

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 27, No. 4
Fall 2018



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

Greetings to All Shipmates, Families and Friends

Start packing your bags, stuffing your pockets with that extra cash and lets all plan to meet in Portland, Oregon, for our 2019 Reunion. Portland was the last home port of the "OZ", as many of our younger shipmates will recall. There are many great things to do and places to enjoy in the greater Portland Area.

Our Reunion Committee has worked tirelessly and has selected the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel as our host hotel. The committee continues to seek out tour bus companies and various sites and tours that will no doubt provide all in attendance the greatest experience possible. Watch for updates and additional information regarding the 2019 Reunion in this and future issues of our "Fireball" Newsletter.

Lets all pray for America, our active and past military veterans and our law enforcement and first responders.

Guy Posey, President
USS OZBURN Association

USS OZBURN DD846 2019 REUNION, PORTLAND, OREGON

Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, August 28, 2019 - September 1, 2019



Please refer to Page-2 for Hotel information and Reservations

2019 Biennial Reunion

Jeff Parker, Editor

As I had reported in previous issues of the "Fireball", our 2019 Reunion Committee, **Mark Beaulieu, Guy Posey,, Harold McKeehan and Mike Ward**, have been working hard to provide the entire membership, families and guests with a fantastic venue for our next reunion. This of course includes their lovely wives, **Sallae Posey, Mary Beaulieu, Linda McKeehan and Bonni Ward**, for all of their assistance and patience.

The Reunion Committee, Chaired by Association Vice President Mark Beaulieu, has selected the beautiful **SHERATON PORTLAND AIRPORT HOTEL**, located at 8235 Northeast Airport Way, Portland, OR, as the host hotel for the 2019 Reunion. The hotel offers a free airport shuttle and free parking for registered guests. A block of guest rooms has been set aside for the 2019 Reunion, scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2019 and ending on Sunday, September 1, 2019. The committee has negotiated an excellent price of \$119.00 nightly plus 15.3% tax. A complimentary breakfast will be served to registered guests at the hotel commencing on Thursday, August 29 thru Sunday, September 1. For those members wishing to arrive a little early or stay in the Portland Area a little longer after the reunion, the hotel has agreed to offer the above reduced room rate for a period of three days before and following the reunion dates. Members are encouraged to make their hotel reservations as early as possible by calling the hotel's direct line, (503) 281-2500, or the reservation line at (800) 325-3535. When making reservations, members should reference **"The USS Ozbourn Association Group Rate"**.

SAYING GOODBYE to an OLD FRIEND

Jeffrey Parker, "Fireball" Editor



It is of course with a very heavy heart that I have the duty to report the passing of one of our most beloved Shipmates **WARREN E. ZSCHACH, RD2, (52-55)**, who passed away on June 6, 2018. Warren and his dear wife of 60-years, Helene, would rarely miss any of the Ozbourn Reunions and were always the life of the party. Warren seemed to always be attired in a plaid shirt and his wisdom and wit were a true trademark.

Warren served as the USS Ozbourn Associations Treasurer/Historian for over 9-years. Warren was also instrumental in setting up and assisting at several Ozbourn Reunions. Warren and past Association President **W.D. Minter, RD2, (52-55)**, who Warren worked side by side on the "OZ", remained life long friends until W.D.'s death in 2003. In recognition of Warren & W.D.'s great friendship, **Mrs. Pat Minter** has donated the sum of \$200.00, to the USS Ozbourn Association in Warren's name. We of course are extremely grateful for Pat's continued support of the Association. The entire Association wishes to express our deepest condolences to Helene, your four sons, Ken, Andy, Tom & Brett and the entire Zschach Family.

Association Officers

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Past Presidents

Years served aboard OZ/Assoc. President
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 2019** issue is **November 15th**. Articles may be re-written for purposes of editorial style. Due to limitations, some materials may be used in a future **Fireball** edition.

MAIL CALL



The following letters and emails were received by your Association Officers during the last quarter.

THE "WALL"

Submitted by Jeff Parker, Editor, with permission of Mark Beaulieu, Association Vice President



During a recent visit to Washington D.C., **Association Vice President Mark Beaulieu** and his dear Wife Mary, paid a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Mark specifically wanted to honor all of the Vietnam Veterans KIA, but especially our two **Shipmates CS3 Raymond Cork and SN Edward O'Brian** KIA on December 4, 1967, during combat operations against the enemy. As is a custom started on the day the Wall was opened, Mark left a USS Ozbourn Cap and US Navy Challenge Coins to commemorate our two shipmates. Additionally, Mark made a "rubbing of their two names that will be on display at the 2019 Reunion.

Mark rendering a hand salute

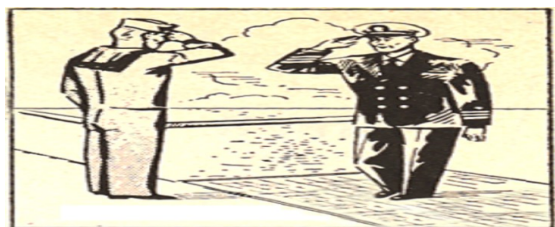
PLANK OWNER REACHES OUT

On July 12, 2018, I received a telephone call from **USS Ozbourn DD846 Plank Owner James Helland, SM3, (46)**, seeking out other Plank Owners. In our brief conversation, I informed James that some of the remaining Plank Owners are still attending the "OZ" Reunions. *(Editors Note: As the Editor of the "Fireball", I assured James that I would return his call so we could discuss other Plank Owners; however, I apparently recorded Jame's telephone number incorrectly and request that James call me at my number listed in each "Fireball".)*

AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE

Submitted by Reed Jones, LtJg. (65-67)

Reed Jones wanted to ensure that all members and veteran are made aware of a series of three articles written by Ken Olsen regarding exposure to Agent Orange by Blue Water Sailors. The articles can be viewed on-line by going to the American Legion Magazine and typing in "Agent Orange".



WELCOME ABOARD

Please note that this section is void of any new members. Clearly, as each year passes, we become fewer. However, we should ALL do our best in locating and recruiting old shipmates to join the USS Ozbourn DD846 Association.



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

LESTER PEICH, QMC, (52)

WARREN E. ZSCHACH JR. , RD-2 (52-55)

"May fair winds and calm seas be with you always"



Ozbourn in Action-Operation Linebacker '72 (Cont.)

Submitted by Association Vice President Mark Beaulieu, MM2, (72-74)

Operation Pocket Money

Operation Pocket Money, the mining campaign against the principal North Vietnamese Ports, was launched on 9 May 1972: target Haiphong Harbor. Early that morning, aircraft were launched from Da Nang airfield, and the aircraft carriers Kitty Hawk and Coral Sea who launched aircraft minutes apart all closely choreographed and timed to arrive at their destinations at the same time President Nixon announced the renewed bombing of the North and the mining of Haiphong during a nationwide broadcast. Each of the aircraft launched from the Coral Sea carried four of the sophisticated MK 52-2 mines pre-set to go live 72 hours later in accordance of the Geneva Convention accord of providing advanced notice to mariners. The first mine was dropped at 0908 hours and the last of the field of 36 mines laid at 0909 hours. Twelve mines were placed in the inner harbor and the remaining 24 in the outer harbor. All MK 52-2 mines were set with 72-hour arming delays, thus permitting merchant ships time for departure or a change in destination consistent with the President's public warning:

'I have ordered the following measures, which are being implemented as I am speaking to you. All entrances to North Vietnamese ports will be mined to prevent access to these ports and North Vietnamese naval operations from these ports. United States forces have been directed to take appropriate measures within international and claimed territorial waters of North Vietnam to interdict the delivery of supplies. Rail and all communications will be cut off to the maximum extent possible.'

President Nixon's Address to the Nation, 9:00pm, May 9, 1972

It was the beginning of a mining campaign that planted over 11,000 MK 36 type destructors and 108 special MK 52-2 mines over the next eight months. It played a significant role in bringing about an eventual peace arrangement, particularly since it so hampered the enemy's ability to continue receiving war supplies.

Operation Linebacker I, (May 10-October 23, 1972)

The overall objective of Linebacker for navy surface forces was to disrupt enemy lines of communications and support of ongoing air strikes. In addition to interdicting supply ships, Navy Task Forces of up to 14 ships conducted high speed gunfire attacks, often at night, against troop concentrations, AAA and known SAM missile sites, coastal defense sites, supply depots, and command and control centers North of the DMZ. All were within range of NVA coastal defense sites, AA sites and Migs. Raiding ships frequently were fired on and in total, 16 ships were hit during *Linebacker*.

The Ozbourn actively participated in operations supporting all four objectives primarily as a member of a surface raid group of destroyers and cruisers.

Table 2

<i>Ozbourn: Days on the Gun Line</i>	
Naval Gunfire Support, South Vietnam	68
Linebacker Days, North Vietnam	37
Total	105

Between 10 May and 23 October 1972, the Department of the Navy suffered combined loss of 53 aircraft between the Navy and Marine Corp, two-thirds of which were downed by anti-aircraft fire. In response to this, *Linebacker* surface raid mission packages were adjusted to include additional strikes against AA batteries.

(Continued on Page-5)

Table 3

More Navy and Marine Aircraft Were Lost to AA Batteries than SAM'S or Migs

USN and Marine Aircraft Combat Losses During Linebacker	53	100%
USN and Marine Aircraft Combat Losses During Linebacker due to AA	37	66%

Some notable outcomes and results were:

- 1) The fleet surface force was a prime factor in driving the Democratic Republic of (North) Vietnam negotiators back to the negotiation table and bringing the U.S. Government's involvement in the war to an end.
- 2) During the *Linebacker* campaigns, the fleet's search and rescue units recovered 30 downed naval air crewmen.
- 3) *Newport News'* 8-inch gun barrel exploded, eventually killing 20 sailors and injuring another 36. The accident represented the single largest loss to the squadron during the Vietnam War. The cause of the explosion was a faulty detonating fuse. *Ozbourn* was operating with the *Newport News* and conducting a surface raid at the time of the explosion and forced to retire to the rally point.
- 4) In all, enemy fire hit 16 U.S. Navy ships during 1972-the deadliest year of the war for the Navy's gunfire support force.

Table 4

USS Ozbourn Linebacker Operations

DATE	TARGETED STRIKES	OPERATION SUPPORTED	TARGET TYPE CODE	ORDNANCE EXPENDED
5/9/1972	Screening Surface Action	Linebacker/ Pocket Money	Hostile Fire from Haiphong Harbor Coastal Defense Batteries	0
7/28/1972	6	Linebacker	Coastal Defense, Bridges & Roads	62
7/29/1972	7	Linebacker	Tank, Bridges & Roads	95
7/30/1972	7	Linebacker	Artillery Site, AA, Bar	89
7/31/1972	11	Linebacker	AA Site, Mil Installation	132
8/1/1972	12	Linebacker	Coastal Defense, AA Site	163
8/2/1972	10	Linebacker	AA Site, Mil Installation	132
8/3/1972	8	Linebacker	Coastal Defense, VC/NVA Position	3
8/4/1972	12	Linebacker	Coastal Defense	45
8/5/1972	7	Linebacker	Coastal Defense	6
8/6/1972	9	Linebacker	Supply Area, Bar	8
8/7/1972	7	Linebacker	Coastal Defense, Nav Base	46
8/9/1972	4	Linebacker	Coastal Defense	36
8/10/1972	6	Linebacker	Sampan, VC/NVA Position	19
8/10/1972	Sank Junk	Linebacker	Water Borne Landing Craft	1

(Continued on Page-6)

Table 4
USS Ozbourn Linebacker Operations (Cont.)

DATE	TARGETED STRIKES	OPERATION SUPPORTED	TARGET TYPE CODE	ORDNANCE EXPENDED
9/5/1972	2	Linebacker	Military Installation	32
9/6/1972	3	Linebacker	Base Camp	4
9/7/1972	2	Linebacker	Supply Area	28
9/8/1972	3	Linebacker	Pol	39
9/9/1972	6	Linebacker	Military Installation	30
9/10/1972	1	Linebacker	Truck	16
9/11/1972	2	Linebacker	Coastal Defense	4
9/12/1972	4	Linebacker	Supply Area	38
9/13/1972	1	Linebacker	Bridges & Roads	6
9/14/1972	1	Linebacker	Bridges & Roads	40
9/15/1979	4	Linebacker	Supply Area	32
9/16/1972	5	Linebacker	Coastal Defense, Hostile Fire	32
9/22/1972	10	Linebacker	AA Site	13
9/23/1972	18	Linebacker	Coastal Defense, AA Site	1
9/24/1972	2	Linebacker	Harass & Interdiction	14
9/25/1972	4	Linebacker	Interdiction PT, Trench Line	21
9/26/1972	5	Linebacker	Coastal Defense	30
9/27/1972	1	Linebacker	Truck	2
9/28/1972	11	Linebacker	Coastal Defense, Military Installation	8
9/29/1972	5	Linebacker	Coastal Defense, VC/NVA Position	45
9/30/1972	5	Linebacker	Coastal Defense	34
10/1/1972	6	Linebacker	Military Installation	4
10/1/1972	Event	Linebacker	USS Newport News Turret Explosion	0
10/2/1972	4	Linebacker	Supply Dump	24
<i>Ozbourn participated in 54 Linebacker firing strikes against AA and coastal defense batteries</i>				



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 website 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

SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

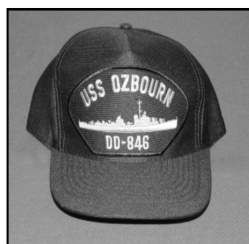
The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address at left.

Micro-fiber jacket, fleece lined-water repellent \$95

Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, White or Navy Blue \$40

Golf shirts, White or Navy Blue \$35

All items have ship's name and hull number embroidered in gold letters. "Add \$5.00 for size 2XL"



CAP cotton twill Navy blue, brilliant gold letters & Destroyer silhouette. 1 size fits all. Item #C01, \$14 ea. Embroidery on back: Korea, #C01K \$16 ea. Vietnam, #C01V \$16 ea.



T-shirt short sleeve, White or Navy Blue with embroidered logo left side. \$25 ea. Item #T02

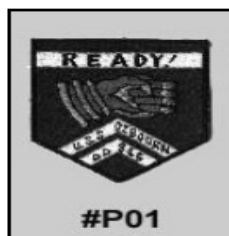
← Long sleeve. \$35 ea.



AUBURN COACH'S JACKET

Navy Blue with fleece lining, six matching metal snaps, profile of the ship in silver thread and lettering in gold. \$45 ea. Item #J01

← Logo detail



PATCH fabric, \$6 ea. Item #P01

NEW ITEM: "OZ" POLYESTER BANNER Measuring 3-ft X 5-ft with 2-metal grommets, dyed with beautiful bold colors, printed on one side visible through the fabric, double stitched around all edges with 4-rows of stitching on the flying edge. \$40.00 plus S&H.

BANNER →

SHIPPING AND HANDLING

<u>COST OF ITEM</u>	<u>COST OF POSTAGE</u>
0.01 –15.00	\$3.00
15.00 — 25.00	4.00
25.01 — 35.00	5.00
35.01 — 45.00	7.00
45.01 — 55.00	8.00
55.01 — 65.00	10.00
65.01 or more	11.00



Jeffrey Parker
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San Clemente, CA 92672



Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn
USMC
Congressional Medal of Honor

FIREBALL! The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn Association

DUES ALERT!

Are you overdue on your annual dues? Only dues paying members receive the **Fireball** newsletter. Look at your mailing label on your most recent newsletter and find a number such as 18 or 19. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 16 means 2016, 17 means 2017, etc. If you wish, you may pay for multiple years.

Membership dues are **\$15.00** annually and are due in January of each year. Please make checks payable to the **USS OZBOURN Association** and forward them to Philip Roberts, Association Treasurer, at 2608 Bentwood Drive, Palestine, TX 75803.

Your Association officers ask you to.....

DO THE DUES TODAY!

We're on the Web at www.ozbourn.org

The following information can be found on the Association's website: Mission Statement, a list of Ozbourn shipmates, historical photos, Ship's Store and how to Join the Association.

USS OZBOURN COMMANDING OFFICERS

The USS Ozbourn has had 18 different commanding officers during its 29 year history. Do you remember which skippers you served under? If you have an interesting story about any of the Ozbourn's commanding officers to share please forward your experience for possible inclusion in a future issue of the **Fireball**.

CDR B.A. Smith	March 1946-October 1947
CDR N.E. Blaisdell	October 1947-March 1949
CDR R.E. Freeman	March 1949-September 1950
CDR C.O. Akers	September 1950-April 1951
CDR W.B. Fargo	April 1951-April 1954
CDR H.T. Scott Jr.	April 1954-November 1955
CDR A.J. Toulon Jr.	November 1955-Sept. 1957
CDR C.A. Kuhl	September 1957-July 1959
CDR W.W. Turner	July 1959-March 1961
LCDR D.V. Gorman	March 1961-December 1961
CDR W.W. Lancaster	December 1961-October 1963
CDR D.W. Berger	October 1963-July 1964
CDR N.D. Nelson Jr.	July 1964-April 1966
CDR J.G. Denham	April 1966-September 1968
CDR R.L. Stewart	September 1968-June 1970
CDR E.W. Numbers	June 1970-December 1971
CDR K.L. Costilow	December 1971-March 1974
CDR F.J. Furtado	March 1974-May 1975

