



Fireball!

USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 4, No. 2

April 1995

The President's Report

FROM THE BRIDGE

I'm happy to report that the '95 reunion is planned out with enough activities to exhaust everyone if they are so inclined! The particulars on hotel reservations and registration for the reunion and the various events appears elsewhere in this issue. Note that the events begin on Sunday with arrivals scheduled for Saturday afternoon. This scheduling permits you to stay over Saturday night if that will get you a lower air fare. Of course, you don't have to arrive Saturday, but the rooms are available at the reunion rate if you wish. Note that the registration forms are to be sent to and checks written to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS. They are doing all the "nitty-gritty" which I did for the Reno reunion. I have notified all of the journals that carry reunion notices so maybe we will pick up a few more shipmates.

We believe that our shipmates will be well satisfied with the service and the hotel. Both Paul Hecht and I have thoroughly checked it out and talked with the business manager of the hotel. They have been most cooperative as have the folks with the Armed Forces Reunions.

On another matter, it will soon be time to hold elections again. I will appoint a nominating committee to propose a slate for next year, but if anyone would like to volunteer for an office, please let me know so I can pass your name along to the committee.

The announcement and necessary forms will be republished in the next issue of *Fireball!*

Bob Whitten, President

1995 Reunion Norfolk, Virginia

*Quality Inn,
Lake Wright Resort and Convention Center
October 28 to November 1, 1995
Saturday to Wednesday*

Hotel Registration	\$15 (single) \$25 (couple)
Banquet (Tue.)	\$30 (pp)
Brunch (Wed a.m.)	\$11 (pp)
Williamsburg tour (Sun)	\$34 (pp)
Naval Base Tour (includes lunch)	\$22 (pp)
Harbor Cruise & MacArthur Memorial (includes lunch)	\$31 (pp)
"Evening Out" (Lynnhaven Fish house bus provided)	\$31 (pp)

Hotel reservations are to be made directly with Lake Wright Resort and Convention Center using the form provided elsewhere in this issue of *Fireball!*

Reservations and checks for the above events should be written to the ARMED FORCES REUNIONS using the appropriate form also provided elsewhere in this issue.

USS OZBOURN (DD 846)

Association

Officers:

President - Robert Whitten
Vice President - Curtis Anderson
Recording Secretary - Dennis LaCrosse
Corresponding Secretary - Paul Logan
Treasurer - Paul Hecht
Fireball! Editor - Paul G. Logan
Advisor - Charles Akers
Historian - Fred Conwell

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NORFOLK AND VICINITY

For those of you who have not been to Norfolk recently, you're in for a big surprise. After years of poor relations between the Navy and Norfolk, the two have long since reached a great deal of harmony. The Navy pumps several billion dollars into the local economy every year. Over a third of the population in Hampton Roads (1.3 million total) are either active duty, dependants of or retirees. Among the vast concentration of military facilities in the Norfolk area are the Norfolk Naval Station, the largest naval base in the world, Langley Air Force Base, Little Creek Amphibious Base, the largest facility of its kind, three Army bases, and two naval air stations.

In addition to the modern military you will find a wealth of early American and Civil War history. Within a stones throw of each other are Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown.

Norfolk is the home to the Chrysler Museum, which boasts a 30,000-piece collection and the MacArthur Memorial the Generals final resting place.

The Virginia Stage Company and Virginia Symphony bring national recognition to the city along with its 175 acre Norfolk Botanical Garden. All the old taverns and tattoo parlors on Granby street are gone and have been replaced with gleaming office towers, hotels and the Waterside, a festive marketplace of 120 speciality shops and eateries. All year long the downtown waterfront is alive with outdoor concerts, festivals and special events.

Nauticus, the National Maritime Center, combines hands-on exhibits, working laboratories, the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, and more. There is plenty to see and do some come early and stay late. The hotel will extend the special group rate before and after the reunion if you decide to do so. **The climate in Norfolk, during the reunion, should be mid 50's days, and mid 40 nights.**

The Quality Inn Lake Wright has cable TV, an 18 hole championship golf course, tennis courts, an outdoor pool, The hotel features a full service restaurant and a lounge with live entertainment Wednesday - Saturday.

If you are flying into Norfolk International, call the hotel from the special phone in the baggage claim area for a free van ride to the hotel.

If you are coming by RV'S the nearest campground with hook-up are:

Holiday Travel Park
1075 General Booth Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
804-425-0249

VA Beach KOA
1240 General Booth Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
804-428-1444

**Former Commanding Officers
of USS OZBOURN (DD-846)**

1946-1947 CDR Bernard A. Smith
1947-1948 CDR Norman E. Blaisdell
1949-1950 CDR Ross E. Freeman
1950-1952 CDR Charles O. Akers
1952-1954 CDR William B. Fargo
1954-1956 CDR Howard Scott
1956-1958 CDR A.J. Toulon
1958-1960 CDR William Turner
1960-1961 LCDR D.V. Gorman
(FRAM II)
1961-1963 CDR William Lancaster
1963-1964 CDR John Berger
1964-1966 CDR Marvin D. Nelson
1966-1968 CDR John G. Denham
1968-1970 CDR Rodney L. Stewart
1970-197? ???
197?-1974 Ken Costilow
1974-1975 CDR Frank Furtado

Ed Note: *If anyone can fill in the missing names, please let me know]*

NOTES TO JEFF PARKERS ARTICLE IN LAST ISSUE OF FIREBALL!

From message traffic that came across my desk during the Fall of 1966 - I was on COMCRNDESLANT STAFF - OZ was hit twice on separate patrols. The first time took a NVA mortar round in the small electronics equipment room across from CIC. A young FC3/c who I remember, was wounded. On a subsequent patrol in the same general area, she took a round just forward of the hanger, in an after berthing compartment where after damage control was stationed. I believe there were several casualties. "CAN" will always go in harms way. In my day the call sign was "Spread Eagle". Paul W. Williamson CDR USN Ret. (64-66)

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR

Nomination and election of Officers for our Organization are fast approaching so its time you considered getting on board and and get involved in helping to perpetuate our membership. It doesn't require much time which can in most cases can be done by mail or a few phone calls. With a great start from Bob Whitten our organization has had a full compliment of Officers this past year. It would be great if you got involved to help out and increase the depth of our leadership. How about giving Bob Whitten a call and tell him you are interested? Our last reunion was completely organized, planned and executed by Bob (& his wife Sally). Our next reunion Bob had the help of all the Officers which made the task much lighter. Like the old Chinese Proverb "many hands make light work ". Give it a try !!!!!

This Fall's reunion promises to be a great success. As you can see from all the articles in this issue a full curriculum has been planned with plenty of chances to renew old shipmates and develop new ones. In order to take part in this great reunion you have to sign up and attend. Everyone who attended our first reunion had a great time and this next one appears to be a greater event with more Navel opportunities. So don't delay - - start planning today. Get your reservations in and look forward to great reunion.

MAILBOX

Pete Athanas (46-48) sent an update on last issue correcting a photo on page 5. The lower picture should read , Ray (Benny) Lopez, RDM Peter Athanas, RDM John Coatta at the SG Radar and Ens. Cherry far right at the DRT. The picture was taken in the CIC. **Looking forward to the reunion in Norfolk this year.**

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR HAT IN TIME FOR THE REUNION

OZBOURN HATS, JACKETS, & SHIRTS

ARTISTIC CO. has informed Bob Whitten that you can purchase single Ozbourn hats. I also talked to the owner and he can supply any hat you want. They make a nice gift. Hats can be ordered with or without scrambled eggs. In addition you can order a windbreaker or golf shirt. I would suggest you call ahead for pricing info as I believe he has gone up a little. These hats are a great door opener to former sailors.

You can call or write Joe Mollica at Artistic, 10613 Lawson River Ave., Fountain Valley, CA. 92708. Tel. 714-963-6800.

NOMINATIONS

This is the year for elections. while the Association President will appoint a nominating committee, any member who would like to serve in one of the elected (president, vice president, treasurer, correspondng secretary, or recording secretary) positions, please advise President Bob Whitten as soon as possible.

Bob's address:
1117 Yorkshire Drive
Cupertino, CA 95014
Tel: 408-252-9213

USS OZBOURN DD-846
QUALITY INN LAKE WRIGHT, NORFOLK, VA
OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 1, 1995

- Saturday
October 28
1300 - Arrival and registration until 1800. Hospitality Room open.
Evening on your own.
- Sunday
October 29
0730 - Registration continues until 0800
0830 - Board bus at hotel and leave the 20th Century behind.

0930 - Begin walking tour of Colonial Williamsburg at the Capitol with professional guides.
Proceed down Duke of Gloucester Street to visit working shops and homes as they were
centuries ago. The tour continues on toward Burton Parish Church, the Governor's palace,
and ends at Merchant Square.

1430 - Board bus to return to hotel around 1530
Evening on your own
- Monday
October 30
0900 - Business meeting.
1030 - Board bus at hotel for a tour of the Navy Base.
1100 - Pick up guide at Naval Base Visitors Center and continue on a narrated tour of Admiral's Row,
the Naval Air Station, and the piers.
1215 - Lunch at Breezy Point Officer's Club.
1330 - Board and tour a modern warship.
1530 - Back at the hotel.
- \$22/person inc.
bus, escort/lunch
1800 - Board bus at hotel for Lynnhaven Fish House.
1930 - Enjoy a wonderful dinner prepared especially for the reunion at the well known Virginia Beach
Restaurant., the Lynnhaven Fish House. The Starfish Rom overlooks the Chesapeake Bay
and the menu offers the finest fish and seafood.
2100 - Reboard bus to return to hotel by 2130.
- \$31/Person
inc. bus, escort.
Tuesday
0930 - Board bus at hotel.
1000 - Tour the MacArthur Memorial, the final resting place of the late General and eleven gallery
museum. Visit the gift shop and see a film summarizing the General's life and achievements.
1115 - Reboard bus for shuttle to the Spirit of Norfolk, the premier cruise boat on Norfolk's waterfront.
1200 - Harbor lunch cruise with live entertainment. See the sights of Hampton Roads harbor and the mighty
mighty ships at the Norfolk Naval Station. Enjoy a wonderful buffet while the Captain
narrates.
1400 - Disembark from Spirit of Norfolk and walk over to Waterside, Norfolk's festival marketplace
with over 120 shops, kiosks and eateries. Free time.
1530 - Reboard bus at Waterside for return to hotel by 1600.
1800 - Cash bar.
1900 - Banquet, followed by entertainment.
- Wednesday
November 1
0730 - Farewell Breakfast.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

TIN CAN SAILOR REMEMBERS

My wife and I attended the "N.J. Bull Session" in E. Brunswick with Gene Conley and John Ulicini. While rapping about Tsingtoa (1947) a Newark, NJ Star Ledger reporter approached me asked about the USS Ozbourn and Tsingtoa our in 1947. She later came to Newton, NJ and interviewed me for more information. About 80% of the report was factual about me. Reporters often hear what they want to hear, always fantasizing what will make good copy. I'm sending you a copy in case you want to use it in your quarterly. I recently sent one to Ed Ward but don't know if he'll use it or not. I remember taking off to go pick up Filipino Merchantmen in Northern Japan. It all happened on my 20th birthday, July 18. One item I'd like to mention about when we returned in '47 to San Diego we were just in time for the Boxing Championships of the entire Destroyer Pacific Fleet. I attended two of the matches. The Ozbourn had three men take championships in their weight divisions. D.O'Neill, a cook striker in Welterweight, Newell, GM2, in Light Heavyweight and M. Coleman (Wahoo), COX, in Heavyweight. A little training they, and some other crew members, got in "incidents" in Cuba and Tiajuana helped. A tough, but close, bunch of guys. I'm sure looking forward to our next reunion in Norfolk. I hope twice as many show up, as was in Reno, making an even greater reunion.

Bob Sommers, Newton NJ (46-48)

Ed note: The STAR LEDGER printed a nice 4 column article with a picture of Bob. It will be available at the reunion.

TALES FROM THE OLD OZBOURN

It was a dark and stormy night in the autumn of 1962. OZBOURN was on the "Formosa Patrol", prowling at 5 or 6 knots up and down the Formosa Straights between Formosa (Taiwan) and mainland China. Boring, endless, storm-tossed patrolling, steaming condition watches with the fire-control radar lit off, mount 2 and the director manned and ready, modified condition Zebra set, and the sonar pinging monotonously. The ChiComs regularly sent us radiograms warning us of dire punishment if we didn't stop encroaching in THEIR territorial waters; i.e., the whole damn straights.

Two of the three ships in the destroyer division -- OZBOURN, TE CHANDLER, and HOLLISTER --

would be patrolling at any one time, six days out at a time, with the third in Kaohsiung for three-day liberty call. The commodore, Captain Big-hearted Paul Shroopshire, was the only one in the squadron who didn't mind the drudgery: he shifted his flag every three days to whichever ship had just come into Kaohsiung. It was said that his flag actually flew permanently in the Brown Derby Lounge in beautiful downtown Kaohsiung.

Van Nield, the assistant OPS Officer, and I had the midwatch on the bridge. He was OOD and I was JOOD, a fresh-caught ensign, getting a lot of sea-going experience fast. I still had a lot to learn. It was blacker than the devil's heart, so dark you almost literally couldn't see your hand in front of your face. OZ was plowing along into a head sea about 5 knots, pitching in that sullen, monotonous way she had, taking occasional but invisible green water over the bow.

I was keeping an eye on the PPI radar repeater on the Bridge. We had it hooded so it wouldn't spoil the night-vision of the bridge watchstanders, but I kept looking into it. The lookouts weren't much use, because the night was so black, and Van didn't want to run down one of the many Taiwanese I.B.G.B. s (itty bitty gook boats) in the area.

Suddenly, something appeared among the sea-return and clutter on the PPI. The something was only a few hundred yards away, and dead ahead. And closing. I reported excitedly to Van, almost simultaneously with the portside bridge lookout, who thought he saw something with the night glasses. Van snapped orders to the bridge talkers, and I heard the whine of the director overhead as it trained. From aft I heard another mechanical whine: mount 2 had trained out.

"Give me right 5 degrees rudder, Bill" Van said. I gave the order, since I had the conn, and looked into the scope again. The contact was still closing, but no longer on a collision course. Overhead the 21MC came, "Conn, combat. Signal bridge. Contact 'kilo'. What the hell does 'kilo' mean? I asked Van. I heard Van laugh in the dark. "it means"stop your engines instantly or I will fire into you," he said with a chuckle. Then I heard him press the switch on the 21MC. "Signal bridge, conn. Give the contact 'delta echo.'" Overhead the lamp shutters clattered. Instantly the strange Aldis went out, and another instant later I heard the heavy thrumming roar of a big marine engine powering up and actually saw the white gleam of a bow wave and wake as the stranger raced away.

"What does 'delta echo' mean?" I asked. Van laughed again, and I could almost see him grin in the dark, "It means 'United States man of war.'" "I guess some ChiCom patrol boat skipper got a lesson in manners that night.

Bill Spears (62-64)

★★★
 ★ HOW TO PLAN YOUR REUNION TRIP ★
 ★
 ★ 1. Prior to September 28, 1995 determine what reunion functions you plan to attend and fill out
 ★ FORM number 1. in this newsletter. Send this form along with a check for the total amount to
 ★ the Armed Forces Reunion Inc. the address is on Form 1. ★
 ★
 ★ 2. For your hotel reservations: fill out the 4" X 9" card in this newsletter (both sides) and mail it
 ★ to: LAKE WRIGHT RESORT, 6280 NORTHAMPTON BLVD., NORFOLK, VA 023502. ★
 ★
 ★ 3. Any questions or problems call Bob Whitten or the Editor. ★
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 ★★★

ACTIVE MEMBERS

WE STILL HAD SOME ROOM LEFT FOR NEWS FROM YOU BUT WE DID NOT RECEIVE IT.
 HOW ABOUT SITTING DOWN TODAY AND DROPPING THE EDITOR A FEW LINES.

**PAUL G. LOGAN, EDITOR
 USS OZBOURN (DD 846) ASSOCIATION
 165 PILGRIM ROAD
 BRAINTREE, MA. 02184**