




# Fireball!

USS OZBOURN (DD846)

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

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## Editor's Remarks

More and more replies from shipmates have come in since the last issue of Fireball (I said the same thing last quarter)! We now have well over 150 on the mailing list. The long-planned reunion is almost here. I NEED TO RECEIVE THE FORMS (see later) and the MONEY before we can include you. Also, don't forget to make your hotel reservation using the form below unless you have already done so or have other accommodations in Reno. I must apologize for past errors in the list of shipmates below. Somehow, the towns/cities of residence became "permuted" and I did not catch it for the last issue. I have carefully checked the list against my "membership" records and I think it is now correct. Let me know if you find any errors. I also include telephone numbers. The new logo, produced for us by George Watts of Mission Viejo, California and a friend of Captain Charley Akers, was "scanned" and then imbedded in the newsletter layout file. What do you think of it? I'm looking forward to seeing old shipmates and meeting new ones. SEE YOU IN RENO! P.S. Mhoire McIntosh (Australia) would like to contact any shipmates who are radio hams. Let me know your call signs and I will send them and your addresses/tel. nos. to him.

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## Surface Action Port

*The following story of the action off Vietnam on March 25th, 1967 is based on accounts provided by former Commanding Officer Captain John Denham, USN-Retired and RDC Denis LaCrosse, USN-Retired.*

OZBOURN was assigned to a night patrol and also to provide gunfire support for U. S. troops operating near the DMZ. During the night OZBOURN was assigned to provide call fire and harassing and interdiction fire to a Marine battalion in the area. To accomplish the mission it was necessary to keep an accurate navigation plot in CIC. With no other friendly units nearby, random course changes were left to the discretion of the OOD.

og encompassed the area but since radar navigation was good, the captain had no concerns so long as the

ship kept moving and randomly changed course. About 0730 on the 25th the fog lifted slightly in some areas. Ensign Alan Swinger had just relieved as OOD. Just as the morning message traffic and a cup of signal bridge coffee was being delivered to Captain Denham in the sea cabin, he heard what sounded like a loud firecracker exploding nearby. The next thing he recalls was hearing "a professional-sounding voice bellow 'ALL ENGINES AHEAD FLANK -- RIGHT TEN DEGREES RUDDER --- MAIN BATTERY, SURFACE ACTION PORT!' I realized that Swinger was taking the ship into combat with the enemy."

By the time the captain reached the bridge, the OOD had sounded the General Alarm and the word "COUNTER BATTERY FIRE" was being piped over the 1MC. "Firecracker pops" were going off all around the bridge area. After ordering "LOOKOUTS INSIDE," Captain Denham observed Swinger who was still OOD carry out his standing orders for avoiding enemy fire while keeping the main battery unmasked.

Captain Denham does not recall when OZBOURN received the first hit but it was in the ASROC magazine near number two smoke stack. The second hit was under the port bridge wing in a fire control radar room next to radio central. He did not feel either explosion and was amazed when he saw the damage.

Chief Radarman Denis LaCrosse tells us that several of the chiefs were having a second cup of coffee in the "Goat Locker" when they heard a loud report as if mount 51 had fired. LaCrosse was surprised since he knew of no gunfire missions scheduled for that morning. Someone quickly checked the mount and returned reporting "no one there." The general comment was "What the hell . . ." Then the General Alarm sounded, more reports were heard, and the realization dawned. "Sheeit, man, they shootin' at us!"

The bridge crew received the word that the ASROC magazine was on fire. Meanwhile the captain confirmed his confidence in Ensign Swinger who had demonstrated his complete control of the situation by leaving him with both the conn and the OOD watch.

According to Captain Denham, the engines rapidly responded after a short drop in steam pressure when the combat systems were loaded and the throttles opened. The speed rose to 25 knots in about one minute, a remarkably short time as the editor can testify. The engine room personnel were the only people who really knew how many near misses the ship experienced. The engineer officer, LT. J. H. McMillian stated that they "were in a drum and someone was beating the hell out of it." It was later determined that OZBOURN was hit by either 3 inch (75 mm) or four inch (100 mm) projectiles.

Still steaming in the fog and the fire control system inoperable, the ship left the area at high speed. With one of the missile blast relief ports spewing rocket motor exhaust smoke and flame, the captain became concerned that the magazine might go up. Damage Control Central understood the situation and dispatched a fire fighting team to the scene. Shipfitter 2/c Mike Dent and Shipfitter 3/c Dan Scott had already reached the ASROC deck just aft of number one smoke stack. The two men dragged a 2-1/2 inch uncharged hose up the ladder and then ordered it charged. Using high density fog and alternating with a solid stream, they attacked the erupting rocket motor, dowsing the fire.

In the words of Captain Denham, "Because of Scott's and Dent's heroic and professional dedicated action the rocket motor burn effect was minimized and any possible influence effect was eliminated. (What a joy it was to have the Commander of the 7th Fleet pin Bronze Stars on those two men.)"

As a result of OZBOURN's involvement and subsequent reports a number of operational procedures were changed and some of the CO's recommendations became doctrine.

Captain Denham was selected as Captain, USN while still serving as commanding officer and he attributes this distinction to the men of OZBOURN.

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Our ship was hit the first time on Feb 18th, 1951 in Wonsan harbor, North Korea by two 75 mm shells from a shore battery. I hope to include an account of this action in a future edition of *Fireball!* To quote

from *The Sea War in Korea*, M. W. Cagle and F. A. Manson, Naval Institute Press, 1957 "The Two Destroyers (WALLACE L. LIND, DD 703, E. B. Carlson and OZBOURN, DD 846, C. C. Akers) bombarded the harbor's military installations, but the swept area was so small and the navigation so difficult that the two destroyers fired the bombardment at anchor. Two days later, again at anchor, and at the conclusion of a snow storm, OZBOURN received from Sin-do Island, the first Wonsan counter battery fire, which wounded two men. Dragging her bottomed anchor, OZBOURN got underway toward the outer harbor. Her Mark 56 director was damaged, her after deckhouse holed, her starboard search light demolished. She was the first U. S. siege ship to be struck in Wonsan" (editor).

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### Update on Reunion -- LAST CALL!

The reunion is scheduled for May 2nd to 5th at *The Sands Regency* in Reno. Provided we have enough at least 25 subscribers, we will arrange a bus tour of Lake Tahoe, Virginia City and Carson City (Nevada capital), Harrah's Automobile Collection. On Tuesday evening we will hold our banquet. Use the reservation form provided below. Make your reservations for everything but the hotel with me BUT make your own reservations with *The Sands* using the form below. The cutoff date for sending your reservations to me is April 15th (something else is due on that date but I forget what it is!), to the hotel by April 25th. For those shipmates age 62 or over, don't forget to inquire of the airlines about senior fares in order to get a good saving. They will not volunteer the info!

Please note that a business meeting is scheduled. It is essential if we are to have future reunions. For those shipmates who have not yet sent me \$5 (some shipmates have sent more) please do so. We now have a bank account: write your checks to USS OZBOURN Reunion. I will provide a full accounting of all funds at the reunion.

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### Replying Shipmates

Name	Years	Location	Telephone No.
Akers, Charles O. (CO)	50-52	Huntington Beach, CA	310/592-1053
Alexander, Stephen R.	66-68	Olympia, WA	206/491-6306
1103 Athanas, Peter	46-48	Richland Center, WI	608/491-6306
Badger, George	55-56	Alameda, CA	510/865-7241
Barber, John	51-54	Fremont, CA	303/424-1294
Berriman, Joseph (XO)	52-53	San Diego, CA	619/273-1159
Blonsick, John S.	50-51	Miami, FL	305/238-0254
Brian, James W.	46-48	Antioch, CA	510/778-9644

	Brown, George	46-47	Pisgah Forest, NC	704/884-9763
	Burrows, George	46-48	Northport, FL	813/423-1384
	Butler, Thomas V.	60-62	Redwood City, CA	415/364-8428
	Bybee, Billy Baker	49-51	Houston, TX	713/493-2438
1129	Cole, Charles F. "Pete" <i>EMWA</i>	50-52	Columbus, OH	614/846-0326
	Cole, Lloyd J.	47-53	Coloma, WI	715/228-2385
	Connelly, Gene	46-47	Keansburg, NJ	908/787-8926
	Conwell, Fred R.	50-52	Fremont, CA	510/656-8208
	Courtney, Royce F.	56-57	Columbia, SC	803/765-0178
	Crabtree, Walter W.	68-69	Tacoma, WA	206/581-3804
	Creagle, Willis L.	48-50	Magalia, CA	916/877-0508
1053	Cressey, Wesley O.	58-62	Portland, ME	207/797-2514
	Curl, Kent W.	60-63	Los Gatos, CA	408/376-0430
	Denham, John G. (CO)	66-68	Walnut Creek, CA	510/939-1143
	Dolson, Frank J.	68-69	Stockbridge, MA	413/298-3488
	Ellis, William M.	50-54	Seattle, WA	206/242-6333
	Fargo, William B. (CO)	52-54	Coronado, CA	619/435-8643
	Farquhar, Richard	56-58	Canal Winchester, OH	614/837-1007
	Fink, George	46-48	Fort Collins, CO	303/223-1956
	Flowers, Charles	59-63	Riverdale, GA	706/787-6124
	Hadley, John U.	50-51	Seattle, WA	206/244-3490
	Hanson, Jimmie O.	52-54	Bellingham, WA	206/733-0615
	Harris, Hiram G.	46-47	Gastonia, NC	704/865-4466
	Helland, James M.	46-46	Daphne, AL	205/626-1056
	Henderson, Keith A.	48-50	Trout Creek, MT	406/827-3942
	Holloway, Harry	48-52	Alamosa, CO	719/589-5269
	Ihme, Philip	46-48	Moncure, NC	919/542-2711
	Jackowski, John	60-62	Grand Rapids, MI	616/363-1867
	Jarrett, Charles B.	50-52	Pittsburgh, PA	412/683-4239
	Johnson, Harold D.	55-57	Lonegrove, OK	405/657-3165
	Jones, David L.,	67-68	Bremerton, WA	206/692-5096
	Kamrath, William	64-68	Sublimity, OR	503/873-2268
	Kapocius, Algis	69-60	Greendale, WI	414/425-1909
	Kern, Bernard J.	48-50	Virginia Beach, VA	804/497-0371
	Kirby, Joseph	65-70	Lakeinthehills, IL	708/658-8865
	Koch, Alfred J.	47-51	Cheektawaga, NY	716/633-8174
	La Crosse, Dennis	63-70	Hansville, WA	206/638-1500
→	La Fond, Richard	46-48	Suncook, NH	603/485-3547
	Le Breton, Guy J.	47-50	San Francisco, CA	415/776-9219
	Lee, R. E. "Bobby"	46-?	Pratville, AL	205/365-1021
	Lofgren, Theodore T.	52-54	Poulsbo, WA	206/779-4215
	Logan, Paul G.	46-47	Braintree, MA	617/843-4713
	Lopez, Raymond B.	46-49	Gridley, CA	916/846-2614
	McIntosh, "Mhoire" G.	46-49	Gundurimba, Australia	066/29-0311
	Milas, Matthew	68-72	Lincoln, RI Milas	401/728-4694
	Nelson, Roger A.	64-65	Port Orchard, WA	206/876-2510
	Nixon, Paul E.	50-52	Torrance, CA	310/783-0358
	O'Halloran, A.C.	46-47	Ehrenberg, AZ	
	Ousey, Walter M. (XO)	50-51	Vallejo, CA	707/648-2823
	Palmer, H. Barr (XO)	50-52	Rancho Santa Fe, CA	619/756-4579
	Parker, Jeffrey W.	70-74	Upland, CA	714/981-4624
	Peich, Lester	52-?	San Diego	619/274-3914
	Pellizon, Frank	57-59	Bonita, CA	619/479-7993
	Perkins, Thomas M.	50-53	Port Orchard, WA	206/871-3361
	Peruchiti, R. D.	57-60	Spring Valley, CA	619/479-4764
	Planck, Richard	51-52	Omaha, NE	402/393-2890
111c	Pleasants, Stephen C.	46-48	Centreville, VA	703/631-9081
	Riedel, William F, Jr	46-47	Litte Ferry, NJ	201/641-9121

1696 DAN MARSHALL (RUTH) - EVAPS  
 JOE KIRLEY

Rigby, Bert	69-72	Conrad, MT	406/627-2397
Rogers, Robert G.	50-51	Port Townsend, WA	206/385-9016
Root, Daryle	59-63	Ladson, SC	803/873-6763
Sevacek, David	70-73	Columbus, NE	402/563-2793
✓ Sheets, Wilson J. 1571	62-65	Buena Park, CA	714/527-1788
Sheldon, Warren R.	46-48	Akron, OH	216/666-4082
Simon, Jerome "Abe"	50-52	Sierra Vista, AZ	602/458-8129
Smith, Bernard A. (1st CO)	46-47	Fort Belvoir, VA	
→ Sommer, Robert F. SVE	46-48 //	Augusta, NJ	201/875-1874
Speers, Bill	62-64	Klamath Falls	503/885-1394
Spittle, Frank	48-50	Laguna Hills, CA	714/581-8377
Sturm, Herbert W.	60-64	Santa Paula, CA	805/525-7716
Sundquist, Allen	72-75	Douglas, WY	307/358-2119
Swigard, Philip	64-66	Kingston, WA	206/297-9537
Tyree, Billy R.	52-53	Evansville, IN	812/423-9670
Tyree, Jackson R.	52-55	Evansville, IN	812/426-0784
Vorhees, Ferdinand F.	66-70	Lima, OH	419/991-3753
Whitten, Robert C.	50-52	Cupertino, CA	408/252-9213
408 Williamson, Monte	67-70	Rockville, IN	317/569-5938
Williamson, Paul (XO)	64-66	Fairport, NY	716/223-8871
Witte, Dwight E.	56-57	Dana Point, CA	714/240-2979
Wood, Clarence	52-55	Great Falls, MT	406/454-1994
Wood, Jim	71-73	Aurora, IL	708/466-4510

\* These are the shipmates who agreed to publication of addresses

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Reply to Proposed Ship's Reunion - USS OZBOURN (DD846)  
 (for those shipmates who DID NOT reply to the questionnaires in vol 1, nos. 1,2 or 3)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                     Street                                    City                                    State, Zip

Period served in OZBOURN (Mo./Y) \_\_\_\_\_ Billets(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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 newsletter  
 Yes       No

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Please clip the foregoing and return to Bob Whitten at your earliest convenience. Do NOT return if have previously replied.

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 For hotel registration, use the form below. Please submit direct to The Sands by April 25th, 1993.  
 For reunion registration, use the following form. Attendees please submit by April 15th, 1993.