Center, where all mail was sorted and V-Mail photographed, Shore Patrol Headquarters, X-Ray Building, a large Red Cross Station, and the widening of a railroad trestle to connect the area with the Naval Supply Depot, Kuahua. The Naval Housing Area, where civilians employed in the Navy Yard live, was given a new drainage and road system. Fuel tanks were dismantled, and erected in more favorable locations, and a Diesel Drumming Plant put into operation at Halawa. Going Ewa from Aiea, we run into Manana Storage with 300' x 100' storehouses covering the terrain and where over 200,000 man days alone are accounted for. Another Drumming Plant went up at Ewa Junction, along with other facilities for the storage and protection of all important high-test aviation gasoline. Another complete camp at Waipio was ordered, this time for Landing Craft Facilities; work at Intrepid Point for the Pontoon Detachments, and construction at West Loch Ammunition Depot where the Fleet draws its Sunday punch before leaving for action. Next to West Loch lies the boundary of the Iroquois Point base which appeared from nowhere to become the principal Advance Base Reshipment Depot in the Pacific, with facilities for supplying anything from a bottle of ink to a complete 1,000 man camp, with laundry, on a moments notice. One of the minor facts about the base being that it can house and mess a

dozen battalions and at the same moment be loading the equipment of several of them for forward movements all over the Pacific. Barbers Point, a Naval and Marine Air Station, where a battalion was located to supply their needs and those of the immediate area. Ludjualet, the site of the main Naval Ammunition Depot, kept another of our battalions busy with the construction of its new facilities. Wahiawa, just out of Schofield Barracks, the location of a strong Naval Radio Station, was the scene of much difficult construction to house the station's equipment and protect it from any possible enemy attack. Then there was Ford Island, the small island right in the middle of Pearl Harbor, famous for its "Battleship Row" and now equally so in regard to carriers. Here another battalion resided and worked to expand the Naval Air Station with paving, construction of barracks, some of which were for the first contingent of WAVES to land on Oahu, ammunition storage huts, additions to the administration building, and recreational facilities. All of these, and countless other projects, that would fill this entire book, were undertaken and for the most part completed. In addition to the work on Oahu, at various times, men under our command were at work on Palmyra Island, over a thousand miles south, on Canton Island, Christian Island, and French Frigate Shoals, all outposts of Pearl Harbor. It was for the accomplishment of the above work that the Regiment's Officer in Charge, Commander Rudolph Y. TAGGART (CEC) USNR, received a Commendation from Admiral Chester W. NIMITZ, CinCPac and CinCPOA, in January, 1945, and was also a factor in the choosing of this unit for duty on Iwo Jima.

The work that was to be done on Iwo Jima really began in October, 1944, when the initial planning for the construction phase of operations got underway, long before work had stopped on the projects at Pearl Harbor. To the Commander, Lt. Lange, the Operations Officer, and Lt. (jg) Mullen, Assistant Operations Officer, fell most of the construction planning for this unit. When the Regiment moved out for duty on Iwo, as the first Regiment ever to move as a complete unit, our job had been cut out for us and was later to prove one of the most difficult we ever drew.

Construction assigned to us before the actual landing on Iwo consisted mainly of all major general construction, all fuel storage facilities and piping layouts, the harbor and beach development, and survey and development of water resources for the Island. After our arrival, much work was added that had not been taken into consideration in the initial planning while, at the same time, effective construction personnel was cut to below half its ordinary strength during the first few months. Guard duty was the major curse that sapped our strength while va-

rious Army details also drew heavily on us. To add to these difficulties, equipment was lost to mines and booby traps, sniper fire caused some casualties and heavy loss of work hours, torrential rains washed out sections of roads and even camps, and the living conditions were such that the men rarely got a good night's rest, and even more rarely, a good meal.

Yet, in spite of it all, even before the Japs had quit, the vast percentage of our work had been successfully completed. Over a quarter of a million barrels of fuel storage has been provided for, a pipeline system extending to all three airfields for the servicing of planes with aviation gasoline, the unloading beaches have been improved and surfaced, a water distribution system planned and developed so that all parts of the Island are reached by the pipeline, over a hundred individual messhalls have been erected for various Army units, along with latrines, showers, grease racks and recreational facilities for each unit. In addition, every battalion has constructed its own camp complete with shops and repair facilities. The day the war ended, three hospitals were under construction with a total capacity of 1,750 beds. A complete Naval Operating Base has been set up which alone called for over a hundred major units. Huge Quonset storehouses are in use, and the Quartermaster Corps now has its warehouses and laundry not to mention the cold storage area that was constructed. Operational buildings for the Air Force have been put up, including nose hangars, ready rooms, briefing rooms, control towers, and crash truck sheds. Most of the ammunition and bomb storage facilities are of our doing, as are the gun installations and radar sites. The Island Command Area has been built and also the CASU camp with all its shops and quarters. The Butler Hangar on South airstrip, a carbon dioxide plant, a weather station, the central concrete mixing plant, and seemingly countless tents, small frame structures, and grading jobs, together with the many other projects, made up our construction schedule on Iwo. To this assigned work, half of the major roads on the Island were added, help given on the construction of the three airfields, and assistance in the maintenance of many of the facilities that we built. In short, although we did not get the glamorous portion of construction, we did get and complete the major part of the construction on Iwo Jima.

The above is the record, it is not spotless, nor faultless, but it is a record of achievement that we are proud of. Looking back, many of the faults could have been avoided with the knowledge that we now have, but that is always true when all the facts and returns are at one's disposal. Now that the war is over, our work is finished; that we have aided the successful termination of the Pacific War cannot be denied, and that alone is justification for our existence.



**NO
LOGO
AVAILABLE**



**NO
PHOTOS
AVAILABLE**