



FIREBALL!

Vol. 9 No. 1 Jan., 2000

FROM THE BRIDGE

Fellow association members and shipmates:

The 1999 Reunion at Las Vegas is now history. It was by far our biggest and best reunion yet with almost 150 members and guests attending. Those of you not able to be there missed a lot of fun and fellowship.

Last year, I received a call from the nominating committee chairman informing me that I had been recommended to replace Bob Whitten as president at the next reunion and asking if I would accept a nomination for that post. My first reaction was panic and I asked for a few days to think it over, my second reaction was to find out who recommended me and see that he gets his just dues. I immediately began to compile a list of reasons why I would not be able to serve at the present time and I had, I felt, some very valid reasons. Then the thought occurred to me, if everyone reacts as I am doing there will soon be no USS Ozbourn Association, no newsletter, no reunions and no more spending time with men that I consider to be some of the best friends I have ever had. Surely I could find enough time to serve a term as an association officer to help protect an institution that has become very dear to me the past few years. Seeing and talking with old friends after a forty year span always gives me a feeling of exhilaration that has seldom been equaled in my life. I know that many of you have experienced that same feeling.

And so my fellow members, I did agreed to serve as association president and was elected and installed in that office at the Las Vegas reunion. While I presently feel as if I am adrift in uncharted waters, I am determined to do my best to keep this association on the course that Bob Whitten has charted for us. I know that all of you join me in giving Bob a hearty THANKS and WELL DONE for his work in organizing and directing our association for the past seven years. Without this man, there would probably be no USS Ozbourn Association.

At the reunion banquet, Charlie Akers presented Bob Whitten with a beautiful model of the USS Ozbourn which was contributed to by many of the association members. A gift that I feel adequately shows our gratitude for Bob's long service to the association and one that I am sure Bob will cherish for years to come.

Some of you will be called upon in the months head to contribute some of YOUR time and talents. Some as

committee members and others to serve a term as an Association officer. If you enjoy the functions provided by this association, I urge you to answer yes. We can't expect the same individuals to remain in office year after year. If we all contribute a little, there won't be burden placed on a few. Many thanks to those of you who have already indicated your willingness to serve.

Chairman Paul Hecht and the reunion committee are already busy searching for a site for the 2001 reunion. I hope to be able to announce progress in that process soon. Finally, I don't have any coffee mugs or hats to sell but I do ask each of you to buy a share of the Ozbourn spirit. It costs nothing and the returns are terrific.

WD Minter, President

VEGAS REUNION A BLAST!

Through the efforts of Reunion Chairman Charlie Akers and his Committee the Vegas Reunion proved to be every bit a success as our previous reunions.

Starting off with a great trip to Hoover Dam and ending with a bang-up buffet breakfast, Charlie and his Committee made sure all details were covered for a another successful Ozbourn Reunion.

The Hospitality Room was well covered (and stocked) during our entire stay at the Maxim Hotel by Donald (Mac) McCarthy and Mary. They looked after every detail with expertise and professionalism which was extremely appreciated by all in attendance. A grateful "Well Done" to the both of you who made the 'hospitality room' function a highlight of the reunion.

Another highlight was the trip to Hoover Dam. We took a bus to the Dam whose size was mind boggling.

The trip through into the bowels of the Dam, to the gigantic hydroelectric generators and down to the outlet canal was exciting, interesting and educational. Seventeen generators were pumping 2080 megawatts of electricity out to the grid without one penny of fuel being spent.

(cont. page 2)

REUNION (cont. from page 1)

After the Dam we stopped for a nice buffet lunch and a visit to Sally Whitten's favorite chocolate factory. Friday was taken up with a magic show in the afternoon and a comedy show in the evening. The magic show was good and some thought the comedy show could have been cooked a little longer as it was somewhat raw in the middle.

Saturday started off with the Association business meeting. Bob Whitten opened the meeting and new President W.D. Minter closed the session.

Reports were given by various Association Officers. Bob Whitten congratulated all Officers for their efforts on behalf of the Association.

Nomination and election of new Officers were held and the results were:

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| W.D. Minter | President |
| J.R. Clay | Vice President |
| Paul Hecht | Treasurer |
| Paul Logan | Corresponding Secretary |
| Bill Jones | Recording Secretary |

WD Minter presented a plaque to Bob Whitten for his past outstanding service as President of our Association.

President elect WD Minter spoke about his ideas and concerns and direction for our Association.

WD appointed the following committees:

New Officers Committee

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Pete Cole | Chairman |
| Jack Kitchens | |
| Jim Clay | |

Reunion Committee

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Paul Hecht | Chairman |
| Paul Logan | |
| Rudy Boff | |
| Eldon Rily | |

By-law study Committee

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Bob Whitten | Chairman |
| Warren Zschack | |
| Art Rainville | |

Charlie Akers congratulated the 1999 Reunion Committee.

Bill Jones, Paul Hecht, Donald (Mac) McCarthy, Daryl Turner, Paul Logan

Charlie spoke about future reunion locations: pro's and con's of different locations.

Meeting adjourned by WD Minter.

2000 DUES DUE IN JANUARY

Please send your 2000 dues, \$10.00 to :**Paul Hecht, P.O. Box 3534, Portsmouth, VA 23701-0534**
Make checks payable to :USS Ozbourn Association.
Check your Fireball! mailing label for dues status.

From "After Steering:"

Yup, that's right -- I'm no longer on the bridge! The Las Vegas reunion is now history, as they say, and we all owe a very large measure of gratitude to Captain Charlie Akers for serving as Organizing Chairman. The event was outstanding -- Sally and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and I believe all the other attendees did too. It was so great to see and meet with all my old shipmates again.

After roughly eight years, I have been relieved! It has been a great experience and I have enjoyed it. Now it's time for "new blood," and "WD" Minter is an excellent choice for your new president. I have a recollection of him from nearly half a century ago as an outstanding young radarman. He will do an outstanding job leading the association into the "new millennium." I also want to express my appreciation of the support of Paul Logan and Paul Hecht during the last six years. They both did outstanding jobs in their roles of secretary and treasurer. I understand that Paul Logan will be turning over his duties to Tom Perkins, another outstanding shipmate. I also want to give a great deal of credit to Captain Charlie in his role of advisor. Without the benefit of his experience with reunions of other ships, I would not have known how to proceed for the first reunion in Reno.

I especially wish to thank those shipmates who contributed to the fund for the model of the Ozbourn, which is now on prominent display in our family room. I was almost speechless (it's pretty hard to make me speechless!) when she was unveiled.

Again, it has been a wonderful experience serving as association president, and "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to my relief, "WD" Minter. And hats off to Captain Charlie Akers!!

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDIT

Credit for photographs in this issue of the Fireball! goes to Daryl M. Turner (48-52) Las Vegas reunion photographer. Well done Daryl, trust you have recovered from your bout with the flu.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

New Shipmates discovered since our last report in August 99.

| Name | City | Served | Rate |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|
| Richard T. Byerly BT1 | Seattle, WA | | 54-58 |
| Joseph F. DelRoss | LaMesa, CA | 46-48 | RMC |
| James . Cross | Sheffield, AL | 48-49 | EC2 |
| David E. Gelatt | Evans, CO | 72-75 | GMG1 |
| Dale D. Herman | Benkelman, NE | 49-52 | SSM3 |
| Robert E. Hoeffler | Daytona Beach, FL | | |
| Charlie Kanenbley | Aneheim, CA | 55-56 | Ens. |
| Raymond L. Loney | Washougal, WA | 66-67 | BT2 |
| Ken Lucien | Albuquerque, NM | 65-68 | ET1 |
| John McMillan | Silverdale, WA | 46 | S2 |
| Allen A. Michael | Los Angeles, CA | 66-67 | STG3 |
| James Mitchell | Athens, OH | 70-71 | ETN3 |
| George Newlon | Hot Springs Vil., AR | 49-50 | MMC |
| Steve R. North | Las Vegas, NV | 71-73 | |
| Wayne Olsen | E. Bonnet Lake, WA | 67-69 | MPA |
| Allen Poppleton | Ft. Lauderdale, FL | 53-55 | Ensign |
| Donald J. Sanders | Sierra Vista, AZ | 53-55 | RMSN |
| Patrick G. Shaw | Longmont, CO | 64-66 | MM3 |
| George Sill | Grass Valley, CA | 69-72 | STG |
| Jim Spriggs | Orangeville, CA | 68-71 | QM2 |
| Gene Stagner | Tucson, AZ | 66-69 | Lt.jg |
| Robert E. Taylor | Reston, VA | 63-65 | ET2 |
| Bob Rieker | Protland, OR | 71-74 | BT2 |
| Virgil Roberts | Jena, LA | 50-52 | EM3 |
| Thomas M. Sherlock | Bedford, VA | 66-67 | Lt. jg |
| Michael E. Vogel | Fairfield, CA | 71-72 | GSK |
| Aubrey White | Alexandria, LA | 50-52 | EM3 |
| Wallace Worland | Curtistown, HI | | |
| Gordon W. Wulf | Red Bluff, CA | 52-54 | ET2 |
| Sam L. Yancy | Arlington, TX | 53-56 | RD3 |

HONOR ROLL

Gene Stager wrote in to remind us that the only two shipmates killed in action aboard the Ozbourn did not appear on our web page in the deceased list. Gene felt the date was December 4, 1967 when Raymond L. Cork Jr., Commissaryman Third and Edward S. O'Brien, Seaman when these departed shipmates were killed by enemy fire. In addition Gene stated that Collins, Disbursing Clerk and Raymond G. Sauer, Seaman were wounded in action. This disaster occurred when a Vietnamese artillery round penetrated the main deck on the starboard side of Mount 52 and exploded after penetrating the deck plate. All power was lost to Mt. 52 in this action. Thanks Gene for this most important information.

LOOKING FOR SHIP PHOTO'S

Write: Real War Photos, PO Box 728, Hammond, IN
46325-0728. Web page: <http://www.tmcx.com>

FROM THE EDITOR

The reunion as you can see from this edition went off extremely well. Charlie Akers did a great job utilizing his organization skills to be sure every assignment was completely and competently covered. Committee members worked diligently and efficiently to fulfil all of their assignments and more. Everyone deserves more than a "well done" as they all exceeded expectations.

Numerous organizational changes took place at the business meeting and more are in the winds. It is time that some "new blood" and new ideas took over the helm. Bob Whitten has left a great foundation and organization for his followers to build on.

To summarize some of President "WD" Minter's remarks, "ask not what your association can do for you, ask what you can do for your association." As we head into year 2000, with a new slate of officers, let's get behind them and support them in their endeavors.

OBITUARIES

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of former shipmate William D. (Bill) Cardoza, (46-48) SF1, on December 9, 1999. Your editor served with Bill who was a credit to his ship and country. Bill was a shining example to every crew member of the Ozbourn. He was a person of high moral character and had an extremely positive attitude. He never complained about anything and was always willing to cheer up a shipmate when he had a problem. He did his share and much more.

Bill retired Chief after 30 years service and belonged to many veterans organizations. He served many years as a deep sea diver with a Cruiser /Destroyer force.

FORMOSA PATROL

(This is the last installment of Thad Harden's article. I trust you all have enjoyed this true episode and have been awaiting the conclusion Thanks to Thad)

(continued from August 99 issue)

The Captain was livid. That ship had come out of NOWHERE.

There was no indication that anyone in CIC knew of its presence. Radar operators had not seen its track. There was no intelligence to indicate it might appear. Then, in a matter of seconds of time, it was alongside, 50 feet away, steaming parallel to Ozbourne.

The Captain, though angry, was cool: "Who the hell is that ship and where the hell did it come from?", he demanded. By this time all hands on watch were peaked for action.

Moments later the intruder switched off his large, blinding 24 inch signal searchlight, and began to use his normal, lower intensity, 12" signal searchlight. Each ship, using these less glaring signal search lights, identified one another by exchanging their International call signs in Morse Code.

When the exchange of call signs was done, the Captain, who by now had looked up the visitor in "Jane's Fighting Ships", announced that the visitor was a friend. She was a very old, and very fast, 1500 ton, World War I, United States Destroyer. The Captain said the United States had transferred the ship to the Nationalist Chinese Navy along with amphibious ships and boats to be used for their defense. No one on board realized that the Nationalist Chinese even had Destroyers! NOW they did!

Without further discourse the Republic of China destroyer turned smartly to starboard and steamed into the night. The curtains of fog closed behind her as

quickly as they had opened.. Then, she disappeared. The ink black night just swallowed her.

Adrenaline levels on Ozbourne returned to normal. The oncoming mid watch "relieved the watch." And as sailors will do, the oncoming watch seemed remarkably unconcerned about the previous excitement, as though it had never happened. For them, it had not. And so Ozbourne just continued her . .

Formosa Patrol in Fog.

It was duly questioned by those who understood little politics. But it was a duty attended, with diligence and honor by the United States Navy Seventh Fleet.



Past President Bob Whitten receiving a plaque, for his outstanding performance, from President elect "WD" Minter.

"WD" MINTER TAKES COMMAND

WD Minter (52-55) was elected President of the Ozbourne Association at our business meeting in Las Vegas.

Aside from an impressive and moving speech after his election WD has an impressive record with our association.

WD spent many hours on the Search Committee and was responsible for finding many of our old shipmates and made a special effort to locate many of the shipmates he served with. He has done an outstanding job in designing and managing the Associations web page. His latest accomplishment being a very appropriate page for our departed shipmates.

WD comes aboard with the credentials to do an impressive job and carry on the our great record of accomplishments. Welcome aboard to WD and his wife Pat, we wish them every success and our cooperation.



President elect "W.D. Minter and his wife Pat attending the reunion banquet. "WD" gave an impressive speech at the reunion business meeting after his election to President. He is very committed the Ozbourn Association and has done some outstanding work to further our efforts.

USS OZBOURN MODEL

Some shipmates requested the name and address of the model shipbuilder that built the Ozbourn for Bob Whitten. His info is:

Doug Huntzinger (a former Navy man)
16601 Garfield Ave.
Paramount, CA 99723
Phone: 562-633-2536

SHIFTING DUTIES

The Recording Secretary's duties are being shifted over to newly elected Recording Secretary Bill Jones.

Tom Perkins has agreed to take over the Corresponding Secretary's and Fireball! Editor's duties and we are in the process of transferring these duties. This will take some time but you should gradually start seeing Tom's skills in your Fireball! newsletter.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Pat Patterson (50-51) has taken over the Chairmanship of the Search Committee. Things are rolling again and at press time Pat's Committee had uncovered 15 new shipmates.

REUNION COMMITTEE ON MOVE

The 2001 reunion committee has been organized under the chairmanship of Paul Hecht. Investigation are underway and the Fireball! will keep you informed of the progress.

SICK LIST

Some shipmates were unable to make the reunion due to unexpected illness. Dick Lay (46-48) underwent heart surgery and last report was doing well. Ted Lofgren(52-54), turned into sick bay and could not make the reunion. We wish a full recovery to R. J. Henry's (59-61) wife. To those we missed " a speedy recovery' is forwarded.

IT WAS A 7.2 EARTHQUAKE



At 0255, 16 October 1999, Captain Charlie Akers piloted the USS Maxim through the tail end of a 7.2 earthquake.

Abandon Hotel was sounded about 0300 as shipmates and their wives took to the stairs (some 17 flights) to seek safety in the parking lot.

Room lights were swinging 15-30 (some said over a 100) degrees, beds bounced up and down, walls creaked and rooms started to sway like the hanging lights.

About 0330 shipmates realized it was "just a drill," and returned to their rooms. Capt. Akers and Becky refused to leave their room, as tradition dictates, but it was rumored that Charlie could not find his slippers.

It was quite an experience, particularly for those of us that have never experienced an earthquake. Charlie swears that it was not part of his program

A well deserved "Well Done" to Capt. Charlie Akers for the outstanding job in organizing, directing and guiding our Las Vegas reunion to the great success everyone enjoyed. Capt. Akers also steered us through an early morning earthquake from his sea cabin.

ATTENTION KOREAN VETS

Next year we will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the commencement of the Korean War in 1950.

The U.S. Korea 2000 Foundation is trying to increase its data base of Korean Veterans from the present 20% to as high as possible. There will be numerous celebrations in the US and Korea and the Foundation wants all Vets to be aware of the happenings.

Veterans who served in the Armed Forces or Merchant Marines between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953, whether in Korea or not, are welcome and strongly encouraged to participate in these 50th anniversary commemorations. Korea is looking forward with enthusiasm to the return of Korean War Veterans and their families.

The brave American soldiers, President Kim said, helped contain the spread of communism on the Korean peninsula and we will never forget their sacrifices. Applications for the data base can be obtained by writing: U. S. Korea 2000 Foundation Inc., 4600 Duke Street, Suite 416, Alexandria, VA 22304-2517. Telephone 703-212-8128 or email: uskorea2k@aol.com

If you are unable to get application call, email or write the Fireball! and we will see that you get an application to be registered in the Korean War Vets data bank.



Sea Scouts from Las Vegas, organized by Past President Bob Whitten, provided an impressive opening ceremony for our reunion banquet.

YOUR ARTICLE OR STORY

You see, you thought we didn't have room for your article or story, but we did. We saved this space for your Ozbourn experience, but it did not arrive by press time.

Could you be sure to get it to us before the next (April) edition goes to press. If you start now it will be ready.

Thanks, I knew you would help bring your Ozbourn experiences to your shipmates.

EMAIL ADDRESSES ? ?

Everyone on our email list was sent a Christmas Greeting from the Fireball! staff. If you did not receive one it means we do not have your correct email address. Please send your email address to: USSOZBOURN@aol.com

MAIL BAG

The Association Members received a gracious "thank you" card from past president Bob Whitten. Bob thanked the members for their gift of the model of the Ozbourn and she enjoys a prominent place in their family room.

George Fink (46-48) MM2, and Las Vegas reunion attendee, wrote in requesting a list of reunion attendees. We were happy to accommodate George.

Don Schupple (46-47) PM3 wrote in that he was "on line" and receiving email. Great meeting up with Don again at the reunion.

Jim Helland (46) couldn't make the reunion. He was busy with his new 5 grandchildren all born the same day. 4 girls and 1 boy. Lets hope Jim and Emily are recovered and over the shock by our next reunion.

Barr Palmer (51-52) emailed us of a change in his email address and was looking forward to attending the reunion in Las Vegas.

Dick Byerly (54-58)) BT1 sent in a nice photo of himself, Jack Clements BT3, and an unidentified GM striker.

Pat Bohenko wrote in asking how the reunion went. Las Vegas is his favorite vacation spot and he had visited there shortly before the reunion. Pat gave us some good tips on Vegas. Thanks.

Alan Walker (46) emailed to thank everyone for the very nice time he had on his first Ozbourn reunion. He hopes to stick around to attend many more reunions and see everyone in the future.

Bob Whitten forwarded a lengthy letter from new member Allen Poppleton (53-55). Welcome aboard Allen.

WD Minter forwarded an email from Tom Hoey's wife. Tom could not make the reunion due to high blood pressure and other complications. He hated to miss the reunion and will attend the next one with a doctor and nurse if necessary. He hopes everyone had a good time.

Dick Clark located two former shipmates by the way of a phone call. Virgil Roberts and Aubrey White EM's from the 50-52 era.

SALUTE TO BOB WHITTEN

TAPS

John L. Carvalho reported the death of his father John Carvalho (57-59) on February 12, 1998. Our condolences to John and his family.

Jerry Osbourne (52-54) reported the death of shipmate Neil Hart (52-55) SO2, in Fredericksburg, VA in 1991. He had many friends on the Ozbourn and left this world a first class citizen. Our condolences to Neil's family.

Jack B. Williams's (51-54) brother wrote us that Jack died March 22, 1990. Our condolences to Jack's family.

William D. (Bill) Cardoza, (46-48) SF1, of Scituate, MA, died December 9, 1999 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Our condolences to his brother Francis J. Cardoza, nieces and nephews.

As Past President, Bob Whitten (50-52) is piped over the side, relieved by 'WD' Minter some reflection of our Association would include: The hours that Sally Whitten has given to our association and the many ways in which she has helped it to grow. The hours that she loaned Bob to accomplish the great feats that he accomplished since its inception with Charlie Akers and Barr Palmer; Bob's initial offering to former shipmates to come join our association to its present compliment of over 500 members; the time involved to write up by-laws, start up the Fireball!, the organization of the Reno, Norfolk and San Diego reunions with the many assignments and details that had to be accomplished; the hours spent communicating with committee members; the other countless hours spent that are hidden from view; the time and devotion Bob has given, has been immeasurable during these past eight years. As a minimum he and Sally deserve a "WELL DONE" and as they are piped over the side, all hands'

"HAND SALUTE"

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

USS OZBOURN (DD 846) Association

Officers:

President - W.D. Minter

Email address: wminter@gte.net

Vice President - James R. Clay (52-55)

Recording Secretary - Bill Jones (51-52)

Email address: arizonawill@juno.com

Corresponding Secretary - Paul Logan (46-47)

Email address: USSOZBOURN@aol.com

Treasurer - Paul Hecht (46-47)

Email address: pwhecht@pilot.infi.net

Fireball! Editor - Paul G. Logan

Advisor - Charles Akers (50-52)

Email address: CAKER5@msn.com

Historian - Fred Conwell (50-52)

Editorial Office:

165 Pilgrim Road

Braintree, MA. 02184

Tel. 781- 843- 4713

Fireball Email address: USSOZBOURN@aol.com

USS Ozbourn Association Home Page address:

<http://home1.gte.net/wdminter/ozbourn.html>