

Naval Construction Maintenance Unit 594

Historical Information



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



CBMU 594

NCTC - (144th CB)
ABD - Hueneme
Ready Date - 25 Apr'44
Left ABD - 4 Jun'44
Location - ~~Gropac 7 Ech B (DIA) Engebi, Eniwetok~~
Guam

LOG

- 3-16-44 - CBMU 594 arrived Hueneme from Gulfport 15 Mar'44. (Restr Disp 161645 from Huen. to no action Ades)
- 7-27-44 - 126th CB constructed a temp camp for CBMU 594 at Gropac 7 according to 126th CB report for Jun'44.
- 8-19-44 - According to the 126th CB report for 1 Aug'44, CBMU 594 arrived at Gropac 7 the 1st week of Jul'44 - are relieving the 126th CB.
- 8-23-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of CBMU 594 - no info on location except that it is with Gropac 7.
- 9-26-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of CBMU 594 - location not indicated except end. by Gropac 7.
- 10- 9-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of CBMU 592 - according to that report, CBMU 594 is located at Engebi. 1st end. to report by CNAB Eniwetok states that upon departure of the 110th CB, CBMU 592 will be augmented by personnel from CBMU 594 from Engebi Is. if the work load warrants.
- 10-31-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of CBMU 594 - no info on location. Estimated date of completion of present assignment is 10 Oct'44.
- 11-18-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of CBMU 594 - no info on location. 37 men were assigned temp. duty at Eniwetok.
- 12-12-44 - CBMU 594 located at ~~Eniwetok~~ Engebi. (ComMarGil Area Sec Disp to CNO dtd 9 Dec 010522)

Location - ~~Eniwetok~~ Guam

CBMU 594

- 12-30-44 - 1 Dec'44 report of CBMU 594 - endorsement by CNAB Eniwetok.
- 1-29-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of CBMU 594 - endorsement by CNAB Eniwetok. 37 men of this unit remained on temp. duty at Eniwetok throughout Dec.
- 2-21-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of CBMU 594 - location of main part of CBMU not stated. 65 men on temp duty at Eniwetok.
- 3-28-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of CBMU 594 - End. by ComMarGilArea states that a ship in the area is now enroute to Eniwetok to effect the transfer of CBMU 594. 60 men on temp. duty at Eniwetok.
- 4-28-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of CBMU 594 - Departed from former base on 19 Mar'45. Unit still in transient status as of 1 Apr'45. End. by Naval Supply Depot, Guam. 60 men on temp. duty at Eniwetok since Oct'44 were re-called to rejoin unit in Mar'45.
- 5- 9-45 - It is assumed that CBMU 594 will report to NOB Guam. (Comservpac Sec ltr Ser 001903 dtd 28 Apr to IsCom Guam)
- 5-12-45 - 1 May'45 report of CBMU 594 - located at Guam. 5 offers & 465 men departed former base on 19 Mar'45 and debarked at Guam on 2 Apr'45.
- 5-16-45 - CBMU 594 (Aviation Tire and Recap Unit) added to units at Guam. (IsCom Guam 010126 sec disp dtd 7 May to CNO)
- 6- 1-45 - 4 addtl CBMUs will be ordered to Guam for P.W. requirements. This makes a total of 15 CBMUs at, assigned, or to be assigned to Guam to meet P.W. requirements. These units are 502, 504, 506, 511, 515, 532, 593, 594, 597, 602, 619, and 4 to be later designated. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 02628 dtd 23 May to Comfwdarea-centpac)
- 7-13-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of CBMU 594 - located at Guam.
- 8-10-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of CBMU 594 - located at Guam. 16 men were transferred for transportation to U.S. for discharge during Jul'45.

Location - Guam

CBMU 594

- 8-13-45 - On 1 Aug'45, CBMU 594 will report to the OinC 35th Reg for adm control. The oper control of this unit will remain with the activity to which it is at present attached. (IsCom Order #40-45 dtd 23 July)
- 8-21-45 - Req you issue necessary additional instructions to have all Guam CBMUs report to 35th Reg(Public Works). (Cincpoa conf spdltr dtd 13 Aug '45 ser 032018 to Comservpac).
- 9-17-45 - 1 Sept '45 report of CBMU 594. Located at Guam. Report via 35th Reg.
- 10-22-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of CBMU 594. Located at Guam. Report via 35th Reg. 33 men transferred to U.S. for discharge under the point system.
- 11-28-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of CBMU 594 - located at Guam. Report via 35th Reg. &5th Brig. 28 transferred to U.S. for discharge.
- 12-4-45 - Comservpac reqs 35th Reg. to inactivate CBMU 594. Advise Comservpac when in-activation is completed. (Comservpac spdltr ser 5796 dtd 13 Nov'45 to 35th Reg.)
- 12-7-45 - CBMU 594 was inactivated(date not given). (Comservpac ltr ser 341-2-61 dtd 23 Nov'45 to BuPers).
- 1-5-46 - CBMU 594 reported inactivated since 20 Dec'45. (Comservpac, Pearl disp022103 Jan'46 to BuPers).
- 1-18-46 - CBMU 594 inactivated on 30 November 1945. (OinC ltr ser 178 to BuDocks dtd 30 Nov 1945).
- 1-29-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of CBMU 594 - location not stated. Report via 35th Reg. & 5th Br Unit was inactivated 30 Nov'45. Enl. pers. transferred to other units in the 5th Brig.

INACTIVATED

History . . .

UNITED STATES Naval Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit Number Five Nine Four was commissioned by the Navy Department's Bureau of Yards and Docks on February 29, 1944, at the Navy's Advance Base Training Center in Gulfport, Mississippi. The old 144th Battalion, which formed at Camp Peary, Va., and had advanced training at Davisville, Rhode Island, furnished the great number of men for the newly commissioned CBMU 594.

Lieutenant Thomas B. Massie, Sr., a veteran of World War I, was the first officer in charge. Other officers who joined at Gulfport were Ens. C. E. Simmons as personnel officer; Lt. (jg) A. N. Petersohn as executive officer, and Warrant Officers E. M. Green and E. E. Foerster.

On March 9 the unit went to the Navy's sprawling advance base depot at Port Hueneme, California. Here the training in military technique which had been stressed for many long months in Virginia, Rhode Island and Mississippi, was given the final, pre-embarkation polish by battle-seasoned Marine instructors. On June 6, the unit boarded a fast transport and headed into the far-stretching reaches of the Pacific. During the 15-day voyage which ensued, the only sight of land was a six-hour refuelling stop at Pearl Harbor, where still rested rustling hulks of great ships hit in the treacherous December 7 attack.

After a dip southward to drop off contingents of Seabees and Coast Guard communications specialists in the Gilberts and Marshalls, the transport pushed north — so far north, in fact — that the men of 594 found their destination was "the end of the line." Yes, they landed at Engebi island, in Eniwetok Atoll of the Marshalls, threading through waters and around islands still garrisoned by strong Japanese forces. Enroute, several submarine threats failed to materialize.

Engebi, far to the north of any other Marshalls island held by the U. S. forces, represented the high-water mark of our fighting men's reconquest when CBMU 594 debarked there June 22. The tiny island was scarred and browned from the terrific bombardment which preceded earlier U. S. landings. The sun beat down mercilessly on the outcropping of coral rock and sand, and the shorn coconut palms, ripped by shellfire, provided no protection from temperatures which ranged well over 100 degrees.

This was to be "home" for the next ten months — this tiny island from which Marine planes at-

tacked the vital Jap strongholds at nearby Truk in the Western Carolines — Nippon's "Pearl Harbor." That the attacks were hurting was amply demonstrated when the first air raid alarm was signalled by wailing sirens on July 4 — Independence Day, fittingly enough. But no enemy planes came within bombing distance on that memorable holiday, and in several subsequent alarms none reached the pin-point of land which represented Engebi.

While on Engebi, 594 lived under tents, on the windward side of the island, quarters being only a few yards from the beach. Repair shops were set up to maintain essential equipment of the island's aircraft and garrison forces. The landing strip was lengthened, a large, new plane parking area constructed and many jobs accomplished with fitting "Seabee" ingenuity. Fresh food was almost unknown, and the monotony of canned rations was such that parties went out into nearby waters and, with dynamite charges, blasted fish — fresh meat — to the surface.

In March, 1945, the unit left Engebi and headed for the Marianas and Guam. Here a new camp site had to be cut out of wild, dense jungleland. Then came the task of setting up a public works department for the largest advance supply base in the world — Naval Supply Depot, Guam. During eight months on Guam, CBMU 594 performed a variety of duties which included maintenance of the Fleet refrigeration farm at Apra harbor and the Fleet laundry, while doing many construction jobs for Naval Supply Depot.

With arrival of V-J Day, the ranks of 594 were rapidly dwindling, as each revision of the point system took fresh groups of discharges away. By late November, only a handful of the original strength of the unit remained. Mr. Massie, now a lieutenant commander, left November 16 aboard the Yorktown and was capably succeeded as officer in charge by Ens. V. C. Smith, Jr. In the third week of November, orders came from fleet headquarters at Pearl Harbor, decommissioning CBMU 594 as of December 1, 1945. At the same time authority was received to return to the United States all personnel with 18 months' or more overseas duty. And so, November 29 saw the last of 594's men — 69 of them — board the carrier White Plains at Guam. By December 14 they were in Seattle and, except for a few awaiting discharge, all were able to reach home and loved ones by Christmas Day. In such fashion was written a happy ending to the history of CBMU 594.

ITINERARY OF CONSTRUCTION BATTALION MAINTENANCE UNIT #594

Formed at ABD, Gulfport, Miss. with personnel from the 144th C.B.

15 Mar 1944 Arrived ABD, Port Hueneme, Calif. from ABD, Gulfport, Miss.

1 July 1944 Arrived and reported to Gropac 7 at Engebi to relieve the 125th C.B.

19 Mar 1945 Departed Engebi.

2 Apr 1945 5 officers and 465 men from CBMU 594 debarked at Guam.

1 Aug 1945 Still located at Guam.

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

5 September 1945



**NO
LOGO
AVAILABLE**









