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### **Erl Clinton Barker Gould, Commodore, USNR**

Commodore Gould, born in Baltimore, Maryland, October 3, 1895, attended St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire, where he played football and hockey and was on the crew. He attended Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, and while a freshman was Captain of the Hockey Team, and a member of the Varsity. As an original member of the First Yale Unit formed in 1916 and taken over by the U. S. Naval Reserve Flying Corps early in 1917, he was given the provisional rank of Ensign on March 24, 1917. He was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant (junior grade), June 5, 1918, Lieutenant, July 22, 1918, and released to inactive duty on January 22, 1919. On January 16, 1941, he re-enrolled in the U. S. Naval Reserve, and subsequently was promoted as follows: Commander, July 1, 1941, Captain. September 10, 1943, to rank from June 20, 1942, On July 2, 1946, he was promoted to the rank of Commodore "while serving with the Foreign Liquidation Commission, State Department, and to continue during any assignment commensurate with the rank of Commodore or until release from active duty".

On April 28, 1917, Commodore Gould reported for duty at the Naval Aviation Detachment, West Palm Beach, Florida, and the following month was transferred to the Naval Aviation Detachment, Huntington Bay, Long Island, New York, and on August 6 reported to the Naval Air Station there for duty as an instructor in aviation. In September 1917 he was assigned special temporary additional duty in connection with tests for detection and combating submarines by use of seaplanes. In December of that year he was transferred to duty at the Naval Air Station, Key West, Florida, and on July 25, 1918, assumed command of that naval air station. Detached from that duty on January 22, 1919, he was released to inactive duty.'

Commodore Gould was associated with the steel industry in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, until entering the Brokerage business in 1927 as a General Partner of the Hill-Wright and Frew. In 1935 he became Resident Manager of Sutro Brothers and Company.

In February 1941, Commodore Gould reported to the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., and was assigned consecutive temporary duty at the Naval Air Station, Miami, Florida; at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida; and at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. He was Officer-in-Charge, Aviation Cadet Regiment at the Naval Air, Training Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, from March 3, 1941, until December 8, 1942, when he became executive officer of the Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi. Detached from that duty in August 1943 he reported to the U. S. Pacific Fleet Amphibious Force, Acorn Training Detachment, Port Hueneme, California, for duty in connection with fitting out Acorn 14. On October 1 of that year he assumed command of Acorn 14, with additional duty as Island Commander, Betio (Tarawa Atoll), Gilbert Islands. In April 1944 he was assigned duty as Commander, U. S. Naval Air Base, Hawkins Field, Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, and for his services in the construction of that base was awarded the Legion of Merit with the following citation:

#### Legion of Merit:

"For 'distinguished service in the line of his profession, as Commanding Officer of Acorn Fourteen, under nearly continuous enemy-bombing activity, he ably directed the early and complete construction of Hawkins Field, Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands. Adverse working conditions of the worst sort were overcome by him whose personal foresight and resourcefulness contributed an integral part in completion of the Base Development Plan. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service."

On August 17, 1944, Commodore Gould assumed command of the Naval Air Station, Barber's Point, Oahu, T. H., and for his services in that command which extended to July 1945, he received a Letter of Commendation with authorization to wear the Commendation Ribbon from the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet. The citation follows:

#### Letter of Commendation--Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet:

"For meritorious conduct in the performance of his duties as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station, Barber's Point, Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii from 17 August 1944 to 5 July 1945. Through his outstanding ability and constant attention to duty he maintained a high degree of efficiency in the operation of this large Naval Air Station in support of Fleet units. His unflinching interest in the development of engine overhaul, and tireless concern for the welfare of officers and men under his Command were determining factors in the successful prosecution of the war. His professional excellence and devotion to duty were at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

On July 23, 1945, Commodore Gould reported for duty on the Staff of the Commander, Fleet Air, West Coast at San Diego, California, and served in that assignment until September 19, 1945. From October 10, 1945, until March 19, 1946, he had temporary duty in the Office of the Foreign

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Liquidation Commissioner, Central Field Commissioner for Pacific and China with headquarters in Manila, P. I. On March 25, 1946, he reported to the Office of the Foreign Liquidation Commission, State Department, Washington, D. C. and was assigned temporary additional duty in the Office of the Foreign Liquidation Commission, Central Field Commissioner, Panama, Canal Zone, in connection with disposal of surplus property in Latin America, Brazil and other places as necessary. In July 1946 he was promoted to the rank of Commodore for service with the Foreign Liquidation Commission.

In addition to the Legion of Merit and the Commendation Ribbon, Commodore Gould has the Victory Medal, and is entitled to the American Defense Service Medal, the American Area Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

He was married to the former Katherine S. Laughlin, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Commodore Gould was Co-founder and member Operations Committee of Pennsylvania Economy League, Chairman, Yale Scholarship Committee and was active in other civic and philanthropic organizations.