



Fireball!

USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 5 No. 4 October 1996

FROM THE BRIDGE

No more news on the reunion. I did receive a request to consider the Marriott Hotel on Harbor Drive in San Diego. Since I have already signed the contract with Armed Forces Reunions and they with the Handlery Hotel on Hotel Circle, it is too late to make any change there.

Thanks much to those shipmates who returned the ballots on the bylaw changes. The count was 63 in favor, 4 opposed and 2 abstained. I believe this count is sufficient for a quorum.

Don't forget that election of officers is scheduled for next year's reunion. I will have been at it for six years in October '97 and would like a relief. If any of our shipmates would like to be association president, please let me know. In any event, I won't go away in case my successor needs help!

Also don't forget the calculators. I still have over one hundred left.

While talking to former CO Bill Fargo I learned that his elder son, Tom Fargo, has not only been promoted, he is now a vice admiral and Commander Fifth Fleet in the Persian Gulf. Tom skipped two stars, going directly from one to three stars! A tip of the hat and congratulations to VADM Thomas B. Fargo, USN and also his proud mother and father, Tut and Bill.

Bob Whitten, President

OZBOURN POCKET CALCULATORS

Bob Whitten has ordered some pocket calculators (2-1/4" X 3-1/2") with the inscription "USS Ozbourne (DD-846) Shipmate" The cost is \$4.00 for the first one and \$3.00 for each additional calculator in the same mailing. They have a memory, perform square roots and percentages and usual arithmetic calculations. Great for yourself or as gifts. To order send check to: Bob Whitten, 1117 Yorkshire Drive, Cupertino, CA. 95014. Any profits will be deposited to the Association treasury.

FAMILY -GRAM

20 December 1970

On this date Commanding Officer E. W. Numbers* started to send "Family-Grams" to the families of the crew of the USS Ozbourne. These family-grams were designed to keep families up to date on their Ozbourne Man. CDR Numbers writes that the months of September, October, and November were busy times. Many long days and sleepless nights were spent getting the Ozbourne's equipment running smoothly and she sparkled from stem to stern. October was spent loading food and ammunition. Two weeks were spent alongside the repair ship Samuel Gompers (AD 37).

On October 28 Capt. James D. Butler was relieved as Commodore by Capt. Philip R. Bush. The Ozbourne served as flagship of Destroyer Division 92.

On November 10, new Squadron Commander Captain William Casper was present for ceremonies that included advancement in rating of crew members, and other recognitions. FTG2 Stephen Kume was presented "White Hat of the Year" award by Miss White Hat, Karen Kushwara.

On 13 November the Ozbourne departed Long Beach for a six month operational deployment to the Western Pacific. With the Ozbourne were ships of Destroyer Squadron Nine: Chandler; Dehaven; Hollister and Somers.

The Ozbourne made stops at Hawaii; Midway, Guam and the Subic Bay in the Philippines. Christmas was spent in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

The "Family-Gram" included many other details of the happenings to the Ozbourne crew during this period. A nice personal touch by the Captain to let the folks at home know that the whole Ozbourne crew was thinking of them. It also gave the families back home an idea of what their sailor was doing on a day-to-day basis.

** We found the name of our missing skipper.*

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

As the membership can see some good strides are being made in the direction of increasing our membership. The more we get involved the more avenues open up. Its a big job but it can be reduced by more members coming aboard and helping out. Search your records, ships books etc. to see if you can come up with the names of any crew members you served with. Their full name, including any middle initial, and a city or state they may be from would be very helpful.

More tools are becoming available, we just need a stronger effort by the membership to increase our ranks. The USS Purvis went from two members to over 1000. **Can't the Ozbourn do as good? ? ?**

Send your info to the Editor!

INTERNET

Visit Jon Griffin's "home page" at:
<http://www.eas.pdx.edu/~jgriffin/>

Jon has spent many hours developing this home page which gives all kinds of valuable information for Navy Vets.

It covers ship reunions, missing shipmates and numerous information resources on the US Navy. It covers numerous data on the National Archives and how to obtain information in their records. It includes "Navy OnLine" home page as well as other Navy related home pages.

Navy OnLine offers numerous data on US Navy including a library reference section and a "search" area for Navy info. If you have any question on the US Navy, visit this home page.

For Navy Vets this home page is a **"must see."**

FAMILY-GRAMS

During his tour of duty on the Ozbourn (7/70-6/74) Jeff Parker, from Los Angeles, wrote to tell us about his CO starting the practice of sending "Family-Grams" to the families of the crew to keep them informed and up to date on their Ozbourn man. He sent us some zerox copies which we will print excerpts from in this and future issues. Thanks Jeff!

MAIL BOX

Kent Curl checked into the "Fireball!" by E-mail. He joins our other members from cyberspace in the fast moving electronic communication world.

Kents E-mail address is: delcross@juno.com

"WD" minter (by E-Mail) reports a new shipmate found, Harry M. Perkinson, Jr., by his sister-in-law on the Association's "Internet" home page. The "home page" is working.

Former shipmate Harold Johnson wrote to tell us he has just retired from the US Army after 30 years. Harold is working as Building and Grounds Superintendent for Shipmate John Flemming. John bought a 120 acre resort and fishing camp on Lake Texoma on the borders of Oklahoma and Texas. They both suggested this resort for a mid country reunion. Information has been forwarded to Bob Whitten.

From a contact sent in by "WD" Minter copy of July 96 Fireball! was sent to Dennis Dow, President USS Purvis (DD 709) Association. Dennis called the Editor with the following suggestions:
Get yearly muster lists from National Archives. They run about \$30.00/year/list. They cover 1945 to 1969. Call Pro-CD in Massachusetts 1-800-992-3766 and get their CD of telephone numbers in US (77 million). Match muster lists with phone numbers to locate possible crew members. Send post card to prospective members. Have an association member in each state make telephone calls where needed. Some companies will donate telephone number CD's if you request same.

Check with former Naval Academy graduates in our association to check their alumni books for former crew members. Navy Finance Department will forward stamped letters to retired crew members. Call Norfolk Convention Bureau for assistance in reaching past crew members. Tin Can Sailors have list of crew members. Contact them. Dennis Dow, President USS Purvis Association, P.O. Box 39177, Philadelphia, PA. 19136 Phone 215-331-6307

THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE OZ

(continued from July 1996 Fireball!)

During the summer of 1957 the Ozbourn visited Portland, Oregon as a guest of the Portland Rose Festival. The ship then visited Seattle, Washington to take part in the Seattle Sea Fair.

Commander Toulon was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander Charles A. Kuhl in September 1957. On October 25 1957 the ship departed for Brisbane, Australia, for a seven day visit. The ship then went to Japan for duty with the Seventh Fleet. The Ozbourn returned to San Diego 23 April 1958. From April to June 1958 the Ozbourn operated locally in the San Diego area. In June the ship went to Mare Island Naval Shipyard for a three month extensive overhaul.

In September 1958 the ship returned to San Diego for Refresher Training. The ship left for the Western Pacific on December 17. While operating with the Seventh Fleet the Ozbourn participated in Exercise Seademan, an exercise conducted in April 1959 with members of all SEATO nations participating. Before returning to the United States the ship went southward to Australia to take part in the Coral Sea Celebration visiting Adelaide, Perth and Darwin, Australia. The Ozbourn returned to San Diego on 13 June 1959.

Commander Kuel was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander William W. Turner on July 1, 1959. The Ozbourn conducted local operations in the San Diego area from June 1959 until February 1960. On 23 September 1959 the Ozbourn was privileged to serve as the flagship for Rear Admiral Luis Gomez, Commander in Chief of the Navy of Ecuador while Destroyer Division 112 demonstrated anti-submarine warfare tactics.

In February 1960 the ship departed for duty and operated locally in the San Diego area. In August 1960 the Ozbourn trained NROTC students from various colleges throughout the country for four weeks. In October 1960 the ship visited San Francisco to participate in the Pacific Festival.

On March 2 1961 the Ozbourn entered Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington to undergo FRAM Mark I conversion. On 15 March 1961 Commander Turner was relieved as Commanding Officer by Lieutenant Commander Donald V. Gorman, the Executive Officer at the time. On 16 June Lieutenant Commander Gorman officially became the Commanding Officer. The first sea trials

for the newly converted ship were held on 6 and 7 November in the Straits of Juan de Fuca. The Post Repair Trials were held in the same area on 16 and 17 November.

On 2 December 1961 Lieutenant Commander Gorman was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander William W. Lancaster. Lieutenant Commander Gorman reverted to his former billet as Executive Officer. On 5 and 6 December the ship successfully completed her INSURV Trials. A final trial was held on 18 and 19 December, and the ship completed her conversion and was released from the shipyard as scheduled on 22 December. The ship remained in the Bremerton area after completion until the beginning of February for post FRAM availability to conduct tests and evaluations of the new equipment.

On February 9, 1962 the Ozbourn departed Bremerton for her new home port of Long Beach, CA, arriving on February 12. On February 20 the ship began Refresher Training in San Diego. The ship completed Refresher Training on April 7. The ship participated in the striking force exercise Pork Barrel off the southern coast of California from May 14-22.

The Ozbourn departed June 7, 1962 for duty with the seventh fleet in the Western Pacific. While in Hawaii the ship participated in the Amphibious Operation Flying Disk off the coast of Oahu from June 20-22. From October 11-14 while patrolling the Formosa Straights, the Ozbourn trained four Chinese Nationalists destroyers in Anti-submarine Warfare techniques. On November 19 while enroute to Sasebo, Japan the Ozbourn sighted a Japanese fishing boat in distress. The USS Hollister (DD 788), operating with the Ozbourn, towed the vessel safely into Sasebo, Japan. The Ozbourn arrived in Long Beach on December 21, 1962.

The Ozbourn operated locally in the Long Beach-San Diego area until March 1963 when she was given the special mission with the USS Small (DDR 838) to escort the USS Constellation (CVA 64) to duty in the western Pacific and to escort the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA 63) from Japan to the United States. The Ozbourn returned to Long Beach on April 6 1963.

The Ozbourn history will be continued in the next issue of the *Fireball!*

SECOND NOTICE !!

ANNUAL 1996 DUES IS DUE

Your 1996 annual association dues was due
July 1, 1996. Please send a check for \$10.00

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

Only dues paying members receive
regular issues of the *Fireball!*.

Members who have not paid 1996 dues
by December will be dropped from
Fireball! mailing list. Don't get caught

OZBOURN ASSOCIATION ON THE "NET"

The Association's "home page" on the INTERNET is
alive and well. It has been visited by prospective new
members and gives us a world wide forum to
communicate news of our association. If you don't
have access to a computer, check with your relatives
and friends and "look us up". Our Internet address is:
<http://darkstar.swsc.k12.ar.us/~wdminter/ozbourn.html>

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

USS OZBOURN (DD 846) Association

Officers:

President - Robert Whitten
Vice President - Curtis Anderson
Recording Secretary - Vacant
Corresponding Secretary - Paul
Logan
Treasurer - Paul Hecht
Fireball! Editor - Paul G. Logan
Advisor - Charles Akers
Historian - Fred Conwell

Editorial Office:

165 Pilgrim Road
Braintree, MA. 02184
Tel. 617- 843- 4713

INTERNET ADDRESS:

75107.2754@compuserve.com
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
1954-1955 CDR Howard Scott
1955-1957 CDR A.J. Toulon
1957-1959 CDR. Charles A. Kuhl
1959-1961 CDR William Turner
1961-1961 LCDR D.V. Gorman
(FRAM I) 3/61-12/61
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
1970-1972 CDR E.W. Numbers
1972-1974 CDR Ken Costilow
1974-1975 CDR Frank Furtado

USS Ozbourn home Page Address:

<http://darkstar.swsc.k12.ar.us/~wdminter/ozbourn.html>