



Vol. 6 No. 4 Sept. 1997

# Fireball!

## USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

### REUNION OCTOBER 25-28, 1997 !!!

#### FROM THE BRIDGE

This issue brings the last call for the 1997 Reunion of all shipmates in San Diego. If you have not made your reservations, the forms to do so for the hotel (Handlery on Hotel Circle) and our events appear elsewhere in this issue. Don't forget - - Oct. 25-29 SAN DIEGO.

As some of our shipmates may know, the late Admiral Grace Hopper, USNR was one of the pioneers of computing, developing COBOL (Common Business Oriented Language) and making substantial contributions to the development of FORTRAN (Formula Translation). The latter is still in wide-spread use today, including by yours truly, and will continue to be used in the foreseeable future. She also got the US Navy on the road into the computer age during her service in the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in WWII. For her many contributions to computer science in general and the US Navy in particular, the Secretary of the Navy has honored her memory by naming one of the Arleigh Burke class AEGIS destroyers for her: USS Grace Hopper (DDG-70). Sally and I had the privilege in June of being given a tour of her while still in the builders yard at Bath, Maine. She will be placed in commission in San Francisco on September 6th and Sally and I plan to attend.

Several of our shipmates thought it a good idea to produce a Directory. We now have over 200 members of the Association and a Directory might be helpful. We will plan on publishing one in the December/January issue of *Fireball!* unless I hear a substantial number of objections. If any shipmate DOES NOT wish to appear, please let me know by October 31st.

For those on the Internet, wonders of wonders, I'm now on line. [rwhitten@paceball.net](mailto:rwhitten@paceball.net)

Bob Whitten, President

MEMBERSHIP ON THE MOVE

As of this writing our 1997 paid up membership numbers 139. In addition our 1996 paid up membership numbers 42. We have 144 members in the "inactive: file, located but not presently dues paying members.

To continue moving ahead and uncovering former shipmates requires the active participation of "ALL HANDS". Starting with this issue a new policy on receiving the "*Fireball!*" is being put into effect. See page four. Our notice to inform shipmates of their "dues" status has been lacking a good system. Hopefully our new procedure will assist shipmates who may have forgotten to send in their dues or are not sure of their dues status. ( If anyone has any other suggestions, please let us know)

It can be readily seen that as the cost of everything continues to go up, so does the cost of issuing the *Fireball!* It is only fair that the shipmates that are supporting our Association should be the ones to receive each and every edition. Our policy will continue to send **all former shipmates** only editions which inform them of upcoming reunions.

Our "search and recruiting " drive has been very successful in 1997, but not without financial expense. If the membership at the reunion would like to continue this search it means that the "dues paying " membership will be supporting this project. Hopefully the new membership, by becoming active members, will offset any expenditures.

Our 1997 search has uncovered 107 new shipmates to date. If they all become "active" members" their first years dues will more than offset the costs.



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## SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Search Committee is continuing its search of former shipmates. With the help of others, reports the following new shipmates have been discovered since our last issue:

Barr	Robert J.	Fremont CA	50-54	SN
Burdge	Freddie	Tucson, AZ		
Burdge	George	Tucson, AZ		
Burlingame	James O.	Marion, NC	46	
SN				
Carlson	Ralph	Fountain Valley CA		LTJG
Clay	James R.	Crestview, FL	52-55	
Craig M.Ed	Norbert L	Safford, CA		SN
Deisler	John L.	White Pigeon, MI		
B2				
Ellis	Verdel	Brooklyn, NY		
Fauscette	Chester E.	Tampa, FL		
Gygax	Rex	Alamogordo, NM		
Harden	Thad H.	Southlake, TX	58-60	
LT.				
Heard	Clayborn E.	Prosser, WA	51-53	SN
Hertel	Herbert V.	Media, PA	51-54	FT3
Holmes	Alfred P.	Hauppauge, NY	52-54	ET2
Howie	Eugene A.	Crosset, AR	49-52	CS
Johnson	Raymond J.	Newberry, MI	56-59	ET
King	Jack	Altamont, IL	54	
RD2				
Knoebel	Alfred H.	Madison, WI	69-71	
RM3				
Martes	Walter	Red Bluff, CA		
Mayer	Ned	Camp Cornell, CA		
Motley	Ray C.	Robinsville, NC	52-53	GM
Ozbourne	Garlod	Belton, MO		
Randrup	Arnold	Fresno, CA	48-52	RD3
Ribble Jr	David A.	Irving, TX	52	SN
Rieley	Eldon	Pensacola, FL	53-56	RD2
Locke	Chuck	Palm City, FL	52-53	SN
Miller	Fred E.	Kennewick, WA	52	WT2
Stoner	Roy R.	Virginia Beach, VA	69-72	
Sweise	Harry L.	Foley, MO	54	
Trana	Wesley	Modesto, CA	54	SN
Turner USN Ret	William W.	Springfield, MO	58	Skipper
Trew	Max	Riceville, TN	49-53	DC3
Ward	John R.	El Cajon, CA	59-60	MM
Warren	Joe E.	Anchorage, AK	50-53	SN
Webb	Thomas A.	Oceanside, CA	53-56	
MM2				
Wyatt	Billy J.	Sherman, TX	50-53	FT2
Wheeler	Charles P.	Vilonia, AR	53	
Swinger USN Ret	Alan	Warrenton, VA	66-68	



## **LETTER TO FIREBALL! FROM CHARLIE AKERS**

Thank you for sending me the information regarding the passing of our shipmate, John Hadley. He was an exceptional individual who contributed in such a major measure to the success of the OZBOURN that I find it imperative that I offer a few comments. John was destined to succeed from the day he enlisted in the Naval service and began his sea duty aboard the battleship MISSISSIPPI. After his commissioning his true ability was demonstrated in his performance as Gunnery Officer of our ship during the Korean War. In that position he demonstrated exceptional knowledge of naval gunnery, notoriously in his direction of counter battery fire against the shore batteries in Wonsan harbor when the OZBOURN was under fire from hidden guns ashore. But John's great contribution to the OZBOURN's success was in his leadership as head of the gunnery department. He was a capable mentor for the others aboard the ship, leading by example and inspiring with his performance.

It was my great privilege to be OZBOURN's skipper when John was on board but this fact reminds me of the truism that says that no commanding officer is one whit better than those who man his ship. For John's surviving wife, Ruth, I wish that I might leave some message which would lessen, in some small measure, the pain of her loss but I fail to find the appropriate words. Let me say simply that we of the OZBOURN have lost a truly fine shipmate and we also feel the pain.

Charlie Akers

## **PRESIDENT BOB WHITTEN WRITES**

John U. Hadley, LCDR, USN-Ret. was born in White, Washington on May 24, 1919 and died on May 17, 1997. At 17 he enlisted in the Navy, rising steadily through the enlisted grades (fire controlman), warrant officer and commissioned officer ranks. During WWII he fought at Midway, Tarawa, Leyte Gulf and Bougainville. July 1950 brought him to the OZBOURN as gunnery officer where he gained the admiration and deep respect of all hands. Retired from the Navy in 1966. He is survived by his wife Ruth whom he married in February 1942 and two sons, John and Karl. Memorial services were held at the Highline Methodist Church in Seattle on May 22nd. I stood countless bridge watches as JOOD with John Hadley and must say he was one of the very best teachers I ever encountered.

Condolences are extended on behalf of all OZBOURN shipmates to Ruth and his two sons.

Bob Whitten, President

## **TO THE EDITOR FROM R.J. JOHNSON**

In an earlier note to Bob Whitten I mentioned the death of former crew member Donald L. (Foo) Froman. I would like to elaborate a little on his career. Foo served aboard the Ozbourn from 53 until 1957. During that time he was a radio operator, mailman and a notorious GFU. He extended a year for duty in Atsugi, Japan and while serving there he had a conversation of sorts and set a goal of becoming the sharpest "gung ho" chief in the US Navy. Following his Japan Duty he qualified for submarines and served on the Barbel (SS580) for some time. Following that he ran a communication unit in Korea during the Pueblo situation. He then volunteered for river boat duty in Nam and served on the 103 for seven months until it was destroyed in action and he nearly was.

After he got out of the hospital he again served in Viet Nam area aboard the Indianapolis and finished the war on the Epperson (DD 719). During the war he received several citations including the Bronze Star. Following his retirement in 1975 he moved to Cebu, P. I. and there completed his Ph.D. An attempted coup caused his departure since the embassy indicated he was high on the liquidation list.

Returning to the U.S. for the first time since 1957, he settled in Oklahoma and ended up as a 911 supervisor for the City of Tulsa. In 1993 he began to suffer severely from flashbacks and as a part of therapy wrote the novel "Final Salvo", a slightly fictionalized account of his final cruise on the Epperson. It was published in 1955. Some flashback incidents in the novel recall events on the Ozbourn from 54 to 57. The writing cured the "flashbacks" but Dan was diagnosed with terminal cancer in August of 1955. A fighter until the end he hung on until February 21, 1997. He was most proud of his service as a Navy Chief and talked of that until the end. He is survived by his wife Ann and son Bruce of Tulsa, OK.

Ray J. Johnson (56-58)



## FROM THE EDITORS DESK

**Please note that editors Email has been changed.  
The new address is: PaulLogan@compuserve.com**

Also note that on the last page of the July 97 *Fireball!* the beginning date of the reunion was mistakenly inserted as "Saturday October 26" the correct date is Saturday "October 25, 1997."

Don't forget new Association Officers will be elected at the reunion. Its time we had some new blood and new ideas. The Association is growing rapidly and it is time for a new group of leaders to get involved and lead our Association forward.

Communication has improved considerably, particularly with 45 members signed up on the Email Club. A positive direction has been established to uncover past crew members. This has made this past year very exciting. Looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and establishing new ones. See u'all all in October.

Your Editor was trying to think of something to put in this space. It was too small to continue on with the ships history which we will continue next issue.

It could be a reminder to shipmates to send in any information they have about their life aboard the OZBOURN.

It also would be a good time to welcome aboard all of our new shipmates that we have found, and a reminder to get their dues to Paul Hecht.

It could also be a good time . . . . .

### WELL DONE

To Kent Curl and Bill Jones for their assistance with Phase Four of the Search Committee.

### WANTED!!!!

Would like to purchase a copy of the 52-52 cruise book. Contact Corniel Jackson 206-441-1576. Seattle, WA

## REUNION FUNCTION ROOMS

Function rooms will be available at the Handlery Hotel for members to meet. President Bob Whitten, in the best interests of the Association members, has decided that the Association would **not** supply any alcoholic beverages at these gatherings. Members are welcome to bring any beverage of their choice and the association will supply soft drinks and ice. (BYOB)

## 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.

Hats (with scramble eggs) \$20.00

Hats (no eggs) \$16.00

Add \$4.00 per order for shipping charge.

You can add at **no charge**: your last name, WWII, Vietnam, Korea, Plank Owner. Information on a new line, "watch caps" will be available at the reunion.

Call or write Joe Mollica at Artistic Co, 10613 Lawson River Ave., Fountain Valley, CA. 92708. Tel. 714-963-6800. (Pacific Time)

## ANNUAL DUES——— NEW PROCEDURE

A new procedure is in effect starting with this issue. Your 1997/98 dues was due July 1, 1997. Starting with the October issue of the *Fireball!*, members who have not paid their current dues will be notified by a form in their copy of *Fireball!* If you receive a notice it means your dues are overdue. This will be the only dues notice you will receive. If dues is not paid **before** the following (January) issue you will be dropped from the *Fireball!* mailing list until the next "reunion notification" issue.

### Please update form and return with your check .

Dues were 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**  
Make check payable to USS OZBOURN Association.

## MAIL BAG

Les Peich (52-54), from San Diego, wrote to offer help with reunion.

Bill Jennings( 50-53) from Chetek, WI dropped us a few lines about his experiences aboard Ozbourn.

Paul Eaken (54-56) was discovered and wrote for info on the reunion. He discovered, on his own, that the Ozbourn had been sold for scrap.

Jim Matthews (52-56) from Harrisenville, ME wrote looking to contact Vice President Curt Anderson. We forwarded Curt's address to him. He also sent in some pictures of the radio gang.

Barr Palmer (50-52) (former XO)dropped a few lines praising how well our organization is moving ahead. He credits a lot of good people" laying a little muscle into the oars" for our success.

Norman J. Laux (52-55) wrote us about his visit to Bill Fargo during the 1996 Thanksgiving Holidays. Bill informed him of the Ozbourn Association and we can expect him at the reunion in San Diego.

Warren Zschact (52-55) wrote us with the name and address of Ron Parker. Warren is excited to meet up with shipmates he hasn't seen in 40 years at the reunion.

Kent Curl (60-63) (former XO) has been keeping in touch by Email and also adding to our "shipmates found" list.

Ray Johnson (56-58) wrote and mentioned former shipmate Donald (Foo) Fromans novel "Final Salvo".

John Denham (66-68) (former Skipper) was in "drydock" for a week getting fitted out for a new knee. He is recovering and expects to be playing golf by September. He'll see us in San Diego. John also sent an update of Ozbourn history that has been incorporated into our "home page" on the internet.

Thad Harden (58-60) has been keeping in contact by Email and reminds us of the Ozbourns radio call sign "SPREADEAGLE." Thad received high praise from Kent Curl.

Jack Blonsick (50-51) is working on a special project with Charlie Akers. His Email messages have been

thought provoking.

Carl W. Roberts (70-71) Emailed us that he read interest, the Ozbourn's Home Page on the internet. We have received some very complimentary remarks about the home page from others. Thanks again to WD Minter. (Bob Whitten says that it is at least as good as that of the Navy League of the United States)

Don Sacco (51-54) dropped us a few lines. He later joined the Army and retired a Lt. Colonel. Don had high praise for skippers Charlie Akers and Bill Fargo. Don is retired but off to Panama with his wife, an Air Force nurse, who returned to active duty.

Capt. Alan Swinger USN Ret. (66-68) signed up and wrote of high praise for former skipper John Denham (66-68). Alan said John taught him more about being a sea going "officer" than any other skipper he served under.

Ron Parker (54-57) SO3 signed up with the Association. He is excited to make contact with former shipmates but will be out of the country for two years on a Church Service Mission.

Richard Byerly (54-58) BT1 signed up with the Association. Has movie film of Ozbourn refueling with hose breaking along with shots of New Zealand and Australia. He enjoys hunting, fishing and collecting.

Pete Cole ( 50-51 ) Ensign, joined up with our Email Club. Pete has written a great book on his experiences aboard the Ozbourn during his tour. "Korea Remembered" is the title of his book (\$21.00). Contact the Editor for more information.

## MILITARY RETIREES GAIN RIGHT TO SUE

From San Diego Union:

Pensacola, Florida. - Military retirees over age 65 who enlisted before 1956 law limiting treatment to a space-available basis may sue the government for breaking its promise of free health care for life, a federal judge ruled yesterday.

District Judge Roger Vinson also limited the claims to \$10,000.00 per plaintiff and ruled that those who entered the service after the law was enacted may not sue. Paper dated 6-13-97. (Thanks to Daryl Turner)



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 ☆ **TAPS** ☆  
 ☆ R.J. Johnson (56-58) reported the death of former ☆  
 ☆ shipmate Donald L. (FOO) Froman on February ☆  
 ☆ 21 1997 in Tulsa OK. ☆  
 ☆ FOO served aboard the Ozbourn from 53-57. ☆  
 ☆ (see letter to Editor on page four) ☆  
 ☆ Our condolences to his wife Ann and son Bruce. ☆  
 ☆  
 ☆ From Ray C. Motley a report of the death of his ☆  
 ☆ twin brother Roy K. Motley, GM3, Mount ☆  
 ☆ Captain on 3" twin mount. Died September 21, ☆  
 ☆ 1995. Our condolences to all of his family. ☆  
 ☆  
 ☆ Charlie Akers and Bob Whitten reported the ☆  
 ☆ death of John U. Hadley, gunnery officer, 1950- ☆  
 ☆ 52 (see page 3) ☆  
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### SHARE A ROOM

Room rates at the Handlery Hotel where our reunion will be held are \$60.00 per night for a double or a single. Anyone going single and wishing to share a room and room costs with a shipmate please contact Paul Logan at 617-843-4713 as soon as possible.

**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**  
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**Fireball! published quarterly.**

## HOW TO BE SURE TO GET TO THE REUNION IN SAN DIEGO

1. Send in to the Handlery Hotel the "reservation request" that appeared in the April 97 "Fireball!"
2. If you do not have one available call the Handlery Hotel at 1-800-676-6567 today and make your reservations for Saturday October 25 through Wednesday morning October 28, 1997.
3. Make your airline reservations. (don't forget to check on the Senior Coupons)
4. Fill out the reservation forms, in this issue, for your tours and activities and send it along with a check to the Armed Forces Reunions address on the form.
5. If you fly in to San Diego don't forget the free shuttle bus from the airport to the hotel.

**Note correction: from Sat. Oct. 25-28, 1997**