



# Fireball!

## USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 4. No. 3 & 4 August 1995

### The President's Report

#### FROM THE BRIDGE

It's summer time again and only a few short months to the Norfolk reunion. As you will note in the schedule of planned events, it will be busy if you elect to do everything. The banquet on October 31st will feature "Heart's Desire," a "USO show" that comes with excellent references.

While attending the annual Navy League convention in St. Louis, I took the opportunity to drive to Herrin, Illinois, the hometown of Joseph Ozbourn. I met the mayor, Mr. Edward Quaglia, a very fine gentleman indeed, who took me to the city park with its veterans memorial and tribute to Pvt. Ozbourn. I left the mayor with an Ozbourn hat and an invitation to our reunion. Walking through Herrin is like walking back into the past — old time main street and a low crime rate. The mayor told me that the people there leave their doors unlocked half of the time. In short, Herrin is reminiscent of America of times gone by and that we may never see again.

While in St. Louis, I also had a most enjoyable visit with my old shipmate Don Dickerhof and his wife Pat.

About a month ago, I received a call from Dan Wisner, President of the USS De Haven Sailors Association who is organizing a DesRon 9 Association (to which Ozbourn was assigned after FRAM). You can expect to hear from him.

Note that we have combined two issues of *Fireball!* in order to put them into the mail at the most convenient time for all shipmates prior to the reunion. Hope to see you there!

#### USS HAMNER (DD 718) REUNION

The USS Hamner is having a reunion in San Diego Sept 21-23 in San Diego. Contact Billy Odle, 1211 Raven Pl., Chula Vista, CA 91911 for details.

### 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

Editorial Office:

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Braintree, MA. 02184  
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**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  
1958-1959 CDR. Charles A. Kuhl  
1959-1960 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]*

**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, Langly 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

**ANNUAL DUES IS DUE . . . . .**

**Your 1995 annual association dues was due July 1, 1995. Please send a check for \$10.00 to:**

**Paul Hecht  
P.O. Box 3534  
Portsmouth, VA 23701-0534**

**THANKS. . . . .**

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR

Numerous articles have been reprinted in this issue as a benefit to those shipmates that may have misplaced their last issue. The time is growing close to take action on preparing to attend our reunion in Norfolk. By now you should have booked your hotel reservations. The time is growing short to sign up for the various activities that will be taking place during the convention. To sign up for these activities fill out "FORM 1" in this newsletter and sent it along with your check. Don't miss out on any of the planned activities because you were too late getting your requests in. Do you have your transportation arranged? Better get this important item squared away. It a long walk.

This is your last chance to get all of your arrangements taken care of. Start today to tidy up all loose ends and start looking forward to a great reunion and renewal of old acquaintances.

MAILBOX

News from William A. Rock. He has been located. After a little detective work Mr. Rock sent a letter with his new address in CA.

Gary Schweer wrote in from Penscola, FL. with with an update on the Ozbourns "chain of command". Thanks Gary.

Jack Blonsick wrote in from Coupeville, WA. Jack Jack was in Norfolk in May for his 50th high school reunion., and spendt 4 days at the Quality Inn Resort Center at Lake Wright (the Ozbourn reunion location).

Jim Helland (Plank Owner 46-46) wrote in from Daphine, Al. Jim plans to attend the Norfolk reunion and make a pilgrimage to the site of the former Kit Kat Bar on Granby Street. Jim would like to see a reunion held in Boston because of Lexington, Bunker Hill, Old Ironsides, Boston Common, his first St. Patrick's Day Parade and the numerouse other area's Boston is noted for. (The Editor could add many more things to the list)

**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, corresponding 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.  
\$22/person inc.  
bus, escort/lunch 1215 - Lunch at Breezy Point Officer's Club.  
1330 - Board and tour a modern warship.  
1530 - Back at the hotel.
- \$31/Person  
inc. bus, escort. 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.
- Tuesday  
\$31/person  
inc. bus, lunch  
cruise 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.

## NEWS FROM GARY SCHWERR

Gary L. Schwerr (QMC, 58-61) wrote in from Penscola, FL. A couple of blank fillers for your ship's history. The CO when I reported aboard in Sept 58 was CDR. Charles A. Kuhl. He was relieved by LCDR W. W. Turner in the summer of 59 after we returned from WESTPAC. CDR. Turner was promoted shortly after taking command. Capt. Fargo was COMDESDIV 112 when I reported. I believe he was relieved by Capt. Alexander S. Goodfellow by the time we went back to WESTPAC in 1960.

RE Bow Stories: While at a buoy in San Diego in late '59 or possible '60, a yard barge hit the bow of the USS Brinkley Bass (DD 879?) while she was moored alongside the "OZ". The bow of the YW went clean through the bow of the Bass, into and through our bow in a heavy fog. We were dry docked for a couple of days for hull inspection. No serious damage. The Bass wasn't as lucky-requiring more extensive repairs. Hit us just under the port anchor and the nose of the YW just stuck out of the Starboard side.

Upon reflection there may have been one other Commodore between Capt. Fargo and Goodfellow. Looking forward to receiving the next "Fireball". I have an old boogie recording of the "Fireball Boogie" if thats of any interest. By 1958 our call sign was "Spread Eagle".

## KOREA REMEMBERED

A new book "Korea Remembered" has been published by Charles (Pete) Cole (1950-51), published by the Yucca Tree Press, Las Cruces, New Mexico, has hit the stands. The book mainly details Pete's tour of duty on the Ozbourn but anyone who served aboard will find it very interesting reading.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Be sure you notify the "Association" if you change your address. You can send any changes to the Editor of the "Fireball!"

