

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Naval Construction Battalion

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## *Historical Information*



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



23rd C.B.

From the Chronological History of the 1st Brigade:

- 7 Nov'42 - Arrived Kodiak.
- 21 Apr'43 - Det. left Kodiak for D.H. At D.H., Co. "A"  
Was split - 1 group to Atka, 1 group to Adak.  
Co. "C" was split into Special Detail. Co.  
"D" went to Cold Bay.
- 4 May'43 - Hdqtrs Co. arrived Adak.
- 12 May'43 - Co. "B" left Kodiak.
- 21 May'43 - Adv. Base Unit landed at Attu - 7 off. &  
151 men of the 23rd CB, 3 off. & 100 men  
of the 12th CB, 5 men of the 21st CB.
- 25 May'43 - Co. "B" arrived Dutch Harbor.
- 27 May'43 - Co. "B" arrived Adak.

(over)

26 Jun'43 - 23rd CB at Adak, remainder at Attu.

30 Dec'43 - Left Attu for States.

(Com 17 Sec. ltr ND17/A12-1/L7 over 50/2b over Ser 0096  
dtd 6 Nov'44)

| <u>1ST EMBARKATION</u> |                                     | <u>2ND EMBARKATION</u> |                             |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WSTC                   | - Norfolk                           | CBRD                   | - Perks                     |
|                        | Davisville, 4 Sep'42                | ABD                    | - Hueneme                   |
| ABD                    | - Hueneme, 11 Oct'42                | Ready Date             | - 10 Jul'44                 |
| Ready Date             | - 15 Oct'42                         | Left ABD               | - 19 Jul'44 (WRK)           |
| Left ABD               | - 28 Oct'42 (Left Cont US 2 Nov'42) | Location               | - Pearl Harbor (Waterfront) |
| Destination            | - Kodiak                            |                        | Guam                        |

LOG

- 8-28-42 - 23rd CB to leave Norfolk 4 Sep'42 to Davisville for completion of training; also expected that on 30 Sep'42 the 23rd CB will be ordered to ABD. (Badocks ltr to Bupers dtd 28 Aug'42)
- 4-30-43 - Report from 1st Brigade shows distribution of 23rd CB -
- 1 Co. at NOB, Kodiak
  - 1 Co. at Dutch Harbor, NOB
  - 1½ Co's. at Cold Bay, Naval Aux. Air Fac.
  - ½ Co. at Atka, NAAF
  - 1 Co. at Adak, NAS
- 5-11-43 - April Monthly report shows following distribution of men - 28 Off. and 918 men.

| <u>Location</u>  | <u>Off.</u> | <u>Men.</u> | <u>Location</u>      | <u>Off.</u> | <u>Men.</u> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Adak .....       | 10          | 221         | Constantine Harbor . | -           | 1           |
| Atka .....       | 2           | 97          | Dutch Harbor .....   | 2           | 6           |
| Anchitka .....   | -           | 9           | Finger Bay .....     | 1           | 49          |
| Cold Bay .....   | 4           | 224         | Kodiak .....         | 3           | 189         |
| Island "X" ..... | 6           | 150         |                      |             |             |
| (May be Attu)    |             |             |                      |             |             |

23rd C.B.

- 10-27-44 - 23rd CB detached from the 7th Reg. and 2nd Brig. and ordered to report to the OinC of the 40th Reg. in the Central Pacific. (OinC Hawaiian Area Brigades conf. ltr HAB-06-HCB/fnf over P16-4/00/MM over Ser 6086 to the OinC of 23rd CB dtd 27 Sep'44)
- 10-28-44 -- The OinC of 23rd CB is to report to the 5th Brig. until the 23rd CB reports for duty. (HANGCB's HAB-06-HCB/fnf over P16-4/00 over Ser. 6302 conf. ltr dtd 5 Oct'44 to OinC of 23rd CB).
- 11-11-44 -- The 23rd CB is located at Guam. (Is. Com. Sec. airmailgram to CNO 011201 NCR 14731 dtd 6 Nov'44).
- 11-17-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 23rd CB - Batt was secured from all construction work on Oahu on 23 Sep'44.
- 12-2-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 5th Brigade - 23rd CB to complete the 40th Reg. - as of 2 Nov'44 batt had not reached the area.
- 12-7-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 7th Reg. - 23rd CB detached from 7th Reg. on 16 Oct'44.
- 12-29-44 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 40th Reg. - 23rd CB assembled cargo and outfitted batt for forward movement between 1 Oct and 15 Oct'44. Departed P.H. 16 Oct'44 and arrived Guam 22 Nov'44; began work on 1 Dec'44. This unit has been overseas 5 months this cruise - 14½ mos. previous cruise.
- 1-1-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 23rd CB - No info on location. Report endorsed by 40th Regiment.
- 1-30-45 -- The 23rd CB is located at Orote, Guam. (5th Brg. War Diary 1 Dec'44 thru 31 Dec'44).
- 1-30-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 23rd CB - No info on location. Report endorsed by 40th Reg.
- 2-26-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 23rd CB - located at Guam. Report endorsed by 40th Reg.
- 3-29-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 23rd CB - located at Mariannas.
- 4-10-45 - The 23rd CB is located on Orote Peninsula (Guam) (5th Brg War Diary 1 Feb to 28 Feb'45)

23rd C.B.

The Island "X" project consisted of 150 men from 23rd CB and 100 from 12 CB. These men made up special gun crews and received special gun trainings.

- 6-24-43 - 1 Jun'43 report of 23rd CB - 7 officers and 151 men landed on Attu.
- 7- 1-43 - 23rd CB is at Attu. (Com 13 to ComAlSec dtd 6-31-43 - Secret Dispatch)
- 8-10-43 - Monthly report Advance Base Unit #1, part of 23rd CB, states 23rd CB complete on Attu 26 Jun'43.
- 1-17-44 - 23rd CB arrived Camp Parks from overseas 14 Jan'44. (WRK) Arrived Seattle 11 Jan.
- 7-18-44 - 23rd CB moved from Parks to Hueneme 20 Jun'44. (CNO Conf. Disp. 121425 Jun'44)
- 7-18-44 - 23rd CB assigned Hawaiian Area for waterfront construction. (CNO Conf. Disp. 191435 Jun)
- 7-18-44 - 23rd CB arrived Hueneme 21 Jun'44. (OinC ABD Hueneme Disp. 212129 Jun'44)
- 8-10-44 - Officers and men reported 2nd Brig on 26 Jul'44; ordered to report to 7th Reg. for duty. (OinC 2nd Brig ltr 2NCBr-06-HCB/lk over P16-4 dtd 27 Jul'44 to OinC 23rd CB)
- 8-16-44 - Officers and men reported 7th Reg. on 26 Jul'44. (OinC 7th Reg. ltr 7CR/01-FLA/pln over A4/P16-4/00 Ser 2891 dtd 2 Aug'44 to OinC 23rd CB)
- 8-28-44 - 1084 men of 23rd CB transported by 20th Reg. on 26 Jul'44 from Able 14 to Moanalua. (20th Reg. report of 1 Aug'44)
- 8-30-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 23rd CB - arrived Pearl Harbor 25 Jul'44.
- 10-12-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 7th Reg. - This regiment has been directed to alert the 23rd CB for early movement to forward area. This batt was to be secured from work projects for purposes of military training on 16 Sep'44.
- 10-20-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 23rd CB - operating at Oahu. Report endorsed by 7th Reg.

Location - Guam

23rd C.B.

- 4-11-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 23rd CB - located at Guam.
- 4-16-45 - The 23rd CB is located at Orote, Guam and is attached to the 40th Reg. (5th Brg War Diary dtd 1 Apr'45)
- 5- 8-45 - The 23rd CB alerted at Guam. (Dirpadocks S.F. Sec rep of 15 Apr'45)
- 5-16-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 23rd CB - no info on location. Report via 40th Reg and 5th Brg.
- 6- 13-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 23rd CB - located at Guam. Report via 40th Reg and 5th Brg.
- 7-16-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 23rd CB - located at Guam. Report via 40th Reg and 5th Brg. This unit has been in service 36 months, including 25 mos or more outside the U.S. About 50% of the complement spent 14 mos in the Aleutians and 11 mos in the Pacific Theatre. Of the other 50% many were in the Pacific area with the 1st and 2nd Batts on their first tour of duty.
- 8-14-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 23rd CB - located at Guam. Report via 40th Reg & 5th Brig.
- 8-28-45 - Remove from alerted status my 091943 July of higher classification. xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx CBs 23, 72, 92, 107, 110, 131. (Comservpac Sec disp 242213 to Comarinas)
- 9-19-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 23rd CB. Report via 40th Reg & 5th Brig. No info as to location.
- 10-17-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 23rd CB - location not stated. Report via 40th Reg. & 5th Brig. 254 men transferred to U.S. for discharges under the point system & over-age.
- 11-27-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 40th Reg. states that the 23rd CB returned 311 men to U.S. for discharge. 286 replacements rec'd from inactivated units.
- 11-29-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 23rd CB - location not stated. Report via 40th Reg. & 5th Brig. 311 men transferred to U.S. for discharge. 286 men rec'd as replacements from other units.

Location - Guam

23rd C.B.

- 1-28-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of 23rd CB - located at Guam. Report via 35th Reg. & 5th Brig.
- 2-19-46 - 1 Jan 46 report of 23rd CB - located at Guam. Report via 35th Reg. & 5th Brig.
- 3-1-46 - 1 Feb 46 report of 23rd CB - located at Guam. Report via 35th Reg. & 5th Brig.
- 3-19-46 - 1 Mar 46 report of 23rd CB - located at Guam. Report via 35th Reg. & 5th Brig.
- 4-11-46 - Comservpac orders 5th Brig. to inactivate 23rd CB. (Comservpac disp 102352 April to RDO Guam).
- 4-29-46 - 23rd CB inactivated as of 10 May 1946. (5th Brig. conf ltr ser 1079 to OinC dtd 11 Apr 1946).
- 7-1-46 - 23rd CB INACTIVATED AS OF 10 MAY 1946. Enlisted to SepCen or to 5th NCB. (OinC 23rd Battalion conf. ltr. Ser. 3645 to Ch.BuDocks dtd 10 May 46.)

INACTIVATED

## 23RD BATTALION

Commissioned at Camp Allen on Sept. 4, 1942, the 23rd Battalion was moved at once to Davisville, R. I. On Oct. 17 the outfit arrived at Port Hueneme and was moved up to Seattle for embarkation Oct. 30. Sailing from Seattle Nov. 2, the Battalion arrived at NOB Kodiak Nov. 7. During November two detachments were sent from Kodiak to Cold Bay. On March 28, 1943, four officers and 223 men departed from Kodiak for Dutch Harbor, arriving April 2. On April 9, three officers and 108 men arrived at Atka, and the following day a detachment of three officers and 118 men arrived at Adak. On April 25, 1943 more of the outfit arrived at Dutch Harbor from Kodiak. Detachments were sent from Dutch Harbor to

Adak on April 26, May 1 and May 6. And a detachment was also sent to Attu on May 6. On May 12, B Company arrived at Dutch Harbor from Kodiak and was sent to Adak on June 3. From June 14 to 22, detachments were transferred from Adak to Attu. On June 17 D Company left Cold Bay for Attu, arriving on June 26, bringing the outfit all together again. After establishing a headquarters on Attu, the Battalion sailed for the States on Dec. 30, 1943, arriving at Seattle Jan. 12, 1944. The outfit was moved to Camp Parks for duty until June 20, 1944, when it was transferred to Port Hueneme. Beginning its second overseas tour, the outfit left Port Hueneme July 19, 1944, arriving at Pearl Harbor July 26. On Oct. 16, the Battalion sailed west from Pearl and after stopping over 22 days at Eniwetok, arrived on Guam on Nov. 22, and was still there when the war ended.

MAR 15 1945

ITINERARY OF THE TWENTY-THIRD U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

- 4 Sept. 1942 Battalion formed at NCTC, Norfolk, Va.
- 4 Sept. 1942 Battalion departed NCTC, Norfolk, Va.
- 5 Sept. 1942 Battalion arrived NCTC, Davisville, R. I.
- 30 Sept. 1942 16 men & 3 officers departed Davisville, R.I.  
(Advance guard to Port Hueneme, Calif.)
- 4 Oct. 1942 16 men & 3 officers arrived Port Hueneme, Calif.
- 11 Oct. 1942 Battalion departed NCTC, Davisville, R. I.
- 17 Oct. 1942 Battalion arrived ABD, Port Hueneme, Calif.
- 28 Oct. 1942 Battalion departed ABD, Port Hueneme, Calif.
- 30 Oct. 1942 Battalion arrived Seattle, Wash. (Port of Embarkation)
- 2 Nov. 1942 Battalion departed Seattle, Wash. (Left Continental U.S.)
- \* 7 Nov. 1942 Battalion arrived NOB, Kodiak, Alaska
- 16 Nov. 1942 47 men & 4 officers departed Kodiak (for Cold Bay)
- 23 Nov. 1942 193 men & 2 officers departed Kodiak (for Cold Bay)
- 23 Nov. 1942 46 men and 3 officers arrived Cold Bay (from Kodiak)  
(1 man & 1 officer dropped temporarily at Sand Point)
- 25 Nov. 1942 193 men & 2 officers arrived Cold Bay (from Kodiak)
- 17 March 1943 3 men & 2 officers departed Kodiak (for Dutch Harbor)
- 19 March 1943 3 men & 2 officers arrived Dutch Harbor (from Kodiak)
- 28 March 1943 223 men & 4 officers departed Kodiak (for Dutch Harbor)
- 2 April 1943 223 men & 4 officers arrived Dutch Harbor (from Kodiak)
- 4 April 1943 108 men & 3 officers departed Dutch Harbor (for Atka)
- 4 April 1943 118 men & 3 officers departed Dutch Harbor (for Adak)
- 9 April 1943 108 men & 3 officers arrived Atka (from Dutch Harbor)
- 10 April 1943 118 men & 3 officers arrived Adak (from Dutch Harbor)
- 18 April 1943 49 men & 1 officer departed Kodiak (for Dutch Harbor)
- 21 April 1943 Approx 250 men & 10 officers departed Kodiak (for Dutch Harbor)

To Facilitate  
Administrative Handling  
Classification changed  
from:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

To: RESTRICTED

Irvin S. [unclear]  
Comdr. CEC-V(3) [unclear]  
Signature

MAR 15 1945

- 24 April 1943 49 men & 1 officer arrived Dutch Harbor (from Kodiak)
- 24 April 1943 49 men & 1 officer departed Dutch Harbor (for Adak)
- \* 25 April 1943 Approx. 250 men & 10 officers arrived Dutch Harbor (from Kodiak)
- 26 April 1943 49 men & 1 officer arrived Adak (from Dutch Harbor)
- 1 May 1943 86 men & 6 officers departed Dutch Harbor (for Adak)
- \* 4 May 1943 86 men & 6 officers arrived Adak (from Dutch Harbor)
- 6 May 1943 6 men & 2 officers departed Dutch Harbor (for Adak)
- 6 May 1943 151 men & 7 officers departed Dutch Harbor (for Attu)
- 9 May 1943 6 men & 2 officers arrived Adak (from Dutch Harbor)
- 12 May 1943 Co. B departed Kodiak (for Dutch Harbor)
- 14 May 1943 Co. B arrived Dutch Harbor (from Kodiak)
- 21 May 1943 151 men & 7 officers arrived Attu (from Dutch Harbor)
- 24 May 1943 Co. B departed Dutch Harbor (for Adak)
- 26 May 1943 Co. B arrived Adak (from Dutch Harbor)
- 3 June 1943 86 men departed Atka (for Adak)
- 4 June 1943 86 men arrived Adak (from Atka)
- 14 June 1943 50 men & 1 officer departed Adak (for Attu)
- 15 June 1943 150 men & 2 officers departed Adak (for Attu)
- 15 June 1943 190 men & 4 officers departed Adak (for Attu)
- 17 June 1943 Co. D departed Cold Bay (for Attu)
- 20 June 1943 60 men & 1 officer departed Adak (for Attu)
- 22 June 1943 79 men & 7 officers departed Adak (for Attu)
- 26 June 1943 Co. D arrived Attu (from Cold Bay)
- \* 26 June 1943 79 men & 7 officers arrived Attu (from Adak)
- 26 June 1943 Battalion complete on Attu this date, with the exception of: 5 men & 1 officer (At Atka)
- 25 July 1943 5 men & 1 officer departed Attu (for Atka)

To Facilitate  
Administrative Handling  
Classification changed  
from:

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**RESTRICTED**

To: Irvin S. Ross

Comdr. CECW

Signature



MAR 15 1945

**CODECLASSIFIED AL**

- 30 Dec. 1943 Battalion departed Attu
- 12 Jan. 1944 Battalion arrived Seattle, Wash. (Arrived Continental U.S.)
- 14 Jan. 1944 Battalion arrived Camp Parks, Calif.
- 20 June 1944 Battalion departed Camp Parks, Calif.
- 21 June 1944 Battalion arrived Port Hueneme, Calif.
- 19 July 1944 Battalion departed Port Hueneme, Calif. (Left Continental U. S.)
- 26 July 1944 Battalion arrived Pearl Harbor, T. H.
- 16 Oct. 1944 Battalion departed Pearl Harbor, T. H. (Delayed 22 days at Eniwetok awaiting convoy)
- 22 Nov. 1944 Battalion arrived Guam, Marianas Islands

\* Battalion Headquarters established.

CERTIFIED TO BE THE CORRECT ITINERARY OF THE TWENTY-THIRD U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION:

*R. C. Fye*  
 R. C. FYE, Lt. Comdr., CEC(S), USNR, Executive Officer.

To Facilitate  
 Administrative Accounting  
 Classification changed  
 from:

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
~~RESTRICTED~~

To:

Irvin S. Rasmussen  
 Commanding Officer  
 Signature

ITINERARY OF THE 23RD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

Battalion formed at NCTC, Norfolk, Va.

4 September 1942 Departed NCTC, Norfolk.

4 September 1943 Arrived NCTC, Davisville, to complete training.

11 October 1943 Arrived ABD, Port Huon.

28 October 1943 Departed ABD, Port Huon for overseas.

30 April 1943 No record of arrival date in Aleutians. Report of First Brigade this date shows following distribution of 23rd CB:

- 1 Company at HOB, Kodiak
- 1 Company at Dutch Harbor, HOB
- 1-1/2 Companies at Cold Bay, Naval Auxiliary Air Facility
- 1/3 Company at Atka, NAAF
- 1 Company at Adak, NAS.

1 June 1943 Report of Battalion states 1 officer and 151 men landed on Attu.

1 July 1943 Report of Battalion states operating at Attu. Battalion was complete on Attu 26 June 1943.

14 January 1944 Arrived Camp Parks from overseas. No record of departure date from Aleutians.

20 June 1944 Departed Camp Parks and arrived ABD, Port Huon.

25 July 1944 Battalion arrived Pearl Harbor. No record of departure date from Port Huon.

15 October 1944 Departed Pearl Harbor.

23 November 1944 Arrived Guam. (There is no record available to confirm, but it is thought the battalion stopped at Russell Islands before going to Guam.)

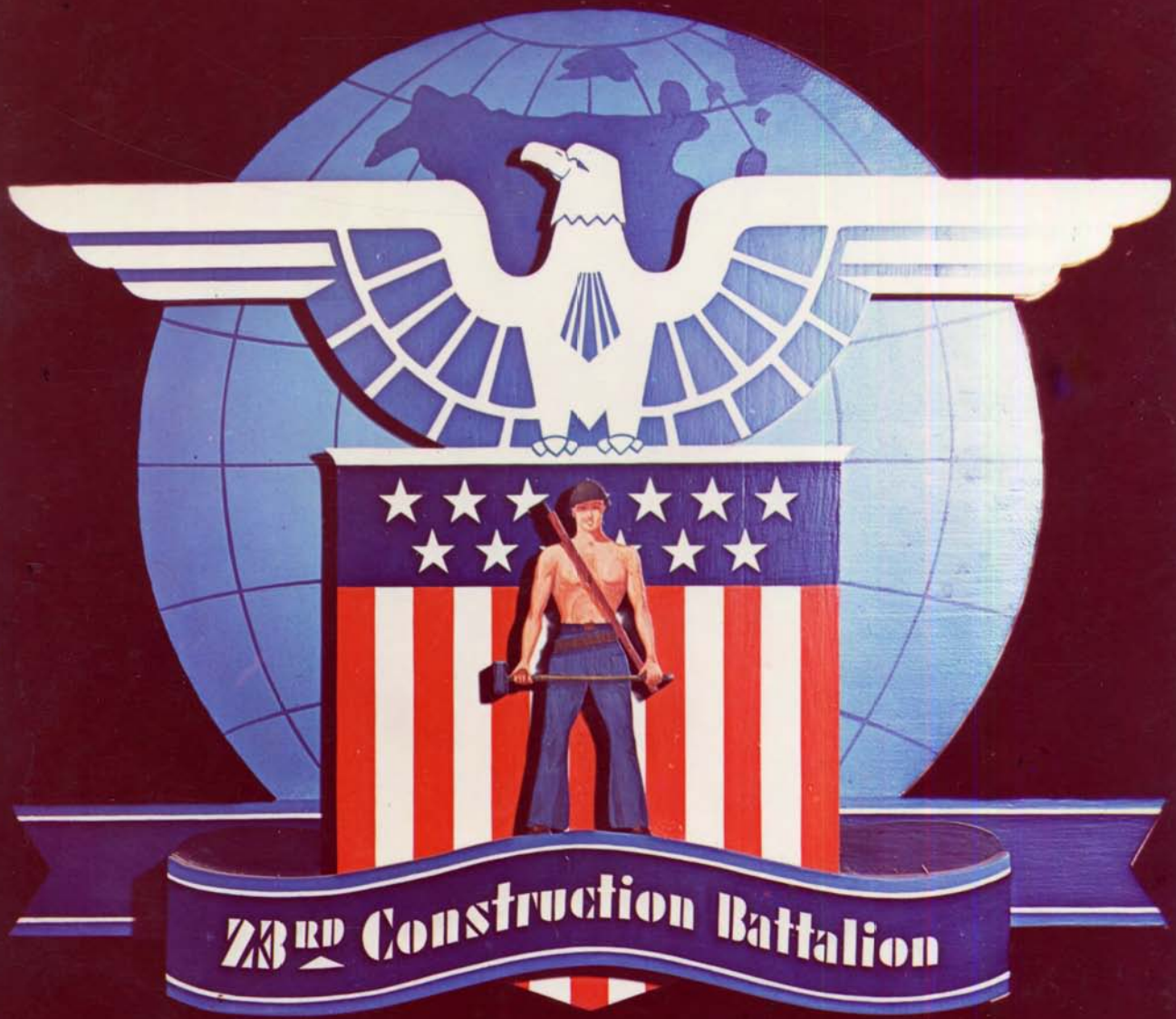
1 February 1945 Battalion operating at Guam.   
Organization changed from:

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CONFIDENTIAL

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

J. E. P. [Signature]



**23<sup>RD</sup> Construction Battalion**



3-2-179-2



# 358-A





#182-26-July



FAW4 (5309-11) (5-31-43) (20"-1000')

MASSACRE BAY

