



FIREBALL!

USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 7 No. 4 October, 1998

FROM THE BRIDGE:

The '99 reunion is in the works! I will begin mailing out letters to the veterans magazines, "Shift Colors," etc. in November and early December. However, our outstanding web page appears to be our best recruiter. Which bring me to my relief as president of the association. As you all know, "WD" Minter has done an outstanding job as our webmaster. I am sure he will do an outstanding job as your president. Of course, he must be elected to the office, but I cannot imagine anyone voting against him! He has agreed to help with preparation for the '99 convention.

I am also pleased to report that Bill Jones has agreed to serve as recording secretary, thus relieving Paul Logan from serving as BOTH recording and corresponding secretary. I say, hearty thanks to both of our shipmates for agreeing to help us. Also, many many thanks to Curt Anderson for serving as a one-man nominating committee.

I had the pleasure and honor to meet a Medal of Honor recipient (Korea) about ten days ago: General Raymond Davis USMC-Retired, former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. From his citation, he was instrumental as a battalion commander in saving the bulk of the First Marine Division during the retreat from the Chosin reservoir. Each time I saw or spoke with General Davis, I could not help contrasting him with our current national leadership, not all of it civilian.

I received last week, from CAPT. Keith Fargo, our late skipper's photos of the OZBOURN, his command pennant for DesDiv 112 and the commissioning pennant. I will keep them as Association President and turn them over to my relief, and so forth. I suggest that they ultimately go to the Navy Historical Museum. We can discuss the options at the business meeting next year.

One last note: our reunion will take place BEFORE Y2K!!

REUNION NEWS

It appears that most of the new shipmates the "Search Committee" has been uncovering are eager to attend our next reunion in Las Vegas. With our past attendees starting to pack their sea bags this should be our best attended reunion. To bring our new members up to date the reunion will be held at the Maxim Hotel at 160 E. Flamingo Rd. in Las Vegas from October 24-27, 1999.

If you have not attended one of our reunions you are missing out on a great adventure, experience and renewal of old times aboard the Ozbourn. Your editor has attended all three of our reunions and they all have been a great experience.

If you are flying into Las Vegas start looking into "senior coupons" that are sold by all major airlines. They are the most reasonable way to fly any major US or Caribbean port if you are flying a considerable distance..

EMAIL CLUB

On page 5 is a list of Email Club members. Please check it and send any corrections or additions to:

USSozbourn@aol.com

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SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

New Shipmates discovered since our last report in July 1998.

Name	City	Served	Rate
Action, William E	Port Richey, FL	46	S2
Alexander, Eugene M	Hastings, NE	47	SKD3
Cronk, William H	Roscommon, MI	65-66	
Damiano, Nicholas R.	Lakewood, NJ	46-48	SN
Denton, Beale	Borger, TX	46-48	FN
Edwards, Dan D.	Va. Beach, VA	69-71	Ltjg
Engelhorn, H E Buddy	Bay St. Louis, MO	58-59	QM3
Freivogel, Richard E	Sarasota, FL	46-47	S1
Foulks, John R.	Clarion, PA	46-48	QM3
Gaylord, Charles R	Lakewood, CA	46-47	S1
Heath, Wesley B	Lafayette, LA	46	SN
Hillson, Howard W	Kansas City, MO	52-54	FP2
James, Charlie, L	San Diego, CA	51-54	RD2
Kelly, Clyde H	Lutz, FL	46	SK2
Lamp, Lowell	Greeley, CO	46-47	MM3
Mattson, Carl	Custer, WA	45-46	RDM3
Miller, Ken	Perkinston, MS	53-57	SM2
Murphy, Clarence G	Hanpton, NH	46-48	SN
Quisenberry, Richard	Kansas City, KS	45-46	FC2
Robertson, Douglas R	La Mesa, CA	46	MM2
Sherman, Allan CFP	Annadale, VA		
Sinks, Fred E	Agusta, GA	56-61	MMCM
Stemnock, Vincent F	Ct. Moriches, NY	47-48	DK2
Stone, Stephen	Preston, ID	68-70	
Thomsen, Earl A	Brandon, VT	45-46	S2
Toomoth, Federick, M	Tacoma, WA	70's	Chief
Tosto, Virgil M	Willard, NC	45-52	BM2
Walz, Richard G	Summerfield, FL	47-	ET2
Zalewski, Leon T.	.Roebling, NJ	48-49	SN

FROM THE EDITOR

As you can see from our membership "stats" on page 8 a good percentage of shipmates have not sent in their 1998 dues. Shipmate's dues is the major area the Association gets it operating capitol from. **Fireball!** is one of the major expenses of the Association.

Dues have remained the same since our Association first started: \$10.00 per year. If any shipmate is unable to meet this obligation please contact the Editor and you will receive every issue at **no charge**. If you have forgotten to send in your dues, or are not sure, check your mailing label for your dues status. Instruction on page 7.

Like carrying aboard stores or ammo, let "all hands" pitch in and do their part!

MAIL BAG

Tom Dabner (54-57) BT1, dropped us an Email with his new address. Looks forward to each issue of the **Fireball!**

Beale Denton (46-48) FN, came on board and sent in some Ozbourn pictures and memorabilia. One of Beale's jobs aboard Ozbourn was boat engineer during the same tour of duty as your editor (also a boat engineer).

Steven S. Stone (68-70), BT2, was sad to hear of the final fate of the Ozbourn. (sold as scrap for \$150,000).

John R. Foulks (46-48), QM3, reported aboard looking to hear from some of the "old bridge gang."

John Crowley (62-65), FTG2 , sent in a nice write up of his tour on the Ozbourn. Hope to have it in next edition. Thanks John

Fred E. Sinks (55-61), MMCM , sent in a zerox copy of the 56-57 Cruise Book. Thanks Fred. Copies would cost about \$7.00 including mailing.

Kent Curl (60-63) XO , sent in an article from the "Shipmate", the Naval Academy Alumni magazine, about former Skipper Bill Fargo, class of '39. Bill certainly was a credit to his family and country.

Emmett Bolton (56-59), FT3 , Emailed in. He is looking for a copy of 58-59 Cruise Book. He has a copy of the 57-58 Cruise Book if anyone is interested. Due to surgery Emmett couldn't make the San Diego reunion but plans to see us in Las Vegas in 1999.

Carl Mattson (45-46), RDM3, looking forward to seeing everyone at the Las Vegas reunion.

Howard Hillson (52-54), FP2, was thrilled to find the Ozbourn Association home page on the web. He was happy to recognize some former crew members on our membership list and looking forward to contacting them.

Ens/Ltjg, Dan Edwards (69-71), heard about us from a post card the 'search committee' sent to his brother-in-law. His brother-in-law was never in the Navy.

(cont. on page 4)

PAUL HECHT COMES THROUGH

Paul Hecht (USS Ozbourn Treasurer) has come through with the article he promised.

FROM PAUL HECHT (46-47) (EM1)

I was sad to hear of Bill Fargo's passing, as we served on the same ship in 1941 and 1942, the USS WASHINGTON (BB-56) while the ship was on North Atlantic patrol and the Murmansk run. Although I didn't know him then but met him at the first Ozbourn reunion we had a lot to talk about. I made two trips to Bath, Maine to pick up a new destroyer. The first one was the USS Eaton (DD-510), a Fletcher class destroyer. As part of the skeleton crew, we rode it to Boston and it was commissioned on December 4, 1942.

After shakedown in Guantanamo, Cuba and San Juan, Puerto Rico we returned to Boston before heading for the Canal Zone. We passed through the canal and one month later arrived in Noumea, Caledonia. We spent two years in the South Pacific. We participated in seven missions and had a credit of seven planes and a submarine that was caught, on the surface, "up the slot." Our 5 inch guns took care of the submarine at night.

After returning to the states in late 1944 I was transferred to electrical school on the East Coast. I always wondered why I was picked out of the whole division. After attending some Eaton reunions I discovered I was the only regular navy electrician beside the chief.

The war ended while I was in school and once again I was transferred to Bath, Maine to a new destroyer. This time it was the USS Ozbourn (DD 846). I went through the same routine again, riding the Ozbourn with a skeleton crew to Boston. After commissioning, March 5, 1946 it was back to Guantanamo, Cuba and San Juan, Puerto Rico for shakedown.

Returning to Boston, as we did before, we left for the Panama Canal and traveled up the west coast of Mexico to San Diego. Operating out of San Diego until early 1947, we headed for Yokosuka, Japan, our new home port. There were a lot of 'reserves' in the navy. When the war ended all those with enough points could be discharged. Being USN I still had a year to go. Even the Chief left the ship in

San Diego leaving me, a 1st class, in charge of the electrical division.

As we approached Japan we had to endure a typhoon. After the storm the Captain requested a damage report from each division.. The only damage the E division had was the topside anchor windless control on the bow. Water had got in the unit and burned up the terminal board. I reported same to the Captain and was asked if I could fix it. The Ozbourn was the lead ship into the harbor and we had to drop anchor with the other ships tying up alongside. The Captain wanted to take the anchor with us when we were leaving.

I assigned an electrician to the project and after he removed the bad terminal board I helped him make a new one. When it was time to install the terminal board the electrician informed me he couldn't because he didn't know which wires went where. The problem was none of the wires were labeled. This was a 2 speed 2 direction controller with 24 wires. After ringing out all the circuits I was able to correct the problem and learned a great lesson as to the responsibilities of the person in charge of the division.

On this first deployment for the Ozbourn our home port was changed to Tsingtao, China. While operating in the China area we visited Shanghai and Hong Kong. We also answered an SOS call from a Philippine merchant ship that wrecked on the coast near Valdivostok. The Russians got there first. It took three days before the Russians turned the crew over to us and we took them to Yokosuka.

We also visited Nagasaki and were given a bus tour of where the second atomic bomb was dropped. It was customary for personal to return to the states 90 days before their enlistment was up. Thirty days for travel time, as it was by ship, and sixty days terminal leave. A list was posted with names in order of their departure date. One day I checked the list and there was a line drawn above my name. Checking with the yeoman I was told the Captain had ordered it. I checked with the Captain and he informed me that I was riding the ship back to San Diego no matter how long it takes.

Our last port before returning to the states was Sasebo. Once back in the States I was discharged 6 days after my enlistment was up.

MAIL BAG

(cont. from page 2)

Buddy Engelhorn (58-59), QM3, tried numerous times to sign up with us by Email and finally resorted to US mail. (the Email problem has been fixed, Ed.) Buddy persistence was possibly due to his former position, Police Captain.

Virgil Tosto (46-52), BM2, was shocked and happy to receive a post card from the 'search committee'. Virgil was a member of the commissioning crew in 1946. He would like to contact former crew members Alfred Burkhardt and D.R. Young.

Bill Rock (52-53), moved to Lake Arrowhead, CA. so he could play with his 1960 Chris Craft. He was planning on the Long Beach and San Diego boat show. "75" and still going strong.

Ken Miller (53-57), SM2, piped himself aboard on July 31, via Email. Ken was discovered by Henry Burge (54-57), QM2 , through a phone call. Ken was sorry he missed the San Diego reunion but vows to see us in Las Vegas.

Roy Barger (46), TM2, wrote to tell us he put the "O" in commission. He was on shakedown and sailed to San Diego on the Ozbourn leaving her in November 1946.

WD Minter reports that Pat Patterson is recovering day by day from his accident. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Your Editor ran into a model ship maker at Battleship Cove in Fall River, MA. I was wearing my Ozbourn hat. He told me he was making a 4 foot model of the Ozbourn for a former crew member., Norman Seidel (63-65).

Maxine Whittenberg of Murchinson, TX responded to a post card of the search committee to inform us of the death of her husband shipmate William G (Bill) Whittenberg (48-50) SN. Bill reported aboard Ozbourn on 7/21/48 and left sometime in 1950. Maxine sent along some pictures of Bill and a Thanksgiving menu from the Ozbourn from 1949. The menu was well done and designed to be mailed home.

John Kougl ran into an old shipmate at a baseball game in Tacoma, WA. John was sitting beside him, started talking, and found out he was on the Ozbourn, Chief Frederic M. Toomoth. Welcome Aboard.



LOOKING FOR FATHER

Some time ago our Association received communication from a young man (picture above) from Australia trying to locate his father. He has been communicating with the Editor trying to get assistance. Here is his story. Maybe someone out there can help.

His mother gave him up for adoption and is unable to get much information about his father from her. He cannot even get his father's name. He is very anxious to contact his father. His son is ill with a kidney disease and locating his father could be of help to his son as well as himself.

His father was supposedly a US Navy officer (or petty officer) on leave in Sydney Australia in 1968. His mother's first name is Deborah. The USS Ozbourn was in Sydney during 1968 and our young man has reason to believe that his father was a member of the Ozbourn crew.

Our young man, who served in the Royal Australian Navy, **was told by his mother that he looked exactly like his father in the above picture.**

If any crew member has any information that could help this anxious young man please contact the Editor
"in strict confidence."

Ozourn Members Addresses - Email Club

<u>LNAME</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERVED</u>	<u>RATING</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Akers USN Ret.	Charles	50-52	CDR (skipp	NRRR21A@Prodigy.com
Amis	A. B.	47-48	ET2	Aonlybonly@email.msn.com
Badger USN Ret	George	55-56		acorn@dnai.com
Barron	Arthur R.	53-55	YN1	mrboce@ix.netcom.com
Belvin	Joseph R.	46-46	SN	JBelvin625@aol.com
Bernardino	Daniel L.	50-52	RM3	Bernardino@world.att.com
Blonsick USNR Ret	John	50-51	Ensign	jetta@whidbey.net
Bohenko	Patrick	68-70	RM2	bohenko@ziplink.net
Bolton	Emmett E.	56-59	FT3	boltone@prismplus.com
Bullinger	Raymond D.	65-69	E5	bull7396@flash.net
Burton	Henry R.	56-59	BT2	burt@neca.com
Cain	Don	53-54	RM 3/c	NJ6Z@compuserve.com
Carlson	Ralph	58-61	LTJG	Britanniamichael@msn.com
Caster	Daniel L.	56-57	SN	dcaster@linknet.kitsap.li
Clark	Richard I.		MM3	rpclark@mc2k.com
Cole USNR Ret	Charles F.	50-52		Charlie@mail.netwalk.com
Cronk	William H.	65-66		wildbill@freeway.net
Crowley	John M.	62-65	FTG2	John_Crowley@0xy.com
Curl USN Ret	Kent	60-63	XO 4/62-7/	delcross@qnet.com
Dabner	Tom	54-57	BT1	tcmdabner@aol.com
Damiano	Nicholas R.	46-48	SN	pmpERSON@AOL.COM
Denham USN Ret	John G.	66-68	CDR (skipp	JDenham203@aol.com
Denton	Beale B.	46-48	FN	gdadbdd@infinitytx.net
Edwards	Dan D.	69-71	Ltjg.	Lionrun@aol.com
Engelhorn	H.E. Buddy	58-59	QM3	engel@datasync.com
Farquhar CPBE	Richard	56-57		rick@rafassociates.com
Fink	George	46-48	MM2/c	Go68nk@aol.com
Goschie	Gerald W.	60-61	SN	Ggoschie@aol.com
Greene	Jack A.	57-60	YN2	cdannyg@pacbell.net
Harden	Thad H.	58-60	Lt.	tharden262@aol.com
Hillson	Howard W.	52-54	FP2	Chuchumh@aol.com
Hoey	Thomas F.	49-52	MM2	TfBUDDY@aol.com
James	Charlie L.	51-54	RD2	glojames@ix.netcom.com
Jenigan	Doug	66-68		dougj@oscaprint.com
Jennings	William P.	50-53	TMT1	jbsupply@discover-net.net
Jones	William L.	51-52	RD3	WlJones@junc.com
Keller	Darrel E.	59-60	FN	DKeller838@aol.com
Knoebel	Alfred H.	69-71	RM3	knoebel@mac.wisc.edu
LaFond	Richard	46-48	SN	lougokat@aol.com
Lawrence	Howard	46	EM3	susanslaw@aol.com
Locke	Chuck	52-53	SN	Buckaron@finet.com
Logan	Paul G.	46-47	F 1/c	PGLogan@aol.com
McMillan	Maurice C.	46	S2	mmcmillan@plantel.net
McPeak	Michael T.	71-73	SM3	MMcpeak664@aol.com
Michael	James B.	66-70	MM2	jmichael@hutel.net
Miller	Ken	53-57	SM2	kmil@datasync.com
Minter	William D.	52-55	RD2/c	wdminter@gte.net
Nyquist	John	55-58	LTJG	jnyquist@thermotrex.com
Palmer USN Ret	Barr	51-52		HPa103773@aol.com
Patterson	Calvin G.	50-51	RD1	pogo@ipa.net
Pezold	Robert	72-74	ST2	rpezold@vredenburgh.com
Purcell	Glenn J.	52-54	RD3	MOTOGLENN@aol.com
Rauch	Frank	62-64		rauch@ccsnet.net
Roberts	Carl W.	70-71	BM1	carlwr@mail.ultra.web.net
Robertson	Douglas R.	MM2		crobertson@littler.com
Schultz	Lawrence	70-71	GMG3 (ASRC	LS112233@aol.com
Sinks	Fred E.	56-61	MMCM	Seamrny@aol.com
Stone	Stephen	68-70	BT2	sstcne@webtu.net
Stoner	Roy R.	69-72		rstoner@mailhub.exis.net
Swinger USN Ret.	Alan	66-68	Lt(jg)	JNSB89A@prodigy.com
Thomsen	Earl A.	45-46	S2	eatlot@together.net
Turner	Daryl M.	48-52	RD1	dtuner@thegrid.net
Vrba	David L.	69-72	EM 2/c	dave_vrba@mail.sel.sony.c
Whitten USNR Ret	Robert	50-52	LT. jg	rwhitten@pacbell.net
Wood	Jim	71-73		jwocd1050@aol.com
Zanni	Michael A.	63-66	BT3	Zanni3@aol.com



(l to r) Fred E. Sinks (56-61) FN, J. H. Jasper, A. E. Hart taken at the E.M. Club in Sasebo Japan, March 1958.
(photo sent in by Fred Sinks)

AUSTRALIA INCIDENT

Our web page can be accessed from computers all over the world. Such was the cases recently when a gentleman from Australia, by the name of Andrew Seabrook, contacted WD Minter.

Andrew wrote that " his wife is interested in tracing one of the sailors who came out to Australia in 1959. He became a good friend of her mother. We believe that he died in 1960 or 61. The only name we have on the photo's is "Gil" and he seems to have been a Lieutenant."

Andrew sent pictures taken aboard Ozbourn in May of 1959, to try and identify the former crewman. His information was that the Gil had died and he wanted to check this out.

Your Editor got involved and suggested to WD Minter that he contact Capt. Thad Harden who was a Lieutenant aboard the Ozbourn during the dates in question. Thad reviewed the pictures send by Email and was pretty sure one of the officers in the picture was himself. Thad also thought the shipmate in question was not from the Ozbourn but probably from one of the other destroyers in the division (Frank Knox, Arnold Isbell or Hollister) tied up alongside Ozbourn when the pictures were take. Thad also determined from the ribbons on Gil's chest that he had been an enlisted man prior to his commission.

Thad's wife, after a trip abroad, came home and decided to clean out her front hall closet. In doing so she uncovered some old pictures of Thad during his Ozbourn days. Thad looked them over and discovered some pictures taken in Australia. One photo was taken from the bridge down to to dock. There in the picture, on the dock, was Andrew's mother-in-law , as determined by Thad from his correspondence with Andrew.

All the correspondence and pictures were passed around using Email. Thad gave Andrew all the information he could.

WD Minter was going to try and find out any information he could from the other ships Associations.

A strange tale made possible through modern electronic communications.

Update to Australia Incident:

WD Minter has written the USS Hollister and USS Frank Knox associations and sent them pictures of Gil and asked them to post them at their next reunion for identification. Both associations have reunions in October 1998. WD sent an Email to Andrew in Australia notifying him of the above action.

ANNUAL DUES ANNOUNCEMENT

This is it ! This is no drill. Action starboard the surface target is Treasurer Paul Hecht's Association Dues Account. This is what you all have been waiting for - - - - our new DUES procedure is in effect. This will be the **last notice** before the January 1, 1999 deadline to get your dues in on time and before the holiday rush. It is rumored that Paul has added extra "accounts receivable" clerks to handle the rush. This will be your last dues payment this century. Be the first in your state to get it paid.

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.**

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

Each year 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.

YOUR ARTICLE !!

As you can see from the articles in *Fireball!* it mainly consists of information and articles sent in by shipmates. We have had a very good response in this area but there must be numerous other stories and adventures we have not received.

If you could reach back in your memory or Ozbourn records there must be some interesting information you could pass on to other shipmates. A liberty experience, an encounter on board, a kind act by a fellow shipmate, just send it in. It can be in outline form and our editors can put the rest of the *spin* on to it.

Isn't it time you got your story in print!!

LIST OF EMAIL CLUB

Bill Jones (51-52), RD3 , has agreed to take over the record keeping for the Email club. Bill has been very helpful as a member of the Search Committee and should prove an able administrator of this important function. A list of the Ozbourn Email Club members and address is contained elsewhere in this edition.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The "Search Committee" is on the move again starting to research shipmates aboard during 1946, 47, & 48.

WD Minter, Jim Michaels, Bill Jones , Kent Curl, Dick Clark and Thad Harden are in the process of sending out post cards to prospective shipmates they are uncovering. In the months ahead the "Committee" will be researching 1949-1952 shipmates. Note their results on page 2.

OZBOURN INTERNET HOME PAGE

Check out the new additions to our web page. A guest book has been added along with some new Ozbourn photo's. A credit to the great efforts of WD Minter.

OZBOURN INTERNET CLUB

Join our Internet Email Club. Send your Email address to Bill Jones at:

We presently have over 50 members. If you change your Email address - Let us know. Keep up to date in between newsletters.

CRUISE BOOKS

Interest is increasing in former "cruise books." If you have one that can be copied or if you are interested in getting a copy of a 'lost' cruise book, please contact the Editor of the *Fireball!* Some shipmates may be reluctant to let their 'cruise book' out of their possession , with good reason. These shipmates could probably take orders and have them duplicated at cost.

