

Naval Construction Maintenance Unit 635

Historical Information



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



- 8-18-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of CBMU 635 - located at Dutch Harbor. 15 men returned to their regular duties with the battalion during Jul'45 leaving a total of 2 officers and 84 men on TDD elsewhere in the sector. 20 men were returned to the U.S. for discharge during Jul'45. Date of activation of this unit is 15 Jul'45.
- 9-18-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of CBMU 635 - located at Dutch Harbor. 2 officers and 71 men are on temp. detahd duty in the sector. On 9 Aug'45 36 men were transferred from CBMU 635 and assigned to the 114th CB. On 29 Aug'45 36 men from the 114th CB were received by CBMU 635. On 29 Aug'45 50 men were transferred to the U.S. for discharge.
- 10-22-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of CBMU 635 - located at Dutch Harbor. 2 off. & 55 men are on tempdu at Cold Bay, Alaska.
- 11-23-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of CBMU 635 - located at Dutch Harbor.
- 12-20-45 - 1 Dec'45 report of CBMU 635 - located at Dutch Harbor.
- 1-29-46 - 1 Jan'46 report of CBMU 635 - located at NOB, Dutch Harbor, Alaska.
- 3-1-46 - 1 Feb 46 report of CBMU 635 - located at NOB, Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Report via Comdr. Unalaska Sector and Coml7.
- 3-28-46 - 1 Mar 46 report of CBMU 635 - located at NOB, Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Report via Comdr. Unalaska Sector and Coml7.
- 5-21-46 - Inactivate CBMU 635 1 June 1946. Reconstitute as CBDet 1162. Transfer gear to new activity. (Com 17 disp 170147 May to CBMU 635).
- 6-5-46 - Proceed with inactivation. (Comservepac 202008Z to COM I7/KNZEK)
- 7-11-46 - CBMU 635 disestablished 1 June 46 and reestablished as CBDet #1162 1 June 1946.
(Roster of Officers dtd 1 June 1946)

ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFF.</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1 Jul'45	17		R
1 Aug'45	17		R
1 Sept'45		449	BNP625
1 Nov'45	11	281	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	6	235	BNP625 & R
1 Jan'46	5	282	BNP625 & R
1 Feb 46	5	119	BNP 625 & R
1 Mar 46	5	98	BNP 625 & R

635 C B M 4

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
12/31		Camp Endicott	C B report 1 December.	(new unit being activated)
5/24/			op 30 cont Serial O207930 of 17 May.	personnel of CB 26 Ser 9 - formed in 635.

Also - list vehicles of ...

THIS IS THE STORY

AUGUST, 1944

EMBRYONIC BATTALION

Sometime in July, the Bureau of Yards and Docks decided to form two sections of the famed "26th" U. S. Naval Construction Battalion, which had established quite a record for itself on Guadalcanal, Southwest Pacific, and which was now stationed at Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.

COMMISSIONING

These plans became an eventuality on August 1, 1944, upon receipt of orders by Lieutenant W. A. Meyer designating him as Officer-in-Charge of the Second Section. Each section of the "26th" was to form a separate command.

OFFICER PERSONNEL

The officer complement of the Second Section rapidly was filled from Lieutenant Meyer's former command, CBMU No. 604, which consisted of him and four other officers, the original "26th," and the Officer Training Division, Camp Parks: totaling in all sixteen.

ENLISTED PERSONNEL

The enlisted men complement was filled from various overseas units comprising the old 26th NCB, 1st NCB, 2nd NCB, 3rd NCB, 12th NCB, 42nd NCB, and other units which formed a pool at CBRD, Camp Parks, California. Many of these men, approximately 158, were members of the decommissioned CBMU No. 604, which had been brought back from Port Hueneme to help in the reorganization of the 26th.

FINAL LEAVES

During August, most of the men received either Pre-Embarkation or Regular Annual Leaves. All of these leaves had to be terminated by 1 September 1944, as that has been designated the "Readiness Date" of the Battalion.

SCUTTLEBUTT CONFIRMED

Just when "scuttlebutt" was running high as to the probable destination of the 26th, all personnel were issued "Cold Weather" gear which seemed to confirm the fact that this battalion was to be an experiment in combating the effects of the deadly germ Malaria. Many men in the battalion not considered fit for duty in the South Pacific, due to prevalence of Malaria and the demoralizing effect of recurring attacks were members of the reorganized 26th Battalion. This was to be an experiment in putting the valuable skills, trades and Advance Base experience of these overseas veterans to much needed service in the far North.

SEPTEMBER

READINESS INTERVAL

All personnel having returned from leave with the exception of the AWOL's, the Battalion was now awaiting "shipping out" or embarkation date. By this time the concensus of opinion was that Treasure Island would be our embarkation port, although "scuttlebutt" still circulated that perhaps a train ride to Seattle was in the offing. However, it was generally conceded that our liberty would be frozen at any time. This conjecturing became a certainty when a directive was posted stating that 6 September 1944 would be our last liberty before movement of the Battalion. Many wives, sweethearts, relatives, and friends were to be seen bidding goodbye to the men of the battalion during this period. Although most married men had been instructed previously to make arrangements to send families home, many had waited until the last possible moment. On 7 September all personnel of the unit were given notice that liberty had been extended to 8 September, thus giving them an additional two days liberty. Most of the men availed themselves of this extended privilege.

DRY RUN

Typical of Navy procedure in acquainting its personnel in all phases of Navy routine and knowing what to do under any and all circumstances.

a "dry run" on the loading procedure for transportation to Treasure Island was held at 1300, 9 September on the Camp Parks drill field. After completion of this important feature of the embarkation procedure, the old overseas veterans and the 170 recruits from Davisville, R. I., were without a doubt ready to embark for their overseas assignment. On Sunday morning, 10 September, the men and their gear were loaded on busses and trucks to be transported to Treasure Island.

TREASURE ISLAND

At 0800 this movement of the 26th was effected. Although Treasure Island was the first stop, many men refused to believe this was the point of embarkation until the Navy bus delivered them to the Pre-embarkation Barracks, Treasure Island, Sunday morning. Men and gear were unloaded in a drizzling rain and almost immediately assigned to quarters. It was learned at this time that the Battalion would be temporarily quartered for four or five days in Pre-embarkation Barracks. Officers and C.P.O.'s of the 26th received a pleasant surprise when they learned that they would be able to go on liberty Monday morning at 0800. Both officers and C.P.O.'s continued to get overnight liberty for the balance of our stay at Treasure Island. All enlisted men were given liberty on Wednesday and Thursday of which many availed themselves. Pocketbooks had been more or less strained long before this, but this fact did not deter men from taking this last precious look at San Francisco and Oakland.

EMBARKATION

This momentous occasion had latefully arrived. For many of the officers, Chiefs, and men it was their first ocean voyage and first trip out. Excitement ran high in all quarters. At 1030 the muster of both sections began. After this had been accomplished all personnel partook of their last meal in the U. S. A. for many months. At 1200 all hands boarded a Navy ferry to be transported to the San Francisco pier preparatory to boarding the liberty ship, S.S. Carl Schurz. Now began the gradual boarding by all hands. This was accomplished in several hours when all hands had been assigned a berth by the berthing officers. At 1700 the Schurz cast off from the pier and our voyage had begun. We passed under the Bay Bridge, and an hour later all hands strained their eyes to get a glimpse of the Golden Gate Bridge.

S.S. CARL SCHURZ

Like most liberty ships the Carl Schurz (named after the famous American statesman) was lacking in the "comforts of home," but as our voyage was

not to be any longer than two weeks, all hands just settled into the crowded space allotted them and proceeded to become acquainted with the ship's rules and regulations. Duty assignments of various nature were given to the 26th personnel to aid the normal functions of the ship's crew. This included cleaning details and details for the gallery, library, ship's service, public address system and, along with the ship's drills, life was not to be too monotonous aboard the Schurz as all personnel readily perceived. Fortunately the Schurz hugged the coastline of California, Oregon, Washington and Canada for the first part of the voyage, thus making a most interesting trip. Many of the 26th personnel had made a similar trip previously, so they were able to identify and point out places of interest. However, after the fifth day the Schurz turned toward the open sea and all sight of land was lost until the first stop, Kodiak, was reached.

KODIAK

At 0700 Saturday, the 23rd of September, the Schurz pulled into Kodiak. For most of the personnel of the battalion this was their first glimpse of the oft-heard-of land of Alaska. This was the debarkation point for the First Section of the 26th and they and their gear were unloaded at 1000. The Schurz remained at Kodiak over-night, giving many of the less "salty" personnel of the Battalion a welcome relief from the rolling and pitching they had experienced for the past few days. At 0700 Sunday morning, the 24th, the Schurz again headed out to open sea bound for Dutch Harbor. During the last part of the voyage the Schurz remained fairly close to shore, giving everyone a preview of the type of country they would be living and working in during the coming months.

DUTCH HARBOR

Tuesday morning, the 26th of September, at 1015, the Battalion got its first look at Dutch Harbor. The Schurz was berthed at Ballyhoo Dock amid the band playing, cheering and yelling of men of the 85th Battalion, most of whom had managed to be down to the dock to welcome their long awaited relief. At 1100 the Second Section of the 26th disembarked and were loaded in busses that were to take them to their temporary barracks. The only hitch in this process was the temporary absence of an alert member of the Battalion who had slept through the entire proceedings and was finally located sound asleep on the deck up forward. Personnel of the Battalion were housed in temporary quarters in the Fort Mears Area until the departure of the 85th Battalion which we had been sent to relieve. The chiefs moved into

their quarters in the Battalion area, and the officers were housed in the civilian defense houses on the hill.

ASSIGNMENT OF MEN

The officers and most of the C.P.O.'s had been given their tentative departmental assignments, but now came the task of assigning the men. The night of the 27th was spent by the officers representing the various departments in determining the various skills of the men and making assignments. By the next morning every man in the Battalion, except three, had been assigned and everyone in the Battalion began the process of taking over the maintenance of the base from the 85th. The 26th Battalion had definitely taken over!

OCTOBER

CHANGES OF QUARTERS

The 85th Battalion left Dutch Harbor on the 1st of October, and that afternoon the men of the Second Section of the 26th were moved into the newly vacated barracks, which were to be their permanent quarters. The new quarters which were also in the Fort Mears Area, were in much better condition than the others, so no one was unhappy about the move.

CPO CLUB

On October 1st the 26th CPO's took over the former 85th NCB Chief Petty Officer's Club. Officers were elected, and all Chiefs who desired to become members of the club contributed \$10 each for initial stocking of beer and other items. The CPO club was off to a fine start.

DOCK PROJECT

On the 5th of October eleven men from the battalion began work on nearby Akutan Island. This involved making major repairs to the dock at that station, which was accommodating the fueling of the many Russian ships stopping there for that purpose. This project, which was under the direction of Chief I. J. Bailey, was completed on the 15th of November, and members of the crew received commendations for their work from the Commanding Officer of that station.

WARRANT PROMOTION

On the 6th of October word was received via the Navy Department Bulletin of the promotion of Chief R. A. Miller. Carpenter Miller remained as one of the officers of this battalion.

BATTALION NEWSPAPER

At 1830 the 7th of October the first edition of the Second Section — 26th NCB newspaper came rolling off the presses and was distributed to all hands. The paper temporarily had the title "B-Buzz'ns", but a contest which was open to all members of the battalion was inaugurated during the month to promote an entirely new and original name for the paper.

PUBLIC WORKS

Lt. W. A. Meyer, Officer in Charge of the Battalion, took over the additional duties of Public Works Officer of the Unalaska Sector on the 21st of October upon the departure of Lt. Comdr. J. C. Stilley, CEC, who had been Public Works Officer.

MILITARY TRAINING

Military Training got under way on the 23rd of October with all men of the battalion being assigned to classroom instruction on the carbine and BAR as a brush-up on the weapons preparatory to firing on the range.

CPO CLUB FIRE

Disaster struck the CPO Club on the 25th of October, when at 0822 on that morning a passerby noticed smoke emitting from the rear part of the club building. The fire had got well under way by the time it was spotted and the alarm turned in, and by the time the fire was extinguished the interior of the club was greatly damaged. Fortunately the Chiefs were able to retrieve their pool table, refrigerator, radio, tables, and chairs and immediately transferred them into one end of their barracks, where a temporary CPO Club began operating.

WELFARE AND RECREATION

During the month of October the personnel of the battalion began to realize and enter into the many phases of welfare and recreation the base had to offer. Numbering among these were the picture shows, bowling

alleys, ship's service stores, and the gymnasium, which almost everyone began taking advantage of. Basketball teams representing each company were formed and entered in the various leagues sponsored by the NOB Welfare and Recreation Department. A boxing smoker was held on the base on the 10th of October in which the battalion had 5 entries. Having had only two weeks from the time of their ocean voyage in which to train the representatives from the battalion were at a decided disadvantage. However, under the management of Carpenter L. L. Jones, the battalion welfare officer, and the training and coaching of E. T. Spencer, the battalion came out with two wins and a bright outlook for the other fighters in future engagements.

NOVEMBER

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

By the end of October the battalion had settled down to its job and the daily activities were becoming routine. The initial problem of assignments and organization was over and the newness of the base and activities had worn off. However, all hands were kept very busy. A backlog of from two to three weeks had accumulated on repairs and various alterations and installations that a maintenance unit is always called upon to do in keeping a naval base in top operation.

ULAKTA HEAD

During the month of November small dynamite crews were at work improving the condition of the access trail leading to the Ulakta Head Signal Station. This station was at the north end of Ballyhoo Mountain where it handled the identification procedure for all ship traffic entering the harbor. This access trail, by which supplies were taken by members of the crew manning the station, had been practically erased by wave and storm action against the exposed shore with the result that the trail could be traversed with difficulty only by the use of a tractor. However, this resulted in considerable wear and tear on the tractor. The work in opening the trail up consisted mainly of dynamiting boulders and rocky point obstructions jutting out into the trail. By strategic use of dynamite the trail was opened up to support limited truck travel.

BEER PARTIES

The first of a series of beer parties was held on November 22. This party was sponsored by and for the Transportation Department. Two days later on the 24th another beer party was held, this time for all men in the Facilities and Maintenance Department. Plenty of beer and food was furnished, together with music from the "Aleutian Ramblers" — a six-piece string orchestra composed of 26th personnel. These parties were very popular, and a lot of fun was had by all who participated.

BOXING

On the 11th of November E. T. Spencer, CM2c, logged out for Adak to participate in the all Aleutian boxing tournament. Spencer had won this honor by winning the title for his weight at Dutch Harbor. He was defeated in the finals at Adak, but nevertheless brought back the first of a series of trophies for the 26th trophy case.

UNALGA

On the 9th of November a four man crew went to Unalga for the purpose of insulating a 2100 foot, exposed 2 inch water line. This was accomplished in 16 days, the crew returning on the 25th.

LANDSLIDE

On the 17th of November, a landslide of approximately 6000 cubic yards of earth and rock occurred just north of the Ballyhoo Dock which completely blocked the Ballyhoo Road. Maintenance crews turned to and had the road open for single lane traffic within two hours. The work of removal and disposal of the material continued throughout the month.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thanksgiving Day was observed on the base by granting a "G.I." day to everyone not standing necessary watches. The event was especially marked by the battalion with a lavish turkey dinner complete with all trimmings and accessories.

GALLEY CHANGE

A change of galleys was effected 30 November with the messing facilities being moved from galley No. 10 to galley No. 17 which was just across

the road. This change represented a great improvement, the new galley having a concrete floor, improved facilities, and the added feature of having just been repainted and redecorated.

DECEMBER

NEWSPAPER CONTEST

The contest for renaming the battalion newspaper was brought to a close the 1st of December. All nominations had been received and the judges met to determine the best of the lot. The name finally picked was "What's Cookin," and the prize offered for the name picked was given to H. W. Gardner, who submitted the winning title.

BEER PARTIES

Two beer parties for the remaining departments were held on the 1st and 6th of December topside of the battalion gymnasium. These parties were along the same order as the previous parties and, like them, were enjoyed thoroughly.

CHRISTMAS

Holiday routine on the base was observed on Christmas Day with church services being held at various times all through the day so that those standing necessary watches would be able to attend. The battalion galley and recreation hall were gayly decorated, and a loudspeaker system was set up to play Christmas carols over the battalion area. The cooks and bakers came through with a fine Christmas dinner that featured the traditional turkey. Although Christmas seemed lonely and dreary to many because of their being so far from home at that time, it was brightened up considerably through the efforts of those who contributed to the decorations, dinner and music.

BOXING SMOKER

On the 29th of December another boxing smoker (no smoking allowed) was held in the NOB theatre. Four men of the battalion were entered, and of these, two won by T.K.O.s, one won by decision, and one lost by a close

decision. Once again the 26th boxers had scored a victory over the aspirants from NOB. Our men were further complimented by the sponsor on the clean sportsmanship they displayed in their matches.

JANUARY, 1945

STEWARDS FIRE

On the 9th of January fire broke out in the steward's quarters at the rear of the BOQ. The stewards were off duty at the time and two of them, P. Ferguson, ST2c, and A. Bell, ST3c, were in the building. These men were badly burned by the time they got out and were in the dispensary for several weeks, Ferguson later being returned to the States. The battalion had five men living in this building, all of whom had lost all their clothes and belongings in the fire.

COALING FACILITIES

In the last part of January plans were completed and work was begun on the installation of coaling facilities at Dutch Harbor. This was being done in connection with the decommissioning of the coaling station at Akutan which had been handling all the Russian ships passing through this region. Upon the decommissioning of Akutan, the Russians would come into Dutch Harbor for fueling purposes.

FEBRUARY

ADDITIONAL MEN

On February 3rd eighteen seamen arrived from the States to augment the strength of the battalion, and on February 14th nineteen more seamen arrived to bring the number of personnel in the unit almost up to the authorized complement of 541 men. These 37 men had completed their boot training just prior to embarking from the States. The manpower situation was greatly aided by these men who were immediately assigned to departments which had been operating short of men ever since our arrival at Dutch Harbor.

PARTIES

The electrical department, miscellaneous group, and Hog Island group once again came through with beer parties on the 10th, 15th, and 24th of February, respectively. These again were very successful with the usual assortment of beer, sandwiches, and hill billy music being served to the participants.

BOWLING

The 26th Battalion bowling team calling themselves the "Tigers" won the bowling championship of the base on the 15th of February with a rousing defeat of an NOB team, the "Heavy Lilts," in the finals of the local bowling tournament. Each member was awarded a gold pin, and the team was presented with the Captain's Cup.

BOXING

The 26th maintained its superiority in the field of boxing on the night of February 26th. Another light card was presented at the NOB Theater with 26th men participating in six of the eight bouts offered. Three other men of the unit were ready to fight but were unable to obtain opponents. Of the six men who did fight, four were winners and the other two dropped close decisions.

MARCH

ROAD CLEARANCE

The Road Maintenance Division was commended by the Commander, NOB, Dutch Harbor, for the expeditious manner in which they turned to during the snowstorm of the night of March 11-12, and kept the roads open to traffic. The Road Maintenance Department was on the job all night,

and had the air strip cleared for takeoffs by 1100 the next morning. This was the first time that main arteries of traffic, and many secondary highways had been cleared by 0800 in such a storm. This operation was under the direct supervision of Chief J. W. Guyette.

BINGO

On March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, a bingo party was held on the upper deck of the gymnasium. This was the first bingo party sponsored by the Welfare and Recreation Department and went over very successfully with many nifty prizes being awarded the winners.

BASKETBALL

The basketball season at Dutch Harbor came to an end the last week of March. The 26th had three teams entered, A Company, B Company, and Headquarters Company. A Company won the "Wasp League" championship with 9 wins and no losses but didn't participate in the Captain's Cup Playoff. The basketball season had started in the fall and featured a great amount of talent and fine play. B Company had a fine team but could not seem to get started right. They lost several overtime games and as a result finished much lower in the league than their actual and potential power indicated. Headquarters Company started off slow and, although they were coming up at the end of the season, they were unable to break into the leaders.

COALING FACILITIES PROJECT

The coaling facilities project at NOB, Dutch Harbor, was completed in March, with the first shipload of coal being received and unloaded into the yard stackpile. The job consisted of grading and stabilizing an area 75' by 300', the construction of a 5' timber bulkhead around the area, and assembly of a portable conveyor for use in the transfer of coal from trucks to ship.

APRIL

DEATH OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

On April 12th word was received by radio of the death of the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt. A dress review of all personnel on the base was held on the 14th, and a five minute period of silence was observed in memory of the deceased Commander-in-Chief of the Navy.

MAY

DEATH OF A SHIPMATE

On the 27th of May, 1945, the battalion was saddened by the death of a fellow shipmate and member of the battalion, U. R. McNish, WT2c, fatally injured when a boiler he was standing watch on exploded. The funeral services were held at the Memorial Chapel, NOB, Dutch Harbor, and the burial took place at the Army Cemetery on Unalaska Island immediately following the services.

SOFTBALL

A softball diamond was laid out in the battalion area and a league of 12 teams was formed from the various platoons. Play began in spite of bad weather that was prevalent during the summer months. A battalion team was formed from the best talent to play in the base league and started off with a bang by winning the first several games.

JUNE

SOFTBALL

The 26th Battalion softball team won the first half of the base softball league by winning 11 games while dropping only 2. This team was com-

posed of the hotshot ballplayers of the unit which were unbeatable when they were "hot." By winning the first half the team was assured of being in the Captain's Cup Playoffs in August.

BOXING

The boxing smoker held on June 22nd is worthy of note due to the appearance of Joe Louis, the World Heavyweight Champion. Louis refereed two bouts and gave out the awards. The 26th was able to get only three men matched and won two of the three fights.

C.P.O. CLUB

The chiefs opened their new club in Fort Mears on June 23rd with a party for officers and chiefs. The chiefs had rebuilt their club which had burned in October and added many improvements together with a very fine decorating job.

JULY

REDESIGNATION

In June, 1945, orders from the Bureau of Naval Personnel came in for thirteen CEC officers in the battalion ordering them from the 26th NCB-2nd Section to CBMU-635. This was the first word the battalion had received concerning possible redesignation of the unit. After a couple of weeks orders arrived from the Commandant, Seventeenth Naval District, directing that the unit be redesignated CBMU-635 as of 15 July 1945. This letter also authorized the allowance list for the 26th NCB-2nd Section to remain the same for CBMU-635 until further notice. Lt. Meyer received orders from the Bureau of Naval Personnel assigning him as Officer in Charge of CMBU-635, which meant that the battalion would remain virtually the

same as it had been, at least for the time being. Thus, the 26th NCB-2nd Section was decommissioned in the field after an existence of 11½ months.

BATTALION NEWSPAPER

Along with the change of name of the unit it was decided to change the name of the battalion newspaper. Nominations were submitted and a vote was taken from all members of the unit. The winning name was "Seabee Chatter" which graced the heading of all future issues of the paper.

MAINTENANCE

Insofar as maintenance of the base was concerned the redesignation of the unit did not affect it any. As no immediate exchange or reduction of personnel was involved, the battalion was able to carry on without any loss of operating efficiency.

AUGUST

EXCHANGE OF MEN

On the 9th of August by authority of a ComServPac letter, 36 high rated men logged out from CBMU 635 to the 114th Battalion at Attu. In return we received 36 seamen from the 114th who arrived at Dutch Harbor on the 29th of August. At that time our complement was top heavy in the higher rates and this exchange of rated men for seamen would open the complement up considerably and enable some of the deserving personnel to be advanced in the heretofore frozen rating groups.

JAPANESE SURRENDER

On the 14th of August the word everyone had been wanting to hear for 3½ long years finally came — the unconditional surrender of Japan. A day and a half "G I." day was given to everyone not standing necessary

watches. There were many displays of fireworks and beer flowed freely. The celebration was very happy but orderly.

SOFTBALL

The Captain's Cup Playoffs in softball were held during the first week of August. The 635 aggregation was entitled to participate by virtue of their having won the first half of the league. The team was finally eliminated in the semi-finals of the playoffs. The team as a whole had made a fine record for the season both as ballplayers and as sportsmen.

DISCHARGES

The first effects of the Navy's demobilization procedure was felt by the battalion on the 29th of August when 50 men eligible for discharge logged out for Seatitle for further transfer to their separation centers. This cut our on board total to 448 men.

SEPTEMBER

DISCHARGES

On the 2nd of September 32 men eligible for discharge embarked for the States, bringing the on-board total of the unit down to 416 men. On the 10th Chief Carpenter Prant became the first officer of the battalion to leave for discharge; and on the 15th Lt. Owen, the CBMU-635 Supply Officer, was transferred to NOB, Dutch Harbor. Another group of 96 men were sent back for discharge on the 24th. On the 28th three more officers, Lt. Bertrand, Ch. Carp. Jones and Carp. Miller were detached on points.

SECURING

By this time the unit had lost most of its high rated skilled men and was practically down to its original seamen, many of whom were rated by this

time. These men had been trained in their specialties since departing from the States. However, the general feeling on the base at that time was that the base would be reduced to a caretaker status and that the unit would leave in December, so it was not believed that the loss of many key men would be felt too greatly in the remaining few weeks. This was especially true because all but necessary maintenance and operations were discontinued, and those men thus relieved were put on details involving the securing of buildings and equipment on the base.

CHANGE OF QUARTERS

In keeping with the base securing plans the battalion moved from the Fort Mears Area into the NOB Barracks on the 28th of September. The unit was billeted in two wings of the barracks and an OOD office in the barracks was set up immediately. This move enabled the closing of the CBMU-635 general mess, CPO mess and post office, which facilities would now be provided by NOB.

OCTOBER

REDUCTION IN COMPLEMENT

On the 6th of October ComServPac established the complement of CBMU-635 at 7 officers and 270 men which was the size of a normal CBMU. This reduction from the authorized complement of half a battalion fitted in with the reduction of personnel due to discharges and the reduction of the base to caretaker status.

SECURING OPERATIONS

During the month of October the unit went full speed ahead with securing operations relevant to reducing the base to a caretaker status. Many shops operated by the battalion were closed up and incorporated into

central activities and many of the nonessential internal services were secured altogether. The Heavy Equipment Shop, the Rigging Loft, and the Tire Repair Shop were secured and their operations moved to the Public works Garage. The Electrical Warehouse and Shop were secured and shop operations combined in a smaller shop. The Sheetmetal, Water and Sewer, and Plumbing Shops were combined into the Heat and Water Maintenance Shop which operated from a central location.

During the month the unit secured 105 buildings, constructed approximately 700 crates, and disconnected and crated innumerable items of equipment for shipment.

DISCHARGES

During October one officer, Dr. Cutter, and 33 men were transferred for reassignment and or discharge bringing the total strength of the unit down to 11 officers and 282 men.

NOVEMBER

CHANGE OF PLANS

During the first two weeks of November a conference was held on the base by the heads of the various departments of Com17 and the base department heads when it was learned that the base would not go on a caretaker basis until approximately the 1st of April 1946, instead of the 1st of December as was originally planned. This revision in plans wrecked the hopes of many "low pointers" of getting home by Christmas.

MORE DISCHARGES

On the 17th of November another group of officers and men left the unit for discharge. Four officers, Lt. Watters, Lt. Browne, Ch. Corp. Bergren,

and Ch. Carp. Love, were detached together with 42 men. On the 27th of November the point scores were again dropped for eligibility for discharge and by the end of the month 57 more men were eligible for discharge and were awaiting transportation. This left the unit with 178 men on the list of December.

By this time the unit had only two rated men above second class, which is an indication of how hard the battalion had been hit in the higher rated experienced men. Seven officers were left, and of these Lt. Thomas and Ch. Carp. Hewlett were to leave on the first available transportation and Lt. Comdr. Meyer, Lt. Harris, and Lt. (j.g.) Liberman would be eligible for discharge in December. Three officers had been requested as reliefs, all of whom should report sometime in January, 1946.

DECEMBER

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL

On the 2nd of December 80 men reported to the unit for duty from the 114th Battalion at Attu. These additional men had arrived totally unexpected since the information copy of the speedletter authorizing the transfer had not yet been received by CBMU-635. The 80 men consisted of 5 first class men and 75 seamen.

MERGER

Construction Battalion Detachment 1706 (Special) which had been at Dutch Harbor since February, 1945, was decommissioned on the 15th. These men were transferred to the various units throughout the chain, 60 of them to CBMU-635. Upon receipt of these men and Ens. R. N. Stauffer, who had been Officer in Charge of 1076, CBMU-635 assumed the stevedoring duties at Dutch Harbor.

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DECOMMISSIONING PLANS

At the time of this publication, the future of CBMU-635 can not be definitely foretold. However, in view of established policy of deactivating such units in the Pacific Ocean Area plans have been formulated to decommission the unit in the near future, with base maintenance reverting to the Public Works Department of the station. This prospect, although subject to approval by higher authority, has raised the morale of the unit considerably.



CBMU 635

Personnel from the 126th Battalion, Section two, formed CBMU 635 at Dutch Harbor July 15, 1945. This unit was in Alaska at the war's end.

DECLASSIFIED

PLAN

ITINERARY OF CONSTRUCTION BATTALION MAINTENANCE UNIT 633.

15 Jul 1945 - CBMU 633 formed from personnel of the 136th CB,
Section 2 at Dutch Harbor.

1 Aug 1945 - Still located at Dutch Harbor.

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

To Facilitate
Administrative Handling
Classification changed
from:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

To: **RESTRICTED**
Irvin S. Rasmussen
Comdr. CEC-V(S) USN

Date: 5 September 1945.

Signature

ITINERARY OF 26TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION-2ND SECTION

- 18 Sep 1942 - 26th Naval Construction Battalion was commissioned and transferred from NCTC, Camp Allen, Norfolk, Va., to Camp Bradford, Va.
- 9 Oct 1942)
to) - Leave
- 15 Oct 1942)
- 17 Oct 1942 - The Battalion, consisting of 27 officers and 1079 men boarded three train sections for transfer to U.S. Advance Base Depot, Gulfport, Miss.
- 19 Oct 1942 - Arrived Gulfport, Miss.
- 19 Oct 1942)
to) - Advance Base Training, Gulfport, Miss.
- 30 Oct 1942)
- 30 Oct 1942 - The Battalion boarded three train sections for transfer and further training Camp Rousseau, U.S. Advance Base Depot, Hueneese, Calif.
- 2 Nov 1942 - Battalion arrived Camp Rousseau, U.S. Advance Base Depot, Port Hueneese, Calif.
- 2 Nov 1942)
to) - Advance Base Training, Port Hueneese, California.
- 27 Nov 1942)
- 27 Nov 1942) - The Battalion consisting of 28 officers and 956 men boarded trains for Port of Embarkation, San Pedro, California. Arrived San Pedro, California, 1600 and reported aboard the U.S.S. Mount Vernon for transportation to overseas destination.
- 28 Nov 1942) - At sea South West Pacific.
- to) - (Sailed from San Pedro, California, 2100,
- 10 Dec 1942) - 28 November 1942)
- 10 Dec 1942 - 1100, 10 December 1942, dropped anchor in harbor Noumea, New Caledonia.
- 10 Dec 1942) - Battalion consisting of 28 officers and 956 men
- to) - disembarked U.S.S. Mt. Vernon and set up temporary
- 20 Dec 1942) - camp, U.S. Naval Advance Base, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- 20 Dec 1942 - Broke camp, U.S. Naval Advance Base, Noumea, New Caledonia, the battalion consisting of 28 officers and 954 men reported aboard the U.S.S. Heywood and sailed approximately 1700.
- 20 Dec 1942)
to) - At Sea - South West Pacific.
- 26 Dec 1942)

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ITINERARY OF 26TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION--2ND SECTION (CONT'D)

- 26 Dec 1942 - Battalion arrived Guadalcanal, B.S.I., disembarked and set up camp between Henderson Field and Lunga Point, as relief for the Sixth U.S. Naval Construction Battalion.
- 1 Jan 1943 - Company "D" of the 26th Naval Construction Battalion detached and assigned duty U.S. Naval Advance Base, Tulagi, B.S.I.
- 12 Sep 1943 - All officers and men of Company "D" returned to the Battalion at Guadalcanal, B.S.I. from Tulagi.
- 11 Dec 1943 - Battalion, consisting of 23 officers and 607 men, reported aboard the U.S. CORNELIUSDRYK, Guadalcanal, B.S.I., for transportation to continental United States.
- 11 Dec 1943)
to) - At Sea
31 Dec 1943)
- 31 Dec 1943 - Battalion disembarked Navy Pier, San Francisco, Calif. enroute Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.
- 31 Dec 1943 - Arrived Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California, via Navy buses and assigned quarters Area "E".
- 24 May 1944) - Officer-in-Charge, nine officers and 330 men detached from the
to) - Battalion and assigned temporary additional duty Elk Hill Oil
28 Jul 1944) - Development, Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1, Tupman, California.
- 8 Aug 1944 - BATTALION REDESIGNATED AS 26TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION,
FIRST AND SECOND SECTIONS.
- 12 Sep 1944 - 16 officers and 508 men departed Camp Parks for overseas via San Francisco.
- 26 Sep 1944 - Arrived Dutch Harbor, Alaska to relieve 85th CB.
- 5 Oct 1944 - 15 men on detached duty at Akutan, Alaska. Project expected to be complete 15 November 1944.
- 1 Mar 1945 - Unit still operating at Dutch Harbor. Received draft of 37 men from States. 34 men ordered out on TAD location not known.
- 15 Jul 1945 - Inactivated and redesignated CBMU 635.

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

15 October 1945

copy



**NO
LOGO
AVAILABLE**



**NO
PHOTOS
AVAILABLE**