

**CMM William Badders:** Chief Machinist's Mate, U.S. Navy. Citation for interim period and service in 1939: For extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession during the rescue and salvage operations following the sinking of the U.S.S. *Squalus* on 23 May 1939. During the rescue operations, Badders, as senior member of the rescue chamber crew, made the last extremely hazardous trip of the rescue chamber to attempt to rescue any possible survivors in the flooded afterportion of the *Squalus*. He was fully aware of the great danger involved in that if he and his assistant became incapacitated, there was no way in which either could be rescued. During the salvage operations, Badders made important and difficult dives under the most hazardous conditions. His outstanding performance of duty contributed much to the success of the operations and characterizes conduct far above and beyond the ordinary call of duty.

**Biography:** CMM Badders (15 Sep 1900-23 Nov 1986) was born in Harrisburg, IL. He enlisted during World War I, and got a taste of battleship and aviation duty before being brought into diving and salvaging work in the mid-1920s. In his oral history he describes the woeful status of the Navy's diving capabilities at the time, and he was in on the ground floor of the improvements that occurred during his career. Of particular interest is his account of the rescue attempts and salvaging of the sunken submarines USS *S-51* (SS-162), *S-4* (SS-109), and *Squalus* (SS-192). For his dangerous and aggressive rescue of 18 *Squalus* crew members, Badders was awarded the Medal of Honor in January 1940.

Sports constitute a prevalent theme throughout Badders' memoir. He played on various professional and semipro baseball and football teams, and he recalls encounters with such greats as Satchel Paige, Lou Gehrig, and Ted Williams.

Based on three interviews conducted by John T. Mason Jr. from September through November 1971, the volume contains 157 pages of interview transcript plus an index. The transcript is copyright 1986 by the U.S. Naval Institute; the interviewee has placed no restrictions on its use.

**Military Awards:** Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, WW I Victory Medal, Yangtse River Patrol Service Medal

**Masonic History:** Member Sibert Lodge at Gatun, Canal Zone, was Worshipful Master from 1949 to 1951, and member of National Sojourners