



# FIREBALL!

## USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol 9, No. 4 Oct. 2000

### FROM THE BRIDGE

First of all, Pat and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, letters, E-mails, phone calls and memorials in regard to the loss of our son in July. Your kindness and encouragement helped us through a most difficult period. We are indeed blessed to have so many wonderful and supportive friends in this great organization.

In the July issue of FIREBALL! Paul Logan wrote his farewell article as our editor for the past six years. I can't let this moment pass without a few comments on Paul's contributions to the association. I first met Paul at the 1995 reunion in Norfolk and liked him immediately. Since that time, we have worked on many projects together and have become good friends. I have found him to be a most dependable and dedicated shipmate, accepting any task he is asked to do and always doing an outstanding job. Much of the success of the Ozbourn Association is due to Paul's tireless efforts. But not to worry, I am sure that we haven't heard the last of Paul Logan. Right now, Paul is busy securing contracts and finalizing plans for the 2001 reunion. As long as there is a Paul Logan and Ozbourn work to be done, you can be sure that Paul will be there, doing his part and more.

Shipmate and former captain, John Denham reports that work on having another Navy ship named Ozbourn is progressing slowly. John is having difficulty obtaining support information from the Navy

(Continued on page 3)

### MY FIRST FIREBALL!

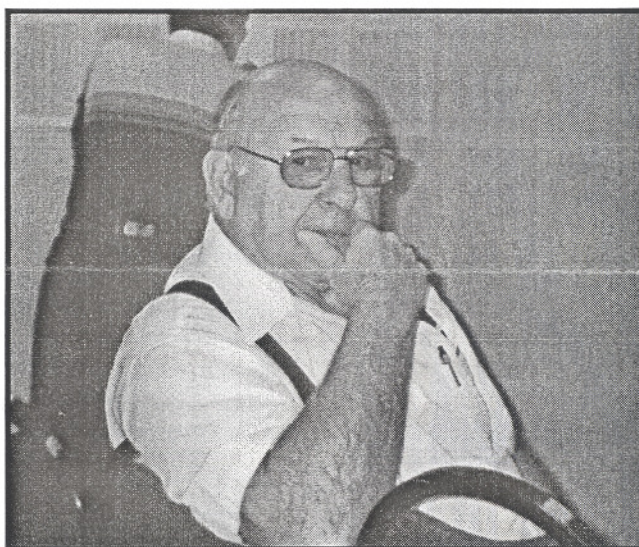
As reported in the last issue, Paul Logan has stepped down as Corresponding Secretary and Editor of the newsletter Fireball!. During his tenure there has been a tremendous expansion in the membership rolls and three outstanding reunions have been organized and carried out to everyone's satisfaction. Likewise, we have seen the Fireball! develop into the primary

source of communication for the membership as well as a forum for interesting articles, stories and anecdotes submitted by our shipmates. All of this is due, in no small part to the dedication and perseverance of Paul Logan. BRAVO ZULU Paul, we all salute you for your service to the association.

In case you are wondering how it is that I am writing this column, WD Minter made me do it. I found his eloquent and impassioned remarks, made at the reunion in Las Vegas

last year, impossible to resist and I decided on the spot to join ranks with him. He graciously accepted my offer and so here I sit in the editors chair with the official Fireball! quill in my hand. Having been trained as a mariner and not a journalist, I fear that shoal water may be lurking just around the bend in the channel but be assured that I shall endeavor to continue with the best interests of the association in mind and in keeping with the high standards already established by my predecessors.

Thomas M. Perkins, Editor



**Paul Logan**

A pensive Paul Logan ponders the future of the association



## REUNION 2001 UPDATE (OCT. 17-21, 2001)

The reunion site is Seekonk, MA which is near Providence, RI. From this point we will be able to visit Battleship Cove in Fall River, MA, the location of the destroyer USS Joseph P Kennedy Jr. (DD850) and the battleship USS Massachusetts (BB59). Tours of both ships and a Memorial Service and Dinner have been arranged.

Boston is the destination for the following day with a visit to the old Charlestown Navy Yard where the Ozbourn was first commissioned in 1946. Located here is the USS Cassin Young (DD793) and the relic USS Constitution, the oldest commissioned ship in the Navy. Lunch is to be held in Dorchester, MA followed by a visit to the John F. Kennedy Library. On Saturday a tour of the Mansions in Newport, RI has been arranged with the Banquet to follow back in Seekonk that evening.

Contracts have been signed and deposits made on all functions with the exception of transportation which will be completed sometime after January 1st.

Members of the reunion committee are:

Paul Hecht: Chief Coordinator and Treasurer

Paul Logan: Contractor

Calvin (Pat) Patterson: Photographer

WD Minter: Ticket Preparer and Publicity

Bob Whitten: Memorial Services Director

W.L. (Bill) Jones: Banquet Programs

Hospitality Suite:

Registrar:

Volunteers for the last two positions are needed to round out the committee roster and Banquet Room decorators are needed as well. Please give it some thought and notify Paul Hecht if you can lend a hand in making this our best reunion ever.

More details will be forthcoming in the next issue of Fireball!

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### Korea Service Medal Eligibility

Many shipmates may be eligible to receive the Korea Service Medal. To be eligible, military personnel must have served between 25 June 1950 and 27 July 1953; have been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days; and performed their duties within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent thereto, or in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat

The Air Force is handling distribution and medals applied for through the year 2003. Service members should provide a copy of discharge papers (DD214 or DD215) or the National Guard equivalent (NGB Form 22). For more information call the Air Force Personnel Center at 1-800-558-1404, the Awards and Decorations Section at 1-210-565-2432 or visit [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards) on the internet.

This information came from Naval Affairs, the Fleet Reserve Association magazine. Personnel manning the 1-800 number are efficient, friendly and will provide all the necessary forms and information that will permit an eligible person to claim the medal.

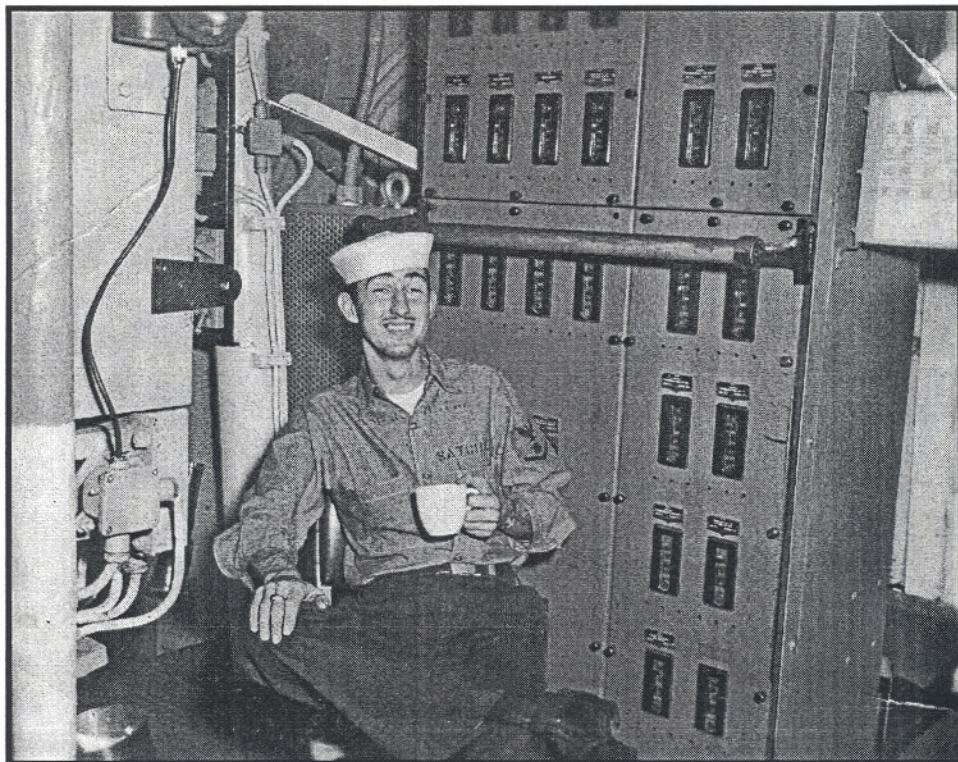
Thanks to shipmate Art Estes for providing this information.

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### SHIPMATES DISCOVERED

Allen, Michael	Bantine, David
Belz, Roland	Burleson, Loyd
Casey, Lyle	Darrington, Larry
Dobbs, Denny	Fruits, Gary
Gloeckler, Keith	Guzman, Tom
Hagen, Lloyd	Haynes, Theodore
Isca, Victor	Johnnson, William
Jutila, Ray	Ketter, Byron
McNiff, James	McPherson, John
Murphy, John	Robinson, Randall
Rollins, Robert	Shryock, Charles
Thompson, Lyle	Vandagriff, Bruce
Vitek, John	





**Richard** is going to the 2001 reunion. How about you? It is not too early to start planning your trip to the **Boston** area. More details regarding the reunion will be forthcoming in future issues of **Fireball!**.

**The**  
**reunion is**  
**scheduled**  
**for OCT.**  
**17-21, 2001**

## **Richard E. Satchell EM3/c**

**A brand new Electricians Mate 3/c on watch in the after engine room, March 27, 1957**

*(continued from page 1)*

archives. A planned approach is being developed and justification data is being gathered. Some of you may be called upon to help in this effort. I urge you to help John by documenting any significant accomplishments by the Ozbourn and her crew while you were on board. We are attempting to prove that no other post World War II destroyer performed so many tasks so well as did the Ozbourn during her 29 years of service to America.

We hope to have significant progress to report by the next issue of FIREBALL!.

W. D. Minter, President

### **SALTY TALK**

**TAR:** General name for a sailor and derived from the old custom of a sailor tarring his trousers in order to make them waterproof.

### **ATTENTION ALL HANDS**

The Ozbourn Association cannot operate without the financial support of the individual members. Dues are \$10.00 per year, payable on 1 January of each year. Your address label on the newsletter will indicate the last year you have paid. For example: If "00" appears on your mailing label your dues will be due on 1 January 2001.

All "active member" shipmates whose membership is paid through calendar year 2000 will receive the January 2001 issue of Fireball!. After that, if dues are not paid prior to April 2001, the member will be moved to the inactive list and will no longer receive the newsletter. Remember, 2001 is a reunion year so don't be left adrift. Check your Fireball! label and send those dues to Treasurer Paul Hecht, P.O. Box, 3534, Portsmouth, VA.23701-0534. Incidentally, Paul would be overjoyed to take your additional years dues if you so desire.



## Mail Call

Bob Whitten wrote:

Sally and I attended the commemoration of the beginning of the Korean War that was held in Reno, NV on 25 June. The afternoon event featured an hour and a half performance of Korean dancers from various Korean universities followed by the presentation of the medals struck by the Republic of Korea government and finally authorized by the U.S. Army for wearing on uniforms. The medal was first issued nearly half a century ago and accepted by all of the nations involved in the United Nations effort except the United States. The U.S. Army does move slowly!

The evening event was a formal affair at the Reno Hilton with various speakers including the admiral commanding the Naval Strike Warfare Center at Fallon

NV and a former governor who is a Korean War veteran. The whole affair was exceptionally well done (subsidized by local philanthropists) and well worth the drive to Reno. Quite by chance, our table had couples representing each of the services.

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The following letter was received by E-mail and is considered to be of such an inspiring nature that it is included in it's entirety.

Subject: TAPS

Hello,

My name is John A. Fornbacher Jr. I am writing to inform you of the passing of my father John Andrew Fornbacher Sr. (BM3/c) on October 27, 1999. He was on the Fireball! mailing list and I know that he was a crewmember on the Ozbourn however, I am not sure for how long and can only guess early to mid 50's. He enlisted in 1945 at wars end and got out in 1949 and then back in that same year or a year later ( I remember he said he spent a year in the reserves and then went active again). He mentioned several destroyers that he served on such as the USS Mervine (DD489 later reclassified DMS31), Hancock (?), McCook, Cunningham, and perhaps one or two others to include the Ozbourn (DD846). If I remember correctly, in the movie starring Humphrey Bogart, "Caine Mutiny", there is a scene where two naval officers are standing on the pier and one of them mentions "there goes the 'ole Ozbourn". I think it is near the beginning of the film. I mention this because I always remember my Dad telling me when I was little and watching that movie with him that he served on the Ozbourn and I think he said that he may have

been on board about the time that the movie was filmed so I would guess that he may have served on Ozbourn in 1955-1956 before he got out of the Navy to marry my mother (Eleanor Connor). My Dad loved the Navy very much and often made mention of navy life as I was growing up. Always he would tell me like the "old salty Boatswainsmates" would say, "there are only two ways to do things around here, my way and the Navy way, and I got news for you, my way is the Navy way!!!" He would tell me of some actions he had seen over in Korea when I would press him for information. I love my Dad very much even though he may have been somewhat of a hellraiser and I will always miss him and all that he taught me from his service in the Navy.

If I may ask one last request and that would be if you would send a copy of the "FIREBALL!" newsletter that includes my fathers name in the "TAPS" section to my mother in Pleasant Hill, CA. Thank you.

Signed: UT2 John Fornbacher Jr. (U. S. Navy Seabees)

Ed. note: I cannot think of a more loving tribute to a father from his son. Consider it done John Jr. and thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.

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Mrs. Loraine Juracich wrote to inform us of the death of her husband YNCS Samuel Juracich on September 5, 1998. Chief Juracich served on the Ozbourn during the period 1960-1961 when the ship was located in the Seattle area and resided in Hayden Lake, ID during his retirement. Our condolences to the Juracich family.

## TINCAN TRIVIA

Did you know. . . . . ??

USS Gearing (DD 710), lead ship of the Gearing class of which Ozbourn is a part, was named in honor of three generations of the same family of naval officers. Henry Chalfant Gearing was born in 1855 and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1876 (the year after Curt Anderson) and served in many ships and stations until retirement in 1909. Henry C. Gearing Jr. was born in 1887, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1907 and served on active duty until his death in 1944. Henry C. Gearing III was born in 1912, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1935 and was lost with his ship the USS Juneau (CL 52) in 1942 during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. Surely, an honorable name for a great class of ship.



### MORE OZBOURN HISTORY

On 3 December 1968 Ozbourn entered Long Beach Naval Shipyard for a four month regular overhaul and emerged on 29 Mar. 1969 with replacement gun mounts and ASROC launcher together with an enlarged electronic counter measures suite.

On 25 April the ship reported to the Fleet Training Group of the Pacific Fleet for six weeks of intensive refresher training in preparation for the upcoming West Pac deployment. Two days after completion of RefTra on 6 June Ozbourn, together with other ships of her division, sailed for Portland, OR to participate in the annual Rose Festival and upon return to home port Long Beach, continued final preparations for deployment.

26 Sept. found Ozbourn under way in company with other units of DesDiv 92 for the long anticipated deployment to the Western Pacific.

With stopovers in Hawaii and Midway Island the ship continued on to arrive in Yokosuka, Japan on 15 October. During this time operational control was shifted from COM FIRST FLT to the Seventh Fleet.

The ship departed Yokosuka on 18 Oct. via Buckner Bay, Okinawa to take up Naval Gunfire Support duties in the I Corps area, Republic of Vietnam arriving at Da Nang on 24 Oct.

Throughout the next thirty days Ozbourn remained on the gun line providing gunfire support around the DMZ and the I Corps area. During this period 22 replenishments were conducted and 6,569 rounds of 5 inch ammunition was expended.

Ordered North, the ship fueled at Kaohsiung, and then sailed through the Taiwan Straits into the East China Sea in order to conduct ASW operations with the USS Menhaden (SS377) on 5 Dec.

Following this operation, Ozbourn joined the screening unit attached to the USS Coral Sea which then proceeded through the Tsushima Straits to take up radar picket stations in the Sea Of Japan. Upon detachment from these duties she proceeded to port in Sasebo, Japan for a weeks upkeep and repairs.

Christmas 1969 found the ship in Hong Kong and New Years day 1970 in the port of Keelung, Taiwan until 2 Jan. 1970 when she departed for the Tonkin Gulf riding "shot gun" for the USS Constellation (CVA64). This assignment lasted for about three weeks when the ship departed the area

for the 1200 mile trip for a well earned R&R in exotic Bangkok, Thailand, arriving on 2 Feb. 1970. After a satisfying 5 day stopover Ozbourn was once again underway to join the USS Hancock (CV19), first for operations in the South China Sea then proceeding northward to the Okinawa area before once again arriving at Yokosuka. After taking on provisions and fuel Ozbourn was underway for homeport Long Beach arriving on 1 April, 1970.

This abridged account of the Ozbourn's 1969 WestPac deployment was provided by shipmate Pat Bohenko RM2 (68-70). He went on to say that he had missed some of the details but mentioned a brush with a typhoon while enroute to Subic Bay that caused more than a few upset stomachs while it lasted. Mr. Bohenko left the Navy in November 1970.

Our thanks to Pat for sharing this most interesting account of his cruise to the Western Pacific during one of the most turbulent periods of our time.

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### OZBOURN'S LOST HISTORY RECOVERED

Some of the missing years from Ozbourn's history has been uncovered thanks to Craig Chaddock of San Diego, CA. In 1973, Craig was a Cub Scout in a den with the son of former Ozbourn Commanding Officer Kenneth L. Costilow. Craig wrote to the ship requesting information and received an 8x10 color photo and a 24 page history of the ship encompassing the years 1946 through 1972.

Craig found our web page some time ago and donated both items to the Ozbourn Association. The history is complete through Ozbourn's last WESTPAC deployment that ended in October 1972. It has been digitized and is now included on the web site on the history page.

Members from the 1968-1972 era can now refresh their memories on the ship's activities when they were on board. Gradually, the entire ship's history is being collected and published for the benefit of all hands.

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☆☆ **TAPS FOR SHIPMATES:** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

☆☆ **FORNBACHER, John A. Sr. (BM3), 27** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
☆☆ **October 1999** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

☆☆ **JURACICH, Samuel, (YNCS) 5 September** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
☆☆ **1998** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

☆☆ **LEST WE FORGET . . .** ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
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**SHIPMATES**

You, the members of the Ozbourn association  
are the sole source for material that is published  
in the newsletter Fireball!.

All material submitted to the Editorial office will  
be returned to the owner, if desired.

So, keep them cards and letters rolling in!!!!

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