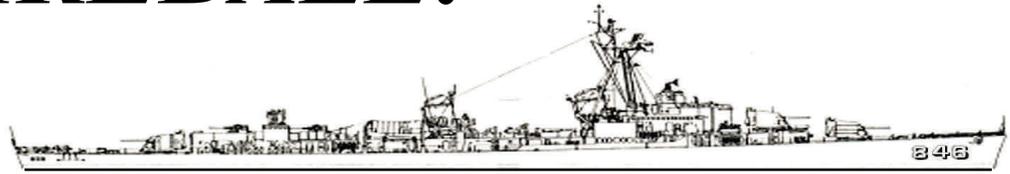




# FIREBALL!



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



**D**uring February 1952, I was at the Navy induction center in Pittsburgh where I met a fellow recruit. When the local recruiters asked for volunteers to go to basic

and keep our records updated. Check out the roster on the Association's Web site. You may have an address or someone that we are missing. I hope that all of you get the chance to reconnect with former

**"The USS Ozbourn Association is very fortunate to have dedicated members who search for shipmates and keep Association records updated."**

shipmates, renew friendships and relive happy memories of your time on board a great ship. **Mark your calendars to attend the Ozbourn's next reunion, September 12-16, 2007 in Seattle, WA.**  
**Rudy Boff, President**

training in San Diego, California, my new friend turned to me and said, "That's for me, it's freezing at the Naval Training Center Great Lakes and California is hot."

I immediately agreed that San Diego sounded like a vacation from the Mid West winter. That new best friend turned out to be Richard Benedetti. Richard and I spent all of our service time together on the Ozbourn. We always considered each other as brothers and we stayed close friends for many years. He was my best man when I married Arleen on June 30, 1956.

I am sorry to say that I let the stress of working, going to school, and raising a family interfere with our relationship. Ultimately, we lost contact with each other. Due to the USS Ozbourn Association, we were able to contact each other and renew a once close friendship. I thank the shipmates of the Ozbourn who spent many hours getting this organization started and making this all possible. Our children are celebrating our fiftieth wedding anniversary with a family dinner. For me and Arleen, however, the guests of honor will be Richard Benedetti and his wife.

The USS Ozbourn Association is very fortunate to have dedicated members who research for shipmates

**A**s many of you may know, a very serious threat to every veterans' security and personal affairs occurred on May 3. A Veterans Affairs employee from the Washington, D.C. area took a laptop computer home with him which was eventually stolen. It contained vital information on more than 26 million veterans.

Fortunately, the stolen computer equipment was recovered on or about June 28. A preliminary examination indicated that the data was not accessed or duplicated.

Michael McGowan, director of digital forensics at tech security consultant Stroz Friedberg, says there are simple ways to access data stealthily. "It's very possible to do it without leaving a trace," he said.

It's important that you protect your valuable personal identity and take any action necessary to do so. **See memo at right.**

### Fraud Alert

**From:** Costales, Armando A.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2006  
**To:** PY (All veterans)  
**Subject:** Veterans identity theft protection  
**Importance:** High

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
CAVEATS: FOUO  
TERMS: NONE

Veterans,

Nearly 27 million veterans' data were stolen recently from a laptop that a VA person wrongly had in his home. No clear word yet from the govt. on depth of problems with identity theft. You may want to consider this proactive protection. You can place a 90-day credit alert on your accounts with the three natl. credit reporting agencies. By signing up with one, you automatically sign up with all three. This requires them to contact you to verify that it's you asking for new sources of credit during this period. Not foolproof, but a hedge. In addition, you are entitled by law to request a free credit report annually from each agency. You may want to place the 90-day alert, and then request the report to be sure nothing has gone wrong. Identity theft can take years to fix if it happens to you.

Experian - [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
Fraud line - 888/397-3742

Equifax - [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
Fraud line - 800/525-6285

Trans Union - [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)  
Fraud line - 800/680-7289

## 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)

This article is the second in a series of three articles relating to the history of the U.S.S. Ozbourn. The spring 2006 issue covered the chronological history between 1944 and 1955. This issue will cover the years between 1956 and 1964. The fall 2006 issue of the *Fireball* will report on the last decade of the "Oz" from 1965 to her decommissioning in December 1975. The photographs that appear in this and the next issue of the *Fireball* may have been taken any time between 1944 and 1975.



**U.S.S. Ozbourn (DD-846) Launched From North Ways on December 22**  
Super Destroyer Christened by Mrs. Joseph W. Ozbourn, Widow of Marine Corps Hero

The photo at left appeared in the December 28, 1945 publication of *The Bulletin*, Bath Iron Works, Bath Maine. The photo caption taken from that publication is shown below.

**Sponsor and party at the launching of the U.S.S. Ozbourn (DD-846) at the Bath Iron Works Corporation on Saturday, Dec. 22, 1945.**

**In the above picture left to right: A. M. Main, Executive Vice President of the Bath Iron Works Corporation; Mrs. W. S. Newell, wife of President W. S. Newell; Mrs. Joseph W. Ozbourn, sponsor, and Lt. Comdr. Norman Broyderick, U.S.N.R., representing Capt. Russell S. Hitchcock, U.S.N., Supervisor of Shipbuilding of Maine.**

### 1956

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

Pago, Munua Island and other ports, normally visited while in the in the Far East.

### 1957

The Ozbourn returned from its West Pac cruise to its home port in San Diego on 21 March 1957. During the summer, the Ozbourn visited Portland, Oregon as a guest of the Portland Rose Festival. The ship then visited Seattle, Washington to take part in the Seattle Sea Fair. **As a reminder, the next biennial reunion will take place in Seattle, September 12-16 2007.**

Commander Toulon was relieved as commanding officer by Commander Charles A. Kuhl in September. On 25 October, the ship departed for Brisbane, Australia for a seven-day visit. Afterward, the Ozbourn went to Japan for duty with the Seventh Fleet.

### 1958

After its overseas tour of duty, the Ozbourn returned to San Diego on 23 April 1958. Between April and June, the ship operated off the coast of San Diego. In June, the ship went to Mare Island Naval Shipyard for a three-month overhaul. By September, the Ozbourn returned to San Diego for Refresher Training. On 17 December, the ship departed for the Western Pacific.

### 1959

While operating with the Seventh Fleet the Ozbourn participated in Exercise "Seademon," an exercise conducted in

## Officers of the Association

### President

**Rudy Boff (52-55)**  
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### Treasurer and Historian

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### Advisor

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### Past Presidents

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

## 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.

**Veterans' Pensions:** If you are a wartime veteran with a limited income and you are no longer able to work, you may qualify for a Veterans' Disability Pension or the Veterans Pension for Veterans 65 years of age or older. Many veterans of wartime service are completely unaware of the fact that if they are 65 or older and on a limited income, they may qualify for a VA pension without being disabled. For more information, call toll free 1-800-827-1000.

### New Museum Seeks Purple Heart Recipients: The

National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is currently under construction in New York's Cantonment State Historic Park Site. Its mission is to collect and preserve the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of the service and across the generations in an attempt to ensure that all recipients are represented. Their stories will be preserved and shared through exhibits, live and videotaped interviews with the veterans themselves, and the Roll of Honor, an interactive computer program preserving the stories of each individual.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is the first in the nation to recognize the more than 800,000 Americans wounded or killed in action while serving in the United States military. For more information or to have your story preserved as a Purple Heart recipient, contact Michael J. Clark, Project Coordinator, National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site, P.O. Box 207, Vales Gate, NY 12584-0207 or telephone (845) 561-1765 or e-mail to michael.clark@oprhp.state.ny.us.

It is time to start thinking about the **next reunion** which is scheduled to be held in **Seattle, WA between September 12-16, 2007**. Personally, I am looking forward to seeing that part of the country and hopefully meeting some shipmates that were not able to attend past reunions. The reunion committee has been busy getting all the arrangements made to ensure a great time will be had by everyone.

I will close now with a request that all of you keep the men and women serving in the military at this time in your thoughts and prayers.



## TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

**Howard T. Scott, Jr., USN, Ret.**  
February 15, 2006  
Chappaqua, New York

**Paul W. Hecht**

April 26, 2006 — Portsmouth, VA

Paul Hecht passed away on April 26, 2006 after a lengthy illness. Besides being a shipmate, Paul was a plank owner and former Ozbourn Association treasurer. He joined the U.S. Navy in November 1941. Paul was honorably discharged in November 1947. He attained the rate of Electrician's Mate First Class before his discharge. He became a *Bluenose* while crossing the Arctic Circle on board the USS Washington. Here's an old Sea Chantey for all of our shipmates who have gone over the bar.

*"Wrap me up in my oil skin and blanket, no more 'round the docks I'll be seen, just tell me old shipmates, I'm takin' a trip, mates, and I'll see you some day in Fiddler's Green."*



### Admiral Nimitz' National Museum of the Pacific —

One of the tours taken during the 2003 reunion was to the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX. The photo above shows a special ceremony held in front of a wall full of ships' plaques. The Ozbourn association is spending \$2,500 for a permanent plaque to be displayed on one of the walls. Past President W. D. Minter, Jr. stands under tree at right.

**Plaque purchased:** As per Paul Logan's request, the USS Ozbourn Association has sent a check to the Admiral Nimitz Foundation in Fredericksburg, TX, to cover the cost of a ship's plaque commissioned by the association. I am grateful to the membership for approving this project. Our thanks should also go to Paul Logan and his committee. This will be a permanent memorial to the USS Ozbourn in a fine museum.  
**Warren Zschach, (52-55) Petaluma, CA**

### PUBLICATION DEADLINE

If you have a letter, story or photo you would like to share with other Ozbourn shipmates, the deadline for submitting contributions for the fall issue is Friday, September 15. 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.

April with members from participating SEATO nations. Before returning to the United States, the ship went southward to Australia to take part in the Battle of the Coral Sea celebration, visiting Adelaide, Perth and Darwin, Australia. The Ozbourn returned to San Diego on 13 June.

Commander Kuhl was relieved as commanding officer by Commander William W. Turner on 1 July. The Ozbourn conducted local operations in the San Diego area from June 1959 through February 1960. On 23 September 1959, the Oz was privileged to serve as the flagship for Read Admiral Luis Gomez, Commander-in-Chief of the Navy of Ecuador while Destroyer Division 112 demonstrated anti-submarine warfare tactics.

### 1960

In February 1960, the ship departed for duty in the Western Pacific. The ship returned to San Diego on 14 June and operated locally in the San Diego area. In August, the Ozbourn trained 10 NROTC students from various colleges throughout the country for four weeks. In October, the ship visited San Francisco to participate in the Pacific Festival.

### 1961

On 2 March 1961, the Ozbourn entered the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Bremerton, Washington to undergo a FRAM Mark I conversion. On 15 March Commander Turner was relieved as commanding officer by Lieutenant Commander D.V. Gorman, the executive officer at the time. On 16 June, LCDR Gorman officially became the commanding officer.

On 2 December, LCDR Gorman was relieved as commanding officer by Commander William W. Lancaster. LCDR Gorman reverted to his former billet as the executive officer.

During the FRAM I conversion process, the Ozbourn was refitted with an AS-ROC system (antisubmarine rockets) amidships and helicopter facilities aft, giving the Oz the "New Destroyer Look" of the 1960s. The primary duty of the Ozbourn was anti-submarine warfare.

On 5 and 6 December, the ship successfully completed its INSERV trials. A final trial was held on 18 and 19 December, and the ship's conversion was completed and she was released from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard as scheduled on 22 December. The ship remained in the Bremerton area after completion until the beginning of February 1962 for post FRAM availability to conduct tests and evaluations of the new equipment.

### 1962

On 9 February 1962, the Ozbourn departed Bremerton for her new home port of Long Beach, California. On 20 February, the ship began Refresher Training in San Diego. The ship completed its RT on 7 April. The Ozbourn participated in the strike-force exercise dubbed "Pork Barrel" off the coast of Southern California between 14 and 22 May.

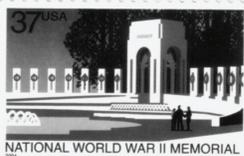
The Ozbourn departed the Long Beach Naval Shipyard on 7 June to make her first post-FRAM West Pac cruise.

As the ship prepared to enter Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 13 June, all hands were on deck on the port side in dress whites to honor the recently dedicated USS Arizona Memorial (May 30, 1962). The Ozbourn was one of the first US Navy ships to render honors to the soul-stirring, stark white memorial, dedicated to the 1,177 men who died during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. Ironically, Private Ozbourn is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific not far from the USS Arizona Memorial.

While in Hawaii, the ship participated in the Amphibious Operation Flying Disk off the coast of Oahu between 20 and 23 June. On 25 June, the Ozbourn left Hawaii for duty in the Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific.

Continued on page 6

**United States Navy**  
*Ships Named for USMC Heros*  
**USS OZBOURN**



**Second  
Marine  
Division**



**Tinian Taken**  
July 24, 1944  
60 years ago Station



**Fourth  
Marine  
Division**



July 24, 2004  
**South Boston, VA 24592**

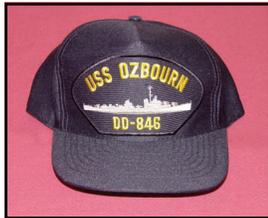
*USN Destroyer DD-846 named for Private Joseph W. Ozbourn, USMC who was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in WW II at Tinian Is.*

**Commemorative Envelope** — Pvt. Ozbourn appears on an envelope marking the 60th anniversary of the Marine invasion of Tinian. The envelope series honored Marines who had ships named after them. The statement under Ozbourn's photo reads, "USN Destroyer DD-846 named for Private Joseph W. Ozbourn, USMC who was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in WW II at Tinian Is-

**We're on the Web at**  
**[www.ozbourn.org](http://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 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	<b>\$90</b>
Twill Jacket, fully lined with full front zip	<b>\$80</b>
Windbreaker, mesh lined and full front zip	<b>\$60</b>
Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, assorted colors	<b>\$40</b>
T-shirts, both long and short sleeve	<b>\$35 and \$20</b>
Golf shirts	<b>\$30</b>

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 spring 2006 issue of the *Fireball*, the Gedunk Call question was, **what does the term skid row mean?** No one was able to provide the correct response so here is the answer. Skid row is not a Navy term although the Ozbourn went through an AZROC Fram I conversion in Bremerton, WA which is just outside of **Seattle, home to the Ozbourn's 2007 reunion.** The original term has nothing to do with today's connotation of a place where the homeless reside. Skid row refers to the long rows of water chutes that sent logs from the rich timber land above Seattle into Puget Sound. The logs were gathered together and taken to the lumber mills for processing.

**Gedunk Call!**

This issue's Gedunk Call is a famous Navy saying one would use when saying good bye to someone, perhaps at their retirement ceremony or when you know you won't be seeing them for a while. 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

**SHIP AWARDS RECEIVED BY THE  
 USS OZBOURN**

- Combat Action Ribbon
- Navy Unit Commendation
- Meritorious Service Medal
- China Service Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Navy Occupation Service Medal w/Asia Clasp
- National Defense Service Medal w/bronze Star
- Korean Service Medal w/5 Bronze Stars
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal w/2 Bronze Stars
- Vietnam Service Medal w/2 Silver Stars
- Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross Color with Palm)
- United Nations Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

**THE USS OZBOURN HISTORY CONTINUED**

**1962 continued**

On 27 July, the Ozbourn received orders from the USS Oriskany (CVA 34), to head to New Guinea to help local Dutch officials quell a headhunter uprising. The orders were cancelled the next day without any explanation.

On 23 October, received word about the Cuban missile crisis.

While en route to Sasebo, Japan on November 18, the Ozbourn sighted a Japanese fishing boat in distress. The USS Hollister (DD 788), operating with the Ozbourn, towed the vessel safely into Sasebo.

The Ozbourn pulled out of Yokosuka, Japan for Long Beach. A typhoon greeted the Ozbourn on her way home. On 11 December, she experienced 20-25-foot waves, taking green water over the stacks. Sustained winds ranged between 50-55 knots with gusts up to 70 knots. At 0100, the Ozbourn took a 47-degree roll. On 21 December, the Ozbourn moored at Pier 16, Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

**1963**

The Ozbourn operated in local waters off the coast of Long Beach and San Diego until March 1963.

On 5 March, the Ozbourn left Long Beach with the USS Small (DD 838) on a special mission. The mission of the two-ship convoy was to escort the USS Constellation (CVA 64) to duty in the Western Pacific and to escort the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA 63) from Japan to the United States.

After crossing the International Dateline on 15 March, the small convoy was being shadowed by Soviet Bear bombers. On 16 March, the USS Constellation was buzzed by a reconnaissance version of the Bear bomber. The Ozbourn's commanding officer, Commander Lancaster asked this author to film the Bear Bomber flying by the Oz. The plane flew close enough to see the expression on the pilot's face.

The Ozbourn returned to Long Beach from her quick, Western Pacific cruise on 1 April.

In May, the Ozbourn joined Task Group 10 to prepare for a major presidential demonstration which would display the power and versatility of the First Fleet AAW and ASW forces.

The Ozbourn was selected from all First Fleet destroyers as the ASROC firing control ship for the anti-submarine portion of the exercises.

President John F. Kennedy, from a grandstand seat on the flight deck of the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA 63), watched as the Ozbourn successfully launched her ASROC on 6 June.

During the summer months, the Ozbourn served as night plane guard for the USS Hornet (CVS 12), USS Bennington (CVS 20), USS Midway (CVA 42), and the USS Ticonderoga

(CVA 14). The Oz also provided services for the Pacific Fleet Marine Force, expending nearly 1,000 rounds of five-inch ammunition onto San Clemente Island.

Between 9-21 September, the Ozbourn departed Long Beach with elements from DESRON 11 and DESRON 23, joining the USS Hornet (CVS 12) in a new and unfamiliar roll in which the Ozbourn had participated in her first HUK group. Task group 31.8, as it was called, participated in exercise Saddle Soap. **Cont. on page 7**

NAVAL MESSAGE											
OPNAV FORM 216-28 (REV. 3-60)											
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23 NOV 1963		1645Z		JR		JB					
MESSAGE NR.		DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)		PRECEDENCE		FLASH		EMERGENCY		OPERATIONAL PRIORITY	
459		231454Z /43								XXXX	
ACTION		ROUTINE		DEFERRED							
INFO											

4 FM: SECNAV  
TO: ALNAV 43

UNCLAS

THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT S. MCNAMARA. QUOTE.  
ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES  
I HAVE THE SAD DUTY OF ANNOUNCING TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES THE DEATH OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO WAS THE VICTIM OF AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22.  
THE WORLD HAS LOST A GALLANT SPIRIT WHOSE CHAMPIONSHIP OF FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY HISTORY.  
ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, WHOSE WELFARE WAS HIS CONSTANT CONCERN, CAN PAY NO BETTER TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY THAN TO CARRY ON IN THE TRADITION WHICH HE SHARED AND OF WHICH HE WAS SO PROUD.  
COLORS SHALL BE DISPLAYED AT HALF MAST FOR 30 DAYS, BEGINNING NOVEMBER 22 WEST LONGITUDE DATE.  
THE SERVICES SHALL CARRY OUT SUCH OTHER OBSERVANCES AS THEIR REGULATIONS PROVIDE.  
ROBERT S. MCNAMARA, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. UNQUOTE.

NOTE: THIS MSG Routed IN ROUGH TO COMM, CDO, OOD, SIG, QMS

DISTRIBUTION:  
(PAGE ONE ONLY)

CO \_\_\_ XO \_\_\_ OPS (A) COMM \_\_\_ CDO \_\_\_ OOD \_\_\_ SIGS \_\_\_ QMS \_\_\_ 1ST LT \_\_\_

UNCLASSIFIED

DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT):  
231454Z NOV 1963

**Editor's note:** The photographs presented in the *Fireball* have been donated to the Ozbourn 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.

## THE USS OZBOURN HISTORY CONTINUED

### Continued from page 6

Twenty-one ships and dozens of aircraft, including units from the Canadian Pacific Fleet, conducted a full-scale war game of the ASW mission.

The Ozbourne barely had time to catch her breath from operation "Saddle Soap" when an INSURV inspection team boarded, and found the ship in good condition, ready for sea duty and war if needed.

On 3 October, Commander W. Lancaster was relieved by Commander David W. Berger as the commanding officer of the Ozbourne.

Commander Berger took his new command to sea the following Monday for two weeks of ASW training in company with the USS Yorktown (CVS 10), DES-DIV 112 and CORTRON 3. The HUK group, working with the USS Bluegill (SS 242) conducted several exercises under extremely adverse weather conditions.

On 12 October, while refueling alongside the Yorktown, a collision occurred between the carrier and the Oz. Three whip-lash antennas on the Yorktown were bent while the port screw guard on the Ozbourne was punched through the side of the ship. The Oz was taking on water every time the fantail dipped into the water. The damage control crew shored up the leak. The seas continued to roil beneath the Ozbourne and on 14 October, the Oz took a 46-degree roll to starboard.

The Ozbourne was at sea off the coast of Long Beach on November 22, when the Oz received a message that President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was assassinated by, at that time, an unknown assailant. The ship went to general quarters and it was not a drill. It was believed that the assassination might have been a Soviet plot to kill the president and that there might be an eminent Soviet attack on the United States. The next day, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara sent an unclassified naval message regarding the assassination (see copy of message on page 6).



**At ease!** — This 1953 photo shows five Ozbourne officers relaxing in civvies in Kago-shima, Japan. From left to right are Ens. Fraser, Lt. JG Moritz, center unknown, Ens. Blackie, and far right, unknown.

**Awards time** — Commander C.O. Akers, far left, passes on an award to Seaman Anderson while Capt. Grady, COMDESDIV 112, far right, presents GM3 Newell his award. Both sailors received an award for helping rescue a downed aviator in Korea in 1951.



**If** the history of the Ozbourne and 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*.

### 1964

During January, the Ozbourne participated in a major fleet exercise "Operation Turk's Head" and received a letter of commendation from COMASWGRU 5, Rear Admiral Caldwell.

In February, the Oz entered Long Beach Naval Shipyard for a shipyard overhaul. During this period, major repairs were accomplished along with the installation of new, modern equipment. After leaving the shipyard in May, the ship underwent six weeks of intensive underway Refresher Training conducted by COMFLETRAGRU San Diego.

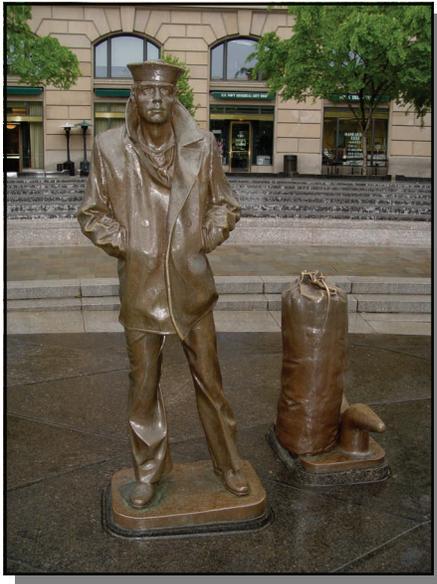
On 8 July, the Ozbourne sailed independently for Pearl Harbor to join ASW Group 1 and DESDIV 233 to spend six months in the Western Pacific. On 10 July, Commander Berger was injured at sea and urgently required a transfer to the nearest hospital facilities for medical attention. On 11 July, the USS General Edwin P. Patrick, a MSTS passenger liner, met with the Ozbourne where a difficult night transfer by motor whaleboat was successfully completed. The XO, LCDR Marvin D. Nelson, Jr. assumed temporary command of the Ozbourne. After a short stay in Pearl Harbor, during which COMDESDIV 233 shifted his flag to the Ozbourne, the ship sailed to Yokosuka, Japan. CDR Burger's injuries proved to be serious enough to prevent him from reassuming command. On 7 August, LCDR Nelson relieved CDR Berger as CO.

After six days in Yokosuka, ASWGRU 1 sailed for the South China Sea, on alert after North Vietnamese PT boats attacked the U.S. destroyers Maddox and Turner Joy in the Gulf of Tonkin. After 31 continuous days of ASW protection for Task Force 77, ASWGRU 1 put into Subic Bay, P. I.

On the morning of 17 September, while on life guard station for an underway replenishment, a helo from the USS Kearsarge (CVS 33) crashed in the water dead ahead of the Ozbourne. Seven minutes later, the helo's crew of four were hauled aboard the ship's motor whaleboat. After extinguishing an engine fire on the helo, recovery operations were attempted to save it. Unfortunately, the helo sank.

On 1 December, the Oz, along with other units of the Seventh Fleet,

**Richard N. Johnson, USN Ret.**  
**5899 North Bronco Lane**  
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**THE LONE SAILOR** — The Lone Sailor statue stands in front of the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. The statue represents every sailor's commitment to defend America's freedom anywhere in the world.

**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!**