

U.S.S. Marblehead (CL-12)



Stanley Wilson Sufficool
Val Thompson

Marblehead Biography Stanley Wilson Sufficool

Stanley Wilson “Stan” Sufficool was born 17 MAY 1917 in Missoula, Montana, the seat of Missoula County located along the Clark Fork River near its confluences with the Bitterroot and Blackfoot Rivers in west-central Montana near the Idaho border. He was son of Ohio-born Florence Vera Abbey (1886–1965) and Nebraska-born¹ Leroy Lafayette “Roy” Sufficool (1882–1953), who over the decades between 1910 and 1940 would work as a farmer in Iowa, a rancher in Montana, and a railroad conductor and shipping clerk in California. Stan had two older brothers - John Edward (1913–2009) and Richard Leslie (1915–1994). At times, Stan was humorously referred to by other family members as “Woodrow”, a reference to his middle name.



Stan's mom, Florence
1940
Val Thompson



L-to-R: John, Richard, and Stan,
probably in Montana in 1919
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Around 1919-20, much of the Sufficool clan had moved to Long Beach, CA (see photo at right). Stan’s formal schooling began there. By 1930, he was vice president of the Printer’s Guild at Benjamin Franklin High School in Los Angeles, but as the Great Depression tightened its grip, “the eldest kids quit high school, worked at the canneries, and eventually the families moved to Appanoose county, Iowa around time Stanley would have graduated.”²



R-to-L: John, Richard, and Stan,
in a Long Beach park with their first
cousins, Glen Jr. and Robert, in sailor's
caps, the sons of Stan's uncle, Glen.
Val Thompson

After the move back to Iowa, Stan’s oldest brother, John became a successful independent trucker supplying coal to customers in Des Moines. On 15 APR 1939, John married Vera Florence Kaster. Vera was born at home in Moravia, in south-central Iowa just north of the border with Missouri. She was a 1931 graduate of Moravia High School. John and Vera then established their residence near her parents in Moravia. John and Stan’s parents’ farm was in Taylor, IA, just four miles away. The photo of John and Stan (right), with John’s truck in the background, may have been taken around the time of John and Vera’s wedding, but in any case, before Stan joined in the Navy.



John, left, with Stan in Iowa,
Val Thompson

Stan enlisted in the Navy on 14 NOV 1939 in Los Angeles, CA and was assigned S#3821276. The 1940 Census, enumerated on 8 APR, listed 22-year-old Stanley as a S2c in the Navy at the Naval Training Station in San Diego. Although he and his first wife, Mickey Elena Main (1920-2006) of Moravia, Iowa, who he married in 1938, had divorced by that time, they would remain close for the rest of his life.

On 30 JUN 1940, Stan was received from NTS, San Diego via Roosevelt Base, Terminal Island by the Naval Air Station, San Pedro, CA, for further transfer to his first ship *USS Honolulu (CL-48)*, a Brooklyn-class light cruiser commissioned in 1938. *Honolulu* was just two years old when he joined her on 1 JUL

¹ Roy was not really a Nebraskan. He was born there, but his dad John Arthur moved him back to Hazelton, Iowa by age 2. Roy lived in Hazelton until he was 28. The town has a Sufficool street and at this writing, 27 Sufficools spanning more than five generations are buried in its Fontana Cemetery.

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1940 as an EM3c and she continued to operate out of Long Beach, CA and following an overhaul in the Naval Shipyard there, she was reassigned to Pearl Harbor, TH in NOV 1940.



Stan's first ship -USS Honolulu (CL-48)
Ancestry.com

Stan transferred off *Honolulu*³ at Pearl Harbor on 17 APR 1941 and boarded *USS Henderson (AP-1)* there on 20 APR 1941. *Henderson* was one of two veteran transports that kept the Asiatic Fleet via the supplied with sailors; *USS Chaumont (AP-6)* was the other. On 26 MAY 1941, Stan first boarded *USS Marblehead (CL-12)* while she was in Manila, Philippines.

Stan would remain aboard *Marby*, as the light cruiser was affectionately referred to by her crew, for two periods totaling 26 months. The first of these periods included the bombing of the ship on 4 FEB 1942 and *Marby's* subsequent 20,589-mile, 90-day escape to New York,

events more fully described in [Marby's own biography](#) and in the 1944 non-fiction book [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey](#). Because the Japanese had reported the ship sunk on several occasions, throughout that perilous voyage, Stan's parents and other loved ones thought he was dead or in enemy captivity until he called them with the good news the day after the ship made New York on 4 MAY 1942.



Stan with his mother
Val Thompson & R.L. Sufficool Jr.

Stan remained with the *Marblehead* during her 6-month overhaul in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, NY, and was aboard her when she redeployed on 15 OCT 1942 to rejoin the war effort operating from Recife, Brazil hunting Nazi U-boats and blockade runners and occasionally rescuing downed Allied airmen and enemy survivors off sunken vessels.

On 8 FEB 1943, Stan transferred from *Marby* to the U.S. Navy Operating Base in Bahia, Brazil for further transfer to the Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York to attend Gyro Compass School. He would not return to the ship until 10 JUN 1945 when he rejoined *Marby* as an EM2c for temporary duty testing new gyrocompass equipment at sea. He transferred back to the Naval Receiving Ship in Brooklyn on 17 Aug 1945, two days after VJ day. On 27 NOV 1945 in Brooklyn Stanley Wilson S#3821276 EM2c began his final transfer, this time to Pier 92 in NYC for further transfer to a Navy Separation Center for discharge.

Stan married several times, but it was his third wife, Julia Irene Stuart (1920-2006), who bore him sons Norman S (1949-) and Lloyd T "Pete" (1951-). Julia was born on 24 NOV 1920 in Rochester, Strafford, New Hampshire to Annie Mildred May (1899-1991) and Erving Nathaniel Stuart (1883-1949), a greenhouse operator. Her siblings were: Harry Spencer (1918-2012), Althea May (1919-2004), Earlon Cecil (1922-1991), Ronald L (1924-?), Thelma I (1926-2013) and Flora Arlene (1932-2000).

Richard Leslie was also a Navy veteran



Richard Leslie Sufficool
Ancestry.com

Stan's brother, Richard Leslie (1915-1994) was born in Missoula, MT. He joined the Navy on 4 May 1938. Though Richard did not serve aboard the *USS Marblehead*, he saw plenty of action during WWII, serving mostly on destroyers. He joined *USS Henley (DD 39)* on 27 Dec 1938 and stayed with her almost five years. On 3 OCT 1943, a Japanese torpedo struck *Henley's* #1 fireroom off Finschafen (in today's Papua New Guinea), destroying her boilers, breaking her keel, and displacing her bow. She sank stern first. Eighteen officers and 225 enlisted men were rescued, Richard was among them. An officer and 14 enlisted men were lost. Richard and his shipmates ended up on destroyer tender *USS Dobbin (AD 3)* which transferred them on 8 OCT 1943 to destroyer *USS Bagley (DD 386)* at Milne Bay for

³ *Honolulu* would sustain minor damage in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 DEC 1941 but would survive WWII with eight battle stars despite having her bow blown off by a torpedo in the Solomon Island in 1943.



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delivery to Brisbane, Australia. He was then transferred to San Francisco, CA, and on 11 FEB 1944, as a Chief Gunners Mate (CGM), he joined *USS Stockham (DD 683)* there on the day of her commissioning.

On 24 MAY 1944, in Hawaii, Richard joined *USS Craven (DD 382)* and participated in the 5th Fleet's invasion of the Marianas Islands (Saipan, Rota and Guam). Thereafter, she covered U.S. carriers with protective antiaircraft fire in the Battle of the Philippine Sea on 19-20 JUN and continued in that role in strikes on the Bonins, Guam, Yap, and the Palaus Islands from JUL-SEP 1944. After an overhaul in Pearl Harbor, *Craven* sailed to New York, arriving 26 JAN 1945 to undertake antisubmarine patrols off the east coast. During this period, Richard married Frances Margaret. Weiss (1912-2007) on 16 Mar 1945 in Brooklyn. They would have a son, Richard Leslie Jr. and a daughter, Barbara. On 2 MAY *Craven* escorted a convoy to Southampton, England and returned to New York on 29 MAY. She left Portland, ME on 22 JUN for Tangier, Morocco and Oran, Algeria. On 25 AUG Richard left *Craven* at Palermo, Sicily, Italy for forwarding to the nearest U.S. port and honorable discharge on 7 OCT 1945 with the rank of CGM(PA).

According to his obituary, apparently written by his sons Norman and Lloyd, Stan pursued a variety of occupations following WWII:

“He was a Dory fisherman at McFadden Wharf, a draftsman at South Coast Marine, a commercial tuna fisherman, groundskeeper at the Newporter Inn and a craftsman/painter at Lido Shipyard, all in Newport Beach, CA. Stanley was artfully creative throughout his life, having produced beautiful works in many disciplines. He was an excellent craftsman and mechanic, spending much of his life imparting to his sons an appreciation for doing a job right by example and hands-on instruction. We will honor and remember him by continuing to creatively employ the skills he taught us and maintain his appreciation for a job well done.”

Stan died 10 APR 2008 in Orange County, CA. As a fisherman he surely would have appreciated the herculean struggle his sister-in-law, Vera Florence, must have endured in land the catch of a lifetime pictured with her in the photograph at the right.

Julia died on 3 APR 2006 in Coos Bay, Coos, Oregon. She had lived for many years in nearby Bandon, a small town southwest of Eugene on the Oregon coast at the mouth of the Coquille River.

Stanley Wilson Sufficool appears on page 246 of the 1944 book [Where Away – A Modern Odyssey](#).

Don't forget to read [Marby's own biography](#).



Vera Florence's sizable catch
Val Thompson

Biography by Steve Wade, son of Frank V. Wade, BM2c, USS Marblehead (CL-12), 1939-1945, with contributions from Stanley's grandniece, Val Thompson, a great research partner; his nephew, Richard Leslie Jr.; Newspapers.com; and other Internet records.

Corrections, additions and photos are welcomed by email to spwade@gmail.com.