Index to
The Reminiscences of Master Chief Boatswain’s Mate Carl Maxie Brashear

AD Skyraider
These Douglas-built planes were involved in a number of crashes at the Quonset Point Naval Air Station in the late 1950s, 50

Accidents
Brashear lost his leg during an attempt in March 1966 to rescue a nuclear bomb lost into the sea off Palomares, Spain, 81-83; role of the Naval Safety Center in the mid-1970s in monitoring and correcting safety problems, 139-145

Air Force, U.S.
Lost a nuclear weapon in water off Spain in January 1966 when two aircraft collided, 81-83; the hospital at Torrejon Air Force Base in Spain treated Brashear’s injured leg in March 1966, 84-85

Albany, USS (CG-10)
Cruiser that provided short-term medical treatment when Brashear’s leg was injured during a salvage incident off Spain in March 1966, 83-84

Alcohol
Brashear dealt with his problem of alcoholism in the late 1970s through the Navy’s rehabilitation program, 146-151

Ammunition
Recovery of 3-inch/50 ammunition lost by the aircraft carrier Bennington (CVS-20) off Brooklyn, New York, in 1954, 34-36

Argentia, Newfoundland
Site of a Navy salvage of a merchant ship in the 1950s, 41-43

Arizona, USS (BB-39)
Brashear dove on the wreck of this ship in Pearl Harbor in the early 1960s, 63-65

Army, U.S.
Aggressive recruiting tactics drove Brashear away in 1948, 8-9

Axtell, Chief Ship Repair Technician Clair F., Jr., USN
In the mid-1960s helped Brashear get back into diving after a severe leg injury, 87-89

B-52 Stratofortress
Lost a nuclear bomb into the sea off Spain in January 1966 when it collided with a tanker aircraft, 81-83

**Bayonne, New Jersey**
Site of salvage diving school in the mid-1950s, 23-33; unpleasant living conditions for divers going through training, 33

**Bends**
Decompression is necessary for divers returning to the surface of the water, in order to prevent the bends, 27-28

**Bennington, USS (CVS-20)**
Recovery of 3-inch/50 ammunition lost by this ship off Brooklyn, New York, in 1954, 34-36

**Blue Angels**
Navy flight demonstration team that performed at the September 1968 commissioning of the aircraft carrier *John F. Kennedy* (CVA-67) at Newport News, Virginia, 101-102

**Bonham, Lieutenant Commander Charlie L., USN**
Former enlisted man who commanded the salvage ship *Opportune* (ARS-41) in the mid-1950s, 47

**Bonin Islands**
Installation of a mooring buoy at Chichi Jima in the late 1950s, 59-62

**Boxing**
Ship’s boxing team on board the escort carrier *Tripoli* (CVE-64) in the early 1950s, 18-19

**Brashear, Master Chief Boatswain’s Mate Carl M., USN (Ret.)**
Boyhood in Kentucky in the 1930s and 1940s, 1-7; education of, 1-2, 4, 7-8, 19-20; parents of, 1-6, 8; siblings of, 2-3; personality included a love for exciting, daring things, 5-6; enlisted in the Navy in 1948, 8-9; recruit training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1948, 9-11; assigned to squadron VX-1 in the late 1940s, 11-15; duty in the escort carrier *Palau* (CVE-122) in 1950-51, 15-17; duty in the escort carrier *Tripoli* (CVE-64), 1951-55, 16-22; diving school in the mid-1950s, 23-33; recovery of ammunition lost by the aircraft carrier *Bennington* (CVS-20) off Brooklyn, New York, in 1954, 34-36; married 1952-78 to the former Junetta Wilcoxson, 36-37, 49; duty in 1955-56 in the salvage ship *Opportune* (ARS-41), 37-49, 162; duty from 1956 to 1958 at Quonset Point Naval Air Station, 49-54; children of, 53, 57, 146; served 1958-60 at the ship repair facility in Guam, 54-62; in 1960 failed first-class divers school in Washington, D.C., 62; served 1961-62 at the Fleet Training Center, Pearl Harbor, 62-65; support work in 1962 for nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific by Joint Task Force Eight, 65-71; service in 1962-63 in the submarine rescue ship *Coucal* (ASR-8), 71-75, 79-80; in 1963-64 trained to qualify as a first-class diver, 75-79; in 1966 lost a leg during an accident on board the salvage ship *Hoist* (ARS-40), 81-83; service in 1968-69 in the boat house of the Norfolk Naval Air Station, 92-102; in 1969-70 attended saturation diving school at the Experimental Diving Unit in Washington, D.C.,
102-110; underwent evaluation that resulted in being designated a master diver in June 1970, 110-120; served 1970-71 in the submarine tender **Hunley** (AS-31), 120-127; served from 1971 to 1975 in the salvage ship **Recovery** (ARS-43), 127-139; duty in 1975-77 at the Naval Safety Center in Norfolk, 139-145; was married from 1980 to 1983 to Navy nurse Hattie Elam, 146-147, 152, 155-156; dealt with his problem of alcoholism in the late 1970s through the Navy’s rehabilitation program, 146-151; retirement from active duty in 1979, 151-152; post-retirement employment, 152-161

**Bureau of Medicine and Surgery**
Review of Brashear’s case after his leg was badly injured in a 1966 salvage accident, 88-91

**Cabildo, USS (LSD-16)**
Dock landing ship that was involved in 1962 in supporting nuclear weapons tests conducted in the Pacific by Joint Task Force Eight, 67-68

**Canada**
U.S. Navy salvage of a merchant ship at Argentia, Newfoundland, in the mid-1950s, 41-43; salvage of a merchant ship anchor at Labrador in the 1950s, 43-44

**Chalmers, Captain Norman E., USN (Ret.)**
Hired Brashear in 1979 to work for QED Corporation, 152-154, 156

**Charleston Naval Shipyards, Charleston, South Carolina**
Nuclear-powered submarines were serviced at Charleston in the early 1970s by the tender **Hunley** (AS-31), 120-127

**Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands**
Installation of a mooring buoy in the late 1950s, 59-62

**Christmas Island**
In 1962 served as the site for nuclear weapons testing by Joint Task Force Eight, 65-71

**Communication Area Master Station Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia**
While working at the station in the 1980s, Brashear dealt with environmental issues, 156-161

**Copenhagen, Denmark**
Appealing liberty port for Navy men in the early 1950s, 17-18

**Coucal, USS (ASR-8)**
Submarine rescue ship that was involved in training exercises in the Pacific in the early 1960s, 71-75; divers replaced a propeller, 79-80

**Delanoy, Lieutenant (junior grade) Billie L., USN**
As officer in charge of the diving school in Hawaii in the early 1960s, got Brashear requalified as a second-class diver, 63
Denmark
Copenhagen was an appealing liberty port for Navy men in the early 1950s, 17-18

Discipline
Brashear was punished for stealing at pie while in recruit training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1948, 10; in 1962 a Navy engineman was punished for trying to break into secure spaces housing a Thor missile during nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific, 66-67

Diving
Salvage job at Key West, Florida, in the late 1940s inspired Brashear to become a diver, 16; Brashear went through salvage diving school at Bayonne, New Jersey, in the mid-1950s, 23-33; recovery of ammunition lost by the aircraft carrier Bennington (CVS-20) off Brooklyn, New York, in 1954, 34-36; involved in the salvage of a merchant ship at Argentia, Newfoundland, in the mid-1950s, 42; salvage job at Labrador in the 1950s, 43-44; procedures involved in tending a diver, 44-45; sport diving in Guam in the late 1950s, 55; scuba gear was introduced in the late 1950s, 55-57; construction of an LST ramp at Truk in the late 1950s, 58; installation of a mooring buoy at Chichi Jima in the Bonin Islands in the late 1950s, 59-62; Brashear failed first-class diver school in 1960 and had to requalify subsequently as a second-class diver, 62-63; in the early 1960s Brashear dived on the wreck of the battleship Arizona (BB-39) at Pearl Harbor, 63-65; Brashear’s return to active diving after a severe leg injury in 1966, 87-91; in the late 1960s Brashear used scuba gear for work on the underwater hull of the carrier Forrestal (CVA-59), 93-94; in 1969-70 Brashear attended saturation diving school at the Experimental Diving Unit in Washington, D.C., 102-110; in June 1970 Brashear successfully completed evaluation and was designated the Navy’s first black master diver, 110-120; divers from the tender Hunley (AS-31) worked on nuclear submarines at Charleston, South Carolina, in the early 1970s; in the early 1970s divers from the salvage ship Recovery (ARS-43) surveyed the merchant ship Monarch that had sunk off Newport News, Virginia, many years earlier, 127-128; divers from the Recovery went into a flooded engine room in the aircraft carrier Saratoga (CVA-60) in August 1971, 138-139; monitoring of safety-related items in the mid-1970s, 140-145

Duell, Chief Warrant Officer Raymond K., USN
In the mid-1960s helped Brashear get back into active diving after he had suffered a severe leg injury, 90-91

Dunn, Rear Admiral Robert F., USN (USNA, 1951)
Role as commander of the Naval Safety Center in 1976-77, 139-140

Education
Brashear’s experiences in a segregated one-room school in Kentucky in the 1930s and 1940s, 1-2, 4, 7-8; Brashear took USAFI correspondence courses in the early 1950s, 19-20

Eisenhower, Dwight D.
Brashear went on temporary additional duty in the late 1950s to escort one of President Eisenhower’s boats near Newport, Rhode Island, 50-53
Elam, Captain Hattie R., NC, USN
Was married to Brashear from 1980 to 1983, 146-147, 152, 155-156

Environmental Concerns
Studied by Brashear when he worked for the Communication Area Master Station Atlantic at Norfolk in the 1980s, 156-160

Experimental Diving Unit, Washington, D.C.
In 1969-70 Brashear attended saturation diving school and participated in a number of tests under simulated depth pressure, D.C., 102-110; in June 1970 Brashear successfully completed evaluation and was designated the Navy’s first black master diver, 110-120

Experimental Squadron One (VX-1)
Operated seaplanes at Key West, Florida, in the late 1940s, 11-15

Explosives
Use of in salvage diving school at Bayonne, New Jersey, in the mid-1950s, 24, 30; use of for blasting a channel at Merizo, Guam, in the late 1950s, 54-55

Farming
Sharecropping in Kentucky in the 1930s and 1940s, 1-5

Food
Was plentiful for the sharecropping Brashear family in Kentucky in the 1930s, 2; Brashear stole a pie while in recruit training in 1948, 10

Forrestal, USS (CVA-59)
Brashear used scuba gear in the late 1960s for work on the underwater hull of the carrier while in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, 93-94; underwent a service life extension program in the early 1980s, 155

Great Lakes (Illinois) Naval Training Station
Site of recruit training in 1948, 9-11

Guam, Marianas Islands
Use of explosives or blasting a channel at Merizo, Guam, in the late 1950s, 54-55; sport diving in the late 1950s, 55; living conditions for Navy families, 57

Guest, Rear Admiral William S., USN (USNA, 1936)
Commanded a task force that salvaged a nuclear bomb that an Air Force plane lost off Spain in 1966, 81-83

Hagerty, James
Presidential press secretary who rode an escorting crash boat when President Dwight Eisenhower was visiting Newport, Rhode Island, in the late 1950s, 50-53
**Hoist, USS (ARS-40)**
Salvage ship on which Brashear lost a leg in an accident while trying to recover a nuclear bomb off Spain in early 1966, 81-84

**Hunley, USS (AS-31)**
Provided services to nuclear submarines at Charleston, South Carolina, in the early 1970s, 120-127

**John F. Kennedy, USS (CVA-67)**
The Blue Angels flight demonstration team performed at the ship’s commissioning in September 1967 at Newport News, Virginia, 101-102

**Johnson, Master Chief Boatswain’s Mate Guy P., USN (Ret.)**
Arranged for Brashear to leave the steward branch while serving at Key West, Florida, in 1948, 11-12; served as a “sea daddy,” 14-15

**Johnston Island**
In 1962 served as the site for nuclear weapons testing by Joint Task Force Eight, 65-71

**Joint Task Force Eight**
In 1962 conducted tests of nuclear weapons on Johnston Island and Christmas Island in the Pacific, 65-71

**Key West, Florida**
Base for Experimental Squadron One (VX-1) in 1948, 11-14; racial segregation for Navy men on liberty, 11, 13

**Leave and Liberty**
Racial segregation for Navy men on liberty in Key West, Florida, in the late 1940s, 13; Copenhagen, Denmark, was an appealing liberty port for Navy men in the early 1950s, 17-18

**L. Y. Spear, USS (AS-36)**
One of the ship’s divers experienced a problem in the mid-1970s because of the mechanical failure of his equipment, 142

**Medical Problems**
In 1966 Brashear lost a leg as a result of an accident on board the salvage ship Hoist (ARS-40) and then faced a difficult recovery and rehabilitation program, 81-91; Brashear dealt with his problem of alcoholism in the late 1970s through the Navy’s rehabilitation program, 146-151; Brashear was operated on for back problems in the early 1980s, 153-154

**Merchant Ships**
U.S. Navy salvage of a commercial ship at Argentia, Newfoundland, in the mid-1950s, 41-43

**Military Sea Transportation Service**
The escort carrier Tripoli (CVE-64) served as an aircraft ferry for MSTS in the early 1950s, 21-22

**Missiles**
Nuclear weapons tests in 1962 using the Thor missile in the Pacific, 66

**Movies**
In the mid-1970s Brashear was involved in a short documentary film called “Come Back” related to his diving experiences after losing a leg, 143

**Mustin, Rear Admiral Lloyd C., USN (USNA, 1932)**
Involved in 1962 in nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific by Joint Task Force Eight, 70-71

**Naval Safety Center, Norfolk, Virginia**
Determined in the mid-1970s that personnel errors accounted for most diving accidents, 45-46; role in the mid-1970s in monitoring and correcting safety problems, 139-145

**Newport, Rhode Island**
Brashear went on temporary additional duty in the late 1950s to escort one of President Dwight Eisenhower’s boats near Newport, 50-53

**Newport News Shipbuilding, Newport News, Virginia**
The Navy’s Blue Angels flight demonstration team performed at the September 1968 commissioning of the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy (CVA-67), 101-102

**Norfolk Naval Air Station**
Role of the boat house crew in the late 1960s in salvaging downed aircraft that had gone into the water, 92-102

**Norfolk Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia**
Role in treating Brashear’s injured leg in 1966, 86-89

**Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia**
Brashear used scuba gear for work in the late 1960s on the underwater hull of the aircraft carrier Forrestal (CVA-59), 93-94

**Nuclear Propulsion**
Nuclear-powered submarines were serviced at Charleston, South Carolina, in the early 1970s by the tender Hunley (AS-31), 120-127

**Nuclear Weapons**
In 1962 Joint Task Force Eight conducted atmospheric tests at Johnston Island and Christmas Island in the Pacific, 65-71; recovery of a nuclear bomb dropped off Spain in January 1966 in a collision of two Air Forces planes, 81-83

**Opportune, USS (ARS-41)**
Various operations for this salvage ship in the mid-1950s, 37-48; had mustang officers in the mid-1950s, 47; racial climate of the crew in the 1950s, 162

**PBM Mariner**
Martin-built patrol bomber operated by Squadron VX-1 at Key West, Florida, in the late 1940s, 11-14

**Palau, USS (CVE-122)**
Escort aircraft carrier that operated in the Atlantic in the early 1950s, 15-17

**Palomares, Spain**
Site of salvage efforts for a nuclear bomb dropped during the collision of two Air Force planes in January 1966, 81-83

**Pay and Allowances**
Navy divers receive additional pay for hazardous duty, 46, 48-49

**Quonset Point (Rhode Island) Naval Air Station**
Role of boat house personnel in recovering downed airplanes and aviators in the late 1950s, 49-50; Brashear went on temporary additional duty in the late 1950s to escort one of President Dwight Eisenhower’s boats near Newport, 50-53

**Racial Discrimination**
In Kentucky in the 1930s and 1940s, 4; at Key West, Florida, in the late 1940s, 161-162

**Racial Integration**
Blacks and whites helped each other with farming in Kentucky in the 1930s and 1940s, 5; in recruit training at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1948, 11; opportunities have improved considerably for blacks in the Navy, but equal opportunity still does not exist, 162-163

**Racial Prejudice**
Brashear encountered a negative reaction when he reported for salvage diving school in the mid-1950s, 23

**Racial Segregation**
Brashear’s experiences in a one-room school in Kentucky in the 1930s and 1940s, 1-2, 4; for black Navy men at Key West, Florida, in 1948, 11, 13

**Recruiting**
A pleasant recruiter in Elizabethtown persuaded Brashear to enlist in the Navy in 1948, 8-9

**Recruit Training**
At Great Lakes, Illinois, in the winter of 1948, 9-11

**Religion**
Role in the Brashear family in Kentucky in the 1930s and 1940s, 3-4
**Recovery, USS (ARS-43)**
In the early 1970s sent divers down to inspect the merchant ship Monarch that had been sunk off Newport News, Virginia, many years earlier, 127-128; salvage of a helicopter in the early 1970s off Jacksonville, Florida, 128-129; atmosphere in the ship’s chief petty officer quarters in the early 1970s, 129-130; Brashear’s interaction with the crew in his role as command master chief, 130-135; had a number of mustang officers, 136; methods in preparing for diving jobs, 137; sent a team of divers to the carrier Saratoga (CVA-60) in 1971 when she had a flooded engine room, 138-139

**Robinson, Sugar Ray**
Black boxer who fought around New York City in the 1940s and 1950s, 18

**Rutherford, Lieutenant Harry M., USN**
As a boatswain’s mate first class in the mid-1950s, gave Brashear needed encouragement about staying in salvage diving school at Bayonne, New Jersey, 23-24; served as executive officer of a salvage ship in Hawaii in the early 1960s, 31-32; picked Brashear for a salvage diving job off Brooklyn, New York, in 1954, 34

**S2F Tracker**
Mid-1950s salvage recovery of an S2F lost off the Virginia Capes, 39-40

**Safety**
Not particularly stressed at salvage diving school in Bayonne, New Jersey, in the mid-1950s, 30-31; sometimes disregarded during salvage jobs in the 1950s, 35-36, 39-40, 43-46; role of the Naval Safety Center in the mid-1970s in monitoring and correcting safety problems, 139-145

**Salvage**
A salvage job in Key West, Florida, in the late 1940s inspired Brashear to become a diver, 16; recovery of a TBM aircraft from the escort carrier Tripoli (CVE-64) in the early 1950s, recovery of ammunition lost by the aircraft carrier Bennington (CVS-20) off Brooklyn, New York, in 1954, 34-36; raising of a barge off Charleston, South Carolina, in the mid-1950s, 38; recovery of an S2F Tracker off the Virginia Capes in the mid-1950s, 39-40; of a merchant ship in Argentia, Newfoundland, in the mid-1950s, 41-43; recovery of a nuclear bomb dropped off Spain in January 1966 in a collision of two Air Forces planes, 81-83; role of the Norfolk Naval Air Station’s boat house crew in the late 1960s in salvaging downed aircraft that had gone into the water, 92-102; of a helicopter off Jacksonville, Florida, in the early 1970s by the salvage ship Recovery (ARS-43), 128-129

**Saratoga, USS (CVA-60)**
Divers went into one of her engine rooms when it was flooded in August 1971, 138-139

**Saudi Navy**
Subject of a study by Brashear in the early 1980s when he worked for QED Corporation, 152-154
Scuba Diving
Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus was introduced in the late 1950s, 55-57

SEALS
A young SEAL trainee died of oxygen poisoning in the mid-1970s while swimming soon after a workout on land, 141-142

Seaplanes
Operated by Squadron VX-1 at Key West, Florida, in the late 1940s, 11-13

Spain
Palomares was the site of salvage efforts for a nuclear bomb dropped during the collision of two Air Force planes in January 1966, 81-83; Brashear’s leg, badly injured during salvage efforts in March 1966, was treated at Torrejon Air Force Base in Spain, 84-85

Starbird, Major General Alfred D., USA (USMA, 1933)
Commanded Joint Task Force Eight in 1962 during nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific, 66-67

Stenke, Lieutenant George, USN
Invented the Stenke hood used for making a buoyant ascent from a submarine, 71-71, 143

Submarines
Nuclear-powered submarines were serviced at Charleston, South Carolina, in the early 1970s by the tender Hunley (AS-31), 120-127

Swimming
Brashear began to swim in Kentucky when he was a boy, 6; involved in working with seaplanes in Squadron VX-1 in Key West, Florida, in the late 1940s, 12-14; few blacks swim well because the culture does not expose them to it, 12; A young SEAL trainee died of oxygen poisoning in the mid-1970s while swimming soon after a workout on land, 141-142

Thor Missile
Used for nuclear weapons tests in 1962 in the Pacific, 66

Thurman, Commander Robert K., USN
Role in the salvage of a merchant ship at Argentia, Newfoundland, in the mid-1950s, 41-42; involved in nuclear weapons testing by Joint Task Force Eight in the Pacific in 1962, 68-69

Torrejon Air Force Base, Spain
Brashear’s injured leg was treated in the hospital at this base in March 1966, 84-85

Training
For recruits at Great Lakes, Illinois, in 1948, 9-11; seamanship training on board the escort carrier Palau (CVE-122) in the early 1950s, 15; Brashear went through salvage diving school at Bayonne, New Jersey, in the mid-1950s, 23-33; use of the submarine rescue ship Coucal (ASR-8) to practice rescue techniques in the early 1960s, 71-73; in 1963-64 Brashear trained to qualify
as a first-class diver, 75-79; in 1969-70 Brashear attended saturation diving school at the Experimental Diving Unit in Washington, D.C., 102-110

Tripoli, USS (CVE-64)
Did a lot of operating in the early 1950s, 16-17, 21-22; loss of a TBM aircraft, 16-18; ship’s boxing team, 18-19; homeported in New York in the early 1950s, 36

Truk Islands, Western Carolines
Construction of an LST ramp in the late 1950s, 58

VX-1
See Experimental Squadron One (VX-1)

Welding
Techniques for welding underwater while doing salvage work, 28-29