

# 16<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Battalion

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*Historical  
Information*



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



16th C.B.

NOTG - Norfolk  
ABD - Hueneme  
Ready Date - 8 Sep'42  
Left ABD -  
Destination - Pearl Harbor - Arrived 4 Oct'42  
Waiawa Gulch, Oahu, T.H.

LOG

8-26-42 - 16th CB to be detached 27 Aug'42 to Hueneme (CO Norfolk to Lt. Hickey P16-4P16-3/MM/00 over Ser 3416 jgd dtd 26 Aug'42)  
9- 2-42 - 16th CB arrived 1 Sep at Hueneme. (Rest. Disp. from Hueneme to Budocks 021715 NCR 852 5 2 Sep'42)  
5-17-43 - 150 Seamen were requested in Mar. Monthly Report - Should arrive about 1 Jul.  
1-18-43 - 22 officers and 977 men are at Pearl Harbor.  
6- 6-43 - 1 May'43 report of 16th CB - all enlisted personnel located on Oahu, T.H. during April.  
8- 3-43 - 1 Jul'43 report of 16th CB - operating at Oahu, T.H.  
8-30-43 - 15 Aug'43 report of 3rd Reg. - 16th CB has 30 officers and 1027 men enroute to SW Pacific.  
11-10-43 - 1 Oct'43 report of 16th CB - 1st detachment 13 officers and 505 men at Nanumea; 2nd detachment 17 officers and 518 men at Nukufetau, both in Ellice Is.  
12-29-43 - First detachment at Nukufetau; 2nd at Nanumea in Ellice Is. (Sec. P16-5 - 5393 - 16th CB 2nd Sect. Oct'43 monthly report)

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2-17-44 - Construction work of both sections completed at Nukufetau and Nanumea during Dec'43. 19 men transferred from 2nd Section (Nanumea) to ComAir, Tarawa. 2 officers and 85 men from 1st Section (Nukufetau) joined with 75 men from the 2nd Section temporarily assigned to Appamama and Makin Is. (1 Jan'44 report of 16th CB)  
4-19-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 16th CB - operating at Waiawa Gulch, Oahu, T.H.  
5-12-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 16th CB - operating at Waiawa Gulch and Camp Erdman.  
6-26-44 - 1 May'44 report of 16th CB - operating at Waiawa Gulch and Camp Erdman.  
7- 5-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 16th CB - operating at Waiawa Gulch.  
8-10-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 16th CB - operating at Waiawa Gulch, West Loch and Waipio Pen. Completed some construction at Honolulu.  
8-30-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 3rd Reg. - OinC 3rd Reg. states that rest and rehabilitation leave on the mainland for the 16th CB is strongly recommended as this batt has served outside the U.S. for 23 months. Located at Manana, Moanalua Ridge, and Waipio Peninsula.  
1-12-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 16th CB - operating at Manana, Moanalua Ridge, and Waipio Pen. Report endorsed by 3rd Reg.  
11-2-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of the 16th CB - operating at Oahu. Estimated date of completion of present assignment is 15 Nov'44. Report endorsed by 32nd Reg.  
11-8-44 - (Birdslocks 128 historical data of 16th CB to Budocks Ser 00382 dtd 14 Oct'44)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Pearl Harbor	30 Sep'42 to 14 Aug'43
Ellice Is.	14 Aug'43 to 15 Feb'44
Pearl Harbor	15 Feb'44 to present date

Left San Deigo 30 Sep'42 and arrived P.H. 4 Oct'42.

- 11-15-44 - The 16th CB assigned to the 32nd Reg. (Comserforpacflt Sec. ltr 55-CKW/apk over Ser. 001008 to CNO dtd 4 Nov'44).
- 11-16-44 -- The 16th CB is located at Pearl Hbr. (Com 14 Sec. disp to CNO 062243 NCR 15896 dtd 11 Nov'44).
- 12-13-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 16th CB - Report endorsed by 32nd Reg. and HANCB. Batt has been overseas 25 months. 32nd Reg. states that it is planned to rotate small groups of men on rehabilitation leave.
- 1-16-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 32nd Regiment - 16th CB has been overseas 26 months, 6 months of which were in combat area. Arrangements have been made by the H.A.B. for a gradual rotation of officers and men of this battalion. All men (except about 200) to be returned to the States for rehabilitation leave and reassignment.
- 1-17-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 16th CB - Location not stated. Report endorsed by the 32nd Regiment, 7th Brg., H.A.B.
- 1-30-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 16th CB - Located on Oahu. Report endorsed by 33rd Reg.
- 2- 6-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 33rd Reg. - 12 officers and 57 men of the 16th CB were ret'd ~~for~~ to the States for rehabilitation leave during Dec.
- 2-13-45 -- 16th CB ordered detached from the 33rd Reg. to report to the 20th Reg. for duty. (HAB conf. ltr Ser. 6660 dtd 26 Jan'45 to OinC 16th CB).
- 2-17-45 -- The 16th CB reported to the 20th Reg. 1 Feb'45. (20th Reg. 3rd End. (on HAB ltr Ser. 6660 dtd 26 Jan'45) dtd 1 Feb'45 to OinC 16th CB).
- 2-17-45 -- The 16th CB is located at Pearl Hbr. (Com 14 Sec. disp to CNO 081016 dtd 13 Feb'45)
- 2-26-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 33rd Reg. - 16th CB has been overseas 28 mos., 6 mos. of which were in combat areas. All men (270) not eligible for rehabilitation leave were transferred to other units during Jan. Approval was rec'd to return 104 men to the States for rehabilitation leave. Enl. complement now consists of 428 men.

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- 2-26-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 16th CB - located in Hawaiian Area. Report endorsed by 33rd Regiment.
- 3-19-45 - Effective 6 Mar'45 HAB orders Ser. 6660 dtd 26 Jan'45 are modified in that the 16th CB is to report to the 2nd Brg. rather than to the 20th Reg. To report to the 2nd Brg. as an integral part of this activity. (HAB ltr Ser. 7403 to OinC 16th CB dtd 6 Mar'45).
- 4-25-45 - 16th CB included in list of units deleted from 14th ND. (Com 14 Sec Airmailgram NCR 13634 to CNO dtd 10 Apr'45)
- 4-25-45 - Recommendation ur 051757 inactivation of 16th CB and 1/2 of 6th (Sp) to compensate for activation of Truck Btn Guam accordance CNO 282140 Mar approved effective 20 Apr'45. (Cincpoa Adv Hdqtrs 180637 to Comservpac dtd 19 Apr'45)
- 5- 3-45 - Cincpoa disp 180637 to Comservpac approves inactivation of 16th CB and 1/2 of 6th (Sp), date of inactivation effective 20 Apr'45. Accordingly, Comservpac will inactivate subj units. These inactivations reduce area CB compl and thereby make possible the activation of CB 134 (Tr Oper) at Guam as requested by Comservpac. (CNO conf ltr Ser 0170530 dtd 26 Apr to Comservpac)
- 5-7-45 - 1 May'45 report of 16th CB - 16th CB inactivated. Decommissioned as of 26 Apr'45. Remaining officers and men transferred to 2nd Brigade for further assignment.
- 5- 7-45 - Comservpac directs the inactivation of the 16th CB. (Comservpac Sec Disp 301907 to CNO)
- 5-9-45 - In accord with Cincpoa disp 180637 Apr'45 OinCHAWCBS is directed to inactivate the 16th CB. Transfer all enl personnel who have been out of the U.S. cont for 21 mos on 1 May'45 to Parks. Transfer other enl personnel to units of the HABs. (Comservpac Conf Spdltr Ser 01968 dtd 27 Apr to OinC HAWCBS (Rear Ech)
- 5-12-45 - 48 men from the 16th CB arrived Parks 8 May'45 from overseas. (CBRD Parks TWX 102329 May'45 to Bupers)

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- 5-16-45 - The 16th CB was inactivated as of 2 May'45. (HANCb conf ltr ser 328 dtd 2 May'45 to Comservpac)
- 5-16-45 - 37 men from 16th CB recd at Davisville on 11 May'45. (Davisville TWX 142314 May'45 to Supers)
- 5-17-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 3rd Reg. shows that 5 officers were received by the 126th CB from the 16th CB during Feb'45.
- 5-18-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 16th CB - 16th CB is being returned to U.S. in drafts for rehabilitation leave. Report end. by 20th Reg & 2nd Brig.

INACTIVATED

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
30 Jun'44	33	951	Recap.
1 Aug'44	30	935	MoR
1 Sep'44	26	931	MoR
1 Oct'44	25	914	MoR
1 Dec'44	23	797	MoR
1 Jan'45	28	867	MoR
1 Feb'45	24	428	MoR
1 Mar'45	9	411/12 Transferred to	MoR
1 Apr'45		227	BNP625

16th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

Date	Initiation	Location	Reference	Notes
3/30/44	-	Pearl Harbor	-	Left U.S. Sept. 1942
7/22	-	FRAY P.H.	Com 14 act dispo 060609 July - secret	
11/13	-	FRAY	Com 14/sec act. dispo. 062243 Nov.	7th Brig.
4/14	-	-	-	Recommendation to Sec. 180637 April for activation of Truck Bn. Sec. approved effective 20 April.
4/21	-	-	Com 14/sec dispo 14 April NCR 13634	deleted Fray. Added Hawaiian Area Brigade
5/11	-	-	Complex pac sec. 301907 April	am directing inactivation.

## U.S. Naval Construction Battalion 16

U.S. Naval Construction Battalion 16 was established on 2 August 1942 at Camp Allen, Norfolk, Virginia, with Lieutenant Commander Leonard Miscall, CEC, USNR, as officer in charge. The next day the battalion moved to the adjoining Camp Bradford and underwent an intensive course of advanced military training.

On 27 August 1942, the 16th Seabees departed from Camp Bradford and arrived at the Advance Base Depot, Port Hueneme, California, on 1 September. At Port Hueneme the battalion continued its advance military and combat training under the guidance of U.S. Marines, and the battalion was outfitted for overseas duty.

The battalion departed from Port Hueneme during the morning of 30 September 1942 and went to San Diego by rail. Later that same day the battalion sailed from San Diego for overseas duty.

The overseas history of the 16th Battalion is divided into three phases. The first phase covers the period from 4 October 1942 to 14 August 1943, when the battalion was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands. The second phase covers the period from 14 August 1943 to 15 February 1944. During this phase the battalion constructed two air bases in the Ellice Island Group and furnished selected specialists for work at Tarawa, Makin, and Apemana. The third phase covers the period from 15 February 1944 to 2 May 1945, during which time the battalion again served at Pearl Harbor.

At the time of the 16th Battalion's first arrival at Pearl Harbor on 4 October 1942, only small units of the 5th and 10th Construction Battalions were stationed there. No other Seabee units were in the Hawaiian Islands. Navy construction work was being done by Contractors, Pacific Naval Air Bases under the direction of the Fourteenth Naval District Public Works Office. Some of these contractor projects were turned over to Battalion 16 for completion.

Among the many tasks accomplished by the battalion were the construction of roads, camps, public works buildings and projects, barracks, offices and headquarters structures, pipelines, and warehouses, and the development of the Makalapa area below the headquarters of the Commander in Chief, Pacific.

One of the outstanding accomplishments of the 16th Seabees occurred during the period from November 1942 to April 1943. From the battalion, about 120 shipfitters, riggers, and electricians were selected to work aboard the U.S.S. West Virginia, a casualty of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, which had recently been raised from the bottom of the sea. The men did general work, wiring, ventilation work, welding, enlarging of steam lines, engine room repairing, insulation work, boiler lining, rigging, and achieving watertight integrity.

Because of the 16th Seabee efforts, the battleship was made seaworthy three months ahead of schedule. This speed and the noteworthy calibre of the workmanship generated commendations for the battalion from Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander in Chief Pacific; Vice Admiral Robert Ghormley, Commandant of the Fourteenth Naval District; and Vice Admiral William Calhoun, Commander of the Service Force, Pacific Fleet.

On 14 August 1943, Naval Construction Battalion 16 left Pearl Harbor and proceeded in three echelons to Funafuti in the Ellice Islands and by 24 August the three echelons had all arrived. While staging at Funafuti, the battalion was subjected to severe Japanese bombing attacks, but the Seabees suffered no casualties.

The battalion was then divided into two sections. One section went to Nanomea and the other section went to Nukufetau, two other islands in the Ellice Group. On both islands the 16th Seabees then constructed complete air bases and facilities for the use of the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Army Air Forces in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands campaign.

In addition, detachments of the 16th Battalion moved forward and participated in the Tarawa, Makin, and Apemana invasions. At these places the Seabees operated equipment and built and maintained fuel tank farms.

As the campaign in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands progressed, the Marine and Air Force units moved further along the road to Tokyo and began using more advanced bases. Consequently, Naval Construction Battalion 16 was ordered back to Pearl Harbor. On 6 February 1944, all elements of the battalion were reunited at Funafuti and sailed toward new challenges in construction.

The battalion arrived back at Pearl Harbor on 15 February 1944. Sufficient facilities for housing the 16th Seabees were unavailable, so the battalion rushed the construction of housing, latrines, showers, and a galley. This work was completed by 10 March and the 16th then took up the task of constructing two camps for other Seabee units.

Then the 16th Battalion undertook the construction of the mammoth Waiawa Seabee Camp. This task was followed by lumber sorting and grading, a material and parts survey for the Second Naval Construction Brigade, salvaging of electric cable at the Naval Air Station, recaulking two miles of 8-inch water line, and building 22 B.O.Q. quonset huts at the Aiea Naval Receiving Barracks.

For the following year the 16th Seabees continued building additional barracks, camps, galleys, messhalls, and administration buildings. Gradually the complement of the battalion was dwindling as men were reassigned to other Naval construction units. Greatly reduced in strength, Naval Construction Battalion 16 was disestablished at Pearl Harbor on 2 May 1945.



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ITINERARY OF 14TH (GP) CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

23 Oct. 1943	Transferred from Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va. to Gulfport, Miss.
14 Nov. 1943	Transferred from Gulfport to ABD, Port Hueneme, Calif.
23 Dec. 1943	Left ABD, Port Hueneme.
1 Jan. 1944	Arrived Pearl Harbor and located at Oahu.
13 Feb. 1944	125 men left Battalion on detached duty with task force at Midway.
13 Mar. 1944	125 men returned to Battalion.
1 May 1944	Located at Honolulu.
28 May 1944	One officer and 20 men returned from tempds on Maui Island.
19 May 1944	
4 Aug. 1944	Embarked at Pearl Harbor for forward area.
30 Aug. 1944	Arrived Apra Harbor, Guam. Set up camp at Agaña Island.
1 Aug. 1945	Operating at Guam.

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The above Itinerary is based on the records available in the G.S. Operations Section of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

6 Sept 1945

To Facilitate  
Administrative Handling  
Classification changed  
from:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED

To: Irvin S. Rasmussen  
Comdr. C. S. 1170

Signature

## 16<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Battalion

### Chronology

02 Aug 1942	Formed and commissioned at NCTC, Camp Allen, Norfolk.
03 Aug 1942	Departed Camp Allen for Camp Bradford.
27 Aug 1942	Departed Bradford for ABD, Hueneme.
01 Sep 1942	Arrived Port Hueneme.
30 Sept 1942	Departed Port Hueneme for San Diego and overseas.
04 Oct 1942	Arrived Pearl Harbor.
14 Aug 1943	Departed Pearl Harbor (1 <sup>st</sup> Echelon & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Echelon)
20 Aug 1943	1 <sup>st</sup> Echelon arrived Funafuti (14 Officers, 420 Men)
24 Aug 1943	2 <sup>nd</sup> Echelon arrived Funafuti (16 Officer, 603 Men)
25 Aug 1943	1 <sup>st</sup> Echelon (5 Officer, 150 Men) departed Funafuti arrived Nukefetau, Ellice Island.
30 Aug 1943	2 <sup>nd</sup> Echelon (6 Officer, 150 Men) departed Funafuti arrived Nukefetau, Ellice Island.
30 Aug 1943	3 <sup>rd</sup> Echelon (1 Officer, 10 Men) departed Funafuti for Nanomea, Ellice Island.
31 Aug 1943	3 <sup>rd</sup> Echelon (1 Officer, 10 Men) arrived Nanomea.
04 Sept 1943	4 <sup>th</sup> Echelon (2 Officer, 100 Men) departed Funafuti for Nanomea.
05 Sept 1943	4 <sup>th</sup> Echelon (2 Officer, 100 Men) arrived Nanomea.
06 Sept 1943	5 <sup>th</sup> Echelon (10 Officer, 395 Men) departed Funafuti for Nanomea.
07 Sept 1943	5 <sup>th</sup> Echelon (10 Officer, 395 Men) arrived Nanomea.
08 Sept 1943	6 <sup>th</sup> Echelon (4 Officer, 120 Men) departed Funafuti arrived Nukefetau.
07 Oct 1943	7 <sup>th</sup> Echelon (2 Officer, 100 Men) departed Funafuti arrived Nukefetau.
14 Dec 1943	Detachment (19 Men) departed for Tarawa.
14 Dec 1943	Detachment (1 Officer, 25 Men) departed for Apemama.
14 Dec 1943	Detachment (2 Officer, 135 Men) departed for Makin.
06 Feb 1944	Battalion arrived Funafuti for staging.
08 Feb 1944	Battalion departed Funafuti.
15 Feb 1944	Battalion arrived Pearl Harbor.
25 Feb 1944	Detachments arrived Pearl Harbor from Tarawa, Makin, and Apemama.
02 May 1945	Battalion inactivated at Pearl Harbor.



















