

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 29, No. 3
Summer 2020



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 all are well and safe during this stressful time. Our numbers are dropping fast enough without the Covid-19 disaster getting in our way. Please keep in touch with all of your shipmates that are special friends. To me, all of my shipmates are family forever, but I am sure that each of you had those special friends that mean more to you. We are a family.

The 2021 Reunion Committee is working hard to find the best location that will meet our needs for our next reunion. Clearly, I am not sure that we will be able to do a personal visit real soon, but we will send out our proposals and try to make most plans on the phone and online. We will of course post updates in the "Fireball", as long as printing services are available, and on our website. Hope to see you all in 2021. It will be a great time.

Keep safe. God Bless us All.

Guy Posey, President
USS OZBOURN Association

USS OZBOURN DD846, ARCHIVES



Front Row: Mike or Mitchell, 'Unknown'
Back Row: 'Unknown', Potts, Bill LaFever, Jim Wade, Richard (Satch) Satchell
Photo taken in Yokosuka, Japan, Winter of 1955



LAU YEE CHAI Restaurant, Waikiki Beach, Hawaii 1950
(L-R) Ray "Little Sid" Dougan, Tom Perkins, Bob Kelley, Jim Lingenfelter and Tom Keary

2021 Biennial Reunion

Jeff Parker, Editor

After doing a great job on the 2015 & 2017 and 2019 Reunions, **Mike Ward** and **Harold "Mac" McKeehan**, have once again stepped up to the plate to help plan the 2021 Reunion. In addition, **Mark Beaulieu, V.P.**, and **Guy Posey, President**, also threw their hats into the ring. **Guy Posey** will act as Chairperson for the 2021 Reunion.

It is never too early to begin planning for and discussing our next reunion. Clearly, the Covid-19 Virus has placed a strain on the entire nation. This certainly includes the ability to travel for personal visits to possible venues. Therefore, the Reunion Committee is going to continue to seek out a location for our 2021 reunion via Internet Resources, etc. We of course anticipate that the battle with Covid-19 will be won and a future visit to possible venues will take place.

The committee will continue to seek a out a venue that will provide the membership and families with exciting and interesting sites.

Watch for updates in future editions of the "Fireball".

Guy Posey Mark Beaulieu Harold McKeehan Mike Ward



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



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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 **Fall 2020** issue is **August 15th**. Articles may be re-written for purposes of editorial style. Due to limitations, some materials may be used in a future **Fireball** edition.

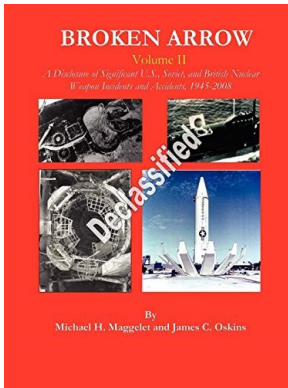
MAIL CALL



The following letters and emails were received by your Association Officers during the last quarter.

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Heard from **Tom Hoots, GM3, (52-55)**, who wished to correct an error on Page-8 of each addition of the "Fireball". Tom discovered a discrepancy in the list of Commanding Officers. It was pointed out that Commander C.O. Akers was actually the Commanding Officer from September 1950 to April 1952, when he was relieved by Commander W.B. Fargo. *(Editors Note: I am always very grateful for shipmates advising me when they find an error that truly needs correcting. Thank you Tom.)*

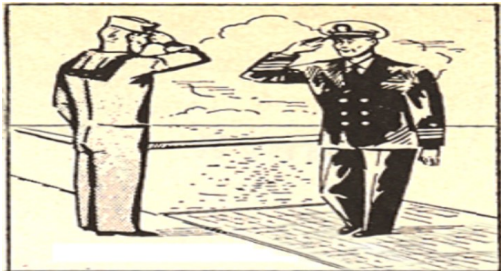


"BROKEN ARROW-VOLUME II"

Heard from **Michael Krause, Lt. (67-68)**, who recommends reading **BROKEN ARROW II**, as it contains information regarding the Nuclear Weapons Incident taking place on the Ozbourn on Saturday, 25 March 1967, when a North Vietnamese shore battery scored two hits on the "OZ", one entering the ASROC Magazine. Mike also provided a website that contains the information along with the Deck Log describing the events. Those interested in viewing the Deck Log can go online and Google "**Attack on the Ozbourn a Nuclear Weapons Incident during the Vietnam War.**"

(Editors Note: As Weapons Officer on board the "OZ" at the time of the incident, Mike Krause was interviewed in later years by the authors of Broken Arrow II. Mike's interview can be found in the publication. Additionally, a copy of Captain John Denham's "Captains

Newsletter sent to the families of the crew can be found on Pages 4-6. The Newsletter was provided by Shipmate Jerry McKee YN2, (66-69).



WELCOME ABOARD

The Association wishes to Welcome Aboard the following shipmate as our newest member.

CLYDE DUNCAN, FN, (72-73)

TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

RALPH O. FOSTER, BT2, (51-54)

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

CAPTAINS NEWSLETTER

Submitted by Jerry McKee, YN2, (66-69)

**USS OZBOURN (DD 846)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California**

1 May 1967

To the family and friends of the USS OZBOURN (DD 846)

No doubt all of you have recently read about OZBOURN in your local newspapers or heard about the ship on the radio or on TV. Let me re-emphasize that there were no personnel casualties aboard the OZBOURN. One of my happiest moments comes whenever I can pin a medal on an OZBOURN sailor. I am even happier in this case that none of the awards recommended is a Purple Heart.

To bring you up to date with OZBOURN's activities for the first three months of 1967: We spent the first two weeks of January in Yokosuka recovering from the Christmas holidays and New Year's festivities. In mid-January we transited to Subic Bay where we joined forces with the nuclear powered aircraft carrier, USS ENTERPRISE (CVA(N) 65), and USS BAINBRIDGE (DLG(N) 25). For the first two weeks of February we provided escort and ready rescue services for the ENTERPRISE on Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin. We returned home to Yokosuka on the 20th of February and commenced preparation for two annual inspections. All hands worked long and hard hours and the ship passed both inspections.

Underway again in early March from Yokosuka, we arrived in Buckner Bay, Okinawa, for fuel two days later on the 5th. The stop in Buckner Bay allowed all hands to celebrate the OZBOURN's 21st birthday with a party on the mess decks. The commissary personnel, notably Commissaryman Third Class Ronald JENKINS, prepared a colossal cake which was cut with a ceremonial sword by Radioman First Class Harden R. HARRIS, the oldest man on board (46); Fireman Larry E. HIGHSMITH, the youngest man on board (18); Interior Communications Chief Edward G. GATLIN, the "Plank Owner" (the person who has been on board OZBOURN the longest); Master Chief Steam Propulsionman Lloyd E. WOODS, the Senior Chief; and the Commanding Officer.

OZBOURN again joined the carrier task force in the Gulf of Tonkin on March 9th when we rendezvoused with USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63), at Yankee Station. We escorted KITTY HAWK for only four days before being ordered to proceed south to the Vietnamese coast to join the Naval Gunfire Support Task Group on the gunline. OZBOURN fired gunfire support missions for U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army spotters along the coast south of DaNang for two weeks. While on the gunline on Sunday the 19th of March, the ship took a holiday and had an afternoon cook-out on the fantail. At this picnic there were no flies to chase away from the food, but U.S. Army helicopters kept bussing around trying to get a bite of the hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and baked beans that comprised the menu.

On 23 March we moved to a position further up the Vietnamese Coast to provide support for U.S. Marines who were engaged in Operation Beacon Hill I near the Demilitarized Zone. OZBOURN arrived on station on the evening of the 24th and immediately commenced patrolling and providing

gunfire support for U.S. Marines ashore. At 8:17 the next morning the enemy struck back. Enemy mortars started firing at OZBOURN from hidden positions and almost immediately OZBOURN commenced evasive action and started firing her guns in reply. During the action OZBOURN took two direct hits which damaged a radar room and a storage area, starting fires in both spaces. The flames were quickly extinguished and OZBOURN headed for Subic Bay for repairs due to damage to sensitive equipment.

I was extremely proud, as you can be, of the way in which each and every man on board OZBOURN reacted to the combat situation and performed his duties. Though everyone performed in a highly professional manner, special note must be paid to certain individuals who performed heroic acts under adverse conditions and are largely responsible for the fact that damage was kept to a minimum, and most important, that there were no personnel injuries. Soon after the second hit, a serious fire broke out in a storage area. Shipfitter Third Class Daniel S. SCOTT immediately reported to the scene with a fire hose and commenced applying water with a fire hose into the affected space. Without regard to his own safety, SCOTT, in spite of the flames and the enemy shells which were exploding around the ship, fought the fire until it was brought under control. Only one entrance to the space was opened. A second entrance was locked from the inside and could not be opened from the outside. It was necessary to have both accesses opened to allow fire fighting personnel to enter the space to completely put out the fire. Shipfitter Third Class Michael D. DENT who had been on the scene from the beginning with SCOTT quickly donned a gas mask and without regard to his own safety in the intense heat, entered the smoke filled space and proceeded to the second access hatch. He found the hatch and opened it, allowing the other fire fighters to enter the space. The quick actions of several other members of the crew also were largely responsible for quickly extinguishing the fire: Gunner's Mate First Class Robert D. GAUGER, Gunner's Mate First Class Ferdinand F. VORHEES, and Aviation Electronics Technician First Class Carl L. AYERS quickly activated the sprinkling system to the space and then reported to the scene of the fire to assist the damage control parties. Many other men participated in this necessary dangerous task. To tell all the heroic acts would take pages. To name a few more of the most responsible:

Ensign Alan W. SWINGER
Senior Chief Sonarman Donald I. MC CARTHY
Electrician's Mate First Class William P. KENNEDY
Gunner's Mate Third Class David A. GLANSMAN
Fireman Charles S. PERRY
Fireman James E. WORTHINGTON

We have now completed repairs at Subic Bay and are READY again for whatever duties the Navy has planned for us. It is hoped that our encounter with the enemy has not alarmed you. You may rest assured that your ship is ready to undertake any assigned task necessary to safe-guard the lives of U.S. personnel ashore. OZBOURN was built to go into harm's way. She has been equipped by your tax payers' dollars to be capable of coping with whatever the enemy may try to do. The men in OZBOURN

are trained to accomplish any assigned task. It is these men that make me proud and enable me to report to Commander U.S. SEVENTH Fleet that OZBOURN is again READY for duty as assigned.

I remain, very respectfully,

John G. Denham
Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer



Damage sustained to the ASROC Magazine,
25 March 1967.



ASROC Launch

USS OZBOURN DD846 PHOTO GALLERY



USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

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

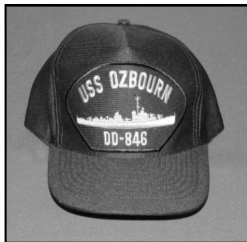


Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourn website at www.ozbourn.org under the heading Ship's Store. Orders may be placed with:
 Rudy Boff — 1036 Connor Road
 Pittsburgh, PA
 15234-1033
 Tel: (412) 833-0572

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"



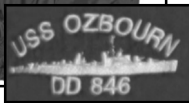
CAP cotton twill Navy blue, brilliant gold letters & Destroyer silhouette. 1 size fits all. Item #C01, \$14 ea. Embroidery on back: Korea, #C01K \$16 ea. Vietnam, #C01V \$16 ea.



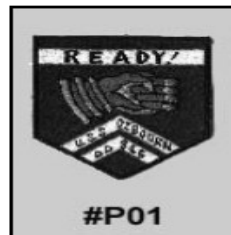
T-shirt short sleeve, White or Navy Blue with embroidered logo left side. \$25 ea. Item #T02
 ← Long sleeve. \$35 ea.



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



PATCH fabric, \$6 ea. Item #P01

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
65.01 or more	11.00

A big thank you goes out to Rudy Boff for all of his years of service to the Association, both as a Past President and Operator of our Ship's Store. Well Done Rudy!!!!



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 20 or 22. This number indicates the last year you were current 11th Association dues: 20 means 2020, 21 means 2021, 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 Mike Ward, Association Treasurer, at 3836 County Road W40, Decorah, IA 52101.

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 1952
CDR W.B. Fargo	April 1952-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

