



# ***FIREBALL!***



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

**The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn (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](http://www.ozbourn.org)

## FROM THE BRIDGE



**T**his year marks the 60th anniversary of the USS Ozbourn's career. On March 5, 1946 the USS Ozbourn was commissioned in Boston, MA. The Oz-

bourn was a 710-class long-hull destroyer named in honor of Private Joseph William Ozbourn USMCR. Pvt. Ozbourn was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry, giving his life to save the lives of his fellow Marines.

When I enlisted at age 17, I was excited to be assigned to a ship, any ship, especially after boot camp. I was not interested in her history and didn't give much thought to the man whose name she bore. That thought changed quickly. I learned from the older shipmates what a great ship she was distinguishing herself in various engagements during the Korean Conflict. I was on board from 1952 through most of 1955, and grateful to be a part of the "OZ" crew, a ship named for a true American hero of WWII.

W.D. Minter also served during the Korean war. He was the USS Ozbourn Association president between 1999-2003 and he had a commitment of keeping the history of our ship alive. W.D. and a few other shipmates spent a lot of effort compiling the ship's history, which is recounted on the Association's Website ([www.ozbourn.org](http://www.ozbourn.org)). Every member of the Association should read this article. The Ozbourn and her crew served valiantly in the

Vietnam War and saw more than their fair share during that conflict. It is all documented in the Web site article. To the plank owners, the Korean and Vietnam vets and to all of the other shipmates over the years that have served on board the USS Ozbourn, you have every right to be proud of this great ship's history.

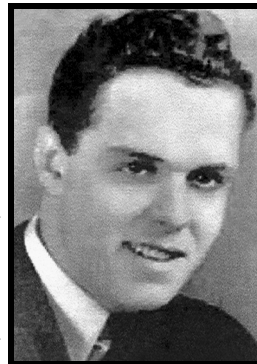
Our Website states that the Association is, "Dedicated to keeping alive the memory of an American hero, Joseph William Ozbourn USMCR, and the spirit of a courageous ship named in his honor". All of the Association officers are working to preserve that goal. As long as you, the shipmates continue to support the Association and stay active, you keep that memory alive.

**Rudy Boff, President**

## PRIVATE JOSEPH WILLIAM OZBOURN, USMCR

**P**rivate Joseph William Ozbourn was a Browning automatic rifleman with the First Battalion, Twenty-third Regiment, Fourth Marine Division, during the invasion of Tinian Island in the Marianas group in July 1944. Ozbourn was a member of a platoon assigned the mission of clearing the remaining Japanese troops from dugouts and pill boxes.

Armed with a hand grenade, Pvt. Ozbourn was moving toward an enemy dugout with four other Marines, two on either side of him. Suddenly, there was a violent explosion from the entrance to the dugout, severely wounding Pvt. Ozbourn and the other four Marines.



Injured and unable to throw the hand grenade into the dugout, and with no place to hurl the explosive devise without endangering the other men, Pvt. Ozbourn unhesitatingly grasped the grenade close to his body and fell upon it. Pvt. Ozbourn absorbed the full impact of the exploding hand grenade, saving his fellow Marines from sure death. He made the ultimate sacrifice to save his comrades while gallantly giving his life for his country.

It was his deep devotion to duty and courageous heroism that inspired the naming of the destroyer number 846 to the USS Ozbourn. He died a hero during WW II on 28 July 1944.

**Private Joseph William Ozbourn was born on October 24, 1919 and died during combat on Tinian Island, Marianas Archipelago on July 28, 1944 at the age of 24. He is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii, Section F Grave 17. His headstone is at right.**



**BULLETIN BOARD OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**MISSION**

**About the Ozbourn Association —**

- I. **NAME:** The name of the organization is the USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION, herein after referred to as the Association.
- II. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Association is to further the friendship, camaraderie, 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 majority vote of the regular members attending a reunion.

**60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS OZBOURN (DD 846)**

**M**arch 2006 marks the 60th year from the time when the USS Ozbourn was commissioned into service. Your *Fireball* will review the history of our glorious greyhound in this and future issues. The historical timeline of the USS Ozbourn will start with the death of Private Joseph William Ozbourn in July 1944 and conclude with her decommissioning in December 1975.

**1944**

While serving as a Marine Browning automatic rifleman with the First Battalion, Twenty-third Regiment, Fourth Marine Division during the invasion of Tinian Island, Pvt. Ozbourn was killed in action on July 28, 1944. (Please see page 1 for details.)

**1945**

The Ozbourn was built in the Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine. She was launched on December 22, 1945 with Mrs. Joseph W. Ozbourn as the ship's sponsor.

**1946**

On March 5, 1946, the USS Ozbourn is commissioned. Commander Bernard A. Smith was the first to assume the

command of the new destroyer. In August, CDR Smith took the ship from Boston Harbor through the Panama Canal to her new home port of San Diego, California.

**1947**

On January 6, the Ozbourn departed from San Diego for her first tour of duty in WESTPAC, the Ozbourn was instrumental in saving a Chinese oil tanker that was in distress. By attaching a cable to the tanker, the Oz towed it to Kiirun, Formosa. In May, while to the La Perouse Straits, the

**Continued on page 4.**

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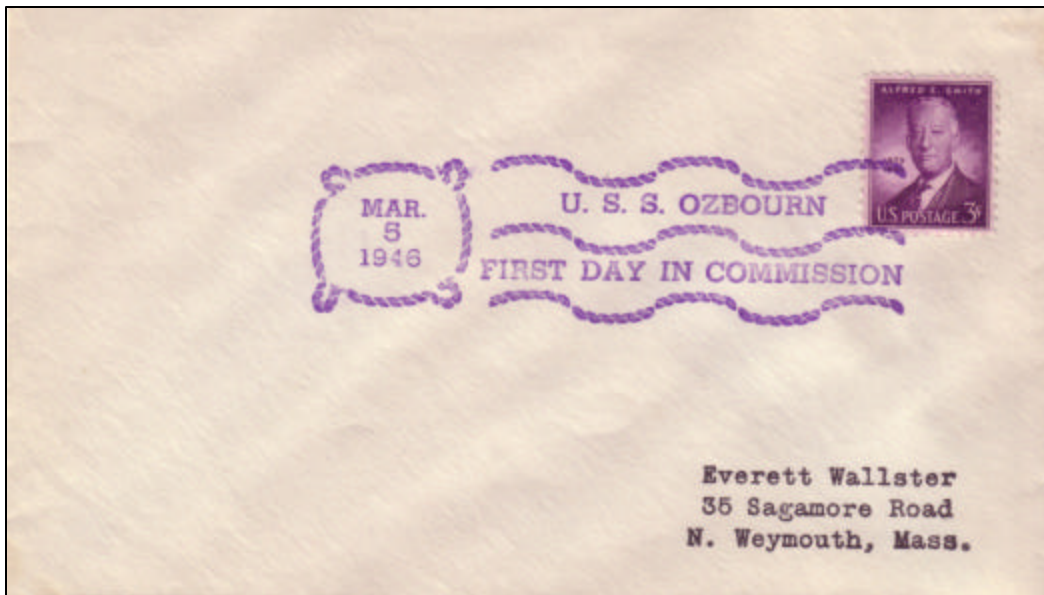
**Past President**

**Robert Whitten, Jr. (50-52)**  
Cupertino, CA  
**W.D. Minter (52-55)**  
Texarkana, TX

**First Day Issue**

When the USS Ozbourn was commissioned on March 5, 1946, a "First Day in Commission" special letter was issued. Just look at what three cents got you in 1946!

**We're on the Web  
at  
www.ozbourn.org**



## MAIL CALL



The following letters were received from shipmates seeking information about the USS Ozbourn Association. Some shipmates are also sharing some of their experiences with us.

The wife and I sure missed seeing all of our shipmates at the Charleston 2005 reunion. It was only the second one since 1993 that we were unable to attend.

In March 2005, our 34-year old son-in-law, PFC Jason Cook, Army National Guard, graduated from boot camp at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Our grandson, Sgt. Chris Morin, U.S. Army and this old sailor flew out to watch his step-dad go through his paces. And yes, son and grand dad did out rank him. Grandson Chris is now deployed at a base near Osan, Korea with a Patriot Missile unit.

At the end of March, 2005 my granddaughter, Sgt. Autumn Moorhead deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan for a tour of duty. She completed her tour of duty and is now stationed in Germany. Her brother Spec. 4 Nick Wood, U.S. Army, another grandson, has just deployed on his second tour in Iraq. Both sister and brother are military police officers.

Along with all the family deployments, we had reunions with two other ships on which I served, USS Delta (AR 9), and the USS Coral Sea (CVA 43), from which I retired from the Navy.

It has been a very busy year for us, but we will be looking forward to the 2007 reunion. One last comment for new member MM3 Ronald Parker (55-59), hey Ron, it's about time you joined us. It will be great seeing you again after 50 years.

**Richard E. Satchell (Satch) R Division, CPO (55-58), USN Ret., Apple Valley, CA**

During Ozbourn's first Korean War cruise which took place in 1950-51, I was assigned to the 2nd Division. One of the more colorful characters in the division was GM2 Danny Camp. Danny was a scrawny, blond-haired Texan sporting a thin mustache who considered himself a ladies man par excellence.

While in port, he spent his liberty hours frequenting the bars and establishments that surrounded the dock areas of Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan. Once back on board ship he took great delight in recounting the events in graphic detail to all who would listen. Most of his stories were interspersed with the foulest language one could imagine.


Back at sea after one port call and heading up the east coast of Korea, Danny was holding-forth with a small group of deck apes back on the 01 deck in the vicinity of the 3-inch gun battery. He was relating the lurid details of his latest foray into the Sasebo night life, all in his inimitable style.

Now it just so happened that this same area of the 01 deck was quite often frequented by CDD 112 Commodore Broder who took advantage of the relatively clear area for a brisk walk back and forth on the gun deck. Apparently, totally engrossed in recounting his latest escapade ashore, Danny failed to notice that the Commodore was in the vicinity on his stroll and continued his story unabated.

Finally, after a few minutes of observing this phenomenon, the Commodore strode up behind Danny Camp, tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Son, I've been listening to you for a few minutes and it is truly amazing. Webster put 20,000 words in the dictionary and I haven't heard you say one of them yet."

It was reported that it was the one and only time that Danny Camp was ever rendered speechless.

**Tom Perkins, FC1 (50-53), Port Orchard, WA**



**TAPS FOR SHIPMATES**  
Sam Yancy, Radarman, January 2006  
Arlington, Texas  
Earl Freeman, Plank Owner, YNSN  
3/18/06, Wilmington, NC

**Lest We Forget**

## WELCOME ABOARD

<b>Jerome McKee</b>	YN2	(66-69)	Yorba Linda, CA
<b>Gerald Perry</b>	ET3	(49-51)	Hurley, NM
<b>Kenneth Story</b>	Not provided		Calvert City, KY
<b>Frank Colbert</b>	SOSN	(48-49)	Jackson, NJ

**A hearty welcome aboard. We hope you will become active members and get involved in Association activities.**

## **Seeing Double Four Times Over\***

I received a letter today (March 24, 2006) from Betty Hines. She states she had two brothers that served aboard the Ozbourn at the same time during the late 40s to early 50s. Their names were Arthur M. Nave and Raymond L. Nave. She remembers getting an article and picture about them and four sets of brothers that served aboard the Ozbourn at the same time. She is hoping that I will be able to help her get a copy of that picture. Maybe other shipmates can help out.

**Warren Zschach, RD2, (52-55), Petaluma, CA**

**\*Editor's Note:** We are always looking for story and photo ideas about the Ozbourn and its shipmates for the *Fireball*. If you have any information about the above mentioned *Mail Call* letter (Seeing Double Four Times Over), please forward your information to Rick Johnson at 5899 North Bronco Lane, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 or e-mail me at johnsonsimivalley@yahoo.com.

## **PUBLICATION DEADLINE**

If you have a letter, story or photo you would like to share with other Ozbourn shipmates, the deadline for submitting contribution for the summer issue is Friday, June 16, 2006. Articles may be rewritten for purposes of editorial style. Due to space limitations, some materials may be used in a future *Fireball* edition.

## HISTORY OF THE USS OZBOURN (DD846)

Continued from page 2.

1952

Ozboourn again came to the aid of a distressed vessel. A merchant ship ran aground and later broke in-half. The Ozboourn picked up the ship's crew and transported them safely to Yokosuka, Japan.

In October, the USS Ozboourn returned to its home port of San Diego. On October 21, Commander Smith was relieved as the ship's CO by Commander Norman E. Blaisdell.

1948

On October 1, the Ozboourn departed San Diego for her second tour of duty in the Far East. This WESTPAC cruise proved to be a short tour when, on November 23, the Ozboourn collided with the USS Chandler (DD 717). The crew was at general quarters during darkened ship operations when the collision occurred resulting in the loss of two Ozboourn crew members. The quick thinking and hard work of the damage control parties saved the ship, and she headed back to the Long Beach Naval Shipyard for replacement of the bow and for general repairs.

1949

Commander Blaisdell was relieved as the ship's CO by Commander Ross E. Freeman on May 14. During the summer, the USS Ozboourn participated in a six-week Naval Midshipman training cruise. The crew and "Middies" visited Panama and participated in various fleet exercises.

1950

Upon the opening of Korean hostilities, the Ozboourn joined Task Force 77. She participated in the invasion of Inchon and conducted air operations off the Korean coast where she twice won the Korean Presidential Citation. On 19 September, Commander Freeman was relieved as commanding officer by Commander Charles O. Akers.

1951

During the month of February, the Ozboourn received two direct hits and several near hits while under Communist's shore battery fire off the northern coast of Korea. On the same day, the Ozboourn sent out a motor whale boat to rescue a downed pilot from the aircraft carrier USS Valley Forge. The downed pilot was only 14 miles from the Ozboourn, however, he was floating in an enemy mine field. The boat officer received a Bronze Star and the crew members each received a Letter of Commendation with combat distinguishing devices for their part in the daring rescue. The Ozboourn remained on the firing line until March.

The Ozboourn returned to San Diego in April. After undergoing repairs and an overhaul, she left again for Korea. During this cruise, Commander Akers was relieved as commanding officer by Commander William B. Fargo. Upon arrival at the Wonsan area off of Korea, the Ozboourn was assigned to Task Force 77. Entering Wonsan Harbor, the Ozboourn blasted the Communists with her guns, destroying railroad cars, trucks,

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

In early October, the Ozboourn steamed south into the Formosa Strait to help train the Chinese Nationalist Naval officers in naval operations and shipboard upkeep of vital equipment. Later that month, the ship returned to Task Force 77 and conducted a special firing mission on Wonsan and Suwon Don, Korea. After seeing action off the coast of Korea, the Ozboourn headed home for San Diego.

1953-54

During the next two years, the Ozboourn made regular tours of the Far East for duty with the Seventh Fleet. 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 Howard T. Scott, Jr.

1955

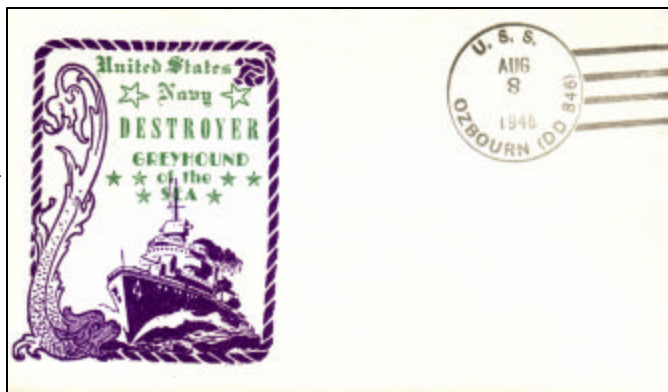
During the month of February, the Ozboourn played an important role in the evacuation of the Chinese Nationalist Forces from the Tachen Islands located off the coast of mainland China. The Oz followed US minesweepers on the first day of rescue operations and

remained within easy firing range of the unfriendly islands for the entire operation.

On 17 November, Commander Scott was relieved as commanding officer by Commander A. J. Toulon, Jr.

In December, while en route to Yokosuka, Japan for duty in the Far East, the Ozboourn was diverted by Commander Naval Forces, Far East to search for survivors of a Japanese fishing vessel reported sunk during a typhoon 100 miles west of Chashi, Japan. The Ozboourn received severe damage due to the heavy weather including the loss of the forward five-inch gun mount. The following morning, a US Air Force search plane sighted three men on a raft and the Ozboourn vectored 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 Oz took the survivors to Yokosuka.

**Look for more Ozboourn history in future issues of the *Fireball*.**



**GO, GO GREYHOUNDS** — *The Ozboourn took part in a fleet-wide promotion of the greyhound navy with this special issue envelope dated August 8, 1946.*

**We're on the Web at  
[www.ozboourn.org](http://www.ozboourn.org)**

The following information can be found on the Association's Web site: Mission statement, complete history, current and past newsletters, a list of Oz shipmates, historical photographs, ship's store of Oz memorabilia, how to join, & links.

**USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE**  
*Open 24 Hours — Rudy Boff, Proprietor*



**CAP**, Cotton twill Navy blue with brilliant gold letters & destroyer silhouette. One size fits all.  
 Item # C01, \$14 ea.  
**Embroidery on back:**  
 Korea — Item # C01K, \$15 ea.  
 Vietnam — Item # C01V, \$15 ea.

**PATCH**, fabric

Original design, Item # P01  
 Revised design, Item # P02  
 \$6 ea.



**MUG**, coffee 11 oz.  
 Embossed with Ozbourn patch & destroyer silhouette.  
 Item # M01, \$8 ea., 2 for \$12,  
 6 for \$30

**FRAME**, license plate  
 Item # F01, \$5 ea.



The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address below.

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.

Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourn Web site at [www.ozbourn.org](http://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 — email: [boffrud@juno.com](mailto:boffrud@juno.com)

**Gedunk Call Answer**

In the winter 2006 issue of the *Fireball*, the Gedunk Call question was, **what is a slick-arm chief?** The correct answer was submitted by shipmate Richard E. Satchell (Satch) 55-58. Satch's response was, "a slick-arm chief is a first-class petty officer, with less than four years of service, who is given a field promotion during war-time when there are no other billeted chiefs to fill that position."

This writer saw only one slick-arm chief during my four years of service, 1960-64. The chief had a college degree and was promoted to chief in one of the critical nuclear rates.

**Gedunk Call!**

The Gedunk Call for the spring 2006 *Fireball* has to do with water and the location for the next Ozbourn Association reunion in 2007. It's not necessarily a Navy term although the Ozbourn went through an AZROC Fram conversion in nearby Bremerton. The original term has nothing to do with today's connotation of a place where the homeless reside.

This issue's term is **skid row**. Submit your responses to Rick Johnson, 5899 North Bronco Lane, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 or e-mail to [johnsonsimivalley@yahoo.com](mailto:johnsonsimivalley@yahoo.com).

**USS OZBOURN COMMANDING OFFICERS**

The USS Ozbourn has had 18 different commanding officers during its 29-year history. Do you remember which skippers you served under? If you have an interesting story about any of the Ozbourn's commanding officers to share with your shipmates, please forward your experience for possible inclusion in a future issue of the *Fireball*.

CDR B.A. Smith	March 1946-October 1947
CDR N.E. Blaisdell	October 1947-March 1949
CDR R.E. Freeman	March 1949-September 1950
CDR C.O. Akers	September 1950-April 1951
CDR W.B. Fargo	April 1951-April 1954
CDR H.T. Scott, Jr.	April 1954-November 1955
CDR A.J. Toulon, Jr.	November 1955-September 1957
CDR C.A. Kuhl	September 1957-July 1959
CDR W.W. Turner	July 1959-March 1961
LCDR D.V. Gorman	March 1961-December 1961
CDR W.W. Lancaster	December 1961-October 1963
CDR D.W. Berger	October 1963-July 1964
CDR N.D. Nelson, Jr.	July 1964-April 1966
CDR J.G. Denham	April 1966-September 1968
CDR B.L. Stewart	September 1968-June 1970
CDR F.W. Numbers	June 1970-December 1971
CDR K.L. Costilow	December 1971-March 1974
CDR F.J. Furtado	March 1974-May 1975

**Hey Chief, You Can't Say That Anymore!**

As a crowded commercial airliner is about to takeoff, the peace is suddenly shattered by a five-year old boy who picks that moment to throw a wild temper tantrum. No matter what his frustrated and embarrassed mother does to try to calm him down, the boy continues to scream furiously and kick the seats around him. At the height of the boy's outburst, a US Navy Chief Petty Officer comes striding up the aisle from the rear of the plane.

Stopping the frustrated mother's upraised hand, the white-haired, courtly, soft-spoken chief leans down and, motioning toward his collar, whispers something into the boy's ear. Instantly, the boy calms down, gently takes his mother's hand, and quietly fastens his seat belt.

All the other passengers burst into spontaneous applause. As the chief slowly makes his way back to his seat, one of the cabin attendants touches his sleeve. "Excuse me chief," she asks quietly. "Could I ask you what magic words you used on that little boy?"

The chief smiled serenely and said, "I showed the boy my anchors, service stripes, and battle ribbons, and then explained to him that they entitled me to throw one passenger out of the plane."

## THE USS OZBOURN HISTORY IN PICTURES

Check the Association's Web site for more historic photographs.

**Editor's note:** The photographs presented in the *Fireball* have been donated to the Ozboourn Association by former shipmates or their families. Not all photographs have been historically identified as to who the shipmates are in the photos, the dates when the photos were taken or where they were taken.



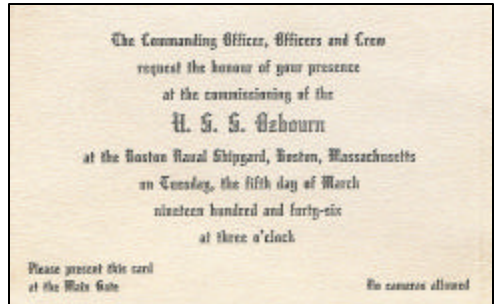
**SHIP'S PLAQUE** — This vintage photo shows the original ship's plaque which reads:

**U.S.S. OZBOURN  
DESTROYER**

NAMED FOR PVT. JOSEPH WILLIAM OZBOURN, USMCR  
BUILT BY THE BATH IRON WORKS CORP., BATH, ME.

AUTHORIZED	JULY 19, 1940
KEEL LAID	JUNE 16, 1945
LAUNCHED	DECEMBER 22, 1945
FIRST COMMISSIONED	MARCH 5, 1946

**You're invited** – A copy of the official invitation to the Ozboourn commissioning is shown at right. No cameras were allowed during the event.



**IS THAT DOG COMING WITH US?** — Shipmates from the pre-communication crew gather around a dog, front row second from left. (Navy Base, Bath Maine, 12 Feb 1946.)



### FAST FACTS

- 390-feet in length
- 46-feet at the beam
- 3,500 tons displacement
- 31 knots top speed
- 60,000 horsepower
- 2, 12-foot diameter propellers
- 4 boilers
- 2 engines

**THE FINISHING TOUCHES** — This photo, dated 26 February 1946, shows the USS Ozboourn dock-side at the Bath Iron Works, Bath Maine. One week later, the Oz was commissioned during special ceremonies held on Tuesday, March 5, 1946.

## THE USS OZBOURN HISTORY IN PICTURES



**FISH AWAY!** — A torpedo is launched from the Ozbourn during a shake-down cruise. The designated target was one of our submarines. Date of photo and location of shake-down exercise not known.

**We're on the Web**  
at  
[www.ozbourn.org](http://www.ozbourn.org)

**WHAT THE HOLE IS THIS!** — ET3 Bob Kelly points to a gaping hole caused by Communist shelling. The attack occurred near Wonsan, Korea. Date believed to be February 1951.



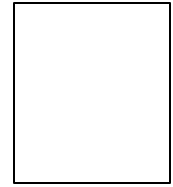
**WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?** — Ozbourn shipmates enjoy a meal at the Lau Yee Chai Restaurant on Waikiki Beach, Hawaii in May 1950. Old salts from the Oz include, from left to right, Ray “Little Sid” Dougan, Tom Perkins, Bob Kelly, Jim Lingen Felter and Tom Keary.

If any of these photos sparked a trip or two down memory lane, then plan on attending the **next reunion scheduled for September 12-16, 2007**. The reunion will be held in **beautiful Seattle, Washington**. If you do plan on attending, bring some of your old photos and share some of your stories with your old shipmates. Who knows, maybe your story and photos will be used in a future issue of the *Fireball*.



**WHAT WORK PARTY? WE'RE RADARMEN!** — This photo was taken of group of salty radarmen during the ship's 1950 cruise. According to Warren Zschach, who was an RD himself, this group looks like their trying to avoid a work party.

Richard N. Johnson, USN Ret.  
5899 North Bronco Lane  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314-5892



Bronze eagle statue stands ready to protect American and POW/MIA flags.

**FIREBALL! The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn Association**



**SHIPMATES IN SEATTLE!**

- 8th Biennial Reunion, September 12-16, 2007
- Marriott Hotel, Seattle, Washington
- Meet with friends and shipmates!
- Share memories with old friends
- Mark your calendars today!
- Let's all have fun!