

Anchors Aweigh - the Naval Career of John Baldwin

In this story, the second of two parts, we will set sail on the nearly 20 year naval career odyssey of John “Johnny” Baldwin. We will use official US Navy documents to chronologically examine his multiple tours of duty, year by year, onshore and offshore. Along the way, we will get to know this man, who joined the US Navy at the tender age of 16.

Principal

John Baldwin

BIRTH 21 SEP 1909 • Kitts Hill, Lawrence County, Ohio

DEATH 7 APR 1967 • Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California

US Navy SN: 279-20-92

Introduction - John “Johnny” Baldwin

In the first part of this two part story, *“Dearest Dorothy - the Love Letters of Johnny Baldwin”*, we learned that John Baldwin (no middle name) (the author’s paternal uncle) was the fifth child (fourth son) of William M Baldwin (1876-1943) and Delcie Hunt-Baldwin (1878-1945). We also discovered that between June 1939 and May 1940, with World War II looming, Naval Signalman, John “Johnny” Baldwin carried on a long distance letter writing courtship with Dorothy Lee Dixon. In all, 35 letters were sent to Dorothy. Before they married in May 1940, they had only met twice.

In that story, we found that, due to incomplete and/or missing information, details about his life in the US Navy were sometimes subject to speculation and interpretation. Now, because the author obtained John Baldwin’s complete US Navy records from the US National Archives, we have the unique opportunity to fully reassemble his US Navy career, year by year. There are surprises and revelations and “Aha Moments”. Let’s get started.

1925

Family lore was that John left home at the age of 15 to join the US Merchant Marines or the US Navy. We now know, based on his actual Oct. 1925 enlistment document, that he was barely 16, posing as a 19 year old. His actual birthdate was Sep 21 1909.

CALIFORNIA DEATH INDEX:

Name	John Baldwin
Social Security #	275247003
Gender	Male
Birth Date	21 Sep 1909
Birth Place	Ohio
Death Date	7 Apr 1967
Death Place	Los Angeles
Mother's Maiden Name	Hunt

As can be seen, he enlisted at Ashland, KY, just across the Ohio River from Ironton, OH, on Oct. 23 1925. He was posing as a 19 year old adult, when, in fact, he was a 16 year old minor. It's likely, his parents knew nothing of his whereabouts or that he was enlisting in the US Navy. His brother, Roscoe Baldwin, had joined the US Navy in 1919. Roscoe must have had an influence on John's Navy enlistment decision.

Interestingly, his enlistment application includes a separate medical examination page. This page was left blank but signed by a Lt. A.A. Shadday, Medical Examiner. On the line where the examiner signs as "Accepted - Yes / No", "No" is scratched out and "Yes" inserted. What was

going on there is unclear. However, aside from the fact that he was 6 foot tall, any reasonable medical examination would have quickly revealed that John Baldwin was NOT 19 years old. John maintained the false birthdate of Sep. 21 1909 throughout his Navy career.

John was first sent to an enlistment centre in Cincinnati, OH for processing then transferred to the Great Lakes Training Center in Illinois (Chicago) for basic training as an Apprentice Seaman. Coincidentally, we know that, in 1925, Roscoe Baldwin was stationed at the Great Lakes Training Center. Roscoe's role in John's naval career may be underestimated.

1926

Upon graduation from US Navy basic training, John requested and was granted 10 days leave on Jan. 15 1926. On this leave, he travelled home to Kitts Hill, OH. Upon his return from leave he was assigned to the destroyer, USS Kane (235). At this time the

NWB-241-25-1825-000

The application blank will be forwarded for file with papers in Bureau in cases of men accepted for enlistment.

Religion Baptist
Measles Yes
Mumps Yes

APPLICATION FOR {ENLISTMENT
ENROLLMENT

Position desired: _____

Ashland, Ky, 1925

I respectfully request permission to enlist in the United States Navy, and to that end do declare that I am 17 years 1 months old, and believe myself to be physically qualified to perform the duties of the rating in which I may be enlisted; that I am of good habits and character in all respects; that I have never deserted from the U. S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Naval Auxiliary, or Coast Guard Service; and I certify that the following statements are correct:

Name in full: John Baldwin
Date of birth: Sept 21, 1906 Place of birth: Kitts Hill Ohio
Citizenship: American Married? No
Home address: Kitts Hill Ohio
Where was your father born? Ohio Where was your mother born? Ohio
Are your parents living? Yes
Are your parents divorced? No Have you a stepparent? No
Name and address of next of kin: William Martin Baldwin

The following must be filled out to cover the last year for those under 19 and the last 2 years for those over 19. In the case of non-employment, substitute school history.

Employer's Name	His Address	His Business	Length of Employment		You Were Employed as
			From	To	
<u>Shadday</u>	<u>Kitts Hill</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1925</u>	<u>Student</u>

Do you drink intoxicating liquors? If so, to what extent? No
Have you ever been arrested? If so, for what? No
Have you ever been in a reform school, jail, or penitentiary, or have you ever been convicted of any crime? No
Have you ever served in the U. S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Naval Auxiliary, Coast Guard Service? No
If so, how long? _____ What is the date of last discharge? _____
Character of discharge? No Are you now or have you been a member of the National Guard or Naval Militia? No Produce discharge. (Sign here) John Baldwin

Accepted: _____ Cause of rejection: _____

Kane was operating along the east coast of the United States and in the Caribbean. John's rating was upgraded in Feb. from Apprentice Seaman to Seaman Second Class, and in Aug. to Seaman First Class. He took 17 days leave in May. In Oct. John qualified as a 1st class swimmer and a marksman on a rifle course.



1927

In Apr. 1927, John's rating changed from Seaman First Class to Signalman Third Class. This, to fill a vacancy following his qualification for the rating per examination. On July 1 1927 John was transferred from the USS *Kane* to the US Naval Hospital, Brooklyn, NY for "treatment". There was no indication in the records of the type of ailment being treated. However, it must have been serious, perhaps even life threatening, since he spent the next two months hospitalised (see 1931 below).

On Sep. 9 he was cleared for duty and was transferred back to the USS *Kane*, where he remained until Nov. 1927. At that time, he was transferred to the USS *Hopkins* (249), another destroyer. This ship also operated along the east coast; New England ports in the summer and Charleston, SC in the winter.



1928

1928 would prove to be a momentous and life changing year for John Baldwin. The records for this year are numerous and detailed. There's a lot to unpack. Let's see what happened.

On or about Oct. 23 1928, John was granted ship liberty from the USS *Hopkins*, which was in port at Charleston, SC. He did not return from liberty and, 10 days later, was declared a **Deserter**. A 'Declaration and Reward for Deserter From U.S. Naval Service' was sent out. The reward was set at \$50 for his

N. Reg. 248 *John L. H-7-8.* **NAVY DEPARTMENT** **ORIGINAL**

NAO 35 3 RANK V NUM BR 36

1003 DUPE JOHN BALDWIN SIGNALMAN THIRD CLASS SERVICE NUMBER TWO SEVEN NINE TWO ZERO NINE TWO DECLARED A DESERTER ON THREE NOVEMBER FROM ZERO EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTYFOUR OCTOBER NINETEEN TWENTY EIGHT AT CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA 0800

JH 1235

1928 NOV 7 PM 12 53

apprehension. The Declaration included a full physical description, including his fingerprints and specific placement of "Rising Sun" tattoo on his right arm. His commanding officer aboard the USS *Hopkins*, *R. B. Hammes*, filed the following report:

It's interesting that his personal belongings onboard the ship were auctioned off - presumably to his shipmates. And, his next of kin were notified. Thus, if John's parents did not before know he was in the Navy, they did now.

John's desertion set in motion all manner of US Navy dispatches and reports, all filed according to the US Navy Bureau of Navigation Manual - then responsible for enlisted personnel matters.

IN REPLY
REFER TO
p12-8 (10-m)

U.S.S. HOPKINS (249)
Charleston, S.C.,
3 November, 1928.

From: Commanding Officer.
To: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.

Subject: BALDWIN, John, No. 279-20-92, SM3c., USN.,
desertion of.

Reference: (a) Art.D-0005 Bu. Nav. Manual - 1925 Revised.

1. In compliance with instructions contained in reference (a), the following information concerning the desertion of the subject named man is submitted:

- (a) BALDWIN, John.
- (b) Signaller third class.
- (c) 279-20-92.
- (d) Charleston, S.C.
- (e) 0800 24 October, 1928.
- (f) Over leave.
- (g) Service record will be forwarded to Bureau of Navigation as soon as returned by Assistant for Disbursing, carrying accounts; health record transferred to Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; the Assistant for Disbursing, U.S.S. DOBBIN, has been directed to forward pay account to Officer in Charge Deserters Rolls, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.

R. B. Hammes
R. B. HAMMES

8

Name BALDWIN, John
(Name in full, surname to the left.)

No. 279-20-92 Rate SM3c. (A.A. (P.A.)

Date reported 12 November, 1927.

Ship U.S.S. HOPKINS.

or Station U.S.S. KANE.

From U.S.S. KANE.

6-15-28: Completed elementary instructions in chemical warfare including gas chamber. Fitted to gas mask size 3.

R. B. Hammes
R. B. HAMMES,
Lieutenant Commander U.S. Navy.
Commanding.

10-24-28: Absent over liberty from 0800 this date. 10-25-28. Notice of stragglers reward (N.Nav.67) mailed. 11-3-28. Declared a deserter this date at Charleston S.C., having been A.O.L. 10 day from 0800 10-24-28. No known evident intention of desertion. Bu. Nav. notified by despatch and letter. Next of kin notified by letter. Effects sold at auction this date. Clothing in poor condition turned over to Asst. for Disbursing carrying acts. No allot or insurance. Pay acts. ordered closed out to deserter rolls.

R. B. Hammes
Date transferred R. B. HAMMES
Lieutenant Commander, USN
To Commanding 1928

Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.

Date received moved 22-11-28

Ship U.S.S. HOPKINS

or Station Chief of Bureau

From U.S.S. HOPKINS

Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-3111

The incident ended on Nov. 5 1928 when John surrendered at Cincinnati, OH - at the Navy Recruitment Station where he enlisted three years earlier. In this regard, the following radiogram was sent:

U. S. NAVAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE

SRS

5 November 1928

From: Officer in Charge U.S.N.R. Station, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 To: Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.

1005 John Baldwin 279-20-92 signalman third deserter U.S.S. Hopkins since
 23 October 1928 surrendered this station this date stop confined county
 jail stop Telegraphic instructions requested 0930
 Navy Recruiting

T.H. Williamson
 T.H. Williamson, Lieut. USN.
 In Charge

John was confined to a county jail awaiting further instructions. Instructions received on Nov. 7 were to transport John to the Naval Training Station Great Lakes - where John took his basic training. A 'Report of Return of Deserter' was filed:

N. NAV. 66
(May, 1927)

URGENT

REPORT OF RETURN OF DESERTER

U.S. Naval Training Station,
 Great Lakes, Illinois,
 9 November, 1928., 192

From: Commanding Officer,
 To: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.

I have to report that BALDWIN, John (None), SM3c, U.S.N.,
 279-20-92 surrendered to naval guard at Cincinnati, O., on 5 November, 192 8
 (Service number) (Name in full) (Rate) (Apprehended by)
 and surrendered on board this vessel on 9 November, 1928 as a deserter from
 U.S. S. HOPKINS, since 0730, 24 October, 1928.
 (Ship or Station) (Date)

Descriptive list made from examination since arrival on board is appended.

Transferred under guard to _____ at _____

Cost of his personal transportation (\$ _____) has been checked against his
 accounts and credited to the appropriation "Transportation and Recruiting."

Reward (has not) been paid.
 (Cross out one)

Disposition of records and accounts _____

NOTE.—Disposition of papers must be given if an absentee returns to his own command.

L.K. Cleveland, Lieut. USN.,
By direction.

AOL or AWL and DATE must be obtained from absentee upon returning.

NOTE.—The above form shall be filled out in duplicate and forwarded IMMEDIATELY upon return of a deserter. Upon receipt of this notice the Bureau will request the proper forwarding of the man's accounts from the officer in charge of "Deserters' Roll." 4-5617 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1927

Enter here any additional data pertinent to this man's case and which will give the Bureau better knowledge of his status:

The good news here is that on Nov. 16 1928, the US Navy Bureau of Navigation determined that John was AWOL, NOT a Deserter - an important distinction. He was, however, to be tried in Summary Court-Martial on Nov. 22 1928.

16 November 1928

1st. Indorsement

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.

To: Commandant, Naval Training Station,
Great Lakes, Ill.

SUBJECT: BALDWIN, John, 279-20-92, SM3c, USN.
Trial by summary court-martial.

Inclosure: 1. Service record.
2. Nav. 66 from Navy Recruiting Station,
Cincinnati, Ohio, dated 8 Nov., 1928.

1. The Bureau forwards herewith the service record of the above-named man from which the mark of desertion has been removed as an erroneous entry, and directs that he be ~~tried by summary court-martial for his unauthorized absence of 12 days~~ from the U.S.S. HOPKINS from 24 October 1928.

2. The pay officer should be instructed to remove the mark of desertion from this man's accounts and furnished with a certified copy of this letter to be used as a pay roll voucher.

He was found guilty and sentenced to be confined for a period of 25 days, commencing Nov. 23 1928, and lose \$30 per month of his pay for a period four months. It does not appear that his Navy rating was reduced.

He served his sentence at the Naval Training Station Great Lakes, IL. It's likely that his brother, Roscoe (stationed there), visited him while he was in confinement. John was released on Dec. 27 and transferred to the Navy Shipyard Receiving Barracks, Philadelphia, PA for assignment.

The 1928 'AWOL for ten days' conviction was a permanent blemish on John's US Navy career record. It remained there until his retirement.

We will never know what motivated John to go AWOL. He obviously went back home to Kitts Hill. It's likely that his parents, and perhaps his brother Roscoe, convinced him to surrender, take his punishment, and remain in the Navy - which he did. He was now 19 and perhaps this was a strong lesson for him in life management, personal responsibilities, and consequences.

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Name: BALDWIN, John,
No. 279-20-92 (Name in full, surname to the left) Rate SM3c (P.A.)

Date reported 9 NOVEMBER 1928

Ship U.S.N.F.S., GREAT LAKES, ILL.
or
Station DESERTION - U.S.S. HOPKINS
From

A.O.L. from U.S.S. HOPKINS since 24 OCTOBER 1928. SURRENDERED to naval guard at CINCINNATI, Ohio, on 5 NOVEMBER 1928. SURRENDERED at this station on 9 NOVEMBER 1928.

22 NOVEMBER 1928: SUMMARY COURT-MARTIAL - FOUND GUILTY. SENTENCE as approved: TO BE CONFINED FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY-FIVE (25) DAYS AND TO LOSE THIRTY DOLLARS (\$30.) PER MONTH OF HIS PAY FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR (4) MONTHS, TOTAL LOSS OF PAY AMOUNTING TO ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS (\$120.). APPROVED BY COMMANDING OFFICER AND ISIC ON 26 NOVEMBER 1928. PUBLISHED 27 NOVEMBER 1928.

JSaer
JOSEPH BAER,
COLDR., USN.

Ref: Art D-7028 Par 2(e), BuNav Man., 1925.
For general detail.

Date transferred 12/26/28

To US Receiving Barracks, Philadelphia

T T CRAVEN, R Adm., USN *WJR*
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer

Date received 27 December, 1928

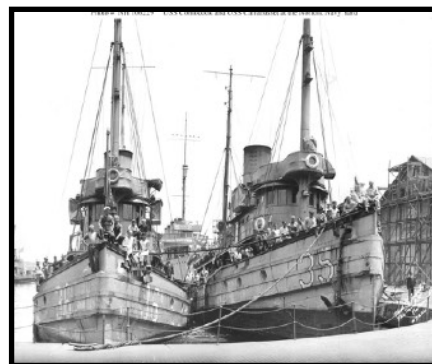
Ship Rec Bks Philadelphia Pa
or
Station NTS Great Lakes, Illinois
From

JB J.C. FOWNSHED, Captain, USN
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-6111

1929

As of January. 1 1929, John was assigned from the Receiving Barracks at the Philadelphia, PA Navy Yard to the USS *Contocook* (36; left in photo). His rating was listed as Signalmen Third Class.

The *Contocook* served the fleet along the Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean. She towed floating equipment, escorted submarines, towed target rafts, brought disabled ships into port, and carried ammunition, stores, light freight, and passengers between east coast shipyards and to the fleet.



At the end of Mar. 1929, John's record cleared such that he was able to again receive pay. His conduct was rated as high. On Oct. 22 he was discharged Honourably, having completed four years of service (minus the 10 days for AWOL), at the Navy Yard, Norfolk, VA. He was issued an Honorable Discharge Certificate and Button and travel allowance to Ashland, KY. His discharge record stated the following:

1. Recommended for reenlistment, Yes
2. Recommended for Good Conduct Medal, Yes

On Nov. 4 1929, John again applied for enlistment in the US Navy, this time in Cleveland, OH. On this application he continued to maintain that his birthdate was Sep. 21 1906, making him 23 years old - he was actually 20. He was honest about the AWOL and being in jail. And, he had a full physical this time. His stated reason for enlistment was "like service".

Upon reenlistment, he was transferred to the Navy Yard at Philadelphia, PA for assignment. While there, he requested and was approved for "...transferred to Asiatic Station, for duty".

9

Name	BALDWIN, John (None)		
	(Name in full, surname to the left.)		
No.	279-20-92	Rate	S.M. 3c (P.A.)
Date reported	4 November 1929		
Ship	USN Recg. Sta. Cleveland, Ohio		
or			
Station	REENLISTMENT		
From			

4 November 1929.
Reenlisted this date for a period of four years. Transferred to the Receiving Station, Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa. for assignment.

THE RECEIVING BARRACKS
AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

5 December, 1929.

From: BALDWIN, John, S.M.3c, (279-20-92) USN
To: Bureau of Navigation.
Via: Commanding Officer.

Subject: Requests transfer.

1. It is requested that I be transferred to the ASIATIC STATION, for duty.

2. My current enlistment expires on November 3, 1933.

John BALDWIN.

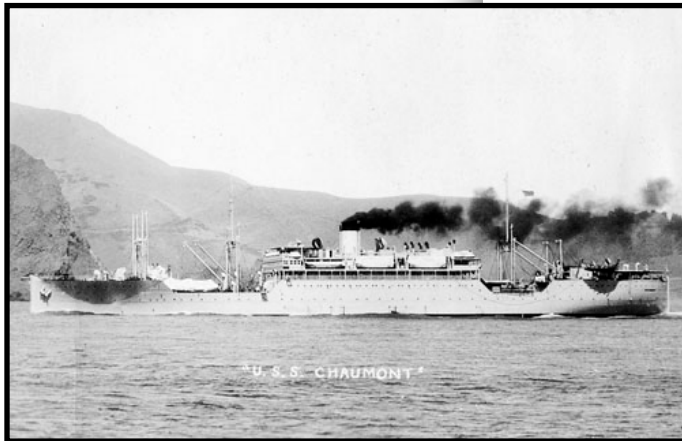
On Dec. 12 1929 John was transferred to San Francisco, CA via the USS Chaumont (AP-5) to join the Asiatic Fleet. The Chaumont was a troop ship. Thus, it's likely that John, while being transferred to San Francisco, traveled through the Panama Canal from the Atlantic side to the Pacific side. He was onboard the Chaumont until Feb. 1930.

9

Name BAIDWIN, John (None)
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
 No. 279-20-98 Rate S.M.3c. (A.A. P.A.)
 Date reported 5 November, 1929.
 Ship or Station REC. STA. PHILA. PA.
 From NRS CLEVELAND, OHIO.

12-12-29. Transferred to Receiving Ship, San Francisco, Calif., FFT via USS CHAUMONT, to Asiatic Station for assignment by CinC Asiatic Fleet.

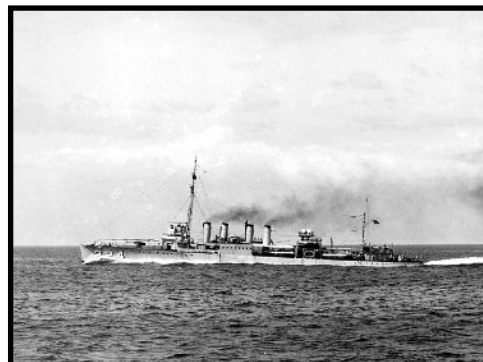
Authority: Bunav. Ltr. Nav-630-LCB 122-9-29.



1930

After sailing from the Navy Yard at Philadelphia, PA to the Navy Station at San Francisco for nearly two months, John was transferred from the troop ship, USS *Chaumont* (AP-5), to the destroyer USS *Stewart* (224), on Feb. 8, 1930.

Date transferred _____
 To USS CHAUMONT FFT ASIATIC
W. CRAIG, Lieut. USN
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.
 Date received 22 8 February 1930
 Ship U.S.S. STEWART (224)
 of RECEIVING OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO
 Station via USS CHAUMONT
 From U.S.S. STEWART Commander, US Navy
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-5111



John was stationed on the USS *Stewart* for almost two years, until Dec. 1931. The *Stewart* had a storied history. Built in 1919, she served with Asiatic Fleet beginning in 1922, primarily operating in Chinese waters. Scuttled in port at Surabaya, Java, in 1942, she was later raised by the Japanese and commissioned as Patrol Boat No. 102. She came back under American control in 1945 after the occupation of Japan.

While onboard the USS *Stewart*, John successfully completed the education course work to advance to Signalmen Second Class in May 1930. As a result, his rating was changed accordingly. According to ship records, his professional work and personal conduct were reported to be exceptional.

9

Name BALDWIN, John (None)
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No: 272-20-92 Rate S.M. 3c. (A.A. P.A.)
Date reported 8 February, 1930
Ship U.S.S. STEWART (224)
or
Station U.S.S. CHAUMONT
From _____

5-31-30 RECORD CLEAR.
5/26/30. Completed Bureau of Navigation Educational Course for Signalmen Second Class with an average mark of 3.4.
E. P. Eldredge
E. P. ELDREDGE,
Lieutenant Commander, USN,
Commanding USS STEWART.
5/26/30. Changed rate to Signalmen Second Class, qualified by examination with an average mark of 3.43, vacancy existing in approved allowance. In all respects qualified in accordance with BuNav Manual of 1924. BuNav Cir. Letr. 10-30.
Date transferred _____
To _____

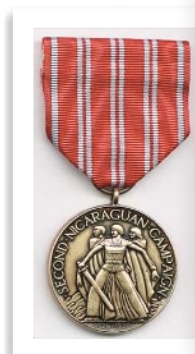
	ALLOWED	ON BOARD
SM1c	1	1
SM2c	1	0
SM3c	1	1
TOTAL	3	2

E. P. Eldredge
E. P. ELDREDGE,
Lieutenant Commander, US Navy
Date transferred _____
To _____

1931

On Jun. 5 1931, while onboard the USS *Stewart*, John was awarded the 2nd Nicaraguan Campaign Medal. This, for duty onboard the USS *Kane*, Apr. to Jun. 1927.

The Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal was awarded for service during operations in Nicaragua from 1926 to 1933, during the Nicaraguan civil war and the subsequent occupation. An earlier campaign medal, the Nicaraguan Campaign Medal, was awarded for service in Nicaragua 1912.



CAMPAIGN BADGE RECEIPT

U.S.S. STEWART, (224), Nanking, China
5 June, 1931
From: John Baldwin
To: Bureau of Navigation,
Navy Department.
Via: Commanding Officer,
U. S. S. STEWART, (224)
Subject: Receipt of _____
2nd Nicaraguan Campaign Medal--
The Bureau is informed that I have received
2nd Nicaraguan Campaign Medal--
Badge number 1878
John Baldwin
JOHN BALDWIN,
Signalmen 2/c-----, U. S. Navy.
Forwarded by: *E. P. Eldredge*
E. P. ELDREDGE,
Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Navy,
Commanding U.S.S. STEWART, (224)
N. Nav. 486
Rev. 4-30-29

The awarding of this medal, with its associated 1927 participation timeline, is, coincidentally, a month before John landed in a Navy hospital in Brooklyn, NY for two months (see 1927 above). Did John contract some sort of tropical disease while on duty with USS *Kane* in Nicaraguan waters in the Spring of 1927? It seems highly probable.

On Dec. 4 1931, John was transferred from the USS *Stewart* to the USS *Borie* (215). The *Borie* was another destroyer in the Asiatic Fleet. She too had a storied battle history.

During WW2, in the North Atlantic, the USS *Borie* got into a pitched battle with several German submarines. The battle was long and arduous with the *Borie* ramming submarine and then getting stuck on the top of the submarine. The story is too long to recount here, but is well worth examination.

The *Borie* received three battle stars for her World War II service as well as the Presidential Unit Citation. *Borie* crew members were awarded three Navy Cross medals, two Silver Star medals and one Legion of Merit medal.

E. Jenkins
 S.P. JENKINS,
 Lieut-Comdr., U.S. Navy, Commanding.
 4 December, 1931: Transferred to U.S.S.
 BORIE for duty in accordance with CDS
 5 Despatch 0530 1737 of November, 1931.

Date transferred: 4 December, 1931.
 To: U.S.S. BORIE, (215)
E. Jenkins
 S.P. JENKINS, Lieut-Comdr., USN.
 Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.
 Date received: 4 December, 1931.
 Ship or Station: U.S.S. BORIE (215).
 From: U.S.S. STEWART (224).



Not long after his transfer to the USS *Borie*, John requested and was approved for transfer to the USS *Canopus* (AS-9). His stated reason for transferring was that he had served for the past six years on destroyers and desired a change of duty. For this change, John had to agree to extend his Asiatic Station for one year.

The *Canopus* was a submarine tender with an assigned squadron of six submarines.



Name BALDWIN, John.
 (Name in full, surname to the left.)
 No. 279-20-22. Rate: SNCO (F.A.)
 Date reported: 4 December, 1931.
 Ship or Station: U.S.S. BORIE.
 From: U.S.S. STEWART.

31 Dec. 1931. Transferred to the U.S.S. CANOPUS for duty in accord. with Cinc letr. MM/B (3329) of 26 Sept. 1931.

31 Dec. 1931. In signing this agreement to extend my tour of duty on the Asiatic Station for a period of one (1) year, namely from 7 August, 1932 to 7 August, 1933, I understand that it is for service in the Navy as a whole and that it does not include or imply an agreement that I will be retained on any particular duty for the period of this extension of tour of duty on the Asiatic Station.

John Baldwin
 JOHN BALDWIN.

31 Dec. 1931.

1. APPROVED.
R. J. Walker
 LtComdr., USN., Comdr.

Date transferred: 31 December, 1931.
 To: U.S.S. CANOPUS.
 R. J. WALKER, Lieut-Comdr., USN.
 Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.
 Date received: 22/31/31
 Ship or Station: U.S.S. CANOPUS
 From: U.S.S. BORIE.
R. J. Snyder
 R. J. SNYDER, LtComdr., U.S.N.
 Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-4111

1932

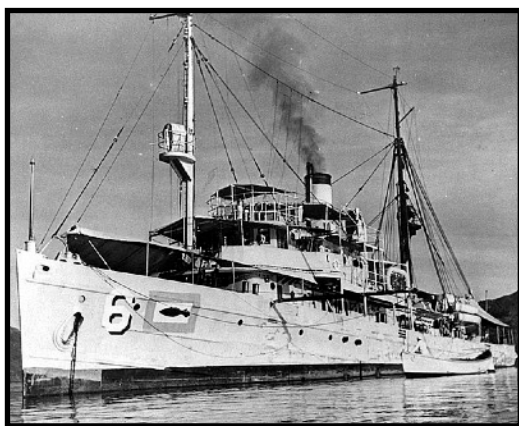
On Sep. 18 1932, John was reprimanded for a curfew violation in Tsingtao, China. As a result, he was deprived of Shore Leave for a period of two months.

Though no specific 1932 date was registered, John was awarded the Yangtze Service Medal for service onboard the USS *Stewart*, USS *Borie* and USS *Canopus*.

The Yangtze Service Medal was awarded for service in the Yangtze River Valley between Sep. 3 1926 and Dec. 31 1932, a period of significant unrest in the region.



On Oct. 28 1932, John was transferred from the USS *Canopus* to the USS *Pigeon* (ASR-6). The *Pigeon* was first launched as a minesweeper and later converted to be a submarine rescue ship. John would be stationed on the *Pigeon* for the next six years.



Name	BALDWIN, John
No.	279-20-92
Rate	SM2c
Date reported	31 December, 1931.
Ship or Station	U.S.S. CANOPUS
From	U.S.S. BORIE

9-10-32: OFFENSE: Violation of a lawful order of DCPA - violation of curfew in Tsingtao, China.
 30 JUL 32: 9-20-32. "DCP".
 9-31-32. WPT: No deprivation of liberty on those on foreign sta.
 For G nos., 3A 9-23-32.
 Published: 9-23-32.

J.B. (Signature)
 YANGTZE SERVICE MEDAL ISSUED
 #4612 (USS Canopus) JUL 3 1932
 Sent - C.O. - USS Pigeon JUL 3 1932

10-28-32: Transferred to U.S.S. PIGEON for duty. AUTH. Verbal Order of DFC.

Date transferred	28 October 1932
To	U.S.S. PIGEON
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer	<i>W.D. (Signature)</i> W.D. SLYER, Lieut-Comdr. USN
Date received	28 October, 1932.
Ship or Station	U.S.S. PIGEON.
From	U.S.S. CANOPUS.
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer	<i>J.A. (Signature)</i> J.A. HOLLOWELL, Lieut. USN

4-0111

1933

In Feb., onboard the USS *Pigeon*, John qualified in swimming and then qualified as a sharpshooter (this, at the William McKinley Rifle Range, Manila, P.I.).

On May 10, John was admonished and punished for being "non-cooperative in medical treatment". Knowing, from later records yet to be reviewed here, that John had contracted syphilis in 1931, this medical procedure may have been related to ongoing treatment. At this time, arsenic, in combination with bismuth or mercury, was the mainstay of treatment for syphilis until the advent of penicillin in 1943. One can only imagine how this toxic chemical cocktail was administered.

In Sep., John successfully completed the Navy training course for Signalman First Class; average 3.52. Passing the course did not result in an automatic rating upgrade. But, a promotion could now be expected.

On Nov. 3, John, upon expiration of his enlistment, was Honourably Discharged. On Nov. 4 1933, John reenlisted onboard the USS *Pigeon* for another four years of service. And, he agreed to extend his Asiatic Station duty one more year.

Name: BALDWIN, John
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279-20-92 Rate SM2c (P.A.)
Date reported 28 October, 1933.
Ship U.S.S. PIGEON
or Station
From U.S.S. CANOPUS

18 September, 1933. Satisfactory completed the Navy Training Course for SIGNALMAN FIRST CLASS this date with a mark of 3.52.

J.A. Hollowell
J.A. Hollowell,
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

5 November, 1933 - Discharged this date with HONORABLE DISCHARGE aboard this vessel at Manila, P.I., on account of expiration of enlistment. Recommended for re-enlistment. Not recommended for Good Conduct Medal. No time lost due to own misconduct. Entitled to travel allowance from Manila; Philippine Islands to Cleveland; Ohio.

J.A. Hollowell
J.A. Hollowell,
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

3 Nov 1933: Credited travel allowance from San Diego Calif to Cleveland O (OET FC P14/4) 2653 mi., \$137.68. Paid \$169.71 in full upon discharge.

Date transferred _____
To _____ Ensign (SC) USNavy

Name: BALDWIN, John (none)
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279-20-92 Rate SM2c (P.A.)
Date reported 4 November, 1933.
Ship U.S.S. PIGEON (ASR6)
or Station
From RE-ENLISTMENT

4 November, 1933 - In signing this certificate to re-enlist, I understand that it is for service in the Navy as a whole, and that it does not include or imply an agreement that I will be retained on any particular duty for the period of my enlistment.

In signing this certificate to extend my tour of duty on the Asiatic Station, I understand that it is for service in the Navy as a whole and that it does not include or imply an agreement that I be retained on any particular duty for the period of my extension of tour of duty on the Asiatic Station, from 7 August, 1933 to 7 August, 1934.

John Baldwin
John Baldwin, SM2c, USN.

WITNESSED: *J.A. Hollowell*
J.A. Hollowell,
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

4 November, 1933.
RE-ENLISTED THIS DATE ON BOARD FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR (4) FULL YEARS.

Date transferred _____
To _____ Lieutenant, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

1934

On Jan. 8 1934, John was awarded a Continuous Service Certificate (actually received on Feb. 13). This, for completing eight years of Naval Service, as of Nov. 1933.

On Jun. 5, John was admonished for being AWOL 4.5 hours. The punishment was three weeks restrictions.

For some mysterious reason, in Jun. 1934, John's job changed from Signalman to Mail Clerk. This, in accordance with a Navy Dispatch.

On Aug. 3, John actually took possession the Yangtze Service Medal that he had been awarded in 1932.

9

Name BALDWIN, John (none)
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279-20-92 Rate SM2c (A.A. (P.A.)
Date reported 4 November, 1933.
Ship or Station U.S.S. PIGEON (ASR6)
From RE-ENLISTMENT.

2-13-34: Received Continuous Service Certificate #115737 this date.
J.A. Hollowell
J.A. HOLLOWELL, Lieutenant, USN. Cd.

5-21-34: A.O.I. from 2400, 5-19-34 to 0430, 5-20-34, a period of about four (4) hours and 30 minutes-PUNISHMENT: Three (3) weeks restriction.
J.A. Hollowell
J.A. Hollowell,
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

5-24-34 - In signing this certificate to extend my tour of duty on the Asiatic Station, I understand that it is for service in the Navy as a whole and that it does not include or imply an agreement that I be retained on any particular duty for the period of my extension of tour of duty on the Asiatic Station, from 7 August, 1934 to 7 August, 1935.
John Baldwin
John Baldwin, SM2c, USN.

APPROVED: *J.A. Hollowell*
Date transferred J.A. Hollowell
To Lieutenant, U.S. Navy, Commanding.

9

Name BALDWIN, John (none)
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279-20-92 Rate SM2c (A.A. (P.A.)
Date reported 4 November, 1933.
Ship or Station U.S.S. PIGEON (ASR6)
From RE-ENLISTMENT

1 August, 1934 - Designated as Navy Mail Clerk for USS PIGEON effective from 28 June, 1934 in accordance with Bu.Nav. Despatch 6307-1600 of July, 1934 and J.A.G. of the Navy's letter MM-Baldwin, John/L13-1(340512) dated 27 June, 1934. Credited with extra compensation of \$15.00 per month in accordance with Art.D-5307 Bu.Nav. Manual, 1925. Approved allowance 5 Officers and 61 enlisted men.
J.A. Hollowell
J.A. Hollowell,
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

1935

Let's take moment to reflect on John's ten years in the US Navy; 1925 to 1935. Recall that he joined when he was barely 16 years old; Oct 1925. Now, he was 26. This, though he continued to maintain with Navy official records that he was born in 1909 instead of 1906. Essentially, John came of age on ships exclusively populated by men. How this fact affected his social skills with women, or men for that matter, is unknown.

Let's examine his signatures, about ten years apart. In the first (leftmost), 1925, you sense a shaky and somewhat insecure young man. In the second (rightmost), 1936, you can visualize a matured man who has grown in confidence and swagger.

----- Produce discharge.
(Sign here) *John Baldwin* *John Baldwin*

The only documents we have for 1935 are two "Report of Examination for Advancement in Rating". They seem to be almost identical; exams for rating of Signalmen First Class. The first was in Feb. 1935; average @ 3.64. The second was completed in Oct. 1935; average 3.72. Knowing that in Sep. 1933, John also passed the same examination; average 3.52, this would be the third examination for Signalmen First Class. Surely, by this time he would have had the exam memorised. It may be that he was trying to get back to being a Signalmen instead of Mail Clerk.

Regardless, it would another year, and yet one more (4th) exam, before John would be advanced to the Signalmen First Class Rating.

1936

In Feb. 1936, John signed yet another Asiatic Station one year extension; expiring Aug. 1937.

In Apr. a dispatch was received by the USS *Pigeon* with a summary of John's Navy Service, to date - for what purpose is unknown. Perhaps the captain of the USS *Pigeon*, or a senior officer, requested his records ahead of a possible rating advancement.

Nav-642-LFM 3 April 1936

BALDWIN, John, 279-20-92, Signalmen 2c, U.S. Navy

10-23-1925	NRS Cincinnati, Ohio	Honorable	USS CONTOCOCK
	NRS Great Lakes, Ill.	10-22-1929 (ASR6)	
11-4-1929	NRS Cleveland, Ohio	Honorable	USS PIGEON
	R/S Phila., Pa.	11-3-1935 (ASR 6)	
11-4-1935	USS PIGEON (ASR6)		
	USS PIGEON (ASR6)		

Now serving on board the USS PIGEON (ASR6) as Navy Mail Clerk. The records of the Bureau show that Baldwin was serving on board the USS PIGEON (ASR6) on 1 July 1935.

AWOL from 10-24-28 to 11-3-28; PWOP, none; NPD: none; sickness due to own misconduct, none.

Baldwin served as App. Sec. from 10-23-25 until 2-1-26 when his rating was changed to Sen2c; on 9-1-26 he was rated Sen1c; on 4-1-27 his rating was changed to Signalmen 3c; on 5-26-30 his rating was changed to Signalmen 2c; and on 8-1-34 Baldwin was designated Navy Mail Clerk effective from 8-28-34.

xx ADOLPHUS ANDERSON
Chief of Bureau
C.B. Hatch
By direction

In Oct. 1936, John, for the 4th time, took the exam for rating of SM1c (Signalman First Class). This time his average mark was 3.67. With successful completion of this exam, there was an endorsement added to promote John to Signalman First Class as of Nov. 11 1936.

We CERTIFY that we have EACH thoroughly examined the candidate in accordance with the requirements of the Bureau of Navigation Manual and that we deem the candidate is fully qualified and do --- recommend him for advancement to signalman first class.

C. C. HUBBARD, C. C. BURLINGAME, B. F. SCHMIDT
Lieutenant U.S. Navy. Lieut (jg) U.S. Navy. Ch. Rad. Elec. U.S. Navy.

Copy to Service Record. Original to Bureau of Navigation.

From: C.O. USS PIGEON FIRST INDORSEMENT Date 11-16-36
 To: BUREAU OF NAVIGATION.

1. Approved and forwarded. Candidate is recommended for advancement to S.M.1c., effective 11-16-36 in accordance with CinCAF Desp. 0512-1640 of Nov. 1936, and Asiatic Quota No. 2-37.

Allowance: 1st class 1; 2d class 1; 3d class 0; Total 2
 On Board: 1st class 2; 2d class 0; 3d class 0; Total 2

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 4-5412 E.B. OLIVER

Additionally, in Aug., as a member of the USS Pigeon communication team during, what seemed to be a fleet completion of some sort - 2nd place in Group Four - he was entitled to wear a red "E" on his uniform.

So, all in all, 1936 was a pretty good year in the Navy for John "Johnny" Baldwin.

Name BALDWIN, John (none)
 (Name in full, surname to the left.)
 No. 279 20 92 Rate SM2c (A.A. P.A.)
 Date reported 4 November, 1935.
 Ship or U.S.S. PIGEON (ASR6)
 Station U.S.S. PIGEON (Reenlistment)

8/25/36: Member of communication personnel on U.S.S. PIGEON during fiscal year, 1935-36, which was second in Group FOUR, Asiatic Fleet, and entitled to wear a Red "E" until completion of the Communication Competition for the fiscal year, 1936-37, in accordance with OpNav despatch 2205 1442 of August, 1936, and CNO lettr. Op-22-A 45-11 dated 14 August, 1936.

E.B. OLIVER, Lieutenant, U.S. Navy.

11/16/36: Rating changed this date from signalman second class to signalman first class in accordance with CinC AF despatch 0512 1640 of November, 1936, and Asiatic Quota No. 2-37, Article 1275, U.S.N.R., 1920, read and appointment accepted.

E.B. OLIVER, Lieutenant, U.S. Navy.

1937

Apparently, the USS *Pigeon* placed 1st in the Group Four fleet communications competition. So, John was entitled to \$10 in prize money and to wear the white "E" on his his service uniform.

John's four year enlistment terminated on Nov. 3 1937 and he was granted another Honourable Discharge. And, on Nov. 4, he once again reenlisted for another four years. He was retained onboard the USS *Pigeon* for duty. He had now completed 12 years of service.

9

Name BALDWIN, John (none)
 No. 279 20 92 Rate SM1c (A.A.)
 Date reported 4 November 1937
 Ship U.S.S. PIGEON
 or Station RE-ENLISTED ON BOARD
 From

11-3-37: Honorably Discharge this date at Manila, Philippine Islands due to Expiration of Enlistment. Issued Honorable discharge #C187930.

W. B. Sampson
 W. B. SAMPSON,
 Lieutenant, USN,
 Commanding.

9

Name BALDWIN, John (none)
 No. 279-20-92 Rate SM1c (A.A.)
 Date reported 4 November 1937
 Ship U.S.S. PIGEON
 or Station Reenlisted on board
 From

TOUR OF DUTY EXPIRES 7 Aug. 1938
 ARRIVED ON STATION 7 Feb. 1930

11-4-37: Reenlisted this date to serve for a period of four (4) full years. Retained on board for duty.

W. B. Sampson
 W. B. SAMPSON,
 Lieutenant, USN,
 Commanding.

9

Name BALDWIN, John (none)
 No. 279 20 92 Rate SM1c (A.A.)
 Date reported 4 November 1937
 Ship U.S.S. PIGEON(ASR6)
 or Station Reenlisted on board.
 From

11-13-37: Completed twelve (12) year net service for pay purposes this date. Order to credit Longevity sent Disbursing Officer.

W. B. Sampson
 W. B. SAMPSON,
 Lieutenant, USN,
 Commanding.

1938

1938 would be a year of change for John. He would leave Asiatic Station duty for the continental US. His goal was to be on shore duty stationed either in the Ninth Naval District (Great Lakes region) or the Fourth Naval District (Philadelphia, PA region).

The first document we have is one that proclaims that John qualified as a "Shell Back", by crossing the equator southbound at the 119th Meridian East on Apr. 30 1938.

Name	BALDWIN, John (none)
No.	279-CO-92
Rate	SM1c
Date reported	4 November 1937
Ship or Station	U.S.S. PIGEON (ASR6)
From	RENEWED ON BOARD

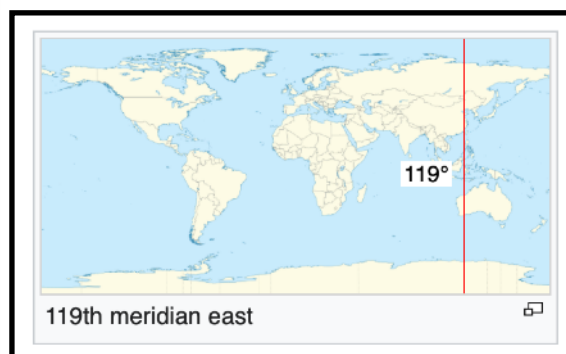
ARRIVED ON STATION 7 Feb. 1938
TOUR OF DUTY EXPIRES 7 Aug. 1938

QUALIFIED AS SHELL BACK,
CROSSED THE EQUATOR ON THE
U. S. S. PIGEON
LONGITUDE 119-00-00 E+51
SOUTHWARD BOUND FOR
DUTCH EAST INDIES

DATE 4/30/38

8-23-38: Completed Bureau Navigation educational course for QM1c and CQM this date with a final mark of 3.28. Certificate issued.

W. B. SAMPSON, Lieutenant, USN.



We also see on this document that John, in Aug., completed the education courses for the Quartermaster First Class (QM1c) and the Chief Quartermaster (CQM). Chief Quartermaster was his next rating goal.

In Sep. the USS *Pigeon* once again placed first in the Group Four fleet communication competition. Again, John received a \$10 prize and was entitled to wear the white "E" on his service uniform.

Name: BALDWIN, John
 No. 279 20 92 (Name in full, surname to the left.)
 Rate SM1C (A.A.)
 Date reported: 4 November, 1937.
 Ship or Station: U.S.S. PIGEON.
 From: Reenlistment.
 TOUR OF DUTY EXPIRES 7 Aug. 1938.
 ARRIVED ON STATION 7 Feb. 1930.

 9/6/38: Member of Communication Personnel on USS PIGEON during fiscal year, 1937-38, which was first in Group IV, Asiatic Fleet, and entitled to prize money in the amount of \$10.00, and authorized to wear the white "E" on service uniforms. Auth: CMO desp. 2231 1200 of Aug. 1938, and PIGEON lettr. ASR6/A5-11/(286) of 3 Sept. 1938.
 W. B. Sampson, Lieut. USN., Comd'g
 10/29/38: Transferred this date to the U.S.S. CHAUMONT for transportation and further transfer to the United States. Auth: CinCAF 0530 1444 of Sept. 1938.
 OCT 29 1938
 Date transferred: 29 October 1938.
 To: USS CHAUMONT FTT UNITED STATES.
 W. B. Sampson, Lieut. USN., Comd'g
 Date received: 21 December 1938
 Ship or Station: RECEIVING SHIP AT SAN FRANCISCO
 From: USS PIGEON AT PEARL HARBOR
 E. H. Sampson, Lieut. USN., Comd'g

In Reply Refer To:
 ASR6/PL6-3/MM
 UNITED STATES ASIATIC FLEET
 SUBMARINE SQUADRON FIVE
 U. S. S. PIGEON (ASR6)
 Address: Asiatic Station
 Via: San Francisco, Calif.
 Personal
 Victoria, Hong Kong, B.C.C.:
 15 October, 1938.
 From: BALDWIN, John, #279 20 92, SM1C., U.S. Navy.
 To: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.
 Via: Commanding Officer.
 Subject: Shore Duty, request for.
 1. It is requested that I be transferred to shore duty any place within the continental limits of the United States preferably the Ninth or Fourth Naval Districts in the order named.
 2. My reason for making this request is that I desire this type duty and am eligible in accordance with existing instructions.
 3. I have served at sea continuously for approximately twelve (12) years and eleven (11) months.
 4. My current enlistment for which I was accepted at Manila, Philippine Islands, expires 3 November, 1941.
 5. I am being returned to the United States for duty via the U.S.S. CHAUMONT which is scheduled to depart from Manila for the United States on or about 25 November, 1938.
 JOHN BALDWIN.
 U. S. S. PIGEON (ASR6) Hong Kong, B.C.C.,
 18 October 1938.
 FIRST ENDORSEMENT
 ASR6/PL6-3/MM/(315)
 From: Commanding Officer.
 To: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.
 1. Forwarded, recommending approval.
 2. The statements made by the above named man have been verified and are correct.
 W. B. Sampson.

On Oct. 15 1938, John formally requested to be transferred from ship duty to shore duty, effective as soon as possible. He had served at sea for almost 13 years and was entitled to a change of duty.

Per above, his original request was to be transferred either to the Great Lakes Base, where is his brother, Roscoe Baldwin, was stationed, or to the Naval Base at Philadelphia, PA. This was not to be as we will soon see. However, the shore duty request was approved and he was transferred from the USS *Pigeon* to the USS *Chaumont* for transportation to the United States on Oct. 29 1938.

On Dec. 21 1938, John arrived in San Francisco onboard the USS *Chaumont*. He was then transferred to the USS *Tennessee* (BB-43). On Jan. 24 1939 the *Tennessee* delivered John to his next duty ship, the USS *Louisville* (CA-28 - see right).

The USS *Louisville* was classified as a Heavy Cruiser.



1939

During the winter months of 1939 the *Louisville* participated in fleet exercises in the Caribbean. She operated in these waters until May, when she returned to the west coast. Presumably, during this tour, John was on duty as a Signaller, not a Mail Clerk.

In Apr. 1939, John was recommended for examination for Chief Quartermaster.

According to several sources, Navy Quartermasters: "... specializes in navigation, with a focus on mapping and charts, as well as using electronic navigation systems. They work as assistants to the Officers of the Deck and the navigator. They may perform ship control as helmsman, or serve watch on the bridge. They maintain the ship's Deck Log, plot the ship's position on charts, and maintain dead-reckoning of the ship's position. It's a position with a lot of responsibility."

On Jun. 6, John was arrested by civil authorities in civilian clothes, turned over to Naval Patrol, and charged with "intoxication". Punishment was one week's deprivation of liberty.

On Jun. 11 1939, while stationed on the *Louisville*, John began a letter writing campaign with his future wife, Dorothy Dixon, then living in Los Angeles. In all, between Jun. 1939 and May 1940, John wrote 35 letters to Dorothy. They are all part of the companion story: "Dearest Dorothy - the Love Letters of Johnny Baldwin".

In the middle of Aug. 1939, John received new orders from Fleet Command that he would be transferred from the USS *Louisville* to the Fleet Radio Base, San Clemente Island for permanent duty.

Thusly, with a series of ship transfers, John was delivered to San Clemente Island on Aug. 29 1939.

8-21-39. Transferred this date to Fleet Radio Base, San Clemente for duty. Auth: ComBaseFor mailgram 6016 1018 of August 1939. Via USS CIMARRON FFT USS BAGADUCE ftt. San Clemente.

Date transferred 29 August, 1939

To Fleet Radio Base, San Clemente

H. J. NELSON, Commander, U.S.N.

Date received 1 September 1939

Ship or Station US FLETRABASE, San Clemente Is., Cal.

From U.S.S. LOUISVILLE

W. A. ANDERSON, Lt., USN.

Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 6-011

REPLY
NEW YORK
/CA28/P16-4/MD-B U. S. S. LOUISVILLE 11-KW

San Pedro, California
29 August 1939

From: Commanding Officer.
To : BALDWIN, John, 279 20 92, S.M. 1c., U.S. Navy.

Subject: Orders.

Reference: (a) ComBaseFor mailgram 6016 1018 of August 1939.
(b) ComBaseFor despatch 6021 1420 of August 1939.

1. Upon receipt of these orders and when directed by proper authority, you will proceed and report to the Commanding Officer, U.S.S. CIMARRON for transportation and further transfer to U.S.S. BAGADUCE, for transportation and further transfer to FLEET RADIO BASE, SAN CLEMENTE, for duty, in accordance with reference (a).

2. This is a permanent change of station within the meaning of the Act of May 18, 1920, and you are entitled to such transportation for your dependents and household effects as is authorized by law.

3. Transportation will be furnished you to the U.S.S. CIMARRON via ship's boat.

4. Your records and accounts will be forwarded via registered mail.

H. J. NELSON

FIRST ENDORSEMENT U.S.S. CIMARRON San Pedro, Calif.,
AO22/P16-4 29 August 1939.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : BALDWIN, John, 279 20 92, SMLc, USN.

1. Reported this date for transportation.

Wm. W. Behrens

Later that year, on San Clemente Island, John took the exam for Chief Quartermaster (CQM). There is a document stating this occurred, but no exact exam date was indicated.

1940

John "Johnny" Baldwin married Dorothy Dixon on May 11, 1940 in Yuma, AZ.

On Jun. 27 1940, new orders fulfilling his 1938 request for shore duty in the Fourth Naval District were received; Inshore Patrol Base, Cape May, NJ. However, these orders were cancelled, presumably because he was now married, changing his priorities.

On Aug. 5, John was recommended for appointment to Warrant Grade Boatswain. A Boatswain is: "A warrant officer or petty officer in charge of a ship's rigging, anchors, cables, and deck crew." Basically, a ship's deck boss.

On Dec. 18 1940 John was transferred from San Clemente Island, to the Naval Net Depot, Tiburon, CA. He would travel there by private car, with his new wife.

In reply address not the signer of this letter, but Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.
Refer to No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 630 GEM
MM 279 20 92

27 June 1940

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.
To : Commanding Officer, U.S. Fleet Training Base,
San Clemente Island, Calif.

Subject: BALDWIN, John, SMic, USN;
Transfer of.

1. Provided subject man executes an agreement to extend enlistment, please transfer him via government transportation, to report not later than 15 September 1940, to the Commandant, Fourth Naval District, for a normal tour of shore duty at the Inshore Patrol Base, Cape May, N.J., or such duty as the Commandant may assign.

2. If BALDWIN desires to travel overland at own expense not subject to reimbursement, you are authorized to grant him twenty days' delay in reporting, such delay to count as leave.

C. W. NICHOLS,
Chief of Bureau.

W. M. McKee
F. D. MCCORMICK,
By direction.

Copy to:
Combasefor
ComFour
FOO Inshore Pat. Base,
Cape May NJ

Cancelled

Name BALDWIN, John
No. 279 20 92 Rate SMic (A-1)
Date reported 1 September, 1939.
Ship FTB San Clemente Island, Calif.
Station U. S. S. LOUISVILLE
From

Completed Practical Factors as required for advancement to Chief Quartermaster, acting appointment.

W. M. McKee, Lieutenant, USN.

8/5/40: Recommended to Bureau of Navigation for appointment to warrant grade of Boatswain in the Naval Reserve in compliance with BuNav Circ. Ltr. No. 48-40.

W. M. McKee
R. E. SKELBY, Lieut. USN., Commanding

12/18/40: Transferred this date via USS BAGADUCE to San Diego, Calif., FFT Naval Net Depot, Tiburon, Calif., for duty in accordance with BuNav desp. 120934 of December 1940. Transportation from San Diego, Calif. to Tiburon, Calif., via privately owned automobile.

Date transferred December 18, 1940.
to Naval Net Depot, Tiburon, Calif.
W. M. McKee, Lieutenant, USN. Comd'g
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer
Date received DEC 20 1940
Ship FTB San Clemente Island, Calif.
Station FTB San Clemente Island, Calif.
From

1941

John's good marks on his Chief Quartermaster (CQM) exam in 1939 was rewarded on Feb. 28 1941 when his rating was upgraded to CQM (temporary).

On Nov. 3 1941, and like we have seen numerous times before, John's enlistment expired with an Honourable Discharge. Then, the next day, he once again reenlisted - for another, and final, four years - with a CQM rating.

Name BALDWIN, John ---
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279-20-92 Rate SMlc USN (P.A.)
Date reported December 20, 1940
Ship _____
or _____
Station _____
From NTB San Clemente Is., California

2-28-41. Rating changed from SMlc to CQM(AA), effective February 28, 1941. Authority: Bureau letter file Nav-631-LGC P17-2/MM(286) dated February 11, 1941.

[Signature]
S. M. HAIGHT, COMMANDER, USN, Comdg

Name BALDWIN, John ---
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279-20-92 Rate CQM(AA) (P.A.)
Date reported December 20, 1940
Ship US NAVAL NET DEPOT, TIBURON, CAL.
or _____
Station _____
From NTB, San Clemente Is., Calif.

11-3-41. Honorably discharged this date because of expiration of enlistment. Recommended for reenlistment; NOT recommended for good conduct award. Reenlisting on board.

[Signature]

W. DE FRIES, LIEUT. USN (RET), COMDG.

Name BALDWIN, John ---
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279-20-92 C.S.C. 115737
Accepted for enlistment at Tiburon, Calif.

Enlisted November 4, 1941
Rate SMlc reissued acting appointment as CQM(AA) upon reenlistment
At US Naval Net Depot, Tiburon, Calif
For FOUR years from date,

Name BALDWIN, John ---
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279-20-92 Rate SMlc (P.A.)
Date reported November 4, 1941
Ship US NAVAL NET DEPOT, TIBURON, CALIF
or _____
Station _____
From REENLISTMENT

11-4-41. In consideration of my being reenlisted in the U. S. Navy, I hereby waive my right to apply for transfer to the Fleet Reserve until after I have served two (2) years in forthcoming enlistment.

[Signature]
John Baldwin.

11-4-41. Reenlisted on board this date for a period of four (4) yrs.

[Signature]

W. DE FRIES, Lieutenant USN (RET),
Commanding

11-4-41. Reissued acting appointment as Chief Quartermaster this date
Auth: Article D-5110 (3) Bureau Manual.

[Signature]

W. DE FRIES, Lieutenant USN (RET),
Commanding.

It's important to take note that with this enlistment he would be able to transfer to Fleet Reserve (leaving active duty) after two years; Nov. 1943. And, we see he now has 16 years of net US Navy active service.

Name BALDWIN, John ---
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279-20-92 Rate CQM(AA) (P.A.)
Date reported November 4, 1941
Ship U. S. NAVAL NET DEPOT
or TIBURON, CALIFORNIA
Station REENLISTMENT
From _____

11-13-41. Completed 16 years net service for pay purposes.

[Signature]

P. T. GARVER, Lieut (jg), USNR, by
DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER.

1942

These next two years were to be life changing in a big way for John. The official Navy documents for this period are detailed and numerous. I will do my best to summarise what happened and include relevant documents and document snippets. Let's get started.

John's shore duty at the US Naval Net Depot, Tiburon, CA was short lived. On May 21 1942 he was again onboard ship. This time he was assigned to the USS *Catalpa* (AN-10/YN-5). John, as of Apr. 1 1942, was made a permanent rating of Chief Quartermaster (CQM).

Date transferred May 21, 1942
To USS CATALPA
S.M. HAIGHT, COMMANDER USN (PTG)
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.
Date received May 21, 1942
Ship or Station U.S.S. CATALPA
From US NAVAL NET DEPOT, TIBURON, CAL
F. J. GEORGE Lt. (jg), USNR (PTG)
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-5111

The USS *Catalpa*'s main role was to serve the U.S. Navy ships and harbors during World War II with her protective anti-submarine nets. After loading equipment at the Net Depot at Tiburon, California, *Catalpa* sailed 24 May 1942 for the Fiji Islands, arriving 14 June. At Nandi, Suva, and during October and November 1942 at Funafuti in the Ellice Islands, *Catalpa* laid and cared for harbor entrance nets, protecting important South Pacific Ocean bases.



In Jul. 1942, by order of the President, John was appointed to the rating of Boatswain (temporary), recognised officially on the *Catalpa* on Sep. 29.

Apparently, in order to be appointed to the Boatswain rating (permanent), a physical had to be completed. This was done to insure the sailor was capable of the Boatswain's strenuous deck duties. So, on Nov. 5 1942 he went ashore to Advance Base Fan Tan One (WW2 Code name for the Fiji Islands) for a medical exam. Other than missing five teeth and the statement that he had been infected with Syphilis in 1931, the exam was normal and John was "qualified for all duty", and, thusly, appointed to the Warrant rank of Boatswain. The medical report was forwarded to Washington DC, Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Name BALEWIN, John (n)
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279 20 92 Rate CQM (P.) (P.A.)
Date reported May 21, 1942
Ship or Station U.S.S. CATALPA
From U.S. NAVAL NET DEPOT, TIBURON, CALI

September 29, 1942
This date appointed Boatswain, USN, Temporary Appointment, to take rank from June 25, 1942
Authority: BuPers cir ltr. No. 109-42.
Appointment accepted.

J. A. Merini
F. A. Merini
Lieut., USNR

On Nov. 30, the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery sent the following letter:

WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 30, 1942

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. 101, 125
To: The Chief of Naval Personnel.
Subject: Physical fitness in the case of John BALDWIN, OJ(MPA), USN.,
for temporary appointment to warrant rank. 8
USS Catalpa

1. The subject named enlisted man was examined in the field on November 5, 1942 and reported physically qualified for temporary appointment to warrant rank with a history of Syphilis, 1931. The medical examiner reported negative serological tests during the past 5 years, but failed to give complete details as required in paragraph 1507, Manual of the Medical Department, as revised by BUM&S Form Letter No. 33 dated March 17, 1942.

2. It is therefore requested that he be re-examined by a regular Board of Medical Examiners and that this Board be directed to submit a report of physical examination including laboratory details of blood and cerebro-spinal fluid examination made at the present time, with their report on NMS Form Y.

3. The report of physical examination conducted in the field on November 5, 1942 has been retained in the files of this Bureau.

ROSS T. MCINTIRE
Chief of Bureau

E. S. Williams

E. S. Williams,
By direction.

John had to be reexamined because the Nov. 5 medical examiner had failed to give complete details about the Syphilis serological tests as required by the Medical Department. This apparent error or laboratory incapacity resulted in John being disqualified for the Warrant Grade of Boatswain until such time of full compliance with serological testing reporting requirements.

Meanwhile, John's commanding officer, Francis A. Gherini, wanted to promote Boatswain John Baldwin to Ensign John Baldwin.

"An Ensign in the Navy is the lowest commissioned officer rank, typically responsible for leading a division and undergoing training. In the US Navy, it is equivalent to a second lieutenant in other branches of the military."

Now, for me, the fact that John's commanding officer would recommend that an enlisted man be promoted to the officer ranks, is quite remarkable. I did a little background checking on Francis A Gherini. Turns out, he too has story. Let's take a moment to reflect on the life of this gentleman.

U.S.S. CATALPA (YN 5)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

December 28, 1942

From: The Commanding Officer
To: The Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel
Subject: BALDWIN, John (n), 279 20 92, Boatswain, USN
Reference: (a) AINAV 254

1. In accordance with reference (a) it is recommended that the subject named man be advanced from the grade of Boatswain to the rank of Ensign.
2. Since this officer has been attached to this command he has evidenced such a degree of loyalty - both to the men under him and to officers over him - as to be of the highest order. His character and integrity are of a caliber which leave little to be desired. He is possessed of all the necessary professional qualifications incident to the rank of ensign and it is emphatically believed that he will continue to be a credit to the navy he served so valiantly for 18 years.

■ Francis Gherini;
Sued U.S. Over Ranch

Francis Gherini, 84, who fought and won a battle with the federal government after it seized his Santa Cruz Island ranchland for a park. Gherini, who was born in San Francisco and lived in Ventura, was the patriarch of a family that since 1880 had owned thousands of acres of land on Santa Cruz Island, one of the Channel Islands off the Ventura County coast. A lawyer who specialized in immigration issues, Gherini was for a decade the only attorney in the county to speak Spanish, family members told The Times. His battle with the National Park Service started in 1997 after the service condemned and seized his 6,200 acres on the island. The park service offered to pay him \$4 million for the property, but Gherini considered that a paltry sum and decided to sue. This February, after a three-week trial, a jury awarded him \$12.7 million. But his health had been in decline of late. Gherini had a quadruple bypass late last year and was also required to undergo dialysis three times a week. On Tuesday from a head injury he sustained after collapsing in the driveway of his daughter's home.

F.A. Gherini
F.A. Gherini
Lieut., USNR



GHERINI, Francis, 84, passed away in Pasadena, California April 28th, 1999, after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. Born in San Francisco, he grew up in Hillsborough, and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford Law School.

He is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 57 years. Inez and his children Denny, Cathi Beauclair (John), and Andrea Gherini Gallant (Brad), his grandchildren Frank (Angie), Eric, Charlotte, John, Jennifer, Nicole, Chelsea and Patrick, and his sisters Marie Ringrose and Ilda McGinness, both of San Francisco.

During WWII he served as a US Naval Commander in the Pacific Theater. After discharge he set his law practice in Oxnard, and practiced for nearly 50 years in Ventura County. He served as president of the Oxnard Rotary Club, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a fourth generation Californian whose great grandfather, San Francisco businessman Justinian Caire, acquired Santa Cruz Island in 1869. Francis continued ranching operations there until the National Park Service acquired his land in 1997. Francis was a long-standing member of the Adolfo camp of Rancheros Vistadores. His friends on Rancheros all considered him a good and decent man, valued as an articulate and witty communicator with a keen sense of humor. He cherished many great friendships and had great stories to tell from his Rancheros rides.

Back to John - But, none of this was to be; no permanent Boatswain rating, no Ensign promotion to the officer ranks. On Dec. 28 1942, John "Johnny" Baldwin's Navy career was about to come to an abrupt termination.

U. S. S. CATALPA
2 Fleet Postmaster
San Francisco, California

NAVY DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED
15 JAN 1943
199189-
1943 JAN 27 PM 8 14

20 December 1942

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. S. CATALPA
To: The Chief of the Bureau of Personnel, Navy Department,
Washington, D. C.
Subject: BALDWIN, John (N), Boatswain - Transfer of.
Reference: Paragraph C-1003, BuPersManual.

1. In accordance with reference (a) the Bureau is advised that the subject named officer was transferred to the Naval Construction Battalion Dispensary, Pan Tan 1 this date for treatment and disposition.

2. Such action was the result of a recommendation of Commander Hardin, Senior Medical Officer of the U. S. S. MARYLAND.

J. Gierini
J. GIERINI

Name: BALDWIN, John (N)
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
No. 279 20 92 Rate Boatswain, Temp., USNR
Date reported: May 21, 1942
Ship: U. S. S. CATALPA
Station:
From: U. S. NAVAL NAV DEPOT, TREMONT, CALIF.

December 28, 1942

This date transferred to Naval Dispensary, Vunda, Point, Fiji Islands, for treatment.
Authority: Recommendation of Commander Hardin, Senior Medical Officer, "U.S.S. MARYLAND."

Date transferred: December 28, 1942
To: Naval Dispensary, Vunda Point, Fiji
J. Gierini, Lieut., USNR
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.
Date received: December 28, 1942
Ship: U. S. S. M. A. B., NANI, FIJI
Station:
From: U. S. S. CATALPA
B. N. BOLAN, Comdr., USNR
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-411

He was transferred off the USS *Catalpa* to the Naval Dispensary on Vunda, Fiji for treatment of an, as yet unstated, illness/infection.

1943

On Jan. 5 1943, John was transferred by the USS *Wright* from the Naval Dispensary on Fiji to the US Naval Hospital at San Diego for an "indefinite" hospital stay.

On Feb. 5 he was detached from any and all active duty assignments so that hospital treatments could continue.

A Report of Medical Survey was filed on Apr. 6 1943. In it was a statement that John had been admitted to the sick list onboard the USS *Catalpa* for swelling of both legs, both ankles and feet for three weeks. Urinalysis revealed persistently high albuminuria. After rest and a regulated diet, the swelling subsided and the John felt quite well. It was recommended that further treatment would be necessary.

BALDWIN, John (N)
(Name in full, surname to the left.)
279 20 92 Rate: Bos'n, Temp, USNR
Date Reported Aboard: 28 Dec. 1942
U. S. S. M. A. B., NANI, FIJI
(From Ship or Station)
U. S. S. CATALPA
(Ship or Station, Received From)

5 January 1943: this date trans.
to U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, SAN DIEGO,
CALIF. for treatment and disposition
Authority: Form "G".

Date Transferred: January 5, 1943
To: U. S. NAVAL HOSP., SAN DIEGO, CALIF.
B. N. BOLAN, Comdr., USNR
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.
Date Received Aboard: January 17, 1943
USNH, San Diego 24, California
(Date Ship or Station)
USNH, Nani, FIJI (via USS WRIGHT)
(Date Ship or Station)
B. N. BOLAN, Comdr., USNR
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer.

The diagnosis of the Apr. 6 Medical Survey was: **Nephritis, Acute.**

What is Nephritis?

“Nephritis occurs when parts of your kidney become inflamed (swollen). This swelling prevents the kidney from working properly to filter waste from the blood. Nephritis can be caused by infection, autoimmune or inflammatory conditions such as lupus, genetic disorders, or other conditions.”

What causes Nephritis?

- Allergic reaction to a medication.
- Autoimmune disorders, such as lupus.
- Bacterial infection, usually starting in the bladder.
- High calcium or uric acid levels in your blood.
- Kidney stones.
- Long-term use of certain medications.
- Low potassium levels in your blood.
- Medication side effects.
- Surgery on your urinary tract.

On Jul. 3 1943 another Report of Medical Survey was conducted. In it, the diagnosis was changed from Nephritis, Acute to **Nephritis, Chronic, by reason of sequela.** *Sequela* is defined as “a condition which is the consequence of a previous disease or injury”.

In this case, the Medical Survey states: “Disability is not the result of his own misconduct and was incurred in line of duty”. So, somewhere, somehow, John contracted a disease or infection that resulted in the onset of Nephritis. Knowing that John was in a US Navy hospital in Brooklyn, NY for two months; from Jul. to Sep. 1927, one is left to speculate its relevance to the Nephritis diagnosis.

The Jul. 3 Medical Survey stated John was Fit for Duty; limited to duty ashore commensurate with his physical disability.

On Jul. 7 1943, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Disapproved of the Jul. 3 recommendation.

Instead, it recommended that John be ordered to appear before a **Naval Retiring Board.**

Indorsement _____ Date **7 JUL 1943**

From: Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.
To: **Bureau of Naval Personnel**

1. Forwarded: Recommendation of Board ~~XXXXXX~~ DISAPPROVED.
2. It is recommended that he be ordered to appear before a Naval Retiring Board.

30 JUL 1943
NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
From: _____
To: _____
Indorsement _____ Date _____

R. T. McIntire
Chief of Bureau

The wheels of the US Navy personnel machine were now in motion. A series of legal actions took place over the course of the next few weeks that ultimately placed John Baldwin on a Navy "Retired List" and forced him to civilian life.

Aug. 10 1943

T-7628 10 AUG 1943

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To: Boatswain John Baldwin, USN,
Naval Hospital,
San Diego, Calif.

Via: Commandant, Eleventh Naval District.

Subject: Examination by Naval Retiring Board.

1. In accordance with the recommendation of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery on a report of a board of medical survey before which you recently appeared, you will, when notified by the President, Naval Retiring Board, San Diego, Calif., that the necessary papers have arrived, report to that officer for examination in conformity with Title 34, Section 411, U.S. Code.

2. Upon the completion of this examination, you will continue treatment at the Naval Hospital, San Diego, Calif.

By direction of the President.

Copy to:
Medical Officer in Command of
Naval Hospital, San Diego,
Calif.
President, Naval Retiring Board,
San Diego, Calif.

JAMES FORRESTER
Acting

Aug. 27 1943

To: JAG.
Via: BuPers.

Subj: Record of proceedings of a Naval Retiring Board convened at the U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, California, in the case of Boatswain John BALDWIN, U. S. Navy, August 27, 1943.

1. Returned.

2. It is recommended that the findings of the Naval Retiring Board as follows be approved:

"The board, having deliberated upon the evidence before it, decided that Boatswain John Baldwin, U. S. Navy, is incapacitated for active service by reason of nephritis, chronic, that his incapacity is permanent, is the result of an incident of the service, and was incurred subsequent to July 23, 1942."

R. T. McIntire
Chief of Bureau

Nov. 11 1943

John was placed on a US Navy Retired List as of Nov. 1 1943, with the rating of Boatswain.

He was wished "... many years of happiness".

Dec. 1 1943

Home: Kitts Hill, OH

NOV 11 1943

From: The Secretary of the Navy.
To: Boatswain John Baldwin, USN, Retired,
U. S. Naval Hospital,
San Diego, California.

Via: The Medical Officer in Command.

Subj: Action of the Naval Retiring Board.

1. The Naval Retiring Board before which you appeared on 27 August 1943, decided that you are incapacitated for active service by reason of physical disability; that your incapacity is permanent, is the result of an incident of the service, and was incurred subsequent to 23 July 1942, the date you were appointed by the President a Boatswain for temporary service.
2. The President of the United States on 28 October 1943 approved the proceedings and findings of the Naval Retiring Board.
3. Accordingly, you were placed on the retired list on 1 November 1943, in the rank of Boatswain, with retired pay at the rate of 75 per centum of the active duty pay to which you were entitled while serving in that rank, pursuant of the provisions of section 8 (a) of the Act of Congress approved 24 July 1941, (U.S. Code, Title 34, sections 417 and 350g(a).
4. The Secretary of the Navy regrets that your disability has interrupted your service on the active list of the Navy and wishes you many years of happiness.
5. Acknowledgment of receipt is requested.

JAMFM FORRESTAL

OFFICE OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
NAVY DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED
1943 DEC 4 PM 4 11
Kitts Hill, Ohio
December 1, 1943

328

To: The Secretary of The Navy
Washington, D. C.

From: Boatswain John Baldwin, USN (Ret)

Subject: Action of Naval Retiring Board (Receipt of)

1. Receipt is hereby acknowledged of the action of the Naval Retiring Board placing me on the Retired List with the Rank of Boatswain.

John Baldwin
JOHN BALDWIN
Boatswain, USN (Ret)

1944 - 1967

The US Navy, as part of John's retirement agreement, required him to advise the Navy annually of his current address. Below is the chronological list of reported addresses:

1. On Nov. 9 1944, John reported his address changed from Kitts Hill, OH to 5230 St. John Ave., Kansas City, MO and that his Next of Kin was Dorothy Lee Baldwin.
2. On Sep. 15 1945, Dec. 13 1946, and Dec. 15 1947, John reported his address as 310 S. Chelsea St, Kansas City, MO.
3. On Aug. 24 1948, John reported his address as 8444 Beechwood Ave., South Gate, CA.
4. On Nov. 27 1948, John reported his address as 10942 S. Arlington, Los Angeles, CA.
5. On May 4 1949 and Nov. 22 1952, John reported his address as 10942 S Van Ness, Los Angeles, CA.

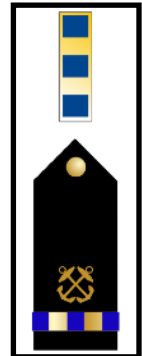
On May 13 1957, John reported a "Record of Emergency Data". On this document are two distinctive details of interest.

RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE BEFORE MAKING ENTRIES			
1. DESIGNATOR'S LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME BALDWIN, JOHN (NMI)	2. PRESENT SERVICE NO. 199189	3. RANK/RATE (CW02) CH RO2N	4. DATE OF BIRTH 9-21-09
5. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Kitts Hill, Ohio	6. PRIOR MIL. SERVICE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 10-23-25 (DATE LAST ENTRY)	7. FORMER SERVICE NO. 279-20-92	8. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 275-24-7003
9. DATE OF BIRTH 9-21-09			
10. WIFE OR HUSBAND (If name, so state) Dorothy Lee Baldwin			
11. NAME OF CHILDREN (If name, so state. If ship or airplane, so state) Linda Carroll Baldwin			
12. FATHER Deceased			
13. MOTHER Deceased			
14. ADULT NEXT OF KIN NOT NAMED IN ANY OTHER ITEM			
14a. ALL PERSONS RECEIVING MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF THEIR SUPPORT FROM ME (OTHER THAN WIFE OR CHILDREN UNDER 21)			
15. PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE WHO ARE NOT TO BE NOTIFIED DUE TO ILL HEALTH			
DESIGNATIONS			
16. BENEFICIARY FOR GRATUITY PAY IN EVENT THERE IS NO SURVIVING SPOUSE OR ELIGIBLE CHILDREN. NAME PARENTS OR BROTHERS OR SISTERS ONLY (P. L. 881 84th Congress)			
17. BENEFICIARY OR BENEFICIARIES FOR UNPAID PAY AND ALLOWANCES (P. L. 147, 84th Congress). PERCENT OF SHARES MUST TOTAL 100 PERCENT.			
18. PERSON TO RECEIVE ALLOTMENT OF PAY IF MISSING OR UNABLE TO TRANSFER FUNDS.			
19. INSURANCE POLICIES IN FORCE INCLUDING USGI AND NSI (Agencies to be notified in case of death in active service)			
20. SERVICE ORGANIZATION AND ADDRESS OF DESIGNATOR U. S. NAVY 10942 S. Van Ness Ave., Los Angeles 47 Calif			
21. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS			
22. SIGNATURE OF DESIGNATOR John Baldwin			

Detail One: His Date of Birth is reported, for the first time, as Sep. 21 1909, not Sep. 21 1906 as he reported all through his active Navy career.

Detail Two: His rank is now reported as Chief Boatswain, Grade CW02. Somewhere along the line, after his active duty retirement, his Boatswain (temp) rating was upgraded. The CW02 designation indicates he was rated a Warrant Officer - **Chief Warrant Officer 2**.

A Chief Warrant Officer is the U.S. Navy's "entry-level billeted warrant officer rank. Warrant officers serve as technical specialists with command authority within their field of expertise and hold a variety of positions essential to the smooth operation of the Navy." They are officers ranked above all non-commissioned officers, but subordinate to the lowest officer grade.



How this advanced rating occurred is unclear. Apparently, not all documents related to John Baldwin's US Navy career were archived. It may be that John, following his active Navy retirement in 1943, was still an Inactive Navy Reservist until 1945. Subsequent to his initial 1943 retirement, his rating and grade must have been promoted. And, then there was this from 1958:

RETIRED RESEARCH SHEET				X
NAME (Last, first, middle)	GRADE	FILE NUMBER	DESIGNATOR	SEX
BALDWIN, JOHN (N)	W01	199189	7133	
Date of Birth	9 Mo	21 Day	06 Yr	
Total Years Active Service	17 Yrs	11 Mos	15 Days	
Total Years Commissioned Service (Above Warrant)	0 Yrs	0 Mos	0 Days	
Pay Entry Base Date	11 Mo	10 Day	25 Yr	
Date of Original Retirement	11 Mo		43 Yr	
Highest Rank Active List	W01 BOSN			
Date of Rank	06 Mo	25 Day	42 Yr	
Ex-Officer (P.L. 810)	N.A.			
Highest Rank for Pay Purposes	W01 (BOSN)			
Retirement Acts	ACTS/CONGRS 20 July 1949			
Honorary Promotion (Grade)	None			
Percent of Disability	0% IN EFFECT 1949			
Type of Retirement	01			
Source Code	95			
Present Grade Code	9 BOSN			
Lineal Number (Flag Officers Only)	N.A.			
Effective Date of Rank in Which Retired	7 Mo	23 Day	42 Yr	
Years Active Service in Grade in Which Retired with Pay	1 Yrs	2 Mos	8 Days	
DATE PREPARED: 4/20/58		INITIALS: SPS		

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

REPORT OF CASUALTY

1. NAME (Last, first, middle initial, and type) **BALDWIN, John (N), 199189/7133, WO, W-1, USN RET, Inactive**

2. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION DATA (Service Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch, and Component)

3. DATE OF CASUALTY **1st Appt: BOSH 6 Nov 1942**

4. DATE OF REPORT **RAD: 31 Oct 1943**

5. CASUALTY STATUS ☐ BATTLE ☒ NON-BATTLE

6. DIED 7 April 1967 at Los Angeles, California as a result of massive pulmonary embolism

7. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, RACE, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE

8. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME

9. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME

10. SPECIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PAY GRADE, LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY, BENT PAY, RETRAIVE PAY

11. DUTY STATUS

12. INTERESTED PERSONS (Last, first, middle initial, and type)

13. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW

14. REPORTING COMMAND AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED BY SUPERVISORY

15. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER, LOCAL BOARD, AND LOCATION (If known, enter date and place of last entry in Armed Services)

16. PRIOR SERVICE DATA

17. REMARKS

18. DISTRIBUTION

19. FOOTNOTES

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Summary of Service - Ships

SUMMARY OF SERVICE			
Vessel or Station	From—	To—	Rate
NRS, Cincinnati, Ohio	10-23-25	10-23-25	AS
NTS, Great Lakes, Ill.	10-24-25	1-28-26	AS
U.S.S. KANE	1-29-26	7-1-27	SM3c
Nav. Hosp. Brooklyn, N. Y.	7-2-27	9-27-27	SM3c
U.S.S. KANE	9-27-27	11-12-27	SM3c
U.S.S. HOPKINS (249)	11-12-27	10-24-28	SM3c
NTS, Great Lakes, Ill.	11-9-28	12-27-28	SM3c
Rec. Brks., Phila., Pa.	12-27-28	1-1-29	SM3c
U.S.S. CONTOCOOK	1-1-29	10-22-29	SM3c

Final average in all marks upon discharge 3.7

C. F. HUDSON, Lieut., U. S. Navy.
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-6111

SUMMARY OF SERVICE			
Vessel or Station	From—	To—	Rate
U.S. Navy Rectg. Sta. Cleveland, Ohio.	4 November, 1929	5 November, 1929	SM3c
Rec. Sta. Phila., Pa.	5 November, 1929	12 December, 1929	SM3c
R.S. San Francisco, Calif.	12 December, 1929	19 December, 1929	SM3c
U.S.S. CHAUMONT	19 December, 1929	8 February, 1930	SM3c
U.S.S. STEWART (224)	8 February, 1930	4 December, 1931	SM2c
U.S.S. BORIE (215)	4 December, 1931	31 December, 1931	SM2c
U.S.S. CANOPUS	31 December, 1931	22 October, 1932	SM2c
U.S.S. PIGEON	22 October, 1932	3 November, 1933	SM2c

Final average in all marks upon discharge 5.3

A. F. HOLLAND, Lieutenant, U. S. Navy.
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-6111

SUMMARY OF SERVICE			
Vessel or Station	From—	To—	Rate
USS PIGEON	11-4-37	10-29-38	SM1c
USS CHAUMONT	10-29-38	12-21-38	SM1c
R/S SAN FRANCISCO	12-21-38	1-24-39	SM1c
USS TENNESSEE	1-24-39	2-10-39	SM1c
USS LOUISVILLE	2-10-39	8-22-39	SM1c
Flt. Rec. Base, San Clemente Is.	8-22-39	12-18-40	SM1c
US Naval Net Depot, Tiburon, California	12-20-40	11-3-41	SM1c; Cpl (as)

Final average in all marks upon discharge 3.228

J. DE FRIES, LIEUTENANT USN (RMT)
Signature and rank of Commanding Officer. 4-6111

Vintage Photos of John Baldwin



CIRCA 1927; POSSIBLY USS KANE



CIRCA 1931; USS STEWART



CIRCA 1939; POSSIBLY USS LOUISVILLE



CIRCA 1940; SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND

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