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Gordon F. Basler, Lt. (jg) (D)L USN UDT TEAM #9, Leader PLATOON #2

Birth December 7, 1914 Atlanta GA, Died August, 1965, Cleveland, OH (age 50)

Date of Appointment: Oct 23, 194 - APPOINTMENT IN NAVAL RESERVE

Jan 17, 1946 NOTICE OF SEPARATION FROM THE U.S. NAVAL SERVICE

BASLER, GORDON F. Lt. JG D- USNR 2130-17

Acceptance of Resignation fr. U.S. Naval Reserve. Letter dated 11 November, 1952.

Last address: 319 Overlook Park Drive, Cleveland, OH

Son's present address: Thomas G. Basler, 1205 Manor Lane, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 (was at Ft. Pierce twice during UDT training as a child)

Note: I have a 30 page document made up of Basler Navy records, reminisces from me & UDT 9 guys, UDT Histories, etc.

SOME NOTES FROM THAT DOCUMENT BELOW:

BASLER: Western Reserve University – School of Pharmacy 1933

Western Reserve University – School of Law 1940 – 1943 L.L.B.

Passed state bar: Ohio, Florida

Sept 23, 1943 **APPOINTMENT IN NAVAL RESERVE Gordon Fred Basler, 297 Overlook Park Dr, Cleveland, OH Rank: Ensign, D-V(S), USNR Date of Rank 7 October, 1943, Date of Appointment: Oct 23, 1943**

Oct 22, 1943 Navy Department, Bureau of Naval Personnel. Waiver of Physical defect for appointment in the U.S Naval Reserve. You are advised that a waiver of the physical defect ...listed below for appointment in the U.S. Naval Reserve, is hereby granted. "35 pounds over standard weight, (height 71.5 inches, weight 197 pounds).

Nov, 1943 - Mar 26, 1944

Completed Officer's Training N.T.S. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Mar 24, 1944

NAVAL TRAINING SCHOOL, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, NY

To: Gordon F. Basler, Harry J. Devlin, Donald H. Murray, James H. Peach, Robert E. Shapiro. - Randall Jacobs Subj. Change of Duty. Ref BuPers Speedletter..... "in accordance with the direction in the above quoted Speedletter, you are hereby detached from temporary duty under instruction at the Naval Training School, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; **proceed to Ft. Pierce FL and report to the Commanding Officer, Amphibious Training Base** for duty in connection with such Naval Combat Demolition Unit as ay be designated and for duty outside the continental limits of the United States.delay until April 1, that will be considered leave. – Richard Wagner, Lt-Comdr., USN (Ret).

March, 1944 The story related by Gordon Basler as to how he was sent to Ft. Pierce and the UDT: The Officers in training at Cornell were all requested to meet in the auditorium. A presentation was made by someone representing the UDT. The requested that four volunteers be agreeable to such an assignment. No one volunteered. They were assembled the following day as well, told of the lack of volunteers, and still no one did so. The soon to be Officers took up a collection – each putting money into a hat for the volunteers, and yet no takers. Following that meeting four men, whose background information matched the

UDT needs best were brought in alone and told they had volunteered. Also, "try it, you'll like it – and can back out at the end if you'd like." Thus, En. G.F. Basler became a UDT Officer.

"Underwater Demolition Team NINE was organized at Fort Pierce, Florida on 20 May 1944

June 2, 1944 U.S. NVAL AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING BASE, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA Fr. Commanding Officer, Lt John Clarkeson, CYC-V The following are hereby detached from their present duty with the **U.S. Naval Amphibious Training Base, Ft. Piece, FL** and any other such duties which may have been assigned them.....**Edward C. Brohl, Ensign Gordon F. Basler, D-V(C) Ensign Howard A. Meineke, Ensign James Mericle Jr., Ensign Joseph R. Houska, ...** upon arrival, report to the Commanding Office, Advanced Base Personnel Depot, San Bruno, CA, for further transfer by the Commandant, 12th Naval District, to duty beyond the continental limits of the United States. These orders are RESTRICTED, their contents, or the whereabouts of ships and personnel, will not be divulged to unauthorized persons. – C. Gulbranson

June 12 1944 U.S. NAVAL ADVANCE BASE PERSONNEL DEPT, SAN BRUNO, CA
#8 On completion of loading all enlisted personnel and all officers of these three units shall accompany the men in a bus to embarkation barracks, **Treasure Island**. - E.J. Black, Lt. Comdr. **Movement out, 12 June 1944 – 10 June 1944. The 238 men of AdCom5th AmphibFor** are without assigned officers. They shall be mustered at 0750 by duty Barracks Sec. Officer, reassembled in units of 50 men with one unit under 50 – in accordance with muster sheet and turned over to OIC – of LCRU Groups, for assignment of unit officers as follows: 4. **Lt. Clarkeson shall have charge of the assembly of UDT #8, 9, and 10;** McKeever the assembly of LCRU #1 and Amphib force units.

June 19 1944 OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER ADMIN COMMAND, AMPHIBIOUS FORCES U.S. PACIFIC FLEET To. Ensign Gordon F. Basler, D-V9G). USNR ... you will proceed via the first available government transportation, including air, **to the Island of MAUI**

Sept 8, 1944 U.D.T, #9 MASTER MUSTER SHEET

APD #10 HEDQUARTERS STAFF: **Commanding Officer Lt. Comdr. J.B. Eaton;** Ens. James Mericle, Training & Group Reconnaissance Officer, Alternate Platoon Leader-Platoon #2. Platoon Leader HQ Lt. JG N.R. Anderson
Platoon Leader #1 Ens. H.B. Dickson
Platoon Leader #2 Ens. G.F. Basler (F.L. Mays, SF3c J.C. Stonehouse, CEM)
Platoon Leader #3 Ens. J.H. Pearce, Asst. Platoon Leader, Ens. H.A. Meineke,
Platoon Leader #4 Ens. O.E. Radke
DRONE BOAT PROGRAM Leader Ens. H.J. Preston.

ON WAY TO LEYTE

Sept, 1944. (**U.S.S. BROOKS (APD-10)** for transportation and further report to the Commander Group SIX, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet for duty. Officers and men of Platoon 3 have previously been detached from this Base and will rejoin your Command at a later date.

From the HISTORY OF TEAM 9: **Platoons TWO and THREE picked up survivors and returned them to the APD.** Returning at 1500, the three (3) remaining landing craft completed their reconnaissance at the beach. During the whole operation cover fire support from the fleet units was impossible because the off-shore areas were not yet completely swept clear of mines. The information received on reconnaissance was compiled and given to the Landing Force Commander the day before the landing.

ON WAY TO LINGAYEN

1 November, the team was transferred to the U.S.S. BELKNAP (APD-34).

Nov 1, 1944 Commanding Officer to Lt Comdr. Eaton Verbal orders of CTF 79. You will proceed and report to the commanding officer, **U.S.S. BELKNAP (APD-34).**

Complete Nov 11.

NO DATE (NOV, 1944 est.) VISUAL COMMUNICATION **Transfer Underwater Demolition Team NINE from Brooks to Belnap prior sixteen hundred today.**

Report when transfer complete.

Nov 21, 1944 **RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET MAILGRAM**

Fr. U.S. Naval Communication Service

"Deliver this IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT" From: USS Humphreys

To: Officer in Charge UDT-5, UDT-6, UDT-9, UDT-10 to ships: CNB MOUMEA, USS RATHBURNE, USS BADGER, **USS BELKNAP.**

FROM UNDERWATER DEMOLITION TEAM HISTORIES WWII UDT TEAM NINE: After a hectic afternoon, during which the **BELKNAP** was unloaded of approximately thirty-five (35) tons of tetrytol in the troop spaces and the spaces put in order to receive the team, the transfer was finally completed after dark, just as the **BELKNAP had orders to leave for Tulagi (Solomon Islands).**

Received aboard the BELKNAP with a royal welcome from the ships company, the team settled down to enjoy their stay. After a brief stop at Tulagi to re-fuel, **the BELKNAP proceeded to Noumea, New Caledonia** where she arrived on 11 November. The team immediately moved ashore to the Naval Receiving Station while the ship received minor alterations and repairs.

FOLLOWING LINGAYEN GULF ATTACK:

UNDATED & NO HEADING: **TRANSFER PERSONNEL UNDERWATER DEMOLITION TEAM NUMBER FIVE AND NUMBER NINE TO USS ADMIRAL COONTZ.** FFT MAUI TH X THIS ACCORDANCE COMUDTPHIBSPAC. SUGGEST YOU GO ALONGSIDE OR NEAR ADM COONTZ TO AFFECT TRANSFER BT - TOR

Feb 10, 1945 Fr. Lt. Comdr. Eaton Reported on board this date, at 1310 U.S.S. ADMIRAL R.E. COONTZ (AP-122)

May 19, 1945 CONFIDENTIAL. Fr: The Commanding Officer, J. B. Eaton, Jr.; To: Lt jg Gordon F. Basler, USNR, Subj: Combat Operations - duty in.

1. Underwater Demolition Team NINE operated in the forward areas for 13 Sept 1944 to 12 Mar 1945. During this period the team participated in both pre-assault and post-assault work in connection with the following operations.

LEYTE Island, Central Philippines - 19-22 October, 1944

LINGAYEN Gulf, Luzon Island, Northern Philippines - 7-12 Jan, 1945.

2. During these operations you acted a platoon leader of Platoon 2, directing the operations of that platoon with respect to its work in small boats and in the water. All the missions assigned to our platoon were most successfully carried out, in spite of losses in personnel and in the face of intense enemy small arm and mortar fire. Your leadership under fire was in a large measure responsible for the success achieved by your men in reconnoitering and clearing enemy-held beaches prior to the landing of assault forces.
3. You are fully qualified to wear the *Philippine Liberation Ribbon* with two (2) bronze stars in accordance with AlNav 64-45 of 6 April, 1945. In addition, you are qualified to wear the *Asiatic-Pacific Area Ribbon* in accordance with AlNav 104-44 OF 7 JUNE, 1944.
Handwritten: one star on Asiatic Pacific for 10 Oct-29 Nov; one star for 4 Jan-18 Jan

Aug 1945 – Sept 15 1945 Personnel Separation School, Great lakes, IL 2 weeks

Dec 17 1945 Arrived Great Lakes Naval Station, IL, Examined Dec 18, and found physically qualified for release.... Civil Readjustment Process completed Dec 18. "Proceed to your home. You are granted 30 days leave, upon the expiration of which, at midnight of Jan 17, 1946 you will regard yourself released from all active duty.

Oct 25, 1945 Officer Classification Analysis Sheet – GORDON F. BASLER

Official duties with U.S. Navy

- Legal Assistance Officer, P.S.C. Shoemaker, CA – advisor 6 weeks
- Personnel Separation School, Great Lakes, IL student – 2 weeks
- Underwater Demolition Team No. 9. Platoon Leader & Instructor on Demolitions - 17 weeks
- Officer's Training, Cornell University student – 4 months

Note: Slight high blood pressure. Preference for next duty: SEA: Legal Officer – Battleship (location Pacific) , SHORE: Legal Officer – or Personnel (location Ohio)

Jan 17, 1946 NOTICE OF SEPARATION FROM THE U.S. NAVAL SERVICE

BASLER, GORDON F. Lt. JG D- USNR 2130-17

319 Overlook PK. Dr., Cleveland, Ohio.

Released from Active Duty under honorable cond.

Selective Service Board of Registration: Lakeshore Blvd., Cleveland, OH

Qualifications: Under Water Demolition Officer

Place of Entry into Active Service: Indoctrination – Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Service Schools Completed:

Naval Combat Demolition School, Ft. Pierce, FA

Naval Combat Demolition Training and Experimental Base, Maui, T.H.

Remarks: **AMERICAN THEATRE RIBBON**

ASIATIC-PACIFIC RIBBON – 2 STARS

PHILIPPINE LIBERATION RIBBON – 2 STARS

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

SILVER STAR (MEDAL & RIBBON)

Nov 7, 1946 Subj Permanent Citation – SILVER STAR MEDAL. The Chief of Naval Personnel takes pleasure in forwarding herewith the permanent citation for the subject decoration which was previously awarded to you on a temporary citation.