

# Naval Construction Maintenance Unit 552

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## *Historical Information*



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



CBMU 552

NCTC - Peary  
 ABD - Hueneme  
 Ready Date - 6 Dec'43  
 Left ABD - 14 Jan'44  
 Location - ~~Ellice-Is. Nukufetau Green-Is.~~  
 Hollandia

LOG

- 10-30-43 - CNO orders transfer of CBMU 552 about 6 Nov'43 to Parks. (CNO conf disp 301912 NCR 0165 to Peary dtd 30 Oct'43)  
 11-22-43 - CNO orders transfer of CBMU 552 about 29 Nov'43 to ABD Hueneme. Assigned QJER. (CNO conf disp 221701 NCR 2750 to Parks dtd 22 Nov'43)  
 1-22-44 - CBMU 552 left U.S. 14 Jan'44. (WRK)  
 4- 3-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of CBMU 552 - operating at Nukufetau, Ellice Is.  
 5-31-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of CBMU 552 - operating at Nukufetau.  
 6-30-44 - 1 May'44 report of CBMU 552 - operating at Nukufetau.  
 7-14-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of CBMU 552 - operating at Ellice Is.  
 8- 1-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of CBMU 552 - this unit apparently moved from Ellice Is. to Green Is. during Jun'44.  
 8- 3-44 - CBMU 552 reported at Green Is. 3 Jul'44 according to the 33rd CB report for Jun'44.  
 8-22-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of CBMU 552 - operating at Green Is.  
 11- 8-44 - CBMU 552 located at Green Is. (Comserfor7flt Sec. ltr A9-4 over Ser BP-001882 to Budocks dtd 12 Oct'44 mo. report for Sep'44)  
 11-29-44 - CBMU 552 with 5 off. and 255 men can be equipped and ready for lifting at Manus early Jan'45. (Comsopac Sec. Disp. to Cincpoa 270252 dtd 27 Nov'44)

CBMU 552

- 12-6-44 - Cincpoa orders transfer of CBMU 552 and 561 to Manus. (Cincpoa Sec. Disp. to Comsopac 020217 dtd 2 Dec'44)  
 12-29-44 - CBMU 552 is located at Green Is. (Comserfor7flt Sec. report for Oct'44 dtd 20 Nov 1944).  
 1-13-45 - CBMU 552 located at Green Is. (Comserfor7flt Sec report for Nov'44 dtd 15 Dec'44)  
 1-17-45 - 1 Nov'44 report of CBMU 552 - located at Green Island.  
 1-27-45 - 1 Oct'44 report of CBMU 552 - located at Green Island.  
 2- 1-45 - Comsopac says that two new batts considered adequate to eliminate need of CBMU's 552, 553, 561, 568, 569, 582, 586, and 587 in No. Solomons. (Cincpoa Sec Disp to Comsopac 180059 dtd 18 Jan'45)  
 2- 1-45 - CBMU's 552, 561, and 587 available for transfer to Manus 20 Jan'45. Requests Cincpoa consider ordering other available CBMU's to Leyte (clarifying Comsopac 142258) (Com7flt Sec Disp to Cincpoa 190119 20 Jan'45)  
 2-7-45 -- Transfer of CBMU 552, 561 and 587 to Manus approved. (Cincpoa Sec. disp to Comsopac 271032 dtd 28 Jan'45).  
 2- 9-45 - Comsopac requests that Com7flt take action to detach CBMU 552, 561, and 587 from present duty at CNB Green Is. to proceed and report fagtrans to CNB Manus for duty. (Comsopac Sec disp to Com7flt 302226 dtd 31 Jan'45)  
 2-14-45 - On arrival of transportation CBMU 552, 561 and 587 ordered detached to proceed and report to CNB Manus for duty. (Comserfor7flt Sec. spdltr Ser. 0087 dtd 26 Jan'45 to ComNavForNorSols).  
 2-16-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of CBMU 552 - located at Green Island during Dec'44. Unit has been attached to this base since 3 Jul'44.  
 2-17-45- 1 Feb'45 report of CBMU 552 - located at Green Is. during Jan'45. Proposed roll-up program.

Location - Hollandia

CBMU 552

- 3-19-45 - Upon reporting of transp. CBMU 552 hereby detached from presently assigned duties, to proceed and report to CNB Hollandia for duty. (Comserfor7flt Conf spdltr Ser 0429 to CO Naval Facilities NorSols dtd 6 Mar'45)
- 4-10-45 -- ~~CBMU 552 is located at Manus. (Com7flt Sec. disp to Cominch 250756 Mar'45).~~ <
- 4-10-45 -- Com7flt Sec. disp to Cominch 300346 Mar'45 - correct my 250756 Mar'45 - CBMU 552 is located at Hollandia.
- 4-16-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of CBMU 552 - During Feb'45 located at Green Island, Solomon Islands.
- 4-16-45 - According to the Dirpadocks San Fran Sec report for 15 Mar'45, CBMU 552 is located at Hollandia.
- 4-17-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of CBMU 552- CBMU 552 in transit during the month of March.
- 4-25-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of CBMU 587 - ~~CBMU 552~~ departed Green Island 16 Mar'45 & arrived at Hollandia 20 Mar'45.
- 5- 1-45 - CBMU 552 is located at Hollandia. (Comserfor7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45)
- 5-10-45 - 1 May'45 report of CBMU 552 - located at Hollandia.
- 6-14-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of CBMU 552 - located at Hollandia.
- 7-20-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of CBMU 552 - located at Hollandia.
- 7-27-45 - CBMU 552 located at Hollandia, performing gen maint duties and constructing addtl ~~xxx~~ storage facilities at NSD. (COT 7th Flt Sec Rep for June)
- 7-27-45 - Dirpadocks P Sec Rep for June shows CBMU 552 located at Hollandia slated for Palawan.
- 8-14-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of CBMU 552 - located at Hollandia. Report via 3rd Brig.
- 8-31-45 - CBMU 552 - propose to inactivate. (Dirpadocks, P. sec report of 10 Aug'45).

Location - Hollandia

CBMU 552

- 9-28-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of CBMU 552 - located at Hollandia.
- 10-25-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of CBMU 552 - located at Hollandia.
- 3-5-46 - CBMU 552 inactivated during period 31 January to 1 March 1946. Exact date not given. (Comservpa& disp 022110 March 1946)

INACTIVATED

ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1 Jul'44	5	256	MoR
1 Aug'44	5	251	R & BNP625
1 Sep'44	5	255	MoR
1 Oct'44	5	254	(Some report - 1 Nov'44)
1 Nov'44	5	249	MoR
1 Jan'45	5	239	MoR
1 Feb'45	5	235	MoR
1 Mar'45	5	233	MoR
1 Apr'45	5	230	MoR
1 May'45	5	230	MoR
1 Jun'45	5	228	MoR
1 Jul'45	5	225	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	6	219	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	6	188	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'45	6	160	BNP625 & R

C.B.M.U. #552 (INACTIVATED)

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/13/44	-	Ellice Is.	C. @ report 1 June	Left U. S. Jan 1944.
7/20	-	Green Is.	C. @ Report 1 September	
12/9	-	"	Com 7th flt sec. 240255 Nov.	Available transfer Manus upon completion roll-up. Mason
12/1	-	(Manus)	Cenipoa sec 020212 Dec.	Transfer to Manus
1/20	-	(Manus)	Com 7th flt sec dis. 190119 Jan.	Expect avail transfer not Solo to Manus 20 Jan.
1/29	-	"	Cenipoa sec. 271032 Jan.	Transfer to Manus approved.
1/31	-	"	Comdogee sec 307726 Jan.	Request Com 7th flt take action detach from Green Is - report Manus

CRMU 552

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DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
3/29	-	* Green Is. Nav Base.	Com 5th flt sec. 260558 Mar.	** present loca- tion & assignment.
3/31	-	Hollandia	Com 7th flt sec 300346 Mar.	Correction - present location Hollandia.

**HISTORY OF**  
**CONSTRUCTION BATTALION MAINTENANCE UNIT 552,**  
**OCTOBER 1943 – FEBRUARY 1946**

Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 552 was established on 25 October 1943 at the Naval Construction Training Center (Camp Peary), Williamsburg, Virginia. About two weeks later the unit entrained for California; and in January 1944, after staging at Port Hueneme, it set sail for the Pacific Theater of Operations, arriving in February at Nukufetau in the Ellice Islands.

At Nukufetau its mission was to maintain the bomber and fighter strips and all other Navy installations. It also performed stevedoring operations; and because it was the only Seabee unit on the atoll, it undertook some new construction. Before leaving Nukufetau in June 1944, CBMU 552 began dismantling buildings and facilities not in use and crating salvageable materials for shipment to forward areas.

The maintenance unit's next deployment site was Green Island in the Northern Solomons. At Green CBMU 552 maintained all naval facilities on the island and performed some minor construction. By early 1945 it was dismantling structures for removal. For its work at Green Island CBMU 552 received a commendation from the Commander, Naval Forces, Northern Marianas; and personnel were authorized to wear a bronze star on their Asiatic- Pacific Theater Ribbon for participation in the consolidation of the Northern Solomons.

CBMU 552 departed from Green Island in March 1945 and arrived a few days later at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea. At Hollandia the unit performed general maintenance; repaired and operated all Navy heavy equipment; was responsible for all waterfront construction and maintenance; and undertook miscellaneous new construction, including additional storage facilities at the Naval Supply Depot. CBMU 552 was inactivated at Hollandia in February 1946.

Prepared by:

NAVFAC Historian's Office  
February 2005

~~PLAIN~~

ITINERARY OF CBMU 552

6 Nov 43	Transferred to Camp Parks from Camp Peary.
29 Nov 43	Transferred to ABD, Port Hueneme.
14 Jan 44	Left U. S.
1 Mar 44	Monthly Report of this date shows CBMU 552 operating at Nukufetau, Ellice Is.
June 44	Sometime during this month CBMU 552 moved from Ellice Is. to Green Is.
16 Mar 45	Departed Green Is.
20 Mar 45	Arrived Hollandia.

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NOTE: The above itinerary is based upon information available in the C. B. Operations Section of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

31 May 1945.



**NO  
LOGO  
AVAILABLE**



