



Fireball!

USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 3, No. 4

October 1994

The President's Report

FROM THE BRIDGE

Great news! We have a site for the next reunion—Norfolk, Virginia at the Quality Inn, Lake Wright Resort and Convention Center, tentative dates October 28th to November 1st 1995. Further details will be published in future issues of Fireball! We plan to sponsor tours to the Norfolk Naval base, probably Williamsburg or Jamestown/Yorktown, and MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk. Paul Hecht and Paul Logan as well as our reunion advisor Charlie Akers were very helpful in the site selection process.

Some months ago I submitted the Tvede rescue story (Fireball, July 1993) to Graybeards, the quarterly publication of the Korean War Veterans Association, and the new editor has agreed to publish it. I think it will make an excellent story for that magazine. Hats off to Ralph Tvede for providing it to us last year. Sally and I returned last week from the Navy League annual convention in San Diego, visiting Charlie and Becky Akers on the way down (they live in Huntington Beach, CA.), and Bill and Tut Fargo in Coronado. We had a great time reminiscing experiences on board the "OZ". A theme that I kept hearing over and over at the Convention was the drastic reduction in our sea services while they are asked to more (with less, of course!). The sea services are not alone - - the Army and Air Force have been taking severe cuts as well. I urge those of our members who agree with me to strongly urge their representatives in the Congress to either restore some of the lost funding or cut some of our overseas commitments. The strain on the people and equipment is just getting too great.

- - Bob Whitten, President

E-Mail can be sent to the Editor through Compuserve.
Address: 75107,2754 (Paul G. Logan)

HISTORY OF USS OZBOURN

Excerpts from Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships Vol. V 1970.

The USS Ozborn (DD 846), a Gearing Class Destroyer was laid down by the Bath Iron Works, 16 June 1945; launched 22 December 1945; sponsored by Mrs. Joseph W. Ozborn; commissioned 5 March 1946, Cmdr. Bernard A. Smith in Command.

Following shakedown, Ozborn reported for duty with the US Pacific Fleet at San Diego in August 1946. She departed San Diego 6 January 1947 with Des Div. 171 for the Far East; returned to San Diego in October; began her next deployment 1 October 1948, shortened by a collision with Theodore E. Chandler (DD-717).

Although two crew members were killed, damage control parties saved the ship and she returned to Long Beach Naval Shipyard for repairs. During 1949 and early 1950, Ozborn trained midshipmen, underwent and participated in various exercises, one of which was the first guided missile test at sea conducted with Norton Sound (AVM-1).

When hostilities began in Korea,
(continued on page 4)

1995 Reunion.

Norfolk, Virginia

Final arrangements have been made by Bob Whitten with the Armed Forces Reunions for our next reunion at the: Quality Inn,
Lake Wright Resort and Convention Center
October 28 to November 1, 1995
First arrivals Saturday afternoon October 28
Departures Wednesday morning November 1

More information to follow in next newsletter.

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

Editorial Office:

165 Pilgrim Road

Braintree, MA. 02184

Tel. 617- 843- 4713

Fireball! published quarterly

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

1970-1974 ???

1974-1975 CDR Frank Fortado

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

Note from Paul Hecht on OZBOURN 1993 Reunion tape.

It is ready for issue at a price of \$15.00 (including postage and handling charges). This edition includes the 46/47 film. Send your checks to:
Paul Hecht, P.O. Box 3534
Portsmouth, VA. 23701

DO YOU REMEMBER ???

Herbert Sturm, CSC, (60-64) remembers: Ripping a large split in the port bow when we lost power while refueling from the carrier in Dec. 60; Knocking the starboard screw guard off when we hit the LST while leaving San Diego for Bremerton; Hitting the pier when we were docking in Bremerton and knocking the steam and water lines off the dock. Herb was aboard all the time the Ozbourn was going through FRAM II. Herb is a retired Transportation Specialist.

Tom Perkins, FC1/c, (50-53) remembers: Escorting USS Norton Sound during missile operations early 1950; Cold weather during operations N.E. coast of Korea 50-51; Rescue of crewmen from USS Boxer who abandoned ship during hanger deck fire Aug. 1952. CDR Perkins retired after 29 years service with the Navy and retired again as an engineer from Lockheed Missile & Space Co.

Morris Gene "Mhoire" McIntosh, S1/c, F2/c, (46 plank owner) remembers his first liberty in Gitmo City. Great gals there. Mhoire says he lost a little piece of fruit in Gitmo. He is a Finance Company Director-Manager & Organic Farmer.

John Barber, GM2/c, (51-54) Remembers: As the helmsman on special sea detail, coming into Pearl Harbor and ramming the pier.

Raymond Lopez, Rdm3/c-Rd2/c (46-49 Plank owner): Wild liberties in "Cainmaneras, Cuba", the "ferro carril", (trains) trying to bring back all kinds of animals to the ship and having the "Federales" stop the train, confiscate all the animals and fined and charged us for damages. Ray is now a retired Commercial Banker.

FIREBALL TRIVIA

Jackson R. Tyree reports of another movie star aboard the "OZ" by the name of Nick Adams. He was in the deck force and starred in the TV series "Johnny Yuma" and he also played in "Mr. Roberts".

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. I ordered one for my brother who served on the USS San Jacinto with Pres. George Bush. 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, I know, are a great door opener to former sailors (see Editorial).

You can call or write the Company: Artistic, 17197-J Newhope St., Fountain Valley, CA. 92708. Tel. 714-540-9970

I took one of my grandsons (Robert Logan McCarthy), to the old Boston Navy Yard this past summer to visit the oldest Navel ship in commission, the USS Constitution. Old Ironsides is in dry dock for a major overhaul until 1995. She is being checked and repaired from top to bottom and will be good as new when she leaves drydock.

Tied up behind the Constitution is the USS Cassin Young (DD 793), an old Fletcher Class Destroyer. The Young had an impressive battle record in WWII and was hit twice by Japanese planes. The Young is tied up to the old pier one, the same pier where the Ozbourn was tied up during her stay in Boston and the one she was commissioned at.

I took my grandson aboard the Young, which is now controlled by the US Park Rangers, and he had a great time with all kinds of questions. As we neared the end of the standard tour, one of the old navy volunteers aboard spotted my Ozbourn cap. He said were you on that ship and I replied I was. He said you bring your grandson over to that ladder and I'll take him on a good tour. He took us to the bridge, the Captain's Sea cabin, the gun decks (he had my grandson operating the 40mm's), he took us below to the crews quarters, the upper 5" handling rooms, the ships store where I purchased a Cassin Young cap for my grandson. What a great tour and great day for my grandson and we owe it all to my Ozbourn cap. While talking to this "old salt" I discovered he came from the same part of Boston as myself and we went to the same schools.

I have been stopped by numerous former Navy people because of my hat. Well worth the money. Have you ordered one?

JUST A BOWL OF RICE

Late Sept 1972, while on my third WESPAC cruise on the "OZ", we had just shifted stations to take position at HonLai to operate as "Linebacker" again. We came across tons of rice floating in the sea. All of the rice was wrapped in burlap-leaves-plastic etc. to keep it dry. The reason the rice was there was Hiaphong Harbor was mined. All the harbors were mined to keep the enemy from getting food in by boat.

The tide brought this tonage of rice back out to sea instead of going ashore. Well the 'Old Man' got an M1 and started popping holes in the rice bags to ruin it. Then the GM's got in to the action with the 30's and 50's. Bullets were flying all over the place popping holes in the rice bags. I bet the entire crew got to shoot some kind of firearm that day. BAR's-45's-M1's- you name it on this 30 day of Sept 1972.

David L. Vrba (69-72)

MISSING SHIPMATES

In our last issue of the "Fireball" we posted some information on Bill Cardoza, SF1/c whowas a "plank owner".

I received a call from his brother Frank telling me that Rich LaFond (46-48) and Bill Rydell had contacted him about Bill. Rich LaFond came down from NH to visit with Frank and Bill. They had a great visit, exchanged pictures and called Bill Rydell during the visit.

Bill Cardoza is living in a VA sponsored private residence and doing well. If you care to drop him a line his address is 16 John Berman Dr., Brocton, MA. 02401. Phone 508-587-2380

Frank Cardoza sent me a check to reinstatehis brother Bill back on our "Fireball" mailing list.

We Wish Bill good health and hope this column can repeat this "Missing Shipmate" story.

THANKS FOR THE RESPONSE

Written response to the "FIREBALL" has been great. Keep it coming. We had more than enough articles & pictures for this edition and will start on our January issue. For those who have not written, look over your files - - - check your log books - - - - check your old photo albums - - -jog your memory and share your "Ozbourn Days" with your former shipmates. Then send your information to the Editor.

ANNUAL DUES IS DUE

Your association annual dues was due in July. If you have not already paid please send a check for \$10.00 to:

**PAUL HECHT
P.O. BOX 3534
PORTSMOUTH, VA. 23701**

THANKS

MAILBOX

Numerous shipmates have responded to our last "Fireball" Edition such as retired Capt. Jack Blonsick, from Coupeville, WA. Jack sold his home in Miami, and has built his dream home in the State of Washington. Jack had numerous suggestions on our reunion location and sent a rundown on his careers.

Morris Gene "Mhoire" McIntosh, former S1/c & F2/c (46 plank owner) writes from South Gundurimba, Australia. Mhoire, who has purchased a Navy Tartan Kilt & matching tie, has a picture I hope he will send. Mhoire, who has been elected Chief of the Clan Chattan-Australia, suggests Sydney Australia for reunion in 2000 when the Olympic games are there.

Paul H. Edwardson, BMC, (47-51) responded from Arroyo Grande, CA. Paul put his Navy experience to work in civilian life as a rigger.

Herbert D. Sturm, CSC, (60-64) wrote from his home in Santa Paula, CA. Herb included a couple of articles from the Bremerton paper about the Ozbourn which will be reported on later.

Jack Huppert, HM2/c, (53-54) wrote from Sarasota, FL. Jack retired, after 35 years, from a Federal Government position. Jack mentioned some experiences in Korea.

We also heard from: Tom Perkins FC1/c (50-53) from Port Orchard, Wa; John Barber GM2/c (51-54) from Arvada, Colo.; and Sal Bumbaca, BT3/c, (46-48) who is retired.

Raymond B Lopez Rdm3c/-Rd2/c, (46-49) wrote from Gridley CA. Ray is a retired Commercial Banker.

Bill Riedel, S1/c-F1/c-Eng. Yeoman 1/c, (46-47) wrote in from Little Ferry, NJ. Bill sent in some pictures and some info on his experiences aboard the "OZ". Bill is a sign painter and has owned Riedel Sign Co. since 1956.

Warren (Bob) Sheldon, RM 3/c, (46-47) from Akron, Ohio wrote about the rescue attempt of freighter off Formosa & rescue of Phillipine crew off Northern Japan. Bob is self employed selling hearing aids.

David L. Vierba, EM 2/c (69-72) sent in a change of address to Dublin, CA. Dave is a Sales Support Mgr with Sony

(cont. from page 1)

OZBOURN HISTORY (cont)

Ozbourn joined TF 77. She participated in the Inchon Landing and assisted with air operations off the Korean coast, twice receiving the Korean Presidential Citation for her efforts. In February 1951, despite receiving two direct hits and several near misses from enemy shore batteries the same day, Ozbourn sent her motor whale boat to rescue a downed pilot named Ralph Tvede (one of our honorary members) floating in an enemy mine field. After returning to San Diego for repairs and overhaul and a brief assignment with TF 95 in the Wonsan area, Ozbourn returned to TF 77 in July 1952. In short order she rescued 18 men who had jumped from Boxer (CVA-21) to avoid a menacing fire and picked up 3 downed airmen from Essex (CVA-9). During the next two years Ozbourn made regular tours with the 7th Fleet by training operations in the San Diego area.

From 1965 to 1964 Ozbourn underwent a major overhaul, engaged in intensive training exercises, participated in festivals and celebrations in several west coast cities and Australia, and operated periodically with the 7th Fleet. Having undergone FRAM Mark I conversion earlier, she joined TG 10 for a major Presidential Demonstration to display the power and versatility of ASW and AAW forces. From the deck of the "Kitty Hawk" (CVA-63), President Kennedy watched the Ozbourn's ASROC launching June 6, 1963.

Ozbourn sailed independently for Pearl Harbor 8 July 1964 to join Des Div 233 and ASW Group I for a six month Western Pacific deployment. From Yokosuka, Japan, ASW Group I sailed for the South China Sea after North Korean PT boats attacked American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. After providing ASW protection for TF 77 and after participating in a Naval weapon demonstration held by CinCPac, Ozbourn returned to Long Beach. Several months of maintenance, repairs and local training operations followed; then came deployment to the Western Pacific 20 August 1965. Attached to TG 77.6, Ozbourn provided gunfire support in the III and IV Corps areas of South Vietnam delivering tons of high explosives in covering fire. Eight crewmen were recommended for decorations during these actions.

LETTER FROM MAYOR OF HERRIN, IL

Below is a letter from Mayor Edward L. Quaglia in a response to association President Bob Whitten.



Marlene Simpson, *City Clerk*

Adrian Chamness
Victor Ritter
ALDERMEN WARD 1

Deon McGuire
Herman Garavalia
ALDERMEN WARD 2

CITY OF HERRIN
EDWARD QUAGLIA, MAYOR
300 N. PARK AVE • HERRIN, IL 62948
(618) 942-3175 Fax (618) 942-2296

Terry Hughes, *City Treasurer*

Harry Crompton
Lynn Frattini
ALDERMEN WARD 3

Robert Browning
Marilyn Ruppel
ALDERMEN WARD 4

July 20, 1994

USS Ozbourn (D0846) Association
Commander Robert C. Whitten, President
1117 Yorkshire Drive
Cupertino, Ca. 95014-4916

Dear Commander Whitten:

I received your letter of request in commemoration of Pvt. Ozbourn. The city would be happy to fly the flag at half-staff in his honor on July 30th.

The city and the local Veteran's organization have placed at our Doughboy Memorial a monument in honor of Pvt. Joseph Ozbourn. I am enclosing some photographs of same. They can be used by your organization for what ever purpose that you feel appropriate,

Our community is very proud of Private Ozbourn and we invite every one to see the stone in his honor when they visit our Doughboy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Edward L. Quaglia".

Edward L. Quaglia
Mayor

(cont. on Page 6)

OZBOURN HISTORY (Cont. from page 4)

In July 1966 Ozbourn began a two year tour of duty with the 7th Fleet as a member of DesRon 9. A great part of that time was spent on gunfire assignments supporting troops in the South Vietnam and interdicting enemy supply and communications routes in North Vietnam. She received direct hits from the enemy on 25 March and 4 December 1967 but continued her mission each time. For outstanding actions against the enemy and for excellent combat readiness, she received both the Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Battle Efficiency "E".

Ozbourn returned to Long Beach 6 September 1968 and remained there, with intermittent movements to Portland and San Diego for the next year. In September 1969 she deployed again to the WestPac where she operated with the 7th Fleet into 1970.

The Ozbourn was sold 1 December 1975 to General Metals, Tacoma, Washington for \$157,227.00. We would appreciate any major gaps in the above history. Please forward to the Editor.

WANTED

Shipmates from the following years are not very well represented in our files.
Please respond to the editor: 1970, 71, 72, 73, 74 and 75.

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