

# LOST & FOUND CREW

Volume 7, Issue 2 – Insert By Rich McCamant (mccamant@dmv.com)

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## FINDING SEA LEOPARD & CUTLASS CREW

Greetings to all from your humble Search & Rescue Officer. Unfortunately things have slowed to a crawl on the Sirago front (only 5 guys accounted for since the last newsletter), but we have branched out to help Cutlass and Sea Leopard find some of their missing shipmates before Reunion 2007, which is now just a speck on the horizon but which has a CBDR (that's constant bearing, decreasing range for those of you who have forgotten, in other words we are on a collision course).



The problem with Sirago is that I think I have pretty much worked myself out of a job. Less than 100 guys remain to be accounted for (out of over 1600 identified from the microfilms). Some of these are, undoubtedly, deceased but I'm sure there are at least a few lurking just below the layer. In fact, I have very good leads on several of them (even what I feel are current addresses with unlisted phone numbers) but they have failed to respond to my letters. I made only minimal progress on the 10 Most Wanted List published in the last newsletter and all of those scoundrels remain at large, with the bounty still in effect. The November newsletter has a complete list of missing guys and all but a few of them remain unaccounted for. We will publish an updated list in the next newsletter.

This is not to say that we have been idle and unproductive. The last newsletter went out to known shipmates on Cutlass and Sea Leopard, informing them of the reunion and inviting them to submit names of guys they remember and would like to see found. The response has been great, especially from Sea Leopard, and we have attacked their list with nearly the same fervor as we put into Sirago (man, this job is addictive, but the pay sucks). Anyway, we have accounted for 79 Sea Leopard guys (58 alive and 21 deceased) and 11 from the Cutlass (10 alive and 1 deceased). Most of the guys I have found have given me more names to work with.

We are working mainly with names of guys who someone has told us they would like to have found. This is another call for anyone from Cutlass or Sea Leopard to send me names of guys they remember and would like to see again. It would also be great to have any information you can remember about the guy, most important being where he was from. A very high percentage of guys are still living very close to where they were when they entered the Navy. We have microfilms of the ships' personnel logs, all the way from 1945 through 1970 for the Sirago and most years for the other two, so I can get correct names for guys if you can't remember for sure.

On another tack for Sirago, with the help of Jack Liptrap (DS 5356) who has done a lot of work with the Clamagore Association, we sent out more than 50 letters through the VA to missing guys for whom the VA had an address. We went into this with low expectations, realizing that some of the addresses the VA had were probably 30 – 50 years old, and have not been disappointed. There has been only one response so far, but it has only been a few weeks, so we are holding out hope.

One more thing before I go back down the ladder. Several of our missing Sirago shipmates are Filipino

and I have good reason to believe that most (but not all) of them returned to the Philippines after their Navy service. Does anyone out there have any information about any of these guys or have any contacts in the Philippines who can help us track them down? The missing guys are TN Arturo Abenes, TN Trifilo Aquino, TN Guillermo Dano, SD1 Emilio Dogoldogol, TN Alexander Guzman, IC2 Armando Lopez, TN Jose Omana, Jr., CS3 Domingo Paguio, TN Paulina Pruna, and SD3 Florentino San Juan.

OK, I'm done. Send those cards and letters to 10225 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD or [mccamant@dmv.com](mailto:mccamant@dmv.com) or call (410) 820-5225. Below is the listing of the 5 new folks we found on the Sirago and another 5 who have recently died as well as a summary of the progress on Sea Leopard and Cutlass folks. Concerning the Sea Leopard and Cutlass, we have certainly had more requests to find folks from the Sea Leopard crew members than from Cutlass and you can tell that from the listings below. As I said in the last newsletter, we on the Sirago are not likely to build up the "net" count on our boat and right now we are exactly at break (new found versus newly deceased) with a total FOUND ALIVE count of 840 crewmembers.

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### **USS SIRAGO (SS485):**

**FOUND:** David Harris (EMFN 60-61), Robert Chambers (QM1 57-57), John Wilson (IC2 54-55), William Roberts (EMC 65-66), Robert Jackson (TM2 67-68).

**RECENTLY DIED:** William Belt (END1 51-54), William Clellan (FTGSA 62-62), John Ball (YNSN 49-51), Skip Orr (QM3 64-66), Jack Daniel (RM2 55-57).

### **USS SEA LEOPARD (SS483):**

**FOUND ALIVE:** John Annarino (EM3 49-50), Ed Aossey (TM1 68-68), Bill Atwell (MM2 55-57), Charles Baize (TM3 67-68), Lionel Banda (LTJG 65-66), Stan Bartholomew (STS3 70-72), Chuck Berry (LCDR 66-68), Floyd Blaylock (EN1 70-70), Melvin Bracken (CS2 67-68), David Brock (EM2 68-69), Richard Burggraf (EMC 66-68), Frank Bushnell (LT 68-68), Jay Butler (EM1 67-70), William Cather (SA 53-54), Erich Cramer (Officer 66-68), James Cunningham (CS2 67-69), Richard Curtis (SN 65-66), Tom Cushman (TM3 68-70), Jack Davis (EMCS/COB 68-71), James Delong (ETR2 66-67), Richard Devries (ET3 55-57), Marshall Dilsaver (FTGSN 68-68), Leroy Downard (ENC 68-70), Patterson Fletcher (SN 68-68), Dick Forsythe (LTJG 66-68), Roy Forsythe (TM2 57-59), Dewey Fuller (EN3 57-58), James Fuller (EN3 64-65), Tom Gibbs (EN3 65-69), Joseph Gomes (EN2 53-54), Bill Gwinn (TM1 61-62), Martin Henderson (ETR2 70-70), Lee Hubbell (IC3 68-70), Karl Humbertson (EN2 55-57), Donald Jackson (TM2 55-56), Alvin Johnson (EM3 70-72), Andrew Kotulak (STS3 66-66), Elton Landrum (CWO2 69-70), John LaVeck (SN 67-69), Jack Messersmith (TM2 67-68), Forrest Mizell (EN1 62-64), Tom Morrell (MM2 64-66), Daniel Mouyard (IC2 64-64), Paul Nasso (STS2 66-70), Michael O'Connell (STS3 67-68), Howard Peck (ETRSN 60-60), Karl Peterson (Officer 66-67), Richard Rowlands (LT 68-68), Arthur Salter (RMSN 49-49), Chuck Shoefeld (RM2 67-68), Walter Talunas (Officer 70-70), Ben Vessels (MM2 66-67), Willie Westberry (ENC 55-58), John Winters (MM2 62-64), Alfred Woodard (FN 49-51), Floyd Woodard (ST1 67-67), Owen Woodard (SN 48-50), Russell Zimmerman (ENFN 72-73).

**FOUND DECEASED:** Keith Bobo (CS2 68-68), Frederick Braman (EMC 68-68), Richard Brock (TM2 57-58), Ronald Dascombe (EN2 49-52), Jere Driver (RMSN 49-49), Thomas Eggleston (HMC 68-70), Clarence Gillis (SO3 49-52), Herman Gunn (EN1 68-68), Fred Hubrich (FN 49-50), James Vernal (SD1 49-52), Charles Lawlor (ET1 60-60), Jack Leabo (EM2 49-53), Ishmael Nadal (TN 49-49), John Nicklo (TMC 49-51), Gene Oller (RM1 67-71), Walter Pilote (IC3 55-57), Louis Pustelnick (TM3 57-58), James Quick (SN 49-52), Herman Rosenburg (MMC 56-57), Averill Thompson (QMC 54-54), Clyde Tipp (TM1 64-67).

### **USS CUTLASS (SS478)**

**FOUND ALIVE:** Steve Araham (EN3 66-69), Billy Garnett (EN3 49-52), Kenneth Guilfoil (EN2 50-52), Gerald Gunter (QM3 65-66), Cletis Hash (EN2 65-66), Bruce Meeks (???), Howard Roberts (EN2 64-66), Manuel Rocha (EN1 64-67), Bill Shepherd (ENCS 70-72), Earl Sneed (CPO?).

**FOUND DECEASED:** Elston Oller (?? 59-59)