30th Special Naval Construction Battalion

Historical Information





"Construimus, Batuimus" "We Build, We Fight" 30th C.B. (Special) - 1st Sect.

NOTO

ABD - Lido Beach Ready Date - 10 Jul 44

Left ABD - 25 Jul 44

Location - Cherboard Ivybridge, Davon

Exeter, Plymouth

LOG

7-17-44 - 15 off. and 505 men departed ABDRE Davisville 7 Jul 44 for Lido. (ABD Davisville TWX 07twx1517JULY1944)

8-15-44 - 30th (Sp) 1st Sect. expected to arrive in the U.K. about 5 Aug 44 for assignment at MALVERN under the 25th Reg. (ComNavEu Sec. Memo to Adm. Stark dtd 25 Jul 44)

- 9-30-44 1 Sep'44 report of 13th Reg. The 30th (Sp) 1st Sect. came into the British Isles at Roseneath, Scotland about 6 Aug'44. The complement was transported to Ivybridge. Devon, arriving there on 8 Aug'44. This batt was attached for temporary duty with the 13th Reg. After the men had moved into their quarters, details were called upon for public works maintenance duties and stevedore work at docks in Plymouth.
- 10-23-44 18 Sep'44 report of 30th (Sp) 1st Sect. This unit was formed on 2 Jul'44 at
 Davisville and is composed of one-half hdqtrs Co. and Co's A and D of the original 30th (Sp). On 7 Jul'44, the batt reported to Lido Beach, Long Is. as part
 of Drew 4, embarked on 25 Jul'44 and arrived at Glasgow, Scotland. Arrived at
 Ivybridge, Deon, Eng. on 8 Aug'44. Batt was alerted for possible movement during the latter part of August. Report endorsed by 13th Regiment.

30th C.B. (Special) Sect. 1

Location - Ivybridge, Devon

10-28-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 30th (Sp) 1st Sect. - Location not stated. Report endorsed by 13th Regiment.

10-31-44 - 1 Oct'44 report of 13th Reg. - A group of 36 men and 1 off. from the 30th (Sp) 1st Sect. were sent from Ivybridge, Devon to Milford Haven, Pembroke, Wales to load ships destined for the U.S.

.1-13-44 - The 13th Reg. disbanded. The 30th (Sp) 1st Sect. ordered to report to Comphibsuk for temp. duty while in the U.K. (Comnaveus Conf. Disp. to comphisuk 081451 NCR 6265 dtd 8 Nov'44)

12-5-44 - 1 Nov'44 report of 30th (Sp) 1st Sec. - Unit moved from Ivybridge Recreation Grounds to Camp Efford. Report endorsed by 13th Regiment.

2-10-45 - 1 Jan'45 report of 30th (Sp) 1st Sec. - operating in U.K.

2-13-45 - 1 De6'44 report of the 30th (Sp) 1st Sec. - operating in U.K. 3-5-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of the 30th (Sp) 1st Sec. - operating in U.K.

4- 3-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of the 30th (Sp) 1st Sec. - operating in U.K.

4-19-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 30th (Sp) 1st Sec. - A det. of 6 off. and 230 men to be design. as 30th (Sp), Sec. 1, Det. A is temp being assigned for duty on the continent of Europe.

4-24-45 - 30th (Sp) Det A upon receipt of orders dtd 6 Apr'45 and when directed by proper authority proceed and carry out instructions as per following disp quoted in pt:
"Lt Turner directed to take chee of 5 off, and 231 men comprising 30th (Sp) Sec 1
Det A. Prorep CTF 126 for duty via transp assigned XX". (30th (Sp) Sec 1 orders P16-4/00(466) dtd 6 Apr'45 from OinC to Lt. Turner)

5-14-45 - 1 May 45 report of 30th(Sp) - locating not given. On 8 Apr 45 a detachment consisting of 6 offers & 230 men designated as Sect. 1, Det. A left present site & reportd to U.K. Base 2 under temp duty with CTF126.

- men, retd to lymouth. This detachment had been in training at it. The during temp auty with CTF 126. On 23 May adetachment of 4 off. and 186 men were savinged temp duty at Edinburgh camp, Plymouth. They will operate from stevedoring assistant ments from the PWO Comphibaukay. The remaining 12 off. and 304 men stayed on at Camp Efford. Preparations are complete for this remaining group to move an 1 June to US New Adv Supply Base, Exeter to take over duties of the 10th (50) Sec 3.
- 6-30-45 The 30th (Sp) has on board as of 15 June 16 off, and 490 men. This unit bus relieved the 10th (Sp) as the stevedoring and stores-handling crew at USNA 3D Exeter as of 1 June. Approx 5 off, and 195 men of this (Sp) CB are stevedoring on the southern coast with hdorrs at Plymouth. (Dirlantdocks Conf memo ADYD-00431 dtd 23 June to Nav Insp Gen--Copy of Conf memo for Adm Stark dtd 15 June "Distr of CB Personnel in the ETO as of 15 Jun'45")
- 7-11-45 1 Jul'45 report of the 30th (Sp) Sec.1 located at Exeter and Plymouth. On 1 Jun'45 12 officers and 304 men moved from Camp Efford, Plymouth, Devon to the U.S. NavAmphSupplyBase, Exeter, Devon and assumed the duties of the 10th(Sp) Sec. 2 which had been transferred to the U.S. The remaining portion of the 30th (Sp) Sec. b remained at Edinbourgh Camp. Plymouth, Devon for stevedoring operations.
- s-12-45 1 Aug 45 report of the 30th (Sp) Sec 1 Unit civided into 2 sections with 394 men stationed at US Nav Adv Amph Supply Base Exeter and 176 men and 4 off. stations in the Fore Street Camp at Plymouth.
- 3-17-45 1 Sept 45 report of Soth(Sp), Sec. 1. Sett still divided into a most still divided int

Location -

30th (Sp), Sec. 1

- 10-23-45 30th(Sp), Sec. 1 arrived in U.S. on 15 Oct 45. 9 off. & 425 men returned. (OinC, 30th(Sp), Sec. 1 ltr dtd 20 Oct 45 to BuDocks).
- 10-23-45 30th(Sp), sec. 1 inactivated 20 Oct 45. (Davisville, R.I. TWX 221504 Oct 45 to BuPers).

	ON HOA	RD	
DATE	OFFICERS	MEN	AUTHORITY
1 Jul 44	15	505	BNP625
1 Aug 44 1 Sep 44 1 Oct 44	1.5	494 494 493 487	BNP625 BNP625 MoR Recap
30 Sep 44 1 Nov 44 1 Jan 45 1 Dec 44 1 Feb 45 1 Mar 45 1 Apr 45	15 15 15 15 15	490 490 495 488 487 484	MoR MoR MoR MoR BNP625 & MoR MoR BNP625
1 May 45 1 Jun 45	16		BNP625 & R
1 Jul 45 1 Aug 45 1 Sept 45 1 Oct 45	15 14 14 9	484 474 466 527	BNP625 & R BNP625 & R BNP625 & R

ON TO ATO

30th Construction Battalion (Special) - 1st Sect. (INACTIVATED)

30th C.B. (Special) - 2nd Sect.

NOTC - FEARY Davisville

ARD - Hueneme
Ready Date - 10 Nov 44
Left ABD - 28 Feb 45
Location - Samar

LOG

CNO orders transfer of the 30th (Sp), 2nd Sect. from Davisville to Hueneme about 10 Oct 44. (Conf. Disp. 231333 NCR 6586 from CNO to addressees dtd 23 Sep) The 30th (Sp) 2nd Section assigned to Out 16. (CNO conf. ltr Op30-20K15- WT mer (SC)P16-5/MB110 over Ser. 01387630 to dist. list AtA 21 Nov 14). 1-24-45 -- The 30th (Sp) 2nd Sec. is to report to CMB ULUD - deleted from Cub 16 and assigned to Comser7flt.(CNO conf. disp to Hueneme 181415 atd 19 Jan'45). 3-1-45 - The 30th (Sp) 2nd Section with 13 officers and 522 men departed Hueneme for overseas 28 Feb 45. (Hueneme conf. disp to Bupers 232333 Feb 45). 30th (Sp) Sec. 2 located in Leyte-Samar area. (Comserfor7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr 45) 5- 1-45 -The 30th (Sp) Sec 2 is located at Samar. (Dirpacdocks S.F. Sc Rep of 15 Apr' 45) 5- 8-45 -1 May 45 report of 30th(Sp) - located at Samar. Report routed via 3rd Brg. Sec. 2. 6-19-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 30th (Sp) - located in Leyte-Samar area. 6-27-45 - Comserfor7flt has requested the establishment of a CB Regiment to consist of the following CR Specials now assigned duty at NOB Leyte Gulf: 5th (5p), 19th (5p).

1/2 30th (Sp), 32nd (Sp), and 33rd (Sp). Accordingly, establishment of the 50th CB Regiment is authorized and is to be effective when directed by Cincpos. This

- 5-27-45 (Cont.) Regiment to report to the 3rd Brg for adm purposes. (CML conf its ser 0251730 dtd 22 June to Com7flt)
- 7-16-45 1 Jul 45 report of the 30th (Sp) Sec 4 located at Leyte-Spear. Report with
- 7-27-45 -The 30th (Sn) Sec 2 is located at Tologa, Leyte, and is attacked to the "the
- but no Reg. (CCT 7th Fit Sec Rep for June) 5-13-45 The 30th (Sp) Sec 2 is attached to the 50th Reg. (Com7fit conf report on 37 organization in Leyte-Semar area ser 04296 dtd 26 July to CNO)
- and -45 1 Sept 45 report of 30th CH(Sp). And Sec. Located in September 2 rec. According 50th Reg & 7th Brig.
- 10-22-45 1 Oct 45 report of 30th(Sp), 2nd Sec. Located at Leyte-Samar. Report via 50th Reg. & 7th Brig. Report states that 30th(Sp), 2nd Sec. will be inactivated as of 3 Oct. 45 & will be consolitdated with the 19th(Sp).
- 11-6-45 30th CB(Sp) Sec. 2 inactivated as of 17 Oct 45. (Comservpec restr 1tr ser 1372-1-61 dtd 17 Oct 45 to BuPers).

INACTIVATED

	ON BOAR	0	
DATE	OFFICERS	MEN	AUTFORITY
1 Sep 44		490	BNP625
1 Nov' 44		528	BNP625
1 Dec 44		524	BNP625
1 Jan 45		516	BNP625
1 "eb'45		540	BNP625
1 Mar 45		522	BNP625
1 Apr 45		522	BNP625
1 May 45	14	520	MoR
1 Jun 45	14	51.5	BNP625 & R
1 Jul 45	14	509	BNP625 & R
1 Aug 45	14	504	BMP625 & R
1 Sept 45	-	474	
Y and the second		20 trans.	BNP625
1 Oct 45	14	458	
		21 Trans.	BNP625 & R

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Date	Organizat	tion Location	Reference	Notas
6/19/42/	-	Unassign	ed C.B. report	
1/26/44	·	lacieville or	Lido Bulocks memo	1/2 ready July 10 The
7/6/44	-	1/2 XIDO Beach CORE	(m) 2817 45. June	(Comhau Eur.) /2 transfer to EINC Beach 7 July, arrywd DR E W
		1/2 un ass gred - S	el New Card.	Beach of July, anywell
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oug 1	5 years	Exeter,	18 Lega London	

30 C	B Special	Sec 2		DECLASSIFIED
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10/19	1		Sep. 93. 2/0/2	
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11/30	(cab 16)	Huenema	Bullocks memo	ready nor 10- used
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30 Special Sec 2 pag 2

Date Organization Location Reference DECLASSIFIED

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-- FOREWORD --

On April 3, 1944 the 30th Special United States Naval Construction Battalion was organized and commenced training at Camp Perry, NCTC, Williamsburg, Virginia. It was a rainy day but the weather failed to dampen the spirits of that newly formed group of one thousand men—strangers for the most part—as they embarked upon their new and uncharted career. These men have worked and played together, amid the sweat of labor and the laughter of fun and frivolity they have lived together these many months, united in the service of their country.

Following a period of intensive training the battalion moved to Camp Thomas, Davisville, Rhode Island. In July 1944 the 30th Special Battalion was split into two sections. The first section, comprised of companies A and D, plus half of Headquarters, shipped to Lido Beach, New York, for transport to the European theatre. The second section remained at Camp Thomas for further duty. Later we were shipped to Hueneme, California, and then to the South Pacific, finally arriving at Calicoan, a small island off the tip of Samar in the Philippines. Here we remained through the rest of the war, merging after the war with the 19th Special Battalion.

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In October 1943, the 19th Special United States Naval Construction Battalion was formed. This was followed by two months of intensive training and drilling, grouping and regrouping—finally, late in November the battalion was commissioned. Again came training, three weeks of it. Then orders! Move! It was on Christmas Day 1943 that we loaded aboard a train bound for Camp Thomas. Here we remained for a few days and finally on January 4, 1944 amid sleet and snow, we were loaded aboard a ship for points unknown, and what was to prove to be a long tour overseas filled with work, sweat, and some play.

The weather became warmer and then hotter. Then we found ourselves passing through the Panama Canal, Pacific bound. The first stop was Finchshalen, New Guinea. Here we spent four grueling months working in heat and tropical rain. Then the battalion was split into two sections, the first section remaining behind, the second section moving on to Mios Woendi Island, opposite Biak.

It was October 1944 that we moved again. This time it was a big push—the invasion of the Philippines. On D-Day we went in with the help of a tropical typhoon and made camp at San Antone, Samar. Here we remained until January of 1945 when once again we broke camp and came to Calicoan—being the first Special Battalion ashore.

In October 1945 the Second Section of the 30th Special and the Second Section of the 19th Special were merged. This merger of the two ballations which had been neighbors since the arrival of the 30th occurred as a result of the heavy loss of personnel through discharges. From this date on the two administrations were combined and the battalion assumed the name of the 19th. Because of the rapid demobilization of the original 19th it became impossible to publish a separate book so that its material was incorporated into the 30th's book which was near completion. It is with these two groups, the second sections of the 30th and 19th Special United States Battalions, that we deal here.



Here Are Two Seabee Stories 30th Special Battalion

More specifically, this is a pictorial review of the overseas activities of the men who helped deliver the goods for the Navy. This may be interpreted as the story of your own Bill or Joe or Eddie, for within these covers we have endeavored to display the living story, in pictures, of individual personalities. How better could a Seabee Battalion be defined than "... a sizeable group of individuals, each of whom possesses a knowledge of some specific trade or profession, is able to think for himself, to perform his duties under pressure, working together as a highly synchronized unit and willing to fight together if need be to preserve the freedom and personal right for which our great country stands."

The 30th Special, Second Section, remained at Camp Thomas until October 1944. During the months of this stay our unit established an enviable record through its stevedoring operations and an extensive camp beautification program. We loaded many ships with vital wartime cargo, and, in the absence of ships, our battalion was busily engaged in landscaping, clearing away useless trees and brush to provide a cleaner, healthier camp

Following an embarkation leave we entrained for the West Coast, arriving at Port Hueneme, California, on October 15th. Immediately we entered into another extensive military and technical training program in preparation for our future assignment. At Hueneme we received an additional draft of men to replace those we had lost through various transfers on the East Coast and this new group was assigned to stevedore training. Then came more important stevedoring assignments, the loading of cargo for our fighting forces throughout the vast Pacific theatre.

February 28, 1945. That is one date we all remember so well, for on that moist Wednesday afternoon we went aboard the M/S Japara, a Dutch merchant vessel, with our destination unknown. During a layover of several days at Pearl Harbor we enjoyed the rare privilege of shore liberty. What with Honolulu, Waikiki Beach, and the mammoth Pearl Harbor Naval Base itself, we had a swell time indeed. Our sea voyage was uneventful from the standpoint of enemy interference. But we did have some experiences which, although now good for a laugh, appeared quite serious at the time. Among these we leel obligated to mention the seasickness which created so many "rail benders" the first three days at sea; also, we recall vividly those desperate attempts to enjoy a comfortably cool sleep 'neath the stars—only to be rudely awakened by a sudden tropical shower

Our voyage came to an end as we anchored out in Leyte Gulf on April 5, 1945. Two days later we had docked and gone ashore on Calicoan, a small island at the southern tip of Samar in the Philippines. Calicoan has since been connected with Samar by a splendid hard surface coral causeway constructed by Seabees. As dusk settled over the tiny island the last of our men arrived at the sandy, barren camp site.

The days and weeks that followed our landing strongly emphasize the Seabee motto, "CAN DO." On the second morning our cooks served a hot breakfast; tents and temporary wooden structures mushroomed across our previously bare camp site. No sooner had the very essentials been attended to than construction was started on our permanent living quarters, keeping pace with the well planned administration building, mess hall, dental clinic, and sick bay. Within a remarkably short time the tents disappeared as we moved into our cool, comfortable quanset huts. The camp was our pride and joy and the object of much discussion by the personnel of the Naval Supply Depot and the members of various Seabee battalions. Our accomplishment served both as an incentive and a pattern for other units.

Let it be understood moreover that this outstanding bit of camp construction was effected through the efficient use of a limited number of men, many of whom had had no previous construction experience. While all of this building was under way our stevedore gangs were loading and discharging ships that were running right up to the lines of offensive action. Thus we were in the very thick of the battle. Ours was the battle of supplies and we are proud that the 30th Special, Second Section, did its part.

We could write volumes about the work of our unit 'neath the tropical sun, discharging ships in the stream during the inky black of the night; softball games, baseball, basketball . . . a pause for thanks to God and singing His praises. But somehow we feel that you, our families and friends, will learn more about our overseas life through the pictures that follow. Soon all of us will be home again to live with you in peace, a real peace that we pray will last forever. We hope to pick up this book years hence and glance through its pages and thus re-live many of the incidents portrayed by these photographs.



Chronology

30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (Section One)

- 1 Jul 44 The 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion was stationed at the Naval Construction Training Center, Davisville, Rhode Island.
- 2 Jul 44 The battalion was divided into two parts, and the two parts were designated respectively as Section One and Section Two. Section One was scheduled for shipment to the United Kingdom and Section Two was scheduled for shipment to the Pacific via Port Hueneme, California.
- 7 Jul 44 The 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (Section One) departed at 1 P.M. by train from the Advance Base Depot, Davisville, Rhode Island

At 8 P.M. Section One arrived at the Advance Base Amphibious Training Unit, Lido Beach, Long Island, New York.

- 7 Jul 44 25 Jul 44 The 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (Section One) remained at Lido Beach, New York.
- 25 Jul 44 At 9:30 A.M., Section One of the 30th Special Battalion departed from Lido Beach, New York.

At 10:10 A.M., Section One boarded Long Island Rail Road coaches at Long Beach, New York.

At 10:18 A.M., Section One departed from Long Beach.

At 12:42 P.M., Section One was transferred from the train to a ferry and crossed New York Harbor.

At 14:05 P.M., 15 officers and 494 enlisted men of the First Section boarded the Navy transport USS <u>Lejeune</u> in New York Harbor.

At 3:00 P.M., the complement of Section One boarded the U.S. Army transport SS <u>Joseph T. Robinson</u>, docked at Barre. At 7:15 P.M., the SS <u>Joseph T. Robinson</u> weighed anchor and sailed for the United States.

- 4 Oct 45 14 Oct 45 The 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (Section One) was at sea aboard the SS Joseph T. Robinson.
- 14 Oct 45 At 4:45 P.M., the SS <u>Joseph T. Robinson</u>, with the 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion aboard, dropped anchor in Boston Harbor, Mass., U.S.A.
- 15 Oct 45 At 7:45 A.M., the SS <u>Joseph T. Robinson</u> docked at Boston Harbor.

At 10 A.M., the men of the 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (First Section) disembarked from the SS <u>Joseph T.</u>
Robinson docked in Boston.

At 10:40 A.M., the men of the First Section boarded a train and departed from Boston.

At 12:50 P.M., the First Section arrived at the Naval Construction Training Center, Davisville, Rhode Island.

- 15 Oct 45 20 Oct 45 The 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (First Section) was stationed at Davisville, Rhode Island.
- 20 Oct 45 The 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (First Section) was disestablished at Davisville, Rhode Island.

- 26 Jul 44 At 10:30 A.M., the USS <u>Lejeune</u> weighed anchor and sailed with the 30th Special Construction Battalion (Section One) and other units for the United Kingdom.
- 26 Jul 44 5 Aug 44 The 30th Special Construction Battalion (Section One) was at sea aboard the USS Lejeune.
- 5 Aug 44 At 3:22 P.M., the USS <u>Lejeune</u>, with the 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion aboard, dropped anchor in the Harbor of the Firth of Clyde, Scotland.
- 6 Aug 44 At 1:03 P.M., the USS <u>Lejeune</u>, with the 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (Section One) aboard weighed anchor and proceeded up the Clyde River and then docked at the pier, Glasgow, Scotland.
- 7 Aug 44 At 2:30 A.M., the 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (Section One) disembarked from the USS <u>Lejeune</u> at Glasgow.

 At 3:00 A.M., the First Section boarded trains at Glasgow.

 At 3:45 A.M., the first echelon of Section One departed from Glasgow for Ivybridge, England, and the remaining echelons followed within a few hours.
- 7 Aug 44 4 Oct 45 The 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (Section One) served in England, principally at Ivybridge, Plymouth, and Exeter.
- 4 Oct 45 At 7:15 A.M., 10 officers and 426 enlisted men, constituting the 30th Special Naval Construction Battalion (Section One), departed by train from U.S. Naval Amphibious Supply Base, Exeter, Devon, England.

At 12:35 P.M., Section One arrived at Barre, Wales.

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ITINERARY OF 30TH MAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SPECIAL, SECTION ONE

- 2 Jul 19/4 Formed at Davisville, R. I.
- 7 Jul 1944 15 officers and 505 men departed ABDRD, Davisville, R.I. for Lido Beach, L. I., N. Y.
- 25 Jul 1944 Embarked for United Kingdom .
 - 6 Aug 1944 Arrived Roseneath, Scotland on 4 August 1944; Ivybridge, England, 6 August 1944
 - 8 Aug 1944 Details of men called upon for Public Works maintenance duties and stevedore work at docks in Plymouth.
- 15 Sep 1944 On or about this date a group of 36 men and one officer were sent from Ivybridge, England to Milford Haven, Pembroke, Wales, to load ships destined for the U.S.
- 8 Apr 1945 A detachment consisting of 6 officers and 230 men designated as Section 1 Det. A. left for tempu at Roseneath, Scotland.
- May 1945 Det. A. returned to Plymouth during this month.
- 1 Jun 1945 12 officers and 704 men moved from Plymouth to U.S. Navel Amphibious Supply Base, Exeter, and assumed duties of the 10th Special NCB, Sec. 2 which was returned to the U.S. The remaining portion of the 30th Spec. remained at Plymouth for stevedoring operations.
- 4 Oct 1945 Entire unit embarked for return to the U.S.
- 15 Oct 19'5 Arrived continental U. S.
- 20 Oct 1945 Decommissioned this date.
- MOTE: This itinerary has been checked and authenticated by the Officer in Charge of the 30th Naval Construction Battalion Special, Section One.

Date: 20 October 1945











