



Fireball!

USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 3, No. 3 July 1994

The President's Report

Corresponding Secretary Paul Logan has now taken over the editing of Fireball! which is a big help to me — Many thanks, Paul, for taking on this job.

Paul Hecht has taken over all of the treasurer's responsibilities and Dennis LaCrosse is the new recording (membership) secretary. Again, many thanks to both.

We have to start planning the next reunion right away if we are to hold it in '95 (see reunion column below). So far Paul Logan has volunteered, but we need more help. However, we must first find a site and a base hotel. Let me have your thoughts — ASAP!!

— Bob Whitten

Reunion Organizing Committee — '95

We have received some suggestions for a site for the next reunion, but we need to decide by September 15th if we are to hold it in autumn '95. Suggestions are: Atlantic City, Daytona Beach, Denver, Kansas City, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Reno again, St. Louis, San Diego, San Francisco. My inclination is Gulf Coast, since we held the last one in the West., Please get in touch with me. My inclination is toward the east or Gulf coast depending upon the rates we can get at the hotels. St. Louis is central and might be good. Let me know!

Corresponding Secretary Paul Logan has volunteered his services for the reunion committee.

TASK FORCE 77 OFF KOREA

One night when we were with Task Force 77 off Korea, the weather was just starting to get cold and the ocean was very rough. (25-30 feet high) I was sleeping in the forward crews compartment in the fifth bunk. All of a sudden I was thrown out of my rack to the deck, luckily I landed on several bags full of laundry. As soon as I landed the loudspeaker blasted "Man Overboard". I dressed quickly and headed for my "man overboard" station where the deck force was making preparations for the rescue.

The time must have been about 2 or 3 am. We were the last ship in the Task Force. Word was passed to us that three sailors from the USS Cone had been washed overboard. They all had life jackets with lights attached.

We spotted a light in the water and headed for it. As we approached, the bridge searchlight picked up the sailor in the water. A seaman (Robert Parrack ??) grabbed a line and jumped overboard to save the sailor. With great difficulty he swam to the sailor in need. The ship heaved, sucked them both under, slammed down on both men almost knocking them unconscious. We finally got them both out of the water and into sick bay. We were all very proud of Parrack. One of the other sailors was picked up by another Destroyer, that meant one more to find and pick up. Our spotlight picked him up but with the froth around his mouth one of the old salts said he was dead.

Cont. page two column 2:

USS OZBOURN (DD 846)

Association

Officers:

President - Robert Whitten
Vice President - Curtis Anderson
Recording Secretary - Dennis LaCrosse

Corresponding Secretary - Paul Logan

Treasurer - Paul Hecht
Fireball! Editor - Paul G. Logan
Advisor - Charles Akers
Historian - Fred Conwell

Editorial Office:

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Braintree, MA. 02184
Tel. 617- 843- 4713

Fireball! published quarterly

**Former Commanding Officers
of USS OZBOURN (DD-846)**

1946-1947 CDR Bernard A. Smith
1947-1948 CDR Norman E. Blaisdell
1949-1950 CDR Ross E. Freeman
1950-1952 CDR Charles O. Akers
1952-1954 CDR William B. Fargo
1954-1956 CDR Howard Scott
1956-1958 CDR A.J. Toulon
1958-1960 CDR William Turner
FRAM overhaul
1961-1963 CDR William Lancaster
1963-1964 CDR John Berger
1964-1966 CDR Marvin D. Nelson
1966-1968 CDR John G. Denham
1968-1970 CDR Rodney L. Stewart
1970-1974 ???
1974-1975 CDR Frank Fortado

[Ed Note: *If anyone can fill in the missing names, please let me know*]

**Note from Paul Hecht on
OZBOURN 1993 reunion tape.**

It is ready for issue at a price of \$15.00 and contains footage from 46/47 era. (including postage and handling charges). He also has available for purchase the 1946/47 tape at \$12.00 each. Send your checks to:

PAUL HECHT
P.O. BOX 3534
PORTSMOUTH, VA 23701

DO YOU REMEMBER ???

Ted T. Lofgren QM 3/c (1952-1954) remembers:

Escorting POW'S from Korea to Formosa .Leaving Yokuska to ride out typhoon which completely missed Japan. The Frank Knox couldn't get underway, but was laughing at us when we returned to port. Ted is a Retired Longshoreman after 25 years.

Bill Ellis QM 3/c (1950-1954) remembers:

Ships Party at the Grant Hotel in San Diego. Half the crew wound up in jail. Ship's party in Yokuska, had to pay \$400.00 in damages to EM Club. Bill is presently in Advertising.

Charles F. Cole, Ensign (1950-1952) remembers:

Incheon Invasion, Typhoon 1950, return to TF 77 with Valley Forge, Wonsan Shore Bombardment. Charlie is presently a Professor at Ohio State University.

Rudy Boff MM 3/c (1952-1955) remembers:

Quiet watches in the air conditioned (??) after engine room. Rudy now stands watches for AT & T-NRC Corp. as a Zone Manager.

Monte Williamson BTFA (1967-1970) remembers:

Being hit by enemy fire in 1967. Sea Dragon Missions. Cruise to Australia. Monte is presently a Senior Boiler Operator for Eli Lilly & Co. (22 years).

DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING TO SHARE !!!!!!!

Task Force 77 off Korea

Cont from page 1 col. 2

We heard the Capt. on the bridge call down on a bull horn for someone to jump in and get the sailor in the water. No offence to the Capt. but we thought he was asking a little too much.

Myself, a friend, Garner Hurst from Juriestown, Tenn, and a Boot from Montana were ordered to get the boom located on the bulkhead near the fantail. We got out a hatch and headed for the boom. The ship leaned over and the young boot headed for the lifeline. I let go of the boom and grabbed him just before he went over the lifeline. I pulled him toward the boom but he went for the hatch and we didn't see him again. As we took the boom forward on our shoulders I looked back and the fantail was covered with about 8 feet of water. When Hurst and I reached the quarterdeck we watched as the young sailor was washed under the ship and we never saw him again. It was a sad night for all of us.

Shipmate: Jackson R. Tyree (52-55)

EDITORIAL (from the Editor)

This is my first publication and I trust it can get somewhere on the rating scale of the previous publications. First let me say starting to get up to speed with this newsletter, and a new Publishing Program has been no small task in man-hours. I am starting to get a better idea of the time and scope the previous Editor put into the "Fireball:" publications. This was still only a small part of the time effort and organization skills that were required to successfully get this Association off to such a successful start. We have all enjoyed the past issues of "Fireball" and with your help and input we can continue to provide articles and information of interest to all of our members.

Speaking of members have you tried to contact any of your former shipmates to get them interested in joining our organization. We will have to admit that a tremendous effort was made to organize the present membership, can you help "a little"? There must be many former shipmates who would be anxious to join up if they knew of our existence. Any ideas on how to get the word out? Aside from the "Fireball" and the membership organization we had the First Reunion in Reno, Nevada. My wife and I added about 10 days prior to the Reunion to vacation in California. We rented a vehicle in Los Angeles and drove all through California up to San Francisco and across to Reno. It was a great trip, added to a wonderful First Reunion.? Did you attend the Reunion? If you missed it, don't miss the next one. What about the organization of the Reunion. The meetings, the activities planned, the side trips, the main dinner etc, etc? What about the hours and time it took Bob Whitten from his family to start this great organization for us. Isn't it about time we returned some of the time and devotion that Bob has put forth.

What is Bob asking for to help this Organization to continue the great start it received? A Committee of Officers to share the duties that he performed in organizing OUR Association. He has them! Now Bob is looking for a Committee to organize and run the next reunion. In addition he needs input as to where a good location would be to hold same. If the assignments for the Reunion can be broken down to small assignments the task for each volunteer will be minimal compared to our First Reunion. You meet new friends with a common interest. A lot of your assignment could probably be accomplished by mail or telephone. **How about raising your hand and be counted!** Help keep this Organization "on the move" and in the direction of its original AIMS.

FIREBALL TRIVIA

Did you know we had a bona fide Hollywood Actor as a crew member during the winter of 50-51. He was William Henry, GM 2/c assigned to the 2nd Div. He was a WWII reservist recalled to active duty. He was later transferred to a PR job in Japan. I saw him in a movie circa 1939 entitled "Four Men and a Prayer" with Ray Milland, David Niven & C. Aubrey Smith.

Shipmate Tom Perkins (1950-1953)

MISSING SHIPMATES

Bill Cardoza, who was a SF 1/c when aboard the Ozboorn is in a nursing home in Scituate, MA. He may be contacted through his brother, Frank Cardoza. 12 Clifford St. Readville, MA. Tel. 617-364-1730

NEW RECORDING SECRETARY ABOARD

Dennis LaCrosse has come aboard as a new officer of our Association in the position of Recording Secretary. Dennis served aboard the Ozboorn from 1963-1970. Quite a stretch. He may qualify for longest person (today's Navy) aboard the "Oz". Anyone beat his record? Welcome Aboard Dennis.

Welcome Aboard Dennis! This completes our full compliment of permanent Association Officers.

The **OZBOURN hats** raffled at the reunion were provided by "**ARTISTIC**" 17197-J Newhope St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708, Tel. 714/540-9970. Items available are:

1. Hats - with scrambled eggs, \$13.50, without s/e \$10.50
2. Windbreaker - Navy blue or white, SM 36-8, MED 40-2, LG 44-6, XLG 48-50, \$28.00
3. Golf shirt - Navy blue or white, SM 34-6, MED 38-40, LG 42-4, XLG 46-8, \$19.50

Add 3.00 shipping plus 7.25% for CA residents.

Artistic will sell hats at the above price only in pairs. As a result, I have some hats on hand (with/without scrambled eggs) which may be obtained from me. I had to pay the CA sales tax so the price is (with shipping charge) \$17 with s/e, 13.25 without s/e.

This space is being reserved for your article of interest. It can be made smaller or as large as a whole page with a small movement of the computer mouse. It is up to you how much you would like to write about. Send some interesting happening that you experienced while attached to, or related to the USS OZBOURN (DD 846). Please submit same to the editor and let's share it with your shipmates.

Bernie Kern's Photos

In the last issue of "Fireball" four photographs from Bernie Kern's collection were published but the names were unavailable at press time. If you turn to Page 5 the upper left photo is Bernie Kern. The upper right (l-r) is Barney Chasteen and Bernie Kerns. In the lower left photo the person on the right is Christian (Chris). The lower right photo shows a street in that wonderful liberty country of Panama..

At our first Reunion I tried to get as many "personal Information forms made out as possible. I missed a lot of members plus the members that did not attend the reunion did not make out a form . Below I have duplicated this form so at your leisure you can fill it out, with your information and retain it to me. It will give us a basis for some future articles in the "Fireball".

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Dates Aboard Ozbourn _____

Ratings: _____

Duty Station: _____

Special events you remember: _____

Civilian Occupation: _____

Please return form to Paul Logan 165 Pilgrim Road, Braintree, MA. 02184

While you are filling out this form please spend a few minutes and fill out the one below. THANKS!!!

Reunion Questionnaire

Suggested cities: _____

Suggested dates: (in fall 1995) _____

Will you help with reunion arrangements? Yes _____ No _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number : _____

Comments _____

Return to R. C. Whitten, 1117 Yorkshire Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

OF THE DEATH OF

PRIVATE JOSEPH WILLIAM OZBOURN

In July 1944 Pvt. Ozbourn was serving with the First Battalion, Twenty-third Marine, Fourth Marine Division, during the battle for enemy Japanese-held Tinian Island, Marianas Islands. As a member of a platoon assigned the mission of clearing the remaining Japanese troops from dugouts and pillboxes. Private Ozbourn flanked by two men on either side, was moving forward to throw an armed hand grenade into a dugout when a terrific blast from the entrance severely wounded the four men and himself. Unable to throw the grenade into the dugout and with no place to throw it safely he grasped it close to his body and fell on it, sacrificing his life but saving his comrades. He gallantly gave his life for his country.