

# Sirago Plank Owners

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## Sirago Plank Owners – Roll Call

In our 2<sup>nd</sup> installment under the Celebrating Sirago series, we focus on Plank Owners. I believe that you all know what a “Plank Owner” is but I’ll tell the story anyway. The Navy tradition used to be that whenever a naval vessel was decommissioned and ultimately sold for scrap or cannibalized for use in other ships or boats, the teak wood decking was kept especially aside and a portion of it was reserved to be cut up into small pieces and given to those crew members (if still alive) who were part of the ship’s (or boat’s) commissioning crew. The commissioning crew is the first official crew who stood on those decks at quarters and members are traditionally called “plank owners”. Well... ships and boats aren’t made with teakwood decking anymore, and contrary to popular myth, teakwood decking was NOT put on submarines because it doesn’t float. In fact, it DOES float, so the idea that this heavy wood would be on the ocean’s bottom after a depth charge pounding is not true at all. The USS Sirago had an original teakwood decking when it was a fleet boat (1945-1948) but it was not “decommissioned” when it was converted to a Guppy-2 and said teakwood was removed and replaced. This happened to a number of boats and it’s nearly impossible to track down any Sirago teakwood decking, although we’re still looking for some. If we find any that was truly from the Sirago, you can be assured that pieces of it will be given to the last remaining (Still Alive) Plank Owners as shown below. There are only 8 plank owners left!

Addotto, Lester Merle	EMC	1945-1951	Plank Owner	Deceased (5 May 2011)
Alexander, Francis Gilmore	F1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (26 August 2010)
Alvord, Claude Oran	EN2	1945-1952	Plank Owner	Deceased (21 February 1997)
Atkins, Cleveland Lenman	ENC (COB)	1945-1949	Plank Owner	Deceased (19 April 1996)
Baird, Willie Benjamin	EM1	1945-1949	Plank Owner	Deceased (7 July 1988)
Banter, Robert Verle	EM3c	1945-1947	Plank Owner	Deceased (January 1987)
Barger, Harry Leroy	F1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (28 September 1991)
Barnes, Harry Edward	MoMM1c	1945-1947	Plank Owner	Deceased (12 August 1997)
Beaver, Paul Jr.	TM1c	1945-1947	Plank Owner	Deceased (30 December 1988)
Beuster, Richard John	END1	1945-1952	Plank Owner	Deceased (8 October 2005)
Bouchie, Maurice E.	MoMM2c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (4 October 1993)
Boutillette, Le Roy B.	S1c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (23 June 2004)
Brandhorst, Reinold Carl	CEM	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (19 April 1993)
Bransom, Richard K.	LTJG	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (30 July 1995)
Burnell, Romane W.	S1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (7 February 2008)
Burnham, Stanford Alma	S1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (21 June 2002)
Campbell, James Richard	S2c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (8 January 1982)
Carlisle, Chester G.	LCDR(XO)	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (3 August 1988)
Carver, George Orlando	CQM	1945-1947	Plank Owner	Deceased (15 October 1986)
Clough, William W.	TM3c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (19 November 1998)
Coffin, Granville Farwell	LCDR	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (20 November 1993)
Colston, Freddie Dow Jr.	S1c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (Late 2002)
Crader, Clarence William	SM1c	1945-1947	Plank Owner	Deceased (September 1968)
Cuddy, Edward Francis	F1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (16 December 2003)
Darnell, Jesse R.	LT	1945-1948	Plank Owner	Deceased (13 May 1995)
Donley, William B.	LTJG	1945-1946	Plank Owner	<b>Still Alive</b>
Evans, George C.	EM1c	1945-1947	Plank Owner	Deceased (18 September 1994)
Farrington, Albert James Jr.	F1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (22 December 1988)
Finley, Bernard	TM3c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (17 November 1983)
Forrest, Kenneth Egbert	GM1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (4 July 1986)
Fox, Joseph George	BKR1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (27 April 1994)
Frank, David	QM3c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (28 November 2006)
Gavigan, James Henry	Y2c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (23 November 2006)

Geary, William Russell	MoMM1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (21 November 2000)
Gustafson, Robert B.	LTJG	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (12 January 2008)
Harlfinger, Frederick J. II	CDR(CO)	1945-1947	Plank Owner	Deceased (21 December 1993)
Hendricks, Herbert Baker	RT3c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (3 December 1993)
Holmes, James Clark	TM3c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (31 January 1991)
Horbock, Eugene James	TM1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (November 1946)
Jackson, John Brice Jr.	CMoMM	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (20 December 2000)
Johnson, Charles Riley	EM3c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (16 January 2007)
Johnson, Charles Robert	EM1c	1945-1950	Plank Owner	Deceased (14 July 1993)
Johnson, Leslie Warren	MoMM2c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (17 June 1988)
Johnson, William	MoMM1c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (21 March 1987)
Kelly, Michael Joseph	S1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (4 June 1968)
King, John Raymond	CRM	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (30 April 1997)
King, John William	RM3c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	<b>Still Alive</b>
Kramer, Patrick Francis	RM2c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	<b>Still Alive</b>
Kraynak, Peter D.	GM3c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (July 1985)
Lamoureux, Valmore R.	RM2c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (1947)
Leach, Gilbert Ernest	CMoMM	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (15 November 1993)
Lott, Jack Lester	S1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (22 September 1986)
Mallins, Harvey William	F1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (26 February 2002)
Maloumby, Francis James	S1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (October 1972)
Mattingly, William Arthur	FCS1	1945-1945	Plank Owner	<b>Still Alive</b>
McLay, James Marshall	S1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (14 January 1969)
McMichael, John William	CPhM	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (28 October 1995)
McNamara, Edward John	CTM	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (15 October 1993)
Miller, Grover Cleveland	Y1c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (29 April 2005)
Monasterio, Michael Alfonso	EN2c	1945-1948	Plank Owner	Deceased (January 2010)
Moore, Glenn Edward	EM1c	1945-1949	Plank Owner	Deceased (5 January 1997)
Mulhall, Robert W.	QM2c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	<b>Still Alive</b>
Murray, Jack Clinton	S1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (January 1976)
Oakley, Otho Lee	TM3c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	<b>Still Alive</b>
Olinder, Everett J.	LTJG(XO)	1945-1948	Plank Owner	Deceased (4 July 1998)
Oliver, Vernon Loraine	EN1	1945-1949	Plank Owner	Deceased (Date Unknown)
Onorato, Richard James	EM2c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (16 October 2010)
Porth, Vernon Robert	TM1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (September 1996)
Purificato, Anthony Edward	TM3c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (19 July 1991)
Quick, Robert Alfred	EM2c	1945-1950	Plank Owner	Deceased (December 1987)
Racine, Gene Alfred	RT2c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (8 February 2009)
Rankin, James David	StM2c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (14 December 2003)
Reid, Wilber James	StM2c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (13 April 1998)
Reitz, Harold Snyder	GM3	1945-1947	Plank Owner	Deceased (16 July 2001)
Rodearmel, Daniel Charles	MoMM1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (5 July 1997)
Rogoza, Anthony Thomas Jr.	SC2c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (17 August 1991)
Saunders, Richard Edward	FCS2	1945-1948	Plank Owner	Deceased (9 September 2009)
Schumock, Harold John	TM2c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	<b>Still Alive</b>
Smoczynski, Mieczyslaw E. Jr.	S1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (February 1980)
Stalter, Harry Francis	S1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (22 January 1990)
Tassell, Frederick C. Jr.	MoMM3c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	<b>Still Alive</b>
Taylor, Hubert Lee	S1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (1 November 1988)
Thompson, Lester Anthony	TM2c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (13 December 2003)
Thrash, Terreh Otis	F1c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (13 November 1991)
Tjaden, Beryl Stanley	MoMM2c	1945-1945	Plank Owner	Deceased (12 September 1982)
Wilson, Walter Pye	CCK	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (22 October 1978)
Wrynski, Leonard Charles	QM3c	1945-1946	Plank Owner	Deceased (8 July 1989)