

# 8<sup>th</sup> Special Naval Construction Battalion

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*Historical  
Information*



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



8th Sp.

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Reference Nos

Date Organization Location

8/19 - Elatskamie, Oregon.

8th C.B. (Special)

~~WACO~~ - Peary  
~~ABD~~ - Hueneme  
~~Ready Date~~ -  
~~Left ABD~~ - 30 Jul'43 (departed Seattle 2 Aug'43)  
~~Location~~ - Kedals Attu

EOG

- 6-30-43 - 8th (Sp) to move to ABD Hueneme. (TWX201520-6-43 from WA Seabees to ABD Davisville)  
7-1-43 - 8th (Sp) 1st Sect. assigned to Dutch Harbor. 2nd Sect. assigned to Kodiak.  
(Com 13 to Com AlSec dtd 6-21-43 - Sec. Disp.)  
8-4-43 - 8th CB 1st and 2nd Sections entrained from Hueneme 30 Jul'43 - 1st sect. destination Kodiak - 2nd Sect. destination Dutch Harbor. (Disp. Hueneme to Rudecks 301950 July)  
3-17-44 - 1st Section of 8th (Sp) located at Attu. (1st Brig. report of batts dtd 1 Mar'44)  
6-13-44 -  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1st Sect. 8th (Sp) arrived Parks 5/29/44. 4 off. and 235 men. (WRK)  
7-10-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 8th CB (Sp) 1st Sect. - consists of 11 off. and 255 men.  
8-3-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 8th (Sp), 1st Sect. - operating at Attu.  
9-4-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 8th (Sp), 1st Sect. - operating at Attu.  
10-13-44 - 8th (Sp) was split into 2 sections on 19 Jul'43. On 29 Feb'44, Sect. 2 was again split to form Sect. 3. At the present time, the batt is split into 3 sections, each approx.  $\frac{1}{3}$  a batt in strength, located in 3 different sectors of Com 17. (OinC 8th Sp. ltr 8 SpUSMCB-S2 over AD-4/(30):ah over Ser 71, no date to Rudecks.)  
10-18-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 8th (Sp), 1st Sect. - operating at Attu. Report endorsed by 9th Reg.

## 8th (Sp) 1st Sec.

- 11-15-44 - Com 17 requests that a detachment consisting of 15 officers and 500 men be sent to Attu, Kodiak and Dutch Harbor sometime after 1 Dec'44 to relieve the 8th CB (Sp) for return to the states. (Com 17 Sec. 1-r to CNO ND17/P16-1/CB over 50/la over Ser. 0089 dtd 2 Nov'44).
- 1-28-44 - 8th (Sp) might return to U.S. if relief is given. (Com 13 Sec. disp to Com 17 232337 NCR 1968 dtd 24 Nov'44)
- 1-29-44 - Relief for the 8th (Sp) will not be ready until Feb'45. (CNO conf. disp. to Com 13 and 17 341615 dtd 24 Nov'44)
- 1-30-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 8th (Sp) 1st Sect. - operating at Attu. Report endorsed by 9th Regiment.
- 2-1-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 8th (Sp) 1st Sect. - operating at Attu. Report endorsed by 138th CB.
- 12-12-44 - 8th (Sp), all sections, to be returned to the U.S. and replaced by these three detachments:
- |          | <u>Assignment</u> |              |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| CBD 1017 | 5 off. & 210 men  | Kodiak       |
| CBD 1076 | 5 off. & 175 men  | Dutch Harbor |
| CBD 1077 | 5 off. & 208 men  | Attu         |
- To be made ready at NCTC Davisville 1 Feb'45  
 (CNO Sec. ltr Op30-2CK12-UOT over (SC)P16-1/ND17 over Doc. No. 143914 over Ser. 01408330 to Bupers, Budocks, Com 13, and 17 dtd 4 Dec'44)
- 12-14-44 - From the Chronological History of 1st Brigade -
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 11 Aug'43 - 8th (Sp) arrived from U.S. - $\frac{1}{2}$ for Attu - arrived Adak this date. |  |
| ? Aug'43 - 8th (Sp) arrived from U.S. - $\frac{1}{2}$ Kodiak.                             | (Com 17 Sec. ltr ND17/A12-1/L7 over 50/2b over Ser |
| ? Sep'43 - Det. of 9 men at Shemya.   | 0096 to Budocks dtd 6 Nov'44                       |
| 28 Feb'44 - $\frac{1}{2}$ left Kodiak for Dutch Harbor.                                   |  |
| 20 May'44 - $\frac{1}{2}$ left for States.  |  |

8th CB (Special) - Sec. 1

- 1-24-45 - 8th (Sp) Sec. 1 located at NAS Attu with 13 off. and 249 men. Departed Seattle 2 Aug'43. (Naval Const. Forces Alaskan Sector 9 Jan'45 conf. report) Det. 1077 available 1 Feb'45 to replace 1st Section.
- 2-10-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 8th (Sp), Sec. 1 - located at Attu.
- 2-12-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 8th (Sp), Sec. 1 - located at Attu. A unit has been formed within the batt to locate, prepare inventories, and ship surplus equipment and construction materials.
- 3-5-45 -- 8th (Sp) Sec. disp to SecNav 192207 Feb'45 - requests that Comdr. Harr be given orders to return to the U.S. on present return cruise of SS Failing with the off. and men of all three sections of the 8th (Sp).
- 3-5-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 8th (Sp) Sec. 1 - located at Attu.
- 3-8-45 -- All Sections of the 8th (Sp) ordered to embark on SS Failing for U.S. (Com 17 Sec. disp to several adees 052138 Mar'45).
- 3-31-45 -- The 8th (Sp) returned Parks from overseas 27 Mar'45 with 31 officers and 714 men. (Parks NTX 280026 Mar'45 to Bupers).
- 4-3-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 8th (Sp) Sec. 1 - no info on location.
- 4-10-45 - ComWesSeaFron is requested to advise CNO and Bupers by disp. whether or not a CB (Sp) will be required at Beaver beyond 1 Jul'45. If the 7th (Sp) 2nd Sec. is to be released on or before 1 Jul no relief will be provided. If  $\frac{1}{2}$  (Sp) must remain at Beaver beyond that date the 8th (Sp) is to form relief for the 7th (Sp) (CNO conf ltr Ser 0137530 dtd 2 Apr'45 to Bupers and ComWesSeaFron)
- 5-2-45 - CNO desires that the 7th (Sp) be relieved by the 8th (Sp) as soon as practicable if  $\frac{1}{2}$  (Sp) will be required at Beaver, Ore. beyond 1 Jul'45. Authority is

Location - Clatskanie, Oregon

8th C.B. (Spec)

- 5- 3-45 - (cont.) granted to Bopers to delay such interchange as it may become necessary but not later than 1 Jul'45. This will permit the temp use of the 8th (Sp) at Hueneme to meet the immediate need of stevedore personnel at that depot. Personnel from the Stevedore Replacement Pool should relieve the 8th (Sp) by 1 Jul. Parks is requested to transfer the 8th (Sp) upon the compl of its overseas leave on or about 5 May'45 to Hueneme for temp duty. (CNO conf ltr Ser 0166230 dtd 24 Apr to Bopers and others)
- 5-31-45 - The 8th (Sp) arrived Hueneme from Parks on 25 May'45 with 24 off. and 647 men. (Hueneme TWX 262345 May'45 to Bopers)
- 5-31-45 - The 8th (Sp), consisting of 32 off. and 683 men, departed Parks 24 May'45 for Hueneme. (Parks TWX 252325 May'45 to Bopers)
- 6-7-45 - Arrange replacements 7th (Sp) Beaver, Ore. by 8th (Sp) now at Hueneme. Key personnel from the 7th (Sp) may be retained temp to assist in training relief but should be released by 1 Aug'45. Coord. details with Hueneme and Beaver and advise CNO of schedule not later than 1 Jul'45. Desire all CBs at Beaver be relieved as soon as practicable. (CNO conf disp 051455 Jun'45 to Comwesseafron)
- 6-25-45 - 1 off. and 70 men of the 8th (Sp) boarded train to Beaver Ammun Pt 14 Jun'45. (8th (Sp) Train Muster dtd 14 June)
- 6-28-45 - 8th (Sp) is no longer to be designated by section numbers since subject battalion is presently operating as a single unit. (CNO ltr ser 391230 dtd 20 Jun'45 to Bopers)
- 7- 2-45 - 2nd echelon 8th (Sp) departed Hueneme 27 June by rail to Beaver with 581 men and 15 off. (Hueneme TWX 282142 Jun to Bopers)
- 7-11-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 7th (Sp) - The 8th (Sp) relieved the 7th (Sp) at Clatskanie, Oregon on 1 Jul'45. Arrived Clatskanie on 29 Jun'45.

Location - Clatskanie, Oregon

8th (Sp)

- 8-20-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 8th (Sp) - located at Clatskanie, Oregon. Unit departed Hueneme on 27 June and arrived Clatskanie on 29 June. The 7th (Sp) was relieved on 1 Jul'45.
- 8-27-45 - Upon completion of present unloading operations approx 15 Sept desire release Navy use of Beaver Amm n Storage Point, Lacoda, Oregon. (Comwesseafron conf dtd 210006 to Coml3).
- 9-10-45 - Coml3 is requesting Comwesseafron's permission to return 8th(Sp) from BASP to Pt. Hueneme, Calif. about 15 Sept'45. (Diraldocks TWX 070020 Sept'45 to BuDec's).
- 9-13-45 - 8th(Sp) 1 Sept'45 report - located at Clatskanie, Oregon. 13 men transferred for discharge under the point system.
- 10-9-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 8th(Sp) - location-Clatskanie, Oregon. 112 men transferred to separation centers for discharge. All pers. except 5 men & 1 off. are departing for ABRB, Pt. Hueneme, Calif. on 3 Oct'45. The remaining pers. will report to the 8th(Sp) at Pt. Hueneme, Calif. upon completion of TAD. 8th(Sp) relieved of stevedoring duties by civilians on 13 Sept'45.
- 10-15-45 - 8th(Sp) arrived <sup>Pt. Hueneme</sup> 5 Oct'45 from Clatskanie, Oreg. with 529 men & 10 officers. (ABRB, Pt. Hueneme TWX 062053 Oct'45 to BuPers.).
- 10-25-45 - Pt. Hueneme TWX states that the 8th(Sp) is to be inactivated 29 Oct'45. Majority of men to be ordered to Stockton, Calif. for tempdu for Comwesseafron. (Pt. Hueneme, Calif. TWX 250010 Oct'45 to BuPers.).
- 11-6-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 8th(Sp) - located at Port Hueneme, Calif. 8th(Sp) departed 3 Oct'45 for ABRB, Pt. Hueneme, Calif. & arrived 5 Oct'45. This report also states that the 8th(Sp) is being inactivated on 29 Oct'45.

INACTIVATED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ON BOARD</u>		<u>AUTHORITY</u>
	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	
1 Jul'44	11	255	MoR
1 Aug'44	13	253	MoR
1 Sep'44	14	252	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'44	13	249	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'44	13	249	MoR
9 Jan'45	13	249	NavConstForces Alaska Sec. 9 Jan'45 conf report
1 Jan'45	13	247	MoR
1 Feb'45	12	246	MoR
1 Mar'45	12	245	MoR
1 Apr'45		243	BNP625

8th Construction Battalion (Special) - 1st Sect.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ON BOARD</u>		<u>AUTHORITY</u>
	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	
1 Jun'45	26	445	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	23	687	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	25	677	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45		696	BNP625
1 Oct'45	15	585	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	11	529	BNP625 & R

## 8th CB Special (1st section)

**DECLASSIFIED**

Dates	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/19/44	-	1/2 attw (Camp Parks) 5-44	c.B. Report 1 June	Left U.S. July 1943. op 30 sec disp. 172301 C140833 (Yukon & N.W. Alaska & C. B. decimated)
7/12	-	attw	attw sector sec. att disp. dec. 170339	
3/6/45	-	(U.S.)	Com 17 sec disp. 052138 Mar.	Embark on ship for return U.S.
4/4/45	-	US	Bushocks memo 3/30.	Returned 28 3/20/45. To be inactivated.
4/11	CP 34-0-37530	Beaver	Released on behalf of 8th CB - machine used - to report Beaver 25	Op 30 sec C140833 (Yukon & N.W. Alaska & C. B. decimated)

## 8th CB Special (2nd Section)

**DECLASSIFIED**

Dates	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/19/44	-	1/2 Dutch Harbor 1/2 Kodiak	c.B. report 1 June	Left U.S. July 1943. op 30 sec C140833 (Yukon & N.W. Alaska & C. B. decimated)
7/28	-	3rd section at Join - Dutch Harbor	Unalaska sector sec Att disp. 172301 rec.	
3/6/45	-	(U.S.)	Com 17 sec disp 052138 Mar.	Embark on ship for return U.S.

8th C.R. (Special) - 2nd section

NCTC - Perry  
 ABD - Hueneme  
 Ready Date -  
 Left ABD - 20 Jul'43 (Departed Seattle 2 Aug'43)  
 Location - Dutch-Harbor-Kodiak

LOG

- 8- 4-43 - 8th (Sp), 1st and 2nd Sections entrained from Hueneme 20 Jul - destinations.  
 1 st Sect. - Kodiak; 2nd Sect. - Dutch Harbor. (Distr. Hueneme to Budocks 7/13/43 July)
- 9-28-43 - 1 Sep'43 report of 8th (Sp) - Arrived Kodiak, Alaska 6 Aug'43.
- 3-17-44 - 8th (Sp) 2nd Sect. located at Kodiak with 8 officers and 250 men. (1st Sect., Batt report dtd 1 Mar'44) Sect. 3 at Dutch Harbor with 5 off. and 225 men.
- 4- 3-44 - 1 Mar'43 report of 8th (Sp) - On 19 Feb'44, 279 enlisted men and the 8th officers were transferred to the 3rd Section by authority of RDO Disp. 191475.
- 5- 6-44 - Second Section split by authority of ComAlSec Ser C-285 of 4 Feb'44.
- 6-22-44 - 3rd Section consists of 8 officers and 234 men.
- 7-10-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 8th Sp. 2nd Sect. - consists of 9 off. and 260 men.
- 8- 1-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 8th (Sp), 2nd Sect. - consists of 10 off. and 260 men. Operating at Kodiak.
- 8- 3-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 8th (Sp), 3rd Sect. - operating at Dutch Harbor with 8 off. and 232 men.
- 8-30-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 8th (Sp) 2nd Sect. - operating at Kodiak.

8th C.R. (Special) - 2nd Section

- 10- 2-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 8th (Sp), 2nd Sect. - operating at Kodiak.
- 10-12-44 - 8th (Sp) was split into 2 sections on 19 Jul'43, making Section 1 and 2. On 29 Feb., Sect. 2 was again split to form Sect. 3. At the present time the batt is split into 3 sections, each approx.  $\frac{1}{3}$  a batt in strength. Located in 3 different sectors of Com 17. (OinC 8th Sp. 2nd Sect. 83pUSNGB-32 over C-4 (30); ah over Ser 71, no date, to Budocks)
- 11-28-44 - 8th (Sp) might return to U.S. if relief is given. (Com 13 Sec. Disp. to Com 17 232337 NCR 1968 dtd 24 Nov'44)
- 1-30-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 8th (Sp) 2nd Sec. - operating at Kodiak.
- 2- 5-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 8th (Sp) 2nd Sec. - operating at Kodiak. Estimated date of completion of project is Jan'45.
- 2-12-44 - 8th (Sp), all sections, to be returned to the U.S. and replaced by these three detachments:

		<u>Assignment</u>
CBD 1017	5 off. & 210 men	Kodiak
CBD 1076	5 off. & 175 men	Dutch Harbor
CBD 1077	5 off. & 208 men	Attu

To be made ready at NCTC Davisville 1 Feb'45.

(CNO Sec. ltr Op30-2CK12-UOT over (SC)Pl6-1/ND17 over Doc. No. 143914 over Ser. 01408330 to Bupers, Budocks, Com 13 and 17 dtd 4 Dec'44)

1-14-44 -- The established complement for the 2nd Section of the 8th (Sp) is 7 off. and 256 men. (ComSecForPacFlt restr. ltr Ser.-61-FRS/ats over Pl6-1 over Ser. 01408330 to the OinC of 8th (Sp) 2nd Sec. dtd 8 Nov'44).

1-24-45 - 8th (Sp) Sec. 2 located at MOB Kodiak with 12 officers and 251 men. Departed Seattle 2 Aug'43. Det. 1017 available 1 Feb'45 to replace 2nd Section. (Naval Const. Forces Alaskan Sector 9 Jan'45 conf report)

Location - Dutch Harbor

8th Special (3rd Sect.)

- 8-28-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 8th Sp. (3rd Sect.) - location not indicated except in t end.  
to report was by the Comdr. NOB Dutch Harbor.
- 10-3-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 8th Sp. (3rd Sect.) - operating at Dutch Harbor.
- 10-13-44 - On 29 Feb'44, Sect. 2 was split to form Sect. 3. At the present time, the unit  
is split into 3 Sects., each approx.  $\frac{1}{3}$  a batt in strength, located in 3 different  
sectors of Com 17. (OinC 8th Sp., 2nd Sect., ltr 8SpUSNCS-32 over AF-41(2) over  
over Ser 71, no date, to Budocks)
- 10-28-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 8th (Sp), Sect. 3 - operating at NOB Dutch Harbor.
- 12-8-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 8th (Sp) 3rd Sec. - operating at NOB Dutch Harbor.
- 12-12-44 - 8th (Sp), all sections, to be returned to the U.S. and replaced by these three  
detachments:

		<u>Assignment</u>
CBD 1017	5 off. & 210 men	Kodiak
CBD 1076	5 off. & 175 men	Dutch Harbor
CBD 1077	5 off. & 208 men	Attu

To be made ready at NCTC Davisville 1 Feb'45.

(CNO Sec. ltr Op30-20K12-UOT over (SC)P16-1/ND17 over Doc. No. 143914 over Ser.  
01408330 to Bupers, Budocks, Com 13, end 17 dtd 4 Dec'44)

- 12-14-44 - The established complement of the 8th (Sp) 3rd Sec. is 7 off. and 232 men, (AF-41  
ForPacFlt restr. ltr Ser-41-FRG/cts over P16-1 over Ser. 45-41 to the OinC 8th Sp. 3rd  
Sec. dtd 8 Nov'44).
- 1-3-45 -- The 8th (Sp) 3rd Sec. is located at Dutch Harbor. (Com Unalaskan Sect to CNO Sec.  
disp 172301 dtd 23 Dec'44).
- 1-24-45 - 8th (Sp) 3rd Sec. located at NOB D.H. with 8 off. and 232 men. Left Seattle  
2 Aug'43. Det. 1076 available 1 Feb'45 to replace the 3rd Section. (Naval Conat.  
Forces Alaskan Sector 9 Jan'45 conf report)

8th (Sp) - 3rd Sec.

- 2-10-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 8th (Sp) - 3rd Sec. - located at Dutch Harbor. 1 off.  
and 4 men were ordered to duty at Otter Point. 1 Chief and 5 men are on duty  
on an adjacent island.
- 3-5-45 - 8th (Sp) Sec. disp to SecNav 192207 Feb'45 - requests that Comdr. Harr be given  
orders to return to the U.S. on present return cruise of SS Failing with the off.  
and men of all three sections of the 8th (Sp).
- 3-5-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 8th (Sp) Sec. 3 - located at Dutch Harbor. 1 off. and 4  
men ret'd the first part of Jan. from addt'l duty in connection with the decom-  
missioning of a nearby base. 10 men still assigned to a nearby island in conjunc-  
tion with the Maint. Batt for the erection of a Range Station.
- 3-8-45 -- All sections of the 8th (Sp) ordered to embark on SS Failing for U.S. (Com17 Sec.  
disp to Several adees 052138 Mar'45).
- 3-31-45 - The 8th (Sp) returned Parks from overseas 27 Mar'45 with 31 officers and 714 men.  
(Parks NTX 280026 Mar'45 to Bupers).
- 4-7-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 8th (Sp) - 3rd Sec. Relieved by 1076 CBD(Sp). during Feb'45

8th (

- 2-10-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 8th (Sp) - 2nd Sec. - located at Kodiak, Alaska.  
3-5-45 -- 8th (Sp) Sec. disp to SecNav 192207 Feb'45 - requests that Comdr. Harr be given orders to return to the U.S. on present return cruise of SS Failing with the off. and men of all three sections of the 8th (Sp).  
3-5-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 8th (Sp) 2nd Sec. - located at Kodiak.  
3-8-45 -- All sections of the 8th (Sp) ordered to embark on SS Failing for U.S. (Coml7 Sec. disp to several aodes 052138 Mar'45).  
3-31-45 -- The 8th (Sp) returned Parks from overseas 27 Mar'45 with 31 officers and 714 men. (Parks NTX 280026 Mar'45 to Bopers).  
4-3-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 8th (Sp) 2nd Sec. - Batt was relieved by a Special CB Detachment on 24 Feb'45.

<u>ON BOARD</u>			
<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1 Aug'44	9	260	BNP625 & R
1 Sep'44	10	259	R & BNP625
1 Oct'44		232 - 2nd Sect	BNP625
1 Oct'44	12	257 - 2nd Sect	BNP625
1 Nov'44	11	253	BNP625 & MoR
1 Dec'44		251	BNP625
1 Jan'45	11	249	BNP625 & MoR
1 Feb'45	11	248	BNP625 & MoR
1 Mar'45	11	248	BNP625 & MoR
1 Apr'45		(244 - 2nd Sec)	BNP625
1 Apr'45		(225-3rd Sec.)	

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ON BOARD</u>		<u>AUTHORITY</u>
	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	
1 Aug '44	9	232	BNP 625 & MoR
1 Sep '44	9	232	BNP625 & MoR
1 Oct '44	8	232	MoR
1 Nov '44	8	232	BNP625 & MoR
1 Dec '44	8	232	BNP625 & MoR
1 Jan '45	9	231	BNP625 & R
1 Feb '45	8	230	BNP625 & MoR
1 Mar '45	8	239	BNP625 & MoR
1 May '45		141	BNP625

8th Construction Battalion (Special) - 3rd Sect. (Part of 2nd Section) (Not official)

# 8<sup>th</sup> Special Battalion from the beginning ~

On April 6, 1943 men in various parts of Camp Peary, the great training base of the Construction Battalions of the U. S. Navy, were packing their bags. These men were all picked for a definite purpose. Before the day was over they had been combined into the Eighth Special Battalion and lodged together in quonset huts in Area A-10, the stevedore training sector of the camp.

There were men who had been held in replacement area for several months anxiously awaiting a definite assignment, and men freshly out of "boot" training. Their composite military careers were brief. Most were strangers to each other, every state in the union being represented on the muster. Youth prevailed as the overall average age of twenty-four years indicated, but the underlying determination to emerge as a crack outfit was apparent in the spirit-de-corps which immediately developed.

Then followed three weeks of intensive military training. During this period we were introduced to many innovations, practice landings operations along the York River produced a lot of damp Seabees, the obstacle course, rifle ranges, hikes and close order drill were all taken in stride.

Then came the glad tidings that the entire battalion would receive a sixty two hour liberty over the Easter holiday. Out came the dress blues and everyone hustled out of Camp Peary to Richmond, Washington, and other eastern seaboard cities.

This breathing spell was over all too soon and the mates came straggling back to Camp Peary on dusty Easter Monday. Immediately came the announcement that a battalion dress parade would be held in the afternoon. With Captain Ware and other notables on hand the boys strutted through their paces and made an excellent showing. The battalion colors were officially presented to our O-in C. Lt. Comdr. Hart by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. on this occasion.

Stevedore training began the next day. The scene for these operations was the good ship "S. S. Neversail," securely anchored to the marsh alongside the York River. Day and night the same cargo was stowed and unloaded until a high degree of efficiency had been acquired. On May 16th, the battalion was pronounced ready for duty wherever needed and eligible for the long awaited "embarkation leave."

Few of us will ever forget the morning we departed from Camp Peary on our ten-day embarkation leaves. Some two hundred mates and a few officers remained behind, they having elected to take leave from our advanced base depot at a later date.

Mates returning to camp on May 26th were greeted with the news that we were scheduled to shove off on May 28th, destination Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I. This quickly exploded the theory that we were headed for the west coast and stories began to circulate about Iceland, The Belgian Congo, and Scotland. Some optimists even hinted that we would be sent to South America as a good will battalion.

# 8th Special Battalion

Finally, unbeknown came our last liberty which was spent in Los Angeles, Hollywood, and environs. Stories of the good times at the Palladium, Hollywood Canteen, Cocoanut Grove, or just around, were still told when long we'd left Southern California behind.

A visit to the dispensary for still another shot, and we were secured to our area and informed that our new address would be c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco.

On the early morning of July 29th, each man shouldered his bags and in long lines carried them to the waiting baggage cars. We were mustered no less than seven times before we pushed aboard and our train was bound for Seattle. Quickly settling down to this now familiar troop train mode of travel, we watched the west coast scenery fly by. Up through the valleys of California with their long rows of lettuce, artichokes, and the orchards of apricots, peaches and plums. How long would it be before sights such as these would greet our eyes again?

Night fall found our train passing through the San Francisco Bay area and by morning high in the mountains of northern California. Past the snow capped Mt. Shasta, we were soon clicking over the sometimes level, sometimes mountainous Oregon.

It was a dull, foggy Sunday morning when we pulled through the freight yards in Seattle and directly on the pier, where the boat waited to carry us from these United States shores. Hustled into the musty smelling dock warehouses, we sat on our bags while an officer prodigiously called roll and looked relieved that no-one had stayed aboard the train. Final transfers were effected that separated boot-dads' friendships, because the battalion was halved into sections one and two.

After what seemed hours of waiting, during which the Marine M. P.'s stood around muttering "No Smoking Here," we were ordered to shoulder bags and go aboard. Loading was slow and the line moved ahead a foot at a time, to board and be assigned "cabins." Cabins consisted of a compartment shared by fifty others with plenty of space to breathe, if you didn't throw out your chest too far.

The loading of cargo and supplies was carried on all night and by 0800 the next morning all hatches were secured and we were ready to shove off. At that time most of us were still in that seemingly endless chow line, awaiting breakfast, which started to form at 0600. Many were to remember the entrance to that chow hall and the smell that hit you as you were entering, as the final act before seeking the lee side rail for anything other than to notice "How Green is My Sea." A few were patriotic enough through the trip to live by the slogan, "Don't Waste Food."

Most of our waking hours were spent topside and while there was little room to spare, miraculously, there was always room enough for numerous circles of men to play cards or try their luck with the galloping dominoes. For the greater part though, the men just sat around changing colors to the rise and fall of the ship. A most comforting sight on the trip was to look out and see our escort ship criss-crossing in front of us.

On the morning of the sixth, land was sighted and our section made ready to disembark at our Island X base. Section One remained aboard to go on to Island 2X. By late afternoon, we had docked and had been assigned our quarters and thus begins the story you'll see in pictures on the following pages.

RESTRICTED  
DECLASSIFIED-DOD DIR 5200.9, 27 Sept. 1958  
**DECLASSIFIED**  
ITINERARY OF THE 8TH (SPECIAL) NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

30 June 1943 Transferred approximately this date from ABD, Davisville to ABD, Hueneme.

30 July 1943 First and second Sections departed Hueneme, 1st Section destination Kodiak, 2nd Section destination Dutch Harbor.

6 Aug. 1943 Arrived Kodiak, Alaska.

4 Feb. 1944 Second Section split, making three sections. Located in three different sectors of Com17.  
1st Section - Attu  
2nd Section - Kodiak  
3rd Section - Dutch Harbor

27 Mar. 1945 Entire battalion returned to Camp Parks.

24 May 1945 Departed Camp Parks for Hueneme.

29 July 1945 Arrived Clatskanie, Oregon, to relieve the 7th (Sp) Construction Battalion, operating as single unit.

1 Sept 1945 Located Clatskanie, Oregon. Com13 requests return of unit to Pt. Hueneme by 15 September 1945.

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

Date: 20 September 1945.

To Facilitate  
Administrative Pending  
Classification changed  
from:

COR:

RES1:

To: Irvin S. Rasmussen  
Comdr. C.N.C. [unclear]

Signature

EIGHTH SPECIAL



CONST. BN.

SIN SPECIAL  
SPECIAL



USNCB



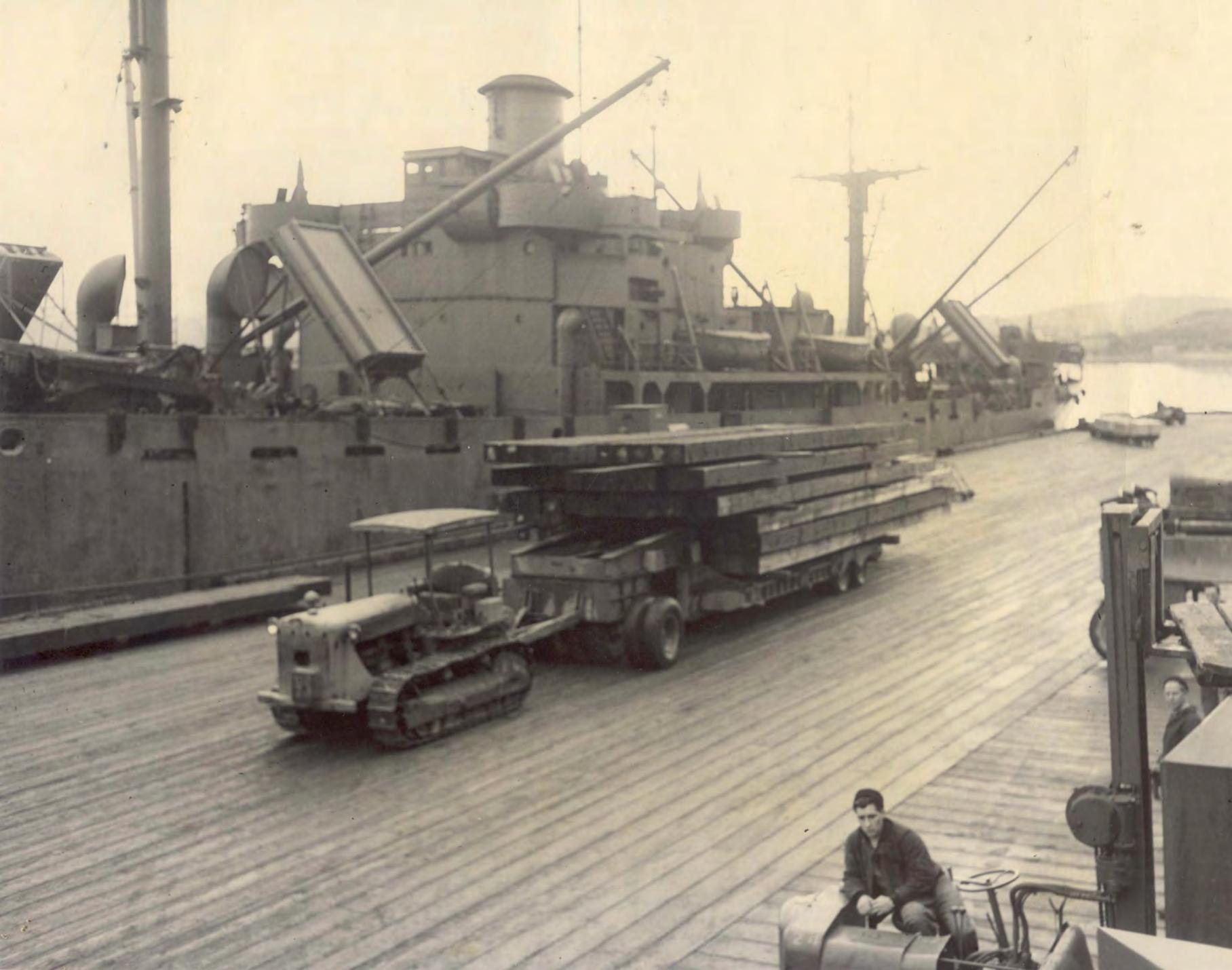


14-July

8

EIGHTH SPECIAL  
STEVEDORE  
BATTALION







#763-A-10-July

