



Fireball!

USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 6 No. 2 April 1997

REUNION INFORMATION EDITION

FROM THE BRIDGE

We Sent a query to a sampling of the membership regarding activities in San Diego. The harbor cruise came in first with a ship visit second and Tijuana and a City Tour tied for third (Wild Animal Park came in a distant fifth). Several shipmates suggested the zoo at Balboa Park. Unfortunately, that is not one of the activities offered through the Armed Forces Reunions but shipmates who wish can skip something else to go there if they wish. Failing the availability of a ship, we will do both Tijuana and the City Tour. Armed Forces Reunions is also checking on a USO-type show like the one we had in Norfolk. In view of its popularity there, we have decided to see what can be done in San Diego.

Hotel reservation forms appear elsewhere in this issue. Don't forget to make yours early. The dates are October 26th-29th (arriving San Diego on Saturday, the 25th).

I repeat my note in the last issue regarding elections of officers which is scheduled for the reunion. If any of our shipmates wish to hold an office: president, vice president, corresponding secretary, recording (membership) secretary, treasurer, please let me know right away. Don't be shy. And as for the presidency, I won't go away in case my successor needs help.

Again, thanks to "WD" Minter and Paul Logan for their activities on the INTERNET. I have appointed a committee to make organized searches for shipmates; at this time it consists of Paul Logan, chairman, "WD" Minter, Pat Patterson, Jim Michaels, Bill Jones, Kent Curl, George Fink and now former CO Captain Charlie Akers. Paul tells me that we have enjoyed a huge success in locating shipmates.

Finally, I learned from our treasurer, Paul Hecht, that he was recently awarded the Russian World War II

50th Anniversary Victory Medal for service in the USS Washington (BB-56) on the Murmansk run. Bob's address is: Robert C. Whitten, President
USS Ozbourn Association
1117 Yorkshire Drive
Cupertino, CA 95014

SEARCH COMMITTEE ON THE MOVE

The Search Committee, appointed by President Bob Whitten is on the move. Present members are: Paul Logan, WD Minter, Pat Patterson, Jim Michaels, Bill Jones, Kent Curl, George Fink and Charlie Akers. Phase One of their operation, which consisted of researching the 12/56 Muster List of the OZBOURN is completed, and returns are coming in.. Phase Two, consisting of researching the 12/54 & 12/55 Muster Lists started in late February. The Committee has been working hard and diligently and deserve a WELL DONE from "all Hands." New members coming aboard in 1997 are:

(cont. page 2)

SPECIAL EDITION !!

This edition of the *Fireball!* is being mailed to "all hands" even if you are behind in your dues. It is the only issue mailed to members in arrears. If you want to be sure to receive every issue, your dues must be up to date.

(PLEASE PRINT)

RESERVATION REQUEST

HANDLERY HOTEL

Name of Group: USS OZBOURN (DD 846)

Arrival Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____ Departure Date: _____

Guest Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ ZIP Code: _____

PLEASE CHECK () Smoking () Non Smoking
() Single* (one Person) \$60.00 () Dbl./Dbl.*: (2 Per/2 Beds) \$60.00

Special Requests: _____

() First Nights Deposit Enclosed: \$ _____

Credit Card Guarantee: (Card number) _____ Exp: _____

* All subject to current hotel room tax

Detach and Mail to Hotel

This form can be duplicated

Retain This Section For Your Records

HANDLERY HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB GROUP RESERVATION FORM

Please fill out information and return to the HANDLERY HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

- 1) Check in time is 3:00pm. Should accommodations be available prior to this time, early check in will be allowed
Check out time is 12:00 noon.
- 2) ADVANCE DEPOSIT information for the first night should be returned with above form, either by check or credit
Card number.
- 3) Deposit refunded with 24 hours notice prior to arrival date. Be sure to note cancellation number.
- 4) If reservations are made without this card, please mention the name of the group to avoid duplications.
- 5) RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 9/25/97

(800) 676-6567

For further information on reservations call the
HANDLERY HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

(619) 298-0511

950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108

Telex 182834 Fax (619) 298-9793

(cont. from page 1 - Search Committee)

Adrew Adams (52-55) CS3, Blytheville, AR

Luther Anderson (53-56) Los Angeles, CA

Marty Bain, Greeley, CO

Joseph R. Belvin (46-46) SN, Jacksonville, FL

Patrick Bohenko (68-70) RM2, Dudley, MA

Emmet Bolton, Ozark, AL

Linda L. Broussard (50-53) BTFN, Dusen, LA

Henry Burge, (54-57) QM2, Jackson, MS

Henry Burton, (56-59) BT2, N. Grosvenor Dale, CT

Ivan L. Cansler (56-57) QM1, Crofton, KY

Daniel L. Caster (56-57) SN, Bainbridge Is., WA
Elmo B. Crowe (51-54) TEL3, Grand rapids, MN
Kerry M. Cummins (56-61) DC2, Shingle Springs,
CA

Norland A. Fauteck (54-57) RD2, Portland, OR

John A. Fornbacher BM3, Pleasant Hill, CA

James B. Franklin (52-55) BT2, Gulfport, LA

George B. Fraser (53-56) Volcano, HI

H. Ray Gargus (51-54) QM3, Huntsville, Al

Ronald A. Gervais (54-55) Flynt, MI

Billy J. Graves FTCM, Charleston, SC

OZBOURN HISTORY FROM JUNE 66 TO AUG. 68

The following OZBOURN history was sent in by Jim Michael (66-68). It is an account taken from the Ozbourn's 1966-68 Cruise Book.

On 25 June 1966 Ozbourn with COMDESDIV 92 embarked, in company with the other units of Destroyer Division 92, USS Mansfield (DD 728), USS Theodore E. Chandler (DD 717), and USS Hollister (DD 788), departed Long Beach California for a two year deployment. After a brief Fourth of July celebration in Hawaii, Ozbourn spent the next three weeks settling into her new homeport and conducting Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercises. Following a brief visit to Osaka, Japan, more ASW exercises, and a return to homeport, the Ozbourn made her first trip to Vietnam on 13 August. The next three weeks were spent conducting Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) for I and II Corps Spotters in the Republic of Vietnam in support of Operations Toledo and Deckhouse III. Missions were also conducted in support of the 52nd Ranger Battalion ARVN in operations along the Saigon River. Numerous night Harassment and Interdiction (H & I) missions were fired from anchorage in the river.

After a short rest and relaxation (R &R) period in Singapore, the Ozbourn visited the realm of King Neptune on the other side of the Equator and soon found her two hundred unsure pollywogs transformed into bald, yet salty and proud shellbacks. Following a brief upkeep period in Subic Bay, P.I., during which two Vietnamese naval officers reported aboard for training, the Ozbourn headed south on 29 September.

Enroute to the war zone, the ship responded to an emergency call for medical assistance and was primarily responsible for saving a stricken seaman. A motor whale boat transfer in heavy seas was conducted to complete the mission of mercy. NGFS was again the mission, and the Saigon River again our home for two weeks. Shortly after detachment, Ozbourn was once again called upon to provide emergency medical assistance at sea. The call was ably met and the stricken seaman saved.

A fuel stop in Buckner Bay, Okinawa greeted the Ozbourn with orders diverting her to Sasebo, Japan for special operations.

The ship returned to Yokosuka on 3 November: 83 days, 15,000 miles and 29 underway replenishments since departure. For the next three days, the Ozbourn was outfitted with Gemini recovery equipment, and departed for station as a back-up recovery unit in the Pacific Ocean.

Following the Atlantic recovery of Gemini, and a two week upkeep period in Yokosuka, the ship got underway for Hong Kong B.C.C. and a two week tour as Station Ship. Christmas Eve found the Ozbourn back in her adopted home of Yokosuka.

Completing upkeep and ASW exercises, Ozbourn initial assignment of 1967 was a screening unit in the USS Enterprise (CVAN 65) task force. Following the rescue destroyer and screening assignments, the Ozbourn underwent an upkeep period in Yokosuka, including a dry docking. The ship returned to Yankee Station and the I and II Corps areas where she provided NGFS on Operation Beacon Hill. On March 25, the Ozbourn was taken under fire by hostile coastal defense sites on the DMZ and subsequently received two direct hits.

(cont. page 5 col.2)



Professional ticket pushers, Tom Perkins (50-53) and Curt Anderson (53-55) selling the "last four " tickets to Bill Ridel (46-47) and John Ulicini (46-48) at the Norfolk reunion banquet.

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Just after Christmas I was researching some old shipmates. I came across the name Richard Sullivan. Dick was a Laundryman aboard the Ozbourn. Dick or his partner Chuck Bell could always be found (24 hours a day) either busy working in their small quarters, in the midship passageway, or stopping outside for a chat and a cigarette. I spent many enjoyable times there and ashore with Dick and Chuck.

I remember Dick lived in Connecticut and I found "one" Richard F. Sullivan in my telephone program. I called and Dick's wife Jane answered. I was very unhappy to hear that Dick had passed away about 4 years ago.

Jane was very glad I called and said that Dick frequently talked about his Navy days to his grandson who was very interested. I told her I would sent her a copy of the Oct. 1993 Fireball! which contained a log of our first trip to China and Japan in 1947. It was 50 years ago on January 6, 1947 that the Ozbourn first set sail for the Far East.

AIRLINE TICKETS

When setting up your reunion travel plans consider **“Senior Travel Coupons”**. Most major airlines offer them but you must check each one for their restrictions and where they travel to and from. You can only buy them through the various Airline Companies. Most offer a package of four tickets that will give you two round trips to anywhere in the US and some offer Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Airlines. The cost varies from about \$550.00 to \$600.00 per book of four coupons. It requires two coupons for a round trip ticket. Check with your favorite airline. Ask them to send you some information on this program. They can be a great deal if they meet your travel plans. Call the Airline Companies below for further information.

American Air lines	1-800-433-7300
Delta	1-800-221-1212
North West	1-800-225-2525
TWA	1-800-221-2000
US Air	1-800-428-4322
United Air lines	1-800-241-6522

(I use them all the time: Boston to Puerto Rico or Boston to California. Ed.)

INTERNET/E-MAIL CLUB

We're on the "NET". Come and join us.

George Fink (46-48): Go68nk@aol.com
Joseph Belvin (46-47): JBelvin625@aol.com
Daryl Turner (48-52): dturner@mail.telis.org
Thomas F. Hoey (49-52): TFBUDDY@aol.com
Pat Patterson (50-51): pogo@ipa.net
Charlie Akers (50-52): NRRR21A@Prodigy.COM
Bill Jones (51-52): wljones2@juno.com
Elmo Crowe (51-54): eden@netbridge.net
"WD" Minter (52-55):
wdminter@darkstar.swsc.k12.ar.us
Glenn J. Purcell (52-54): motoglenn@aol.com
Dan Caster (56-57):
dcaster@linknet.kitsap.lib.wa.us
Richard Farquhar (56-58) : rafassoc@infinet.com
Emmet E. Bolton (56-59):
bolton@redstone.army.mil
Kent Curl (60-63): delcross@juno.com
Dennis LaCrosse (63-70): diacross@silverlink.net
Jim Michael (66-70): jmichael@huntel.net
Pat Bohenko (68-70): bo@cybercom.net
Dave Vrba (69-72): dave_vrba@mail.sel.sony.com
Lawrence Schultz (70-71): shultz9@ix.netcom.com
Mark Trotter (72-73): mtrotter@ix.netcom.com
Dick Barnett (74-75): barnett@teleport.com
Marty Bain (): martyb@info2000.net
Henry Burton (): burt@neca.com
Farris O'Dell (): farris@fastlane.net
and Editor of the ***Fireball!***
Paul Logan (46-47): 75107.2754@compuserve.com
It is a quick way to exchange information and ideas.

□ □

**MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR
HAT IN TIME
FOR THE REUNION**

OZBOURN HATS, JACKETS, & SHIRTS

□ 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 are a great door opener to former
□ sailors.

- You can call or write Joe Mollica at Artistic
- Co, 10613 Lawson River Ave., Fountain Valley,

□ □



Rudy Boff (L.) (52-55) and Wife Arleen listen to former skipper Charlie Akers (50-52) explain the movements in his dance routine performed at the Norfolk Reunion.

(cont. from page 3 col. 2)

Ozborn History continued

One round denoted in the Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) Magazine. While prosecuting the enemy and fighting a fire in the magazine, a second round struck the ship in the MK 25 fire control radar room. This round destroyed Ozborn's ability to automatically control her guns. However, the ship continued to take the hostile batteries under fire in local control. No personnel casualties were incurred and the ship was ordered to Subic bay, P. I. for repairs. Repairs accomplished, and R & R visits to Manila completed, the ship returned to Yankee Station and the USS Enterprise (CVAN 65). 24 April 1967 found the Ozborn in

Yokosuka preparing for a long awaited visit to Bangkok, Thailand. The ship arrived in Bangkok on 13 May and on 17 May commenced ASW exercises with the Royal Thai Navy ASW Squadron. After these joint Thai-US operations, the Ozborn proceeded to the I Corps area and resumed NGFS duties, this time participating in Operation Beau Charger. On 23, 24 and 25 May the Ozborn was again taken under hostile fire. Counterbattery fire was immediately commenced. Initial salvos were on target, and the batteries were rapidly silenced. The coastal defense sites were then saturated with high explosive projectiles and numerous secondary explosions were observed.

On arrival in Yokosuka on 6 June the Ozborn commenced a six week restricted availability period. Extensive repairs and general upkeep were completed, and prior to departure for Yankee Station, the ship hosted a family and guest cruise. The next assignment was not new, but the location was; the Ozborn was assigned to a gunfire billet, but not with the I Corps; this time the Ozborn was north of the DMZ as a unit of Operation Sea Dragon. During this assignment the Ozborn was again under fire, but due to expert ship handling and outstanding teamwork, the ship remained unscathed. About 100 rounds fell near Ozborn and 500 close aboard the USS St. Paul (CA-73) which was in company. Following Sea Dragon, the ship underwent training in Subic Bay, P.I. and Danang for Search and Rescue (SAR) assignment. Many recoveries of downed pilots were made during this assignment, but all were by helo'd from the larger ships in company.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS WHO CAME ON BOARD THE OZBOURN IN 1946

Peter Athanas	46-48 SN, Richland Center, WI
Charles Bell	46-48 SN, Jamestown, RI
Joseph Belvin	46-46 SN, Jacksonville, FL
J.N. Braden	46, Providence, KY
James W. Brian	46-48
George S. Brown	46-47 Pisgah Forest, NC
Salvatore J Bumbaca	46 BT3Brooklyn, NY
James O. Burlingame	46 SN Marion, NC
George Burrows	46-48 FN Northport, FL
William D. Cardoza	46-48 SF1
Eugene Connelly	46-47 Cox Keansburg, NJ
George Fink	46-48 MM2 Fort Collins, CO
H. Gordon Harris	46-47 TMC Gastonia, NC
Paul W. Hecht	46-47 EM1 Portsmouth, VA
James Helland	46-46 Daphne, AL
Philip Ihme	46-48 FN Moncure, NC
Richard Lafond	46-48 SN Suncook, NH
Richarf F. Lay	46 E. Brewster, MA
Lee R E Bobby	46-? Pratville, AL
Paul G. Logan	46-47 FN Braintree, MA
Daniel Marshall	46-? FN Harrisville, RI
MhoireMcIntosh	46-49 Australia
Joe Montagno	46- GM3 Marion, OH
A.C.O'Halloran	46-47 Ehrenberg, AZ
Stephen Pleasants	46-48 YNCS Centreville, VA
William Riedel	46-47 Eng. Y Little Ferry, NJ
Warren Sheldon	46-47 RM3 Fairlawn, OH
Bernard A. Smith	46-47 CDR Fort Belvoir, VA
Robert F.Sommer	46-48 Lafayette, NJ
Fred Souza	46-47 MM1 Ellenton, FL

(cont. from page 2 Search Committee)

Thomas F. Hoey (49-52) MM2, New Burgh, NY
Kenneth D. Jackson (52-53) SN, Memphis, TN
Doug Jenigan (66-68) San Jose, CA
William L. Jones (51-52) RD3, Goodyear, AZ
Norman Laux (52-55) Orangeville, CA
Glenn J. Purcell (52-54) RD3,
Wesley E. Lewis (57-58) BT3, Stillman Valley, IL
Donald F. Rueth SN, Jefferson, WI
Lawrence Schultz (70-71) GMG3, Valleyjo, CA
Albert Selsavage STCS, Clearwater, FL
Leroy H. Servin SN, Apache Junction, AZ
James D. Tandy SH1, Indianapolis, IN
Steve Tate (72-?) ET, Bremerton, WA
Orville J. Templin GM2, Houston, TX
Alfred Toulon (55-57) Koloa, HI
Richard Warren (52-56) Oregon, IL

New members who came aboard in **1996** are:

Don Allen, Citris Heights, CA
James Burlingame (46) SN, Marion, NC
James R. Clay (52-55), Crestview, FL
Richard Farquhar (56-57), Canal Winchester, OH
Donald, V. Gorman (60-62) XO/CO, Silverdale, WA
Jesse R. Hover (48-52) RD2, Altamont, IL
John R. Keeling (71-73) BT3, Palmdale, CA
Jack King (51-54) RD2, Altamont, IL
Paul J. Lanagan (53-55) BT3, Atlantic Beach, FL
Jordan D. Lindsey (55-56) RD3, Harrisonville, MO
James B. Michael (66-70) MM2, Blair, NE
Pat Patterson (50-51) RD1, Fort Smith, AR
Arnold Randrup (48-52) RD3, Fresno, CA
Eldon W. Riely (53-56) RD2, Pensacola, FL
Robert Vargo, Anaheim Hills, CA

This increase in the number of contacts of former shipmates is due to the combined efforts of our "homepage" on the INTERNET and the efforts of the "Search Committee" and other shipmates who have contributed.

MAIL BAG

Jim Clay (52-55) has been busy recruiting: Andrew Adams and Jim Matthews.

Kent Curl (60-63) will see us in San Diego and is busy with the Search Committee.

Paul Hecht (46-47) has been busy with numerous reunions but will still see us in San Diego.

Dee Dewitt (50-55) will see us in San Diego.

Richard Satchell (58-58) wrote in a change of address and will be seeing us in San Diego.
Herman Lee Brown (49-52) will see us in San Diego.

Jim Burlingame (46) sent in letter, plan of the day for July '47 and some pictures of his cruise.

Dennis Lacross (63-70) ran into former crew member Steve Tate at the VA.

George Fink (46-48) is anxious to get his reservations for San Diego.

Charkie Akers (50-52) has been in touch by E-mail and 'snail mail'.

Norland A. Fauteck (54-57) will see us in San Diego and informs us that the Ozbourn was stationed in Portland Oregon as a reserve training ship before she was decommissioned.

Vice President, Curt Anderson wrote in with the names and addresses of four former shipmates including a former skipper.

George B. Frasier 53-56 from Volcano, HI
Norman Laux 52-55 from Orangeville, CA
John Nyquist 55-58 from Coronado, CA
Alfred Toulon 55-57 from Koloa, HI
(former Skipper)

Well done Curt! Were moving-g-g-g-g!



President Bob Whitten (l.) (50-52) and Treasurer Paul Hecht (46-47) at the 1995 Norfolk Reunion giving some thought to the 1997 reunion location.

HOW TO GET TO THE SAN DIEGO REUNION

1. Make your hotel reservations (today) !
2. Make your airline reservations. (today) !
3. Be on the lookout for the July issue of the *Fireball!* for details to sign up for the activities at the reunion.

Don't forget the dates: arrive San Diego Saturday October 25 and leave Wednesday October 29 (unless you want to spend some extra time in sunny

Former Commanding Officers of USS OZBOURN (DD-846)

1946-1947 CDR Bernard A. Smith *USNA 34*
 1947-1948 CDR Norman E. Blaisdell *32*
 1949-1950 CDR Ross E. Freeman *35*
 1950-1952 CDR Charles O. Akers *38*
 1952-1954 CDR William B. Fargo *39*
 1954-1955 CDR Howard Scott
 1955-1957 CDR A.J. Toulon *39*
 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 *50*
 1972-1974 CDR Ken Costilow *56*
 1974-1975 CDR Frank Furtado

From a (70-71) crew member -code name "Schultz"

Has anyone told you about the Ozbourn pulling into DaNang for a few hours, some of the crew went on to the pier and we found a fenced area that contained cases of beer. We had them stuck in your socks and pockets and got back to the ship. Launch room for ASROC was a good secure area. Then there was a Division Security Officer that made us carry a wind-up key time clock to make our rounds. We tried everything to foul it up. Fire, salt water and hammmmmmmmmers. (Ed. note: The "Former Crew Members United Protective Organized Union's" attorney -for -\$\$\$\$- liability-action is trying to locate the

Division Security Officer for 'questioning ' in relation to a violation of the "Crew's" First Amendment Rights. It appears a 'class action' suit may be forthcoming. Any former crew member (of any ship) that feels he was harassed by a Division Security Officer, or any Security Officer (civilian included), is eligible to join in the Suit.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Be sure you notify the "Association" if you change your address. You can send any changes to the Editor of the "*Fireball!*"



Plank Owners Jim Helland (l.) (46-46) and George Burrows (46-48), reunion regulars, enjoying the reunion entertainment at Norfolk.

OZBOURN ASSOCIATION ON THE "NET"

Association's "home page" on the INTERNET is alive and well. It has been visited 1673 times since its inception on 6/1/96 by prospective new members and others. It 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/>

ASBESTOSIS PROBLEM ! ! !

Dennis LaCross is looking for shipmates from the 63-70 era that remembers the particles floating in the air during gunfire missions. These "dust motes" were particles of asbestos or fiberglass, either of which can cause the disease. Dennis is trying to support a claim with the V.A. If anyone has any information on this subject or can help Dennis please contact the Editor: Paul G. Logan at 617-843-4713 or at his E-mail address elsewhere in this issue.

REUNION VIDEO TAPE AVAILABLE

Paul Hecht has a few video tapes left he took at the reunion. It contains many of the exciting and historical scenes you saw in Norfolk and Williamsburg. Its like reliving your reunion. The tape is two hours long and contains Pete Coles interview from WAVY-TV . To order send \$25.00 to:

Paul Hecht, PO Box 3534, Portsmouth, VA 23701-

DUES IS DUE - IN JULY

Dues will be due on July 1 for the 1997/98 year. Keep your newsletter coming and support your Association. Avoid the last minute rush and send a check for \$10.00 to :

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

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165 PILGRIM ROAD
BRAINTREE, MA 02184

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