

Lost & Found Crew

Volume 8, Issue 2 – Insert. By Rich McCamant – mccamantss485@hughes.net

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Update from Search & Rescue Officer

As was stated in the main newsletter, we are holding at a zenith point in the number of people actually found alive for the USS Sirago. This number is 857. I had a goal of accounting for 700 crew members (dead or alive) by this past reunion, but was just a few short of that goal. Of course the vast majority of those “found” were found to be already deceased. I think that Mike Bickel and others grabbed the low hanging fruit and I sort of got stuck with those really “run silent, run deep” folks. But I can tell you that accounting for lost crew members is a job I really DO love and it’s a joy every time I find one out there still kicking... who usually says something like “I didn’t know I was lost”.

I have previously published the approximately 60 folks that we are still missing, so I won’t bore you with that this time around. What I’d like to let you know is that I stand ready to help you find ANY lost shipmate of yours... whether on Sirago or any SUBRON SIX boat... or in fact... any place at all. If he’s a friend of yours from the Navy in any capacity, I will make an effort to find him for you. Maybe he was your “best man” at a wedding... or just someone you knew from the barracks. Or maybe a friend with a similar hobby to yours. No matter what... I stand ready as your Search and Rescue Officer to see what I can do. This is part of what you get when you join up with our USS Sirago (SS485) Veterans’ Association, Inc. (501c19).

So... as part of this effort, I want to make you familiar with the microfilms that have already been purchased by the USS Sirago (through contributions from the crew over years gone by). I am in possession of all of these microfilms and since these films contain crew member listings from more boats than just Sirago, I wanted to let you know exactly what I have at my fingertips.

Each microfilm that we have in the timeframe



between 1945 and 1958 has two years of records on each microfilm, so there is 45-46, 47-48, 49-50 and so forth. These records are called “Muster Rolls” and they show crew members coming aboard, leaving for schools, coming back, etc. plus there are certain reports (Proof of Strength reports, etc.) that show crew member full name, service number, and what their rate / rating is at the time of the report. These earlier films do NOT (for the most part) have officer records on them.

About the time that the Officer Records start appearing on microfilms of this sort, there was a decision to just do ONE year of reporting on each microfilm, so ones starting in 1959 have one year of data. So... we have individual microfilms from 1959 through 1970 inclusive. Why do we not have 1971 and 1972 you might ask? Well... it’s because starting in 1971 those records started showing Social Security numbers on them and therefore, they cannot be obtained by just any Tom, Dick,

Harry, or Rich McCamant type guy.

Another thing about the microfilms is that they include MORE BOATS than just the Sirago. The records are sorted in large groups using the SS-485 as the order, so we will have SS-483 (Sea Leopard), the SS-484 (Odax), SS-485 (Sirago) and so forth. Since the Sea Leopard (SS-483) and the Cutlass (SS-478) are both numbers CLOSE to our own SS-485, these boats are often on our same microfilms. There are some peculiarities, however, when a boat changes its designation from SS to AGSS or SSR as they don't end up falling in the same group anymore.

I have made my best guess as to exactly what boats we DO cover on our microfilms and the list follows. If you have any buddies on any of the included boat microfilm years I am showing below, it is very likely that we can find him. Even without these microfilms, I have ways of finding folks in the Navy through other means but it is helpful for me to know the person's approximate age, their home town, etc. if they cannot be found on these microfilms. So... let me know if you need some help from me. You can reach me by email (see the banner on the other side of this sheet) or by phone at (410) 820-5225.

- 1949-1950 (SS-423 to SS-524)
- 1951-1952 (SS-481 to SS-568)
- 1953-1954 (SS-480 to SS-568)
- 1955-1956 (SS-477 to SS-568)
- 1957-1958 (SS-483 to SS-568)
- 1959 (SS-400 to SS-522)
- 1960 (SS-426 to SS-565)
- 1961 (SS-484 to SS-568)
- 1962 (SS-417 to SS-522)
- 1963 (SS-475 to SS-524)
- 1964 (SS-421 to SS-487)
- 1965 (not sure on this one... have to check)
- 1966 (SS-476 to SS-566)
- 1967 (SS-425 to SS-523)
- 1968 (SS-483 to SS-568)
- 1969 (SS-407 to SS-486)
- 1970 (SS-410 to SS-522)