

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

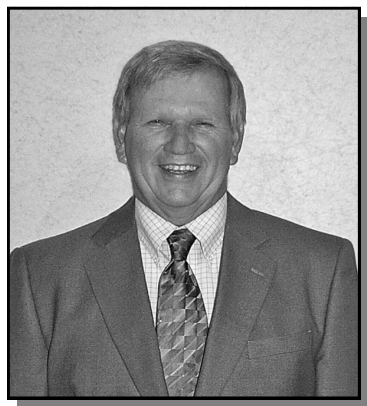
FIREBALL!

VOLUME 21, NO. 3
Summer 2012



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

FROM THE BRIDGE



Greetings to all Shipmates, Spouses and Friends,

In mid-May 2012, I received a notice of the passing of one of our shipmates that served aboard the "OZ" in the late 60s early 70s.

Jack Bartett of Slidell, Louisiana passed on to a better place on April 13, 2012. Jack had been ill for several years and had lost his battle. Jack was a great friend to many of us that served with him. He will be missed by everyone who had the fortune of knowing him. Jack was able to attend only one of our reunions, San Antonio, Texas. Although only a handful of our shipmates knew Jack, he was a true friend and will be missed greatly.

I of course highlight Jack's passing as a reminder to all of our shipmates and friends that we must cherish our family and friendships each and everyday. Lets keep praying for all of our shipmates, families and everyone.

This of course is a good time to remind all shipmates why we have our reunions every two years. I, as many of our shipmates do, look forward to each reunion and can hardly wait to get there. Please plan to attend the next reunion in San Diego, California in September 2013. Come join in, have fun reuniting with old shipmates and meet new ones and their families. The reunion committee is working hard and you know it will be fun.

God Bless us all and God Bless the USA.

Guy Posey
President
USS OZBOURN Association



VJ DAY STATUE



KONA KAI RESORT HOTEL



USS MIDWAY MUSEUM

2013 BIENNIAL REUNION LIBERTY CALL, NOW LIBERTY CALL, LIBERTY FOR ALL HANDS IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA , SEPTEMBER 25-29, 2013

The 2013 Reunion Committee is pleased to announce that The Kona Kai Resort Hotel located on Shelter Island overlooking San Diego Bay has been selected as the host hotel for the 2013 Biennial Reunion for all hands. The Kona Kai is a full service hotel, providing complimentary airport/train station shuttle. All rooms have either a view of the bay or the marina. The Kona Kai has established an excellent rate of \$109.00 + taxes per night, double occupancy, and includes a complimentary fully cooked breakfast each morning. The above rate has been guaranteed for three days prior and three days following the reunion for those wishing to arrive a little early or extend their stay in San Diego. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-566-2524. **More info to come in future "Fireballs".**

U.S. SENIOR VETS
Submitted by Bill Jones, RD3, (51-52)

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has little known tax free pension available to help qualified veterans, spouses and their surviving spouses pay for home health care, assistance living or nursing home care.

This Non-Service Connected pension was established in 1952 under Title 38 USC and has two components, Aid & Attendance and Housebound benefits. Last year an estimated 1.9 million veterans qualified but did not know about it and or did not know how to file a well documented claim. With 60% of the seniors in the United States being veterans or spouses of veterans this pension can be a life line to allow them to age with dignity and peace of mind all the while affording them to receive the care they need and deserve.

(Editors Note: According to the U.S. Senior Vets website, www.usseiorvets.com, they are a non-profit organization providing services to senior veterans and their spouses free of charge. U.S. Senior Vets may also be contacted telephonically, Toll Free at **877-245-8387**.)

2013 REUNION UPDATE

The Reunion Committee wishes to update all of the members as to what is currently being planned for the 2013 Reunion in San Diego, California on September 25-29, 2013.

As the members could easily see on Page-1, of the "Fireball", we have been able to secure The Kona Kai Resort Hotel on San Diego Bay's Shelter Island as the host hotel for the 2013 Reunion. Those members who passed through the San Diego Naval Training Center will certainly recognize the area.

We are currently planning visits to the following sites that we believe all members, including the very loyal Ozbourn Wives and other family members will enjoy.

USS Midway Museum

City tour that would include Coronado, Old Town San Diego and the Gas lamp District

Shopping and dining at Seaport Village

Evening dinner cruise on San Diego Bay aboard the Emerald Hornblower

A private tour of an active warship stationed at the San Diego Naval Station.....and many other events.

Don't miss the 2013 Reunion, it will certainly be one of the great ones. We are all looking forward to seeing you in beautiful San Diego.



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Cupertino, CA
W.D. Minter (52-55)/(99-03)
Texarkana, TX
Rudy Boff (52-55)/(03-07)
Pittsburgh, PA

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 2012 issue is **Saturday, September 15th**. Articles may be rewritten for purposes of editorial style. Due to space limitations, some materials may be used in a future *Fireball* edition.



MAIL CALL

The following letters and e-mails were received by your Association Officers during the last quarter.

Seeking Old Shipmates (SOS)

In the last issue of the “Fireball”, Dick Barta was attempting to obtain information on the whereabouts of two special friends from E-Division during his service on the OZBOURN, John Jugan and Frank Woodward.

In response to Dick Barta’s request, Dick Clark, MM3, 50-52 wrote, that he was an MM when Frank Woodward made CPO and was transferred off of the OZBOURN. Several years later Dick was part of a search team attempting to locate old shipmates, Frank being one of them, that Dick knew and made a special effort to find. However, Dick was unsuccessful

John Ulicni, (46-48), reminded me as the Editor of the “Fireball”, that a hatch is an opening in the deck, whereas a door is an opening in a vertical surface like a bulkhead or partition. Thanks John, I will try to get it right in the future.

Mike Wolfe, (72-74), left a message that he truly enjoyed “The Nightmare of November 23/24, 1948”, written by Siras “SI” Browning, (48), regarding the collision between the USS Ozbourn and the Theodore E. Chandler. Mike wanted me to be sure to correct the dates in the article that the last Wespac cruise was actually in 1972, not 1970.

Thanks to all for contributing to our “Fireball”. Keep those notes and letters coming.

TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

“SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER”



As in all previous “Fireballs” we recognize our fellow crewmembers that have answered the call to quarters for their final time. This edition is certainly no different with a few exceptions. Private Joseph W. Ozbourn, USMC, gave his life on the Island of Tinian in the Marianas on July 28, 1944, saving the lives of other members of his rifle squad, ensuring their survival on that day, so they could ultimately return home to their loved ones.

Although each edition of the “Fireball” recognizes our shipmates that have answered present for their final time, we must also recognize our brothers from the United States Marine Corps who were present on the day that our ship’s namesake, Private Joseph W. Ozbourn gave the ultimate sacrifice. It is with regret, that the USS OZBOURN Association announces the passing of two of the three remaining members of Private Ozbourn’s Rifle Squad.

Otto “OB” “Tex” Freeman, USMC

Passed away on November 4, 2011

Delbert Flier, USMC

Passed away on December 11, 2011

As Editor of the “Fireball”, periodically, I will find myself taking an opportunity to express my personal feelings related to certain subjects. The passing of crewmember **Jack Bartett, MMFN, (69-71)**, on April 13, 2012, in Slidell, Louisiana is one of those times

Upon reporting onboard the “OZ” in September, 1970, I was assigned to M Division where I met many life-long friends. One individual stood out, Jack Bartett, with his Louisiana accent that I could barely make out to be part of the English language to his broad smile and laughter that welcomed any new member of the crew. Jack, a true southern gentleman was extremely kind to a very young kid, me. I will never, as many who served with him, will ever forget this fine man and shipmate, Jack Bartett.

ASBESTOS EXPOSURE AMONG VETERANS

Submitted by Lori Garber, Esquire

Asbestos is a concern for all Americans, but especially for Navy Veterans and other members of the Armed Forces who were often exposed to it without their knowledge and without being given any training on how to protect themselves from its dangers. Exposure to its fibers without proper equipment has been conclusively shown to cause cancers and other pulmonary illnesses-sometimes as long as 30 or 60 years after exposure. As a member of the USS Ozbourn, it is important for you to read this educational article to learn more about asbestos and what options you have if you are diagnosed with an asbestos-related condition.

The word “asbestos” refers to a group of carcinogenic fibers that were used in a variety of commercial and industrial products, such as gaskets, brake linings, pipe coverings, joint compounds, pumps, valves, boilers, equipment insulation and floor tile. These products, and thousands of others like them, were regular features aboard Navy Ships and Merchant Marine vessels, as well as at shipyards, factories and other industrial sites. Because of the small working spaces and poor ventilation associated with living on a ship, Navy veterans have been especially hard-hit by asbestos-related diseases, but a broad array of other workers, such as military personnel, shipbuilders and yard birds, pipe fitters, machinists, mechanics, factory workers, plumbers, laborers, electricians, powerhouse, and sheet metal workers also show a significant numbers of asbestos disease diagnoses.

The companies who manufacture these products knew-or should have known-about the dangers associated with exposure, but they chose to value profits over service and didn't disclose any of the health risks associated with exposure.

Asbestos Disease; Mesothelioma and Lung Cancer

Asbestos is a documented cause of a range of diseases and health-related issues, from non-malignant diseases such as asbestos and pleural plaques to much more serious illnesses such as lung cancer and mesothelioma-which is cancer of the protective tissues membrane, called mesothelioma, that lines many of the body's vital organs.

Mesothelioma is the most dangerous of these diseases, as there is no cure for it and it is most often fatal to everyone diagnosed with it. The most common form of the disease is pleural mesothelioma, where the disease attacks the pleura, which is the tissue surrounding the lungs. Upwards of 75% of mesothelioma cases are pleural mesothelioma. Most other diagnoses of mesothelioma affect the peritoneum, which is the lining that surrounds the abdomen. This form of the disease is known as peritoneal mesothelioma. There are cases of mesothelioma effecting the lining of the heart and testes, but these are quite rare and medical literature only documents a few hundred cases worldwide. To add insult to injury here, asbestos is the *is the only conclusively verified cause of the disease*.

Exposure to asbestos can also cause various forms of lung cancer. There is no correlation between smoking tobacco and the development of mesothelioma, but the combination of tobacco use and asbestos exposure have synergistic effects on the carcinogenic processes that lead to lung cancer, which means that smokers exposed to asbestos have a higher probability of developing lung cancer than people who only smoked or who were only exposed to asbestos.

Mesothelioma and lung cancer are complex, dangerous diseases that require specialized treatment and much more study into more effective medicinal options. To learn more about these diseases, especially regarding the latest findings and medical studies, visit <http://www.mesotheliomahelp.net/about-mesothelioma.html>. If you or someone you know has been diagnosed and needs a specialist, a regularly updated list of physicians can be found at the same website: <http://www.mesotheliomahelp.net/dr-search.asp>.

Conclusion

Asbestos is the most toxic substance ever used commercially and the legacy of pain and death that resulted from it is a stain on the history of American business practices. For more information call Lori Garber, Esquire at (856) 261-0442.

Editors Note: We are grateful for Ms. Garber who presented the above information during a session at the USS Ozbourn's 2011 Reunion in Philadelphia. As Ms. Garber represents a private law firm, the USS Ozbourn Association cannot recommend nor endorse any company on behalf of the members of the association.

EXPOSURE to AGENT ORANGE

Submitted by Alan Swinger, Captain USN (Ret) (66-68)

During the war in Vietnam, the United States military sprayed more than 19 million gallons of various “rainbow” herbicide combinations, but Agent Orange was used most often. The name “Agent Orange” came from the orange identifying stripe used on the 55-gallon drums in which it was stored from 1962 to 1971, used to remove trees and dense tropical foliage that provided enemy cover. What was once classified in the early 1980’s as a, “minor acne condition,” Agent Orange met with thorough study and determination of an exposure to our servicemen that has caused severe illnesses such as various forms of cancer, Parkinson’s Disease, Lymphoma and many others. Often times U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels were in the vicinity of disbursement of these chemicals, exposing Agent Orange to Sailors.

The Agent Orange Act empowered the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to declare certain illnesses “presumptive” to exposure to Agent Orange and enable Vietnam veterans to receive disability compensation for these related conditions.

However, in 2002, the VA limited the scope of the Act to only those veterans who could provide orders for “boots on the ground” in Vietnam (encompassing infantry and riverine Navy). As a result, veterans who served in the waters off the coast of Vietnam, commonly called “blue water veterans” were forced to file individual claims with the VA to restore their benefits. The VA has denied 32,880 such claims through 2009 alone! H.R. 3612 and S. 1629, currently in committee, would extend presumptive coverage to blue water veterans who served up to 12 miles off shore Vietnam during 1962-1975. Presumptive coverage lifts the burden from the individual veteran to prove direct exposure to Agent Orange, a nearly impossible task due to a lack of record keeping and the inability to know the precise location of dioxins in the air and groundwater, and extends the same presumption that currently exists for veterans who served on land and inland waterways to those “blue water veterans.”

The Department of Veterans Affairs; however, released an updated list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships that were confirmed to have operated on Vietnam’s inland waterways, docked on shore, or had crewmembers sent ashore. This list which can be found by going to the Veteran’s Affairs website,, at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shipslist/list.asp, can assist Vietnam veterans in determining potential eligibility for compensation benefits of Agent Orange. The current list includes the following dates at it relates to presumptive exposure as a result of conducting fire support missions within the Saigon River, to the crew of the USS Ozbourn; **October-November 1965** and **August –October 1966**.

Be sure to contact your representatives in Washington D.C. and request their support of both H.R. 3612 and S. 1629.

COMMENDATION

As Editor of the Fireball, I wish to commend Kenneth Keene, Association Recording Secretary, for his tireless work on ensuring that the Vietnam Veterans serving aboard the USS OZBOURN are provided with the most up to date information related to any claim a member has regarding Veterans Benefits and qualification for compensation related to exposure to Agent Orange. Ken’s efforts on behalf of his shipmates has resulted in the Veterans Administration recognizing that the personnel assigned to the “OZ” between **February 21, 1971 and April 21, 1971**, have presumptive exposure based on the ship docking in DaNang Harbor on three different days between the above dates. The aforementioned dates will be added to the Veterans Affairs website in the very near future. Well done Ken and thank you.



Fireball, Summer 2012

“FIFTY YEARS AGO”

Submitted by Rick Johnson, (61-64)

At 0923 hours on June 7, 1962, the USS Ozbourn left Pier 16 at the Long Beach Naval Station en route to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The weather on that day was cloudy and humid. The Ozbourn was part of the mightiest armada of U.S. warships to leave the West Coast for the Far East since WWII. The lead ships of the 15-ship convoy included the USS Hornet (CV 12) and the USS Topeka (CLG 8).

As the Ozbourn prepared to enter historic Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on June 13, all hands were on deck on the port side in service dress to honor the recently dedicated USS Arizona Memorial (the memorial was dedicated on May 30, 1962). The Ozbourn was one of the first U.S. 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, United States Marine Corps Private Joseph W. Ozbourn is buried at the National Cemetery of the Pacific not far from the USS Arizona Memorial.

“WHEN IT USED TO BE RIGHT TO DO WRONG”

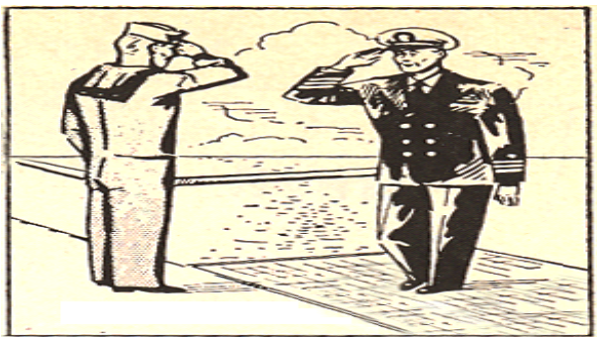
Submitted by Rick Johnson, (61-64)

Well before environmentalist watchdogs stepped in and made major changes to the way the U.S. Navy conducted its business, we did things during normal daily routine that the Navy of today cannot do.

On February 26, 1963, the Ozbourn was participating in a shore-fire bombardment operation off the southern tip of San Clemente Island. The ship, like every Navy man-o-war, had to qualify for Naval Gunfire Support on a periodic schedule.

The island of San Clemente, 70 miles off the Southern California Coast was rife with feral goats. Environmentalist and animal lovers had pestered the Navy to protect the goats to the point that ships participating in any shore-fire bombardment exercise had to ensure the goats would not be harmed. To ensure the safety and welfare of all goats present, the Ozbourn fired a warning salvo close enough to the goats to scare them off. Looking through his binoculars, the gunnery officer reported that he could see the rear ends of several dozen goats running up the hill and over the horizon.

In an unrelated incident during the same gunfire support operation, garbage was dumped over the fantail. Dumping garbage at sea was a routine practice in those days. About a half-hour later, someone reported that a shark was seen floating dead and upside down in the vicinity of where the garbage was thrown. **Go Navy chow!**



WELCOME ABOARD

Welcome aboard to the below listed shipmate. The USS Ozbourn Association officers and members hope that you will become involved in the planned activities.

Pedro J. DeJesus, SHBSN, (69-71)

Gedunk Question for Summer 2012

Identify the ships in the photographs and their current location



USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

Open 24 Hours, 7 Days a Week — Rudy Boff, Proprietor



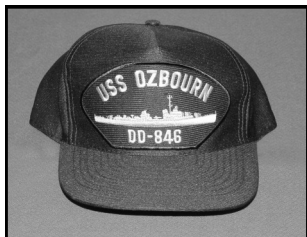
Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourn Web site at www.ozbourn.org under the heading Ship's Store.

Orders may be placed with:

Rudy Boff — 1036 Connor Road
Pittsburgh, PA
15234-1033

Tel: (412) 833-0572

New email: boffrudy@verizon.net



CAP cotton twill Navy blue, brilliant gold letters & destroyer silhouette. 1 size fits all.

Item # C01, \$14 ea.

Embroidery on back:

Korea, #C01K \$15 ea.

Vietnam, #C01V \$15 ea.



Windbreaker mesh lined with full front zipper. Navy blue jacket with ship profile in silver thread and lettering in gold thread. \$60 ea.

Item# J01

Logo detail



PATCH fabric, \$6 ea.

Original design, Item #P01

Revised design, Item #P02



Can holder made of foam. Navy blue body with white base. USS Ozbourn logo in white. \$3.00 ea. or two for \$5.00. Item# K01



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

SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

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

Micro-fiber Jacket, fleece lined-water repellent \$90

Twill Jacket, fully lined with full front zip \$80

Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, assorted colors \$40

Golf shirts \$30

All items have ship's name and hull number embroidered in gold letters.



T-shirt short sleeve Navy & white with embroidered logo left side. \$20 ea. Item# T01

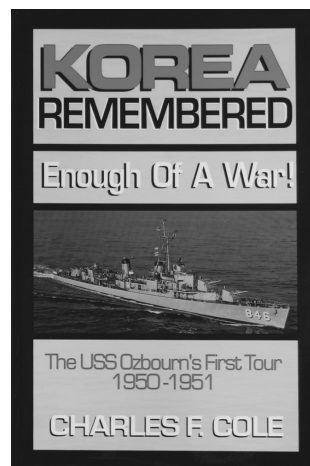
Long sleeve \$35 ea. Item# T02



Logo detail

The book *Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!, the USS Ozbourn's First Tour, 1950-1951*, is a first-hand account by shipmate Charles F. Cole, as the war "sandwiched between WW II and the War in Vietnam."

Cole's historic account was first published in 1995, just in time for the dedication of the Korean War Memorial, which is near the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.



**"Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!,
The USS Ozbourn's First Tour, 1950-1951**

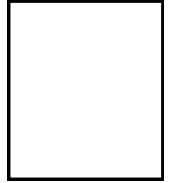
By Charles F. Cole

\$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping & handling

SHIPPING AND HANDLING

<u>COST OF ITEM</u>	<u>COST OF POSTAGE</u>
\$0.01-15.00	\$3.00
15.01-25.00	4.00
25.01-35.00	5.00
35.01-45.00	7.00
45.01-55.00	8.00
55.01-65.00	10.00
65.01 or more	11.00

Jeffrey Parker
1036 Calle Venezia
San Clemente, CA 92672



Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn
USMC
Congressional Medal of Honor

FIREBALL! The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn Association

DUES ALERT!

Are you overdue on your dues? Only dues-paying members receive the *Fireball* newsletter. Look at the mailing label on your most recent newsletter and find a number such as 11, 12 or 13. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 11 means 2011, 12 means 2012, etc.

Membership dues are \$10.00 annually and are due in January of each year. Please make checks out to the USS OZBOURN Association and forward them to Philip Roberts, Association Treasurer, at 2608 Bentwood Drive, Palestine, Texas 75803.

Your Association officers ask you to...

DO THE DUES TODAY!

**We're on the Web at
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 Ozbourn shipmates, historical photographs,

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

Fireball, Summer 2012