



FIREBALL!

USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 8 No. 3 Aug., 1999

REUNION EDITION

FROM THE BRIDGE

Our fourth reunion is just three months away and everything is on track at the Maxim Hotel, Las Vegas. The last reunion brought out more than 100 shipmates, wives, lady friends, etc. Let's make it 150! And hats off to Captain Charlie Akers who is putting it all together!

The war in Kosovo/Serbia is said to be over and this nation is said to have won. But I for one, wonder. Former CO Captain John Denham recently sent me an article or maybe it was a speech by former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. John Shalikashvili about the future of NATO in light of the war in the Balkans. It's not bright. The needless assault on the Serbs has raised hackles from Rome to Beijing and will surely put a halt to any future such actions. Our elected "leaders" sure know how to pick their wars! If any shipmate wish to send them a copy by e-mail, I will do so, but please tell me what software you use (must be "windows," I can send in Word or Word Perfect or a text file) My e-mail address is: rwhitten@pacbel.net. Much to my consternation, BuPers ("Shaft Colors, "the retirees periodical) made a colossal error in combining the reunion of Oklahoma City (CLG-91) with ours. Countless phone calls to redirect the inquiries to the other ship's reunion chairman plus sending him a number of mailings were the result. Fortunately, it seems to be over as I write this. On a happier note, the elder son of our former CO, Bill Fargo, has been nominated to be Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet. I sent a congratulatory note to Admiral Tom Fargo on behalf of all who served in Ozboorn. I had the pleasure of meeting him at the recent Navy League Convention.

Bob Whitten
Acting President

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Our reunion, October 13-17, 1999 at the Maximum Hotel in Las Vegas, NV is bearing down on us and time is growing short for the sign-up. Our reunions have been increasing in attendance and enjoyment.

Everyone that has attended any of our reunions has had a great time. Aside from renewing old friendships, and reliving past experiences the programs of events has been very enjoyable, entertaining and interesting to all.

Former Skipper, Capt. Charlie Akers has planned a great program for us. Charlie has had a vast experience in planning reunions and has been extremely active and a great asset to our Association. We are very fortunate with the leadership of Bob Whitten and the assistance of all the other Officers and shipmates to have a strong and growing Association. All the wives, lady friends and relatives have been very complimentary of our reunions.

If you have not attended a reunion you will be in for a very enjoyable experience. In addition Charlie has used his vast talents to trim the cost to produce a **"good bang for the buck."** He also promises mood and dancing music at the banquet. Entertainment is abundant in Las Vegas! ! !

In addition, at the reunion business meeting, election of Officers of the Association will take place.

Hope to see you there!! Don't miss it ! !

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

New Shipmates discovered since our last report in April 1999.

Name	City	Served	Rate
Barnett, Gary	Santa Barbara, CA	56-57	
Bellman, Richard L	Spokane, WA	51	GM3
Blitch, Elton L	Winter Garden, FL	51-54	SSM
Butler, James A	Grosse Ile, MI	67-70	RM3
Carter, Ken	Springfield, MO	67-69	LT(jg)
Carman, Henry	Silverdale, WA	59-61	MM3
Daniel, Buck	Logansport, IN	72-73	SN
Diver, S D	New Deal, TX	51-55	SN
Dorries, Robert A	Gig Harbor, WA	73-75	Lt.
Estes, Arthur	Venice, FL	53-54	YN1
Foley, Louis H	Alamogordo, NM		EMC
Grese, Hank	Boerne, TX	52-53	M1
Hartsell, David	Great Bend, KS		
Hedden, Charles	Solomon Is., MD	67-68	ETR2
Herman, Dale	Benkelman, NE		
Holt, Karl E	Palm Springs, CA	48-50	RD2
Hunt, Franklin	Kansas City,		
Kaumans, James C	San Diego, CA	70-71	MM2
Keith, Richard, M	Littleton, CO		
Luce, Willaim	Aloha, OR	56-59	SO2
Mann, Dean	Concord, CA	46	SC
Monlezun, T J	Covington, LA	49-52	QM2
Need, Van	Annapolis, MD	62-63	
Roza, Eugene A	Montclair, CA	51	MR3
Sanford, Joe	Eugene, OR	71-72	SK2
Shaw, Patrick	Longmont, CO		
Smith, Harold	Greenwood, MS	73-74	HT2
Smith, Walter	Gilbert, MN		
Stachovak, David I	Wausau, WI	66-67	SN
Stahle, Gary G	Warfordsburg, PA	69-71	HT3
Stanford, Joseph	Eugene, OR	71-72	SK2
Titus, Michael O	Huntsville, AL	65-68	FGT2
Triplett, James R	Hamilton, AL	70-72	FN
Wells, Cyril F	Centerville, MA	67-69	Lt(jg)
Zelonis, Joseph	Tonawanda, NY	49-50	FC3

PARTIAL LIST OF SHIPMATES GOING TO REUNION

Anderson, Curt	53-55
Akers, Charlie & Becky	50-52
Barr, Robert & JoAnn	50-54
Barta, Dick	52-55
Blonsick, Jack & Etta	50-51
Bolton, Emmet & Lille	56-59
Burton, Henry	56-59
Crowley, John & Barbara	62-65
Denton, Beale & Betty Ann	46-48
Diver SD & Dorothy	51-55
Dumstorf, T	52-54
Ellis, Del	52-53
Gurganus, Wayne & Shari	51-54
Hecht, Paul	46-47
Hoey, Tom	49-52
Howze, Ernest L	64-66
Jackowski, John	60-62
Jones, Bill	51-52
Koenig, Bob	70-75
Logan, Paul G. & Mary	46-47
Minter, W D & Pat	52-55
Patterson, Pat & Judy	50-51
Palmer, Barr	51-52
Perkins, Tom	50-53
Phelps, Ralph & Marie	52-55
Rueth, Don & Cathy	56-58
Purcell, Glen	52-54
Rainville, Art	52-55
Riley, Eldon & Tina	52-54
Dears, Donald	56-58
Spittle, Frank	48-51
Stachovak, Dave & Carolyn	66-67
Tripas, Trifton & Georgia	56-57
Turner, Daryl	48-52
Walker, Alan	46
Whitten, Bob & Sally	50-52
Wulf, Gordon	
Zschach, Warren & Helene	52-55

MAIL BAG

Hank A. Grese (51-52) MEG 1 signed up and was looking to get info on Max Trew. We were able to get him in contact with Max.

Charlie Akers is still keeping in contact about reunion details by snail mail and Charlie-grams.

Obee O'Brien (52-54) wrote in looking for Paul Lasage, sorry no contact as yet.

Ozbourn's last skipper, Frank Furtado, emailed us to let us know what a great, but small, crew he had when the

OZ was a reserve training ship. He enjoys the Fireball! but won't be able to make the reunion due to other commitments.

Nick Damiano will be with us in Las Vegas, but due to a good travel deal he will be staying at another hotel. He'll be joining us for our activities.

(Mailbag continued on back page)

MAXIM HOTEL

160 East Flamingo Road

Las Vegas, Nevada

Phone: 1-800-634-6987

Reunion Dates: October 13-17, 1999

Room Rates: \$39 net plus 9% tax per room per night, single or double occupancy
Sunday through Thursday .

\$59 net plus 9% tax per room per night, single or double occupancy
Friday & Saturday

Above room rates are also available two days before and after.

Additional person charge: \$10.00 net plus 9% tax per person per night.
(maximum four to a room)

Individuals are responsible for room, tax and incidentals - Upon check in,
guest must present a major credit card or \$50.00 cash deposit to guarantee
payment of incidentals.

Guests are to indicate they are with the **USS OZBOURN REUNION** when
calling Room Reservations to make their reservations.

Call 1-800-634-6987

No Saturday arrivals will be accepted!!!!

Arrival at airport:

Upon arrival at airport you can get round trip bus
transportation provided by COACH USA for \$7.00 per
person. Purchase tickets at booth, outside door #3 of
baggage claim area at airport.

A FEW TIPS FOR LAS VEGAS

All beer lovers check out the Brewery at Monte Carlo. Try and make it down to Freemont St. at night for the Fremont St. Experience. Its every hour starting at 8:00pm. A super water show in front of Bellagio every 15 minutes at night. The atrium by the main desk at the Bellagio is beautiful.

Great pirate battles at Treasure Island. Check times. Get there early. Volcano show every 15 minutes in front of the Mirage. Try the buffets for a late lunch, same menu for dinner only more expensive.

Tips from Pat Bohenko

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Pat Patterson has taken over the Chairmanship of the Search Committee. Things are rolling again and at press time Pat's Committee had uncovered 15 new shipmates.

HOTEL CHECK-IN

After checking into the hotel in Las Vegas, call the Ozbourn "Hospitality Room" to get your reunion information package and event tickets, or call the room number of any of the Committee Members on this page of the "Fireball!!."

SHARE A ROOM

If you are looking to 'share a room' with a shipmate please contact the *Fireball!!* and we will start a list to try and match you up.

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.

NEW White baseball caps similar to dark blue ones. \$16.00 each.

You can add at **no charge:** your last name, WWII, Vietnam, Korea or Plank Owner.

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

HOW TO GET TO THE REUNION

1. Call the Maxim Hotel at: 800- 634-6987 and reserve your room for October 13-17, 1999. Tell them you are with the Ozbourn Reunion Group. You can visit their web site at: www.maximhotel.com
2. Fill out your Sign-Up sheet enclosed in this edition and mail with your check to Charlie Akers, USS Ozbourn Association, 3261 Falkland Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 Return before the deadline: **September 10, 1999**
3. Make your airline reservations. Don't forget the internet to get some good deals!
4. Don't forget to order your USS Ozbourn hat. See this edition for ordering information.
5. Start packing your bags! Pack your photo's!!

Any Questions or problems contact:

Charlie Akers: Phone 562-592-1053 (California)

Email: CAKERS5@email.msn.com

Bob Whitten: Phone 408-252-9213 (California)

Email: rwhitten@pacbell.net

Paul Logan: Phone 781-843-4713 (Boston)

Email: PGLogan@aol.com

SERVICE RIBBONS AND MEDALS

Bill Jones sent information on two interesting web sights to look up all the official names of service ribbons and their equivalent medals. These medal can be obtained free of charge by filling out the proper paper work and sending it in. The sight are: to identify service ribbons and medals: <http://users.aol.com/gman775/medals/medals.html>
To print out order forms: <http://www.nara.gov/regional/mprawr.html>

GOLF ANYONE, AT THE REUNION!!

Ken Miller (50-53) WT2, (Email: kmil@datasync.com) is wondering if we could set up a few shipmates for a golf tournament in Vegas Vegas. If you are interested contact Ken at: 509-783-2713

An idea !! Room rates are the same a few days before and after the reunion. Maybe it could be set up on either side of the reunion. (could be cheaper than a day at the casino). Barr Palmer says he doesn't play anymore but has had some experience with tournaments. Email him at: bpalmer8@gateway.net Bill Jones is interested: Email: wljones2@juno.com

FORMOSA PATROL

(by Thad Harden - continued from April 99
Fireball!)

All stations topside were enveloped continually by gray-white, cottony, fluffs of fog that drifted into every corner of the ship. This behavior was peculiar and unusual. Instead of blowing away it just hung there, as though cherishing a newly found home. The scene was eerie!

Common to this kind of fog, there was little wind. Small wavelets generated by the light breezes of the crest of the swells slapped gently against the hull. Tension was relieved somewhat by the slow motion of the ship. The bow rose and fell, slowly and gently, as moderate swells ran beneath the hull. There seemed to be an ominous credence to the idea that, at any moment, a sea monster could loam out of the dark. A SEA MONSTER? Ridiculous? Maybe? Who really knows what it is? Anyway, few mariners are immune to the trick's imagination plays in such conditions. The Captain secured the Special Sea Detail for leaving port, and set Battle Conditions of Readiness III, immediately the ship passed clear of the narrow rock cliffs delineating the mouth of Taiwan's Kaohsiung (Cow-Shung) harbor. Condition III brought one third of the ship's battle capability, it guns, torpedos, fire control and damage control to the state of "manned and ready" for battle.

Condition II is an interim level, that enables 2/3 of the crew to continue ship's business, while the third manning their battle stations are prepared to fight immediately. The Condition III watch had to be ready to start battle and carry on until General Quartets (GQ) could be called away and Battle Condition I could be set. If GQ sounded, the entire crew was required to drop what they were doing, get to their battle stations, and make them "manned and ready" in three minutes or less. Condition II, half the capability, may be set when a heavier, faster, initial response appears to be needed.

One of the first routine orders the Officer of the Deck issued upon clearing the harbor and beginning his watch was: "*Boatswain's mate of the watch, carry out the Plan of the Day.*" Hence, under the aegis of the Officer of the Deck, the Boatswain Mate of the Watch, essentially, ran the ship's routine.

The fog probed a new lesson. The Chief Quartermaster, was on the bridge "checking things out" and told those on station about the fog being deceptive. He said the location and directions of sounds could be misleading. Detecting any sounds off the ship was difficult, at best, for those on main deck

and bridge. The self-generated ship noises masked sounds from off the ship.

The scene was even more eerie for those manning the Surface Search radar scopes in the combat Information Center (CIC). What was not expected was target images that should not have been there! Images dubbed "Running rabbits" flitted across the scope. This raised unsettling questions to the bridge and CIC teams. The CIC Officer on Watch and the radarmen could not decide what was happening. Could it be intentional or unintentional jamming? The high faulting radar and electronics countermeasures seemed totally useless in getting answers.

The feeling of a young naval officer in such an environment are difficult to describe. As the Officer of the Deck in his mid twenties, he was responsible for the well being of his ship and over three hundred and sixty-five seaman and officers. All hands relied upon him to keep them out of harm's way.

The event of the moment occurred toward the end of the 2000 to 2400 watch. Fatigued by strain and tension, the men anticipated being relieved soon and going below for "midrats" (midnight rations). These midnight snacks were a comforting relief for the sailors: who had pangs of hunger since supper was piped down.

Those going on the midnight watch stood a more alert watch with the snack to tide them over to breakfast.

But this watch, this night, was to be most extraordinary. Few would forget the crescendo of emotion, the mixture of fear, anticipation and impulsive reactions within themselves when:
SUDDENLY . . . A . . . BLINDING . . . WHITE . . .
LIGHT . . . PIERCED . . . open the ink black curtains of the fog. The light beam swept up and down, forward and aft, on the Ozbourne's starboard side stunning those in its glare. Beneath the intense glare, the bow of another destroyer emerged. As it slashed aside the fog, it aimed toward the Ozbourne's bow.

Collision was IMMINENT. For a fraction of an instant the topside crew froze. The Officer of the Deck reached for the collision Alarm., but stopped short of tripping it, when, as abruptly as she had appeared, the intruder, smartly turned, slowed, and matched the Ozbourne's course and speed, at a ship to ship distance of less than 50 feet.

The Captain was livid. That ship had come out of NOWHERE.

(final installment in the next issue of the Fireball!,
don't miss it)

Mailbag (cont)

John Fleming sent us a nice package of Ozbourn memorabilia. Hope to use it in future issues. John plans to be with us in Vegas.

Emmett Bolton (56-57) emailed us to say how much he enjoyed the Formosa Patrol articles, he remembers it well. Emmett will join us in Vegas and is looking for a copy of the 58-59 cruise book. Plans to get in on the golf tournament.

Thanks to Barbara Burkins, wife of past member William H. Burkins, for sending a picture of the Ozbourn in the Wangpoo River, Shanghai China, March 2, 1947.

Thanks to the shipmate who sent in the "change of Command" program when Commander Rodney L. Stewart relieved Commander John C. Denham.

HOOVER DAM TRIP

Great trip at the reunion, don't miss it. Sign up early.

PAUL G. LOGAN, EDITOR
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TAPS

Bob Whitten informed us of the death, a few years ago, of former shipmate William Forney (49-51), MMFN. Our condolences to his family.

Barbara H. Burkins wrote to tell us that her husband, William H. Burkins, QM1 (46) passed away on December 30, 1998. He always looked forward to receiving the Fireball! Our condolences to Barbara and his family.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

If you have any difficulty making reservations at the Maxium Hotel, please call Charlie Akers in California 562-592-1053 or email at: NRRR21A@prodigy.com