

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 32, No. 3
Summer 2023



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

It is of course a great pleasure to once again address all Shipmates, Family Members and Friends. Hope all are doing well.

Our 2023 Reunion is approaching very quickly. As in the past, we have several fantastic events planned including very interesting tours. Clearly, one of the greatest outcomes of every reunion is the overwhelming positive comments from our shipmates and family members in attendance. Those that have attended past reunions will tell you just how much fun they had and renewing old friendships from so many years past.

As this will be the final newsletter before our 2023 Reunion, I encourage those wishing to attend to please submit your registrations forms ASAP.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the Association and hope to see everyone this October in Columbus, Georgia.

Guy Posey, President
USS Ozbourn Association

2023 REUNION, COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

October 4, 2023-October 8, 2023

FINAL "FIREBALL" BEFORE THE 2023 REUNION



Enjoying a great lunch overlooking San Diego Bay



Al Walker, daughter Allison McReddie, "Mac" & Linda McKeenan and Mike & Bonni Ward have a laugh cruising San Diego

Photos from the 2013 Reunion in San Diego. Come join in on all of the fun.

2023 Biennial Reunion Update

Jeff Parker, Editor

Although it is difficult to believe, as time seems to speed by, it is once again to direct our attention on our upcoming 2023 Reunion being held this October in Columbus, Georgia.

After doing a great job on the 2015, 2017, 2019 & 2021 Reunions, **Guy Posey, President, Harold "Mac" McKeehan, V.P., Mike Ward, Treasurer**, along with **Ed Woodbury**, have once again stepped up to the plate and are deep into the planning stages for our 2023 Reunion.

Our Reunion Committee has been very busy and working hard over these past few months as they sought out various locations that would be both fiscally prudent and of interest to those members able to attend. In doing so, the committee reached out to several venues that included Savannah, Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia and Mobile, Alabama, as well as other locations.

It is with great pleasure that they have announced that **Columbus, Georgia**, has been selected as the site for the 2023 Reunion to be held commencing with Check-in at the Hospitality Suite on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 and closing on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

As you can tell, it takes a number of individuals both listed above as well as others to ensure that our reunions are successful. Please watch for additional reunion news in future editions of the "Fireball".

Those members planning on attending the 2023 Reunion are requested to submit their Registration Forms and fees to Association President Guy Posey, 419 S. Appleway, Glencoe, Oklahoma 74032.

2023 REUNION HOST HOTEL

The Double Tree by Hilton Columbus, Georgia, has been selected as the Host Hotel for our 2023 Reunion.



The hotel is located at 5351 Sidney Simon Blvd., Columbus, Georgia, 31904. The Reunion Committee has obtained a room rate of \$139.00 + 16% Tax + 5.00 Hotel Tax per night. For those wishing to stay prior to the reunion or after, the hotel will guarantee the above rate three days prior and three days post reunion. **Those wishing to make reservations must call**

the hotel directly at (706) 327-6868. Be sure that you inform the Reservations Operator that you will be attending the USS Oz-bourn Association Reunion. Those wishing to make reservations on-line may email me, Jeff Parker, LJPARKER1@COX.NET and I will forward you the information.

SEE PAGE-5 FOR REUNION REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Association Officers

President

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Corresponding Secretary

Vacant Position

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 2024** issue is **November 1, 2023**. 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.

DECEASED SHIPMATE'S FAMILY SEEKING HELP ("UPDATE")

The Association wishes to thank Shipmate **Dan Betinec, FT3, (65-67)**, who provided information regarding an article about Navy Ship Single Pass Distillers = Health Hazard. Recalling the article from the 2023 Spring Edition of the "Fireball" regarding the family of deceased Shipmate Robert Carlson, SN, (67-68), requesting assistance due to Robert's V.A. Claim being denied, Dan wanted the family to know about an article that may help. The article described that the use of Agent Orange contaminated sea water that was later refined into drinking water that could also be contaminated. *(Editors Note: As the article is too lengthy to publish in the "Fireball", as your editor, I will gladly forward it to anyone that requests a copy.)*

FIREBALL EDITOR

As editor of the "Fireball" Newsletter for the past 10+ years, I have been privileged in passing on valuable and interesting information to all of our shipmates and their families.

Although I have recently resigned from the elected position of Corresponding Secretary, I have been appointed to the position of Editor of the "Fireball" and will continue to serve the Association in that capacity.

I wish to thank all of you for your support over these many years and will continue to strive in providing the best newsletter possible.

Jeff Parker
1036 Calle Venezia
San Clemente, CA 92672
Tel: 909-910-9644
Email: Ljparker1@cox.net

2023 BUSINESS MEETING

DONATIONS OF ASSOCIATION FUNDS

We wish to remind all members that the Association Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2023, during the 2023 Reunion in Columbus, Georgia.

Any member wishing to recommend the donation of Association Funds to any organization needs to do so in writing, at least 90-days in advance of the Business Meeting. To be considered, any donation must be supported by the organization's function as well as a summary of the proposed recipient's financial report.

The officers will then review all applications for donations and make recommendations to be voted on by the members during the Business Meeting.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ?

It is very important that any changes in a member's address be forwarded to the Association so as not miss any correspondence or "Fireball" Newsletters.



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

RICHARD G. POWERS, RM2, (53-58)

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

2023 REUNION SCHEDULE and TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Reunion Check-in 3:00pm — 10:00pm, The Hospitality Room will be open for Reunion Check-in as well as meeting friends and enjoying a beverage and snacks. (Dinner on your own)

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Our motor coach will transport us to the infamous **Andersonville Historical Civil War Prison**.

After our visit to Andersonville we will enjoy a buffet lunch at **Yoder's Restaurant**.

After lunch, we will make our way to the **Westville Historic Village**.

We will then return to our hotel and enjoy gathering at the Hospitality Room. (Dinner on your own)

Friday, October 6, 2023

Our motor coach will transport us to the **National Civil War Naval Museum** where will experience Civil War cannon fire.

After enjoying a box lunch, we will move on to the **National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning**, a very moving experience.

We will then return to our hotel to enjoy snacks and beverages in the Hospitality Room. (Dinner on your own)

Saturday, October 7, 2023

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting will be held at the Double Tree Hotel at **8:30am**.

Roosevelt's Little White House and Peachtree Mall

Upon conclusion of the Business Meeting, our motor coach will transport us to **President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Little White House**, a National Historical Landmark built by the former President in 1932 while serving as Governor of New York.

We will then proceed to the **Peachtree Mall** for shopping and lunch on your own.

Upon returning to our hotel, enjoy the Hospitality Room or a short nap before our Reunion Banquet.)

Saturday, October 7, 2023

REUNION BANQUET

We will gather at the Double Tree Hotel for our Reunion Banquet and Entertainment, Cash Bar. (The Hospitality Room will be closed during the banquet)

(5:00pm, Social Hour, 6:00pm Dinner, followed by Entertainment)

Sunday, October 8, 2023

The Hospitality Room will close a **8:00am**. Farewell until 2025.

ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

USS OZBOURN REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all Registration, Tour and Banquet costs for our 2023 Reunion of the USS Ozbourn DD846 Association. Please enter the number of persons who will be attending each event, meal choice and the total cost. Please return the form and your check payable to **USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION to GUY POSEY, 419 S. APPLEWAY, GLENCOE, Oklahoma 74032**. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payment must be received by mail **BEFORE** September 1, 2023. After that date, registrations will be accepted on a space available basis. We recommend that you make a copy of your registration form for your records.

<u>TOUR AND BANQUET CHOICES</u>	<u>Price Each</u>	<u>#Of People</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

Andersonville Prison	\$25.00	_____	_____
Lunch at Yoders Restaurant	\$25.00	_____	_____
Westville Historic Village	\$25.00	_____	_____

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

National Civil War Naval Museum	\$30.00	_____	_____
(Includes Box Lunch)			
National Infantry Museum	\$20.00	_____	_____

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

Roosevelt's Little White House	\$20.00	_____	_____
Peachtree Mall	\$15.00	_____	_____

(Shopping & Lunch on your own)

SATURDAY REUNION BANQUET (Please select your Entrée below) Cash Bar

Roasted Boneless Pork Chop	\$32.00	_____	_____
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with Garlic Mashed Potatoes topped and Rosemary Demi

Grilled Scottish Salmon	\$38.00	_____	_____
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with roasted vegetable orzo in white wine & lemon butter

Grilled Chicken Breast	\$32.00	_____	_____
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with cream of spinach and Parmesan creamy potatoes

All dinners served with seasonal vegetables, rolls, butter Coffee or Tea

Non refundable Registration Fee P/P	\$25.00	_____	_____
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Total Amount payable to USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION			_____
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First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nickname on Board _____

Years on board _____ Last Rate/Rank held on Ozbourn _____ If Ret, Last Rate/Rank _____

Spouse Name (If Attending) _____ Guest's Name _____

Street Address _____ Tel # _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Are you staying at the Double Tree Hotel Yes _____ No _____ Arrival Date _____

YOU MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY CONTACTING THE DOUBLE TREE HOTEL at (706) 327-6868. Be sure to tell the operator you are attending the OZBOURN Reunion.

REFUNDS for cancellations for tours and banquet will be considered before September 1, 2023. After that date, no cancellations will be refunded, unless emergency.

USS OZBOURN DD846 IN THE NEWS

Submitted by John Crowley, FTG2, (62-65)



RAY AND PAM SAUER

Crew Giving Buddy 2d Honeymoon

BY BETTY DONOVAN

The men aboard the USS Ozbourne have chipped in quarters, dimes and dollars totaling \$700 so their buddy Ray Sauer, 20, and his bride Pam will have a really special second honeymoon.

Ray is paralyzed from the waist down as a result of spinal injuries suffered Dec. 4, 1967, when an enemy shell hit the Ozbourne, and ripped into the compartment where he and six men were billeted. Two were killed and three critically injured, including Ray. The Ozbourne was in the Gulf of Tonkin.

He was rushed to the U. S. Naval Hospital at Da Nang where it was determined his paralysis could not be corrected by surgery, since five vertebrae were smashed.

HE WAS FLOWN back to the States two weeks later.

Ray, the son of Leonard Sauer who lives at 460 Stanley avenue, was met at the airport by his girl, Pam. They had gone steady for four years, from the time he was 16 and she 15. But when he came home from the Gulf of Tonkin, Ray thought all plans for marriage were "ridiculous—I just couldn't ask Pam to marry me."

Pam had other ideas. On May 8, she came to take Ray for an auto drive. Two high school friends were with her. The four young people drove to Indiana, and Ray and Pam decided then and there to elope. So they did.

Her parents, Mr. and

Mrs. Frank Poole, live in Madison Place near Marimont.

THE YOUNG couple lives at 1815 William Howard Taft road.

Ray attended Anderson High School until he enlisted in the Navy in February, 1965. Pam is a graduate at Courter Technical High School. They met at a high school party.

Home port for the USS Ozbourne, a destroyer, has been at Yokosuka, Japan, for two years. She spent 14 months off Vietnam.

The new home port, however, will be at Long Beach, California.

The Ozbourne is due to dock early on Sept. 6.

THE CREW already has made arrangements for Ray and Pam to fly to Long Beach, and to be waiting on the dock when the Ozbourne arrives. Then, Ray and Pam will be guests of the Ozbourne crew until Sept. 12, for dinners, theater trips and sight-seeing at Long Beach.

"I had a lot of friends on the Ozbourne, but I never expected anything like this," said Ray. "I was just a seaman when I got hit. They're a swell bunch of fellows, believe me."



Hit Kills 2 on U.S. Ship

SAIGON (AP) — The U.S. Navy destroyer Ozbourne received a direct hit from a communist shore battery Monday while patrolling off the coast of North Vietnam. Two crewmen were killed and three were wounded, a Navy spokesman reported.

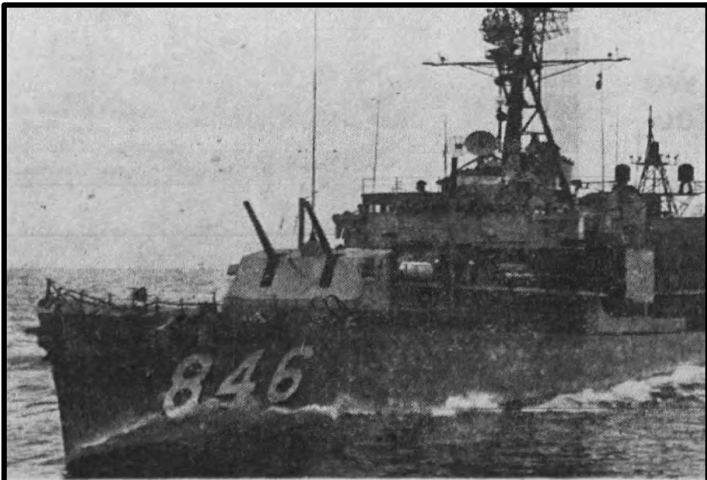
The shell penetrated the main deck and exploded in a compartment.

Last March 25 the Ozbourne was hit while operating just south of the Demilitarized Zone. The ship suffered minor damage in the earlier shelling, but no casualties.

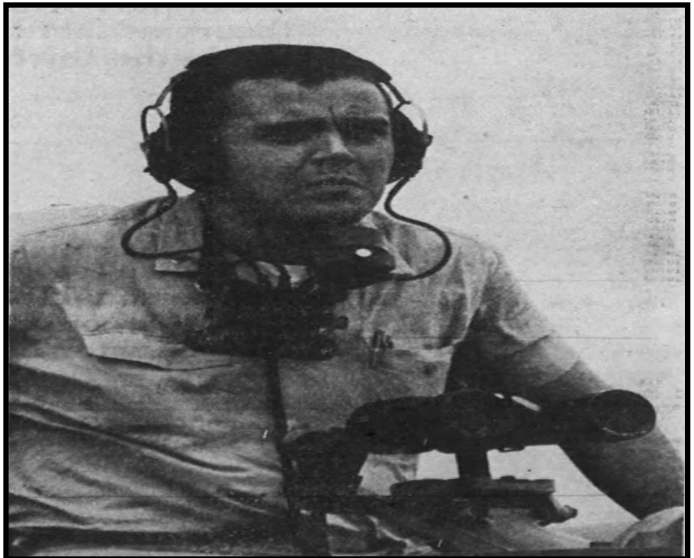
MILITARY BEST-USS OZBOURN DD846



Now that our Ship Store is closed, **MILITARYBEST.com** is a trusted source that can be counted on to provide products related to the Ozboourn such as caps, shirts, jackets etc. Military Best is offering a 10% Discount on all purchases. When making your orders, reference Coupon Code oz10. Those shipmates, family members and friends interested in ordering products can locate the Military Best website at www.MilitaryBest.com.



The World War II type destroyer USS Ozboourn cruises off North Vietnam on Operation Sea Dragon. Her five-inch guns stand ready to strike enemy supply routes, bridges, truck convoys and gun positions ashore. The Ozboourn, part of Destroyer Squadron Nine, is based in Yokosuka, Japan, and navigated by Lt. Kenneth L. Carter of Springfield.



Lt. Kenneth Carter standing his watch in the USS Ozboourn's gun director off of the coast of Vietnam, June 1968. (*Springfield News Leader*, June 25, 1968)

Shot-At Drury Grad Finds

Navy Role Is Underrated

WITH THE 7TH FLEET OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM — An often neglected and highly underrated part of our Vietnam war effort is being fought by the U.S. Navy off the coasts of this war-torn country. One Springfieldian, Navy Lt. (J.G.) Kenneth L. Carter, 25, has seen plenty of action while serving with the destroyer USS Ozboourn in the Vietnam war zone.

A graduate of Drury College, Lt. Carter is the navigator for the World War II type destroyer which is part of Destroyer Squadron Nine, based in Yokosuka, Japan. The Ozboourn, a veteran of nearly two years of operating off Vietnam, has been fired at and hit by enemy shore batteries a number of times — once resulting in death for two crewmen and injury for three others.

The destroyer is taking part in Operation Sea Dragon with the heavy cruiser USS St. Paul, an operation designed to strike enemy supply routes, bridges, transshipment points, truck convoys, gun positions and other targets ashore.

The USS Ozboourn is accustomed to being shelled. During her operations off Korea, she was involved in the Inchon invasion and suffered two direct hits from the North Koreans. "Since coming over here to Vietnam," Lt. Carter said, "we've had some bad luck with enemy fire. We've been hit four times ourselves and we've seen two other ships with us get hit."

Lt. Carter has been on the ship about 15 months and performs a variety of duties. "Right now I have several colla-

teral duties in addition to being navigator. I'm the public affairs officer, the photographic officer, the administrative assistant and the staff navigator for Destroyer Division 92.

"My duties keep me pretty busy," he added, "especially when we're at sea — which is about 70 percent of the time."

The important role which the Navy is playing off Vietnam is attested by the Ozboourn's fine Western Pacific record. More than once the destroyer has silenced enemy guns which had been harassing our troop movements along the coast. The Meritorious Unit Commendation has been awarded to the ship.

Lt. Carter has 21 months left in the service and is planning to return to work in Springfield. His wife is the former Wilma Carter, also of Springfield.

Jeffrey Parker
1036 Calle Venezia
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 22 or 23. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 22 means 2022, 23 means 2023, 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 **Mike Ward**, Association Treasurer, at 3836 County Road W40, Decorah, Iowa 52101.

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 M.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

