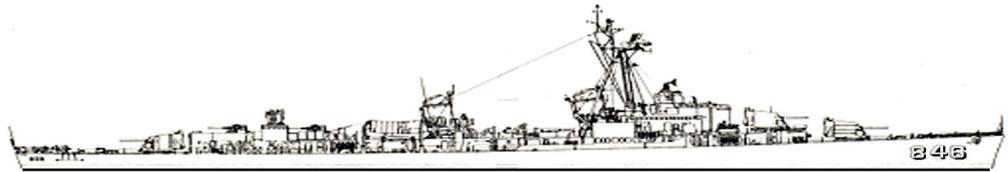




Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn  
Tinian, Marianas Islands  
28 July 1944

# ***FIREBALL!***

VOLUME 23, NO. 2  
Spring 2014



**The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn (DD 846) Association**  
Dedicated to perpetuating the memory of a gallant Marine and the history of a fine ship  
Visit our website at [www.ozbourn.org](http://www.ozbourn.org)

## **FROM THE BRIDGE**



### **Greetings to All Shipmates,**

Hope all are doing well.

At our last reunion in September 2013, we were graced by the presence of several new shipmates that were able to attend. It seems as though every time new shipmates are able to attend our reunions it gives me chills. I guess that's why we have these reunions.

I believe we should call them "Family Reunions" because that is what they are to Sallae and I. I hope it's the same with all in attendance. Where else can you go and have so much fun, tell so many sea stories, remembering the good and bad times that we all shared together on the "OZ."

Please plan to attend the next (Family) reunion in 2015, somewhere in the U.S. I for one can hardly wait.

To all shipmates and families, God Bless and good health to all. Hugs and handshakes to all.

Don't forget to hug a veteran or service member today.

Guy Posey MM3 (69-71)  
President  
USS Ozbourn DD846 Association

## **2013 REUNION SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**



Shipmate and Official Reunion Photographer John Montoya RD3 (64-67), conducting a pre-flight check at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.



Al Holmes ET2 (52-54), enjoys the reunion with daughters Diane Holmes and Linda Passarella. Thanks ladies for escorting your Dad, all the way from N.Y.



The always smiling Shipmate and Officers Call Coordinator Reed Jones LTjg (65-67).  
*(Thank you Reed for all of your hard work.)*

## 2015 Biennial Reunion

*Jeff Parker, Editor*

As Guy Posey, our Association President stated in his "From the Bridge" article on Page-1, our reunions are truly a great deal of fun as well as time to catch up with old friends and shipmates. All one needs to do is to view just a few of the photographs that have been published in our Winter 2014 and Spring 2014 issues of the "Fireball newsletter to get a very good idea what it is like when attending our reunions. Clearly, it is a family event and the Association Officers are very grateful for family members that attend and escort those shipmates that may require a little assistance.

We are also very pleased with the number of shipmates who are able to attend the reunions. Clearly, the motto, "**Sailors Once, Shipmates Forever,**" rings very true.

The planning for the **2015 Biennial Reunion**, to be held at a location, yet to be determined, in the center of country, is well underway under the direction of the **2015 Reunion Committee, Guy Posey, Mike Ward and Harold "Mac" McKeehan.**

The 2015 Reunion Committee has remained very busy since taking on the task of organizing our 2015 Reunion. Various locations throughout the central part of the U.S., from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes have been contacted and site visits are in the planning stage. Clearly, the planning and execution of any reunion can be complex and a great deal of work. We of course wish to thank Guy Posey, Mike Ward and Harold "Mac" McKeehan, for their hard work and dedication to duty.

*(Please watch for 2015 Reunion updates in future editions of the "Fireball.)*

## NEWS FROM THE FLEET



### USS ZUMWALT DDG-1000

The newest of a long line of Destroyers, USS Zumwalt DDG-1000, built at the Bath Iron Works, launched on October 28, 2013 and is expected to be commissioned in 2015. The Zumwalt Class Guided Missile Destroyer represents the next-generation multi-mission destroyer technology for the US Navy.

*(Editors Opinion: I humbly submit, that the grand old "OZ" was truly a more beautiful ship in all of her glory.*

***Fireball Spring 2014***

### Officers of the Association

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#### Past Presidents

Years served aboard ship/Assoc. Pres.  
**Robert Whitten, Jr. (50-52)/(93-99)**  
Cupertino, CA  
**W.D. Minter (52-55)/(99-03)**  
Texarkana, TX  
**Rudy Boff (52-55)/(03-07)**  
Pittsburgh, PA

### PUBLICATION DEADLINE

If you have a letter, story or photo you would like to share with other Ozbourn shipmates, the deadline for submitting contributions for the **Summer 2014** issue is **June 15th**. Articles may be rewritten for purposes of editorial style. Due to space limitations, some materials may be used in a future **Fireball** edition.



## MAIL CALL

The following letters and e-mails were received by your Association Officers during the last quarter.

### TO ALL HANDS

*Jeff Parker, Editor*

The following was received from shipmate and long time contributor to the "Fireball" **John Crowley**, FTG-2, (62-65), advising of just one more past "OZ" sailor who truly excelled.

Our well done goes out to **Rear Admiral Clyde Marsh, USN, (Ret.)** who had served aboard the "OZ" as a brand new Ensign and assumed the role as Gunnery Officer from (74-75).

Upon retiring from the Navy after an outstanding 31 year career, Rear Admiral Marsh assumed the role as State Commissioner and Director of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs.

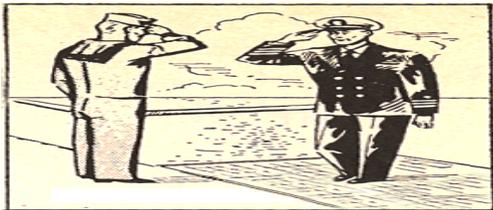
We are all very proud of our shipmate's accomplishments to say the least.

*Editors Note: Those wishing additional information regarding Admiral Marsh can query the Alabama Veterans Affairs website.*

We are grateful to receive information from **Bill Thomas**, FN, (70-72), regarding "OZ" shipmate and good friend **Larry Greenfelder**, MM3, (70-74), and his best friend "**BOOBOO**", his 106 pound black Lab. Recently Larry and "BOOBOO" found themselves in the offices of Couer d'Alene Veterinarian Dr. Bruce King for a complementary visit offered to veterans with pets. It is truly great to hear that there are those in the community willing to assist our well deserving veterans like Larry. God Bless Larry.....

## DUES INCREASE

An important reminder to all Ozbourn Shipmates wishing to renew their Association Dues. During the 2013 Business Meeting in San Diego, it was suggested that the **Annual Dues** be increased from **\$10.00 to \$15.00 Annually**. The dues increase was approved by the majority.



### WELCOME ABOARD

Welcome aboard to the below listed shipmates. The USS Ozbourn Association officers and members hope that you will become involved in the planned activities.

Although there are no new members to introduce, I have often wondered why this section of the "Fireball" is so very important. I soon realized as in the case of Pearl Harbor Survivors ranks becoming fewer and fewer, we also will become lack of any better term, "fewer", as time passes.

Clearly, the importance of seeking out past shipmates for induction into our membership roles should be the responsibility of every member.

Please put your recruiter hat on and seek out old shipmates for membership into our great Association.



### TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

#### "SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

The Association is saddened to report the passing of the following long time Friends, Members and Shipmates.



**Commander David Warren Berger**  
Commanding Officer (63-64)

**Dale Jones** (*Dates of service unknown*)

*"May fair winds and calm seas be with you always"*

## GQ ON NOVEMBER TWENTY-TWO

Submitted by Rick Johnson

### NOVEMBER 22, 2013

This article is being written on the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I kept a personal log of the time I spent while on active duty. I look back and wonder if some of the historic events that occurred during my active duty time would eventually lead up to the assassination of the 35th President of the United States.

The dates in this article are from my own personal *log book*. My nearly four years of active duty time started on September 12, 1960 and ended on August 28, 1964 with a two-week early release so I could start college.

### THE TIME-LINE

#### APRIL 1961

With a little more than seven months in the Navy, it was time for me to move on to my next duty station. On **April 14**, I left the USS Bon Homme Richard (CVA 31) in San Diego and headed north to San Francisco. On **April 15**, I reported for duty at Radarman Class "A" School on Treasure Island which was located in the middle of San Francisco Bay.

Two days later, on **April 17**, approximately 1,400 Cuban exiles landed at the Bay of Pigs in southern Cuba. The U.S. (CIA)-backed invasion failed and Cuba's leader, General Fidel Castro, was worried that the Americans might attack the island nation at any time. It was during this time that communist Cuba made an alliance with the Soviet Union.

#### OCTOBER 1962

The USS Ozbourn pulled into Kao Hsuing, Formosa (Taiwan today) at 0700 on **October 22**. The entire Navy received word about the Cuban Missile Crisis. WE were placed on high alert when in port while ships at sea went to **General Quarters**.

There was a ship's zone inspection held on **October 25**. Everything had to be in tip-top shape which was hard to do when the ship spent about ninety percent of the time at sea. The ship was patrolling the Formosa Straits from **October 26** through **October 31**. During this period at sea, the Ozbourn was at **general quarters** the entire time until the Cuban Missile Crisis was over.

#### MARCH 1963

At 2400 on **March 13** the ship crossed the International Date Line making it 0001 **March 15**. It seemed as if we lost two days with on stroke of the ship's clock.

The Ozbourn was informed that the ship was to escort the USS Constellation (CV 64) to Japan. The ship was to act as plane guard, protecting the giant carrier from enemy attack. In other words, the Ozbourn was to "take the bullet" for the Flaming Lady, so named for all of the times the Constellation caught fire.

On **March 16**, the pieces to the mystery puzzle were starting to fall into place. The convoy was being followed by a submarine of unknown national origin. The Ozbourn's CIC crew thought it might be a Soviet boat.

The ship's screw-beat "noise" (the sound made by the noise of both screws churning in the water) masks the sound of a submarine if the sub is following directly aft of the ship. The ship's sonar can't detect a sub 30 degrees on either side of its screws for a total of 60 degrees.

The only way to determine if there is a sub shadowing a ship is to run what is called a zigzag maneuver. The ship plots a main course, say 090, then changes course alternating between 050 and 130, keeping the main course 090. Once the ship passes beyond the 30 degree "baffle" on each side of the main course, the ship's sonar is then able to pick up the following submarine. The Ozbourn detected a submarine following the convoy.

Even though it was never revealed to us, the CIC crew believed that the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was heating up. Suspicions were confirmed when a Russian Bear Bomber, loaded with electronic eavesdropping equipment, buzzed the U.S. Navy convoy.

*(Continued on Page-5)*

*Fireball Spring 2014*

## MARCH 1963 (Continued)

It was an easy call to make on two accounts — typically Soviet bombers were never seen this far out to sea, and the bulbous nose of the aircraft was probably equipped with a very sophisticated camera which was taking pictures of our convoy.

The Ozbourn's captain, CDR Lancaster, knew that I had an 8 mm movie camera so he told me to take movies of the aircraft as it flew by. The plane flew close enough to the Ozbourn you could see the expression on the pilot's face. My film was forwarded to the Pacific Fleet Commander in Hawaii for evaluation.

My personal ship's log doesn't reference the Ozbourn going to **general quarters** during this Soviet sub/Bear Bomber incident; however, I'm certain we were on high alert.

On **March 18**, the Ozbourn pulled away from the USS Constellation and headed for Yokosuka, Japan. The CIC crew never knew why we broke away from the convoy two days from our assigned destination. With hindsight being the way it is, it's possible that the USS Constellation was headed for secret ops off the coast of Vietnam.

## NOVEMBER 1963

The Ozbourn was at sea south and west of Santa Catalina Island, California on **November 22** when the ship's general quarters alarm started gonging. This would not normally be unusual except when the words "general quarters, general quarters, this is not a drill, this is not a drill, all hands man your battle stations, now, now, now!"

The urgency of the boatswain mate's crackling voice and the ship's raging horn did not go unheeded. In what could be described as synchronized chaos, the ship's crew, bull-charged through passageways, up and down ladders, and toward their appointed battle stations. A few of the men reached their battle stations half-naked but ready to fight.

The captain ordered Condition-1 to be set throughout the ship, the highest condition of readiness a Navy man-o-war could be under. In today's military terminology, Condition-1 is now called DEFCON-1 (defensive condition) or the highest state of readiness.

All of the ships in the U.S. Navy received an emergency message from Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated at 12:30 p.m. CST while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, Texas. The president died at a Dallas hospital at 1:00 p.m. CST while a team of physicians attempted to save his life.

It was not immediately known who the assailant or assailants were. There was a belief that the assassination of President Kennedy was a plot by the Soviet Union to start WW III. The USSR was the arch enemy of America. The Kennedy's, President John Kennedy and his brother Bobby, who was the US Attorney General at the time, did not endear themselves to the Soviets or Cubans with the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Blockade incidents.

Most Americans who were not alive during the 1950s and the 1960s don't realize that communism posed a very real threat to the existence to the west in general and to the United States in particular. The above listed incidents makes one pause and wonder if Lee Harvey Oswald was a trained enemy agent by the USSR or just a stooge that was manipulated by the communists? (*View the actual message sent by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara on Page-6*)

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### **LOOKING INTO THE MIRROR**

*Jeff Parker, Editor*

As I have indicated in past editions of the "Fireball", as the Editor, I recognize the importance of my role in publishing factual, sometimes sad as well as humorous information that is important if not interesting to the entire membership. I am extremely grateful to all of the members that have provided me with the material that can be critical to the entire ships company. Please keep those articles coming. However; sometimes I will get on my "Soap Box". This is one of those times.

As to the title of this very quick note. I was recently scanning some old Navy photos not only from my time on the "OZ" (70-74), but also the previous years when many of the members of our great Association served in the world's greatest Navy. **Looking into my mirror**, I realized that the aging gray haired reflection that I was observing was at one time the very young teenage sailor of the United States Navy proudly assigned to a great ship, the USS OZBOURN DD846. My wish is that each day, all members and old shipmates, take a moment, look into your mirror and be very proud of what you all have accomplished. I for one, am so very proud to be associated with all of you. My special thanks goes out to **MMCM Philip Roberts, USN (Ret.)**, for always being there.

***Fireball, Spring 2014***

NAVAL MESSAGE		OFFNAV FORM 2110-28 (REV. 3-63)		RELEASED BY		DRAFTED BY		PHONE EXT. NR.		PAGE		PAGES	
DATE		TOR/TOD		ROUTED BY		CHECKED BY							
23 NOV 1963		1645Z		JR		JR							
MESSAGE NR		DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)		PRECEDENCE		FLASH		EMERGENCY		OPERATION IMMEDIATE		DEFERRED	
459		231454Z /43		ACTION						XXXX			
INFO													

4 FM: SECNAV TO: ALNAV 43

UNCLAS

THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT S. MCNAMARA. QUOTE. ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES I HAVE THE SAD DUTY OF ANNOUNCING TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES THE DEATH OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO WAS THE VICTIM OF AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22. THE WORLD HAS LOST A GALLANT SPIRIT WHOSE CHAMPIONSHIP OF FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY HISTORY. ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, WHOSE WELFARE WAS HIS CONSTANT CONCERN, CAN PAY NO BETTER TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY THAN TO CARRY ON IN THE TRADITION WHICH HE SHARED AND OF WHICH HE WAS SO PROUD. COLORS SHALL BE DISPLAYED AT HALF MAST FOR 30 DAYS, BEGINNING NOVEMBER 22 WEST LONGITUDE DATE. THE SERVICES SHALL CARRY OUT SUCH OTHER OBSERVANCES AS THEIR REGULATIONS PROVIDE. ROBERT S. MCNAMARA, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. UNQUOTE.

NOTE: THIS MSG ROUTED IN ROUGH TO COMM, CDO, OOD, SIG, QMS

DISTRIBUTION (PAGE ONE ONLY)

CO \_\_\_ XO \_\_\_ OPS (A) COMM \_\_\_ CDO \_\_\_ OOD \_\_\_ SIGS \_\_\_ QMS \_\_\_ 1ST LT \_\_\_

UNCLASSIFIED

DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT): 231454Z NOV 1963



**SKIPPER IN THE SPOTLIGHT**  
**COMMANDER Rodney L. Stewart USN**  
**Commanding Officer, USS Ozbourn (68-70)**  
 Submitted by John M. Crowley FTG-2 (62-65)

Commander Rodney L. Stewart was born 8 August 1928 in Albuquerque, New Mexico and attended school in Albuquerque. In 1946 he was appointed Midshipman in the Regular NROTC Program and he attended the University New Mexico. He was commissioned as Ensign, USN, in February 1951 and reported for duty to the USS Los Angeles (CA-135) where he spent an eight month tour in Korean waters. His next duty station was the San Diego based destroyer USS ERBEN (DD-631). Following two years in ERBEN, including two tours in Korean waters, CDR Stewart was assigned as Navigator of USS BAYFIELD (APA-33) for two years.

In 1956 CDR Stewart was assigned duty with the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Japan, working with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force as an instructor in anti-submarine warfare.

In 1959 he became the Executive Officer of the USS PICKET (AGR-7) operating out of San Francisco under the North American Air Defense Command.

CDR Stewart's next assignment was as Undersea Warfare Planner on NATO Staff of Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Northern Europe in Oslo, Norway. After this two year assignment, he reported as Executive Officer of the USS SALAMONIE (AO-26) homeported in Newport, R.I. and later to the USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DD-823) in the same homeport. After five tours in the Western Pacific and two in the Mediterranean he saw his first U.S. shore duty with Operations Directorate of the Organization of Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1965 and was promoted to Commander in April 1966. In 1967 CDR Stewart was selected for attendance at the United Kingdom Joint Services Staff College near London as one of five US Representatives.

On 11 September 1968, he relieved CDR John G. Denham as Commanding Officer, USS OZBOURN (DD-846) at Long Beach, California. CDR Stewart departed OZBOURN in July, 1970.

**USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE**  
*Open 24 Hours, 7 Days a Week — Rudy Boff, Proprietor*



Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozboourn Web site at [www.ozboourn.org](http://www.ozboourn.org) under the heading Ship's Store. Orders may be placed with:  
 Rudy Boff — 1036 Connor Road  
 Pittsburgh, PA  
 15234-1033  
 Tel: (412) 833-0572  
 New email: [boffrudy@verizon.net](mailto:boffrudy@verizon.net)



**CAP** cotton twill Navy blue, brilliant gold letters & destroyer silhouette. 1 size fits all.  
 Item # C01, \$14 ea.  
 Embroidery on back:  
 Korea, #C01K \$16 ea.  
 Vietnam, #C01V \$16 ea.



**AUBURN COACH'S JACKET** Navy Blue, 100% nylon shell with fleece lining, six matching metal snaps, profile of the ship in silver thread and lettering in gold. \$45 ea.  
 Item# J01



Logo detail



**PATCH** fabric, \$6 ea.  
 Original design, Item #P01  
 Revised design, Item #P02



**Can holder** made of foam. Navy blue body with white base. USS Ozboourn logo in white. \$3.00 ea. or two for \$5.00. Item# K01



**FRAME**, license plate  
 Item# F01 \$5 ea.

**SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS**

The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address at left.

- Micro-fiber Jacket, fleece lined-water repellent \$95
- Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, White or Navy Blue \$40
- Golf shirts, White or Navy Blue \$35

All items have ship's name and hull number embroidered in gold letters.

“Add \$5.00 for size 2XL”

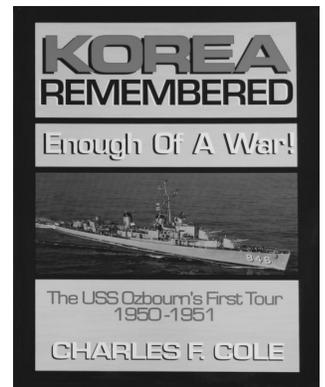


**T-shirt** short sleeve Navy & white with embroidered logo left side. \$25 ea. Item# T01  
 Long sleeve \$35 ea. Item# T02



Logo detail

The book *Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!, the USS Ozboourn's First Tour, 1950-1951*, is a first-hand account by shipmate Charles F. Cole, as the war “sandwiched between WW II and the War in Vietnam.”  
 Cole's historic account was first published in 1995, just in time for the dedication of the Korean War Memorial, which is near the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.

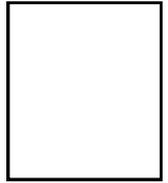


**“Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!,  
 The USS Ozboourn's First Tour, 1950-1951  
 By Charles F. Cole  
 \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping & handling**

DVD used in Memorial Service in San Diego listing names of shipmates that have passed away. \$15.00

<u>COST OF ITEM</u>	<u>COST OF POSTAGE</u>
\$0.01-15.00	\$3.00
15.01-25.00	4.00
25.01-35.00	5.00
35.01-45.00	7.00
45.01-55.00	8.00
55.01-65.00	10.00
65.01 or more	11.00

Jeffrey Parker  
1036 Calle Venezia  
San Clemente, CA 92672



Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn  
USMC  
Congressional Medal of Honor

## **FIREBALL! The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn Association**

### **DUES ALERT!**

Are you overdue on your dues? Only dues-paying members receive the *Fireball* newsletter. Look at the mailing label on your most recent newsletter and find a number such as 13 or 14. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 13 means 2013, 14 means 2014, etc.

Membership dues are \$15.00 annually and are due in January of each year. Please make checks out to the USS OZBOURN Association and forward them to Philip Roberts, Association Treasurer, at 2608 Bentwood Drive, Palestine, TX 75803.

Your Association officers ask you to...

**DO THE DUES TODAY!**

**We're on the Web at  
[www.ozbourn.org](http://www.ozbourn.org)**

The following information can be found on the Association's Web site: Mission statement, complete history, current and past newsletters, a list of Ozbourn shipmates, historical photographs, the ship's store for ordering Ozbourn memorabilia, how to join, and special links.

### **SHIP AWARDS RECEIVED BY THE USS OZBOURN**

- Combat Action Ribbon
- Navy Unit Commendation
- Meritorious Service Medal
- China Service Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Navy Occupation Service Medal w/Asia Clasp
- National Defense Service Medal w/bronze Star
- Korean Service Medal w/5 Bronze Stars
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal w/2 Bronze Stars
- Vietnam Service Medal w/2 Silver Stars
- Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross Color with Palm)
- United Nations Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal