

2 News Men Down At Sea

A seaplane with a Miami News reporter and photographer aboard was forced down by engine trouble near the coast of Cuba today.

The News staffers, Milt Sosin and photographer Charlie Trainor, were looking for Hugo Vihlen and the six foot sailboat in which he is sailing across the Atlantic.

The Chalk Flying Service plane, a Grumman Amphibian piloted by Dean Franklin, went down near Anguila Cay — about 141 miles south of Miami and 50 miles off the north coast of Cuba.

Franklin sent a radio message at 10:15 a.m. that he was having engine trouble and was making a forced landing. Another message from him at 11:30 a.m. said the plane was anchored and that those aboard were in no immediate danger.

The message was picked up here and aboard the 210-foot Coast Guard Cutter Active, which was at sea 60 miles from the spot where the plane went down.

The Active headed for the Chalk plane and a twin-engine Coast Guard Albatross, an amphibious plane, was dispatched from Miami.



MILT SOSIN

A Coast Guard spokesman here said the Albatross would not attempt a landing, but would keep the other plane in sight until the Active arrived. It was due at about 4:30 p.m.

The Coast Guard said a helicopter would fly from the Opa-locka base to the deck of the Active, refuel and go to the aid of the Chalk plane if an emergency arose.

Weather in the rescue area was reported to be much better than in Miami, where it was pouring. The Weather Bureau said winds in the Cay Sal Bank — where Anguila



CHARLES TRAINOR

Cay is located — were running around 12 knots, and seas were believed to be about three feet high.

The flight represented the second effort by Sosin to reach Vihlen, who is nearing the end of his transatlantic voyage in a sailboat the size of a bathtub.

Sosin and Dick Gardner, a Miami News photographer, set out last night in a yacht, but the skipper turned back 90 miles from Miami after battling heavy seas.

Sosin reached The Miami News office at 5 a.m., wrote this story and left for the plane trip.