

5th Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



1-18-43 - Monthly Letter:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>Men</u>
Pearl Harbor	8	130
Midway	8	571
Plutocrat	4	144
Palmyra	2	112
Johnston	<u>2</u>	<u>113</u>
	24	1070

- 4- 5-43 - All detachments being reassembled at Pearl Harbor.
- 6- 4-43 - 4 May report of 3rd Reg. -
 - 21 Mar'43 - Plutocrat (ME-6) detach. completed project and arrived P.H. this date.
 - 10 Apr'43 - Entire detach. of 6 off. and 557 men arrived P.H. from Midway.
 - 29 Apr'43 - Palmyra det. of 2 off. and 166 men arrived P.H. this date.
 - (3CR A3-1-11 over 217-43)
- 6-22-43 - 1 Jun'43 report - operating at Pearl Harbor.
- 7-22-43 - 1 Jul'43 report - 910 men at Pearl Harbor and 33 at Canton.
- 8-30-43 - 3rd Reg. report as of 15 Aug'43 - 30 officers and 840 men at P.H.; 1 officer and 38 men at Kauai; 33 men at Canton.
- 1- 6-44 - 30 Nov'43 monthly report- 5th CB at Canton and P.H.
- 1-27-44 - Midway det. left P.H. 13 Jul'42 and retd. 10 Apr'43 - 209 men (later increased to 609 men).
 - Palmyra Det. left P.H. 19 Jul'42 and retd. 24 Feb'43 - 180 men.
 - French Frigate Shoals Det. left P.H. 10 Aug'42 and retd. 21 Mar'43. Remainder

<u>1st Embarkation</u>		5th C.B.	<u>2nd Embarkation</u>	
NCTC	Norfolk	v	NCTC	-
ABD	Davisville, 1/2 Batt.		ABD	Hueneme
Ready Date	22 Jun'42		Ready Date	1 Aug'44
Left ABD	11 Jun'42 (1/2 Batt left NCTC 5 Jun for Davisville)		Left ABD	10 Jan'45
Left NCTC	11 Jun'42 (1/2 Batt direct to 14th MD)		Location	Leyte
Destination	Midway			Samar

Log

Arrived Pearl Harbor 21 Jun'43.

- 6-10-42 - "A", "B", and 1/2 HQ ordered from ABD Davisville to Midway via Com. 14. "C", "D", and 1/2 HQ ordered from NCTC Norfolk, to Midway via Com 14.
- 8-12-42 - Detachments sent to Palmyra Island, Midway, and Johnston Island.
- 9- 8-42 - Detachments sent to Johnston Island, Midway, and ME-6.
- 9-15-42 - Roster and Location as of this date:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pearl Harbor	8	61	69
Midway	10	551	561
Palmyra	2	108	110
Johnston	2	115	117
Plutocrat	<u>3</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>158</u>
TOTAL -	25	990	1015
- 9-29-42 - 80 men ordered from NCTC Norfolk to Midway via Hueneme and Com 14.
- 10-19-42 - 80 Replacements left Hueneme.
- 1-18-43 - Lt. Comdr. Potter recommends Midway Detach. be ret'd. to P.H. for rest and leave.

Location - P.H. Samar

5th C.B.

of the Batt. consisted of the Oahu detachment. (Capt. Porter's ltr to Adm. Moreell dtd 4 Jan'44)

- 1-27-44 - 5th CB left P.H. 19 Mar'44 for U.S. (3rd Reg. Mar'44 report)
- 2-10-44 - 5th CB has 34 men at Canton, 8 with 14th Sp., and 921 men at P.H. (31 Dec'43 rep.) According to 3rd Reg. Dec'43 report the entire batt is at Oahu, T.H.
- 3- 7-44 - 1 Feb'44 report - 34 men at Canton, 8 with 14th Sp., and 945 at P.H.
- 3-29-44 - 5th CB arrived Camp Parks 24 Mar'44 from overseas with 36 off. and 800 men (WRK)
-
- 10-28-44 -- 5th CB assigned to AVID(cancelling assignment to Cub 16).(CNO Sec. disp to Com7flt 211501 NCR 1046 dtd 21 Oct'44).
- 1-16-45 - Budocks requests transfer of the 5th CB from Parks to Hueneme on 12 Jun'44. (Budocks ltr to CNO dtd 5 Jun'44)
- 1-16-45 - The 5th CB departed Hueneme 10 Jan'45 for Leyte. (Hueneme Conf Disp to CNO 122027 dtd 13 Jan'44)
- 2-15-45 -- The 5th CB is located at OSSOULOD.(Leyte) (Comser7flt Sec. disp to CNO 020659 dtd 9 Feb'45).
- 4- 7-45 - 2 off. and 48 men to be detached upon reporting of transp. to proceed and report to CO NABU 10 for TAD; upon compl. to return to the 5th CB for reg. duties. (Comserv7flt sec disp to CNOB Leyte 231339 dtd 24 Mar'45)
- 4-21-45 - The 5th CB arrived Calicoan approx 24 Feb'45. (Comserv7flt Sec Report for Feb)
- 4-30-45 - The 5th CB located at Calicoan, Samar. 2 off. and 48 men with V-2. (Comserv7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45)
- 5- 8-45 - The 5th CB located at Samar. 50 men on temp duty with NABU 10. (Dirpadocks SF Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)

Location - Leyte-Samar

5th C.B.

- 5-15-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 5th CB - located in Leyte-Samar area. Detachment of 3 off. and 75 men was sent out on 12 Apr'45 on the V-5 operation. The estimated time for this job is 30 to 60 days and upon completion of their project, detachment will return to batt. Report routed via 12th Reg. and 3rd Brg.
- 5-29-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 5th CB - located in Leyte-Samar area. 3rd Brigs end. to this report states that the 5th CB is under their administrative control. The 5th CB embarked at Port Hueneme on 10 Jan'45 & arrived at Calicoan Island on 27 Feb'45. On 1 Apr'45 a det. of 2 officers & 48 men embarked for T.D. on Proj. #V-2 at NABU #10. Report end. by 33rd Reg, 7th Brig & 3rd Brig. Sec.2.
- 6-12-45 - 2 off. and 48 men of the 5th CB are at Cebu. (Comserv7flt sec CB Location Shced dtd 25 May'45)
- 6-13-45 - Dirpadocks SF sec rep of 15 May'45 shows the 5th CB at Samar with 200 men ordered NABU 12.
- 6-13-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 5th CB - located at Leyte-Samar. The detach of 48 men and 2 off. who went forwd on the V-2 movement reported back for duty with the batt at this location 26 May'45. Report routed via 33rd Reg and 2nd Brg.
- 7-10-45 - 5th CB has a detachment of 3 off. and 75 men at Parang. (Comserv7flt sec loc schedule dtd 25 Jun'45)
- 7-16-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 5th CB - located at Leyte-Samar. Personnel camp at Calicoan. Detachment of 5 off. and 200 men were detached 5 June for temp duty with NABU #12 on the OBOE 2 movement. Report via 33rd Reg and 2nd Brg.
- 7-27-45 - The 5th CB is attached to the 33rd Reg and 2nd Brg. Located at Calicoan, constr ABCD, ACEPD, Equipment Overhaul Plant, NSD and constr roads and water supply in connection with these. (CCT 7th Flt Sec Rep of June)
- 8-13-45 - The 5th CB is assigned to the Olympic Operation. (Com7flt conf report on CB organization in Leyte-Samar area ser 04296 dtd 26 July to CNO)

Location - Leyte-Samar

5th C.B.

- 8-21-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 5th CB - located in Samar area. Report via 33rd Reg & 2nd Brig.
- 8-24-45 - Following units available for ur 182303 of Aug of higher classification:- 33rd Reg, CBs 5, 29, 30 & 64. Subj units now Samar. Req you confirm. OinC, 2nd Brig is directed to detach subj units & direct to report for operational control by disp to Comgenfmpac upon his confirmation. Cincpac, Guam 200956 Aug not to all or needed refers. (Comservpac Sec disp 222145 to Comgenfmpac).
- 8-30-45 - Req you direct following units report by disp for operational control to CG, 3rd AC:- 33rd Reg, 5th & 29th CBs. (Comservpac sec disp 280455 Aug'45 to 2nd & 7th Brigs).
- 9-17-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 5th CB. Located at Leyte-Samar. Report via 33rd Reg & 2nd Brig. 50 men reported aboard on the 29th of Aug. The Victor 5 detach. of 3 off. & 71 men reported back from detachment duty with NABU 12 on 27 Aug'45.
- 10-17-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 5th CB - located not stated. Report via 33rd Reg. & 2nd Brig. The Oboe 2 detach. with 5 off. & 198 men reported back from detached duty with Nabu 12. Secured from all work on 6 Sept'45 for a fwd. move. All work turned over to 142nd OB.
- 11-15-45 - OinCC, Samar reqs OCT, Philseafon authority to inactivate the 5th CB. (OinCC, Samar ltr ser P68-45 dtd 23 Oct'45 to OCT, Philseafon).
- 11-21-45 - Comservpac directs Comphilseafon to inactivate 5th CB. (Comservpac 192201 Nov'45 TWX to Comphilseafon).
- 11-29-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 5th CB - location not stated. Report via 32nd Reg. & 2nd Brig. 5th was scheduled to move to China on 15 Oct'45, but the move was cancelled.

Location - Leyte-Samar

5th CB

- 12- 3-45 - 5th CB was inactivated(date not given). (Comservpac restr ltr ser -61 undtd to BuPers).
- 1-11-46 - 5th CB was inactivated on 3 Dec'45. (7th Brig. ltr ser 2889 dtd 3 Dec'45 to OinC, 5th CB).

INACTIVATED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
5/30/44	-	Camp Banks (3-44)	-	-
6/8/44	-	Hueneme	CNO conf disp, 6/14/51 June about 12 June.	Transfer to Hueneme
6/26/44	Ceb 16	"	See Docha memo June 20th.	Ready to depart 1 August.
7/18	"	"	" 4 Sept and 12 Sept.	" at Hueneme
10/23	-	Hueneme (avid)	CNO sec disp 2/15/50 Oct. CG Ensign Hallam 1164772	reply 180901. now ready at Hueneme avid 2010.
4/15	-	Avid	Hueneme Conf disp departed Hueneme 1/22/52 Jan.	1/20 for avid.

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
9/12	-	OSSO-ULOD	Comdesop ch) let Sec. 020659 Feb.	added.
3/29	-	Leyte Gulf Nav Sta Samar	Comdesop ch) let Sec 260558 Mar	present location and assignment
9/17	-	-	Comdesopoc Com) 310037 Aug.	request he ready lifting 20 Sept.

ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
29 Feb'44	35		MoR
30 Jun'44		1059	Recap.
30 Sep'44 <i>1 APR'45</i>	32	1033 <i>1076</i>	Recap. MoR
1 May'45	31	1071	MoR
1 Jun'45	32	1070	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	32	1034	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	30	1029	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	21	1061	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'45	21	777	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	21	364	BNP625 & R

5th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

FIFTH BATTALION

Formed at Camp Allen, Va., in May 1942, the Fifth arrived at Pearl Harbor the next month. From July of that year to April 1943, the Battalion sent detachments to Midway, Palmyra, in the Christmas Islands, Johnston Island and French Frigate Shoals. In June 1943, detachments were also shipped out to Canton and Kauai, T.H. Operation in all these bases was continued until March 1944, when the full complement went back to the States for leave. The second tour of duty for the Fifth began in January 1945 when the entire Battalion left for Samar. One detachment participated in the Balikpapan invasion. The Fifth was operating in the Philippines at war's end but were awaiting orders to move on to China.

HISTORY OF BATTALION (5th ncb)

Three and One Half Years

Like most outfits in the Navy, we were born in boot camp. After that, it was just a maze of interesting events and things we won't forget in a hurry . . . days at Camp Allen. . . hi ya Mac . . . where ya from? . . . you'll be sor-ree! . . . cleaning one barracks . . . moving to another . . . ditto . . . drill, exercises, lectures, picking up butts . . . shots . . . more shots . . . more butts . . . "do I have to stand in that damned line just for food?" . . . " it ain't food, Mac, it's chow!" . . . more drill more exercise . . . getting acquainted . . . dreaming of that first "night-liberty" . . . that first "night-liberty" . . . Norfolk . . . a million sailors on liberty at once . . . try and get a beer . . . reveille next morning . . . ya gotta get up, ya gotta get up . . . Carl Amend: "Meet my wife Zelma" . . . these are your officers . . . some were to stay for four years . . . packing up to leave . . . Camp Bradford . . . digging up roots. . . building sidewalks . . . Shato's bread . . . "embarkation leave" ("are you kiddin, jockey?") . . . policing camp . . . perimeter guard . . . liberty (well, you did get to Virginia Beach once, didn't ya!) . . . shots . . . packing up to move . . . Co. A and Co. B. to Cape Charles Ferry enroute to Quonset Point . . . Carl Amend: "Has anyone seen Zelma?" . . . the stables . . . chicken coops for CPO's . . . advance training . . . policing up . . . liberty (a guy can dream, can't he!) . . . he did . . . orders changed . . . A and B pack up to move . . . "Has anyone seen Zelma" . . . H and C and D pack up to move . . . four trains move to the West Coast . . . a thousand Bees in dress blues freeze in Frisco in June . . . first struggle with a seabag on a gangplank . . . salute the quarterdeck . . . the crowded transport . . . days of sailing . . . water everywhere . . . gun watches . . . no room for exercise . . . the best

chow we've ever had . . . more water . . . more watches. . . Honolulu. . .
dress whites . . . dirty seabags. . . dirty whites. . . advance training . . .
Puuloa rifle-range . . . condition one . . . the broken gas mask lenses
. . . thanks to '03's, black eyes, swollen cheeks, cut lips, bloody noses,
sore arms, black and blue shoulders, . . . Liberty . . . Honolulu . . .
River Street . . . Waikiki . . . Co. C and Co. D living in the Naval Housing
Area . . . Co. A and Co B. in the Pearl Harbor barracks . . . Co. A leaving
for Midway on a seagoing rowboat . . . days and miles of sailing . . . gun
watches . . . sub alert . . . Chief Olsen standing by on the double. . .
sub sunk. . . all clear. . . a sand spit in the ocean. . . Midway. . . the
Japs did a good job . . . but we did a better one. . . no training here, but
the real thing. . . work, work, work,. . . work against time. . . speed. . .
more speed. . . wrecked installations torn down. . . new structures. . . the
first night alert. . . "ya damned fool, turn off that light". . . "gimme my
pants". . . "them's my shoes . . . "where the hell's my rifle?". . . foxholes
. . . strained eyes. . . watching,waiting. . . scared, sure. . . scared to death,
but ready. . . Cudd called Bass. . . Chillie misunderstood, put on his gas mask,
and hollared "where?". . . more alerts. . . battle stations and foxholes again
. . . the thrill of seeing bombers take off from the runways we had built. . .
why, this was the beginning of the road to Tokyo!. . . Charikofsky bashing his
brains with a helmet minus liner and leading big Andy down the runway during
an alert. . .

. . .Co. C leaving Pearl to join the men of Co A at Midway . . . gunwatches
and sub alerts . . . everywhere, the Pacific. . . Pappy Ewing on watch and a
shout for help in the night. . . man overboard. . . "to hell with regulations,
stop the convoy!" . . . one lucky sailor, wet and exhausted, but safe, dragged
aboard . . . debarkation at Midway . . . greeting old friends in Co. A . . . then
the ceaseless days of work, fast work, hard work . . . Gooney Birds, millions of

them . . . their stupid antics. . . hell, they're the Jimmy Durante's of bird-dom
. . . CB nests for them . . . Sunday parades . . . reviews for those getting
medals . . . the beer hall . . . arrival of the 10th battalion . . . competition
therewith in work and sports . . . Tokyo Rose (Pop Ewing's only rival) . . .
"free loaders" in the chow line, ours the best on the island . . . the arrival
of the 50th battalion . . . Co. A and Co. C boarding the Henderson . . . return
to Pearl Harbor.

. . . advance party from Co. D leaving for Palmyra . . . "do we have to
ride on that scow?" . . . collision with a barge . . . rigging lost . . . all
hands seasick . . . engines stopped . . . ship bobbing like a cork . . . finally
underway . . . drill instructions and GQ . . . engines stopped again . . . no
escort . . . what a target for a sub . . . underway again and feeling better
. . . the Bees help man the ship . . . warmer every day . . . for a beer,
they'd trade the ship . . . days and miles of water . . . Palmyra . . . all hands
ashore, dress whites and battle gear . . . good lord, are we fightin' a war or
passing in review? . . . Palmyra Marines and Navy "Natives" amazed . . . what
the hell are Sea Bees, men from Mars? . . . the siren screams three times. . .
unidentified plane? . . . what do we do now? . . . two days to convince every-
one we were human . . . the rest of the detachment arrives . . . work, fast work,
hard work. . . pushed on by the relentless Lt. (then a "jg") (Wild Bill) Bode . . .
like Fred Harvey's slogan "Get them up earlier and slice the meat thinner"
. . . good chow, nevertheless. . . Lt. Bode getting them up earlier and Johnnie
Byrnes slicing it thinner . . . A. D. Baldwin our All-American drinker . . .
too much to drink and confined under guard . . . same difference, though . . .
the guard forgot about the hair tonic . . . Baldwin's famous upside down left
handed salute . . . Jake Johnson and his classic remark at the beer hall "Any
extras today, maties?" . . . alert at night. . . rifles in the dark and two feet in
one shoe. . . Xmas and the dress parade . . . all the beer you wanted. . .

"Cement " Beck . . . he wore three bags of the stuff every day . . . the lumber pile for extra duty men . . . Frank Cartoscelli giving hair cuts to Admiral Nimitz and Frank Knox and driving a truck, all in the same day . . . the poem about Pelican Joe . . . listening to Chief Stiles build everything from Sandy Hook to the Panama Canal . . . little time for sports except for some softball and basketball . . . nine months of hard work . . . the arrival of two companies of the 76th battalion . . . the return to Pearl Harbor.

. . . the advance party of Co. B leaving for French Frigate Shoal . . . big boss Lt. (Bull) Van Schaick . . . two barges of heavy equipment towed along with the convoy . . . French Frigate . . . nothing but a menace to navigation . . . (oh yeah!-just wait a few months!) . . .no vegetation . . . here and there a blade of grass . . . birds, thousands of 'em . . . rotten food and little water . . . Pete Peterson (now CphM) our only doctor. Chief Charlie Roberts getting sunstroke at three o'clock in the morning (it says here!!) . . . came orders to vacate the island . . . taking refuge behind another sand spit with only one BAR, 5 rusty '03's, and 2 50-cal MG'S returning after 40 hrs . . . sighting three ships (including the ancient Moana Loa which was to be our home for the next 7 months) with the rest of Co.B aboard . . .unloading worn out equipment in sand so dry and soft, we could hardly walk . . . no Army here . . . no Marines here . . . work by day and man the guns by night . . . patrol the harbor . . . work, work, work . . . one shift from daylight to 1300, the other from 1300 'till dark. . .work one shift. . . guard duty one shift . . . some men living ashore, others living aboard ship . . . all chow served from the ship, usually cold by the time it arrived on the job . . . driving piling completely around the island to protect the installations and the island . . . actually, a floating airstrip . . . fuel tanks and other structures . . . waiting for supply ships and mail deliveries . . . planes dropping mail, sometimes on the island, sometimes in the water . . . no movies for four months . . . the storm on Thanksgiving Day 1942. . . some damage, but not much. . . the

Moana Loa breaking anchor and going on the reef . . . springing a leak but soon fixed by the Bees. . . the supply ship going aground and taking three days to be re-floated . . . a Marine transport the first plane to land on our runway . . . after that, mail once a week . . . a sand bar had become a runway, and the runway, an island . . . job done . . . the return to Pearl Harbor.

. . . second half of Co. D packing up to leave . . . nobody reluctant at having to leave Pearl . . . Lt. Uffelman passing out ammunition on the dock . . . Marines on duty at the ship wondering who we were and what we were . . . Navy uniforms, Marine packs, and Army rifles, at least it looked that way . . . aboard the U.S.S. Midway . . . "don't run from one side of the ship to the other!" . . . GQ in the morning . . . GQ at night . . . the Southern Cross at night . . . gun watches . . . "railing watches . . . "no smoking down there, mate!" . . . Frank Kaiser showing electricians how to climb poles . . . the albatross which, much to Captain Knackel's dismay, relieved itself regularly on the bridge . . . this can't be all one ocean. . . there ahead was what appeared to be a small wooden crate bobbing around in the water . . . that, my friend, is Johnston Island . . . now, how in hell could the navigator find a place as small as that?. . . debarkation at Johnston . . . a Marine asking if we had requested that duty . . . first day spent in cleaning rifles and fixing up living quarters. . . then work, work, work,. . . speed and more speed . . . fuel tanks . . . bomb shelters . . . runways. . . bomb shelters . . . more bomb shelters. . . enough we thought to sink the island . . . McGarry always a source of fun and trouble . . . McGarry with a pail of water mistaking the dentist for Smoky . . . the dentist mistaking nobody for McGarry returning the pail . . . and the water . . . GQ . . . "that's my rifle" . . . B. J. Walker and Williamson clashing head on . . . no words . . . just getting up and hurrying to GQ stations Ray Glore's pot shot at

at the guy who was "Just a Sailor's Sweetheart"
. . . Pete Troy, the fastest walker in the island . . . when Boats Johnson was
behind him . . . Cronin betting on everything including the sunshine . . .
work, work, work, . . . move bomb shelters . . . eight months of bomb shelters
and magazines. . . at last the day . . . embarkation . . . Honolulu again.

. . . now the whole Battalion back at Pearl . . . two weeks liberty . . .
Honolulu. . . giving vent to all those pent up feelings . . . beachheads on
River Street . . . Waikiki, with war-time entanglements . . . the Breakers
. . . Hilo . . . Maui . . . the Royal Hawaiian . . . Kaimuki . . . two weeks
pass . . . back to earth . . . drill, drill, drill, . . . Camp Catlin . . .
right flank, left flank, rear march, right turn, left turn, . . . drill, drill,
drill, . . . then back to work on a project second to none . . . JRA . . . the
Battalion working together as a unit for the first time . . . runways for land
planes . . . water ways for seaplanes . . . ramps, piers, shops, . . . hangars,
repair facilities, freight building, operations tower . . . taxi ways, parking
areas, turnarounds, . . . water lines, sewer lines, gas lines, . . . roads,
housing, warehouses, . . . laundry, fire station, Ad building, . . . the draft
of men going to Canton . . . the draft of men going to Kauai . . . OinC, Lt
Monroe . . . wrong boat . . . finally Kauai . . . warehouses, port director,
. . . housing, direction finder . . . the champion softball team . . . the
trips around the island . . . back to Pearl in September '43.

. . . JRA again . . . our second Christmas away from home . . . the
beer busts and USO Shows . . . Sunday rides. . . open air movies with mosquitoes
. . . Amend's famous fishing parties . . . no one ever fished . . . the Fifth
band playing for local dances . . . Lefty's baseball team . . . league leaders
for a while and finally runners up in the tough Hawaiian league . . . liberties
and the Shore Patrol . . . the volunteers for Commander Van Schaicks 14th Special
job at Tarawa . . . Sam Black and the paint locker luaus . . . the Sunday luau
and barbecue at the NYA grounds . . . the Allen Jenkins Show

"Listen Judge" . . . Guadalcanal Sal . . . beer lines, chow lines, Ship's service lines, pay lines, laundry lines, bus lines, liberty lines . . . dreams of home . . . the death of our two mascots, Seabee I and Seabee II . . . the Skipper's most famous line "No work in the pineapple fields tomorrow!" . . . relieved by the 67th . . . aboard the Matsonia . . . the Golden Gate . . . YEOW!!! . . . Camp Parks . . . 30 days leave . . . home . . . back to Parks . . . drill, lectures, drill, schools, rifle range, commando training . . . no kicks with new light carbines . . . liberty . . . Oakland, San Francisco . . . no tailor made blues . . . Hayward, San Jose . . . Embarkation leave . . . 15 days leave . . . the Challenger . . . TWA . . . UAL . . . AAL . . . Back to Parks . . . orders to move . . . overnight to Port Hueneme . . . drill, lectures . . . march to the MT area . . . shots and more shots . . . dance at Bards Barn . . . liberty . . . Oxnard, Santa Barbara, L. A., Hollywood . . . the USO in Ventura . . . Oxnard, "no vacancy". . . . Ventura, "no vacancy". . . . lectures and drills . . . transfers . . . bidding goodbye to old shipmates . . . welcoming aboard the new . . . the Virgil Bass philosophy . . . emergency leaves . . . PNAB . . . Gando . . . Hueneme fog . . . embarkation leave . . . boarding the Cape Neddick . . . a short stop at Pearl . . . not like it used to be . . . endless days of sailing . . . former battle fields . . . Eniwetok . . . "twelve planes just left Truk . . . they'll be here in forty minutes . . . stand by mate" . . . endless miles of water . . . Ulithe . . . sub alert . . . "look at that DE go" . . . "let's get outta here!" . . . Leyte . . . Samar . . . Calicoan . . . the Japs had gone . . . jungles, heat, rain, insects, lizards, rain, snakes, rats, more rain, scorpions, centipedes, . . . alerts, sleepless nights, all secure . . . "try and find a dry place to sleep!" . . . clearing out the heavy growth . . . the camp was completed . . . post office, barber shop, Ship's Service, brand new galley, Seahorse Bowl . . . church on Sunday. . . ABCD . . . NSD . . . Calicoan Highway . . . all big jobs . . . deadlines must be met . . . trading with the natives

. . . tuba . . . lookie no touchie . . . how much Joe . . . op to you . . .
two peso . . . not enough . . . you got laundry . . . one mattress cover . . . the
Co. D detachment leaving for Victor 2 and Cebu . . . the draft of Co. C leaving
for Victor 5, Panay and Ilo Ilo . . . the draft of Co. A leaving for Oboe
2 and Balikpapan . . . "bet they're gonna break us up". . . no they won't, the
boys'll be back . . . plenty of work . . . rationed beer . . . movies every
night . . . USO Shows . . . music . . . 42-old discharge system . . . Shank,
Allen and Robinson born too soon. . . PEACE . . . "so the bastards finally go en-
ough!" . . . is it true? . . . "who cares if the Emperor stays in" . . . "OK,
so he'll do what he's told" . . . IT'S OVER! . . . "I'd like to be in Frisco
tonight" . . . the point system . . . three and one-half years and now we're
going to get that "paper" . . . a lot o'guys
going home . . . they'll miss the bitching, the dreaming, the waiting, the friend-
ships the suspense. . . you guys that are staying, your're on your way to
Tientsin . . . see you there mate.

MOVEMENTS OF NCB-5

Fifth Battalion Commissioned at Camp Bradford, VA 25 May 42

Co's A, B, & Section AB of Hdq. Co. left Camp Bradford, VA 5 Jun 42. Arrived at Davisville, RI 6 Jun 42.

Co's A, B, & Section AB of Hdq. Co. left Davisville 11 Jun 42. Arrived at San Francisco 15 Jun 42.

Co's C, D, & Section CD of Hdq. Co. left Camp Bradford, VA 11 Jun 42. Co. D and Sect. D of Hdq. Co. arrived at San Francisco 15 Jun Co. C and Sect. C of Hdq. Co. arrived at San Francisco 16 Jun 42.

Battalion left San Francisco aboard S.S. Lurline 16 Jun 42. Arrived at Honolulu, Oahu, T.H. 21 Jun 42.

Co. A & Section A of Hdq. Co. left Honolulu aboard U.S.S. Midway and Regulus 11 Jul 42. Arrived at Midway Islands 17 Jul 42.

Detachment left Pearl Harbor aboard S.S. Kilauea 19 Jul 42. Arrived at Palmyra 24 Jul 42.

Detachment left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Midway 30 Jul arrived at Palmyra 5 Aug 42.

Detachment left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Wright 1 Aug 42. Arrived at Midway 5 Aug 42.

Detachment left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Beryl 4 Aug 42. Arrived at Johnston Island 8 Aug 42.

Detachment left Pearl Harbor aboard YHB-10, 10 Aug 42. Arrived at French Frigate Shoals 13 Aug 42.

Co. D left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Midway 22 Aug 42. Arrived at Johnston Island 25 Aug 42.

Co. B left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Wright & Regulus 4 Sep. Arrived at Midway 10 Sep 42.

Co. E left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Burroughs 8 Dec 42. Arrived at Midway Islands 15 Dec 42.

Contingent left Johnston Island aboard U.S.S. Midway 21 Feb 43. Arrived at Pearl Harbor 24 Feb 43.

Johnston Island Contingent left Pearl Harbor, Oahu, aboard U.S.S. Midway 28 Feb 43. Arrived at Palmyra 5 Mar 43.

French Frigate Shoals Contingent embarked on U.S.S. Midway 8 Mar 43. Arrived at Pearl Harbor 21 Mar 43.

MOVEMENTS OF NCB-5 Cont'd

Midway Contingent embarked on U.S.S. Henderson 5 Apr 43. Arrived at Pearl Harbor 10 Apr 43.

Palmyra Contingent embarked on U.S.S. Midway 25 Apr 43. Arrived at Pearl Harbor 30 Apr 43.

Contingent left Pearl Harbor 15 Jun 43. Arrived at Canton Island 21 Jun 43.

Contingent left Pearl Harbor 10 Jul 43. Arrived at Kauai, T.H. 11 Jul 43.

Kauai Contingent embarked 14 Sep. Arrived at Pearl Harbor 15 Sep 43.

Canton Island Contingent was transferred to Regiment 16 Mar 44.

Battalion embarked on S.S. Matsonia at Honolulu, Oahu, T.H. 19 Mar 44. Arrived at San Francisco 24 Mar 44.

Battalion embarked at Port Hueneme on U.S.S. Cape Neddick 10 Jan 45. Arrived at Calicoan, Philippine Islands 25 Feb 45.

Victor 2 Contingent left Calicoan aboard LSTs 1 Apr 45. Arrived at Cebu City, Cebu, 2 Apr 45.

Victor 5 Contingent left Calicoan 12 Apr 45 aboard LSTs. Arrived at Parang, Mindanao 17 Apr 45.

Oboe 2 Contingent embarked from Calicoan aboard LSTs 5 Jun 45. Arrived at Balikpapan, Borneo, 7 Jul 45.

Victor 2 Contingent embarked on LSTs from Cebu 25 May 45. Arrived at Calicoan 26 May 45.

Victor 5 Contingent embarked on LSTs from Parang, Mindanao 26 Jun 45 and arrived at Iloilo, Panay 28 Jun 45.

Victor 5 Contingent left Iloilo, Panay aboard LSTs 26 Aug 45. Arrived at Calicoan 27 Aug 45.

Oboe 2 Contingent left Balikpapan, Borneo aboard LSTs 25 Sep 45. Arrived at Calicoan 28 Sep 45.

Then Came The Point System

MCB 5 WORLD WAR II AWARDS

American Campaign Medal

Served on Pearl Harbor and vicinity from 21 Jun 42 to 19 Mar 44

Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal with 2 Stars

Cebu City, Cebu, P.I. from 2 Apr 45 to 26 May 45

Parang, Mindanao, P.I. from 17 Apr 45 to 28 Jun 45

Victory Medal

ITINERARY OF THE 5th NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (SPECIAL)

- 30 Jan 1943 - Battalion commissioned. At NCTC, Camp Peary, Va.
- 15 Mar 1943 - Batt. departed for AEB, Port Hueneke, Calif. Moved in three echelons (train sections). 24 officers, 1012 Men; 1036 Total batt. complement.
- 21 Mar 1943 - Echelon #1 arr. Port Hueneke. Lt. F.L. Holland (Exec.) in charge. 8 officers, 337 men.
- Echelon #2 arr. Port Hueneke. Lt. E. F. Flossfield in charge. 8 officers 337 men.
- 22 Mar 1943 - Echelon #3 arr. Port Hueneke. Lt. Comdr. C. E. Nash (OinG) in charge. 8 officers, 336 men.
- 7 Apr 1943 - Batt. departed AEB Port Hueneke for NSD Seattle, FFT overseas. Two echelons (train sections). Echelon #1: 12 officers, 480 men. Lt. F.L. Holland in charge. Echelon #2: 11 officers, 470 men. Lt. Comdr. Nash in charge.
- 9 Apr 1943 - Both echelons arrived NSD Seattle, FFT overseas. Batt. divided into two sections on docks by official order and boarded USS Chaumont same day.
- 10 Apr 1943 - Batt. departed aboard USS CHAUMONT for Dutch Harbor.
- 18 Apr 1943 - Arrived Dutch Harbor, T.A. Section #1 disembarked. Lt. F.L. Holland (Exec. Off.) as O-in-C. Sect. #1: 10 officers, 474 men; 488 Total complement.
- 19 Apr 1943 - Section #2 departed for Adak T. A. aboard USS CHAUMONT, Lt. Cdr. Nash as O-In-C. Sect. #2: 13 officers, 475 men; 488 TOTAL complement.
- 21 Apr 1943 - Section #2 arrived Adak, T.A.
- 10 May 1943 - A stevedoring unit detached from Section #2 at Adak and assigned duty at Sand Bay. 1 Officer (Ensign G. Buckwater, in charge), 89 men; 90 TOTAL.
- 20 Jul 1943 - Det. #1 of Sect. #1 departed Dutch Harbor aboard SS MORMAGHAWK to join Sect. #2 at Adak. Arrived 23 July 1943. 90 Men; 92 TOTAL
- 21 Jul 1943 - Det. #2 of Sect. #1 departed Dutch Harbor by plane to join Sect. #2 at Adak. Arrived 21 July 1943. 3 officers (no enlisted men).

ITINERARY OF THE 5TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (SPECIAL) CONT'D.

25 Jul 1943 - Det. #3 (balance of Section #1) departed Dutch Harbor aboard USAT UJISADANE for Adak to join Sect. #2. Arrived 29 July 1943.	5 Officers (Lt. F. L. Holland, in charge) 388 Men 397 TOTAL
5 Aug 1943 - Comdr, Chas. E. Nash, O-in-C, 5th Special NCB, left battalion on additional detached duty. Lt. Cdr. F.L. Holland, Exec. Officer, assigned as acting O-in-C.	Cdr. Nash never returned to the batt. and later in Jan. 1944 was permanently assigned O-in-C on 10 June 1944.
16 Sep 1943 - Sand Bay detachment rejoined battalion at Adak.	██████████
6 Feb 1944 - Echelon #1 (1/2 of batt.) departed Adak aboard SS HENRY FALLING for U.S.	10 Officers (Lt. E. F. Blessfield, in charge) 442 Men 459 TOTAL
22 Feb 1944 - Echelon #1 arrived Camp Parks.	
2 Mar 1944 - Echelon #2 (remainder of batt.) departed Adak aboard SS YUKON for U. S.	11 Officers (Lt. Cdr. F. L. Holland in charge) 450 Men 461 TOTAL
13 Mar 1944 - Echelon #2 arrived Camp Parks. Both echelons rejoined.	

SECOND TOUR OF DUTY:

NOTE: From the time of the 5th Special's return from the Aleutians until it left the States again on its second tour overseas as a half-battalion the on-board complement fluctuated greatly, with in-drafts and out-drafts occurring until the last few days before departure. During this time, the only detachment which still retained its identity with the 5th Special was CD 2514, whose movements are included in the following log.

22 Jun 1944 - Det. #1 of CD 2514 departed Camp Parks for Seattle, FFT GULA expedition.	2 Officers (Lt. (jg) C.O. Turnbull, in charge) 112 Men 114 TOTAL
14 Jul 1944 - Det. #2 of CD 2514, departed Camp Parks for Seattle, FFT GULA expedition. Joined Detachment #1.	3 Officers (Lt. (jg) C.E. Joslin in Charge) 88 Men 91 TOTAL

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ITINERARY OF THE 5TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (SPECIAL) COMBAT

- 20 Jul 1944 - Batt. transferred from Camp Parks to ABRB Port Hueneme by train. Arrived 21 July 1944. 16 Officers (Lt. Cdr. F. L. Holland, OinG) 450 Men 476 TOTAL batt. complement.
- 25 Aug 1944 - Batt. transferred to Emerville, Oakland, Calif., to work ships for NSB Oakland. Arrived 26 August 1944 by train. 19 Officers 501 Men 520 Total batt. complement.
- 10 Sep 1944 - Batt. returned to ABRB Port Hueneme by train. Arrived 11 September 1944.
- 26 Oct 1944 - Batt. departed ABRB Port Hueneme aboard USAT TORRENS for duty overseas. 20 Officers (Lt. Cdr. F.L. Holland, OINCO) 474 Men 494 TOTAL
- 11 Nov 1944 - Arrived Milne Bay, FFT Leyte.
- 17 Nov 1944 - Departed Milne Bay for Hollandia, FFT Leyte.
- 19 Nov 1944 - Arrived Hollandia, FFT Leyte.
- 29 Nov 1944 - Departed Hollandia in convey for Leyte.
- 5 Dec 1944 - Enemy air attack on convey.
- 6 Dec 1944 - Arrived Tacloban, Leyte, FFT Guiuan, Samar.
- 9 Dec 1944 - Departed Tacloban, Leyte.
- 10 Dec 1944 - Arrived Guiuan, Samar, and disembarked. Immediately commenced stevedoring operations.
- 15 Dec 1944 - CD 2514 departed Port Hueneme for San Francisco, FFT 5th Special NCB. This detachment had returned from GULA expedition, granted leave, re-organized. 1 Officer (Lt.(jg) C.O. Turnbull, in charge) 180 Men 181 Total
- 10 Feb 1945 - Batt. transferred from Guiuan to Calicoan, Samar.
- 16 Feb 1945 - CD 2514 arrived Calicoan, Samar and re-joined 5th Special.

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ITINERARY OF THE 5TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION (SPECIAL) CONT'D

PLAIN

1 Jul 1945 - Battalion now located and operating at
Calicoan, Samar, P.I.

NOTE: From the information set forth in Enclosure (1), Itinerary of 5th Naval Construction Battalion (Special), of BuPers basic correspondence, Pers-21220-023/ask (QED), dated 7 May 1945, it is believed that BuPers is under the impression from the records they have at hand that our 5th Special NCB disembarked at Tacloban, Leyte, 10 December 1944, and operated there until 3 March 1945, at which time we were detached and reported at Guiuan, Samar on 14 March 1945. This information is erroneous, but is no doubt due to "paper" orders which were issued merely to clarify the administrative and operational authorities over this Battalion.

NOTE: The above itinerary has been checked and authenticated by the Officer-in-Charge of the 5th Naval Construction Battalion (Special).

15 October

5th Naval Construction Battalion

Chronology

- 25 May 1942 Commissioned at Camp Bradford, Virginia. 965 men and 23 officers.
- 05 Jun 1942 Companies A, B, and section AB of Headquarters company left Cap Bradford.
- 06 Jun 1942 Companies A, B and section AB of Headquarters company arrived at Davisville, Rhode Island.
- 11 Jun 1942 Companies A, B and section AB of Headquarters company left Davisville, RI. 12 officers.
- 11 Jun 1942 Companies C, D and section CD of Headquarters company left Camp Bradford, VA. 12 officers.
- 15 Jun 1942 Companies A, B and section AB of Headquarters company arrived at San Francisco.
- 15 Jun 1942 Company D and section D of Headquarters company arrived at San Francisco.
- 16 Jun 1942 NCB 5 left San Francisco aboard S.S. Lurline
- 16 Jun 1942 Company C and section C of Headquarters company arrived at San Francisco. NCB 5 deployed to Midway, 1014 men and 24 officers.
- 21 Jun 1942 NCB 5 arrived at Honolulu, Oahu, T.H.
- 21 Jun 1942 NCB 5 arrived at Pearl Harbor.
- 11 Jul 1942 Company A and section A of Headquarters company left Honolulu aboard U.S.S. Midway and Regulus.
- 17 Jul 1942 NCB 5 arrived at Midway Islands.
- 19 Jul 1942 Detachment 1 left Pearl Harbor aboard S.S. Kilauea.
- 24 Jul 1942 Detachment 1 arrived at Palmyra.
- 30 Jul 1942 Detachment 2 left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Midway.
- 01 Aug 1942 Detachment 3 left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Wright
- 04 Aug 1942 Detachment 4 left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Beryl
- 05 Aug 1942 Detachment 2 arrived at Palmyra.
- 05 Aug 1942 Detachment 3 arrived at Midway.
- 08 Aug 1942 Detachment 4 arrived at Johnston Island.
- 10 Aug 1942 Detachment 5 left Pearl Harbor aboard THB-10.
- 13 Aug 1942 Detachment 5 arrived at French Frigate Shoals.
- 22 Aug 1942 Company D left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Midway.
- 25 Aug 1942 Company D arrived at Johnston Island.
- 04 Sep 1942 Company B left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Wright and Regulus.
- 10 Sep 1942 Company B arrived at Midway.
- 08 Dec 1942 Company E left Pearl Harbor aboard U.S.S. Burroughs.
- 15 Dec 1942 Company E arrived at Midway Islands.
- 05 Apr 1943 The battalion returned to Pearl Harbor.

21 Feb 1943 Johnston Island Detachment departed aboard the U.S.S. Midway.
 24 Feb 1943 Contingent arrived at Pearl Harbor.
 05 Apr 1943 Midway Detachment embarked on U.S.S. Henderson. All Detachments are being reassembled at Pearl Harbor.
 10 Apr 1943 Midway Detachment of 6 officers and 557 men and 7 officers arrived at Pearl Harbor.
 25 Apr 1943 Palmyra Detachment embarked on U.S.S. Midway.
 30 Apr 1943 Palmyra Detachment of 2 officers and 166 men arrived at Pearl Harbor.
 15 Jun 1943 The Canton Detachment left Pearl Harbor.
 21 Jun 1943 A Detachment of 33 men arrived at Canton Island.
 10 Jul 1943 The Kauai Detachment left Pearl Harbor.
 11 Jul 1943 A Detachment of 1 officer and 38 men arrived at Kauai, T.H.
 14 Sep 1943 Kauai Detachment embarked for Pearl Harbor.
 15 Sep 1943 Kauai Detachment arrived at Pearl Harbor.
 16 Mar 1944 The Canton Detachment was transferred to the Regiment.
 19 Mar 1944 NCB 5 embarked on S.S. Matsonia at Honolulu, Oahu, T.H.
 24 Mar 1944 NCB 5 arrived at San Francisco, CA.
 13 Jun 1944 NCB 5 arrived at Port Hueneme, CA. 1068 men 25 officers.
 10 Jan 1945 NCB 5 embarked at Port Hueneme on U.S.S. Cape Neddick.
 27 Feb 1945 NCB 5 arrived at Calicoan, Philippine Islands. 1079 men, 31 officers.
 01 Apr 1945 Victor 2 Detachment left Calicoan aboard LSTs.
 02 Apr 1945 Victor 2 Detachment arrived at Cebu City, Cebu.
 12 Apr 1945 Victor 5 Detachment left Calicoan aboard LSTs.
 17 Apr 1945 Victor 5 Detachment arrived at Parang, Mindanao.
 25 May 1945 Victor 2 Detachment embarked on LSTs from Cebu.
 26 May 1945 Victor 2 Detachment arrived at Calicoan.
 05 Jun 1945 Oboe 2 Detachment embarked from Calicoan aboard LSTs.
 26 Jun 1945 Victor 5 Detachment embarked on LSTs from Parang, Mindanao.
 28 Jun 1945 Victor 5 Detachment arrived at Iloilo, Panay.
 07 Jul 1945 Oboe 2 Detachment arrived at Balikpapan, Borneo.
 26 Aug 1945 Victor 5 Detachment left Iloilo, Panay aboard LSTs.
 27 Aug 1945 Victor 5 Detachment arrived at Calicoan.
 25 Sep 1945 Oboe 2 Detachment left Balikpapan, Borneo aboard LSTs.
 28 Sep 1945 Oboe 2 Detachment arrived at Calicoan.
 20 Dec 1945 NCB 5 was inactivated.



FIFTH NAVAL
CONSTRUCTION
BATTALION









