

Sirago Family Gram

Volume 5, Issue 4 – Insert By Mike Bickel (RMBICKEL@STUPP.COM)

November 2004

We have arrived safely at OPAREA 5 and have been informed that our **NEW FINEX is Virginia Beach, VA** rather than Portsmouth, NH. This was unexpected (refer to rest of newsletter), but, as always, the Sirago adapts to changes in our OPSKED and will provide services in our old stomping grounds for the fleet. Some of you may be disappointed by this change of venue, and may have started to make liberty plans but I would just ask that you review the rest of the newsletter for the reason this change was necessary. Meanwhile, our search and rescue team, headed up by Rich McCamant has once again made stellar progress in finding even more crew members. Here is an update of the progress we have made on our latest transit.

The following **crewmembers have been located** during our most recent transit:

Don Linn (IC3, 68–69)

Joe Rebar (SO1, 57–60)

“Spider” Zawislak (CT3, 57–58)

Ted Philippi (CTC, 57–57)

Alfred Kendall (FTG3, 61–61)

David Dorries (CS3, 68–69)

Dick Guth (YN1, 61–61)

James Sleezer (SK2, 64–64)

Leon Roberson (STM2c, 47–47)

Kurt Myers (IC2, 70–72)

Fred Robinson (FTGSN, 63–65)

Larry Hillerman (MTSN, 62–62)

James Gallagher (SA, 63–63)

Fred Owens (MMFA, 63–63)

Ronald Hess (RMSN, 67–68)

Phillip St. Clair (MM3, 60–61)

Ed Purcell (SN, 59–61)

“Billy” Bush (EN2, 56–62)

Michael Houlihan (CNNS, 71–72)

Homer Baxter (GSSN, 59–59)

Richard Stern (EN3, 52–58)

Jesus Arcilla (TN, 68–68)

Douglas Tucker (SOC, 60–62)

Bill Mattingly (FCS1c, 45–45 Plank)

Kenneth Haley (SN, 48–50)

Tom Hewitt (EMFA, 63–63)

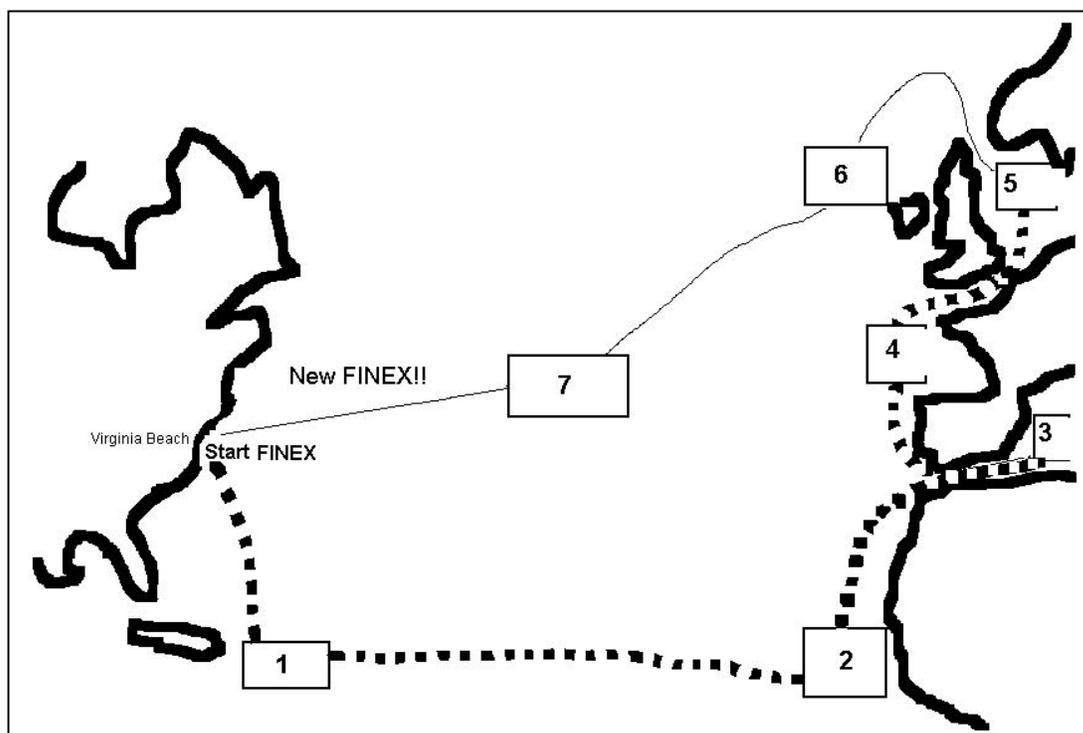
William Greening (S2c, 46–47)

Rogelio Gregorio (TN, 63–64)

Jack Casey (MM2, 64–65)

Ken Jury (SN, 65–65)

Joseph Blair (EM1, 56–56)



As is usual in our searching activities, many crewmembers are found deceased. Listed below (by duty section) are those found on **ETERNAL Patrol** (also included are those who were found alive but have recently died):

Duty Section 4548: Freddie Colston (S1c), Joseph Fox (BKR1c), John McMichael (CPhM), William Meador (ETM2c), James Moran (S2cRM), Michael Morel (S1c), Roman Motyka (TM3), Vernon Porth (TM1c), Anthony Purificato (TM3c), Richard Schiltneck (QM3), Benjamin Whiteside (SC3c)

Duty Section 4952: (none to report)

Duty Section 5356: Blair Smith (EM1)

Duty Section 5760: Tolbert O'Neal (SN)

Duty Section 6164: Hilbert Richard (QM1), Leon Robinson (MM1), Steven Rodenbaugh (TMSA)

Duty Section 6568: Ernest Blumenfeld (SK2), Ray Sutherland (FTG1)

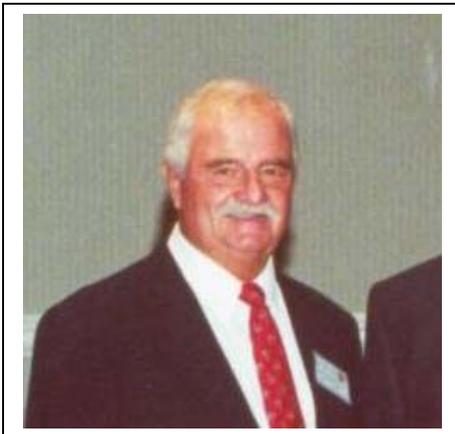
Duty Section 6972: (none to report)

It is especially gratifying to note that Rich McCamant seems to be finding more "live" crew members on this transit than deceased ones and that our brethren in duty sections 4952 and 6972 don't have to once again see more of their buddies on eternal patrol... at least not in this issue.

However... two of the above listed "eternal patrol" crew members are recently deceased and, as in the last issue, I'd like to say a few words about these fellows as they were both active members of our organization.

Milton Blair Smith (EM1) served aboard Sirago from 1954-1957. He was sometimes known as "Blair", sometimes "Smitty" and sometimes as "MB – Main Ballast". He was a great contributor to our knowledge of the history of Sirago during his days and was extremely helpful in helping us find folks. His first reunion to attend was 2001 and he also attended the last 2003 reunion. Author of My Brother, Your Father he was a writer and a man with a heart that reached out to others. I personally was aware of a situation when he tried to talk a woman out of committing suicide and then, when unsuccessful personally assisted the daughter of this mentally distressed woman. He has helped many in sickness and distress and is a person I am proud to say that I know.

Ray Sutherland (FTG1) served aboard Sirago from 1964-1968. Like "Smitty", I met Ray for the first time in Reunion 2001 and again in 2003. Ray was kind enough to take lots of videos of the 2001 reunion, and sent a few of us some actual Sirago video from his period aboard with him (and his wife Rachel) doing a bit of narration to this "silent converted 8MM film". Those of you who met Ray and his wife Rachel at the reunions know how committed they are to their Christian faith.



"Blair" Smith (Reunion 2001)



Rachel & Ray Sutherland (Reunion 2001)