

33rd Special Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



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



33rd(Sp)

NCTC - Davisville
 ABD - Hueneme
 Ready Date - 25 Sep'44
 Left ABD - 26 Oct'44
 Location - ~~Milne Bay (Sub-16)~~ Leyte

LOG

- 8-29-44 - 33rd (Sp) ordered ~~from~~ ^{to} Parks from Davisville about 31 Aug'44. (CNO conf. disp. 221631 NCR 1269 to ABD Davisville dtd 23 Aug'44)
- 9-12-44 - 33rd (Sp), consisting of 33 officers and 997 men, arrived Parks from Davisville 4 & 5 Sep. (Conf. disp. NC124 080005 NCR 4056 GR89 from Parks to BuPers)
- 9-15-44 - 33rd(Sp)(33 off. & 1060 men) left Parks 9 Sep'44 for Hueneme(Parks 11TWX2355Sept'44 to Budocks).
- 9-15-44 - 33rd CB(Sp) arrived Hueneme from Parks 10 Sep'44.(ABD Hueneme Sec. disp. 131700 NCR 8030 to CNO dtd 14 Sep'44).
- 10-5-44 - The 5th and 33rd (Specials) ready date is 10 Oct'44 - destination Milne Bay.(CNO Sec. Disp. 032029 NCR 8070 to Com7Flt, Com 12, & Budocks dtd 3 Oct'44).
- 11-1-44 - The 33rd (Sp) departed Hueneme for Milne Bay 26 Oct'44.(Hueneme Conf. disp to CNO 262349 NCR 2271 dtd 27 Oct'44).
- 12-29-44--The 33rd (Sp) (part) arrived Milne Bay 13 Nov'44 and ordered to Leyte.(Comserfor7fl Sec. report for Oct'44 dtd 20 Nov'44).
- 1-12-45--The 33rd (Sp) is located at Tacloban, Leyte.(Comser7flt Sec. disp to CNO 231053 dtd 5 Jan'45).
- 1-13-45 - 33rd (Sp) located at Leyte. (Comserfor7flt Sec. report for Nov'44 dtd 15 Dec'44)
- 2-14-45 - The 33rd (Sp) is available for assignment to Samar.(CNO Sec. ltr to distribution list Ser. 0039230 dtd 3 Feb'45).

Location - Samar

33rd (Sp)

- 2-15-45 -- The 33rd (Sp) is located at Guiuan, Samar.(Comserfor7flt Sec. report for Dec'44 dtd 15 Jan'45).
- 3-16-45 -- Comserfor7flt conf. apdltr Ser. 0381 dtd 2 Mar'45 to CNOB Leyte Gulf - the 33rd (Sp) 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 - Comdt NOB Tacloban orders the 33rd CB (Sp) to further report to CO, NavSta, Guiuan, Samar for duty with Const Forces headed by the Comdr Const Forces and Sr Brg Comdr. (Comdt NOB Tacloban ltr P16-3(1) over Ser 1025 dtd 11 Mar'45 to OinC 33rd (Sp)).
- 4-7-45 - The 33rd (Sp) reported to the CO NavSta Guiuan, Samar on 14 Mar'45--ordered to further report to the Comdr Const. Forces for duty. (1st End. on CNOB Leyte orders NS/P16-3(1) over Ser 1345 dtd 14 Mar'45)
- 5-1-45 - The 33rd (Sp) is located at Guiuan, Samar. (Comserfor7flt Sec Rep of 1 Apr'45)
- 5-8-45 - The 33rd (Sp) is located at Samar. (Dirpadocks S.F. Sec Rep of 15 Apr'45)
- 5-23-45 - 1 Apr'45 report of 33rd (Sp) - Setting up permanent camp in Samar area. Report end. by 3rd Brig. Sect.2.
- 5-24-45 - 1 May'45 report of the 33rd (Sp) - located at Leyte-Samar. Report end. by 3rd Brg Sec 2.
- 5-29-45 - The 33rd (Sp) is under the adm control of the 3rd Brg and under operational control of the CO, US NavSta Samar. (1st end to OinC 33rd (Sp) conf ltr ser P-140 to Dirpadocks SF dtd 10 May'45)
- 6-9-45 - 1 Mar'45 report of 33rd (Sp) - located in Samar area. Routed via 3rd Brig.
- 6-13-45 - 1 Feb'45 report of 33rd (Sp) - located in Samar area. Report end. by 3rd Brig.
- 6-25-45 - 1 Jun'45 report of the 33rd (Sp) - located at Leyte-Samar. Report via 7th Brg.

Location - Leyte- Samar33rd CB (Special)

- 6-27-45 - Comserfor7flt has requested the establishment of a CB Regiment to consist of the following CB Specials now assigned duty at NOB Leyte Gulf: 5th (Sp), 19th (Sp) 1/2 30th (Sp), 32nd (Sp), and 33rd (Sp). Accordingly, establishment of the 50th Regiment is authorized and is to be effective when directed by Cincpoa. This Regiment is to report to the 3rd Brg for adm purposes. (CNO conf ltr ser 0251730 dtd 22 June to Com7flt)
- 7-27-45 - The 33rd (Sp) is located at Guiuan, Samar. (CCT 7th Flt Sec Rep of June)
- 7-28-45 - 1 Jul'45 report of the 33rd(Sp) - located in Samar area. Report via 7th Brig.
- 8-13-45 - The 33rd (Sp) is attached to the 50th Reg. (Com7flt conf report on CB organization in Leyte-Samar area ser 04296 dtd 26 July to CNO)
- 8-14-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 33rd(Sp) - located in Samar area. Report via 7th Brig.
- 10-22-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 33rd(Sp) - located in Manila. Report via 50th Reg. & 7th Brig. 2 off. & 157 men were sent to Navy 3967 for duty with 19th Reg. 191 men rec'd on board on 30 Sept'45.
- 12-14-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 33rd(Sp) - located in Manila. Report via 50th Reg. & 7th Brig. Quarter of the batt. is still on TAD with Naval Adv Base Unit #13, now located in Shanghai, China. There are 5 off. & 250 men attached to this detachment. 5th(Sp) has been merged into 33rd(Sp).
- 1-11-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of 33rd(Sp) - location not stated. Report via 34th Reg. & 7th Brig.
- 1-29-46 - 1 Dec'45 report of 33rd(Sp) - located at Samar. Report via 34th Reg. & 7th Brig.
- 1-30-46 - 33rd(Sp) is inactivated(date not given). (Com7thFlt disp 270126 Jan'46 to CNO)/
- 2-19-46 - 1 Jan 46 report - located at Samar. Report via 34th reg. & 7th brig.
- 3-13-46 - Report of inactivation of 33rd CB by Com7thflt Disp 270126/Jan in error. Unit still operating at Samar.

Location - Samar33rd CB (Special)

- 3-28-46 - Comservpac directs OinC 7th Brig. to inactivate 93rd CB and 33rd(Sp) in accordance CinCPac-Poa 252045. (Comservpac disp 262240 March).
- 5-2-46 - Comservpac states 33rd(Sp) inactivated during period 1 April 1946 to 1 May 1946. Exact date not given. (Comservpac disp 020320 May to BuPers).

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ON BOARD</u>		<u>AUTHORITY</u>
	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	
1 Sep'44		1063	BNP625
1 Oct'44		1057	BNP625
1 Dec'44		1038	BNP625
1 Jan'45		1036	BNP625
1 Mar'45	33	1020	BNP625 MoR
1 Apr'45	33	1013	MoR
1 May'45	32	1010	MoR
1 Jun'45	29	1012	BNP625 & R
1 Jul'45	28	990	BNP625 & R
1 Aug'45	26	973	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	27	938	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'45	27	1020	
		129 Trans.	BNP625 & R
1 Nov'45	38	1336	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	32	491	BNP625 & R
1 Jan'46	41		R
1 Feb 46	34	568	BNP 625 & R
1 Mar 46	27	400	BNP 625 & R

date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
7/19	Unassigned		C.B. report 1 July.	
9/5	-	Camp Banks	CNO conf disp.	Transfer Camp Banks
9/8	Cub 16	Hueneume	221631 Aug. CNO conf disp. 051931 Sept. also 072051 Sept	For duty pending assignment about 31 Aug. about 16 Sept move to Hueneume. modified to 9 Sept.
9/18	"	Hueneume	Hueneume sec disp. 131700 Sept. BuRocho memo	Arrived from Camp Banks 10 Sept Ready Sept 25.
10/18	(Cub 16)	(Hueneume)	Com 7th Jct sec disp. 170607. Sept.	request 1 Battalion be shipped Milne Bay to arrive early Nov
10/20	Cub 16	(Milne Bay)	CNO sec disp 191040 Sept	Can be ready Hueneume 25 Sept for shipment to Edur.
10/21	Cub 16	(Edur)	Com 7th Jct sec 280913 Sept CNO sec 032029 Oct.	Ready Edur 10 Oct. (still unmarshaled Cub 16) Oct 5.
10/4	Cub 16	Edur (now at Hueneume)		

33rd C.B. Special

11/10	-	Edur	Com 12 Conf disp. 281902 Oct.	Loadship - Lorne Navy number H524
11/25	-	Edur	Com 12th Jct sec act disp. nvd 150133.	
1/9	-	OSSO	Com 12th Jct sec act disp. Dec. 231053.	Delete Edur - Add - OSSO.
1/29	-	Lyle Hulf Nao S for Samau OSSO-21400	Com 12th Jct sec 260558 Mar	present location + assignment

The Story of One Battalion . . . the Thirty-Third

Perhaps the best starting point for the story of the 33rd (Special) U. S. Naval Construction Battalion is the Stevedore Pool at Camp Peary, Virginia. While waiting for assignment to a Special Battalion the men in the pool cut wood, drilled, or went on guard duty and other details. The deary winter months of 1943-'44 slowly passed, but green wood fought a losing battle against the chill of the Virginia nights. Colds and cat fever laid many low. In April the pool prepared to move to Rhode Island. Men were shifted from one barrack to another, got their hair cut short, and stood inspections. On April 15 and 16 the trains pulled out to the strains of "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny."

Camp Endicott, neat and compact, was to most men an improvement over Peary. Barracks were more comfortable. Recreation-Ship's Service buildings offered various opportunities for spending leisure time. It was but a short ride to Providence with its friendly people, its canteens, night clubs, and theaters. The New England countryside was attractive, but poison ivy brought long lines to sick bay. Boston and New York drew men for week-end liberty. But, of course, there was work as well as play. A provisional 33rd Battalion was formed and men were assigned to technical training courses. Then came a move to Sun Valley for six weeks of military training—rifle range, extended order, and bivouac. Life seemed rather free and easy, chow was good, and "Don't Fence Me In" was not yet a popular song.



"Coming of Age."

Returning to Endicott for a busy month the men were given stevedore training. Meanwhile, the battalion had received its Officer-in-Charge and its Executive Officer and was soon to be commissioned. In a colorful ceremony on July 15, with officers and men in dress white uniforms, the battalion received its colors and marched in review before high Naval officers and civil officials. As the month drew to a close, time tables were studied and railroad tickets bought for the eagerly awaited embarkation leave which began July 30.



At Sea....

A few days after the return to camp, the battalion moved to Camp Thomas. Rumor and speculation ran high. Would it stay there for any length of time or would it soon move? The answer was not long in coming. After making a notable contribution to the cleanliness of the camp, the men packed their gear and boarded troop sleepers for California.

Through car windows on the transcontinental trip could be seen something of the rich farming country of the Middle West, cities large and small, and the mountains and ranches of the West. Men played cards, read, and looked at the scenery. It made a pleasant change to have an occasional stop when they could get off the train and have refreshments served by a friendly group of people or have a meal in a restaurant. So the days and miles passed until Camp Parks was reached. The accumulated grime of the trip was removed and clothes were scrubbed and hung out to dry quickly in the intense heat. There was time for a liberty in San Francisco and a bit of clean-up about the area before moving on to Port Hueneme.

Here the Battalion lived on Easy Street, near the gate, the store and the library, enjoying, after a few days of mist and fog, the delightful California climate. Carbines, gas masks, and packs were issued; there was a course of military training; the stevedores were hard at work; battalion gear was assembled and packed; men were transferred in and out. Liberty meant going to fabulous Hollywood, to Los Angeles, Ocean Park or Santa Monica, with all their varied attractions and servicemen's facilities. Preparations went on busily and at length the day of departure came. On October 26, in groups of fifteen, with packs, carbines, gas masks, and seabags, men climbed into trucks for the ride to the docks. They filed up the gang plank and down into the hold for assignment to bunks. In a few hours the ship sailed and soon the shores of the United States faded from sight.

The ship was the M/S *Torrens*, a Norwegian cargo vessel with a captain and crew of that nationality, and now chartered as an Army transport. Rules were necessarily strict but often irksome. Water canteens and life preservers were carried at all times. Boat drills were essential routine as was the blackout. There was some kind of duty for all—clean up, security watch, gun crew, and the like. There were long lines for the two meals served daily in the mess hall. At noon came sandwiches with the inevitable spam. Sleeping quarters were crowded, the heat was unpleasant, and washing in salt water discouraging. Men played cards interminably on deck; they sat about reading or dozing; they leaned on the rail and gazed at the ocean expanses; they watched boxing matches and attended shows and movies.



ITINERARY OF THE 33RD (SPECIAL) NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

- 10 Jul 1944 - Battalion commissioned. Located at Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I.
- 21 Aug 1944 - Departed Camp Endicott, arrived Camp Thomas, ABD, Davisville, R. I.
- 31 Aug 1944 - Departed Camp Thomas for CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.
- 4 Sep 1944 - Arrived CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.
- 9 Sep 1944 - Departed CBRD, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California for ABD, Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, California.
- 10 Sep 1944 - Arrived ABD, Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, California.
- 26 Oct 1944 - Embarked aboard U.S.A.T. Torrens for overseas duty.
- 11 Nov 1944 - Arrived at Milne Bay, Gemadodo, British New Guinea and disembarked.
- 17 Nov 1944 - Embarked aboard U.S.A.T. Torrens for Hollandia, Humboldt Bay, Dutch New Guinea.
- 19 Nov 1944 - Arrived at anchorage, Hollandia, Humboldt Bay, Dutch New Guinea.
- 29 Nov 1944 - Departed Hollandia for San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands.
- 5 Dec 1944 - Under attack by enemy planes.
- 6 Dec 1944 - Arrived San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands. Under intermittent air attacks while at anchorage.
- 9 Dec 1944 - Departed San Pedro Bay, Leyte, Philippine Islands for Guiuan, Samar, Philippine Islands.
- 9 Dec 1944 - Arrived Guiuan, Samar, Philippine Islands.
- 10 Dec 1944 - Disembarked U.S.A.T. Torrens at Guiuan, Samar, Philippine Islands, and immediately commenced stevedoring operations.
- 4 Sep 1945 - Company "A", designated Detachment No. 1, 33rd (SPECIAL) Naval Construction Battalion, departed for temporary additional duty with Naval Advance Base Unit 13 at Shanghai, China.
- 26 Sep 1945 - Company "C", designated Detachment No. 2, 33rd (SPECIAL) Naval Construction Battalion, departed for temporary additional duty at San Antonio, Samar, Philippine Islands.
- 2 Oct 1945 - Fifth (SPECIAL) Naval Construction Battalion consolidated with the 33rd (SPECIAL) Naval Construction Battalion, ~~reported above.~~
- 8 Nov 1945 - Detachment No. 2, 33rd (SPECIAL) Naval Construction Battalion reported aboard.
- 20 Nov 1945 - Detachment No. 1, 33rd (SPECIAL) Naval Construction Battalion still on temporary additional duty with Naval Advance Base Unit 13.

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- 20 Nov 1945 - Detachment No. 1, 33rd (SPECIAL) Naval Construction Battalion still on temporary additional duty with Naval Advance Base Unit 13. 33rd (SPECIAL) Naval Construction Battalion located and operating at Guiuan, Samar, Philippine Islands. Authenticated by CincC, 2 Jan 1946.



THE LOG
33rd Special Naval Construction Battalion



USN



