

12th Naval Construction Regiment

*Historical
Information*



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



Location - Milne Bay Leyte Samar 12th Regiment

11-13-43 - According to Miss Fisher Comdr. Herd is OinC of this Regiment coming from the 55th C.B.

11-13-43 - Comdr. Sterzik detached from the 128th C.B. and assigned 12th Regiment(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 10 Nov'43).

11-20-43 - Lt. Chilton assigned from Peary(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 18 Nov'43)

12-1-43 - Comdr. Clarence G. DeSwarte detached from 67th C.B. and assigned to 12th Regiment. (Bupers dispatch dated 11/27/43)(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 25 Nov'43) is Exec of 12-1-43 - Comdr. Rupert A Sterzik detached. (Bupers dispatch dated 11/25/43) ~~Budocks LTR to Bupers 2/2~~

12-7-43 - Comdr. Herd orders to 12th Reg. confirmed by Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 23 Nov'43

12-7-43 - Ens. Livermore assigned from NCTC Davisville(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 22 Nov'43)

12-7-43 - Lt.(jg) Brown assigned from Budocks(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 23 Nov'43).

12-29-43 - 12th Regiment headquarters is at Brisbane.(Secret NB166/A1-1 5455 - Com 7th Fleet 1 Budocks dated Nov'43).

1-31-44 - Comdr. Herd detached to 3rd Brigade as Exec(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 24 Jan'44).

2-8-44 - Comdr. Kelly assigned from 8th CB as OinC(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 1 Feb'44).

2-8-44 - Lt. King assigned from Peary(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 4 Feb'44).

2-8-44 - Lt. Comdr. Parker assigned from Peary(Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 28 Jan'44).

2-29-44 - 115th CB temp. assigned to 12th Regiment(Com7Flt ltr L24 ser 1276 dated 8 Feb'44 to OinC 115th CB).

3-7-44 -- 104th CB temporarily assigned to 12th Regiment(OinC of 104th CB ltr CB104/F16 over Ser. 15 over MPC:wjo dated 15 Feb'44 to OinC of 12th Reg.).

4-27-44 -- 104th, 105th and 115th CB assigned to 12th Reg. at Milne Bay.(ComServ7Flt sec. disp. to CNB Milne bat 141426 Apr'44 NCR 9258).

Location: Ladava, Milne B. 12th Reg. 20th CB1st Sec, 105th, 115th, 91st ^{TEMP. Det. M}

4-27-44 - 55th CB detached from 12th Reg. and assigned temp. to 24th Reg.(Comservfor 7 flt ltr P15-3 Serial 0838 confidential dated 10 Apr'44 to OinC of 55th CB).

4-27-44 - 104th CB detached from 12th Reg. to 17th Reg. (AES)

5-29-44 - Officer roster checked with 1 Apr'44 report - Lt. Comdr. Parker not listed as yet. Added Lt. Hormann, CEC. Report endorsed through Gilli Gilli, Milne Bay. Added Lt. Sudderth, SC. Lt. Comdr. Carroll and Lt.(jg) Davis is with this Reg. temporarily until at such time the 19th Reg. is formed.

6-3-44 - Officer roster checked with 1 May'44 report - Lt. King is with 91st CB. Lt. Comsr Parker, and Lt. Sudderth not listed. Operating at Milne Bay.

6-8-44 - Ens. Bond detached from 91st to 12th Reg(BNP352 from 91st CB dtd 5 May'44).

6-8-44 - Lt. Garbi assigned from the 91st CB(BNP352 from 91st CB dtd 27 Apr'44).

6-16-44 - 91st CB is temporarily attached to the 12th Reg. from the 19th Reg(Brisbane). (Comserfor7flt Spdltr Ser 00639 of June'44 to Navy 134 - Call #10179).

6-21-44 - According to 15 May'44 roster of 3rd Brig. Lt. Comdr. Parker is with that unit.

6-26-44 - 12th Regiment is located at Ladava, Milne Bay as of 31 May'44(Comservfor7flt Sec. ltr A-9 over Ser. BP-001407 to Dirpacdock dtd 8 Jun'44).

7-12-44 -- Comdr. DeSwarte detached form SerFor7Flt to Parks(Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 20 Jun'44).

7-18-44 -- Officer roster checked with 1 Jun'44 report - Added Lt. Comdr Carroll, Exec(from 19th Reg.), Lt.(jg) ~~Leap~~, (from 24th Reg), Lt.(jg) Pratt(3rd Brdg.), Lt.(jg) Hilfinger(105th CB) and Ens. Barrington, D-V.

8-23-44 -- 1 Jul'44 report of 12th Reg. - operating at Milne Bay.

9-7-44 -- 1 Aug'44 report of 104th CB - 104th CB detached from 4th Brdg. and 17th Reg. and ordered to 12th Reg. at Gemadode by Comserfor7flt disp. 110716 Jul'44.

12th Reg.

- 9-25-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 12th Reg. - located at Milne Bay. Report states that this Regiment will begin reorganizing and preparing for a forward move in near future.
- 10-18-44 - 93rd CB detached from Green Is. and ordered to proceed upon arrival of transportation and report to the CinC of the 12th Reg. for duty. (Comserfor7flt Sec. 101154 NCR 1 to CNB Green Is. dtd 10 Oct'44).
- 10-24-44 -- 12th Reg. hdqtrs is located at Ladava, Milne Bay. Consists of the 75th, 104th, 105th, 115th, 93rd CB and CBD 1024. (Comserfor7flt monthly report for Aug'44 to Budocks Ser. BP001815 Secret dtd 12 Sep'44).
- 10-27-44 - 12th Reg. assigned to Cub 12 for operations at KING 2. (Comserfor7flt Sec. Ltr to Budocks S31 over Ser BP-001873 dtd 6 Oct'44. Call No. 13668)
- 11-2-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 12th Reg. - located at Milne Bay. Report covered August reports of the 115th CB and Det. 1024.
- 11-8-44 - 12th Reg. is in the 3rd Brig. with hdqtrs at Ladava. Was alerted on 26 Sep'44 and assigned to KING 2 operation. Consists of the following: 75th, 93rd, 104th, 105th, 115th CB's and Det. 1024. (Comserfor7flt Sec. ltr A9-4 over Ser. BP-001882 to Budocks dtd 12 Oct'44 monthly report for Sep'44).
- 11-21-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 12th Reg. - Operating at Milne Bay, N. G. (Ladava, Waga Waga, and Gamadodo) 75th CB joined the 12th Reg. during Aug.; also covered reports on the 104th, 105th, and 115th CB's. Rec'd a draft of 49 seamen. 1000 men and officers went to Australia for leave during Aug.
- 12-12-44 - The 91st CB is hereby detached from the 19th Reg. and shall proceed and report to CO, NABU 4 for temp. duty with the 12th Reg. Batt should be ready to load by 12 Dec'44. Personnel at Brisbane and Alexishafen will remain behind and be sent forward at a later date. (Comserfor7flt Sec. Disp. to CNB Finshafen 080801 dtd 9 Dec'44)

12th Regiment

- 12-18-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of the 12th Reg. - located at Milne Bay during Sep'44. The 104th and 115th CB's temporarily detached from the Regiment during the month.
- 12-28-44 - 12th Reg. hdqtrs were at Milne Bay until 12 Oct'44 when the Reg. departed for Leyte. 61st CB joined 12th Reg. in middle of Oct'44 to go to Leyte. 75th CB, 105th CB and CBD 1024 left 12 Oct'44 for Leyte. 1/2 of the 88th CB joined the 12th Reg. in the middle of Oct'44 to go to Leyte. The 93rd CB departed Green Is. during Oct'44 to join the 12th Reg. at Leyte. (Comserfor7flt Sec. report for Oct'44 dtd 20 Nov'44).
- 12-28-44 - The 122nd CB detached from Hollandia and the 24th Reg. To proceed immediately and report to NASU 4 for temp duty with 12th Reg. (Comserfor7flt Sec. disp to CNB Hollandia 180529 dtd 19 Dec'44).
- 1-13-45 - 12th Reg. has its hdqtrs at Samar and consists of the 61st, 75th, $\frac{1}{2}$ 88th, 93rd, 105th CBs, Det. 1024. (Comserfor7flt Sec report for Nov'44 dtd 15 Dec'44)
- 1-26-45 - 1 Nov'44 report of the 12th Regiment - 1st Echelon of the Regiment departed Milne Bay on 12 Oct'44 and the rear Echelon early in Nov. The 1st Echelon came ashore At Tacloban, Leyte on 24 Oct'44 (D plus 4). During the month of October, the 93rd and half of the 88th CB's joined the Regiment at Leyte. The 61st CB is also at Leyte and at the conclusion of its present assignment on the construction of an Army air field, it will join the Regiment. The 75th and 105th CB's, the 1024t CBD (Spec.) and the 12th Regiment staff moved from Milne Bay to Leyte during the month of October.
- 2-9-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 12th Reg. - located at Tacloban, Leyte.
- 2-13-45 - The 12th Reg. is available for assignment to Samar from Com7flt. (CNO Sec. ltr to distribution list Ser. 0039230 dtd 3 Feb'45).

12th Reg.

- 2-14-45 - The 12th Reg. hqtrs is located at Guiuan, Samar. 12th Reg. consists of the 61st, 75th, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 88th, 93rd, 105th and CCB 1024. (Comserfor7flt Sec. report dtd 15 Jan'45 for Dec'44).
- 3-2-45 - Historical Report by 12th Reg. on Naval Base Leyte - (Comserfor7flt Conf. ltr A12 over BP-0172 dtd 7 Feb'45 to Budocks)
- 24 Oct'44 - "Streamlined elements" of the 12th Reg. arr'd in Leyte Gulf. Debarked at Tacloban on same day. The first echelon of streamlined batts included about 830 off. and men of the 75th and 105th CBs, 130 off. and men of Det. 1024, and 36 off. and men of the 12th Reg. The Reg. was joined by the 61st CB with about 1100 off. and men on this day.
- 30 Oct'44 - Detachment of the 88th CB, 580 off. and men, joined the Regiment.
- 1 Nov'44 - The 75th and 105th CBs and Det. 1024 began to move to the vicinity of San Antonio to develop facilities on Samar Is. The 61st CB had been assigned temp. to the Army to rebuild the captured Jap airstrip at San Pablo and rebuild roads in that area. Incidental work was done on the Bayung and Buri airstrips. The 6th and 19th Specials arrived at about this time.
- 12 Nov'44 - Detachment of the 93rd CB, 960 off. and men, joined the Regiment.
- 12-14 Nov'44 - Second echelons of the streamlined units arr'd. Because of the prohibitive ground conditions, const. of naval base facilities was delayed until further studies and reallocations could be made. During this time (about 1 wk) the 75th, 105th, and Det. 1024 developed camp areas, first in Tacloban, then on Anibong Point.
- 9 Dec'44 - Movement of all regimental and naval base units to Guiuan was begun. (Because the expected compl. date of the Army airstrip could not be met

12th Reg.

- 3-2-45 - Historical report by the 12th Reg. on Naval Base Leyte cont. -
- 9 Dec'44 - (cont.) - due to poor soil conditions, an area in southern Samar Is. near Guiuan was scouted and found suitable for an airstrip and also preferable for other intended installations. Hence, on 9 Dec., it was finally decided to build all naval facilities at Guiuan).
- 3-8-45 - According to Dirpacobocks San Fran 15 Feb'45 report the whole 88th CB is listed under the 12th Reg. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 19th (Sp) not listed.
- 3-14-45 - Comserfor7flt conf. spdltr Ser. 0373 to CNOB Leyte Gulf dtd 2 Mar'45 - The 12th Reg is hereby detached from its presently assigned duties. Shall report to CNOB Leyte Gulf for duty with Commander Construction Forces Leyte-Samar.
- 3-22-45 - Comdt NOB, Tacloban, Leyte orders the 12th Reg. to further report to the CO, NavSta Guiuan, Samar for duty with Const Forces headed by Comdr Const Forces and Sr Brdg Comdr. (Comdt ltr P16-3(1) over Ser 980 dtd 11 Mar'45 to OinG 12th Reg.)
- 4-10-45 - 12th Reg. is at Samar. (Dirnacdock San Fran Sec Report for 15 Mar'45)
- 4-23-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 12th Reg. - Regiment moved from San Antonio to Guiuan, Samar during Dec'44. A survey party of 4 off. and 100 men from the 12th Reg., 75th CB, and 93rd CB arrived at Guiuan on 30 Nov'44.
- 4-24-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 12th Reg. - Regiment arrived Samar on 24 Oct'44. The 61st, 75th, 88th, Det B, 91st, 93rd, 105th, and 122nd CBs attached, also Det. 1024 (Sp) and CBU 622. The Balangiga Lbr Prod. Sec. is operating under Reg. control. The 4 principal units contributing to this detach have furnished an average of 35 men each. End by 3rd Brdg states that this Lbr Prod. Sec will be absorbed by the Lbr Prod Sec of Hollandia when that detach arrives in a few weeks.
- 4-27-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of 12th Reg. - located at Samar. 61st, 88th, Det. "A", 75th, 93rd & 105th CBs & Det. 1024 attached to 12th Reg. Comments re 91st & 122nd CB. End. by 3rd Brigade.

Location - Samar12th Regiment

- 4-30-45 - 12th Regiment is located at Guiuan, Samar. (Comserfor7flt Sec Report of 1 Apr'45)
- 5-7-45 - The 12th Reg. is located at Samar. (Dirpacdockcs S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)
- 5-10-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 29th CB - 29th CB has 43 men working with 12th Reg.
- 5-22-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 12th Reg. - located in Leyte-Samar area. The 5th, 29th, 54th, 75th, 88th (Det B), 105th, 122nd CBs and Det 1024 attached. End by 3rd Brig. Sec II states that orders were issued by Comserfor7flt on 9 Apr'45 to transfer the Lbr Prod Sec at Hollandia to Samar.
- 5-28-45 - 1 May'45 report of 12th Reg. - located at Samar. 30 men were transferred by the 3d Brig to units attached to the 12th Reg. Lumber Producing Det. of the 12th Reg. consisting of 3 offcres & 132 men is still operated as a function of this activity. Report routed via 3rd Brig.
- 5-29-45 - Most of the batts under the 12th Reg have been transferred by the OinCC, Samar, to the 2nd and 7th Brgs for operational purposes, pending the arrival or readiness of their own batts. CBD 1085 has been ordered to this area and will replace the personnel now operating the saw mill at Balangiga. (1st end to OinC 12th Reg conf ltr ser 0172 to Dirpacdockcs SF dtd 12 May'45 by the OinC 3rd Brig Sec II, Samar)
- 6-27-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 12th Reg - located in Samar area. During the latter part of May'45 changes were made in the administrative control of the 12th Reg. 2 of the original units, the 29th & 122nd CBs were left under administrative & operational control & 3 new units were assigned. The units under the 12th Regs operational & administrative control as of 31 May'45 are the 29th, 64th, 122nd & 129th CBs & CBMU 512. The Lumber Producing Unit is still operating as a function of the 12th Reg. A draft of 50 men was attached to the 12th Reg during May'45 FFA. Report rou via the 2nd Brig.

Location - Samar12th Regiment

- 7-28-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 12th Reg - located at Samar. The Lumber Producing Detachment will be removed from under the operation and administrative control of the 12th Reg in the near future. Report via 2nd Brig.
- 8-1-45 - The Lbr Producing Det has been transfd from the jurisdiction of the 12th Reg subsequent to 1 July. (1st end to 1 July MoR of the 12th Reg by 2nd Brig)
- 8-11-45 - The 12th Regiment is assigned to the Olympic Operation. (Com7flt. report on CB Organization in Leyte-Samar area ser 04296 dtd 26 July to CNO)
- 8-25-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 12th Reg - located in Samar area. 13 men were transferred t the U.S. for leave and reassignment during Jul'45. The lumber producing detachment was removed from the 12th Reg control during July and placed under the control of Comdr Battalion Service Units. Report via the 2nd Brig.
- 8-30-45 - Remove from alerted status my 193321 July of higher classification following CB units:-2nd Brig staff, 12th & 31st Reg staff, also desire to inactivate following units:-12th & 31st Regs., CBs 91, 129 & 142. (Comservpac sec spdltr ser 273049 Aug'45 to Com7thFlt).
- 9-14-45 - Inactivation of following unit at Samar approved:-12th Reg., etc. (Cincpac conf spdltr ser 032474 dtd 7 Sept'45 to Comservpac).
- 9-24-45 - 12th Regt. staff in process of inactivation. (OinC, Comir Samar sec disp 300737 Aug'45 to ComConstatTroops, Philseafron).
- 10-31-45 - 12th Reg. inactivated 18 Oct'45. (OinCC, Samar ltr ser 01525 dtd 18 Oct'45 to OinC, 12th Reg).

INACTIVATED

12th Regiment

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/20/44	-	Milne Bay	C.B. report 1 June	20th, 2nd, 60th, 84th 91st.
10/14	-	Milne Bay	C.B. report 1 October.	75th, 93rd, 105th. det 102d (sp).
3/29	-	Legte Gulf	Comserfor7flt "present location Nav Sta Samar Sec 260558 Mar. + assignment."	

ON BOARD

DATE	OFF.	MEN	AUTHORITY
1 Jun'44	13		Roster
30 Jun'44	10	55	Recap.
1 Aug'44	12	55	MoR & R
1 Oct'44	12	64	Comserfor7flt Rep. for Sep'44
1 Sep'44	10	64	MoR
1 Oct'44	12	93	MoR
31 Dec'44		99	Recap
1 Nov'44	15	92	MoR
1 Jan'45	16+ 1 Feb'45	15 & 3 T.D.	MoR MoR
1 Mar'45	15 T.D.	95 99	MoR
1 Apr'45	17	100	BNP625 & MoR
1 May'45		97	BNP625
1 Jun'45		152	BNP625
1 Jul'45	15	101	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	12	81	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		70	BNP625

0423

HISTORY

of

12th NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

while located at

LEYTE-SAMAR AREA

From

OCTOBER 1944 to AUGUST 1945

HISTORY OF 12TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT IN LEYTE-SAMAR AREA

9 August 1945

An advance echelon of the 12th Naval Construction Regiment consisting of 6 officers and 30 enlisted men arrived in Leyte Gulf on the morning of 24 October 1944. A landing was made that day at Tacloban, Leyte, and quarters and offices were set up immediately.

Leyte terrain was immediately found unsuitable for the projected Naval shore facilities, so surveys were begun on nearby Samar Island in the vicinity of barrio San Antonio. On 4 November the 12th Regiment personnel, camp and headquarters were transferred to San Antonio.

Poor terrain, waterfront facilities and heavy rains made this area equally untenable. After reconnaissance of southern Samar Island, the decision was reached on 28 November to transfer the principal facilities to the Guiuan area. On 30 November a survey party and 3 officers of the 12th Regiment arrived at Guiuan for the purpose of performing preliminary surveys and layout work on the Guiuan airstrip. Work was begun immediately.

The mission of the 12th Regiment in the Leyte operation began at Milne Bay with the complete layout and planning of all of the proposed naval shore facilities for Leyte Gulf. This in itself was a unique assignment for a construction regiment. It was decided that this regiment would supervise and coordinate the work of the construction battalions assigned to this base. This was actually true until February 1945 when regiments and brigades from Pearl Harbor began to supplement the 12th Regiment in these matters.

The personnel of the regiment engaged in no military action save passive defense from frequent air raids. Shipping in Leyte Gulf was under attack by carrier-based enemy aircraft on the morning of arrival of the 12th Regiment, which was also the day on which the Battle for Leyte Gulf began. From the date of initial landing until 19 November, when air raids had become fewer, there had been enemy aircraft directly over the 12th Regiment camp at least 61 times and in the immediate vicinity more than 120 times. One enlisted man was a casualty, having been wounded by flying shrapnel from friendly artillery.

The first construction work on southern Samar, Calicoan, Manicani and Tubabao was under cognizance of the 12th Regiment. This included the completion of the first airstrip, naval station and naval air station housing, warehouses and operating facilities, waterfront work at Guiuan, Calicoan and Manicani, supply facilities at Calicoan, roads and utilities; the Tubabao Island Receiving Barracks, and the Ship Watering Facility at Balusao.

Additional facilities were included after the base was begun. These required more construction forces, and the 12th Regiment was not equipped to administer all phases of the new work, so it was superseded by the Construction Forces organization, which began to function in February 1945, whereupon the 12th Regiment was absorbed into Section 2 of the 3rd Naval Construction Brigade, then established on Samar. Until this time the 12th Regiment had either done or coordinated all design, layout and specification work for the entire base construction.

In addition to starting all the aforementioned projects, the 12th Regiment has been active from the beginning in water supply development, treatment, and distribution, having laid out, designed and supervised construction of all major features and units

HISTORY OF 12TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT IN LEYTE-SAMAR AREA

of an extensive and complex system for the entire southern Samar area naval development.

Rotation of personnel and difficulty of obtaining replacements has reduced the Regiment's potential for performing the diversified tasks assigned it during early stages on work in Leyte Gulf.

While the Regiment itself has probably achieved no unusual accomplishments, the fact that its performance has been zealous and conscientious may be elicited from the award of the Bronze Star Medal to the former Commander E. M. Kelly, CEC, USNR, for performance during the first 7 months of duty in Leyte Gulf. Commander Construction Troops, Seventh Fleet and Commander Service Force, Seventh Fleet have both cited this regiment for meritorious service in the Philippines.



**NO
LOGO
AVAILABLE**









