

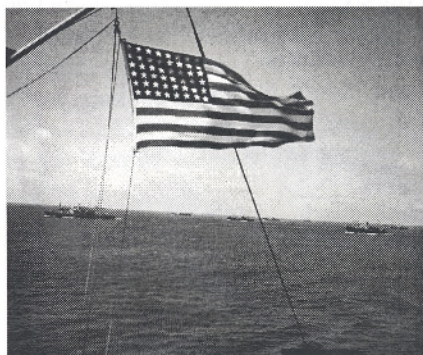


# FIREBALL !

The newsletter of the  
**USS OZBOURN (DD846)**  
 Association  
 Vol. 11, No. 1 Jan. 2002

Dedicated to perpetuating the memory of a gallant Marine and preserving the history of a fine ship.

## SEEKONK REUNION A HUGE SUCCESS



**"OLD GLORY"**  
 Long may she wave

### ***Inside this issue:***

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### **Down Range**

**Spittle vs Neptunus Rex**

**The saga of Trifon Tripsas**

**How Jackowski bested Mobilize Dog**

**Don't miss 'em.**

### RIDE A TOUR BUS THROUGH MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND

The 2001 Ozbourn reunion is now history and from all accounts it was an overwhelming success. Over and over, the words "best ever" were echoed at every turn. From the moment one entered the hospitality suite where the registration packets were handed out to the farewell breakfast on Sunday morning it was apparent that the planning had been carefully organized in great detail. In the early stages, some wondered where in the heck is Seekonk, but once on the scene it became apparent why this particular site was chosen. For the most part the accommodations were adequate but it was the proximity to the tour areas that made it such a desirable location. Not only this but the weather couldn't have been better. Typical New England autumn days with crisp, frosty mornings followed by mellow, sunny afternoons along with the brilliant tree foliage was in evidence throughout our stay, no doubt conjured up by our genial operative on the scene, Paul Logan.

Day 1 found the crew on an afternoon outing to Fall River MA, the site of one of the finest nautical exhibits to be found anywhere. Of course the centerpiece of the exhibit was the bulky shape of the USS Massachusetts, a battleship of the WWII era. It seemed that everyone naturally gravitated to the USS Joseph P. Kennedy (DD850), a close sister to our own Ozbourn. Although extensively modified from the early days, there were still enough similarities to fuel some heated discussions about what used to go where.

Numerous other displays of all sorts of things of a nautical nature were also

available for viewing and were enjoyed by all hands.

Probably the highlight of the entire day was the solemn memorial service that was conducted on board the Massachusetts. Organized and directed by Past President Bob Whitten, the service was a fitting tribute to all our deceased shipmates. One toll of a bell was struck as each name on the deceased muster roll was called. In this manner, the bell was tolled a total of sixty four times. To conclude the service, a ceremonial wreath was carried to the ships side by James Helland and Paul Hecht, and cast into the waters of Mt. Hope Bay, all to the accompaniment of the Navy Hymn followed by a solitary bugle playing the melancholy notes of TAPS. It was a most touching ceremony.

Following the ceremony all hands once again assembled in the wardroom to hear a stirring narration by CAPT. Charlie Akers, the only former Ozbourn C.O. in attendance, as he took us through what it takes to make a destroyer crew, ticking off the ratings and duties that are so necessary to ensure the success of the mission. His vivid account of what it was like being on board a ship at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and the significance of the terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon was most enlightening.

Next on the agenda was a delicious meal served in the wardroom of the Massachusetts. The Navy chaplain engaged for the occasion was late but the redoubtable Bob Whitten stepped to the fore and did a commendable job with the blessing. Incidentally, the Baked Scrod was superb.

(cont. Pg. 4)



## FROM THE BRIDGE

Those of you who were unable to attend the 2001 reunion in Seekonk missed a truly extraordinary event. The feeling of friendship and camaraderie was evident everywhere. I always come away from these events with an adrenaline high that lasts for months but this time I feel that it is going to last much longer.

The day trips were all well attended and the spacious hospitality suite was buzzing with activity from opening to closing time each day. Old friends met there and became reacquainted after more than fifty years and many new friends were made over drinks and sea stories. Many, many people took the time to tell the reunion committee and me what a terrific time they were having.

From the trip to Battleship cove where we reminisced on the decks of the USS Joseph P. Kennedy (DD850), toured PT boats, the USS Lionfish and other craft to the USS Massachusetts where we held an emotion filled memorial service for our departed friends and shipmates followed by a delightful dinner in the wardroom, to our banquet on Saturday night and a farewell breakfast on Sunday morning, it was a most enjoyable experience.

Our speaker at the banquet was Professor William Turcotte from the Naval War College who brought us a timely message about our national security and terrorism. He was followed by an entertainment group called 'The Merry Makers' who delivered a repertoire of popular songs from the 40's and 50's that took us back for a few moments to a time then we were younger. They finished with a medley of patriotic and military songs that brought us to our feet with everyone joining in the singing.

Yes, the 2001 reunion was a memorable one that those who attended will cherish for years to come. My only regret is that every former Ozbourn sailor could not be there to share the moments with us.

I urge each and every one of you to make plans now to be at the 2003 reunion and be a part of an experience that you will remember forever.

W.D. Minter, President

## SELECTIONS FROM THE MAIL BAG

In case it has not previously been done let's put it in writing.

Our 2001 reunion was a masterpiece thanks to the skill and dedication of Paul Hecht and Paul Logan and the others involved.

Our OZBOURN Association is in good hands with the leadership of W. D. Minter following the initial standard set by Bob Whitten. The camaraderie between our shipmates so clearly in evidence at Seekonk is part of the fabric and spirit of this great Nation and will insure our Country's success in the future regardless of the challenge of terrorist activity. Let us keep the faith.

Charlie Akers  
Commanding Officer, (50-52)

In response to your "help" e-mail. My wife, Judy, said, "Our Ozbourn reunions are always a joy! All the activities are excellent and well-planned. The most interesting and moving experience, to me, occurred at the farewell banquet at the very end of the entertainment group's sing-a-long. The song was "God Bless America" and quite spontaneously, without direction from a leader, the entire Ozbourn group stood up, joined hands to form a continuous chain, and by the end of the song, all hands were raised above our heads. Truly, the depth of feeling was indescribable. God Bless America!"

We live in the afterglow of being together with wonderful friends that have entered our lives through the USS Ozbourn (DD 846) Association.

Calvin G. "Pat" Patterson (50-51)

In the beginning, I attended the reunions in order to be with my friends who served on board at the same time that I did. Now I find shipmates who were there at the same time that I never knew plus many others that served before and after I left. What fun it is to exchange experiences with all these fine people and their wives and guests. In fact, there are times when it

## **USS OZBOURN (DD 846) Officers of the Association Vol. 11, No. 1 Jan. 2002**

### **President**

W.D. Minter (52-55)  
Texarkana, TX

E-mail: wdminter@gte.net

### **Vice President**

James R. Clay (52-55)  
Crestview, FL

E-mail: jrcla@mail.cyou.com

### **Recording Secretary**

William L. Jones (51-52)  
Goodyear, AZ

E-mail: arizonawill@juno.com

### **Treasurer**

Warren Zschach (52-55)  
Petaluma, CA

E-mail: hwz@attbi.com

### **Corresponding Secretary and Editor of Fireball!**

Thomas M. Perkins (50-53)  
Port Orchard, WA

E-mail: ozbourn@tscnet.com

### **Historian**

Fred Conwell (48-51)  
Fremont, CA

E-mail: bedrock47@aol.com

### **Advisor**

Charles Akers (50-52)  
Huntington Beach, CA

E-mail: caker5@msn.com

### **USS OZBOURN WEB PAGE**

**www.ozbourn.org**

becomes more of a social event for everyone rather than just a meeting of old shipmates. My wife, Helene, wouldn't miss a reunion any more than I. We sign up for every event to be with the most people at all times. The hospitality room is one of our favorite places. I would encourage any person that has not attended a reunion to do so and I promise that they will have a good time.

Warren Zschach (52-55)

As the coordinator of the reunion committee, I would like to thank my committee members and especially Paul Logan who did all the contract work there in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Paul took care of all the  
(cont. Pg. 3)



little details that made the reunion such a success. My main job was to keep the records of all the members who signed up and finally to pay all the bills. I would like to thank WD Minter for his assistance in making other assignments to keep the hospitality suite going and making arrangements for the memorial service on the USS Massachusetts.

At the business meeting on Saturday, a new treasurer was elected and after eight years I quit my post and turned the money bags over to Warren Zschach.

Paul Hecht (46-47)



Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA

Mail call continues on page 5

### REUNION ATTENDEES

Akers, C.	(50-52)
Barr, R.	(50-54)
Barron, A.	(52-55)
Barta, R.	(52-56)
Bell, C.	(46-47)
Blonsick, J.	(50-51)
Boff, R.	(52-55)
Burge, H.	(54-57)
Burlingame, J.	(46-47)
Clark, R.	(50-52)
Clay, J.	(52-55)
Cohrs, W.	(46)
Cole, C.	(50-52)
Conwell, F.	(48-51)
Counselman, J.	(46)
Creese, W.	(58-62)
Clyne, K.	(54-57)
Davis, J.	(48-52)
Denton, B.	(46-48)
Fauteck, N.	(53-57)
Fink, G.	(46-48)
Gargus, R.	(51-54)
Heard, C.	(51-53)
Hecht, P.	(46-47)
Helland, J.	(46)
Hoey, T.	(49-52)
Holmes, A.	(52-55)
Ihme, P.	(46-48)
Jackowski, J.	(61-63)
Johnson, R.	(56-58)
Jones, W.	(51-52)
Keene, K.	(71-74)
Koch, A.	(47-51)

LaFond, R.	(46-48)
Lamoureux, R.	(66-69)
Laux, N.	(52-55)
Lay, R.	(46)
Logan, P.	(46-47)
Mattson, C.	(46-47)
May, T.	(51-54)
McCord, V.	(48-49)
Miller, R.	(49-50)
Minter, W.	(52-55)
Patterson, C.	(50-51)
Percell, G.	(52-54)
Perkins, T.	(50-53)
Prior, J.	(48)
Rainville, A.	(52-55)
Rollins, R.	(54-56)
Rueth, D.	(56-58)
Sacco, D.	(51-54)
Sanders, D.	(53-55)
Satchell, R.	(55-58)
Shelton, W.	(46-47)
Swan, C.	(55-56)
Thomsen, E.	(45-46)
Tripsas, T.	(56-57)
Walker, A.	(46)
Whitten, R.	(50-52)
Wilborn, O.	(52-55)
Winter, L.	(61-65)
Zschach, W.	(52-55)

Attendees listed above together with the numerous spouses and guests brought total attendance to well over 110 which is probably a reunion record for Ozbourn.

Well Done Shipmates, lets plan to make the next one even better.

### BUSINESS MEETING 10/20/2001

A summary follows:

Treasurers report—Paul Hecht:

- \$8146 in treasury with some reunion expenses outstanding.
- New Treasurer—Warren Zschach

Recording Secretary's report:

See page 6

President's report — W.D. Minter:

- Thanked committee for outstanding reunion.
- Will not stand for re-election in 2 years.
- Announced formation of nominating committee to provide a slate of new association officers:
  - Bob Whitten
  - J.R. Clay
  - Norm Fauteck
- Announced formation of a reunion site selection committee.

Committee Members:

W. D. Minter  
Warren Zschach  
Calvin Patterson  
Richard Clark

In a discussion of possible sites the following locations were suggested:

Hawaii	Niagara Falls
Mid-West	Branson, MO

Old Business:

Motions were passed to provide funds from the treasury as follows:

(cont. Pg. 4)



(cont. from Pg. 1)

Day 2 and it was off to the old Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston, home of "Old Ironsides". The yard, long since removed from the ranks of active naval service nevertheless retains many of its features that date back to the earliest days of the Navy. Unfortunately, the USS Constitution was closed to visitors due to the recent events in New York and Washington but the other areas were open. Worthy of note was the USS Cassin Young (DD 793), one of the last of the Fletcher class destroyers of WWII fame, looking sleek and classy in a fresh coat of haze gray. The USS Constitution museum was located nearby and was well worth a visit as well.

After a somewhat harrowing bus ride through the area of "The Big Dig" and down through the winding streets of South Boston and historic Dorchester, lunch awaited in the elegant Phillips Old Colony House. Following another memorable meal of Baked Scrod, the convoy of busses was off to tour the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. This is the repository of the voluminous papers and documents relating to the Kennedy administration and visitors can trace some of the more momentous events that dominated that period. Finally, after another "white knuckle", rush hour bus ride through the southern approaches to Boston, all hands were safely delivered back to the temporary lodgings at Seekonk where the hospitality suite beckoned and the crew gathered to go over the events of the day.

Saturday's tour centered around the fabulous mansions in Newport, RI where it is still possible to experience some of the grandeur and opulence of the so called "summer homes" of the wealthy families of the past. Again, the weather was perfect with the mighty Atlantic looking peaceful and benign as it stretched to the horizon. The last bus convoy safely delivered all hands back to Seekonk in plenty of time for the attitude adjustment period in preparation for the traditional banquet.

Opening the festivities was a contingent of young Sea Cadets who did a most commendable job of presenting



**Minter, Zschach, Jones, Purcell and Walker (l to r), destroyermen one and all, check out the USS Cassin Young (DD793).**

the colors.

During ceremonies preceding dinner, President W.D. Minter recognized the contributions of Paul Hecht and Paul Logan during their many years of service to the Ozbourn Association. Paul Hecht had served as Treasurer for eight years and Paul Logan filled the billets of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary as well as Editor of the Fireball for seven years. Both were heavily involved in the organization of the 2001 reunion and they were each presented with plaques amid enthusiastic applause from the members present. Nine plank owners in the assembly were also recognized and received a hearty round of applause. Next came the installation of the officers of the association elected to serve for the next two years. No butterfly ballots or hanging chads here, it was already a done deal with the only change being Warren Zschach relieving Paul Hecht as Treasurer.

Featured speaker, Professor William Turcotte of the Naval War College in Newport presented a thought provoking assessment of our county's strategic "thinking" in light of the recent massive terrorist activity inside our borders and the options open to the President and military planners.

Following dinner, entertainment was provided by a trio known as "The

Merry Makers". Their routine was a wonderful collection of songs dating to the 40's and 50's and their patriotic numbers received much applause and enthusiastic participation from the audience. And so the 2001 Ozbourn came to a close with all in attendance joining hands and singing "God Bless America". It was a fitting end to a most interesting and enjoyable three days of camaraderie and good will. And yes mateys, the Baked Scrod was delicious.

Thomas M. Perkins, Editor

(cont. fm. Pg. 3)

1. \$300 donation every 2 yrs.  
To Tin Can Sailors Association.

2. \$600 to Presidents Discretionary Fund.

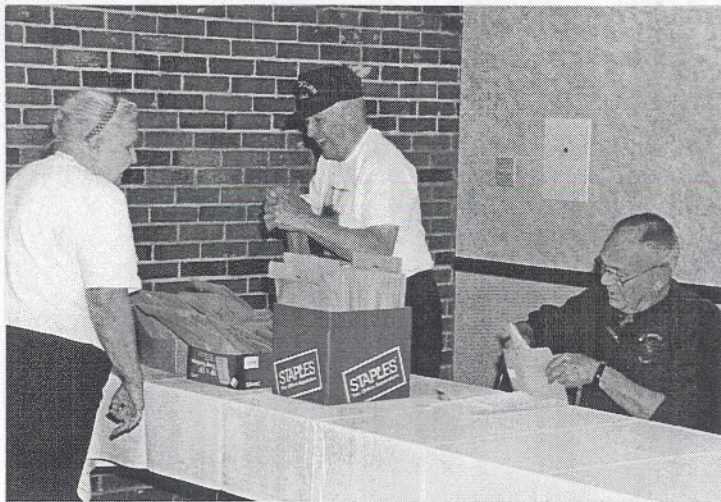
3. \$300 donation to Korean War Veterans Association

Bob Whitten requested a motion for donation of \$100 to the USS David McCampbell Committee who are assisting in the effort to have a new ship named OZBOURN. Motion passed.

Bob Whitten requested \$35 to buy a reunion video for CINCPACFLT. Motion passed.

President Minter requested \$200 be provided to Paul Hecht for incidental reunion expenses. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 0930.





Zschach and Barr open the registration desk under the direction of Mary Logan



Phil Ihme and Beale Denton check in

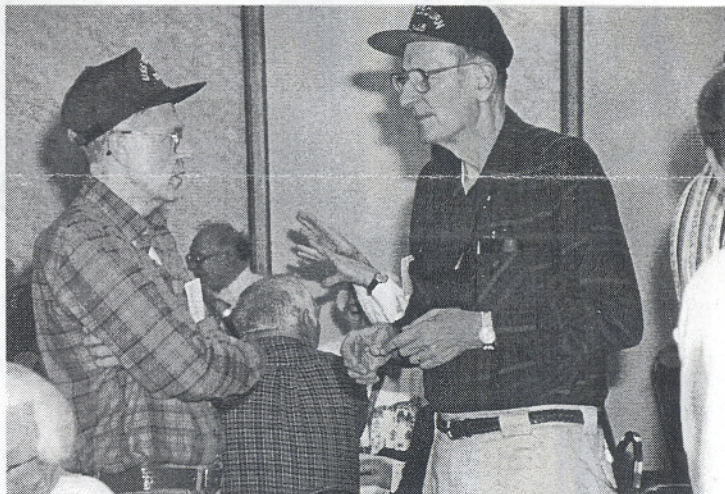
## USS OZBOURN (DD 846)

REUNION 2001

PHOTO SUPPLEMENT



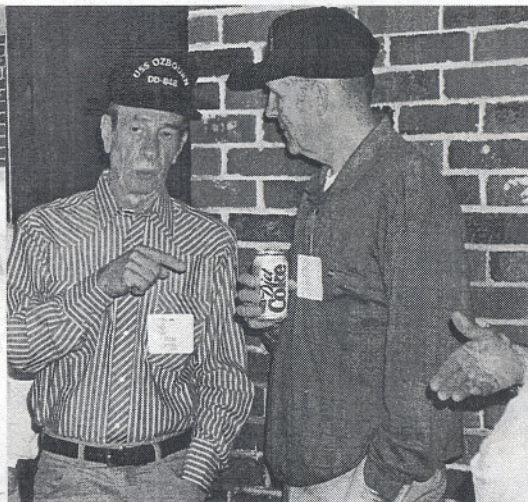
Paul Logan and Tom Perkins (l to r) share a joke. It must have been a good one!



Al Koch (47-51) (rt.) tells Ken Keene (71-74) how it was in the old days.



A view in the Hospitality Suite, the best room in the house.



Tom Hoots makes a point to Raymond Johnson

All photographs appearing in this supplement were provided through the courtesy of reunion attendees to include: Jack Blonsick, Beale Denton, William L. Jones, Richard La Fond, Debbie Denton Madden, William D. Minter, Calvin "Pat" Patterson and Warren E. Zschach. Thank you one and all, your participation is appreciated.





Rudy Boff and Ted May check in  
"Hello shipmate, my name is Joe Davis"



James and Audrey Burlingame attend their first reunion



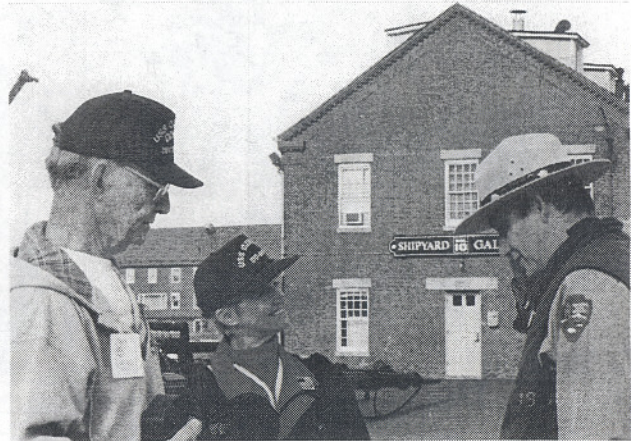
Norm and Doris Laux relax in the hospitality suite.



Wes and Betty Ann Cressey give their undivided attention



Richard Satchell surveys the Boston Navy Yard



Beale and Debbie seek direction from the Park Ranger





Statuary Circle at the Kennedy Library



"Old Ironsides", Indeed!

Osbourne????????????

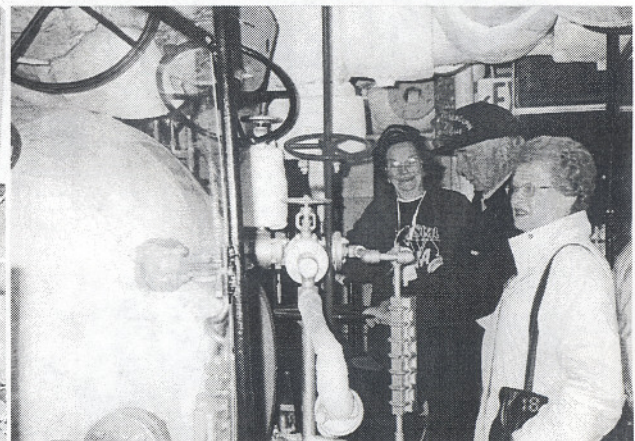
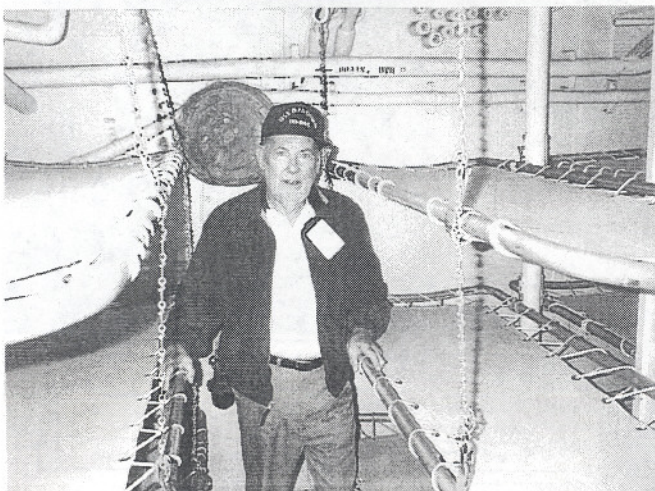


"Oh no, not Baked Scrod again!"

I hear you Bill, how did anyone get any sleep in there?



"I left my purse on the bridge, Charley!"

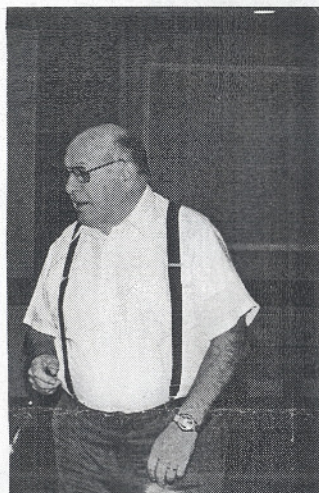


"The water goes in here and the oil goes in down there and then the steam comes out of that pipe....."

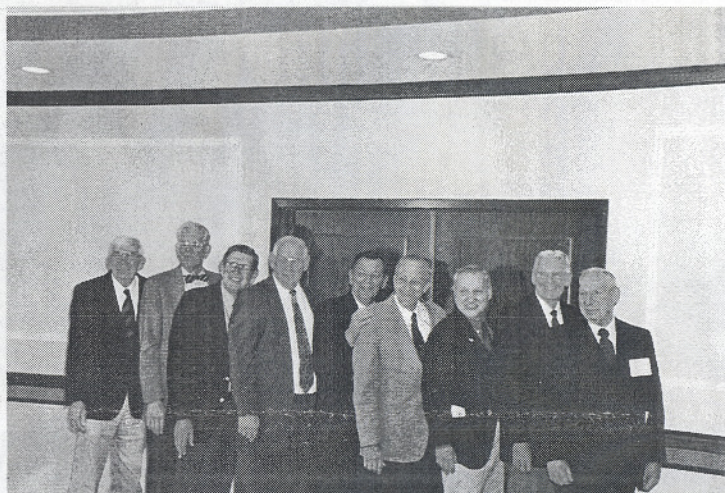




↑ All hands listen attentively as Bill Jones presents the "State of the Association" address ↑



No detail is too small for Paul Logan's attention



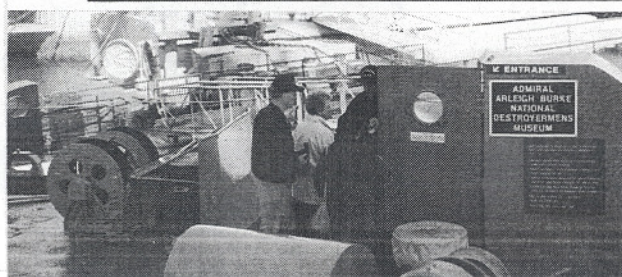
Plankowners together again after 55 years: (l to r) Counselman, Thomsen, Fink, Ihme, Helland, Hecht, Walker, Cohrs and Burlingame.



President WD Minter recognizes Paul Logan and Paul Hecht for their many years of service to the USS Ozbourn Association



Carl Mattson says, "Our torpedo tubes didn't look like that".



Named for "31 knot" Burke, a destroyerman second to none





Minter, Zschach, Gargus and Purcell line up for the banquet.



Helene and Warren check out a summer home



USS Cassin Young (DD 793) tied up in same berth where Ozbourn commissioned in 1946



Lunch at the elegant Philips Old Colony House

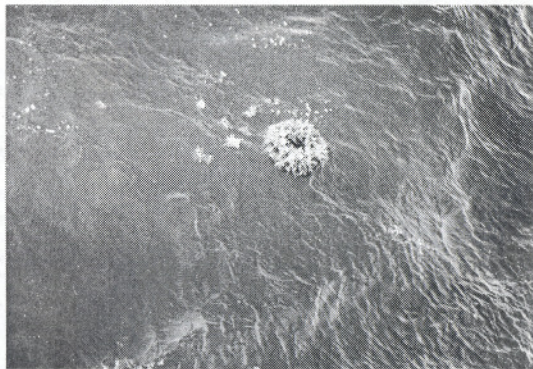


The last Breakfast in Seekonk





**James Helland and Paul Hecht prepare to cast the memorial wreath into the deep waters of Mt. Hope Bay.**



**The wreath underway**

**Capt. Charles O. Akers, USN Ret., addresses the ship's company during the memorial ceremony.**



**USS Constitution at Boston  
The worlds oldest commissioned ship**





(mail call, cont. fm. Pg. 3)

In an email of 10/10/2001 Mrs. Josephine Crowe writes, in part:

I have put off writing this for too long, but it does bring back so many precious memories of our Navy years and the Ozbourn. My husband, Elmo Crowe, went home to be with the Lord whom he loved, on September 29, 2000. Elmo was assigned to the Ozbourn in 1951 after his initial training. We were married in February of 1952 and never regretted our union. We had 6 wonderful children and 48 wonderful years together.

Elmo was assigned as Navy Mail Clerk (TESN) in June 1952 and served in the Korean conflict. He is greatly missed by all of us.

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In a FAX of Oct. 20, 2001 to Bob Whitten, Mrs. Suzy Sommer writes, in part:

I am sad to report that another "Taps" is in order. My beloved husband, Robert F. Sommer, YNSN, (46-48) passed away on August 4, 2001.

I want you all to know that Bob's Navy days and later, the Ozbourn reunions, held a big place in his heart.

Over the years as a civilian, much of Bob's energy and time was given so generously, in many areas of need to service to his country, state, community and fellow man. He was a kind, gentle and humble man - a true humanitarian who touched the lives of many over the years.

Even though Bob knew his days were numbered, he was still bound and determined that we would attend the reunion in Seekonk. As you now know, God had other plans for him.

Fondly remembering the Ozbourn reunions of the past, I would be pleased and honored, with your permission, to join you in 2003. I have many photographs from 1946-1948 that you haven't seen yet.

God bless Bob, the U.S. Navy and God bless our country.

Until we meet again,  
Suzy Sommer

---

VHS tape of 53/54 WESTPAC cruise: Al Holmes (51-55) writes to say that he is offering copies of an 8mm film that has been transferred to the VHS

## TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

**Hosea Alderman, GM3 (51-54)**  
**1985**

**Richard R. Brownell, ME3 (54-55)**  
**September 23, 2001**

**Marvin Carriker, (45-46)**  
**October 22, 2001**

**Elmo Crowe, TESH (51-55)**  
**September 29, 2000**

**Louis H. Fraley, EMC (48-51)**  
**August 7, 2001**

**CDR. Donald Gorman, (C.O. 1961)**  
**July 22, 2001**

**Robert F. Sommer, YNSN (46-48)**  
**August 4, 2001**

## AND THEY REST IN PEACE

format See views of the "Wells Fargo Express" as they refuel at sea and transfer personnel between ships while underway. Operations with DesDiv 112, Task Force 77 and scenes of many Far East ports are included as well as views of anti-aircraft and torpedo firings. Music accompaniment. Available for \$20 including shipping from Al Holmes, 7 Rainbow Dr., Hauppauge, NY 11788.  
E-mail at Alcar7@aol.com.

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Leah K. Cranmore-Williams is seeking to correspond with anyone who was acquainted with her father Paul E. (Eddie) Cranmore (49-52) while serving on the Ozbourn. You may contact her via e-mail at:  
LeahKWilliams1@aol.com

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A good deal of material, comprised of photographs, stories and anecdotes concerning the ship and the crew has been received at the editorial office. It is not possible to publish each and every item and often times items must be edited in order to suit the space available. However, keep sending them in and we will do our level best to get the word out. Thank you all. Ed.

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## TINCAN TRIVIA

The first U.S. Navy warship named for a woman was Gearing class destroyer USS Higbee (DD806). Named for CDR Lenah S. Higbee, the first woman to receive the Navy Cross while still living, the award was made for her distinguished service as Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps during WW I. She served as Superintendent from 1911 to 1922.



The President and First Lady



Thomas M. Perkins  
USS Ozbourn Association  
2240 Pine Tree Dr. S.E.  
Port Orchard, WA 98366-3454



**"HAZE GRAY AND UNDERWAY"**

02184+6003 03

**ATTENTION 'ALL HANDS'**  
**SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP**

The Association is totally funded by subscription and cannot continue to exist without the dues paid by the members. With operating costs continuing to rise, the dues of each and every member becomes ever more important to the well being of the organization. We have been fortunate that dues have been held constant since the association was organized over ten years ago.

Recording Secretary Bill Jones reports the status of the membership to be as follows (as of 12/19/01):

- ♦ Total number "on the books" 593
- ♦ Number paying dues 303
- ♦ Number who have never joined 143

In a special subscription drive, undertaken by Secretary Jones, 48 shipmates responded with dues and became active members of the association. We welcome you and hope you will all take part in the affairs and activities of this fine organization.

Membership status is shown on the mailing label thusly:

- ♦ The latest year for which dues are paid is denoted by

a two digit number. (e.g. 01 means paid through 2001; 03 means paid through 2003; 99 means not paid since 1999 and so on).

- ♦ "nm" = records indicate dues never paid
- ♦ "n" = newly discovered-dues not yet received

All hands are encouraged to check their mailing label to be certain that all data is accurate and up to date. Current accurate address is a must. If you move, send a change of address card. Label corrections including change of address should be addressed to the Recording Secretary:

William L. Jones  
15721 Piccadilly Rd.  
Goodyear, AZ 85338

**DUES ARE DUE!**

Annual dues to the Association, in the amount \$10.00 US, per year, come due on 1 January and become delinquent on 1 April. All matters relating to dues should be directed to the Treasurer:

Warren E. Zschach  
1311 Ponderosa Dr.  
Petaluma, CA 94954

Make all checks payable to USS Ozbourn Association.