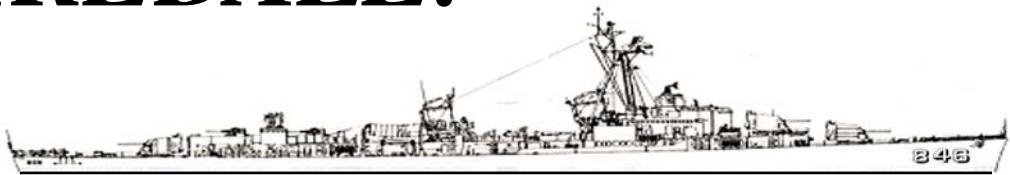




VOLUME 17, NO. 4

FALL 2008

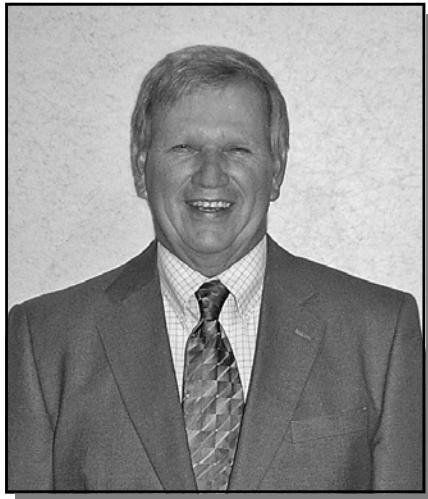
FIREBALL!



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

The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourne (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 years that I served aboard the USS Ozbourne made a dramatic change in my life. I was raised in a small Oklahoma town with a history as a very religious region. I was unaware of and unprepared for life in the United States Navy. I had never been very far from home and certainly never near a large body of water. As a newly-minted Navy man, I was about to embark on a journey in my life that was totally different for me.

I never went on liberty for a long time because I was not interested in drinking. All of the sordid stories that I would hear from shipmates coming back from liberty also kept me on board for a while.

When the Oz pulled into Bangkok, Thailand, my buddies finally talked me into going ashore with them. Wow, what a good time I had in that port. From that point on, every time we pulled into a new port, the quarterdeck watch knew to get out of my way because I would be running down the gangway.

I always enjoyed sight seeing and having a good time in each port.

The best two weeks of my years in the Navy was spent in Hong Kong. I took leave while there and had a wonderful time. Hong Kong was still under British control then.

I would spend all day at a pub, playing pool and throwing darts, and never spend much of my own money. What a wonderful time that was.

I know that some of my shipmates before me shared many of the same experiences. Of course the Ozbourne was not all fun and games as we all know. It took a lot of work to keep the old ship above the waves.

I have enjoyed the reunions that we have had in the past. It gives us all an opportunity to get together and tell sea stories and enjoy pictures that were taken at the same ports over the years. It's now time to plan for our next reunion in St. Louis, Mo., September 23-27, 2009. Please mark your calendars.

I want to thank my shipmates who have entrusted me with the office of president of the USS Ozbourne Association. I will do my best to live up to the task.

Once again, I want to encourage everyone to support our troops and their families and all of our veterans. Please remember these people in your thoughts and prayers.

God bless all of you.



MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS
THE USS OZBOURN'S
NINTH BIENNIAL REUNION

SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2009
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 2



Gedunk Call Answer!

The Gedunk Call question for the summer 2008 issue of the *Fireball* was, "What are the ingredients of the soup sandwich?"

Apparently nobody stood the underway mid-watch, didn't go for their mid-rats at sea., or didn't like soup because there were no responses to last issue's Gedunk Call Question. At any rate, the ingredients for a soup sandwich are: soup of any kind and crackers, or bread, or croutons loaded-up in the soup to such a level as to soak up all of the liquid of the soup, rendering the soup a soggy paste.

Gedunk Call Question!

The Gedunk Questions for the fall issue of the *Fireball* are (it's a two part question), "when is an oscar used and what is it made of?"

Send your answers to Rick Johnson at johnsonsimivalley@yahoo.com.

**GET READY FOR THE
2009
USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION'S
NINTH BIENNIAL REUNION**

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

**AIRPORT HILTON
10330 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD**

**PLANNED TOURS
(PROPOSED TOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER PADDLE WHEEL
DINNER CRUISE**

**OZBOURN MEMORIAL CEREMONY
SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM**

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY ARCH

ANHEUSER-BUSCH BREWERY



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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 Ozbourne shipmates, the deadline for submitting contributions for the fall 2008 issue is **Monday, December 15**. Articles may be rewritten for purposes of editorial style. Due to space limitations, some materials may be used in a future *Fireball* edition.

MAIL CALL



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

Dear Sirs:

I was thrilled to find your newsletter and the Ozbourne Website. I served aboard for a little over a year in 1955-56 before being transferred to another ship that was returning to the Far East.

Your volume 15 number 2, page 3, spring 2006 issue of the newsletter mentioned Richard E. Satchell (Satch), R Division. I am sure that this is the same person who I served with in the electrical gang. Attached are two photos with names of the persons I can remember.

Bill LaFever (55-56) EM2



Dear Shipmates:

Many of my shipmates have not changed my e-mail address on their computer systems. I still get e-mail messages being sent to my old Juno address. I can't reply or forward any of these messages.

If you want to communicate with me or order any items from the Ship's Store, you're going to have to check your computer system to verify my e-mail address. Please check your e-mail address file and change my e-mail address to: boffrudy@verizon.net.

Thank you for your help.

Rudy Boff (52-55) — Ship's Store Proprietor

Dear Rick:

Global Climate change due to human-induced "greenhouse gas" emissions, mainly carbon dioxide, has been much in the news recently, but is the claim true? As some of our members may know, I have been engaged in various aspects of atmospheric science research for almost half a century. In fact, my latest work on the electrical properties of Jupiter's atmosphere, was published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research — Planets* in April 2008. I have also researched the issue of climate change caused by greenhouse gases during the last 15 years. I, and roughly 3,000 plus other atmospheric scientists and climatologists, have signed the "Oregon Petition" originated by former President of the National Academy of Science, Frederick Seitz, and sponsored by the George C. Marshall Institute.

Indeed, over 31,000 scientists of all specialties have signed it. This petition refutes the claim that serious climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions is imminent or likely in the future. I have published in the *California Political Review*, May/June 2008 a paper on the topic "Global Warming — Myths and Realities" as it affects the California economy through recent acts of the legislature. A second paper, on the national security aspect of large reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, will be published in the fall issue of the *St. Croix Review*. Should any of our members wish a copy of either or both papers (in a pdf file), please e-mail me at rwhitten@pacbell.net.

Bob Whitten, (50-52) — Past President USS Ozbourne Association

WELCOME ABOARD



Tom McCartney
PNSN

Served aboard two years. Actual years served aboard not given

FIRST POST SHAKE-DOWN AND WEST PAC CRUISE AS TOLD BY CHARLES (CHARLIE) BELL (1946-48)

Editor's note: I interviewed Charles Bell by phone in August with the intention of placing the interview, along with photos provided by Charlie, in the fall *Fireball*.

I received a call from Charlie's wife Lois in late September with some very sad news. Charlie had passed away on September 23, just weeks past his 80th birthday. The Bell's were married for 59 years. They first met in elementary school and knew each other for more than 75 years.



Charlie Bell — 1928-2008

The Navy sent all of us up to the Boston Naval Shipyard for the Ozbourne's maiden voyage. The ship's captain was CDR B.A. Smith who was a junior destroyer captain in the Navy. The West Coast needed another destroyer in San Diego, Ca. and the Ozbourne was selected to fill that billet. I thought that I would spend my Navy career on the East Coast near my home in Rhode Island. But I also wanted to see the world and asked for a ship that would let me fulfill my dream.

Commander Bernard A. Smith was the first to assume command of the new destroyer. In August 1946 he took the ship from Boston, down the East Coast, across the Caribbean Sea, through the Panama Canal, and up the West Coast to her new home port of San Diego, California.

On 6 January 1947, the Ozbourne departed from San Diego for her first tour of duty in the Far East.

During the maiden voyage, the Ozbourne was instrumental in saving a Chinese oil tanker that was in distress. By attaching a cable to the tanker, the Ozbourne towed it to Kieran, Formosa.

In May 1947, while en route to the La Perouse Straits, the Ozbourne again came to the aid of a distressed vessel. A merchant ship ran aground and later broke in half. The Ozbourne picked up the crew and transported them safely to Yokosuka, Japan.

Getting back to the West Pac cruise, once we passed the International Dateline going west, we had to be very careful. We were blowing up mines left over from WWII.

The Ozbourne visited Nagasaki, Japan a year and one-half after the atomic bomb was dropped by the U.S. The city was still flattened from the affects of the thermal nuclear fireball.

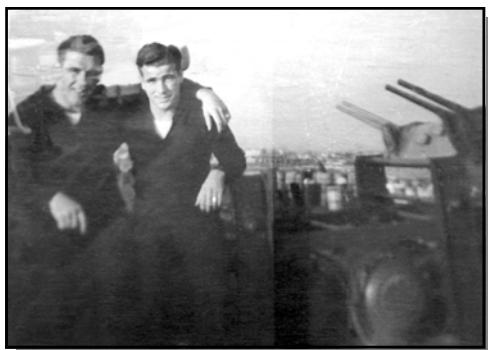
We visited the Imperial Palace in Tokyo and saw the gold throne of Emperor Tojo. The Imperial Palace was very elegant.

During our cruise, we rescued a Philippine ship that had run onto a reef. We illuminated the night sky with flares to keep the ship in our sight. A Russian navy ship got there before we did, however, we rescued the Philippine crew before the Russians could intervene. The Philippine crew said that the Russians had their guns trained on us the whole time.

We had a mascot dog on the ship that we picked up before we left San Diego. We called him Sparky. Sparky would follow this second class gunner's mate by the name of Joe Montana (no relation to the famous football player or Hanna Montana). Sparky had the run of the ship and was taken care of by everybody. When we reached Tsingtao, China, we didn't let Sparky out of our sight because we believed that the starving Chinese would kill, skin and eat Sparky.

The Ozbourne returned to San Diego in October 1947. On 21 October, CDR Smith was relieved as commanding officer by CDR Norman E. Blaisdell.

It wasn't until years latter that I realized how historic it was to be part of the ship's crew on the very first West Pac cruise of the USS Ozbourne.



Paul Logan, left and Charlie Bell on deck aboard the Ozbourne in 1947.



Charlie with Ozbourne mascot Sparky aboard the Ozbourne in



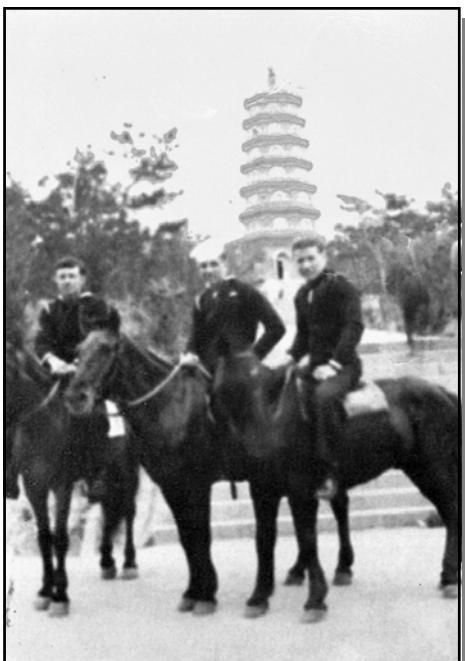
The USS Wiltsie DD 716 is shown coming along side the Ozbourne with doctor on board to attend to a broken collar bone of a shipmate. The Wiltsie picked up the doctor from the aircraft carrier USS Boxer.



Shipmate Sullivan, left and Charlie on deck in San Diego, Ca. 1947.



The British Crown Colony of Hong Kong as seen from the deck of the Ozbourne in 1947.



Horseback riding in Tsingtao, China 1947. Broderick, left, Smitty, and Charlie rode their horses to the temple in the background. They came upon a Chinese campsite and had to leave.



A Chinese crew at work scrubbing -down the side of the Ozbourne in Hong Kong Harbor in 1947.



Shipmates, left to right, Rich from New Jersey, La Fond from New Hampshire, and Broderick from New York, enjoy a day of liberty in San Diego in 1947.



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

On a beautiful sunny morning on the shores of the Severn River, Captain Curtis Anderson's ashes were laid to rest in the U.S. Naval Academy Columbarium following a memorable, well-attended and moving ceremony. A Naval Academy chaplain conducted the service, highlighted by the insightful and thought provoking remarks of classmate and former CNO Admiral Carl Trost who related the engaging personality, exemplary leadership attributes and distinguished career of Curtis Anderson. This most impressive ceremony was concluded with a perfect rendition of Taps by a Navy bugler on Cemetery Hill overlooking the Columbarium site.

Curtis Anderson served on active duty for 35 years and commanded many ships and stations during his career. He was an ensign and Lt. j.g. on the Ozbourne between 1953-55.

Tom Perkins — (1950-53)

EARL FREEMAN

March 18, 2008

(1945-46)

Plank Owner



DONALD RAY HULICK

May 12, 2008

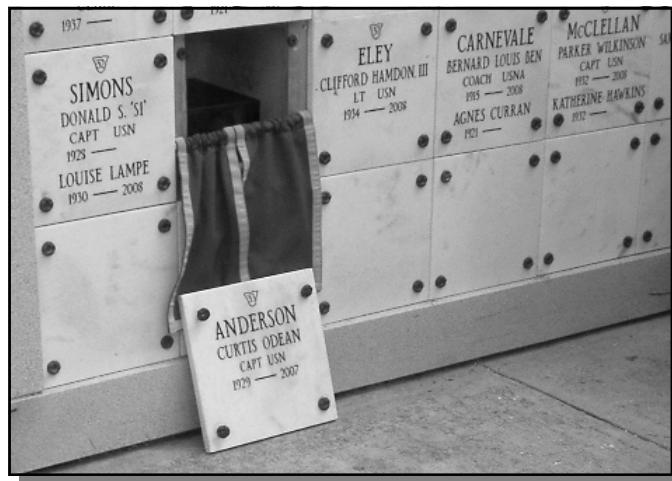
ME2 (1951-54)



CHARLIE BELL

September 23, 2008

SN (1946-48)



USS OZBOURN (DD 846) ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

This form is intended as a reminder for payment of dues and to update your personal information in the Association's data base.

Association dues are \$10 per year and the membership period runs from 1 January through 31 December each year. Your dues' status is indicated by a two digit number or letter combination on the mailing label found on the outside cover of the *Fireball* newsletter. For example: "08" indicates a regular member is paid-up through 2008 and so on. The letter "n" indicates a new member with membership in process. The letter "c" indicates a complimentary copy or honorary member. Please complete this form when renewing your annual dues.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL: _____

YEARS SERVED ON THE SHIP (i.e. 50-51) _____

HIGHEST RANK/RATE HELD _____

AMOUNT PAID — \$ _____

Make checks payable to the USS Ozbourne Association

Complete this form and mail it along with annual dues payment to:

**Warren Zschach
1311 Ponderosa Drive
Petaluma, CA 94954-0469**

USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

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

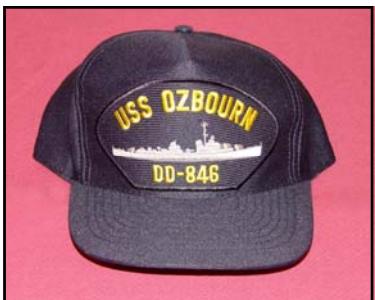


Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourne Web site at www.ozbourn.org under the heading Ship's Store. Orders may be placed with:

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 Ozbourne'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 Ozbourne 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.

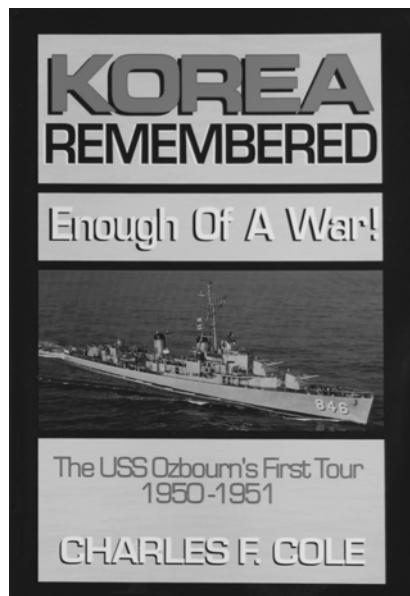
Micro-fiber Jacket, fleece lined-water repellent	\$90
Twill Jacket, fully lined with full front zip	\$80
Windbreaker, mesh lined and full front zip	\$60
Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, assorted colors	\$40
T-shirts, both long and short sleeve	\$35 and \$20
Golf shirts	\$30

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

The book *Korea*

R e m e m b e r e d : E n o u g h o f a W a r ! , t h e U S S O z b o u r n ' s F i r s t T o u r , 1 9 5 0 - 1 9 5 1 , 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 Ozbourne 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 Ozbourne's First Tour, 1950-1951* to the USS Ozbourne Association. The proceeds from the sale of his book will go into the Association's treasury.

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

**"Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!,
The USS Ozbourne'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



PENTAGON MEMORIAL

"We claim this ground in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

To honor the 184 people whose lives were lost, their families, and all who sacrifice that we may live in freedom.

We will never forget."

The Pentagon Memorial was publicly dedicated September 11, 2008. It is open to the public 24/7. The design of the memorial is simple yet powerful. There is an immediate sense of sorrow when you enter the grounds. The rows of memorial benches are arrayed in order of birth year from the youngest victim to oldest. The benches for the 59 people aboard the plane point toward the Pentagon. The benches for the 125 people in the Pentagon point in the opposite direction.

FIREBALL! The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourne Association

DUES ALERT!

Are you overdue on your dues? Only dues-paying members receive the *Fireball* newsletter. Look at the mailing label on your last newsletter and find a number such as 08 or 09 or 10. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 08 means 2008, 09 means 2009, etc. 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 Web site: Mission statement, complete history, current and past newsletters, a list of Ozbourn shipmates, historical photographs, the ship's store for ordering Ozbourn memorabilia, how to join, and special links.