

5th Naval Construction Brigade

*Historical
Information*



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



5th BRIGADE

- 16-45 - 5th Brg. consists of the 26th, 27th, 28th, and 40th Regiments. CBMU 515, Det. 1046, 1053, 1059 shown attached to Brg. (5th Brg War Diary of 1 Apr'45) 5th Brg Staff located at Adelup Point, Guam.
- 1-16-45 - Motor Pool is located at Asan Point & Orote, Guam. (5th Brg War Diary of 1 Apr'45)
- 3-9-45 - IsCom Guam is hereby authorized to detach CBMU 515 from the 5th Brg and order it to report to IsCom Guam. (Comservpac Sec ltr ser 001903 dtd 28 Apr to IsCom Guam)
- 13-45 - Comservpac orders transfer of the 47th CB to Guam--to report to the 5th Brg. (Comservpac Sec Spdltr ser 001993 dtd 3 May'45 to Comsopac)
- 5-15-45 - 1 May'45 BNP625 for 13th (Sp) CB shows 810 men from the 5th Brig Motor Pool are being carried as supernumeraries.
- 16-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 5th Brg. - located at Guam. Dets 1071 and 1073 consisting of 1 off. and 4 men arrived during March and were assigned to Det 1046 to duties in connect with the install of island over all power system. The 144th CB reported to the 5th Brg. on 18 Mar'45. 3 off. and 133 men from the 10th CB to be trfd to 5th Brg for assimilation into units under the 5th Brg.
- 23-45 - IsCom Guam is hereby given the authority to activate the 134th CB (Truck Oper) from personnel presently working in the Motor Pool at Guam. Authority is granted to transfer all enl personnel of the 5th Brg and other activities on Guam who are actually working in the motor pool on date this ltr is recd into the 134th CB. (Comservpac conf ltr ser 02351 dtd 7 May'45 to IsCom Guam)
- 25-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 5th Brg. - located at Guam. 1690 men ret'd to Parks for rehab. The first draft of 1450 men left 15 April and the 2nd draft of 240 men left 16 April. Approx 830 replacements were recd during month.
- 2-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 5th Brg - located at Guam.

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- 8-45 - According to Dirpaddock's San Fran 15 Feb'45 report no CBMU's or Detachments are listed under the 5th Brg.
- 3-10-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 5th Brg. - As of 31 Jan, Brg. consisted of the following:
- | <u>26th Reg.</u> | <u>27th Reg.</u> | <u>28th Reg.</u> | <u>40th Reg.</u> | <u>ABCD</u> | <u>Not att. to Reg.</u> |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 4th CB | 25th CB | 2nd (Sp) | 23rd CB | Det. 1059 | CBMU 515 |
| 59th CB | 48th CB | 13th (Sp) | 41st CB | ACEPD | Det. 1046 |
| 56th CB | 53rd CB | 16th (Sp) | 49th CB | PAD #5 | Det. 1064 |
| 76th CB | 72nd CB | 29th (Sp) | 94th CB | | Det. 1070 |
| 109th CB | 136th CB | | 103rd CB | | Det. 1072 |
| | | | | | Det. 1053 |

Adv. Echelon of the 36th Reg. (70th and 128th CBs) attached to Brg. for adm. control only.

The following units reported to the 5th Brg. in Jan:

Adv. Detachments of the 70th CB (approx 250 men)

Adv. Detachments of the 128th CB (approx 290 men)

(These adv. detachments have been placed under the 5th Brg. for adm. control only - for operational control they report to Adm. Com Amph. Force USPacFlt)

Det. 1053 and 1055 (combined into Det. 1053)

PAD #5 (approx 412 men)

Brg. rec'd a draft of 30 seamen in Jan.

- 4-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 5th Brg. - located at Guam. 26th, 27th, 28th, and 40th Regiments attached. 4 off. and 175 men reported aboard to form the advance det. of ABCD. The 144th CB will be the operational force for ABCD--batt is expected in March and a tentative date of activation has been set for 1 Apr'45 for both ABCD and ACEPD.
- 10-45 - The 5th Brg. is located at Adelup Point. (5th Brg. War Diary for 1 Feb to 28 Feb'45).

- 5-22-44 - Capt. Hiltabidle assigned from Cincpac (Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 27 Apr'44).
 5-22-44 - Comdr. Clark assigned from 1st Mar. Amph. Corps (16th REG.7) (Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 25 Apr'44).
 5-22-44 - Lt. Cmdr. Steinbrush assigned from Peary (Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 26 Apr'44).
 5-22-44 - Lt. Smith assigned from ABD Davisv. (Budocks ltr to Bupers dated 12 May'44).
 5-22-44 - Ensigns. Abplanalp assigned from Peary (Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 27 Apr'44).
 5-22-44 - 5th Brigade consists of 26th, 27th and 28th Regiments. (AES - 5-15-44).
 5-9-44 - Lt. Hamilton, Yackey and Lt. (jg) Meyer assigned from Navy Yard, P.H. (14th ND ltra subj. off. name ~~xxxxxx~~ and file over Serial No. 13387, 13386, 13421 (resp.) to subj. officers dtd 20 May'44).
 6-21-44 - Lt. Margoles assigned from Dirpacdocks to 5th Brig. (Dirpacdocks ltr Ser. 2439 dtd 21 May'44 to subj. officer).
 6-21-44 - Lt. Grower assigned from Dirpacdocks 128 (Dirpacdocks ltr Ser. #2438 JJD:pfo to subj. officer - no date).
 6-21-44 - 15th (Sp) detached from 20th Reg. and ordered to 5th Brig. (2nd Brg. ltr 2NCBr-06-HCB/hc over P16-3 Ser. 6691 to OinC 13th (Sp) dtd 31 May'44).
 7-12-44 - Lt. Smith's orders to 5th Brig. cancelled (Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 17 Jun'44).
 7-28-44 - Lt. (jg) Chandler assigned from 29th (Sp) FFA (Budocks ltr to Bupers dtd 12 Jul'44).
 7-29-44 - 56th CB ordered to report to 5th Brig for duty (OinC 5th Brig ltr 5NCBr/RJD:aja, Ser 161 dtd 22 Jun'44 to OinC 56th CB).
 8-1-44 - Lt. Fox assigned from 39th CB to 5th Brig. according to 2nd Brg. report for 1 Jul'44.
 8-15-44 - Officers and men of 4th CB ordered detached from 7th Reg. and ordered to report to 5th Brig. for duty (OinC 2nd Brig ltr 2NCBr-06-HCB/lk over P16-3 of no date to Comdr. Rowe).
 9-5-44 - 2R9 Ser. 8240 conf. ltr dtd 11 Aug'44 2nd Brg. to 39th CB orders the 39th CB detached from 3rd Reg. and assigned to 5th Brigade.

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- 3-29-44 - 16th Special ordered detached from 20th Reg. and 2nd Brig. and ordered to report for duty to 5th Brig. (OinC 2nd Brig ltr 2NCBr-06-HCB/kb over P16-3 8139 dtd 7 Aug'44 to OinC 16th Sp.).
 10-17-44 - The 48th CB reported to the 5th Brig. 16 Aug'44. (2nd end. by 5th Brig. on 1 Jul report of 48th CB)
 10-18-44 - 94th CB detached from the 8th Reg. and ordered to report to the 5th Brig. for duty. (2nd Brg. Conf. ltr 2NCBr-06-HCB/fnf over P16-4/00/MM to OinC of 94th CB dtd 18 Sep'44).
 10-18-44 - The 5th Brig. is in the area of Siapan and Guam with the 3rd Amph. Corps Task Group 56.2 (Sec. memo from F-48 (U.S. Fleet, Navy Dept., Wash. DC) to Sec. Mail Room dtd 15 Sep'44).
 10-25-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 5th Brig. - Consists of the 26th, 27th, and 28th Regiments; 2nd, 13th, 16th Specials, 4th, 25th, 48th, 53rd, 56th, 59th, 72nd, 76th CB's, Det. 1010, and CBMU 515. Forward echelon of Brigade Staff disembarked on 23 Jul'44 (D plus 3).
 10-27-44 - 5th Brig. is composed of the following Regiments and Batts:
 26th Reg.:
 4th, 56th, 59th, and 76th CB's
 27th Reg.:
 25th, 48th, 53rd, 72nd CB's and (2nd Separate Marine Engr. Battalion)
 28th Reg.:
 2nd (Sp), 13th (Sp), 16th (Sp) CB's
 Miscellaneous Units:
 CBMU 515 and Det. 1010
 1st Provisional Engr. Group (5th Brig. Sec. War Diary 5NCBr/A3 over WAL:bmw)

Location -	Guam	5th Brigade
7-9-45 -	103rd CB nominated to be released from the 5th Brg to IsCom Guam. This batt is in addition to CBMU 532 and 4 more CBMUs to be assigned to IsCom Guam. At present, cannot assign distribution of CBMUs as 26th Reg is not available for transfer from the 5th Brg to IsCom Guam. Survey being conducted for constr regiment in the Mariannas for assignment to IsCom Guam in place of the 26th Reg. (Com-Mariannas conf spdltr ser 02276 dtd 22 June to Comservpac)	
7-14-45 -	Direct transfer of 103rd CB. 103rd CB to be detached from 5th Brg. Proceed and report to IsCom Guam for duty on PW maint force. (Comservpac conf disp 03656 July to ComMariannas)	
7-19-45 -	Request you direct 5th Brg to inactivate 49th CB. Transfer all off. temp duty 5th Brg pending furas by Comservpac. Transfer enl men to 134th CB. Transfer sufficient personnel from 5th Brg to 134th CB to give that unit 2720 men on board. Revised complement of 51 off. and 2720 men for 134th CB being issued by Comservpac. (Comservpac conf disp 142127 July to ComMariannas)	
7-3-45 -	1 Jul'45 report of the 5th Brig - located at Guam.	
7-24-45 -	1 Aug'45 report of the 5th Brig - located at Guam.	
7-18-45 -	Administrative control of all CB units in areas under control of ComMariannas hereby vested in 5th Brig. Operational control of CB units will be vested in the Naval Command to which assigned. (Comservpac conf disp 150131 Sept'45 to ComMariannas Area).	
7-18-45 -	Iscom, Guam directed to detach 5th Brig & order this unit report ComMariannas for duty. (ComMariannas Area conf disp 160031 Sept'45 to Iscom, Guam).	
11-8-45 -	50th CB is detached from the adm. & operational control of the 6th Brig. & will report by ltr to OinC, 5th Brig. for adm. control. 50th CB will report to IsCom, Tinian. (ComMariannas ltr ser 12288 dtd 25 Oct'45 to OinC, 50th CB).	

Location -	Guam	5th Brigade
12-5-45 -	1 Nov'45 report of 5th Brig. - location not stated.	
1-10-46 -	1 Dec'45 report of 5th Brig. - located at Guam.	
1-28-46 -	1 Jan'46 report of 5th Brig. - located at Guam.	
2-20-46 -	1 Feb 46 report of 5th Brig. - located at Guam.	
3-13-46 -	1 Mar 46 report of 5th Brig. - located at Guam.	
10-27-47 -	<u>INACTIVATION</u> on or about 31 Oct.47. All Pers transferred to 103rd Naval Construction Bn. Transfer all records, files, corresp. to 30th Naval Construction Regiment, also all equip. tools, supplies to 30th Naval ConstBn. (Rest. ltr dtd 27 Oct 47 fm ComMariannas to OinC 5th NavConBrigade. Filed in 30th NavConRegiment)/	

- 0-27-44 - (Cont.) over Ser 515 to Island Comdr dtd 2 Oct'44 report for 16 Sep to 30 Sep'44)
- 1-28-44 - The OinC of the 23rd CB is to report to the 5th Brg. until the 23rd CB reports (rest of batt) for duty. (HANCB's HAB-06-HCB/fnf over P16-4/00 over Ser. 6302 conf. ltr dtd 5 Oct'44 to the OinC of the 23rd CB).
- 1- 1-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 5th Brig. - Located at Guam. Is composed of the 26th, 27th, and 28th Regiments made up of the 4th, 25th, 48th, 53rd, 56th, 59th, 72nd, 76th, 2nd (Sp), 13th(Sp), 16th(Sp), CEMU 515, Dets. 1010 and 1046. The 40th Regiment had not been established yet on the island as of 1 Oct'44.
- 11-8-44 - 136th CB detached from the 7th Reg. and 8th Brig. and ordered to report to the 5th Brig. for duty. (HANCB conf. ltr HAB-06-HCB/fnf over P16-3(18)/OO/MM over Ser 6396 to OinC of 136th CB dtd 11 Oct'44)
- 11-11-44 --The 5th Brigade is located at Guam(Is. Com Sec. airmailgram to CNO 011201 NCR 14731 dtd 6 Nov'44).
- 12-2-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 5th Brigade - Composed of the 26th, 27th, and 28th Regiments.
- 1-3-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of 5th Brigade - located at Guam. As of 30 Nov'44, consisted of the 26th, 27th, 28th, and 40th Regiments, also CEMU 515, Dets. 1010, 1046, 1059, 1070 and 10 72.
- 1-4-45 - 103rd CB ordered detached from the 3rd Reg. to proceed and report to the OinC 5th Brg. for duty. (HANCB conf. ltr HAB-06-HCB/mv over P16-4/00/MM over Ser. 7782 to OinC 103rd CB dtd 7 Dec'44).
- 1-4-45 - 109th CB ordered detached from the 33rd Reg. to proceed and report to the OinC of the 5th Brg. for duty. (HANCB conf. ltr HAB-06-HCB/mv over P16-4/00/MM over Ser. 7783 dtd 7 Dec'44).
- 1-29-45 - The 5th Brigade is located at Adelup Point, Guam. (5th Brg. War Diary 1 Dec'44 thru 31 Dec'44).

5th Brigade

- 2- 8-45 - The 5th Brigade officers and men directed to report to the CG 10th Army for duty on the staff of ComConstTroops and Senior Brg. Commander. The 4th Brg. will move staff equipment when they move at a later date. (Comseronsopac Sec. ltr 6085 to OinC 5th Reg. dtd 22 Jan'45)
- 2- 9-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 5th Brg. - As of 31 Dec'44, the Brg. included 4 Regiments, composition as listed below:

<u>26th Reg.</u>	<u>27th Reg.</u>	<u>28th Reg.</u>	<u>40th Reg.</u>	<u>Not attached to Reg.</u>
4th CB	25th CB	2nd (Sp)	23rd C.B.	CEMU 515
56th CB	48th CB	13th (Sp)	41st C.B.	Det. 1046
59th CB	53rd CB	16th (Sp)	49th CB	Det. 1059
76th CB	72nd CB	29th (Sp)	94th CB	Det. 1070
109th CB	136th CB		103rd CB	Det. 1072
				Det. 1064
				10th CB Adv. Det.

Det. 1064 arrived 13 Dec'44; 10th CB Adv. Det. arrived 26 Nov'44. The Brg. was informed that the ABCD scheduled for Guam and the ACEPD are to be activated as units of the 5th Brg. Each of these activities have a few men and officers aboard but neither will be prepared nor manned to operate as designed for sometime yet. ACEPD is operating in a minor capacity at present as a Sub Spare Parts Depot

- 2-14-45 - Casual Draft 2493 2nd Ech. with 1 officer and 59 men departed Parks 6 Feb'45 for the 5th Brg. (Parks Sec. disp to Bupers 072030 Feb'45).
- 2-15-45 - Comserforpacflt conf. 5th End. (on OinC 38th Reg. ltr dtd 30 Nov'44) Ser. 0397 dtd 26 Jan'45 - requests that all enlisted personnel of the 33rd CB with less than 20 months continuous overseas duty be transferred to the 5th Brg. for reassignment.

Chronology of the
Fifth United States Naval Construction Brigade

- 7 May 44 The Chief of Naval Operations approved establishment of the 5th United States Naval Construction Brigade.
- 27 May 44 Captain William O. Hiltabidle, CEC, USN, appointed as officer in charge, departed with his brigade staff from Pearl Harbor and reported to Guadalcanal. There they were attached to the 3rd Amphibious Corps for the assault on Guam, Marianas Islands, to assist in beach unloading, water supply, sanitation, waterfront construction, transportation, road and bridge work, reconnaissance and any other engineering services they could render.
- 30 May 44 The Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, directed that the brigade be activated at Pearl Harbor and that it would consist of the 26th U. S. Naval Construction Regiment (4th, 56th, 59th and 76th battalions); the 27th Regiment (25th, 39th, 48th, 53rd and 72nd battalions); and the 28th Regiment (Special) with the 2nd, 13th and 16th Special battalions.
- 1 Jun 44 The 5th Brigade was activated at Pearl Harbor as a next subordinate unit of First Provisional Base Headquarters for purposes of administration. The base headquarters was commanded by Major General Henry L. Larsen, USMC, who was to take over as Commander, Island Command, Guam, after it had been recaptured from the Japanese. None of the designated battalions were to report to their regiments until they were released by the assault units to which they were assigned during the initial landing and assault period, and until so ordered by the Commanding General, Third Amphibious Corps, when they would report to the Officer in Charge, 5th U. S. Naval Construction Brigade.
- 4 Jun 44 The Southern Attack Force (TF 53), to which the 5th Brigade Staff was assigned during the assault, departed Guadalcanal.
- 8 Jun 44 Task Force 53 arrived at Kwajalein for refuelling.
- 12 Jun 44 The Southern attack force departed Kwajalein with expectations that the invasion of Guam would commence June 18, but unexpected Japanese strength on Saipan delayed securing of that island and consequently the invasion of Guam was postponed.
- 15-25 Jun Task Force 53 cruised in open waters east of Saipan.
- 25 Jun 44 Transports of TF 53 with the 3rd Marine Division elements of the 3rd Amphibious Corps were sent to Eniwetok.

- 30 Jun 44 Transports with the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade of the 3rd Amphibious Corps were ordered back to Eniwetok.
- 15 Jul 44 Task Force 53 transports departed Eniwetok.
- 21 Jul 44 Marine assault forces landed at Guam, The 3rd Marine Division landed on beaches near Asan, some two miles north of Apra Harbor, accompanied by six officers and 201 enlisted men of B Company, 2nd U.S.S. Naval Construction Battalion (Special) who worked the supply dumps by day and manned ridge defenses at night. Elements of NCB 25 landed with the 3rd Combat Team to act as the shore party in charge of Red Beaches 1 and 2. These Seabees worked under fire the first three days and manned beach defenses until the area was secured.

One officer and 18 men of the 53rd NCB preceded the 22nd Marine Regiment of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade when they invaded at the Southern landing beaches about two miles south of Agat. The Seabees anchored invasion craft at the reefs edge, then, marking a lane through waist-deep water across several hundred yards of reef to the beach, they led the incoming tanks ashore during more than nine hours under enemy fire. In this time 50 LCMs and 5 LCTs were unloaded.

Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 515 suffered numerous casualties as they participated in the combat for two to three hours. Then they commenced their job of handling all equipment for the Marines and unloading supplies for the inland assault. Cargo handling over the reef was performed under constant sniper fire. After the beachhead was established, CBMU 515 put up two hospitals and each night during the first week performed guard duties.

5th Brigade Chronology---sheet 3-3-3-3

- 22 Jul 44 The forward echelon composed of 18 officers and 520 men of the 53rd battalion landed to assist in landing operations, haul supplies, build combat roads, repair bridges, establish water points and set up command posts for the combat troops. This battalion cleared the beach areas of some 23 tons of explosives.
- 23 Jul 44 The Fifth Brigade staff came ashore at Agat. Operational control of all construction forces remained under Major General Roy S. Geiger, commander of the assault forces on Guam. General Larson, the Island Commander, also came ashore.
- 26 Jul 44 Four road repair units of NCB 25 came ashore to repair the road for the advance of Marine combat equipment from Piti to Agana along the Northern assault beaches. The remainder of the 25th served as ships' platoons and as stevedores to unload cargo from ships in stream for the assault troops.
- 27 Jul 44 The second echelon of NCB 53 came ashore.
- 28 Jul 44 Men and equipment of the 2nd NCB Special were transferred from the North invasion beach at Asan to the southern beaches at Agat where the major part of unloading operations were underway. They were joined here by the 13th NCB Special to assist in the stevedoring.
- 29 Jul 44 The Japanese-built airstrip on Orote Peninsula was captured and the entire peninsula was in American hands.
- 30 Jul 44 The 2nd Marine Engineer Battalion put Orote Airstrip into service. On the same date, the first vessels entered Apra harbor and Seabee stevedoring service began there with unloading in stream, ~~and~~ using small landing craft and self-propelled barges as lighters.
- 1 Aug 44 Seabees and Marine Corps engineers reopened ^{the} improved the Agana-Pago Bay road across the island preparatory to final drive against Japanese forces that had withdrawn to the north part of Guam.
- 3 Aug 44 The main body of the 59th Battalion came ashore.
- 5-22 Aug Seabees constructed the first of six pontoon piers on Cabrañan Island. This was followed by five others at the rate of one pontoon pier each twelve days into October.
- 7 Aug 44 The 72nd Battalion advance echelon came ashore.
- 10 Aug 44 The battle at Guam was declared to be ended. However, some 9,000 Japanese troops remained at large and continued disorganized action. Of these, some 8,500 were killed or captured by 1946. The remaining men of the 13th NCB (Special) came ashore, as well as small groups from NCBs 72 and 56.

5th Brigade Chronology---sheet 4-4-4-4

- 11 Aug 44 Elements of NCB 48 came ashore.
- 14 Aug 44 Elements of NCBs 48 and 76 came ashore.
- 15 Aug 44 General Geiger, commanding the invasion forces, turned control of Guam to General Larsen, Island Command. The 5th Brigade in turn assumed control of unified Army, Navy and Marine Corps construction forces to commence construction of Advance Base facilities for all services. Captain Hiltabidle was ultimately to command some 37,000 construction troops in constructing Advance Base, Guam. Seabees were credited with actual construction of some 75% of the projects. Landing on this date were elements of the 48th, 56th, 72nd and 76th Naval Construction Battalions, who commenced their part of the build-up of Guam as an air base to support offensive operations, the headquarters for Commander in Chief, Pacific, and a huge storehouse of supply.
- 16 Aug 44 The 48th NCB reported to the 5th Brigade for duty, as its main body came ashore. A small group of NCB 56 also landed.
- 17 Aug 44 A small party of NCB 76 landed.
- 18 Aug 44 The main body of NCB 56 landed to complete the assembly of that battalion on Guam. Control of NCBs 25 and 53, CBMU 515 and the 2nd Separate Marine Engineer Battalion was passed by Headquarters, V Amphibious Base to the Island Commander, Guam. Administrative and operational control were assigned to the 5th Brigade. The Marine Battalion was ordered to duty under the 26th NCR element.
- 20 Aug 44 Fifth Naval Construction Brigade headquarters was moved from the temporary site at Agat to Adelup Point, just south of Agana.
- 21 Aug 44 A small group of NCB 53 landed.
- 23 Aug 44 NCB 59 completed construction of the first AK berth on Cabras Island.
- 25 Aug 44 The 2nd Separate Marine Engineer Battalion was detached from NCR 26 and attached to NCR 27 for operational control.
- 27 Aug 44 The main body of the 76th Battalion came ashore to complete the arrival of that organization at Guam. Island Command assigned operational control of the 2nd Separate Marine Engineer Battalion to the 5th Brigade, but retained administrative control.
- 28 Aug 44 The 72nd NCB completed work on the Sumay-Dadi Beach Road and transferred to a new camp site northeast of Agana.
- 29 Aug 44 NCB 72 completed rehabilitation and expansion of the former Japanese airfield east of Agana.

**FIFTH NAVAL
CONSTRUCTION
BRIGADE**





0-2-3-118



2-2-6-11



2-2-6-12



