



# Fireball!

## USS OZBOURN DD 846 "the Happy Ship"

Vol. 5 No. 3 July 1996

### The President's Report

From the Bridge:

The 1997 reunion is now in the early planning stages. I just signed a contract with the Armed Forces Reunions for the hotel (Handlery Hotel on Hotel Circle) in San Diego for the dates October 25 to 29. It is too early to plan specifics regarding events but any suggestions on what types of activities to include are welcome.

\* \* \* \*

I just returned from another trip (my fifth and probably last) to Russia where I attended and participated in two conferences. The first, held in Moscow and cosponsored by the German Bundeswehr, was entitled "Social Policy and The Russian Armed Forces." Among the speakers was Lt. General (retired) Aleksandr Lebed who as I write this is still a candidate for president of Russia. A very engaging and impressive young man and one of the few military officers to establish an excellent record in Afghanistan, he spoke on the need to establish a professional armed service much like those of the U.S. During the question period I told him how dependent the American and British armed forces are on the senior enlisted ranks and then asked him if he wanted to move in this direction and if so, how he would get there. He indicated that, yes, he wanted the "American system" but was unable to explain how he would arrive there except to use long term (i.e., multiyear) enlisted contracts. In any case it seems to be a pipe dream as pointed out by the first speaker after lunch who went into excruciating detail on the budgetary impossibility of professional armed services.

The second meeting was conducted by the Shipbuilding University of St. Petersburg which claims Peter the Great as its founder. The conference, the third and last in the series commemorating the 300th anniversary of the Russian Navy, was concerned mainly with technical matters such as fluid dynamics

and naval architecture. However, it also had a historical section which is where I and three other Americans fitted in. One of them (James Bradford who has appeared on the Biography edition of the Arts and Entertainment channel) spoke on the record of John Paul Jones in the Navy of Catherine the Great, while another spoke on the Boston - - St. Petersburg trade of the 19th century, especially the shipment to America of "naval stores." I presented two papers, the first on Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union Sergei G. Gorshkov (C-in-C of the Soviet Navy from 1956 to 1985) and how he struck fear into the NATO navies some twenty years ago. This paper was of more interest to them than I had anticipated. It had been my impression gained from recent reading that Gorshkov's reputation had been irretrievably destroyed. Not so, I was given to understand. The officers of the Russian Navy still dream of having a "blue water" fleet even though most of its ships are rusting at dockside and its personnel are demoralized. I met Gorshkov's nephew (Captain 1st Rank Sergei Krolenko, retired) who was especially interested in restoring his uncle's reputation. My second paper was on the Navy League of the U.S. which was of some interest to my Russian audience. However, I was somewhat taken aback by the first question after I finished: "Why did Admiral Boorda commit suicide?" Indeed that was a good question. The "awards" explanation seems quite unsatisfactory to me, given that there is, I understand, real doubt that he wore them illegitimately (syndicated columnist Co. Harry Summers). To me, the most reasonable explanation is that he broke under the strain of the Defense Department and to some degree Congress. That is essentially what I told my Russian hosts.

\* \* \* \*

I am happy to learn that several endeavors to locate shipmates, especially those using internet are now underway. The best of luck to Dick Barnett, Richard Farquar, George Fink, Paul Logan, "WD" Minter, and Daryl Turner.

Bob Whitten, President

## MAIL BOX

Ted Lofgren (52-54) wrote and hopes to make the reunion in San Diego.

John Carvalho (57-59) could not make the Norfolk reunion as he was attending a reunion of his first ship in Portland, OR. He has six ships he makes reunions for. Hope San Diego is on his list.

Richard Satchell (55-58) sent in an update on his personal information for the records. An updated member roster has been sent to him as he requested.

Kent Curl (60-63) wrote to remind us that the Ozbourn received "FRAM I from March 15, 1961 to December 22, 1961 (and he is correct according to the ship's plaque on display at Norfolk reunion). (with our list of former Commanding Officers it was incorrectly stated that the Ozbourn went through FRAM II) During FRAM I the superstructure was removed, all the way down to the main deck, ASROC was installed along with the DASH helicopter platform and hanger.

Kent recalls getting a call at home, from the Quartermaster of the Watch, inquiring what he should do about the sunset check off item "turn on the aircraft warning lights" in view of the fact that the main mast, lights and all, had been removed that afternoon! After a short discussion, we concluded that we could forgo turning on the lights, inasmuch as there weren't any.

In addition CDR Curl wrote: The August '95 "Fireball!" had some discussion by QMC Gary Schwerr about the succession of Commodores. Capt. Goodfellow was relieved by Earnest Dobie around the time I arrived on board in the summer of 1960. Dobie, now deceased, went on to make Admiral.

He was relieved by Captain Paul "Bwana Devil" Shropshire, and he, in turn, by another gentleman whose name I can't recall (Captain Pete Martin?), but who endeared himself to the bridge watchstanders by promising not to tell us how everything was done (better of course) on "his" destroyer. The destroyer division of which OZ was flagship was the junior of the two divisions in a squadron, and our Commodore was always a fresh-caught Captain who was supposed to have had a recent successful tour of duty as a Destroyer skipper. The downside of this was that they always felt compelled to give the flagship the benefit of their previous Destroyer experience, and

the bridge crew quickly tired of hearing how things were done on the Commodore's previous command.

Warren Zschach (52-55) sent some interesting information on how to locate former shipmates, he received from the Department of the Navy. Some of this info is in this issue. Thanks Warren.

"WD" Minter is still working on finding past shipmates and is presently working on obtaining information to have an "Ozbourn Association" home page on the INTERNET. Good job "WD".

E-mail from George Fink (plank owner) (46-48). George said he was assigned to the OZ in Jan. 1946 in Bath Maine. The nucleus crew inventoried spare parts boxes aboard ship and were present when the shipyard workers ran test on equipment. They lived in quarters at the navy yard. He said Maine was beautiful in the winter (Fred Souza will appreciate that remark). George said it was a memorable experience to witness the metamorphosis of the Ozbourn from the nuts and bolts, construction clean-up stage to the seaworthy ship it became.

Bob Whitten informs us that his review of Pete Cole's book, "Korea Remembered", has been accepted by the editors of the *National War College Review*.

## OZBOURN ASSOCIATION ON THE "NET"

The USS Ozbourn Association has its own "Home Page" on the INTERNET. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of shipmate "WD" Minter our association can be reached by using the following address: <http://darkstar.swsc.k12.ar.us/~wdminter/ozbourn.html> If you have any suggestions, let us know. More to follow in next issue.

## OZBOURN POCKET CALCULATORS

Bob Whitten has ordered some pocket calculators (2-1/4" X 3-1/2") with the inscription "USS Ozbourn (DD-846) Shipmate" The cost is \$4.00 for the first one and \$3.00 for each additional calculator in the same mailing. They have a memory, perform square roots and percentages and usual arithmetic calculations. Great for yourself or as gifts. To order send check to: Bob Whitten, 1117 Yorkshire Drive, Cupertino, CA. 95014. Any profits will be deposited to the Association treasury.

# THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE OZ

(continued from April 1996 Fireball!.)

On 19 September 1950 Commander FREEMAN was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander Charles O. Akers. In February 1951 the OZBOURN received two direct hits and several near hits while under Communist shore battery fire off the Northern coast. On the same day Ozbourn sent out a motor whale boat to rescue a downed pilot from the carrier USS Valley Forge. The downed pilot, while fourteen miles from the Ozbourn was floating in an enemy mine field. The boat officer received a Bronze Star and the crew members received Letters of Commendation with combat distinguishing devices for their parts in the rescue. The Ozbourn remained on the firing line until March 1951.

The Ozbourn returned to San Diego in April 1951, and after undergoing repairs and overhauling, she left again for Korea. During this time Commander Akers was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander W. B. Fargo. Upon arrival at Wonsan area Ozbourn was assigned to Task Force 95. Entering Wonsan Harbor she blasted the Communists with her guns, destroying railroad cars, trucks, sampans and coastal gun emplacements.

Returning to Task Force 77 in July 1952 the Ozbourn rescued 18 men from the carrier USS Boxer, who had jumped from the ship to avoid a menacing fire. On the following day Ozbourn rescued three downed airmen from the carrier USS Essex.

In early October 1952 the Ozbourn steamed south to Formosa to train Chinese Nationalist Officers in the operation and upkeep of shipboard equipment. Later in October the ship participated in the mock invasion of Kojo, Korea. On 17 October the ship returned to Task Force 77 and conducted a special firing mission on Wonsan and Suwon Don, Korea. The Ozbourn then returned to San Diego.

During the next two years the Ozbourn made regular tours to the Far East for duty with the Seventh Fleet, and the rest of the time was spent conducting routine training operations in the San Diego area. On 1 April 1954 Commander Fargo was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander H.T. Scott, Jr. In February 1955 the Ozbourn played an important role in the evacuation of the Chinese Nationalist Forces from the Tachen Islands off the coast of China. The ship followed the minesweepers in on the first day and remained within easy firing range of unfriendly islands during the entire operation. On 27

November 1955 Commander Scott was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander A. J. Toulon, Jr. In December 1955 while enroute to Yokosuka, Japan, for duty in the Far East, the Ozbourn was diverted by the Commander Naval Forces, Far East, to search for survivors of a Japanese fishing vessel reported sunk during a typhoon 100 miles northeast of Chashi, Japan. The Ozbourn received severe damage due to the heavy weather including the loss of the forward 5" gun mount. The following morning an Air Force Search plane sighted three men on a raft and vectored the Ozbourn to the scene. These men proved to be the only survivors of a crew of 24 from the fishing vessel capsized by the typhoon. The Ozbourn took the survivors to Yokosuka.

The Ozbourn returned to San Diego on 11 March 1956, and entered the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in April for repairs. Upon completion of the overhaul on 23 June 1956 she returned to San Diego for six weeks of intensive training. In September 1956 the Ozbourn departed again for her yearly tour of duty in the Far East. The ship visited New Zealand, Pago Pago, Manus Island and the other ports normally visited while in the Far East. The ship returned to San Diego 24 March 1957.

(Editors note: This history will continue in the next issue of the *Fireball!* It will hopefully jog your memory to recall incidents during your cruise aboard the "OZ". In doing so please write down your experiences and send them along to be published for all your shipmates to enjoy. It may help to remember old shipmates you can contact to become members of our Association)

## INTERNET/E-MAIL CLUB

An e-mail communication group has been started by Association members with following INTERNET addresses:

Dick Barnett (74-75): [barnett@teleport.com](mailto:barnett@teleport.com)

George Fink (46-48): [Go68nk@aol.com](mailto:Go68nk@aol.com)

"WD" Minter (52-55):

[wdminter@darkstar.swsc.k12.ar.us](mailto:wdminter@darkstar.swsc.k12.ar.us)

Daryl Turner: [A1happyguy@aol.com](mailto:A1happyguy@aol.com)

Richard Farquhar (56-58) : [rafassoc@infinet.com](mailto:rafassoc@infinet.com)  
and Editor of the *Fireball!*

Paul Logan: [75107.2754@compuserve.com](mailto:75107.2754@compuserve.com)

It is a quick way to exchange information and ideas. If you would like to join send your address to:

[75107.2754@compuserve.com](mailto:75107.2754@compuserve.com)

# USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION

## Bylaws

### I.

**NAME:** The name of the organization is the USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

### II.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Association is to further the friendship, comraderie, fellowship, association and communication between its members on a non-profit basis.

### III.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Regular membership in the Association is limited to those members of the Naval Service who served on board USS OZBOURN (DD 846) during the period of her commissioned service as a ship of the United States Navy. The wives and widows of those who served are associate members. Honorary members of the Association may be elected by a majority vote of the elected officers of the Association or by a majority vote of the regular members attending a reunion.

### IV.

**DISTRICTS:** **When needed to** To facilitate operation of the Association, the membership is **will be** divided into six Districts based on the place of domicile of each member. This division by domicile is as follows:

District 1: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont;

District 2: Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia;

District 3: Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia;

District 4: Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin;

District 5: Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming;

District 6: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, and Pacific Islands.

**Six District Chiefs (when Districts are utilized):** Manage, direct and coordinate matters relating to their respective districts.

**Two or more of the offices of Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer may be combined and entitled Secretary" or "Secretary-Treasurer" to accommodate anticipated future limitations in the membership of the Association.**

### V.

**ELECTED OFFICERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** The elected officers of the Association and their responsibilities are as follows:

President: Presides over meetings, provides direction for the operation of the Association, appoints committees as necessary and conducts activities of the Association;

Vice President: In the absence or disability of the President; performs the duties of the President and otherwise assists the President in the operation of the Association;

Corresponding Secretary: Prepares or assists in the preparation of and mailing of newsletters and other notices to the membership and serves as a communication center for the Association;

Recording Secretary: Keeps and promulgates minutes of meetings held at reunions and of other meetings which he attends; maintains, updates and expands membership rosters and keep general records of the Association.

Treasurer: Receives and collects dues and funds of the Association, maintains an accounting of such funds, pays bills of the Association, and provides an annual written accounting of the funds;

District Chiefs: Manage, direct and coordinate matters of the Association relating to their respective Districts.

## VI.

*COMMITTEES*: The Committees of the Association are as follows:

Nominating Committee: At least six months prior to each reunion, the President will appoint a chairman and committee members to propose a slate of officers for consideration for election by the membership attending the reunion.

Reunion Committee: The President will appoint a chairman and committee members at least eighteen months prior to each reunion; the committee will be responsible for proposing a site for the reunion and for managing the necessary logistic arrangements.

Other Committees: The President will appoint other committees for carrying out Association business as he deems necessary.

## VI.

*ELECTION OF OFFICERS*: Officers of the Association will be elected every two years **or less often** to coincide with and during ship's reunions. Prior to each reunion the President will appoint a Nominating Committee to propose a slate of officers. The proposed slate will be promulgated to the membership not less than one month prior to the reunion. At a business meeting announced in advance, during the reunion, or by notice in writing to the President prior to the meeting, nominations from the floor may be made to propose other candidates for the offices. Votes by absentee ballot may be mailed or otherwise delivered to the Recording Secretary prior to the election. A majority vote of regular members present at the election plus absentee votes of regular members received prior to the date of the election will elect officers of the Association other than District Chiefs. At this election District Chiefs will be elected similarly by a majority vote of those whose domicile falls within the respective District boundaries.

## VII.

*REUNIONS*: To further the purpose of the Association, periodic reunions will be held at intervals of not more than three years. The Reunion Committee will be constituted and appointed as in article V. Initial financial support will be provided by the Treasurer from funds of the Association but each reunion is expected to be financially self-supporting. Reunion sites should be scattered across the country in order to provide a reasonable coverage of the nation and accommodation of the dispersed membership.

## VIII.

*DUES AND ASSESSMENTS*: Dues or assessments may be established by majority vote of the elected officers of the Association but payment of such dues will not be a requirement for membership.

## IX.

*COMMUNICATIONS*: In order to keep all members informed of Association activities, reunions and other affairs, a newsletter to be called Fireball! will be issued at least semiannually. The editor will be appointed by the President. Other modes of communication with the membership will be provided as necessary.

X.  
CHANGES TO BYLAWS: Changes to the bylaws of the Association may be proposed by any elected officer of the Association or by any five regular members. Proposed changes must be made in writing and signed by the member or members proposing them. The proposed changes will be promulgated to the membership not less than one month prior to a planned reunion. The vote on the proposed changes will be held during a business meeting, announced in advance, during the reunion. A majority vote of the regular members present at the meeting will decide the question of the proposed changes.

XI.

FLEXIBILITY: The difficulty in operating an association whose membership is widely dispersed is recognized. Therefore these Bylaws are intended to be flexible and to provide general guidelines for operation of the Association rather than fixed rules. Accordingly, elected officers of the Association and other members are authorized to delegate portions of, or all of, their authority to other members on a limited time basis in order to expedite the business of the Association.

XII.

DISSOLUTION: When by attrition the membership of the Association is reduced to a point where its operation is no longer practical, the Association will be dissolved and any remaining moneys in the treasury and other assets will be donated to a recognized charitable organization or organizations such as the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. The decision regarding the timing of this action may be made by a majority vote of the surviving members.

*( See page eight for voting procedures)*

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## FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Many thanks to members who have updated their records.

This issue is emphasizing three major *topics*:

### *NEXT REUNION NEWS*

#### *BY-LAWS*

#### *FINDING OLD SHIPMATES*

Bob Whitten has covered the next reunion news in his column.

The Bylaws proposed at the last reunion in Norfolk are printed in this issue for your review. Please read the instructions on page eight and return your vote to Bob Whitten as soon as possible.

Finding "old shipmates" is another major feature of this newsletter. Much discussion took place at the Norfolk reunion on contacting past shipmates but it was clear we had a lot to learn on the procedures and

where to look. This issue presents the major ideas of some of our dedicated members, as they have started to research avenues to follow, to increase our membership. They have presented some major *tools* to assist you in finding former crew members. The rest is up to you.

It is impossible for the Officers of the Association, or any small committee, to do the research necessary to reach the large number of former crewmembers of the OZBOURN. This assignment belongs to "all hands". If each one of us would take the information supplied and try and research five former shipmates, our ranks would swell enormously.

Please let the "Fireball!" know your progress and any additional information you can add to our research tools. Many thanks to the members who have sent in interesting articles and pictures. Keep 'em rolling.

## LOST SHIPMATES

Many members are interested in locating former shipmates but have not had any information on how to proceed with this project. Numerous data has been received by the "Fireball!" to help us in our search. We will continue to publish this information in this column in hopes that the present members will start to research same and increase our membership and reunion attendance. We all made promises at the last reunion, but clear direction was lacking. Hopefully this column will provide that direction and the members will pick up the torch and assist in this project. If we all started in some direction it could lead to numerous discoveries. Our data for this edition was supplied by the : Internet, Kent Curl, (60-63), Warren Zschach (52-55) and "WD" Minter (52-55)

Places to start looking:

### Naval Academy Register.

The names of Officers usually appeared on the first page of each month's deck log. The enlisted personnel assigned to an individual naval vessel are listed in the muster rolls which were submitted monthly. You can compile crew lists for your ship using these records which are in the custody of the Textual Reference Branch, National Archives and Records Service, 8602 Adelphia Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. This agency keeps records from 1941-1961. Write to this agency for further assistance.

### Deck Logs

The deck logs from 1962-1978 are at the Washington National Records Center, Deck Logs Section, Ships History Branch, Naval Historical Center, 901 M Street SE, Washington, DC, 20374-5060.

### Muster Rolls

The muster rolls from 1967 to 1974 are in the custody of the Bureau of Naval Personnel (Pers-0243). Washington, DC.

### Armed Forces Locator

The Armed Forces World- Wide locators will forward letters to former members of the Navy, receiving retirement pay for active duty or reserve service. Place their letter in a stamped envelope with name of retired serviceman on the front and with no return address and sent to: Navy Reserve Personnel Center, 4400 Dauphin Street, New Orleans, LA 70149.

### US Naval Institute

The United States Naval Institute in Annapolis, Maryland has established a reunion hot line (410-268-6110) that is operated by Marybeth Straight. Numerous veterans magazines publish reunion notices. a list of same will be published in a later edition.

### Shift Colors

Shift Colors, the Newsletter for Navy Retirees, is published four times per year by the Department of the Navy. To insert information on locating a RETIRED shipmate write to : Department of the Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel, SHIFT COLORS (PER 05), Washington, DC 20370-0500.

### Ship's Roster

To locate a roster of crew members write to:

National Archives and Record Center  
Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, D.C. 20374

### The American War Library

Have a veteran and active duty locator database of 4.1 million men and women listed. The service is free.

Write to:

The American War Library  
25601 Narbonne Ave  
Suite 6  
Lomita, CA 90717  
Phone 310-530-0177

Call to see what info they require.

This should help you get get started in finding old shipmates. **This is a task for all to get involved in. It is a big project and requires the effort of "all hands."**

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### INTERNET / E-Mail buffs

Look for info on following Websites:

WWII US Veterans Website  
The American War Library  
US Navy lost and Found Listings  
Navy on Line  
American Legion Post 1135, US Navy Page  
Navy Public Affairs Library  
Ship Reunions/USN Unit Reunions at:  
<http://www.ee.pdx.edu/~jgriffin/navy.html>

ANNUAL 1996 DUES ARE DUE.....

Your 1996 annual association dues was due July 1, 1996. Please send a check for \$10.00 to:  
**Paul Hecht**  
P.O. Box 3534  
Portsmouth, VA 23701-0534

July 1 starts the new dues paying year. This is the only notice you will receive so please save us the expense of sending you a personal notice involving extra time and postage, and pay your 96 dues this month.

Thanks!

**Now Hear This!**

Enclosed with this issue of the "Fireball!" is a post card for you to vote on the ByLaw changes proposed at the Norfolk reunion..

Underlined italicized words are to be omitted and **bold faced** words are to be added in Articles numbered "IV; VI and XII".

Please fill in the post card, affix a stamp, and mail within 30 days.

**Thank You**

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☆ **TAPS** ☆  
☆ In a letter to WD Minter, Mrs Colleen Kerls ☆  
☆ advised him of the death on April 6, 1996 of our ☆  
☆ shipmate **Roy T. Kerls (53-54)** of Colorado ☆  
☆ Springs, CO. Our condolences to Mrs. Kerls. ☆  
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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Be sure you notify the "Association" if you change your address. You can send any changes to the Editor

**PAUL G. LOGAN, EDITOR**  
**USS OZBOURN (DD 846) ASSOCIATION**  
**165 PILGRIM ROAD**  
**BRAINTREE, MA 02184**

*USS OZBOURN (DD 846)*  
*Association*

**Officers:**

- President - Robert Whitten**
- Vice President - Curtis Anderson**
- Recording Secretary - Vacant**
- Corresponding Secretary - Paul Logan**
- Treasurer - Paul Hecht**
- Fireball! Editor - Paul G. Logan**
- Advisor - Charles Akers**
- Historian - Fred Conwell**

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