



Joseph W. Ozbourn
Pvt. USMCR



KIA 30 July 1944
Tinian, Marianas Islands

Vol. 12, No. 3

The newsletter of the USS Ozbourn (DD846) Association

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

JULY 2003

FINAL REUNION INFORMATION EDITION

FROM THE BRIDGE

This will be the last newsletter before our reunion in October so if you have not already done so, I urge you to make your hotel reservations and get your activity sign up sheets completed and mailed in now. Early registration will help to insure that activities go forward as planned.

If you are wondering which activities to sign up for I highly recommend the Fredericksburg trip. The museum is first class and something I think every veteran will enjoy. Others will find the unique village rich in German culture and heritage with shops and restaurants galore and lots to see and do. This years memorial service will held in the Peace Gardens inside the Nimitz museum.

This issue is also the last in which I will be writing this column as your president. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as association president these past four years and I want to thank all the members for your help and cooperation. Because of all of you, my job was much easier. I urge you to support the incoming president as you have supported me.

I also want to thank my fellow association officers for the outstanding work they have done. These men volunteer their time and talents to make the Ozbourn association one of the best



FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the newsletter is being sent to "all hands" in order to be certain that everyone gets the word on the next reunion. All the necessary forms and sign-up sheets plus a schedule of events is contained here-in. A variety of tours and activities has been developed that is sure to keep everyone on the go. Anyone who is not now a dues payer will find the necessary forms and instructions that will get you signed on in plenty of time to make the registration deadline.

Although San Antonio is not known as a Navy town there is a world renowned museum in nearby Fredericksburg, the hometown of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, that is dedicated to all who served in the Pacific under his command during WWII. Another tour will visit the Lyndon B. Johnson Ranch and birthplace and there is a city tour that will take in several of the old missions, including The Alamo, as well as the famous Riverwalk. In addition to all this what

REUNION PLANS ON TRACK San Antonio, Texas 08 to 12 October 2003

could be better than a good old country-western night on the town to be held in the famous Diamond W Ranch supper club where West Texas grub and cowboy music are the featured events.



Admiral Nimitz Museum

All of these events together with the attendance of the Ozbourn family members and Marine squad-mates should make this a reunion to remember. Past President Bob Whitten has lined up his old boss, the former director of the NASA-Ames

Research Center at Mountain View, CA to be the banquet speaker. Dr. Hans Mark will speak on the timely subject of the sea based missile defense system.

With this issue we complete the condensed version of the journals of Shipmate Trifon P. Tripsas. As I worked my way through his story it


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organizations of its type. They, like me, have no special qualifications other than a love for the association and a desire to see it continue. If you feel this way too, please
(Continued on page 4)

We're on the World Wide Web.....Check us out—Go to www.ozbourn.org



Taps for Shipmates

Donald W. Dodd (46-XX) 11 January 2003
William D. Maycock SN, (49-52) 19 April 2003
Orane Postlewaite BT 27 September 1980

May they rest in peace

ASSOCIATION MUSTER LIST AVAILABLE

A new roster of association members is now available and has been distributed free of charge to all dues paying members of the association. The roster contains the names and addresses plus e-mail addresses, if known, of all former Ozbourn crewmembers who have been in contact with the association.

Non-dues paying former crewmembers may obtain a copy of the roster by contacting the **Recording Secretary, William L. Jones (an order form is enclosed for your convenience)**. Include a check or money order in the amount \$5.00 to cover the cost of printing and mailing. While you are about it why not sign up for a hitch in the greatest military association in existence. Instead of paying \$5 for a roster, why not pay \$10 and receive all the benefits of the organization and get the roster for free. You may also want to consider that you must be a member to attend a thrill packed, fun filled Ozbourn reunion. Sign up today, get your roster and come to the reunion. All the necessary information to get you started is contained in this issue.

USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

<u>Stock #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
C01	CAP, Navy Blue with Brilliant Gold lettering, adjustable size	\$14. ea
M01	Mug, 11 oz. Embossed with Oz patch and ship silhouette.	\$8. ea./2 for \$12. or 6 for \$30.
P01	Ship's patch (original design) for cap or jacket.	
P02	Same as above (revised) subtle differences in design and color	\$6. ea
F01	USS Ozbourn license plate frame T-shirts, jackets and windbreakers available by special order. Contact the store.	\$5. ea/2 for \$8.

Don't feel left out order your Cap and Jacket now to be in the "uniform of the day" at the reunion. Contact "Trader Minter" today.



Order from:

W. D. Minter
 USS Ozbourn Association,
 4206 Buchanan Loop Rd.
 Texarkana, TX 75501

All stock is of highest quality. Checks or money orders only please, made payable to USS Ozbourn Association. May also be ordered from web page.

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WELCOME ABOARD

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 Kinsella, Robert LTjg (SC) (72-75) Lake Bluff, IL
 Scanlan, John LTjg (62-64) Austin, TX
 Titus, Michael FTG2 (65-68) Huntsville, AL
 Glad to have you on board. See you at the reunion?

T During WWII, four piper destroyer Stewart (DD 224) was heavily engaged in the fierce battles that raged in the Southwest Pacific and was badly damaged during the action to repel the Japanese landings on the island of Bali. While in drydock in Surabaya, Java the ship fell off the keel blocks and was damaged beyond repair. Captured, she was repaired and commissioned into the Japanese Navy as Patrol Boat No. 102. Some military histori-

(Tin Can continued on page 4)

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MAIL CALL



Dwight Witte SN (56-57) wrote to express appreciation for his copy of the crew roster.

In an e-mail forwarded by Bill Jones, Mr. Toney Gorham of Mariposa, CA wrote:

Mr. Jones, I am writing in regard to William Maycock, a sailor who once called the USS Ozbourn home. Unfortunately Bill, a family friend passed away on April 19. I know that Bill was very proud of his service and enjoyed talking about his days on the Ozbourn. As is too often the case I didn't learn as much as I could have—should have—about Bill's service and the role he and his shipmates played in making the world safe for democracy and this country. I teach history in Mariposa, CA and plan to use your website and other resources to find out what I can about the Ozbourn and Bill to teach my students about the sacrifices that have been made for them as a tribute to Bill and those he served with. I will also encourage them to learn about the service of their family and acquaintances before the day comes that asking questions becomes impossible. Many young people (and some old ones as well) don't realize the importance of asking those questions so I'd like to encourage you to encourage the remaining members of your association to talk to the younger generation about their experiences while they still can because too often we don't think to ask.

Thank you for your service to our country, Toney Gorham

Several days later the following e-mail was received:

Mr. Perkins, my name is Nancy L. Maycock, wife of William Douglas Maycock. My husband passed away on April 19, 2003 just four days after his 74th birthday. Bill enjoyed reading the Fireball. I am not sure how long Bill served on the Ozbourn, I know it had to be sometime after he enlisted in 1948 and he was discharged in September 1952 up in Washington. We have a picture of the USS Ozbourn, of which my husband was very proud to have served on.

Thank you so much, Nancy L. Maycock

In an e-mail of April 30, 2003, Nancy J. Netter wrote, seeking information about her father.

My father served on the USS Ozbourn as a boilerman. His name was Orane Postlewaite. I don't have much information on his service. All I know was he was in the "frogman" program when the Korean War broke out. I guess he was sent to the Ozbourn as a boilerman and he never completed the program. He didn't talk much about his experience very much. I believe he served during some heavy fighting. I also know that at one time he was dropped off on an island for a period of time that was not pleasant.

My father had six children, 3 girls and 3 boys. He passed away on Sept. 27, 1980.

If you any information please let me know. Thank you

Anyone having information for Ms. Netter regarding her father may forward it via Recording Secretary, William L. Jones.

Editor Emeritus Paul Logan sent in a note containing laudatory comments about the Fireball! reunion edition and the enclosed roster of association members. Thank you, Paul. Ed.



Proud grandparents, Chief Petty Officer Richard E. Satchell, U.S. Navy (Retired) and wife Rusti, display their Blue Star Flag containing 4 Stars and the pictures of their grandchildren serving with the U. S. Army.

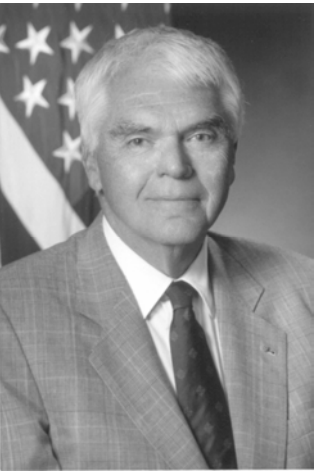
Specialist 4 Christopher Morin, is deployed with the 18th Airborne Corps in Jordan. His wife, PFC Jessica Morin, U.S. Army reserve, is serving in Phoenix, AZ while caring for their new baby.

Brother and sister, PFC Nicholas Wood and PFC Autumn Wood are in the Military Police branch, both serving abroad. Nicholas has been deployed in Korea with the 57th Military Police Company while sister Autumn is deployed in Germany

(See Mail Call on page 7)

REUNION UP-DATE

We are honored to have Dr. Hans Mark as our banquet speaker at the October reunion. He is currently Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics at the University of Texas in Austin, since 1992 holding the John J. McKetta Centennial Chair at that institution. Dr. Mark has had a distinguished career in both science and engineering as well as civilian defense leadership. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, receiving his PH.D. in nuclear physics from MIT in 1954. He worked on the



miral Hyman Rickover and and engineer at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California a professorship at his alma mater there in 1968 to become Director of the Ames Research Center in California. At the invitation of the Harold Brown, he left the Air Force to become under-secretary and later Secretary of the Air Force. When Ronald Reagan became President in 1981, Dr. Mark left the Air Force to come to Texas and his chair in engineering. He is the author or co-author of more than 200 scholarly articles and a number of books. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1976 and is an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics, the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. While an undergraduate at UC Berkeley he was a midshipman in the ROTC program founded there in 1925 by then-Commander Chester W. Nimitz. He left the program when the Secretary of Defense, Louis Johnson, drastically cut the program in 1949, but not before he had the opportunity to be a "tin-can sailor" on weekend and summer training duty.

Dr. Hans Mark

Nautilus reactor under Admiral Hyman Rickover and then was a nuclear scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory while concurrently holding a professorship at UC, Berkeley. He came to Texas to become Director of NASA-Mountain View, California then Secretary of Defense, Ames in 1977 to become Secretary of the Air Force. When Ronald Reagan became President in 1981, Dr. Mark left the Air Force to come to Texas and his chair in engineering. He is the author or co-author of more than 200 scholarly articles and a number of books. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1976 and is an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics, the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. While an undergraduate at UC Berkeley he was a midshipman in the ROTC program founded there in 1925 by then-Commander Chester W. Nimitz. He left the program when the Secretary of Defense, Louis Johnson, drastically cut the program in 1949, but not before he had the opportunity to be a "tin-can sailor" on weekend and summer training duty.

Dr. Mark, a long time advocate of missile defense, will speak on sea based ballistic missile defense system. While DDR&E he participated in the first successful intercept of a ballistic missile at sea by the cruiser USS LAKE ERIE (CG-70) and will show a video of that operation.

Miscellaneous Reunion Items

Preliminary list of shipmates registered as of 7 July:

Curtis O. Anderson	(53-55)(WA)
Jack and Etta Blonsick	(50-51)(FL)
George and Betty Fink	(46-48)(IL)
Tom and Caye Hoots	(52-55)(TN)
Rick and Pam Johnson	(61-61)(CA)
Calvin Patterson	(50-51)(AR)
Thomas M. Perkins	(50-53)(WA)
Ralph and Marie Phelps	(51-52)(UT)
Trifon Tripsas	(56-57)(AZ)
Robert and Sally Whitten	(50-52)(CA)

If you have not attended one of our reunions this would be the perfect time to sign up and join your shipmates in a few days of fun and frolic in the great state of Texas. All reports indicate that San Antonio is a tourist friendly town so get on board and join in the festivities.

As reported in the April issue, two members of Joseph W. Ozbourn's Marine squad have been in contact with the Association and now we are happy to report that an additional two members have been located. These men are Delbert Fliar of Mesa, AZ and Otto Freeman of

Sweetwater, TX. All are interested in the reunion and may join us in San Antonio. It will be an honor to have them.

Following are average weather conditions that can be expected in the San Antonio area during the month of October. Dress accordingly.

Average High temperature	82
Average Low temperature	59
Precipitation	2.5 in.

(Bridge, continued from page 1)

let it be known when replacement officers are needed. Remember, we are an association and all members are equally responsible for its leadership and welfare.

Step up and do your part.

(Editor, continued from page 1)

soon became evident that here was a story that exemplifies all that is good about the immigration system in America. Through hard work and sheer determination he overcame the obstacles of a less than adequate education and language barrier as well to become a productive citizen of his adopted country. These qualities are also evident in the lives of his children who have followed in his footsteps, achieving academic excellence and success in their chosen professions.

Thank you Trifon Tripsas for sharing your life story with us. It is an inspiration to us all.

As you know by now, WD Minter is leaving office as president of the association. Under his tutelage the association has prospered and is on an even keel. Thank you WD, it was a pleasure to work with you.

Thomas M. Perkins, Editor

(Tin Can continued from page 2)

ans credit IJN Patrol Boat No. 102 (ex-Stewart) with the sinking of the USS Harder (SS-257) during a depth charge attack off the coast of Luzon, P.I. in August of 1944 thus ending the fighting career of the intrepid MOH winner CDR. Sam Dealey, USN. Ex-Stewart was returned to American control in Aug. 1945.

THE TRIPSAS JOURNALS; Part IV.

In the last three issues of Fireball we have followed in the footsteps of Trifon Tripsas from his early life in Greece during the tumultuous years of invasion and strife of WWII and the Civil War that followed. We saw how he served his country in the Greek Army and how in his determination to find a better life for himself chose to immigrate to the United States. In the last issue he related his experiences of being drafted into the U.S. Navy and his sea-going life on board Ozbourn. Now in the late summer of 1957 he has been discharged from the Navy and sets out once again to fulfill his lifelong ambition of becoming a productive citizen of his adopted country. We take up his story as he returns to civilian life from the Navy Separation Center in San Diego.

EPILOGUE

I immediately returned to the Long Beach area and stayed for a time with some friends while looking for a job. It was a difficult time for aliens to find a job in 1957, even for those of us who had come into the country legally. This was due, in part, to the intense anti-communist hysteria that was the outgrowth of the co-called McCarthy era. It seemed that once my employment application had been reviewed and my alien status noted their attitude became, "Don't call us, we'll call you." I became very discouraged with all this when, by chance, I made application with the telephone company in Long Beach. I filled out the application, gathered all my documents and reported for the interview. I arranged the documents with the recommendation letter that LT. Nyquist, the engineering officer on the Ozbourn had given to me on top of the pile that included my certificates from the electronics training schools I had attended. Following the interview I took a series of tests that were required for the position, passed with flying colors and then was given a tour of the facility. I was told to report for work the following Monday and as you can imagine, I was ecstatic. I reported at the appointed time and was told to wait in a small room and soon I realized that my qualifications were being discussed in the next cubicle. They were talking over my qualifications and it was apparent they were concerned about my alien status. The personnel director was called in and after further discussion I heard him say, "So what, he served two years on a Navy ship and didn't blow it up so just hire him." At a later time I found out that he was a retired Naval Officer and like a good Navy man he threw me a lifeline when he saw that I was drowning.

This was the beginning of my 30 year association with the GTE Corporation. My new job was in the Central Office in Long Beach as a "frame man" which means that I connected all the new telephone subscribers to the equipment in the central office. At last I was employed and able to move into my own apartment. The company provided me with training materials and I learned relay logic that was the main technology of the system in use at the time. Even though I had no formal education, the company gave me the opportunity to climb the technical ladder in leaps and bounds, supported me and gave me recognition and encouragement. After three years with the company I finalized a design and built my first circuit, from dis-

carded parts, of a sort of mechanical answering machine that would respond to incoming calls. This device greatly simplified the work of keeping the records of the installers and it was eventually installed in the Central Office and later adopted as a company standard. I received a bonus for this work and was transferred to work with the long distance apparatus in trouble analysis.

In 1965 I was promoted to Equipment Maintenance Foreman and to the central office summed the responsibility of administering long distance. This office had a reputation of poor performance and its level was very low. I raised the performance of the office and within a few months the performance was raised significantly.



Testing new designs, 1969

Here, as was the case in the Long Beach Office, I was able to design and install a new electro-mechanical device that greatly facilitated the process of keeping call ratio records that was a measure of overall performance of the center.

After ten years with GTE in the Long Beach/Downey area I accepted a position at the GTE-AE Laboratories to work as an evaluation engineer doing analysis, testing and evaluation of new systems prior to manufacture and release throughout the GTE system. So in the early months of 1967 I packed up the family that now included my wife Georgia and our three children and moved to Northlake, Illinois, the site of the GTE Laboratories where I worked in the Reliability Lab as an analyst. Shortly thereafter I was promoted to group leader and later, in 1972, to staff engineer and transferred to the Switching Lab where designs for the next generation of telephone systems were underway. As a member of the Technical Staff I took part in the design of electro-mechanical as well as the new digital telephone systems. During this period I wrote and published three technical papers and I was awarded two U.S. patents for the electronic circuitry used in my designs.

In 1981 the GTE Corporation moved their laboratories to Phoenix, Arizona and so in August of that year with all expenses paid, we moved to Phoenix where we reside today. In 1987 the company decided to scale down operations and early retirement with extremely favorable terms was offered to all employees who had completed 30 years service. I took the package and retired but a year later I signed on again as a consultant on a contract basis and finally retired for good in 1990. We enjoy our home in Paradise Valley, a suburb of Phoenix, enjoy life with our friends and keep busy with all kinds of activities.

I would be remiss if I did not tell you a little bit about my family. When I started work for the telephone company in

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(Continued from page 5)

Long Beach I was single and had no family or relatives in the area so it was a somewhat lonely time for me. All this changed in early 1958 when I attended an outing of Greek youth from the Los Angeles area that took place at Big Bear Mountain. While up on the ski slopes I chanced to meet a comely young woman of Greek descent named Georgia and we spent the afternoon and evening skiing, skating and getting acquainted. At the end of the evening I was in love and I felt that Georgia had feelings for me as well. Shortly thereafter I was pleasantly surprised when the company finally verified my credentials and I received a pay raise retroactive to the day I started work that amounted to more than \$1000. The first thing I did was purchase a car and this gave me the freedom to move about more easily than before. Very soon I was visiting with Georgia and her parents in Van Nuys at every opportunity and our romance continued to blossom, so much so, that marriage ensued in May of 1958. Georgia, who had a degree in Mathematics and programming from UCLA and was working at the Marquardt Aircraft Company in Van Nuys, quit her job and moved to Long Beach where we lived in small rentals until we bought our own two bedroom home. Our three children were born in Long Beach where we lived until my transfer to Northlake, Illinois in 1967.

Our oldest son named Basil in honor of my father, reached academic excellence in high school and in his national tests he placed in the top 2% in the nation. He received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, being recommended by both U.S. senators as well as the district Congressman but unfortunately he was rejected because of eyesight problems that exceeded the acceptable limits. He went on to college at the University of Illinois and in three years was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics with high distinction and a year later earned the Masters degree. He then entered the doctorate program and was assigned an experiment at the Stanford University linear accelerator where he was shooting electrons for five years. He now is employed by the Center for Naval Analyses and works with various elements of the Naval Establishment. He makes his home in Alexandria, VA.

Our second child is Mary, and what a beautiful and intel-



The Tripsas family, 1996

Standing (l-r): Basil, Mary, Trifon, Nicholas; Seated: Georgia

ligent woman she is. She participated in many activities in high school where she studied Spanish, oboe in the symphonic orchestra and was a member of the debate team as well as athletic and theatrical programs. She went on to the University of Illinois and completed the Bachelors degree with a double major in Computer Science and Accountancy and became a Certified Public Accountant. She worked as programmer with IBM in Arizona and then was promoted to Systems Engineer and transferred to San Francisco. After two years she resigned her position and entered Harvard Business School and received the Masters degree in Business Administration. Later she enrolled in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earned her doctorate degree, following which she accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the Wharton Business School. Sometime later she moved again to a position as Assistant Professor at the Harvard Business School. She and her husband live in the Boston area with their three daughters.

Our youngest son Nicholas graduated from high school in Elmhurst, Illinois where he was very active in the music program. He was such a talented musician, in fact, that he was selected to play in the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra as a first chair trumpet player. Later, at the University of Illinois, he played in the university band and earned the Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. After graduation he worked at Advanced Micro Devices and rose to become the manager responsible for the production of the latest AMD "Athlon" computer processor. He has been awarded 11 U.S. patents, far exceeding the 2 that I received. Nick and his wife make their home in San Jose, California and have two beautiful children.

POSTSCRIPT

When the draft board in Chicago made the mistake of drafting me into the Navy it changed the course of my life. Twenty-one months later upon my discharge from the Navy, my decision not to return to Illinois together with my employment with the telephone company set the direction that my life was to follow. In Greece I never had the opportunity to seek a formal education, in fact I didn't even have the chance to finish high school. It was a long and tortuous path from Veroia, Greece to Phoenix, AZ and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to advance in my chosen profession and to provide my children with the means to obtain the formal education that their intellect deserved. This is our reward for all the sacrifices that we made to help them accomplish their goals and this is something that brings us HAPPINESS.

What more could a man want?

Frank Spittle PN2 (49-50) sent in an excerpt from his book "Sailor, Write Your Mother" that you'll remember with a grin. This episode, entitled "Good-Bye Yard Work- Hello Adventure" describes a seventeen-year old going through his first introduction to the military with a group physical exam. The book tells in a humorous way the trials of coming of age in the Navy and deals with shipmates from the OZ. The book is \$16.95 (plus \$3 S&H. If CA, add tax of \$1.36) Order from: Ocean Breeze Publications, P.O. Box 3421, Laguna Hills, CA 92654. Frank plans to attend the reunion.

(Mail Call continued from page 3)

with the 630th Military Police Company.

Grampa Satchell is the Past Commander of Apple Valley Post 256 of the American Legion and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Hesperia Post 2924. He served on the Formosa Patrol during the evacuation of Nationalist Chinese forces from the Tanchen Islands in 1955 and served in Vietnam, Gulf of Tonkin, Yankee Station in 1971-1972 on board the U.S.S. Coral Sea (CVA-43).

This most timely item was forwarded by Charlie Akers in a letter of 22 May 2003.

Recording Secretary William Jones forwarded an e-mail from Susan Dodd of West Linn, OR.

Hi— I am the daughter of Donald W. Dodd. He was on the very first tour of duty with the Ozboorn that left San Diego on 6 January 1947. He passed away on 11 January 2003 at the age of 78. Today, I ran across a journal he kept while serving on board the ship so I thought that I would send this on after finding the Ozboorn web page. He was a radar operator and a radio operator I believe. He had a couple of pictures of some of his buddies with last names of Lopez, Cheves, Athanas, Talsma, Sheldon, and Del Ross. He is buried in the National Cemetery in Riverside, CA. Thank you— Susan Dodd

From the Ozboorn web page, Randy Humphries GMTSN writes:

In May or early June of 1972 during the WESTPAC cruise I was injured when hit on the head by a deck hatch while serving as a mess cook. The incident was not recorded in my medical file and I need verification that it really happened. The DAV cannot help me unless I can find shipmates that remember the incident. I have been trying to get this resolved for 30 years and this is my last resort. Anyone who remembers this can contact me at 2936 West Holly Lane, Amelia, OH 45102. It would be greatly appreciated.



Wonsan, from a different perspective

“SNOOPY” Part III by Capt. John Denham USN Ret.

In the early involvement in Vietnam the Navy’s role was limited. The enemy had no navy; no submarines; no carriers; only lots of boats and some ocean going maritime commerce and the ubiquitous destroyers should be able to handle that.

Ashore, there were more difficult problems. Roads did not exist and the ability to logistically support combat troops in the field was severely limited and artillery support was hard pressed to support all operations.

Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) is a primary mission of destroyers and with air spotter or forward ground observers, spotters could target areas for destroyers offshore and thus augment the shore-based artillery. As the enemy became aware of this turn of events, situations changed. Visible shore targets were moved out of sight and therefore hard to identify without air surveillance. Detecting targets became extremely difficult and hazardous to those assigned that task.

Destroyers had a solution.

A certain number of modernized Sumner and Gearing Class destroyers in the Seventh Fleet were certified DASH capable. On each of these ships were two un-manned drone radio controlled helicopters. Their designed role was ASW and they were capable of dropping torpedoes or depth charges as far away as the eye could see. The ASW capability was not needed in Vietnam, but if the weapons were replaced with a TV camera an airborne surveillance system was created that could over-fly enemy positions and “spot” targets without endangering flight personnel. This system was known as “SNOOPY”

In 1967 OZBOURN had an operational DASH capability with a video capability. It was not the result of any major R&D program but was the product of a “skunk works” concept put together with parts of an already existing system. With close cooperation between technical representatives and fleet personal a few things were just rearranged. The result was a closed circuit TV system between the bridge, CIC, the DASH station and the “bird.”

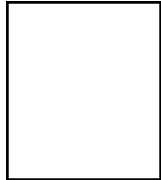
SNOOPY’s first combat mission was in North Vietnam in 1967. A strategic bridge, a few miles south of Hanoi, had proven to be a difficult bombing target. It was not visible from the sea and therefore not a good NGFS target without air spotting. The environment for aircraft was extremely hostile and therefore an ideal mission for our “eye in the sky guy” SNOOPY.

The entire operation was controlled by the Executive Officer LCDR Tom Whaley, and the CIC Officer ENS. J.S. Kemp from the TV monitoring station located in CIC. The “bird” was prepared by Weapons Department personnel under the supervision of the DASH Officer ENS. F.P. Knusts.

As part of a three ship task group, OZBOURN headed for the target area at 25 knots and launched SNOOPY about 20 miles from the target. Using the main battery firecontrol ra-

(Continued on page 8)

Thomas M. Perkins
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Port Orchard, WA 98366-3454



“OLD GLORY”
Long may she wave,
O’er the land of the free
And the home of the brave.



(SNOOPY, Continued from page 7)

dar to track and a special video transmissions tracking receiver SNOOPY approached the target area undetected at about 50 knots and 1000 feet above sea level. Within minutes the planned spotting position was reached and the “bird” was put into a hover. With minor viewing adjustments and corrections for wind and focus we opened fire with the 5 inch gun battery. The initial salvo was off some but the third and fourth salvos took effect and with a couple of four gun salvos the job was done. Within ten minutes we had achieved serious damage to the bridge and then moved SNOOPY in closer to obtain battle damage assessment. This proved to be a bad idea as the “bird” was soon sighted by a local militiaman who started shooting at it with his rifle. No hits were registered and the “bird” was returned to the ship without mishap.

The DASH-cept was valid technology time. While it it was expend-lives of pilots ardised on type. As alcan sailors” eager and with the aviation experts they formed a team that could only succeed.



“SNOOPY”

SNOOPY con-but ahead of the existing at the was expensive, able and the were not jeop-targets of this ways, the “tin-were ready and when joined

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The USS Ozbourn Association is totally funded by subscription and cannot operate without the support of the membership. The dues of each and every member is very important to the well being of the association.

Dues for membership in this very exclusive organization are \$10 (US) per year, payable annually NLT 1 January. This membership fee has remained constant since the Association was formed in 1992.

The Fireball! mailing label indicates your dues status by the addition of a two digit number or letter combination. The latest year for which dues have been paid is indicated by this number. For example: 03 indicates dues paid through 2003; “n” means a new contact, awaiting feedback; “nm” indicates non-member - never joined. Check your label and keep those dues coming in.

All inquiries concerning payment of dues should be directed to the **Treasurer, Warren Zschach**. He will gladly accept additional years dues as well.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

This is another key item, often disregarded or overlooked. Keep us informed as to your whereabouts and we will get all the association information out to you. All inquiries regarding Change of Address or label corrections should be directed to **Recording Secretary, William L. Jones**.