

CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF THE
HISTORY OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH
U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

CAMP PEARY,
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

The 112th Naval Construction Battalion received its training and was commissioned 29 July 1943 at Camp Peary, Virginia. The Officer in Charge was Commander Douglas S. Fuller and the Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Dean L. Murray. The battalion entrained for Quoddy Village, Maine, 12 September 1943 upon returning from pre-embarkation leave.

QUODDY VILLAGE, MAINE

The 112th Battalion arrived at Quoddy Village, Maine on 13 September 1943 and began initial construction and repairs necessary to converting the luxurious NYA Camp into what is now NCTC, Camp Lee-Stephenson. Considerable military and construction experience was gained. "Procuring", an art of SeaBees, was developed as a result of plentiful NYA equipment.

"Virgin territory" at the nearby liberty towns of Eastport and Calais, Maine, and St. Stephens, Canada, were exploited and enjoyed by the exploiters as well as by the exploited. Renovation continued and Camp Lee-Stephenson was dedicated and commissioned.

Lieutenant Commander Murray was detached from the battalion 10 December 1943. The battalion entrained for Port Hueneme, California on 12 December 1943.

PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA

The battalion arrived at Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, California, 16 December 1943 after a zig-zag 4,000 mile trek across the United States. On 12 January 1944, Commander Fuller was detached from the battalion. Military training ensued and was terminated by the battalion being outfitted for overseas duty.

Lieutenant Commander Frank E. Wade reported aboard 2 January 1944 as Executive Officer. On 13 January 1944, Commander David Y. Taylor reported aboard as Officer in Charge.

The battalion embarked from the shores of the United States for Island X, 24 February 1944.

PEARL HARBOR, OAHU, T. H.

The battalion arrived at Pearl Harbor and moved into tents on the muddy slopes of Moanalua Ridge 1 March 1944. The principle activities were the construction of roads and housing at the Moanalua Ridge CB Camp. Companies A and D were assigned to airport and housing construction at Kaneohe Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay. One officer and sixty riggers were detached as a special crew to assist in the erection of storage tanks at Kwajalein.

The battalion became self-supporting with the completion of its own Ship's Service Store and Theatre. The 112th Battalion soon became known as the battalion of champions, having won the Central Pacific All-Navy CB Track and Field Championship and placing fourth in the AAU Meet. Further laurels were gained with the battalion's doubles tennis team, composed of Lieutenants James C. Stokes and Vernon L. Plattner won the All-Navy Tennis Doubles Championship. R. A. Leake S1c, gained recognition by winning the Central Pacific Area Diving Championship.

The entire battalion was assigned to airport construction 25 June 1944 at the "Country Club of the Pacific", Kaneohe Naval Air Station. The airport comprised the construction of a 5000' x 400' runway, a connecting taxiway and the development of adjoining areas. The strip was paved with 2½" of asphaltic concrete. The entire project was constructed on a coral fill, the material being dredged from the bay by means of a hydraulic dredge.

The first casualty of the battalion, Charles P. Pinkes, Jr., WT1c, was instantly killed while testing a boiler at the battalion operated asphalt plant.

Suddenly, on 6 December 1944, the battalion was alerted and secured for movement to an advanced area. Ten days later the battalion was completely outfitted and embarked for Island X-2.

TINIAN, MARIANAS ISLANDS

After an uneventful trip of 3,300 miles across the Pacific, the first ship arrived at Tinian on the 28th of December 1944. Immediately, construction of fox holes and temporary camp among the ruins of a Jap radio station was initiated. Canefields were cleared and the permanent camp, dedicated as Camp Pinkes, was constructed.

As a battalion of the Sixth Brigade, construction was started on one of the largest air bases in the world, providing facilities for the Army's B-29 Superfortresses. Haul roads were built through the cane fields and new coral pits opened. A salt water line was constructed to provide a half-million gallons of water per day for the airport construction. The B-29 Air Base comprised the construction of two 8500' x 500' strips, 200 B-29 hardstands and two service aprons, including warehouses, airplane repair facilities, roads, and utilities. In a total of 5,000,000 yards of fill material used in the construction, over 2,000,000 yards was coral, which was hauled by a fleet of 400 trucks.

A Japanese Shrine Area, situated in the middle of everything, necessitated enumerable changes in plans and lay-outs.

Improvisation with the expended Japanese equipment became common practice, hereto referred as SeaBee ingenuity. Portable flood-light towers on Jap truck chassis were built. Underground electric duct systems made from demolished sugar mill tubing and 105 mm. shell casing sleeves were installed.

The first Tinian-based B-29 raid to the Jap homeland was witnessed.

Four KP's on a hike captured two Japs. Eight more surrendered voluntarily later, making the total of ten prisoners credited to the 112th Battalion.

On 28 May 1945 the battalion was secured for movement and forty-one days later its last echelon embarked from Tinian and joined a convoy which departed from Saipan the same date for Island X-3.

OKINAWA JIMA, RYUKYUS ISLANDS

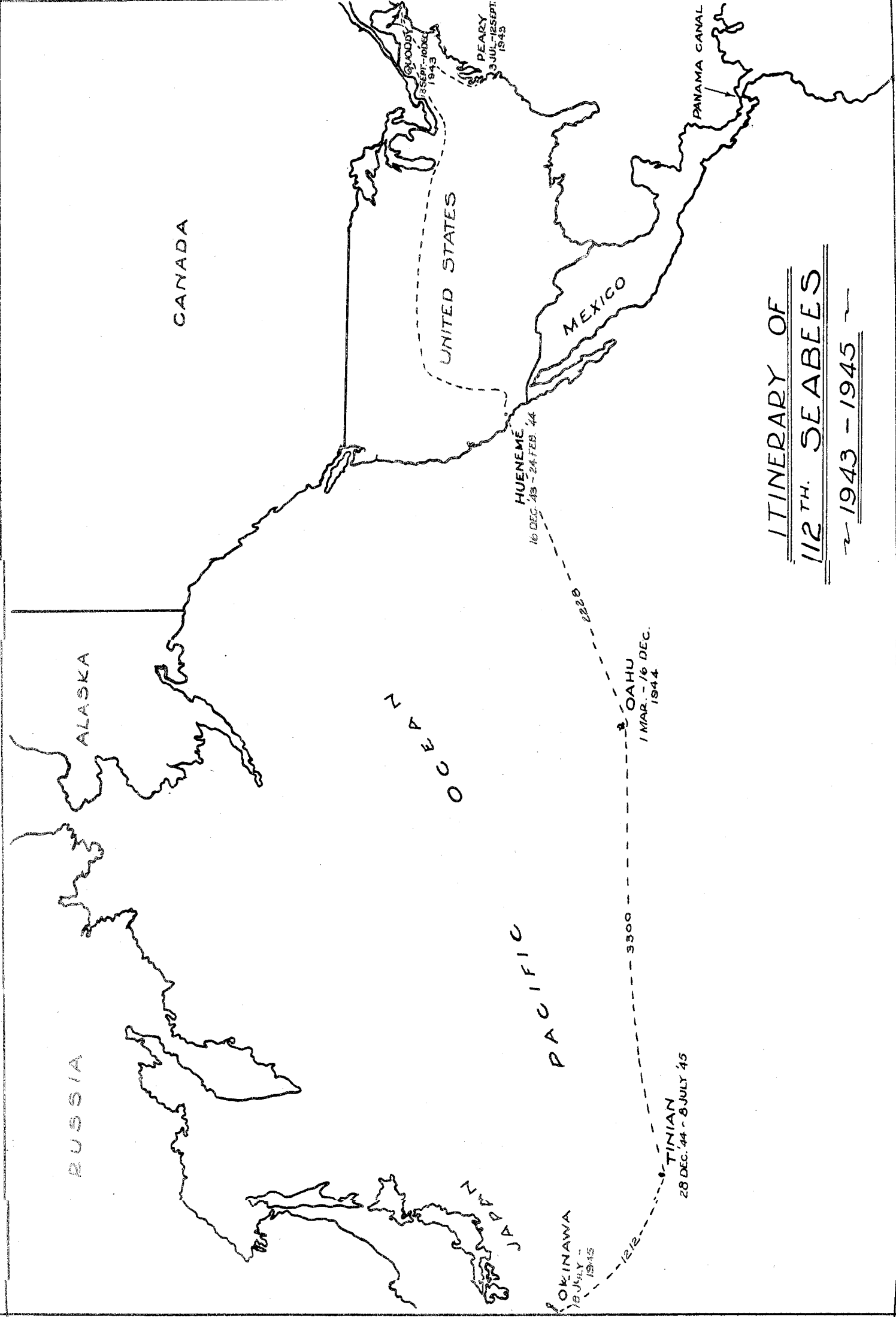
Okinawa was spotted on the morning of 14 July 1945 after six days of very smooth sailing. The first echelon of personnel bivouaced on the 17th of July and the last echelon on the 23rd of July.

Under orders from our parent body, the 8th Brigade, work was started on a 400-bed Special Augmented Hospital the day after our first echelon bivouaced ashore. This was to be part of a 5000-bed system of hospitals being built on the island.

The construction of a Radio Direction Finder and Supplementary Radio Receiving Facilities supplied the south end of the island with a powerful radio station which aided immeasurably in communications. A total of 31 Japs that were captured on the job site has confirmed the SeaBees' motto, "We build, we fight."

Improvement, relocation and maintenance of roads has been a large item on the battalion's project list. Small amounts of rain every hour of two each day and night accompanied by typhoons every week or two made for much mud and consequently intensified the need for all-weather roads.

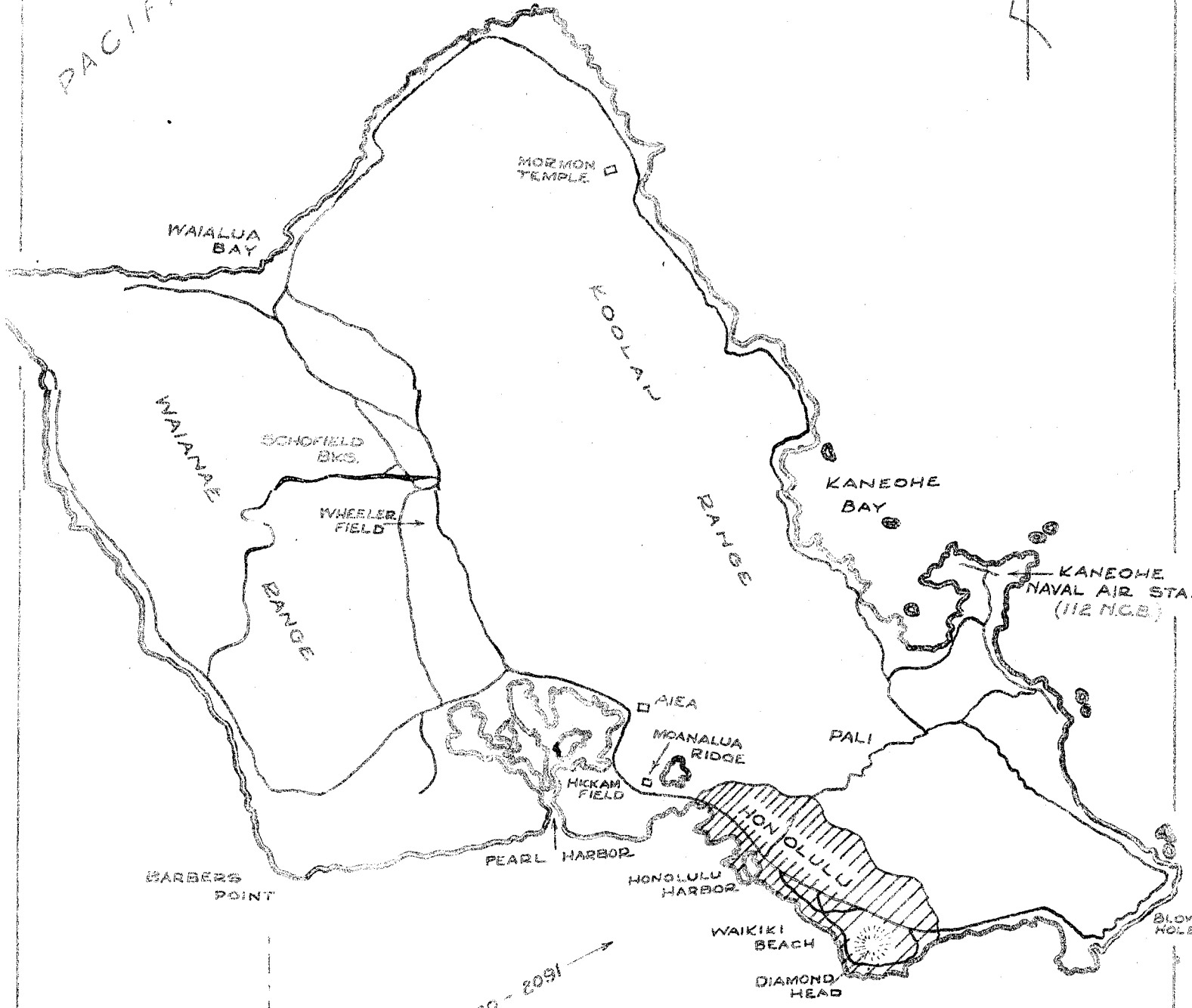
After V-J Day the battalion was engaged in winding up a few jobs necessary to post-war Okinawa. Many days were spent reinforcing storm damaged tents while cursing the everpresent mud, and disseminating prolific scuttlebutt concerning embarkation for the States, points, leaves and possibilities of the chow improving!



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112 TH. SEABEES

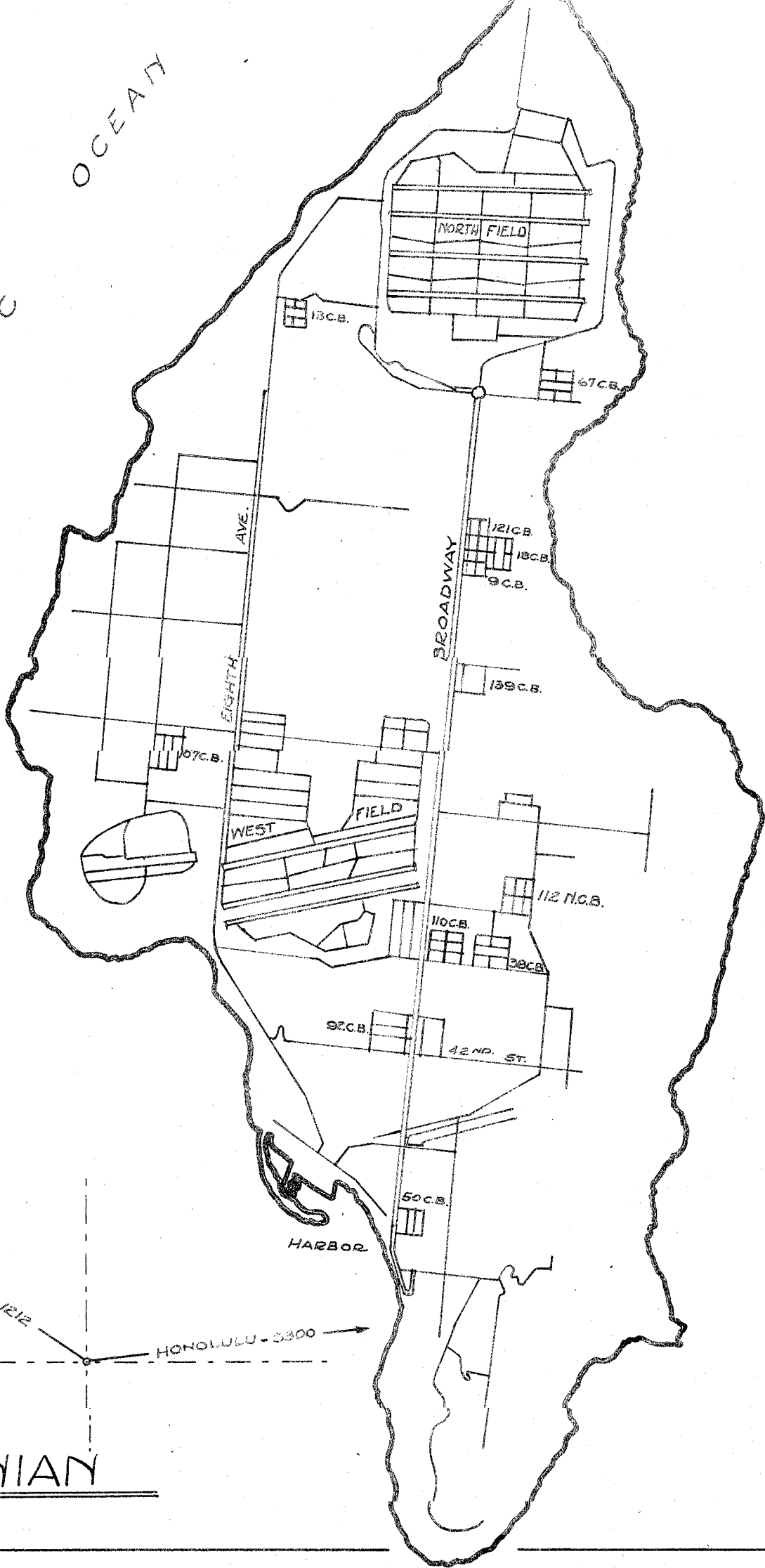
1943 - 1945

PACIFIC OCEAN



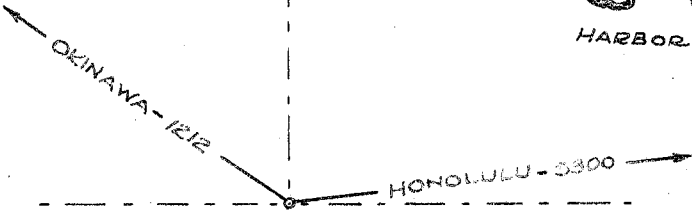
OAHU
TERRITORY OF HAWAII

PACIFIC OCEAN

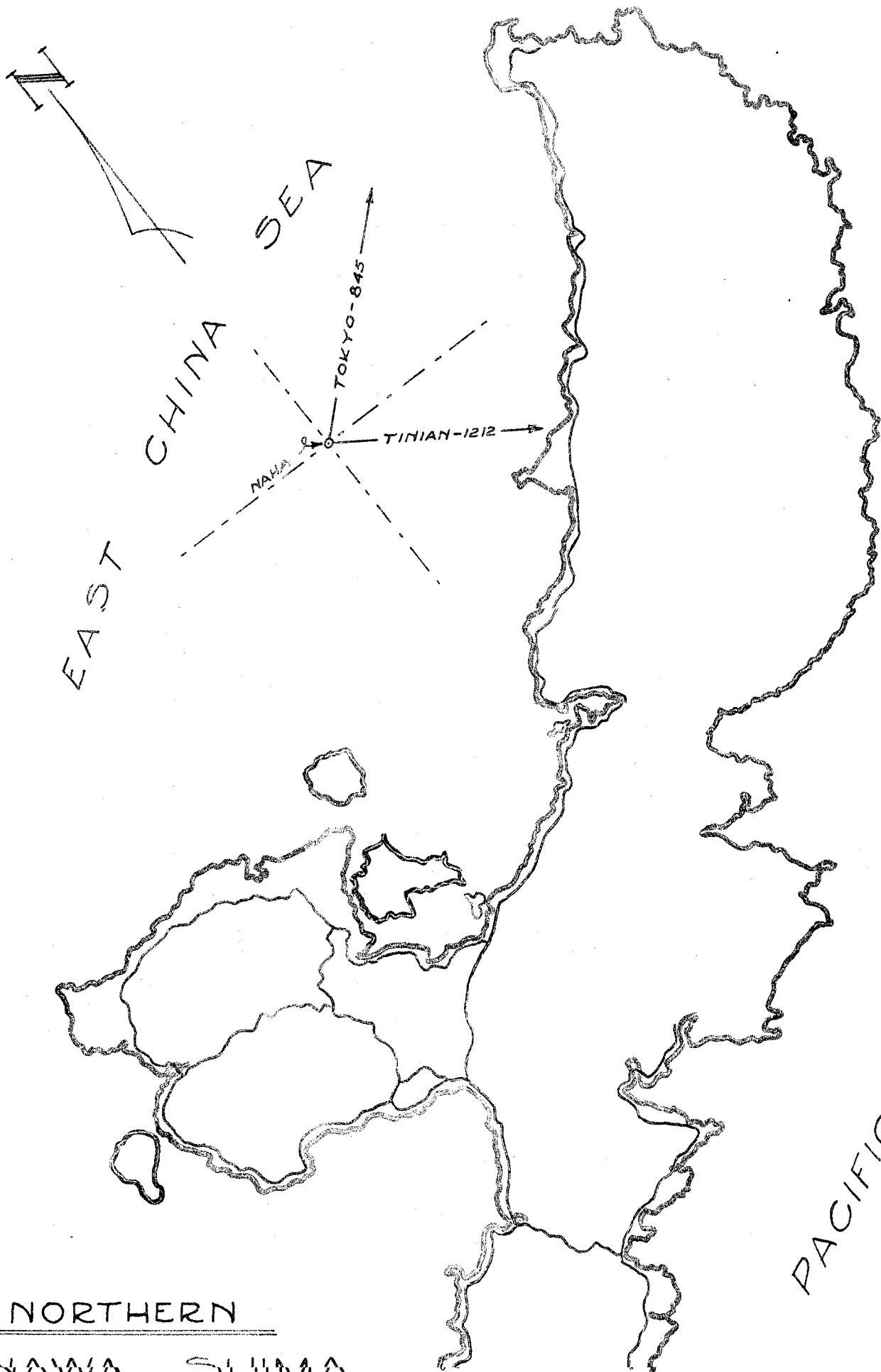


PACIFIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN



TINIAN



EAST CHINA SEA

TOKYO-845

TINIAN-1212

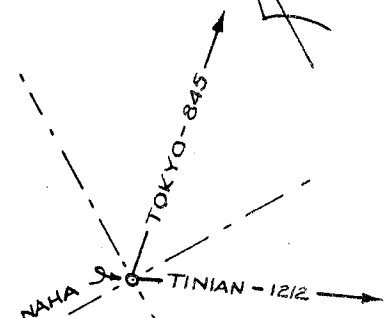
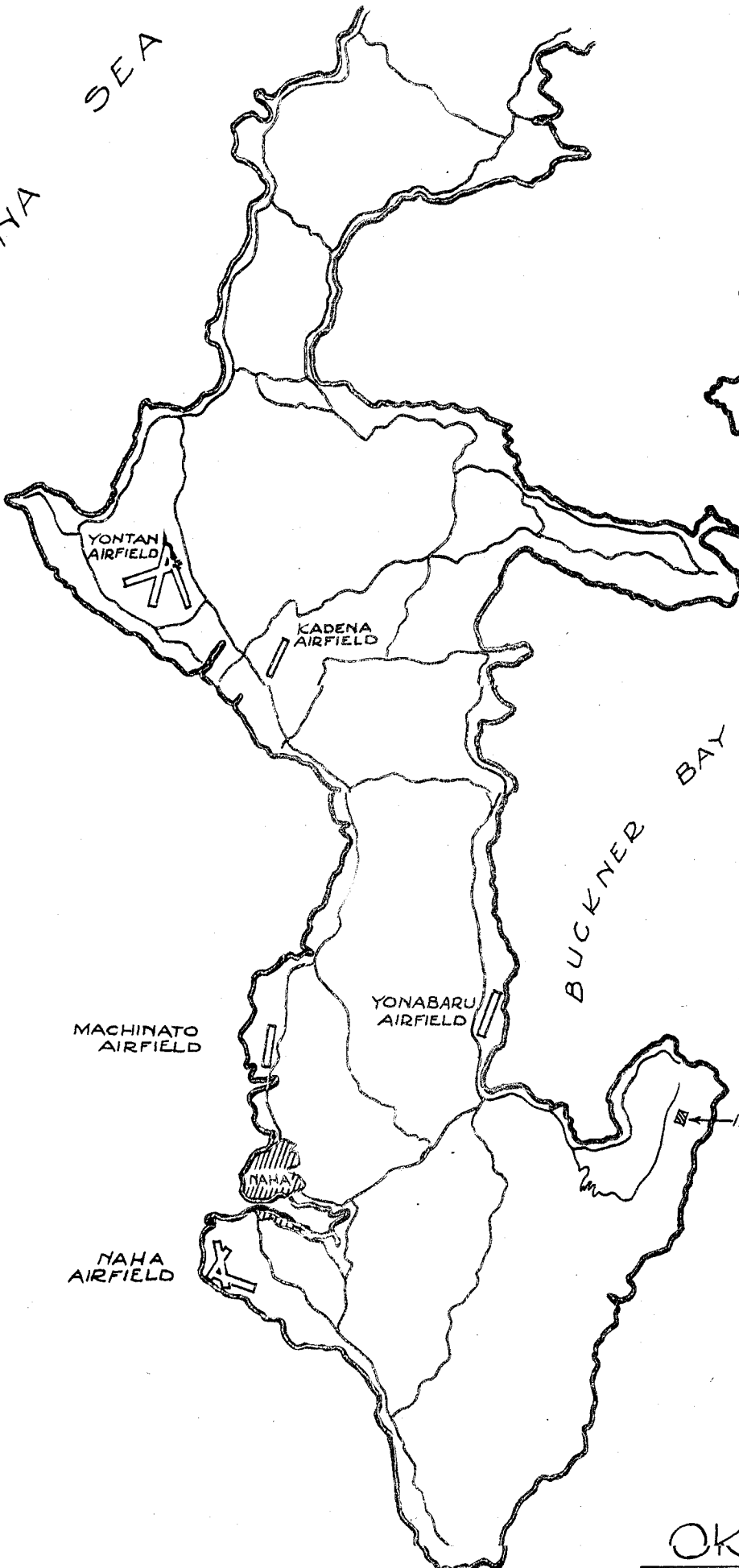
NAHA

NORTHERN

OKINAWA SHIMA

PACIFIC OCEAN

CHINA SEA



BUCKNER BAY

PACIFIC OCEAN

MACHINATO AIRFIELD

NAHA AIRFIELD

YONTAN AIRFIELD

KADENA AIRFIELD

YONABARU AIRFIELD

112 N.C.B.

SOUTHERN
OKINAWA SHIMA