

68th Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



68th C.B.

1st Embarkation
NCTC - Magruder
ABD - Hueneme
Ready Date - 13 Apr'43
Left ABD - 8 Jul'43
Location - Kediak Attu

2nd Embarkation
NCTC - (CBRD Parks)
ABD -
Ready Date - 15 Feb'45
Left ABD - 20 May'45
Location - Okinawa

LOG

- 3-19-43 - Moved from Camp Peary to Davisville.
- 5- 5-43 - 68th CB, consisting of 26 officers and 1081 men, to be transferred from Davisville to Parks on 12 May'43. (Budocks ltr NM24/MM over NM24(68)/A1-1 dtd 5 May'43 to CNO)
- 5-23-43 - 11 officers detached from 67th CB (Replace.) and assigned to this Batt. Called 2nd Echelon till arrival. (Budocks to Supers 5/23/43)
- 7- 3-43 - 68th CB reassigned to 6th Reg. (Conf. disp. VCNO to ComAlSec #292222)
- 7-15-43 - 68th CB departed Hueneme 8 Jul'43 - destination Kodiak. -
- 9-17-43 - 1 Sep'43 report of 68th CB - arrived Attu 29 Jul'43.
- 3-16-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 1st Brig. - 68th CB is located at Attu. Comdr. Robertson is Acting OinC of 9th Reg. which was reactivated by Comalsec)
- 5-27-44 - 1 May'44 report of 68th CB - operating at Attu.
- 6-29-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 68th CB - operating at Attu.
- 7-31-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 68th CB - operating at Attu.
- 9- 4-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 68th CB - operating at Attu.
- 10-10-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 68th CB - operating at Attu. Probable duration of present assignment from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ months.

68th CB

- 10-18-44 - The 68th CB is scheduled to sail for the U.S. about 21 Oct'44. (Com 17 Sec. disp. to several aees 112130 NCR 1664 dtd 12 Oct'44).
- 11- 3-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 68th CB - Located at Attu. Expect to complete assignment by 1 Nov'44. Report endorsed by 9th Reg.
- 11-3-44 -- The 68th CB departed Attu 31 Oct'44 with 31 Officers and 979 men. (OinC of 68th CB to Com 13 Secret 010124 NCR 8532 dtd 1 Nov'44).
- 11-30-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of the 138th CB - On 20 Oct'44, 102 men were transferred from the 138th CB to the 68th CB, while 199 men were transferred from the 68th to the 138th.
- 12-6-44 - 68th CB with 31 officers and 977 men arrived Parks from overseas 17 Nov'44. (Parks TWX 182155 Nov'44)
- 12-9-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 68th CB - operated at Attu during Oct'44. Report endorsed by 9th Regiment.
- 12-14-44 - From the Chronological History of 1st Brigade - 68th CB
 - 23 Jul'43 - Arrived Adak from the States - proceeded to Attu.
 - 29 Jul'43 - Arrived Attu from Adak.
 - 30 Oct'44 - Left Attu for U.S.(Com 17 Sec. ltr ND17/A12-1/L7 over 50/2b over Ser 0096 to Budocks dtd 6 Nov'44)
- 1-4-45 -- Parks ordered to transfer the 68th and 86th CB's consisting approx. 31 offs. and 458 men each to Davisville about 5 and 10 Jan'45 respectively. (CNO conf. disp to Parks and Davisville 281601 dtd 28 Dec'44).
- 1-5-45 - Portions of the 68th and 86th CBs at Parks should be retained there - modifies 281601. (CNO Conf. Disp. to Parks 012015 dtd 2 Jan'44)

68th CB

- 1-30-45 - The 68th CB will be available from Parks for Samar 15 Feb'45.(CNO Sec. disp to Com7flt181805 dtd 19 Jan'45).
- 1-30-45 - Cincpoas requests that the 68th CB which is scheduled for Sowsespac be assigned to the 7th Brg.(Cincpoa Sec. disp to CNO250121 dtd 25 Jan'45).
- 2-7-45 - The 68th CB will be assigned to the 7th Brigade.(CNO conf. disp to Comservpac, Cincpoa and Com7flt 291535 dtd 29 Jan'45).
- 2-13-45 --The 68th CB is assigned to Samar.(CNO Sec. ltr to distribution list Ser. 0039230 dtd 3 Feb'45).
- 3-13-45 --No ships allocated in Mar'45 for the lifting of the 11th, 35th, 68th or 80th CB's. (ComWestSeaFron Sec. disp to Comserpac 110038 Mar'45).
- 3-16-45 - Comservpac requests earliest possible April shipping of the 11th, 35th, 68th, and 80th CBs to Samar. (Comservpac Sec Disp 132333 dtd 14 Mar'45 to Comserv7flt)
- 4-9-45 - 68th CB approx sailing date is 20 Apr'45. (Parks Sec report of draft movements dtd 29 Mar'45 to Bupers)
- 4-30-45 - Comserfor7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45 shows the 68th CB ordered from U.S. to Leyte-Samar
- 5- 2-45 - 68th CB ETD SanFran 14 May'45. (ComWesSeaFron Sec Disp 260120 dtd 26 Apr to Cincpoa P)
- 5- 8-45 - The 68th CB is assigned 7th Brg. at Leyte-Samar. (Dirpacdocks S.F. Sec Rep 15 Apr)
- 5-23-45 - The 68th CB, consisting of 24 off. and 1061 men, departed Parks for overseas on 20 May'45. (CBRD Parks Sec disp 212330 May'45 to Bupers)
- 7-23-45 - The 68th CB is assigned to the 46th Reg of the 11th Brg. (CCT APO 331 sec report on assignment of CB units ser 897 dtd 10 July)
- 7-26-45 - The 68th CB reported to ComConstTroops 6 Jul'45. Further reported to the 11th Brg for duty with the 46th Reg. (CCT conf 3rd endorsement Ser. 0213 dtd 13 Jul'45 to OinC 68th CB)

Location - ~~San Francisco~~ Okinawa 68th CB

- 8-21-45 Reported aboard ship for transportation on 20 May '45. Reported to IsCom, Okinawa on 6 July '45. Further reported to the 11th Brig and 46th Reg. (CBRD, Camp Parks conf orders dtd 20 May '45 to OinC, 68th CB and ends thereto).
- 9- 6-45 - 68th CB departed San Fran on 20 May'45 & arrived Okinawa on 6 July'45. Camp was established at Tengen in the 46th Reg area.(1 Aug'45 report of 7th Brig re comment on 68th CB).
- 10-17-45 - CNOB, Okinawa requests authority to inactivate the 68th CB. (CNOB, Okinawa conf spdltr ser 0203 dtd 20 Sept'45 to Comservpac).
- 10-30-45 - Comservpac approves the inactivation of the 68th CB. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05522 dtd 6 Oct'45 to Cincpoa).
- 11-14-45 - Comservpac directs Comdt. Okinawa to inactivate 68th CB. Advise Comservpac when inactivation is completed. (Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05659 dtd 23 Oct'45 to Comdt., NOB, Okinawa).
- 1-31-46 - CNOB, Okinawa to CSP ser 6514 dtd 1 Dec'45 ltr states that the 68th CB was inactivated on 28 Nov'45. (Dirwespacdocks conf rpt dtd 10 Jan'46).

INACTIVATED

DATE	ON BOARD		AUTHORITY
	OFFICERS	MEN	
1 Jul'44	33	1072	MoR
1 Aug'44	33	1068	MoR
1 Sep'44	32	1059	MoR
1 Oct'44	32	1058	MoR
1 Jan'45		458	BNP625
1 Feb'45		871	BNP625
1 Mar'45		1072	BNP625
1 Apr'45		1072	BNP625
1 May'45	24	1060	BNP625 & R
1 Jun'45	24	1060	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	24	1060	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	26	1060	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	26	966	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'45	17	802	
		157 Trans.	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	5		R

68th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/2/44	-	Attw Area	-	Left U.S. July 1943,
10/12	-	(U.S.)	Com 17 sec disp. 11 2/30 Oct.	Embark 22 Oct proceed to post in States.
11/1	-	U.S.	o inc 68th C Bn sec disp. 010124 November.	departed Attw 31 Oct.
11/30	-	Camp Barbo	Reudocho memo 11/25	returned US 11/17 ready 2/15 - earmarked Cincpoa.
12/21	-	"	Cincpoa sec disp. 16015 dec	request be assigned Combr Div FFA Hawaiian Brigade.
12/29	-	(Navisville)	Cns Conf disp. 281601 dec.	Transfer to Navisville about 5 Jan.
1/3/45	-	-	Cns Conf disp 281601 dec.	modify above - position should be retained at Barbo.

DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
1/20	-	-	CNO sec 181801 Jan.	AS CBR appears a 5266 v. Feb priority suggest sec. 2319 on 21 Feb Baine.
1/22	-	nd	CNO sec 181805 Jan.	will be made avail from Feb for U.S. - 15 Feb - Baine.
1/22	-	"	Com 7th Jet sec 210841 Jan.	Request to be added to Feb schedule
1/26	-	"	Cincpac sec 250121 Jan	request be assid 7th Brigade
1/30	-	"	CNO con. 291535 Jan.	assid 7th Brig (250121).
2/3	-	"	Budocks memo 27 Jan also ap 30 00307230 of 3 Feb.	Ready Parks 2/15/45 probably Feb ship. Assid 7th
2/14	-	"	Calif sec disp 081720 Feb.	Scheduled for overseas end of Feb. (men being left from 15th to 19th to bring this dull strength.

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
8/12	-	(Ulod)	Budocks memo 2 March 1944.	CNO ready date 2/15/45 - assid Probable March ship.
3/21	-	"	Comsec poc sec 132333 Mar.	Request earliest possible April ship to U.S.
4/23	-	(Baine)	Cincpac Rearl sec 210229 April	Request action be taken transfer Baine
4/30	-	(Yesi)	Cincpac Rearl sec. 281913 April	Request change dest from Samar to Yesi.
5/11	-	"	Cominch sec 302115 Apr	OK - 281913
5/12	-	Baine Yesi	Cincpac Rearl sec. 010208 May	discontinuation remains Okinawa.
5/12	-	"	Cincpac 030137	
5/12	-	Yesi	CNO sec 071935 May	Assid priorities - being ship. Baine may or early June departed Baine overseas dest
5/22	Aug report ship Baine	"	Calif sec disp 212330 - May.	20 Mar

History of the Battalion

The Sixty-Eighth Naval Construction Battalion was officially commissioned at Camp Bradford, Virginia, on January 10, 1943, when the Colors were presented to Lieutenant Commander James Ruderman, then officer-in-charge.

The battalion was transferred to Camp Peary, Magruder, Virginia, January 12, 1943, and quartered in Area A-2. The next thirty days were spent in extensive advanced military training as well as practical construction training on Public Works, area construction projects and upkeep.

Mid-month in February, most of the personnel of the Sixty-Eighth were detached and transferred to other units.

Shortly after the first of March, new personnel was assigned to the Sixty-Eighth, and re-organization took place in Area B-7 of Camp Peary. On March 19th, we bid adieu to the "garden spot of Virginia", and entrained for Camp Endicott, Davisville, Rhode Island, arriving there March 20th.

Most of us enjoyed our stay at Camp Endicott even though the routine there was one of unrelenting training. While the battalion was there, Commander L. W. Robertson assumed command, and shortly thereafter most of us were given our embarkation leave.

On May 12th, still "saddle-worn" from our long train rides while on leave, we entrained for an "unknown" destination which turned out to be Camp Parks, California. At Parks, we were again introduced to close order drill, judo, bayonet tactics and cross-

country running; all culminating in a long hike to Mt. Diablo and a four day stay there on field rations. There was nothing appealing about the California climate during that trek.

In the last week of May the battalion was again split up, fifty percent of the personnel being detached and assigned to another unit. They were replaced by a draft of men direct from Camp Peary. Shortly afterwards, the battalion moved to Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, California, to outfit for our tour of foreign duty.

July 7th saw us on the move again, and for (censored) days, we were literally "at sea". On July 29th we reached our destination, the land of williwaws, snow, rocks and rain. What a place! An island in the Aleutians with little to recommend it except the pleasant absence of bugs — even the latter are wiser than to habitate such shores.

In April, 1944, Commander L. W. Robertson was detached and Lieutenant Commander W. B. Cunningham assumed command as officer-in-charge; Lieutenant A. V. Blankenship became executive officer.

To date, the 68th has served a little better than one year overseas at this base, doing its job as quietly and efficiently as possible. No headlines have blazed forth extolling the accomplishments of the 68th, but we are not jealous of public acclaim. What we have done and will do here is important, and we may well be proud of our record. Increasingly often we fondly dream of "Stateside" pleasures, but until such dreams become reality, we shall continue to strive to uphold the traditions of the service in every way.

68th Naval Construction Battalion

Chronology

10 Jan 1943	Formed at NCTC, Norfolk, Virginia.
12 Jan 1943	Transferred to NCTC, Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va.
19 Mar 1943	Transferred to NCTC, Davisville, R.I.
12 May 1943	Transferred from NCTC, Davisville to CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.
27 May 1943	One-half of the 68 th CB formed into CB Detachment 1008.
23 May 1943	One-half of the 67 th CB designated as the 2 nd Echelon of the 68 th CB (2 nd Echelon located at NCTC. Camp Peary).
08 Jun 1943	2 nd Echelon of 68 th CB transferred from NCTC, Camp Peary to CBRD, Camp Parks to join the 1 st Echelon.
19 Jun 1943	68 th CB transferred to ABD, Port Hueneme for overseas.
23 Jul 1943	Arrived Adak – proceed to Attu.
29 Jul 1943	Arrived Attu.
31 Oct 1944	Departed Attu for U.S.
17 Nov 1944	Arrived CBRD, Camp Parks.
18 May 1945	Still located at CBRD, Camp Parks.

Second Tour of Duty

20 May 1945	Embarked from San Francisco, California.
06 Jul 1945	Arrived Okinawa.

ITINERARY OF THE 68th CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

FIRST TOUR OF DUTY

10 Jan 1943 Formed at NCTC, Norfolk, Virginia
12 Jan 1943 Transferred to NCTC, Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va.
19 Mar 1943 Transferred to NCTC, Davisville, R. I.
12 May 1943 Transferred from NCTC, Davisville to CBRD, Camp Parks,
Shoemaker, California.
27 May 1943 One-half of the 68th CB formed into CB Detachment 1008.
23 May 1943 One-half of the 67th CB designated as the 2nd Echelon
of the 68th CB (2nd Echelon located at NCTC, Camp
Peary).
8 Jun 1943 2nd Echelon of 68th CB transferred from NCTC, Camp
Peary to CBRD, Camp Parks to join the 1st Echelon.
19 Jun 1943 68th CB transferred to ABD, Port Hueneme, Calif.
Departed ABD, Port Hueneme for overseas.
23 Jul 1943 Arrived Adak - proceed to Attu.
29 Jul 1943 Arrived Attu.
31 Oct 1944 Departed Attu for U. S.
17 Nov 1944 Arrived CBRD, Camp Parks.
18 May 1945 Still located at CBRD, Camp Parks.

.....

The above itinerary has been checked and authenticated by the
Officer-in-Charge of the 68th Construction Battalion.

17 September 1945

SECOND TOUR OF DUTY

20 May 1945 Embarked from San Francisco, California
6 July 1945 Arrived Okinawa.



U.S. NAVAL
68



CONSTRUIMUS
BATUIMUS
U.S. N.

INSTRUCTION

SEABEES

BATTALION









