

104th Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



104th C.B.

NCTC - Peary
 ABD - Gulfport
 Ready Date - 25 Sep'43
 Left ABD - 15 Dec'43
 Location - ~~Milne-Bay Gamadodo Los-Negros-Admiralty-Is. Milne-Bay~~
 Leyte-Samar

LOG

- 7-10-43 - Budocks requests transfer of the 104th CB from Peary to Endicott 16 Jul'43. (Budocks ltr to CNO dtd 10 Jul'43)
- 8-20-43 - CNO orders transfer of 104th CB from Davisville to ABD Gulfport about 25 Aug'43. (Conf. disp. 201411 NCR 6788 20 Aug'43 from CNO to Endicott)
- 12-22-43 - 104th CB left ABD 15 Dec'43. (WKK)
- 3-6-44 - 104th CB temporarily assigned to the 12th Reg. (CinC ltr CB104/PL6 over Serial 15 over KPC:wjo to CinC 12th Reg. dtd 15 Feb'44)
- 5- 6-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 104th CB - Located at Gamadodo. Arrived MilneBay on 2 Feb'44.
- 5-29-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 104th CB - operating at Gamadodo, Kana Kopa, Samarai, Waga Waga.
- 6-16-44 - 1 May'44 report of 104th CB - operating at Los Negros, Admiralty Is.
- 6-28-44 - 104th CB is located at Los Negros as of 31 May'44. (Comservfor7flt Sec. ltr A-9 over Ser. BP-001407 to Dirpaddock dtd 8 Jun'44)
- 7- 7-44 - 104th CB temporarily assigned to 17th Reg. (Comservfor7flt Sec. ltr A-9-4 over Ser. 00673 to Budocks dtd 14 Jun'44)
- 7-18-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 104th CB - operating at Los Negros. Arrived at this location 1 Apr'44.
- 8-15-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 104th CB - operating at Manus area.

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- 9- 7-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 104th CB - operating at Manus. This batt was relieved of all assigned projects 25 Jul'44 for movement to Gamadodo. This batt detached from the 4th Brig. and 17th Reg. and ordered to report to the 12th Reg. by Comservfor7-flt disp. 110716 Jul'44.
- 9-30-44 - 17th Reg. report of 1 Aug - Third end. by Comservfor7flt states that the 104th CB has moved to Milne Bay and that it is planned to completely re-outfit this batt and place its construction equipment in good repair before forward movement to future operations planned for this batt. 17th Reg. states that the 104th CB were detached and left Manus on 2 Aug'44.
- 10- 5-44 - 104th CB detached from temporary duty with CNB Milne Bay and ordered to report to the 19th Reg. (Rest. Disp. 261003 NCR 39380 from Comserv7flt to ONE Bickand CNB Milne)
- 10-24-44 -- The 104th CB is located at Gamadodo, Milne Bay (Comservfor7flt monthly report for Aug'44 to Budocks Ser. BP001815 Secret dtd 12 Sep'44).
- 11-2-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 104th CB - located at Milne Bay. report endorsed by 12th Reg.
- 11-8-44 - 104th CB was in the 12th Reg. and is located at Gamadodo. A detail was in Brisbane during the latter part of Sep'44. On 26 Sep., this batt was detached from 12th Reg. and assigned to the 19th Reg. (Comservfor7flt Sec. ltr A9-4 over Ser. BP-001882 to Budocks dtd 12 Oct'44 monthly report for Sep'44)
- 11-29-44 - 104th CB located at Milne Bay. (Comserv7flt Sec. Disp. to CNO 150133 NCR 18921 dtd 24 Nov'44)
- 12-28-44 - The 104th CB is located at Milne Bay. A detail was in Brisbane during Oct'44. This batt is alerted for a forward movement. (Comservfor7flt Sec. report for Oct'44 dtd 20 Nov'44).

104th CB

- 1-13-45 - 104th CB at Gamadodo - alerted for forward movement to Leyte. (Comserfor7flt Sec report for Nov'44 dtd 15 Dec'44)
- 1-17-45 - 1 Nov'44 report of the 104th CB - Casual draft of 81 seamen rec'd during Oct. A detachment of 224 men and 2 officers were sent to Brisbane to work on and remodel the USS WRIGHT; a detachment of 90 men are with PAD #3.
- 1-27-45 - 1 Oct'44 report of the 104th CB - Batt arrived at Milne Bay via 2 liberty ships on 4 Aug'44 and 6 Aug'44. A draft of 224 men was sent to Australia for converting a ship, also a draft of 100 men was assigned to PAD #3 for labor. Report endorsed by the 19th Regiment.
- 1-30-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 19th Regiment - Regiment and 104th CB enroute to Phillipines as of 6 Jan'45? 1 off. and 55 men of the 104th CB are being prepared for TAD in connection with the construction of Advance PT Base #6. The draft of 224 men has ret'd. 90 men still on detached duty with PAD #3.
- 1-30-45 - 1 Dec'44 report of the 104th CB - was located at Milne Bay during Nov'44.
- 2-14-45 -- The 104th CB left Gamadodo near the end of Dec. for Samar.(Comserfor7flt Sec. report for Dec'44 dtd 15 Jan'45).
- 2-15-45 -- The 104th CB is located at OSSO-ULOD.(Leyte)(Comser7flt Sec. disp to CINC C20659 dtd 9 Feb'45).
- 3-14-45 -- Comserfor7flt conf. spdltr to CNOB Leyte Gulf Ser. 0377 dtd 2 Mar'45 - The 104th CB is hereby detached from its presently assigned duties. Shall report to CNOB Leyte Gulf for duty with Commander Construction Forces Leyte-Samar.
- 3-20-45 - Comdr NOB Tacloban orders the 104th CB to further report to the CO, Nav Shore Fac, San Pedro Bay for duty with the Const Forces headed by the Comdr Const Forces and Sr Brg Comdr. 104th CB reported to the Comdt on 22 Jan'45 (Comdt NOB Tacloban ltr Fl6-3(1) over Ser 1007 dtd 11 Mar'45 to Cinc 104th CB)

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- 3-27-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 19th Reg. - The 104th CB departed Milne Bay on 6 Jan'45 and reported to CNOB Leyte for duty with the 19th Reg. on 22 Jan'45. Commenced const work on the base at Tacloban on 25 Jan. and expects compl. of the base by 1 Apr'45.
- 3-30-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of the 104th CB - preparing to depart for Leyte. The 90 men who were det. on duty with PAD #3 ret'd in Dec. 1 off. and 55 men were det. for duty with the const. of PT Base #6 on 13 Dec.
- 3-31-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 104th CB - Starting new camp on Samar. End. by 19th Reg.
- 4- 7-45 - The 104th CB PT Det. hereby detached to proceed upon arrival of transp to report to the Cinc 104th CB to resume reg. duties with the batt at Leyte. (Comserfor7flt Conf Spdltr Ser 0603 dtd 17 Mar'45)
- 4-10-45 - The 104th CB is located at Tacloban, Leyte according to Dirpadocks San Fran Sec Report for 15 Mar'45)
- 4-21-45 - The 104th CB arrived Tacloban on 22 Jan'45. (Comserfor7flt Sec Rep for Jan'45)
- 4-25-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 19th Reg. - Detachment of 1 officer & 55 men on detached duty at PT Advance Base #6 have not retrnd to 104th CB. Operations continuing in Tacloban area.
- 4-26-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 104th CB - operating at Tacloban. End by 19th Reg.
- 4-30-45 - Comserfor7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45 shows the 104th CB located at San Antonio, Samar and Tacloban (Scheduled for Subic Bay 1 Jul) PT Det. at Lingayen. (Comserfor7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45)
- 5- 8-45 - The 104th CB is located at Leyte according to Dirpadocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr.
- 5-14-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 104th CB - located in Leyte-Samar area. Report routed thru 19th Reg. and 3rd Brg., sec 2.

- 5-14-45 - 1 May'45 report of CBMU 622 - About the 21st Apr'45 CBMU 622 was assigned to the 104th CB for duty.
- 5-29-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of the 19th Reg - 1 officer & 55 men on det. duty at PT Base #6 are expected to return to the 104th CB the 1st wk in Apr'45. 104th CB was operating at San Antonio & Tacloban on 1 Apr'45.
- 6-9-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 19th Reg - 104th CB located at San Antonio and Tacloban. It is estimated that const presently contemplated in the Tacloban-San Antonio area will be completed by the end of Aug'45.
- 6-9-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 104th CB - located in Samar area. Report end by 19th Reg & 3rd Brig, Sec.2.
- 6-15-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of 104th CB - located at Tacloban, Leyte. Report routed via 19th Reg & 7th Brig.
- 6-26-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 19th Reg. - The 104th CB is based at San Antonio. Also finishing constr work at Tacloban. Each unit of the 19th Reg will be together by the end of June and all will be based within the San Pedro Bay area.
- 7-24-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 19th Reg states that the 104th CB is located at San Antonio and is under both administrative and operational control of the 19th Reg. A det of approx 170 men from the 29th CB is working with the 104th CB.
- 7-29-45 - The 104th CB is located at Tacloban, Leyte, constructing Naval Base, Fleet Post Office, grading, base cargo and equip work, erection of sawmill, water well and distr system, mess halls, barracks, camps, roads, and at San Antonio, constructing small boat pool. (CCT 7th Flt Sec Rep for June) Attached to 7th Brig and 19th Reg.
- 8-13-45 - The 104th CB is in the 19th Reg and 7th Brig. (Com7flt conf report on CB organization in Leyte-Samar area ser 04296 dtd 26 July to CNO)

Location - Leyte-Samar104th C.B.

- 8-17-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 104th CB - located in Samar area. 102 men were returned to the U.S. for leave and reassignment and 16 men were returned for discharge during Jul'45. Report via 19th Reg and 7th Brig.
- 8-24-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 19th Reg - The 104th CB is based at San Antonio, Samar. 102 men retd for rotation.
- 9-21-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 104th CB - located in Samar area. Report via 19th Reg & 7th Brig. 11 men transferred to U.S. for over-age discharges. 14 men transferred under the point system. 120 men transferred to U.S. for leave & reassignment.
- 9-24-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 19th Reg. - 104th CB located at San Antonio, Samar. 120 men transferred to U.S. for rotation. 11 men sent to U.S. for over-age discharges. 14 men transferred to U.S. for discharge under the point system.
- 10-18-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 104th CB - location not stated. Report via 19th Reg. & 7th Brig. 217 men transferred to U.S. for discharge under the point system. 114 men transferred to other units.
- 10-30-45 - OinCC, Samar requests authority to inactivate the 104th CB. (OinCC, Samar spdltr ser P60-45 dtd 13 Oct'45 to CCT, Philseafon).
- 11-30-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 104th CB - located at Samar. Report via 19th Reg. & 2nd Brig.
- 1-11-46 - Inactivation of 104th CB was completed on 1 Dec'45. (OinC, 7th Brig. ltr ser 3883 dtd 1 Dec'45 to OinC, 104th CB).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
30 Jun'44	30	1049	Recap.
1 Aug'44	30	992	MoR
1 Sep'44	31	985	MoR
30 Sep'44		980	Recap
1 Nov'44	32	1044	MoR
1 Dec'44	28	1035	MoR
31 Dec'44		1039	Recap.
1 Jan'45	29	1039	MoR
1 Feb'45	29	1030	MoR
1 Mar'45	29	1027	MoR
1 May'45	28	1014	MoR
1 Jun'45	29	1013	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	28	1000	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45		860	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	24	712	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'45	15	378	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	9	194	BNP625 & R

104th Construction Battalion (INACTIVATED)

Location:
Coronado, Calif.

104th Naval Construction Battalion

3-7-47

The 104th was activated at NAVPHIBASE Coronado, Calif., 6 March 1947. CNO ltr. Op34J-at, Ser. 2509P34 dtd. 8 Jan. 47 authorized the establishment of the 104th.

*Little changed CNO ltr op4411 Ser. 235P44, 310.750
ACB to*

On Board

<u>Date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Authority</u>
5-1-47	5	0	Roster
6-1-47	5	211	BNP 625 & Roster
7-1-47	6	200	" " "

C. B. #104

6/3/44	-	Admiralty	-	Left U.S. Dec. 1943.
6/12/44	-	Milne Bay	Bullocks CB report 1 May	Questionable.
7/3/44	-	Las Negras	Bullocks CB report 1 June	Temp. ass. gimest from 3 rd Brig. 12th Regt.
7/25	-	DOTI-Manus	Comberwick jet Sec act disp 110944 July.	
2/8	-	EDUR.	Comberwick jet Sec act disp. 090924 Aug.	Delete DOTI (110944) now at Edur.
11/25	-	Edur	Comberwick jet Sec act disp. 150133.	
2/12	-	OSSO 4200	Comberwick jet Sec. 020659 Feb.	Delete Edur - add OSSO-4200

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	DECLASSIFIED
3/29	-	* Leyte Gulf (now facil Leyte) 0330-4200	Comberwick jet sec 260558 Mar.	# present location and assignment.

104TH BATTALION

Organized at Camp Peary, the 104th Battalion had brief duty at Camp Endicott and four months at Gulfport, Miss., before it sailed for Milne Bay Dec. 15, 1943. Arriving at Milne Bay Feb. 2, 1944, the Battalion was stationed at Gamadodo until March 26. Sailing for Los Negros, the Battalion arrived there on April 1, for four months duty before returning to Milne Bay Aug. 4. On Sept. 7, 1944, a draft of 100 men was assigned to PAD 3. These men returned to the outfit Dec. 2. On Sept. 25, 1944, a draft of 224 men was sent to Australia and returned on Nov. 22. On Dec. 13 a draft of 56 men was ordered to Sual Port to build a PT base. This job was completed on April 9, 1945, and these men returned to the Battalion. On Jan. 6, 1944 the Battalion left Milne Bay and reported at Leyte Jan. 22, 1945.

U. S. Naval Construction Battalion 104

World War II Chronology

- 16 Jul 43 The 104th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion was activated at the Naval Construction Training Center, Camp Peary, Virginia with Commander Robert C. Johnson assigned as the Officer-in-Charge.
- Personnel of the battalion entrained for the Naval Construction Training Center at Camp Endicott, Davisville, Rhode Island. At Davisville the battalion underwent advanced military and technical training.
- 24 Aug 43 The battalion left Camp Endicott and headed for the Advance Base Depot, Camp Hollyday, near Gulfport, Mississippi.
- 28 Aug 43 At Gulfport the battalion underwent further advanced military and technical training.
- 15 Dec 43 The 104th Battalion boarded the S.S. Zoella Lykes and the next day sailed for Milne Bay, New Guinea.
- 25 Dec 43 Christmas Day was spent by the battalion in the Panama Canal Zone.
- 22 Jan 44 The battalion arrived at Brisbane, Australia.
- 2 Feb 44 After spending several days at Brisbane, the 104th battalion resumed its voyage and landed at Gamadodo, Milne Bay. At Gamadodo Commander Johnson was succeeded as Officer-in-Charge by Lieutenant Commander K. P. Coykendall, CEC, USNR, and the battalion was attached to the Twelfth Naval Construction Regiment. While stationed at Gamadodo, the battalion operated at Kana Kopa, Samarai, and Waga Waga. It built a camp for itself and the 119th Seabees, built warehouses, built a seaplane base, operated a sawmill, and repaired damage to the PT Motor Torpedo Boat Base at Kana Kopa.
- 26 Mar 44 The 104th Battalion departed from New Guinea and sailed for Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands. It arrived there six days later.

- 1 Apr 44 The battalion arrived at Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands. The principal project on the island was the building of Mokerang Air Base in conjunction with the Army Aviation Engineers. On this project the operations of the 104th were directed by the Army Engineers who already had started the base. The runways and taxiways that the 104th worked on were available for use by 22 April, and on that day the Liberator Bombers of the 307th Bombardment Group landed at Mokerang. Besides working on the airfield, the battalion built camps for the Air Force, built roads, unloaded ships, assembled pontoons, and performed many other construction duties.
- 1 Aug 44 The 104th Seabees left the Admiralty Islands for Milne Bay, New Guinea.
- 6 Aug 44 The battalion arrived at Gamadodo for refitting and equipment repairs. No projects were assigned to it immediately.
- 7 Sep 44 One hundred men of the battalion were detached for duty with Pontoon Assembly Detachment 3.
- 25 Sep 44 A detachment of 224 men was sent to Brisbane, Australia to work on converting the U.S.S. Wright to the Flagship of the Service Forces of the Seventh Fleet.
- 22 Nov 44 The men detached to Australia returned to the battalion at Gamadodo.
- 13 Dec 44 Fifty-six men of the battalion went to Sual Bay, Luzon, in the Philippines, to help build a PT Motor Torpedo Boat Advance Base at that location.
- 6 Jan 45 The 104th Battalion boarded six Landing Ship, Tanks (LSTs) enroute to the Philippine Islands.
- 21 Jan 45 The 104th Battalion landed at San Antonio on the island of Samar in the Philippines. There the battalion built its camp and worked on some construction projects.

However, in the ensuing months the 104th Seabees were busily engaged in working on their main project, the headquarters of the Naval Operating Base at Tacloban on the island of Leyte, just across San Pedro Bay. The men commuted by ferry between San Antonio and Tacloban.

The battalion constructed, operated, and maintained the utility systems at the Naval Operating Base, maintained the Fleet Air Wing Camp and also PT Base 5, built roads, and provided other public works services for all naval installations in the Tacloban area.

- 9 Apr 45 The Port Sual detachment of 56 men returned to the main body of the battalion at Leyte-Samar.
- 1 Dec 45 The 104th Naval Construction Battalion was inactivated at Leyte-Samar.



GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT DOONE?

USN 104TH CB'S









