



FIREBALL!

USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 7 No. 2 April, 1998

FROM THE BRIDGE:

We - - meaning mainly Captain Charlie Akers - - are at work setting up the next reunion in Las Vegas. It is tentatively set for October 13-17, 1999. Charlie will get a final reading on what we can get at a reasonable price/rate.

We were written up twice by the Tin Can Sailor (the last two issues) - - once for the action off Vietnam and again for action in Wosan Harbor (North Korea). The spread on Vietnam is the work of former CO John Denham and former Chief Petty Officer Dennis La Cross. The other article, dealing with the Korean War, was not written by one of our people.

Our shipmates may have been reading in the press about impending doom from global warming due to carbon dioxide emissions. As many of you know, I had something of a career in atmospheric science enabling me to know a fraud when I see one. In fact I have put together a program at the popular science level that looks at the "problem" and have presented it in several forums, one as distant as Eureka, CA. The touted change in global temperature turns out to have been almost entirely before 1940 when carbon dioxide levels were much lower than today. In recent years, since satellite observations became reliable in 1979, the earth has experienced a slight cooling. The satellite data are in excellent agreement with balloon measurements of atmospheric temperature. While there is no hurry to rush into ribbon cutting carbon dioxide emissions, ratification of the Kyoto convention would be an enormous economical disaster. I have submitted a draft resolution to the Navy League urging that it oppose ratification of the Kyoto treaty because of the detrimental effect it would have on our national defense. If any shipmates wish more information on this topic, send me \$1.00 for postage and copying and I will send back something of what I have on the subject.

We still need a president and a recording secretary. I have been at this for 6 1/2 years and Paul Logan has been holding down both secretary jobs for four years. Relief for the watch is overdue.

We have sent out the messenger but he hasn't returned!!

Finally, I still have eight OZBOURN coffee cups left for sale: \$3.50 plus shipping charges.

Act. President Bob Whitten
1117 Yorkshire Drive
Cupertino, CA 95014

OZBOURN'S FIRST SKIPPER DIES IN VIRGINIA

See page 3.

REUNION NEWS

Be sure to read the July issue of the *Fireball!* it should have all the details on our next reunion in 1999. Las Vegas is the place! The hotel selection is in the making. It should be our biggest to date!

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SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

New Shipmates discovered since our last report in October 1997.

1997

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------------|-------|-----|
| Bullinger | Raymond D. | Spring, TX | 65-69 | E5 |
| Hoots | Tom | Rodgersville, TN | 52-55 | GM3 |
| Potter | Jeron D. | Wickenburg, AZ | 68-69 | SM |
| Roberts | Billy | New Brocton, AL | | |
| Roberts | Bobby | New Brocton, AL | | |
| Roberts | Ted | New Brocton, AL | | |
| Rollins | James H. | Burnsville, MN | 57-61 | BT1 |
| Smiley | Paul L. | Paso Bobles, CA | 47-48 | FN |
| Zanni | Michael A. | N. Babylon, NY | 63-66 | BT3 |

1998

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|-----------|------------|-------------------|-------|--------|
| Amis | A.B. | Grant, FL | 47-48 | ET2 |
| Cook | Harlod E. | Sun City Ctr., FL | 46 | Ensign |
| Cloutier | Kenneth M | Pine Bluff, AR | 65-68 | MM3 |
| Crowley | John M. | Cypress, TX | 62-65 | FTG2 |
| Hansen | Michael W. | LaVerkin, UT | 70-71 | BTFN |
| Lawrence* | Howard | Blauvelt, NY | 46-48 | EM3 |
| McPeak | Michael T. | Chittenango, NY | 71-73 | SM3 |
| Reeves | John B. | Ottumwa, IA | 47-48 | ET3 |
| Schuppel | Donald F. | Parma, OH | 46-47 | PH3 |

| | | | | |
|--------|------|-----------------|----|----|
| Walker | Alan | Pound Ridge, NY | 46 | S2 |
|--------|------|-----------------|----|----|

*Shoulburg when on Ozbourn

FROM THE EDITOR

Numerous comments and praises have come to the Editor of the *Fireball!* by our shipmates. A hearty "thank you" to all. Some *behind the scenes* shipmates have been major contributors to the *Fireballs!* success. These people proofread the newsletter and recommend corrections and modifications. When the publication is in draft form they meticulously review each sentence and suggest changes and corrections.

Bob Whitten has been proofreading since your present editor came aboard. The past two issues we have added the talents of WD Minter. Both Bob and WD bring different expertise and backgrounds to the *Fireball!* In addition my wife, Mary, reviews the draft copy.

Shipmates supply all the articles & news items. Your editor just tries to assemble the information in a somewhat organized format. You can see that producing the *Fireball!* is a "team" effort. Team Effort is what is needed to run our association successfully. In just a year and a half our association will be electing new officers. The position of President and *Fireball!* editor will at least be open for new candidates. In order to continue our great success new shipmates must step up and take over. Your time is coming!

USS OZBOURN'S HOME PAGE

Have you visited our "home page" on the WWW lately. Well, almost 5000 visitors have dropped in since we went "on line" in June of 1996.

W.D. Minter has done a fantastic job of setting up our home page and keeping it up to date. He recently has revised it and would be well worth your while to visit it.

How do you get there? Ask a friend or relative to get you to it! Go to your local library (most all of them have computers and "WWW" access) and ask the librarian to help you. They will be more than happy. Oh yes, you will need our WWW address, its:

<http://home1.gte/wdminter/ozbourn.html>

Numerous former shipmates have found our Association by visiting our home page.

What will you find? Well, you will be greeted by "Anchors Aweigh" when you sign on and "old Glory" waving in the breeze. You can view our E.F. Cook award. This award is given to Bath, ME built ship's "home pages" that meet the award standards. In addition we have received the "Spirit of Ships" award that can be received by "home pages" that promote the spirit, history and crew members of decommissioned Naval warships.

In addition you can view (and download) Ozbourn photo's; check out planned events; review Ozbourn history; check on list of shipmates; read the latest "Fireball!" (including photo's that Shipmate Minter is able to scan in with his new scanner); link up to other Navy sites and other interesting areas. Our home page is one you would be proud to have your children and grandchildren visit and learn about one of our Navy's greatest ships.

Check it out, you will be glad you did, and check it for updates in the future.

WATCH CAPS

USS Ozbourn watch caps have been received for shipmates who ordered same and mailed out to them. They are a great gift for children and grandchildren.

(This is a continuation of USS Ozbourn history started in the April 1997 issue of the Fireball! It was sent in by Jim Michael (66-68)

On November 1, 1967, the Ozbourn began a two week upkeep period in Yokosuka, after which she was underway for duty as a unit of Operation Sea Dragon. During a 4 December firing mission, while suppressing coastal defense sites in North Vietnam, the Ozbourn was taken under fire. Approximately 100 enemy rounds fell around the ship. The second round penetrated the main deck aft on the starboard side of Mount 52. The projectile detonated in the berthing compartment below, all power to the mount was lost. Two personnel, Commissaryman Third Raymond L. Cork, Jr. and Seaman Edward S. O'Brien were killed while Disbursing Clerk Second Collins and Seaman Raymond G. Sauer were wounded. All four men were stricken at their General Quarters stations handling ammunition. The dead and wounded were evacuated by helo. The Ozbourn was ordered to Subic Bay for repairs. The ship paid dearly for her third Purple Heart, her second in Vietnamese action.

On leaving Subic Bay, Ozbourn proceeded back to Yokosuka for the Christmas holidays. Though many of the joys of Christmas were dampened by the loss of two crewmen and the separation of many men from families in the United States, a fine holiday season was

had by all. This included Ozbourn's ships party in the Hibachi room of the Club Alliance complete with dinner, drinks and a fine floor show. In addition Ozbourn placed first in the Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka Christmas decorations contest.

On 21 January, Ozbourn left Yokosuka enroute to Sea Dragon Operations. However on 23 January, the North Korean Navy seized the USS Pueblo (AGER-2) creating an international crisis. On this date, Ozbourn was in Buckner Bay, Okinawa. Immediately after fueling in Buckner, Ozbourn received orders to proceed, at best speed, to join the USS Enterprise (CVAN 65) in the Sea of Japan. Ozbourn joined Enterprise on 24 January and thereby became one of the first four ships of the largest task force to put to sea since the Korean War. For forty days Ozbourn patrolled the seas ready to counter any hostile actions and ready to use force, if ordered, to rescue the Pueblo crew. On March 4 Ozbourn left the Sea of Japan, the last of the original ships to do so.

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U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE SPONSORS CRUISE

The US Naval Institute is sponsoring a Members and Friends cruise aboard the Norwegian Cruise Line's LEEWARD, sailing for 7 days roundtrip Alexandria, VA-Bermuda. Paul Stillwell, noted historian from USNI staff, is the featured speaker with focus of his seminars on Bermuda's historical and strategic importance. With three days in port prices start at \$1155 per person double occupancy. Air reservations can be arranged.

Reservations are being handled by UNITED TRAVEL/AMERICAN EXPRESS. at 800-394-8854 or 703-978-4404. Email to: JNSB89A@PRODIGY.COM
Alan Swinger (66-68) owns the travel agency.

NEW ADDRESS FOR HOMEPAGE

The Ozbourn's homepage on the Internet has a new address: <http://home1.gte.net/wdminter/ozbourn.html> (note: after "home" is number one-after "htm" is letter, lower case "l")

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR FIREBALL!

USSOZBOURN@aol.com

OZBOURN'S FIRST SKIPPER DIES IN VA.

In a newspaper account, from Vice President Curt Anderson we learned of the death of the first skipper of the USS Ozbourn, Captain Bernard A. (Barney) Smith. Capt. Smith died in the Fairfax, VA Hospital on November 24, 1997.

Graduated from the Naval Academy, Capt. Smith served five years in Southard and earned a MS degree in Cambridge, MA at MIT. He survived the sinking of the Lexington in 1942 and served 18 months on the Saratoga. In 1944 he commanded the Murphy. Capt. Smith commissioned the Ozbourn at Bath, ME in the spring of 1946 and commanded her until late 1947. He served in Korean waters as Commander Wonsan Bombardment and patrol Element He earned the Legion of Merit while Commander of Surface Group in the Formosa patrol. Capt. Smith retired in the mid 80's to Fort Belvoir, VA. He is survived by sons Dennis and James and five grandchildren.

MAIL BAG

John Crowley (62-65) sent in an article on Capt. Willie C. Marsh. Capt. Marsh took command of the USS Cleveland (LPD 7) on November 1996. (latest info on him). Capt. Marsh served as Gunnery Officer on the "OZ" and went on to rack up a very impressive Naval Career.

Herman Brown (49-52) wrote in because he missed his January Fireball! We have him straightened out. Both Paul Hecht and your Editor sent him a copy. Herman also sent in the names and address of former crew members: Norman Horne, RM2; Joe Merryman, SM; and Emory Bowen, RM1. Thanks Herman, they will be receiving the April 98 Fireball!

James D. Tandy (55-61)(of 4004 Ashbourn Ln., Indianapolis, IN 46226) (Phone 317-542-9375) wrote to tell us that he did not make the reunion because his wife had passed away. Our condolences to Jim and his family. Jim would like to hear from past shipmates aboard from 55-61.

Our old Pharmacist Mate from 46-47 Don Schuppel reported aboard and ordered a watch cap. All our first Ozbourn cruise members should remember him and the APC pills.

New "plank owner" Alan Walker (46) S2 reported aboard.

Fred Souza (46-48) wrote from Florida with a missing Fireball! problem, but the US Mail finally came across.

Alan Swinger wrote us about the US Naval Institute sponsoring a Members and Friends Cruise. (see elsewhere in this issue). Looks like a good cruise, thanks Alan.

Andrew Adams (52-55) sent in some pictures of the Ozbourn and shipmates. Hope to publish some in future issue. Thanks Adam.

Richard Byerly (54-58) wrote in and also sent some pictures. He was looking for some shipmates addresses. Hope we can help him.

A.B. Amis (47-48) wrote in, he remembers Joe Montagno, GM3, and Pete Athanas. He went aboard Ozbourn in October 1947. He will always remember the good times he had aboard.

Robert (Hank) Henry (59-61) wrote in looking to contact Richard Mosca. We sent him Richard's address.

ANNUAL DUES——— NEW PROCEDURE

A new procedure for dues collections will commence on January 1, 1999. Yearly dues will be due on January 1 of each year instead of the past practice of having dues due on July 1. This should clear up the confusion and hopefully put everyone on an even keel. Your dues record will be contained on your Fireball! mailing label. Present dues payments will be updated on your mailing labels, starting with this issue, to reflect above changes. All members will be given a six months grace period to adjust to the new dues schedule.

In the future: Annual dues will be due on January 1 of each year.

Starting with the April Fireball! a notice will be sent to all shipmates in arrears on their dues. Members not paid up prior to the July issue date will be dropped from the regular mailing list and will not receive a Fireball! until the next Reunion notification edition.

Send dues to: **Paul Hecht, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3534, Portsmouth, VA 23701-0534**
Make check payable to USS OZBOURN Association.

OZBOURN HATS, JACKETS, & SHIRTS

Hats can be ordered with or without scrambled eggs. In addition you can order a windbreaker or golf shirt.

Hats (with scramble eggs) \$20.00

Hats (no eggs) \$16.00

Add \$4.00 per order for shipping charge.

You can add at **no charge**: your last name, WWII, Vietnam, Korea or Plank Owner.

Call or write Joe Mollica at Artistic Co, 10613 Lawson River Ave., Fountain Valley, CA. 92708. Tel. 714-963-6800. (Pacific Time)



Photo sent in by Richard Byerly (54-58). (l-r) Don Cross;John Brandenberg; Joseph Delp; Thomas Dabner and Richard Byerly. These are the shipmates that made the steam that propelled the OZBOURN to many Pacific areas.

(cont. from page 3)

the ship arrived in Yokosuka on 6 March after a transit through the Shimononseki Strait. This five days in port gave the crew ample time to get reacquainted with their families and enjoy Japan. On March 12 Ozbourn was underway for Sea Dragon. On arrival off North Vietnam, Ozbourn joined the Australian ship HMAS Perth (D-38). For one week Ozbourn and Perth pounded North Vietnam with devastating results. On detachment from Sea Dragon on March 24, Ozbourn proceeded to Naval Gunfire Support south of the DMZ. On 30 March the ship was detached after 6 days of long and hard work at Condition II.

After an Aswex on 30 March and a four day visit to Subic bay, Ozbourn was in the Tonkin Gulf as a screening unit for rescue destroyer for the USS Bon Homme Richard (CVA-34) and later for the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63). On leaving the Tonkin Gulf, Ozbourn went for four fabulous days of rest and relaxation in Keelung, Taiwan, in the Republic of China. From Keelung the ship went to Yokosuka for a three week upkeep period her second drydocking while in WESTPAC. On 22 May, Ozbourn left Yokosuka for 9 days of Sea Dragon and 4 days on the Gunline.

Following gunfire support operations, Ozbourn spent 5 days in Hong Kong, one of the ports which Ozbourn personnel enjoyed the most. From Hong Kong, the ship proceeded to Kaohsiung, Taiwan. As before, fascinating Taiwan proved a memorable visit and a very popular liberty port.

Leaving Kaohsiung the Ozbourn journeyed to Vietnam for operation Sea Dragon, after which she bid farewell to Vietnam. The many months of hard work and heavy steaming in Vietnam were finally over! Ozbourn had fought hard and done all that was asked, and more, and was enroute to Yokosuka, where she stayed for two weeks. After saying good-bye to our home port for two years, Yokosuka, on 29 July Ozbourn was homeward bound! What a memorable voyage it was: Manus on the Admiralty Island; Brisbane and Sidney Australia; Suva, Fiji Islands; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii then home to the U.S.A. and our new homeport of Long Beach, CA. During Ozbourn's tour she had steamed 150,120 nautical miles using over 9 million gallons of fuel, spent 263 days in the Vietnam area, 435 days at sea and had conducted 168 underway replenishments. Ozbourn had been taken under fire and engaged in direct counterbattery with the enemy on ten occasions. Ozbourn had been hit twice during these engagements. Ozbourn had participated in over 89 Sea Dragon naval gunfire missions. Ozbourn had fired 11,996 rounds in 72 days in Task Group 77.1 and 5848 rounds during 50 days in Task Group 77.1, a total of 17,844 rounds fired. Ozbourn's WESTPAC cruise was ended. She had done her job well and won the Battle Efficiency and Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Submitted by Jim Michael (Thanks Jim)

