

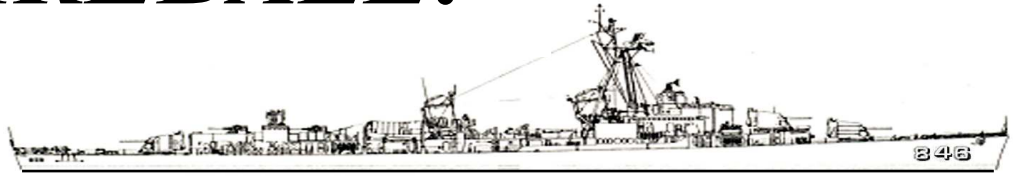


Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn
Tinian, Marianas Islands
28 July 1944

FIREBALL!

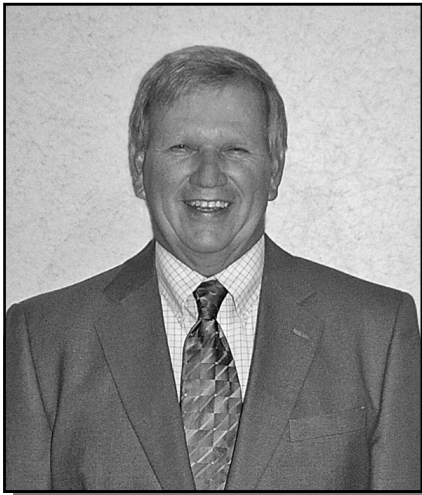
VOLUME 18, NO. 3

SUMMER 2009



The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn (DD 846) Association
Dedicated to perpetuating the memory of a gallant Marine and the history of a fine ship
Visit our website at www.ozbourn.org

FROM THE BRIDGE



The ninth biennial reunion is almost upon us. I'm truly excited about this event and I sincerely hope that you are getting as excited as I am.

The reunion is shaping up to be a really amazing event. If we all continue working hard and contacting as many shipmates as possible, it will be one of the largest reunions in the history of the USS Ozbourn Association. Our reunion committee has done an excellent job. They have a great agenda of tours and a guest speaker from the U.S. Coast Guard. In addition to an excellent guest speaker, the reunion team has lined up an award winning woman's drill team.

Through the Association's tireless efforts, we have located some new shipmates and several of them have expressed interest in the USS Ozbourn Association and possibly attending the St. Louis reunion. The nightly bull sessions are always a lot of fun. You remember how much bull a bunch of Navy guys can put out? When you add the wives of our shipmates, and the sessions can really get deep. Please come and join the fun and great tours.

After many years of dedicated service to our Association, we have two officers that are resigning their offices. W.L. Jones is resigning as Recording Secretary and Warren

Zschach is resigning as Treasurer. The Association needs to nominate and elect someone to these offices during the USS Ozbourn's 2009 reunion business meeting in St. Louis. If you or someone you know would be interested in one of the two offices mentioned above, please contact me or any of the other Association officers. Hug someone and God bless all during these hard times!

Guy Posey, President, USS Ozbourn Association

RATING THE RATINGS

By Rick Johnson

Speaking of bull sessions, when I served aboard the Ozbourn between November 1961 and May 1964, many of the ship-board bull sessions were held in the mess decks or on the fantail.

Most of the sailors were crusty first class petty officers boasting about how many ports-o-call they had been to, how much they could out drink and out fight the next sailor and of course, how many women they had known.

There was always one sea story that interested me very much — one that could be included during one of the St. Louis bull sessions. That story was based on the 'my-rating-is-better-than your-rating' bragging rights. I was a radarman while aboard the OZ.

I remember a lantern-jawed first class gunner's mate by the name of Joe Bagley who would regularly argue vehemently with other senior first class petty officers from other Navy ratings such as boatswains mates, radarmen and quartermasters, as to the ranking of each rating.

To start off with, the Navy's *Bluejackets' Manual* defines rating as "a name given to an occupation in the Navy which requires basically related aptitudes, training, experience, knowledge, and skills." A rate relates to a pay grade such as E1, E7, etc.

The salty sea rats had no quarrel with the meaning of the word rating, however, where the heated arguments flared to near-brawl conditions was the rating of the ratings! It seems at the time the Navy had a ranking system based on the importance of each rating in getting a ship underway. In other words, which of the Navy's 65 ratings during the early 1960s was the most important rating in order to get the ship underway, ranking them from the most critical rating to the least important rating?

The consensus among most of the sea scholars was that the boatswain's mate rating was most critical in getting the ship underway while the quartermaster's rating was second. It seems that the radarman rating ranked seventh in importance on the list for getting a ship underway. As the argument progressed, it seemed that pigeon trainer and postal clerk ranked toward the bottom of the underway readiness list.

Some of the ratings many of us were assigned to while serving on active duty are gone, renamed or folded into other ratings. Radarman (RD) at one time was renamed operations specialists (OS) and has since been folded into the quartermaster rating.

Fireball, Summer 2009

HILTON ST. LOUIS AIRPORT

10330 Natural Bridge Road — St. Louis MO 63134
Phone: (314) 426-5500 — (800) 314-2117 — Fax: (314) 426-2924
www.hiltonstlouisairport.com

The Hilton Hotel is located near the **Lambert Airport (STL)** just off I-70, with a total of 397 guest rooms and 25 meeting rooms. There is complimentary 24-hour airport shuttle service running about every 10 minutes. Parking is complimentary for registered guests and RV parking is available. There is a business center, health club, indoor heated pool and Jacuzzi, gift shop, the Veranda's Restaurant and Posh's Lounge. Veranda's Restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Check-in time is 3 p.m. and check-out is noon. All reservations must be received by the hotel before **August 26, 2009**.

If driving to the reunion, the hotel is just south of I-70 at exit 236. If coming from the west, use exit 236 to Pear Tree Lane, turn left (east) onto Pear Tree Lane. Pear Tree Lane will become Natural Bridge Road at Airport Access Road. Proceed straight on Natural Bridge Road to the hotel. If coming from the east, exit I-70 at exit 236 Natural Bridge Road. At the end of the off ramp, turn left (south) on Airport Access Road and again to the left (east) on Natural Bridge Road. Proceed on Natural Bridge Road about one-half mile to the hotel.

If you need to rent a wheelchair while at the reunion: AAA Home Medical — 4473 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108, phone (314) 371-7800. Also check with Camela Medical Equipment — 3546 S. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63118, phone (314) 664-5522.

RV Parks in the area include: Historic Route 66 KOA, 18475 Old Rt. 66 — P.O. Box 128, Eureka, MO 63025-0128, phone (636) 257-3018. St. Louis RV Park, 900 N. Jefferson Ave. St. Louis, MO 63016, phone (800) 878-3330 or (314) 241-3330. Sundermeier RV Park, 111 Transit Street, St. Charles, MO 63301, phone (800) 929-0832 or (636) 940-0111.

CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HILTON HOTEL

USS OZBOURN DD-846 — HOTEL RESERVATION FORM REUNION DATES — SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2009

Name _____ Sharing room with? _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone no. _____ Arrival date _____ Approx. time _____ Departure date _____

No. of rooms _____ No. of people in room _____ Handicap access _____ King _____ Queen _____
Double queen _____.

If room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned. Due to limited number of handicap accessible rooms available, please reserve early if you require this service. Specify if a roll-in shower is needed.

RATE: \$79 + tax (currently at 15.075%) = \$90.91/day, for 1-2 people in room. Rate honored three days before and three days after the official reunion dates, based on availability.

CUT-OFF DATE: **AUGUST 26, 2009.** After this date, reservations will be processed on space and rate availability.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled by 4 p.m. on the day prior to your arrival day. All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit enclosed.

AMEX _____ DINERS _____ VISA _____ MC _____ CARTE BLANCHE _____ DISCOVER _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ **EXP. DATE** _____

SIGNATURE (Regardless of payment method) _____

Mail to: Hilton St. Louis Airport, 10330 Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO. 63134

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Years served aboard ship/Assoc. Pres.
Robert Whitten, Jr. (50-52)/(93-99)
Cupertino, CA
W.D. Minter (52-55)/(99-03)
Texarkana, TX
Rudy Boff (52-55)/(03-07)
Pittsburgh, PA

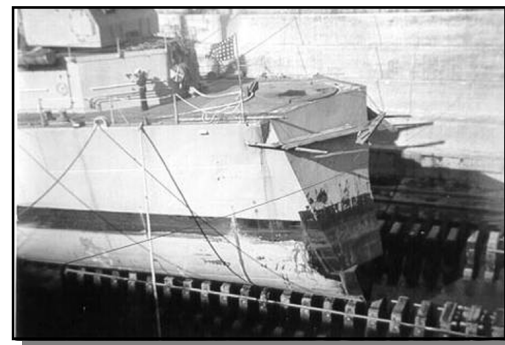
PUBLICATION DEADLINE

If you have a letter, story or photo you would like to share with other Ozbourn shipmates, the deadline for submitting contributions for the winter 2010 issue is **Monday, December 14**. Articles may be rewritten for purposes of editorial style. Due to space limitations, some materials may be used in a future **Fireball** edition. **There will be no fall Fireball edition due to the 9th biennial reunion.**



MAIL CALL

The following letters and e-mails were received by your Association Officers during the last quarter.



Errors and omissions

On page 3 of the spring issue of the *Fireball*, a name was omitted from the letter that appeared in the upper right-hand corner of the Mail Call column. While the name appeared on the computer screen, it did not appear on the printed copy of the *Fireball*. The name of the shipmate that sent the letter was Ron Parker, SO3, 1954-57. The *Fireball* editor apologizes to shipmate Ron Parker for this inadvertent printing error.

Dear Richard:

I want to make something clear. The USS Ozbourn did not have a collision. The USS "Oz" was hit by the T. E. Chandler three times. First it hit forward of mount one. Second hit ladder by charthouse (and) third mid ships.

I was on the port search light and saw it all.

Picture three, the 5" mount was taken off in Japan. It sat on the dock in Yokosuka (?) for at least 20 years.

Don't ever say the Ozbourn had a collision. We were hit.

Capt. Blaisdell (Cdr. at the time) did everything right. He left the trial with Captain stripes. Not commander.

Your shipmate

Bernard J. Kern
QMC USN Retired

P.S. I was first class signalman when I was on the "Oz" between July 1948-April 1950

Thanks Bernard

Editor's note:

Shipmate Kern's letter is in reference to the article with photos that appeared on page 6 in the winter 2009 issue of the *Fireball*.

Please see photos below and upper right of the damage to the USS Ozbourn.



From the Editor:

The editor of the *Fireball* and officers of the USS Ozbourn Association welcome any and all letters from Oz shipmates. While it is not the point of the editor or Association officers to nitpick over certain issues of the ship's history, it should be pointed out that there was a collision at sea between the USS Chandler and the USS Ozbourn. The USS Chandler did indeed collide with the USS Ozbourn.

Webster defines collision as: "An act or instance of colliding." Colliding is defined as: "To come together with solid or direct impact." The US Navy does not substitute the word collide or collision with the word hit when it comes to collisions at sea. There is no implication in the word collision as to who is at fault. As shipmate Kern so accurately pointed out, Capt. Blaisdell "left the trial with Captain stripes."

It is hoped that this review of shipmate Kern's letter will put to rest the difference between the words "hit" and "collision."

Gedunk Answer for Spring 2009

The gedunk question for spring 2009 was: What does it mean when a shipmate says, "I'll buy if you fly?"

In response to the spring 2009 Gedunk Question, I received an e-mail from shipmate Leon Anderson, RMC retired and an RM3 while serving aboard the Ozbourn.

Leon said, "I'll buy if you fly simply means that I will supply the funds for the food that you go get for both of us. Most generally, the food included a sub & soda or a pint of ice cream." Of course the person flying for the food usually went to the "Gedunk" wagon on the pier.

Gedunk Question for Summer 2009

The Gedunk question for summer 2009 relates to the article on page 1 titled "Rating the Ratings." This topic could also be discussed during one of the St. Louis reunion bull sessions.

The question is, "Which of the Navy's 65 ratings during the early 1960s was the most important rating in order to get the ship underway, ranking them from the most critical rating to the least important rating?" List only the top 10 ratings with the most critical rating ranked number one.

Send your responses and comments to Rick Johnson at johnsonsimivalley@yahoo.com or mail your responses to Rick at 5899 N. Bronco Lane, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314. **The deadline for submitting responses is Monday, December 14.**

Reminder: There will be no fall *Fireball* in September due to the Ozbourn's ninth biennial reunion.

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS



ARCH & CITY TOUR Thursday, September 24

We will travel by bus directly to the **Gateway Arch**, arriving near the Old Cathedral, the first church in St. Louis. If you wish to go up to the top of the Arch, you can purchase a ticket for \$10. Allow one hour for the ride up, the view from the top and the return ride. We recommend you do this soon after arrival as tickets will be reserved for us at that time. Two movie theaters show 45 minute movies, one about the construction of the Arch and one about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. There is also the Museum of Westward Expansion located near the Arch. It is recommended that you have lunch before leaving the Arch area. There are several restaurants within a few blocks west of the Arch and one about one-half mile north of the Arch. More restaurants are located at Leclides Landing. We will board the bus about 1:45 p.m. for the city tour and other points of interest, returning to the hotel about 4 p.m.

9 a.m. bus departs Hilton, 1:45 p.m. bus departs the Arch, 4 p.m. arrive Hilton
\$25/person — tram rides to the top of the Arch and lunch are on your own



MEMORIAL SERVICE & LECLEDES LANDING Friday, September 25

The bus will take us to the **Soldiers Memorial Military Museum** for our Memorial Service. Weather permitting, we will conduct the service on the landing on the north side of the museum near the handicap ramp. In the event of inclement weather, we will go to the second floor of the museum. Elevators are available. You will have time to view the museum and there are memorials to the veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam in the park across Chestnut Street. We will board the bus for **Leclides Landing** and lunch at 11:45 a.m. Leclides Landing is the location of the original settlement of St. Louis. The Leclides Landing area consists of many historic buildings housing restaurants and small shops. The bus will leave at 2:15 p.m. returning to the Hilton Hotel.

9 a.m. bus departs Hilton, 11:45 a.m. bus departs Memorial, 2:15 p.m. bus departs Leclides Landing, 3 p.m. arrive Hilton
\$28/person — lunch and shopping are on your own



RIVERBOAT DINNER CRUISE Friday, September 25

On Friday afternoon, the bus will take us to the riverfront across from the Arch where we will board the **Riverboat** for our **dinner cruise**. You will have the choice of four entrees for dinner and there will be a live Dixieland Duo for our entertainment.

5:45 p.m. bus departs Hilton, 7 p.m. board the Riverboat, 10:15 arrive at Hilton
\$62/person — includes transportation and dinner



GRANT'S FARM TOUR Saturday, September 26

Grants Farm, once the home of President Ulysses S. Grant and now owned by Anheuser-Busch Inc., is the home of the Brewer's well known Clydesdale stable and Dalmatian kennels. There is the restored cabin that President Grant built when he was first married as well as a miniature zoo, animal feeding area and wildlife park. The Tier Garten and the Bauernhof offer snacks, lunches and shopping. Tram rides are also available.

9 a.m. bus departs Hilton, 11:45 a.m. bus departs Grant's Farm, 12:30 p.m. arrive at Hilton
\$20/person — includes bus and general admission, snacks and shopping on your own

GRATUITIES AND BOARDING PROCEDURES

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices. Please plan to board the bus at least five minutes prior to the scheduled departure times. Fees are subject to change.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION REUNION IN ST. LOUIS 2009

For attendees canceling reunion tours prior to the registration cut-off date of August 12, 2009, a full refund will be provided with the exception of the non-refundable registration fee. Attendees cancelling tours after the cut-off date will receive a refund to the fullest extent that the vendor commitments and guarantees will allow. For cancellations, contact: Ken Keene — 9995 Perry Highway, Meadville, PA 16335-6445. Phone 814-337-3197.

USS OZBOURN REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all the registration, tour and meal costs for the **USS Ozborn Association's Ninth Biennial Reunion**. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and the total amount for each event in the far right column and the total amount due the USS Ozborn Association at the bottom of the column. Send this form and the total amount due and payable to the **USS Ozborn Association** in the form of a check or money order to: **Kenneth Keene, 9995 Perry Highway, Meadville, PA 16335-6445**. Your cancelled check will serve as your reunion participation confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by **mail no later than August 12, 2009**. After this date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. Your Association Officers suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.

<u>TOURS AND MEALS</u>	<u>PRICE EACH</u>	<u>NO. OF PEOPLE</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
Thursday City Tour and Gateway Arch	\$25.00		\$
Friday bus to Memorial and Leclides Landing	\$28.00		\$
Friday eve. Riverboat Dinner Cruise (<i>Please select entrée</i>)	-----	-----	-----
Chicken champagne	\$62.00		\$
Roast prime rib of beef	\$62.00		\$
Alaska Pollack	\$62.00		\$
Manicotti with ricotta cheese	\$62.00		\$
Saturday tour to Grant's Farm	\$20.00		\$
Saturday evening banquet (<i>Please select entrée</i>)	-----	-----	-----
Chicken wellington	\$43.00		\$
Grilled salmon	\$41.00		\$
Beef tenderloin	\$43.00		\$
Sunday farewell breakfast buffet	\$21.00		\$
Non refundable registration fee per person	\$25.00		\$
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO: <u>USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION</u>			\$

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY Are you flying? _____ Driving? _____ RV _____ E-mail address _____

First Name _____ Last _____ Nick name for tag _____

Years aboard Ozborn 19__ to 19__ Last rate/rank held on Ozborn _____ Is this your first reunion? _____

Spouse name (if attending) _____ Guest name _____

Street address _____ Phone no. _____

City, state, zip _____

Must you be lifted hydraulically onto the bus while seated in your wheelchair in order to participate in bus trips?

Yes _____ No _____ (We cannot guarantee availability.) Disability/dietary restrictions? _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone no. _____

Are you staying at the Hilton Hotel? Yes _____ No _____ Arrival date _____ Departure date _____

You must contact the hotel directly to make your room reservations. See hotel registration form on page 2 for details.

TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

Fair Winds Following Seas

"May the Lord fill our sails with fair wind,
Support our hulls in inviting seas,
Guide our hands upon the tiller toward
pleasant places,
And bring us home, O Lord, to a safe and
loving harbor."



DON C. ARNOLD

April 2009
Rate unknown — (1952-56)

DAN BERNARDINO

May 2008
RM3 — (1950-52)

DANIEL R. CURTIS

November 2007
Rate unknown — (1963-67)

THOMAS H. KISTLER

2003
Rate unknown — (1972-73)

JOHN W. MORGAN

March 2009
EM2 — (1951-53)

RAYMOND SAUER

Date not provided
SN — (1965-68)

PAUL SMILEY

February 2008
FN — (1947-48)

The following listed names were recently added to the USS Ozbourn Association's Memorial Page. No further information is known beyond their names. Some of these shipmates may have passed away some time ago.

Don Barnhart
Jack McBrayer
Marvin Nelson
Tom Solinsky

Bob Szulerecki
Charlie Turkey
Tom Whaley
Paul Williamson

I Remember When...

Don C. Arnold

Don. C. Arnold, 76 of McCallsburg, CO died on April 27, 2009 while at home. Arnold served in the United States Navy from February 1952 to January 1956. He served aboard the USS Ozbourn which took him to Japan and Okinawa which were two of his favorite stops.

Daniel R. Curtis

My name is Lori Curtis. My father **Daniel R. Curtis** served aboard the Ozbourn between 1963-67. He passed away on November 20, 2007. I would like to tell you about my Dad and what the Ozbourn meant to him.

My dad would tell me stories about his four years serving in Vietnam aboard the Ozbourn. When he came to live with me in 2005, I got into the computer and found the Ozbourn Association's Web site. I helped him join the Association and he always looked forward to his newsletter.

At this time, his health was not good due to liver disease. He told me as much as he could remember about the Ozbourn. He told me of the time when someone from the boiler room where he worked would scrounge up a loaf of bread and spaghetti from the cook and the guys would sit around and eat spaghetti sandwiches. There was a story he told be about one of the officers who tried to swing between to ships and landed in the drink. He was a proud Navy man and was very proud when my brother Shane went into the service. I served in the Air Force from 1987-92 and specifically wanted to serve due to my Dad serving in the Navy.

We both miss him terribly and while Dad couldn't find any of his buddies on the list of members, he really enjoyed telling me all about them.

Thanks for the Web site. It made the last two years of my Dad's life happy.

Lori Curtis and Shane Curtis

WELCOME ABOARD



Welcome aboard to the below listed shipmates. The USS Ozbourn Association officers and members hope that you will become involved in the planned activities such as this year's **Ninth Biennial Reunion** scheduled for **September 23-27 in St. Louis, Mo.**

James Bender

Paul Besitka
RMC — (1971-73)

Marvin Bluto
BM3 — (1969-72)

Harry Church
Lt. Jg. — (1971-74)

Jon Herfindahl

James Kaumans
MM2 — (1969-71)

James Leary
HT3 — (1971-72)

Daniel Martin
BSN — (1973)

Steven McDaniel
(1969-72)

William Primm
SN — (1954)

Michael Skinner
MM3 — (1969-72)

Peter Wertz
Lt. — (1964-66)

USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

Open 24 Hours, 7 Days a Week — Rudy Boff, Proprietor

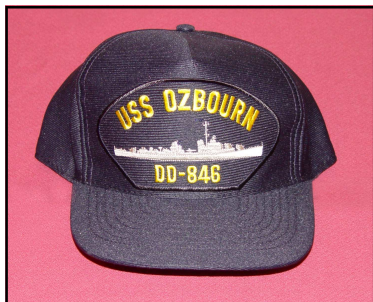


Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourn Web site at www.ozbourn.org under the heading Ship's Store. Orders may be placed with:

Rudy Boff — 1036 Connor Road
Pittsburgh, PA
15234-1033

Tel: (412) 833-0572

New email: boffrudy@verizon.net



CAP cotton twill Navy blue, brilliant gold letters & destroyer silhouette. 1 size fits all. Item # C01, \$14 ea
Embroidery on back: Korea, #C01K \$15 ea
Vietnam, #C01V \$15



PATCH fabric, \$6 ea
Original design, Item #P01
Revised design, Item #P02



FRAME, license plate
Item #F01 \$5 ea

SAVOR THE REUNION MEMORIES WITH HISTORIC CDs & DVDs

Limited edition photo CDs and DVDs of the USS Ozbourn's Eighth Biennial Reunion are available from the Ship's Store. What better way to relive those special moments with friends and shipmates from our stay in Seattle than to purchase one of these discs. For those shipmates who were unable to attend the 2007 reunion, the purchase of one of these discs is an excellent way to catch up with the history of our Association. The USS Ozbourn Association purchased these CDs and DVDs from the reunion photographer.

- Disc #1 — DVD flowing video of reunion & interviews
- Disc #2 — Photo CD with 500+ digital photos

\$35 for each disc plus \$3 for shipping

SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

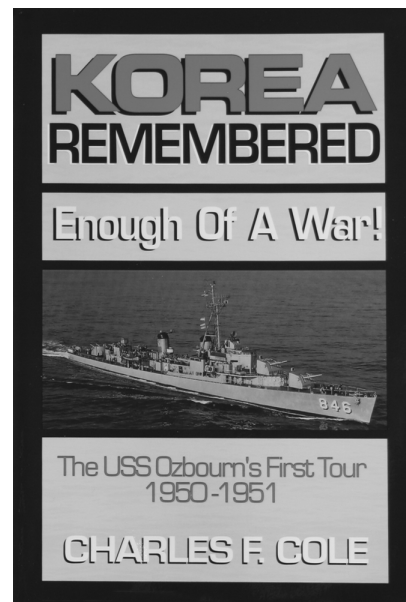
The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address at left.

Micro-fiber Jacket, fleece lined-water repellent	\$90
Twill Jacket, fully lined with full front zip	\$80
Windbreaker, mesh lined and full front zip	\$60
Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, assorted colors	\$40
T-shirts, both long and short sleeve	\$35 and \$20
Golf shirts	\$30

All items have ship's name and hull number embroidered in gold letters.

The book *Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!*, the USS Ozbourn's First Tour, 1950-1951, is a first-hand account by shipmate Charles F. Cole, as the war "sandwiched between WW II and the War in Vietnam."

Cole's historic account was first published in 1995, just in time for the dedication of the Korean War Memorial, which is in site of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.



While the book mainly focuses on Cole's life aboard the Ozbourn during the Korean War, it also includes some of the time he spent as a UDT team member and his Navy Reserve years. The book is no longer in print through Yucca Tree Press.

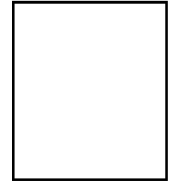
Charles Cole has graciously donated a box of his book *Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!*, the USS Ozbourn's First Tour, 1950-1951 to the USS Ozbourn Association. The proceeds from the sale of his book will go into the Association's treasury.

The USS Ozbourn Association wishes to express its gratitude to Charles F. "Pete" Cole for his generous donation.

**"Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!,
The USS Ozbourn's First Tour, 1950-1951
By Charles F. Cole**

\$15.00 plus \$2.50 for shipping & handling

Richard N. Johnson, USN Ret.
5899 North Bronco Lane
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314-5892



Aft during after-hours

Fireball editor Rick “Swede” Johnson strikes a pose on the fantail of the USS Ozbourn in May 1963. The photo was taken to show off the newly awarded RD2 Crow. The ship was in a “nest” with other destroyers while docked on the Mole in Long Beach.

FIREBALL! The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn Association

DUES ALERT!

Are you overdue on your dues? Only dues-paying members receive the *Fireball* newsletter. Look at the mailing label on your most recent newsletter and find a number such as 09, 10 or 11. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 09 means 2009, 10 means 2010, etc. Your Association officers ask you to...

DO THE DUES TODAY!

Reminder: There will be no fall *Fireball* in September due to the Ozbourn’s ninth biennial reunion.

**LAST CALL TO
REGISTER FOR THE**

**THE USS OZBOURN’S
NINTH BIENNIAL REUNION**

**SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2009
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

SEE DETAILS ON PAGES 1, 2, 4, 5