

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

FIREBALL!

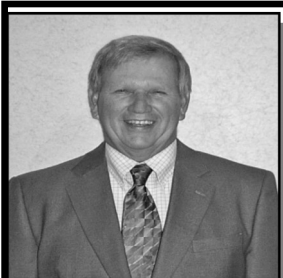
VOLUME 25, No. 2
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The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn (DD 846) Association

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, Families and Friends

Hope you all had a great Christmas. In September 2015, we had another great reunion. A great deal of fellowship with shipmates and friends. I hope that each and everyone of you that was able to attend enjoyed the time together as much as I did.

Last week, I was looking back at some of our pictures from past reunions and realized how much Sallae and I enjoy these wonderful times together.

The first reunion that Sallae and I attended was in San Antonio, Texas. As we walked into the Registration Room in San Antonio, we were greeted by Mr. W.D. Minter and Mr. Warren Zschach and they both said, wow, one of the young guys. Now, I feel like one of the old guys. W.D. has passed on, along with so many of our other shipmates

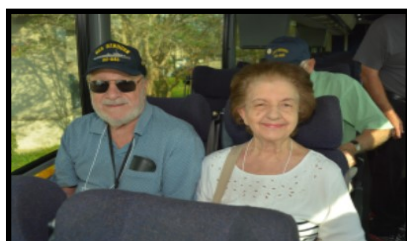
I just look so forward to seeing each shipmate and their families every 2-years, along with remembering those that are walking the decks of the OZ in the heavens above.

We hope to see everyone at the 2017 Reunion to be held somewhere on the Eastern side of the USA.

Prayers to all and lets all hug someone each day as well as praying for our military and families.

Guy Posey, President
USS Ozbourn Association

USS Ozbourn DD846, 2015 Reunion, Baton Rouge, LA





2017 Biennial Reunion Update

*Submitted by Mark "Blue" Beaulieu
Chairman, 2017 Reunion Committee*

Good'ay shipmates! It may seem to be a little early to discuss the 2017 Reunion but it's already time for the committee to start working through the process of site selection and getting the dates set. Our evaluation of the various destinations will consider desirability of the location, affordability, proximity to major airports, and general accessibility to interesting local attractions. The committee will make recommendations to our Association President who has the final say.

During the last reunion I had the opportunity to stop by a number of tables and gather member suggestions of locations. Of course not everyone had the opportunity to offer their opinion and those of you who would like to comment or make other suggestions can email me at mrkbeaulieu@aol.com or simply call me, Mark "Blue" Beaulieu at (832) 728-1352. The input at this last reunion's banquet distilled down to four principle sites of interest in east coast locations.

- 1) Virginia Beach, VA
- 2) Charleston, SC
- 3) Savannah, GA
- 4) Buffalo, NY

The time frame ranges from mid-September to mid-October 2017.

I will be providing 2017 Reunion updates in future issues of the "Fireball Newsletter" as the picture becomes clearer.

Mark "Blue" Beaulieu

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Past Presidents

Years served aboard OZ/Assoc. President

Robert Whitten Jr. (50-52) (93-99)

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 **Summer 2016** issue is **June 15th**. Articles may be re-written for purposes of editorial style. Due to limitations, some materials may be used in a future **Fireball** edition.





MAIL CALL

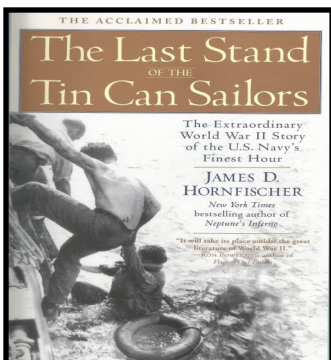
The following letters and e-mails were received by your Association Officers during the last quarter



"THANK YOU PHIL"

Jeff Parker, Editor

A big thank you goes out to **Phillip Swigard, Ltjg, (64-66)**, for all of his hard work in producing a great video of the "OZ" and the **2015 Reunion** in Baton Rouge, LA. Those wishing to view this outstanding video created by Phil, honoring those who served on the finest destroyer in the United States Navy can do so on You Tube by typing in **USS OZBOURN**. Click on the 2015 Reunion video and enjoy all of Phil's hard work.



"THE LAST STAND of THE TIN CAN SAILORS"

The Extraordinary World War II Story of the U.S. Navy's Finest Hour

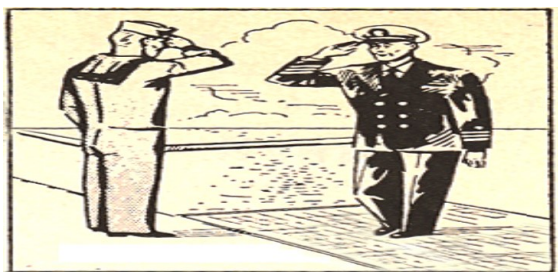
Jeff Parker, Editor

Although I hesitate to endorse or recommend any commercial enterprise, after reading this outstanding non-fiction book, I felt compelled to bring it to the attention of all shipmates, families and friends. I truly enjoyed this great piece of work from cover to cover. *Editors Note: "The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors" can be purchased at most book stores and On-line from Amazon.com for \$14.95, plus shipping.*



"A SPECIAL THANK YOU"

As we are all very much aware, in any organization, there are special people. Our Association is truly blessed for having an outstanding shipmate in the form of **Association Secretary Ken Keene**. We are all very grateful for all of your extremely hard work in recruiting new members as well as assisting in the collection of Association Dues. Keep up the great work Ken.



WELCOME ABOARD

The Association wishes to Welcome Aboard the following shipmates as our newest members.

FRANK STRATINSKY, E4 (68-70)

RALPH FOSTER, BT2 (51-54)



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

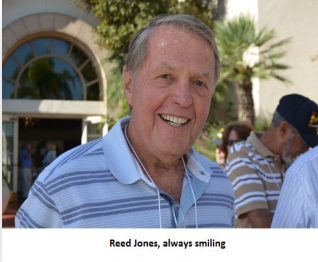
The Association is saddened to report the passing of the following long time friend, Member and Shipmate.

GEORGE DANCHUK

"May fair winds and calm seas be with you always"



MAIL CALL (Continued)



Reed Jones, always smiling

BEST SHOT BY A .45 CALIBER PISTOL

Submitted by Reed Jones, Lt. (65-67)

Owen John Baggett, born in 1920 in Graham, Texas, graduated from college by 1941 and began work on Wall Street. However, in 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps (now the USAF) when the United States entered the war.

A studious man, he graduated from pilot training in just five months and the AAF shipped him to Burma to fly a B-24 Liberator. What happened the following year is the stuff of legends.

On March 31, 1943, Baggett and his B-24 Squadron, on a mission to destroy a bridge of significant importance, got intercepted by Japanese Zeros which riddled the B-24 with so many bullets that the crew had to bail out of the plane.

While parachuting, a Japanese pilot decided that downing the plane wasn't enough. He circled and started shooting at the bailed out crew, killing two. Seeing this, Baggett played dead. Unconvinced that Baggett was dead, the Zero pulled up to him at near stall speed, and the pilot opened his canopy to take a closer look. Without wasting time and thinking on his feet (no pun intended), the parachuting Baggett pulled out his pistol and shot the pilot in the head. The last thing that Baggett saw before touching down was the Zero spiraling toward earth.

When he landed, the Japanese captured Baggett and the remaining bailed out crew members and sent them to a POW camp where they remained until the end of World War II.

OSS Agents (the WW II version of the modern CIA, liberated them and they learned of Baggett's unique shot. He received recognition as the only person during the war to shoot down a Zero with a pistol. Many consider Baggett's feat the best shot of ALL TIME by a .45 Caliber M911 pistol.



SHIPMATE'S GRANDSON REACHES OUT

Submitted by Dustin Grubbs

My name is Dustin Grubbs and **Olen Wilborn, RM (52-55)**, is my grandfather. He served on "The OZ" during the Korean War.

I have recently come across the Association website. I am interested in paying his dues for him, so he can keep up with shipmates and friends from long ago. We were able to attend the 2001 Reunion. I was only a senior in high school at the time and honestly it was one of the best times I have had. While looking through the website I was pleased to see that my grandfather and I were displayed in a photo with Captain Akers. Unfortunately, I learned that Captain Akers passed away in 2006. I would like to thank everyone taking part in keeping the website and newsletter going.

Editors Note: I have attached the photograph referenced by Dustin in his note. Clearly, as proven by the aforementioned heart felt note from Dustin, there are many generations influenced by those who served on USS Ozbourn DD846. I would personally like to thank Dustin on behalf of the Association for assisting his Grandfather in reaching out to old shipmates and friends. Jeff Parker, Editor,

"Formosa Patrol"

Submitted by Brian Buchholz, Lt. (62-65)

In the Fall of 1962, there was constant tension between the Communist Chinese who controlled the mainland and the Nationalist Chinese (led by Chiang Kai Shek) who ran the government of Formosa, now called Taiwan. There were even periodic artillery duels between the mainland and the offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu which were controlled by the Nationalists. In order to keep tensions from escalating, the U.S. Navy maintained the Formosa Patrol in which two destroyers kept a constant presence between the two sides. While one ship patrolled the Strait of Formosa, the other spent a few days either in Kaohsiung or Keelung (Kaohsiung in the Ozbourn's case). Patrolling the strait consisted of steaming slowly northeast before turning 180 degrees and returning to the southwest to complete the circuit. As it was always rough in the strait, on the northern leg the ship constantly pounded into the waves before turning south and running with them.

While the Ozbourn was patrolling the strait, the ship was at Condition-3, a condition of partial General Quarters with the 5-inch gun mount and 5-inch gun director constantly manned. These watches were pretty boring with plenty of time to think about how seasick one was. I was the officer in charge of the gunfire director and have two distinct memories of my time on watch. One was throwing up over the side of the director and the other was learning about the Cuban Missile Crisis from a copy of "Time" magazine I read while on watch.

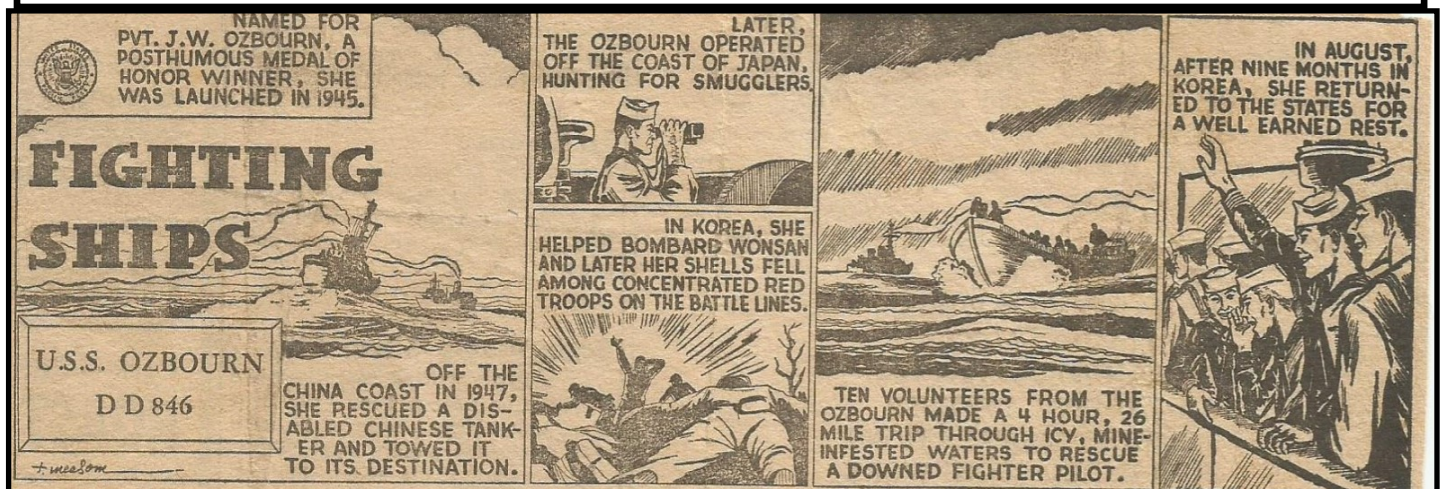
Relief from the patrol meant for the Ozbourn going into Kaohsiung for a few days of liberty. While in port the ship maintained a two section watch, meaning that half the crew got to go ashore while the other half remained on board. This eventually became a point of contention because the Senior Watch Officer, at the beginning of each month, simply took his calendar and wrote Port or Starboard on each day. If the ship came into port on day for liberty or if it got underway on your liberty day, you did not get to go and you were stuck with it! At one point, one section had something like seven actual days of liberty and the other section only had four.

Once one was ashore (via liberty boat, the ship's motor whaleboat) there was the usual assortment of bars to patronize, but there was another attraction, bookstores that had pirated copies of books and phonograph albums for sale at very cheap prices. The books were printed on rice paper which had an odor that was somewhat nauseating after awhile. The record albums were made on disks of transparent, colored vinyl and the words to all of the songs were printed on the album jacket. I got several albums containing the hit songs of Marty Robbins, The Everly Brothers, Buck Owens and Johnny Rivers.

The Ozbourn was paired either with Hollister or Chandler for the Formosa Patrol duty for a few weeks in the Fall of 1962 before heading off to other adventures in the Westpac cruise of 1962.

USS OZBOURN DD 846 IN THE NEWS

Shipmate Joe Escajeda, a 30 year U.S. Navy Veteran supplied the below article that he was given while serving aboard the USS Pittsburgh CA72. Joe served on the "OZ" when he was 17 years of age and indicated it was the most rewarding. *(Editors Note: Although the article was dated 1952, it is unclear as to the identity of the original source and publication.)*

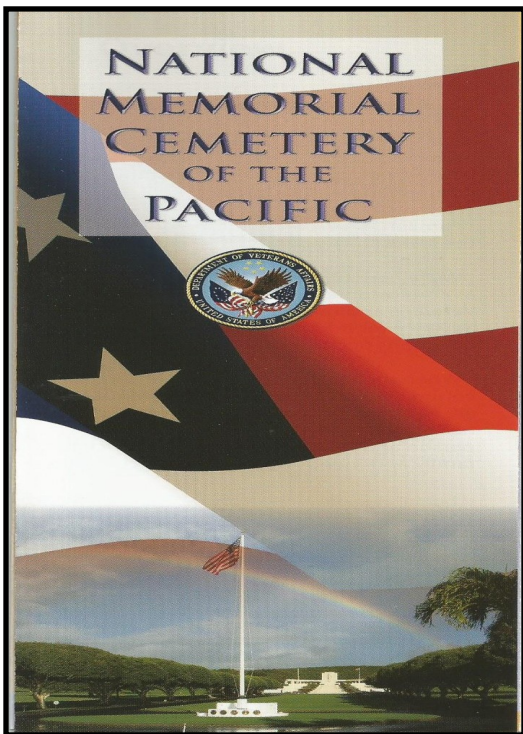


NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY of the PACIFIC

Honolulu, Hawaii

Submitted by Jeff Parker, Editor

As you all know, Private Joseph W Ozbourn, USMC, unselfishly gave his life while protecting and saving the lives of his squad of Marines during the Battle of Tinian on July 28, 1944. As a result of his heroic actions, Private Ozbourn was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. During my annual visit to Honolulu, Hawaii, I always take time to visit Private Ozbourn's final resting place in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific also known as the "Punch Bowl". As I approach the grave site located in Section F, Number-77, I seem to always get a lump in my throat and find myself speaking to Private Ozbourn. I of course thank him for his service and sacrifice as well as the hundreds of shipmates that served of the USS Ozbourn DD846, named in his honor. When and if you are able to visit Honolulu, I would recommend to all of our shipmates to visit Private Ozbourn. I know that I will continue my annual visits as long as possible.



USS OZBOURN DD846, viewed from the USS DEHAVEN DD 727

Photos by Wyatt Williams, BT2 USS DeHaven DD 727

Submitted by Scott Martin, Webmaster, USS DeHaven.Org



USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

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

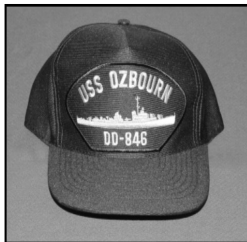


Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourn website at www.ozbourn.org under the heading Ship's Store. Orders may be placed with:
Rudy Boff — 1036 Connor Road
Pittsburgh, PA
15234-1033
Tel: (412) 833-0572

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 \$95
Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, White or Navy Blue \$40
Golf shirts, White or Navy Blue \$35
All items have ship's name and hull number embroidered in gold letters. "Add \$5.00 for size 2XL"



CAP cotton twill Navy blue, brilliant gold letters & Destroyer silhouette. 1 size fits all. Item #C01, \$14 ea. Embroidery on back: Korea, #C01K \$16 ea. Vietnam, #C01V \$16 ea.



T-shirt short sleeve, White or Navy Blue with embroidered logo left side. \$25 ea. Item #T02

← Long sleeve. \$35 ea.

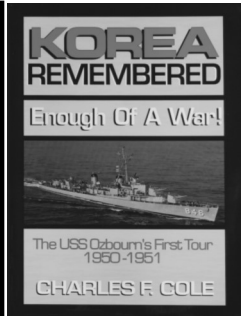


AUBURN COACH'S JACKET

Navy Blue with fleece lining, six matching metal snaps, profile of the ship in silver thread and lettering in gold. \$45 ea. Item #J01

← Logo detail

Korea Remembered
Enough of a War! The USS Ozbourn's First Tour, 1950-1951, is a first hand account of 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, 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
\$5.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping & handling



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



FRAME license plate
Item #F01 \$5 ea.

SHIPPING AND HANDLING

<u>COST OF ITEM</u>	<u>COST OF POSTAGE</u>
\$0.01 – 15.00	\$3.00
15.00 — 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

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 annual dues? Only dues paying members receive the **Fireball** newsletter. Look at your mailing label on your most recent newsletter and find a number such as 15 or 16. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 15 means 2015, 16 means 2016, etc. If you wish, you may pay for multiple years.

Membership dues are **\$15.00** annually and are due in January of each year. Please make checks payable to the **USS OZBOURN Association** and forward them to Philip Roberts, Association Treasurer, at 2608 Bentwood Drive, Palestine, TX 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 website: Mission Statement, a list of Ozbourn shipmates, historical photos, Ship's Store and how to Join the Association.

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 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-Sept. 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 R.L. Stewart	September 1968-June 1970
CDR E.W. Numbers	June 1970-December 1971
CDR K.L. Costilow	December 1971-March 1974
CDR F.J. Furtado	March 1974-May 1975

