



Shipmates



A river gunboat's crew was remarkably diverse -- boys and men, dark-skinned and light, from Ireland, Illinois, Russia, and elsewhere. Once strangers, these enlisted men served together for almost a year aboard the *USS CAIRO*.

Name of Sailor			Enlistment Information				Personal Data				Personal Characteristics			
LAST	FIRST	M.I.	DATE	WHERE	TERM	RATING	BORN	CITIZEN	AGE	OCCUPATION	EYES	HAIR	SKIN	HEIGHT
Altenbrand	Lewis		03/17/1862	New York	3	Seaman	New York	N.Y.	24	None	Hazel	Brown	Fair	5' 9 1/4"
Anderson	Curt		01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Norway	Unknown	26	Sailor	Black	Sandy	Fair	5' 4 1/2"
Anderson	Peter		01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Norway	Sel.	24	Farmer	Blue	Red	Fair	5' 7"
Antone	George		08/23/1861	New Bedford	3	Seaman	Cape Verd Islands	Unknown	29	Sailor	Black	Black	Black	5' 9"
Barh	Joseph		02/14/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Fireman	Germany	Unknown	38	Sailor	Blue	Brown	Light	5' 9"
Bartlett	Byron	E.	03/11/1862	New York	3	Seaman	Franklin Co., MA	MA	30	Carpenter	Blue	Brown	Light	5' 8"
Bassett	Ward		04/03/1862	New Bedford	3	Seaman	New York	CT	27	Blacksmith	Hazel	Brown	Light	5' 9"
Bennett	William	H.	02/13/1862	Chicago	1	Seaman	Boston	MA	25	Machinist	Grey	Black	Dark	5' 8 1/2"
Benson	John	L.	01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Norway	Unknown	29	Farmer	Brown	Brown	Fair	5' 9 1/2"
Borse	George		02/14/1862	St. Louis		Seaman	France	MO	37	Laborer	Hazel	Auburn	Dark	5' 9"
Boylan	Patrick		02/04/1862	Philadelphia	3	Seaman	Ireland	Unknown	21	None	Hazel	Brown	Fair	5' 4 1/2"
Bradley	E.	R.	02/04/1862	Chicago	1	Seaman	Chicago	IL	22	School Teacher	Black	Black	Dark	5' 6 1/2"
Brady	Martin		10/22/1861	Chicago	1	Seaman	Erie Co., OH	OH	27	Sailor	Blue	Light	Light	5' 7"
Broose	Thomas		07/26/1862	New York	1	Seaman	Sardinia	Unknown	25	None	Dark	Black	Dark	5' 4 3/4"
Brown	Thomas(1)		06/22/1861	Baltimore	1	Seaman	Scotland	Unknown	29	None	Dark	Brown	Light	5' 7"
Brown	Thomas(2)		02/20/1862	New York	3	Seaman	Scotland	N.Y.	25	None	Blue	Brown	Light	5' 8"
Brown	Thomas(3)		03/14/1861	New York	3	Seaman	Maehenda Bay, CA	CA	24	None	Dark	Black	Yellow	5' 11"
Brown	H.	R.	03/24/1861	Boston	3	Seaman	Wesley, CT	CT	29	Sailor	Blue	Dark	Light	5' 5 1/2"
Brown	Charles		04/02/1862	Boston	3	Seaman	Denmark	unknown	24	None	Blue	Brown	Fair	5' 6 1/2"
Bruhl	August		01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Germany	Unknown	19	Farmer	Blue	Brown	Fair	5' 9 1/2"
Bugby	Richard		08/15/1861	Chicago	2	Seaman	Ireland	Unknown	33	Sailor	Blue	Sandy	Light	5' 5"
Burke	William	F.	04/02/1862	New York	3	Seaman	New York	NY	26	Blacksmith	Grey	Brown	Dark	5' 9 1/4"
Burkholder	J.	D.	02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Cumberland, PA	IL	28	Painter	Grey	Brown	Light	5' 6 1/2"
Buster	William		02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Fireman	New York	N.Y.	38	Laborer	Blue	Brown	Light	5' 9"
Callihan	James	D.	02/04/1861	St. Louis	1	Fireman	VA	IL	27	None	Grey	Light	Light	5' 5 1/2"
Campbell	James		07/21/1861	Boston	3	Seaman	Scotia	Unknown	23	None	Dark	Brown	Light	5' 0 3/4"
Chadwick	William		07/18/1862	New York	3	Seaman	New York	NY	35	None	Hazel	Brown	Fair	5' 4 1/2"
Chandler	Samuel	W.	02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Pekin, IL	IL	20	Farmer	Hazel	Black	Light	5' 5"
Chritie	J.	I.	11/11/1861	Pittsburg	1	Fireman	PA	PA	24	Glassblower	Dark	Brown	Dark	5' 6"
Clancey	William		03/14/1862	New York	3	Seaman	Hempstead, NY	NY	24	None	Blue	Brown	Light	5' 5 1/2"
Cobeson	John	J.	01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	St. Lawrence, NY	NY	21	Sailor	Hazel	Sandy	Fair	5' 7 1/2"
Coffee	Michael		12/14/1861	Erie	2	Fireman	Ireland	OH	35	Stone Cutter	Grey	Light	Light	5' 7"
Coffin	B.	A.	08/05/1861	New Bedford	3	Seaman	Nantucket, MA	MA	26	None	Hazel	Black	Dark	5' 9 3/4"
Cohen	Lewis		03/11/1862	New York	3	Seaman	England	Unknown	21	None	Hazel	Black	Light	5' 8"
Collins	Frank		08/01/1861	Philadelphia	3	Seaman	PA	PA	21	None	Blue	Light	Light	5' 6"
Corneron	Thomas	W.	07/28/1862	New York	1	Seaman	Washington, ME	ME	27	None	Grey	Brown	Light	5' 5 1/4"
Costello	John		01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Ireland	Unknown	20	Laborer	Grey	Red	Fair	5' 7"
Costlow	Martin		01/08/1862	St. Louis	1	Fireman	Ireland	Unknown	21	None	Blue	Light	Light	5' 7"
Crawford	James		01/25/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Fireman	Baltimore	MD	47	Sailor	Grey	Light	Light	5' 8"
Crooker	William	E.	02/13/1862	Chicago	1	Seaman	New York	NY	23	Tinsmith	Grey	Brown	Light	5' 5 1/2"
Cunningham	T.	H.	02/04/1862	Peoria, IL	1	Seaman	Indianapolis	IL	23	Stagedriver	Blue	Brown	Dark	5' 9"
Cunningham	Daniel		06/18/1861	New York	3	Seaman	New York	Unknown	23	Carpenter	Blue	Brown	Dark	5' 6"
Daily	William		02/07/1862	Boston	3	Ship Cook	France	Unknown	27	None	Hazel	Black	Dark	5' 4"
Dart	Charles		07/30/1862	New York	1	Seaman	Canada	NY	23	None	Dark	Dark	Light	5' 7 1/2"
Davidson	George		02/10/1862	Philadelphia	3	Seaman	Philadelphia	PA	21	None	Blue	Brown	Fair	5' 9"

Day	Samuel	W.	02/14/1862	Chicago	1	Seaman	New York	NY	27	Laborer	Brown	Brown	Fair	5' 7"
Delany	William		02/14/1862	St. Louis	1	Coal Heaver	Ireland	IL	29	Laborer	Hazel	Black	Fair	5' 8"
Delmert	Lewis		02/07/1862	New York	5	Petty Officer	France	NY	28	None	Black	Black	Dark	5' 6"
DeSantos	Paulius		07/31/1861	New Bedford	3	Seaman	Lisbon	Unknown	27	Sailor	Black	Black	Dark	5' 5"
DeSilva	A.		08/05/1861	New York	3	Seaman	Western Isles	Unknown	31	None	Grey	Grey	Dark	6' 0"
Dix	Henry		07/25/1862	New York	1	Seaman	Fremont, ME	ME	23	None	Black	Black	Light	5' 7"
Driscott	Thomas		05/08/1861	New York	3	Seaman	England	NY	22	None	Grey	Brown	Light	5' 8 1/2"
Dunn	Michael		10/30/1861	Chicago	1	Seaman	Ireland	NY	22	None	Dark	Black	Dark	5' 8"
Elliott	William	H.	03/29/1862	New Bedford	3	Seaman	Springfield, MA	IN	39	None	Hazel	Dark	Dark	5' 5 1/2"
Francis	William		12/31/1861	New York	3	Seaman	Buffalo, NY	NY	21	None	Grey	Brown	Light	5' 5"
Fratos	Joseph		07/23/1861	Boston	2	Seaman	Western Isles	Unknown	23	Sailor	Black	Black	Dark	5' 5"
Freeman	E.	H.	08/01/1861	New Bedford	2	Seaman	Norwich, CT	CT	23	Sailor	Black	Black	Black	5' 8 3/4"
Fullard	Samuel		10/24/1861	Chicago	1	Seaman	Canada	Unknown	29	Sailor	Grey	Dark	Dark	5' 5"
Gain	Patrick		03/04/1862	Boston	3	Landsman	Ireland	Unknown	18	None	Hazel	Brown	Fair	5' 5 1/2"
Gerten	John	W.	02/14/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Surgeon's Steward	IN	IL	20	Butcher	Blue	Brown	Florid	5' 9"
Gessie	C.	A.	01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Vermillion Co., IN	IN	26	Farrier	Blue	Brown	Fair	6' 1"
Gilbert	Isaac		07/28/1862	New York	1	Seaman	Philadelphia	Unknown	28	Sail Maker	Hazel	Brown	Fair	5' 3"
Greenbank	William		06/14/1861	New York	3	Seaman	Browndale, NY	NY	21	None	Blue	Sandy	Fair	5' 3"
Gregory	Jacob		01/29/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Fireman	Shenandoah Co, VA	IL	40	Cooper	Blue	Light	Fair	5' 9"
Hale	Charles	H.	03/25/1862	New York	3	Seaman	Russia	Unknown	25	None	Grey	Brown	Dark	5' 4 3/4"
Harrington	Jer.		08/01/1861	New Bedford	3	Seaman	Ireland	Unknown	24	Sailor	Blue	Light	Fair	5' 5"
Harris	George	W.	05/19/1862	Philadelphia	2	Seaman	Sea Shore, NJ	PA	32	Rolling Miller	Dark	Brown	Light	5' 9"
Harris	James		02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	England	Unknown	22	Farmer	Hazel	Brown	Light	5' 11 1/2"
Haskins	T.	W.	02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	IL	IL	26	Laborer	Blue	Brown	Light	5' 4 1/2"
Hastings	L.	W.	04/06/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Fireman	Franklin Co., MA	MA	27	Farmer	Hazel	Black	Dark	5' 8 1/4"
Herring	John		01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Germany	Unknown	38	Brewer	Brown	Brown	Dark	5' 8"
Hill	Peter	O.	01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Norway	IL	26	None	Blue	Dark	Fair	5' 11"
Hilsea	Patrick		03/18/1862	New York	3	Seaman	Nova Scotia	Unknown	25	None	Hazel	Black	Light	5' 10"
Hook	A.	H.	02/20/1862	Portsmouth	3	Landsman	Portsmouth, NH	NH	18	None	Blue	Brown	Light	5' 0"
Howe	Samuel		08/14/1861	Boston	3	Seaman	Marine	ME	30	None	Grey	Brown	Dark	6' 0"
Hurburt	D.	A.	02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	New York	NY	20	Painter	Grey	Brown	Light	5' 10"
Jackson	John	V.	06/16/1862	New York	3	Ship Corporal	New York	NY	23	Plumer	Blue	Brown	Dark	5' 6 1/4"
Johnson	Robert		08/01/1861	Boston	2	Steward	England	Unknown	24	Whip Maker	Blue	Light	Light	5' 7"
Jones	George		08/10/1861	Portsmouth	3	Seaman	England	Unknown	22	None	Grey	Dark	Light	5' 7"
Keller	Charles		02/02/1862	Philadelphia	3	Seaman	Philadelphia	PA	21	None	Blue	Sandy	Fair	5' 8"
Kennedy	Thomas		08/20/1861	Boston	3	Qr. Master	New York	NY	64	Sailor	Dark	Grey	Dark	5' 6"
Kerr	James	R.	02/10/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Chester Co., PA	MO	24	Drugest	Blue	Light	Fair	5' 8"
Ketchley	Joseph		10/23/1861	Cleveland	5	Gunner Mate	OH	OH	39	None	Grey	Grey	Dark	5' 7 1/2"
Klizer	D.	W.	05/20/1861	New York	3	Seaman	Newberry, MA	MA	25	None	Grey	Brown	Dark	5' 6 1/2"
Knapp	D.	D.	02/19/1862	New York	3	Qr. Master	Saratoga, NY	NY	26	Blacksmith	Blue	Brown	Sandy	5' 8 1/2"
Kruse	Christen		04/02/1862	Boston	3	Qr. Master	Denmark	Unknown	31	None	Grey	Dark	Light	5' 8"
Lang	John		07/21/1861	Boston	2	Master of Arms	Ireland	Unknown	29	Sailor	Grey	Brown	Dark	5' 4 1/2"
Larson	Francis		02/27/1862	New York	3	Seaman	Norway	NY	24	None	Grey	Light	Light	5' 7"
Lavery	John		10/28/1861	Chicago	5	Seaman	Ireland	Unknown	24	Sailor	Blue	Light	Fair	5' 0 1/2"
Lee	James	A.	02/14/1862	St. Louis	1	Seaman	Erie Co., PA	IL	19	Farmer	Blue	Auburn	Light	5' 8 1/2"
Long	Martin		01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Blair Co., PA	IL	29	Farmer	Grey	Dark	Fair	5' 10"
Loyd	John	A.	02/04/1862	Chicago	1	Seaman	Chicago	IL	21	Painter	Blue	Light	Fair	5' 5"
Luckey	Joseph		06/17/1861	Buffalo, NY	3	Seaman	Ireland	Unknown	30	None	Blue	Light	Light	5' 9"
Lund	Owen		01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Norway	Unknown	26	Sailor	Blue	Dark	Dark	5' 5"
Lusk	Andrew	L.	01/08/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Fireman	Dayton, OH	OH	25	None	Dark	Brown	Dark	5' 6"
Lymont	Richard		02/18/1862	New York	3	Boatswain Mate	New York	NY	27	None	Blue	Brown	Dark	5' 8"
Maitland	John		02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Ireland	Unknown	32	Farmer	Blue	Black	Light	5' 6"
Maurice	H.	P.	02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Lucas Co., OH	OH	18	Farmer	Blue	Brown	Dark	5' 7"
Maurice	James		12/13/1861	New York	3	Seaman	England	Unknown	21	None	Hazel	Dark	Light	5' 3 3/4"
McCafferty	John		04/04/1862	Boston	3	Landsman	Boston	MA	19	None	Blue	Brown	Fair	5' 2 3/4"
McClane	John		02/04/1862	Chicago	1	Yeoman	Chester Co., PA	IL	32	None	Grey	Brown	Fair	6' 0"
McCoy	James		02/01/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Fireman	Ireland	IL	24	None	Light	Dark	Light	5' 10 1/2"
McGuire	Francis		10/25/1861	Milwaukee	5	Coxswain	Canada	Unknown	20	Sailor	Grey	Light	Light	5' 9"
McMullin	John		04/04/1862	Boston	3	O. Seaman	Scotland	Unknown	19	None	Blue	Sandy	Fair	5' 9"
Melcher	Henry		10/02/1861	St. Louis	5	Seaman	Philadelphia	PA	44	H. Maker	Black	Dark	Dark	5' 0"
Minor	Frederick		08/09/1861	Philadelphia	3	Seaman	New York	NY	23	None	Blue	Light	Fair	5' 8"
Mitchell	J.	W.	03/11/1862	Boston	3	Seaman	St. John, New B	Unknown	29	None	Black	Black	Black	5' 6"
Moore	H.	C.	12/13/1861	Cairo, IL	1	Ship Steward	NC	NC	25	None	Blue	Light	Light	5' 8"
Morgan	George		01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Canada	Unknown	26	Boatsman	Hazel	Black	Dark	5' 11"
Muckey	James		07/23/1862	New York	3	Seaman	New York	NY	27	None	Hazel	Brown	Dark	5' 4 1/4"
Mulvaney	Thomas		10/02/1861	Buffalo, NY	1	Coal Heaver	Lewis Co., NY	NY	24	Farmer	Blue	Light	Fair	5' 10"
Murray	J.	P.	02/17/1862	Philadelphia	3	Seaman	Philadelphia	PA	28	None	Blue	Brown	Florid	5' 11 1/4"
Nelson	Charles		03/25/1862	Boston	3	Seaman	Sweden	MD	28	None	Blue	Sandy	Sandy	5' 8 1/4"
Nelson	Orloff		04/08/1862	Boston	3	Seaman	Sweden	Unknown	25	None	Grey	Dark	Ruddy	5' 8"
Nevins	Edward		02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	New York	NY	24	Farmer	Blue	Dark	Dark	5' 6"
O'Donnell	Mitchell		07/19/1861	New Bedford	3	Seaman	Ireland	Unknown	23	None	Grey	Dark	Light	5' 8 1/2"
Owens	Herbert		03/25/1862	New York	3	Seaman	Newburyport, MA	MA	24	None	Blue	Red	Light	5' 4"

Parks	Noah		09/16/1861	Baltimore	2	Cap of All Gun	England	Unknown	25	Sailor	Grey	Light	Light	5' 9"
Parks	J.	B.	01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	New York	NY	18	None	Hazel	Brown	Fair	5' 9"
Peterson	James		03/14/1862	New York	3	Seaman	New York	NY	22	None	Hazel	Brown	Florida	5' 7"
Plump	Fred		03/14/1862	New York	3	Seaman	Germany	NY	25	None	Brown	Brown	Light	5' 5 1/2"
Pollock	Michael		02/13/1862	Chicago	1	Seaman	Chicago	IL	18	Sailor	Black	Black	Dark	5' 0"
Powers	Alonso		02/14/1862	St. Louis	1	Coal Heaver	Boone Co., IL	IL	22	Farmer	Blue	Brown	Light	5' 8 1/2"
Querflesht	Peter		07/22/1861	Boston	2	Cap of All Gun	Unknown	Unknown	25	Sailor	Grey	Light	Light	5' 8"
Reynolds	M.	S.	06/13/1861	New York	3	Cap of Hold.	England	MA	25	Shoemaker	Blue	Dark	Florida	5' 7"
Reynolds	M.	S.	01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Coal Heaver	Winnebago, IL	IL	35	Farmer	Blue	Sandy	Florida	5' 10"
Richardson	John		02/02/1862	New York	3	Officer's Cook	England	Unknown	32	None	Hazel	Brown	Light	5' 3 1/2"
Riley	James		02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Ireland	Unknown	27	Miner	Blue	Black	Light	5' 5"
Robinson	William		02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Carlisle, PA	PA	24	Boatsman	Black	Black	Black	5' 6"
Rogers	Joseph		07/08/1862	New York	3	Jr. Gunner	Astoria, NY	NY	41	None	Hazel	Black	Dark	5' 1 1/2"
Roycroft	J.	A.	09/09/1862	Baltimore	3	Seaman	Baltimore, MD	MD	22	Sailor	Grey	Dark	Dark	5' 7 1/2"
Rundall	J.	M.	02/14/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Fireman	IL	IL	21	Farmer	Blue	Sandy	Florida	5' 7"
Scott	George		10/31/1861	Buffalo, NY	1	Seaman	Canada	Unknown	21	None	Blue	Light	Light	5' 7"
Sellen	Francis		07/26/1862	New York	3	Seaman	New York	NY	30	None	Blue	Brown	Dark	5' 5"
Shiel	John		04/04/1862	Boston	3	Seaman	Germany	Unknown	24	None	Grey	Dark	Light	5' 7 1/4"
Smith	Charles		04/15/1861	New York	3	Boatswain Mate	Germany	Unknown	25	Sailor	Grey	Light	Light	5' 8 1/2"
Smith	William (1)		07/30/1861	Cairo, IL	2	Seaman	Unknown	IL	29	None	Dark	Dark	Light	5' 8"
Smith	Peter		02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Unknown	IL	21	Labourer	Blue	Black	Light	5' 10 1/2"
Smith	Fred		03/19/1862	New York	3	Seaman	Germantown, PA	NY	23	Baker	Blue	Brown	Light	5' 6"
Smith	William (2)		07/28/1862	New York	1	Seaman	NY	NY	28	None	Blue	Brown	Florida	5' 4 1/2"
Stanton	Alfred		02/20/1862	New York	3	Seaman	England	Unknown	25	None	Blue	Flax	Fair	5' 4 1/2"
Stewart	James		07/04/1861	Cairo, IL	2	Seaman	Unknown	IL	27	None	Black	Light	Light	5' 8"
Sumner	Timothy		01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Fulton, IL	IL	17	Farmer	Grey	Brown	Fair	5' 6"
Teabean	Antone		02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Charles Co., MO	MO	30	Farmer	Hazel	Dark	Dark	5' 5"
Thompson	George		05/25/1860	New York	3	Cap of Forecastle	England	Unknown	29	None	Grey	Light	Light	5' 6"
Thompson	Edward		06/27/1861	New York	3	Jr. Gunner	Denmark	Unknown	39	None	Blue	Brown	Fair	5' 9"
Tiency	Mathew		07/26/1862	New York	3	Cooper	Jamaica, NY	NY	34	None	Grey	Grey	Light	5' 4"
Walcott	H.	N.	07/30/1861	New Bedford	3	Armorer	S. Car.	NY	23	Blacksmith	Hazel	Dark	Light	6' 0"
Webster	Albert		10/17/1861	Cairo, IL	2	Seaman	NH	NH	31	None	Blue	Light	Light	5' 3 1/2"
Weeks	D.	H.	08/09/1861	Boston	2	Steward	Hollaway, ME	ME	23	Mason	Blue	Black	Dark	5' 7 1/2"
Wilkish	August		01/31/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Germany	Unknown	27	Farmer	Blue	Dark	Light	5' 6"
Williams	John		05/30/1861	Baltimore	3	Seaman	Baltimore, MD	MD	36	None	Hazel	Dark	Fair	5' 8 3/4"
Winters	Thomas		07/19/1861	New York	3	Seaman	New York	NY	22	None	Blue	Light	Light	5' 5"
Wolforth	D.		03/24/1862	Cairo, IL	3	Seaman	Breman	Unknown	24	None	Grey	Dark	Florida	5' 5"
Wooten	Robert		02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	Indianapolis, IN	IL	20	Stone Cutter	Grey	Light	Light	5' 11 1/2"
Worden	C.	S.	02/14/1862	St. Louis	1	Carpentry Mate	Hartford, CT	IL	26	Carpenter	Hazel	Red	Fair	5' 9"
Yates	William		02/04/1862	Cairo, IL	1	Seaman	England	Unknown	35	Machinest	Blue	Brown	Sandy	5' 4 3/4"
Yost	George	R.	01/25/1862	Cairo, IL	1	1st Class Boy	Illinois	IL	15	None	Blue	Sandy	Light	5' 0"

Bits and Pieces from the Past



Thousands of personal items were abandoned to the river as the gunboat went swiftly to the bottom of the muddy Yazoo.

When divers first entered the Civil War gunboat, *U.S.S. CAIRO*, they found that she was in *time capsule form*. Her guns were still loaded and ready for firing, and the sailors' personal possessions were left just as they had been left on the fateful day of December 12, 1862, when she was sunk by a torpedo that had been planted

in the Yazoo River by the Confederates.

CAIRO remained beneath the muddy waters of the Yazoo River for 102 years before she was finally raised and eventually restored. The following items were recovered from this historic vessel

As there was very little time for saving personal belongings, the crew had to abandon things such as these U.S. brass belt buckles and this silk "Cairo" hat band.



The men's shaving gear included razors, shaving cups and brush. Other personal accessories found included toothbrush handles, mirrors and hard rubber combs.

Artifacts Tell Stories of Life Aboard



A large quantity of tobacco was recovered from CAIRO. Even after more than 100 years in the Yazoo River mud, the tobacco has retained its tobacco scent.



Several ambrotypes (early type of photograph) were found on the Cairo. One of the ambrotypes is of a woman and young girl, perhaps the wife and daughter of one of Cairo's crew.



Soap dishes (upper center) and different glass ink wells used by the sailors.

The tableware of the enlisted men was tin. Each man took care of his own utensils, and he scratched his name, initials, or mark on each piece for easy identification. Using the crew roster, historians have been able to match some of the items to specific members of the crew.



A variety of mess bottles were found, including a Lea and Perrin's Worcestershire Sauce bottle, and condiment bottles marked US Navy on one side and PEPPER and MUSTARD on the other. The glassware design was unique and had been long forgotten before they were discovered on the Cairo. Amazingly, one bottle of pepper sauce proved to be edible after 100 years in the Yazoo mud!

The officer's mess consisted of fine cutlery and china, which was elegant compared to those of the enlisted men. They also had bottles of whiskey, rum, champagne, wine and soft drinks as well as their own cook.



Some of the medicine bottles recovered from the Cairo still contained their original liquids and compounds.



Most government-issue shoes of the Civil War period had a common last, but Cairo's leather shoes were lefts and rights. One of the boat's officers had bunions, as was evidenced by the heavy work boots which had been cut and patched (far left).