

# FIRE BALL!

USS OZBOURN (DD 846)

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Editor: Bob Whitten  
1117 Yorkshire Drive  
Cupertino, CA 95014, Tel 408/252-9213

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## *Editor's Remarks*

As your self-appointed editor I herewith launch the first issue of *Fireball!* Lest any of our shipmates wonder about the origin of the name, it was the voice call sign in the Korean War era. I am certainly open to suggestions for another name and solicit your advice. In fact I hereby solicit them!

My own service extended from September 26, 1950, when I reported aboard via high-line in the Yellow Sea, to July 24, 1952. Although I was an engineer by training, our skipper Charlie Akers soon let me know that "in a destroyer we do a little bit of everything." That was how I began my conversion from purely a "snipe" to a destroyer sailor! Needless to say that service was a highlight of my life, especially since I met the gal who was to become my wife a couple of years later.

The idea of a reunion began with my locating former CO Charlie Akers in Huntington Beach, CA thanks to *The Tin Can Sailor* and the president of the USS HOBBY (DD 610) Association (Charlie had commanded HOBBY in the closing months of WWII, taking her through the Okinawa campaign). We got together with Barr Palmer (former XO, '51-52) last May and hatched the idea of the reunion. Guess who got the job of organizer!

## *Reunion*

Our first consideration here is "WHERE?" The suggestions to date are San Diego, Long

I began with announcements in *beaucoup*s journals, as some of you readers can attest. The response has been quite good so far, with \_\_\_\_\_ indications of interest coming in either directly or indirectly. I should acknowledge the assistance provided by the *Tin Can Sailor Association*, especially Denis Gordon.

Which brings me to the two questions: (1) Should we have a ship's reunion? and (2) Should we form a USS OZBOURN Association? The first has I think been answered by the replies received to date. The second is up for consideration, probably to be answered at the reunion. Keep in mind that we will need officers for it if we plan to navigate those waters.

Finally, I must address the issue of the costs of organizing the reunion effort and getting out the information to our shipmates. They will not be large but I will ask for a contribution of \$5.00 which will be fully accounted for and any residue turned over to the Association or, failing its formation to *The Tin Can Sailor Association* unless someone objects. Anyway, more particulars on that in the next issue.

I ask all shipmates to send me any stories about your service in our old ship. The next issue will feature an experience of one of her quartermasters while refueling off Vietnam.

Beach (OZBOURN's two home ports during service in the Pacific Fleet), Norfolk (because we can get some good packages there), Reno and Las Vegas for much the same reason,

and Denver. Let me know what you think. The second factor that we must address is "WHEN?" This coming fall, October or early November would be nice but I do not know if we will have enough time. Plus the fact that yours truly will be the host committee chairman for the Navy League's mid-winter board meeting in San Jose in mid November. Which leaves 1993, preferably April or May. Again, let me know what you think.

Let me make it clear at this point that rank/rate makes no difference except for the former CO's who should be honored. We are all shipmates, period!

We will make every effort to keep hotel costs at a reasonable level. As for transportation

costs, all senior citizens (62 or over ) should take advantage of the discount air fares available on most airlines. They do not advertise these rates -- you must ask for them.

I estimate that we will need about 50 shipmates (plus wives or lady friends) to commit to a reunion. So, if you have any additional contacts with former crew members or CO's, let me know. I am in direct or indirect contact with two CO's, Charlie Akers and Bill Fargo. I would like to get more involved. Commodores from the period when OZBOURN was a division flagship are welcome too.

*Replying Shipmates*

Name	Years	Location
Akers, Charles O. (CO)	50-52	Huntington Beach, CA
Athanas, Peter	46-48	Richland Center, WI
Barber, John	51-54	Arvada, CO
Berriman, Joseph (XO)	52-?	San Diego, CA
Boff, Rudy	52-55	Pittsburgh, PA
Burrows, George	46-48	Northport, FL
✓ Cole, Lloyd J.	47-53	Coloma, WI
Connelly, Gene	46-47	Keansburg, NJ
Dolson, Frank J.	68-69	Stockbridge, MA
Engel, William R.	72-75	Muncie, IN
Fargo, William B. (CO)	52-54	Coronado, CA
Farquhar, Richard	56-58	Canal Winchester, OH
Flowers, Charles	59-63	Riverdale, GA
Harris, Hiram G.	46-47	Gastonia, NC
Helland, James M.	46-?	Daphne, AL
Hergenreder, A. L.	70-74	LaCrosse, KS
Holloway, Harry	48-52	Alamosa, CO
Jackowski, John	60-62	Grand Rapids, MI
Kirby, Joseph	?	Lakeinthehills, IL
La Fond, Richard	46-48	Suncook, NH 03275
Lee, Bobby	46-?	Pratville, AL 36067
Logan, Paul G.	46-47	Braintree, MA
Milas, Matthew	68-72	Lincoln, RI
Ousey, Walter M. (XO)	?-52	Vallejo, CA
Palmer, H. Barr (XO)	50-52	Rancho Santa Fe, CA

Parker, Jeffrey W.	70-74	Upland, CA
Pleasants, Stephen C.	46-?	Centreville, VA
Riedel, William F., Jr.	46-47	Little Ferry, NJ
Root, Daryle	58-63	Ladson, SC
Simon, Jerome "Abe"	50-52	Sierra Vista, AZ
Sommer, Robert F.	46-48	Augusta, NJ
Whitten, Robert C.	50-52	Cupertino, CA
Williamson, Monte	67-70	Rockville, IN
Williamson, Paul (XO)	64-66	Fairport, NY

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Reply to Proposed Ship's Reunion - USS OZBOURN (DD846)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street City State, Zip

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Period served in OZBOURN (Mo./Yr) \_\_\_\_\_

Billets(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred sites for reunion (1st, 2nd, 3rd choices)	Preferred dates
(1) _____	(1) _____
(2) _____	(2) _____
(3) _____	(3) _____

Would you be willing to help in the planning/execution of the reunion?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ If so, in what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

Should we form an Association? Yes No

May we list your address, telephone no. and years of service on board OZBOURN in  
 future newsletters? Yes No

Names/Addresses of shipmates not on the list: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and return to Bob Whitten at your earliest convenience.