



USS Whitehurst Logo by: Pat Stephens, Webmaster, DESA

Possibly Helpful Information for Families of Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange

This info is gleaned from the Internet, the Federal Benefits for Veterans booklet, correspondence with ships mates and DB, the widow of a Whitehurst veteran who died of Lung Cancer.

Excerpt from DB's e-mail circa April, 2009

...I received a letter from the VA on March 24, 2009, [stating] that the Federal case, Haas vs. Peak, had been settled in May, 2008, so they were once again processing claims. In a nutshell, the court ruled that the receipt of the Viet Nam Service Medal alone does not establish service in Viet Nam. The veteran must have been physically serving in Viet Nam...

The VA letter states: (1) Claims for exposure to Agent Orange now must show that the veteran served in the Republic of Viet Nam Era (January 9, 1962 and ending on May 7, 1975). Service in the Republic of Viet Nam includes service in the waters off shore and service in other locations if the conditions of service involved duty or visitation in the Republic of Viet Nam, or (2) the veteran's service other than in Viet Nam exposed the veteran to herbicides.

The letter also states that is the veteran was station aboard a ship, The veteran must have disembarked in Viet Nam.

Hello Max, (excerpted from DB's letter June 12, '09)

I [heard from] from the VA, May 22, when I received a letter stating they had made a decision on my claim for DIC. Service connection for Jim's death was granted. They saw that his death certificate showed that he died of non-small cell lung cancer. They stated in their letter, and I quote, "*Service connection for the cause of the veteran's death is granted since evidence shows that it was related to military service*". . . and, "*The veteran's lung cancer is a condition which the VA associates with Agent Orange exposure.*" I accomplished my goal of getting Jim's name on the Agent Orange List.

Max, thanks for helping me accomplish all of this. I couldn't have done it without all of the work you put into creating your website and your postings to others for information. I read the sea stories some of the crew wrote, and I enjoyed them very much. I was thrilled to get [Roger's Log](#) because the dates he kept helped me to clarify the route the Whitehurst sailed and when, even though I couldn't get the information to the VA before they made their ruling. (I think they had access to that information all along.)

I think of all the men on the Whitehurst who served on that tour of duty with Jim and wonder how they are doing now. Maybe my experience can help someone else.

Please let me know if and when you receive the Whitehurst logs*. I will be happy to share the cost, if any, with you. This has been quite a journey for me and I am very grateful for your help. Take care, DB

***note: Reference to Whitehurst Deck Logs for the time period March 1 through April 30 1962 which have been ordered from the National Archives. When they arrive, I will update this page with selected copies which will prove that Whitehurst was indeed serving in the geographic area of Agent Orange Exposure during the time frame established by the court for eligibility for damage claims. The Deck Logs will not necessarily prove that a specific veteran was serving on the ship at the time. The Veteran's discharge papers (form DD-214) will establish that. mc**

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents

To obtain this small book, write to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Public Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Specify: Pamplet # 80-70-01 P94663

Useful Phone numbers taken from the Benefits booklet

Education.....1-888-442-4551
Headstones and Markers.....1-800-697-6947
Health Care.....1-877-222-8387
Life Insurance.....1-800-669-8477
Special Health Issues.....1-800-749-8387
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD).....1-800-829-4833
VA Benefits.....1-800-827-1000

Links to Various VA Benefits

Burial and Memorial Benefitswww

Department of Defensewww.

Education Benefitsww

Federal Jobswww.us

Health Care Eligibilitywww.va.gov/t

Home Loan Guarantywww.hom

Life Insurancewww.ins

Recordswww.archives.gov/st-louis/mi

Returning Veteranswww.seamlesstr

Veterans Employment and Trainingww

Veterans Preferencewww.opm.gov/vete

Vocational Rehabilitationwww.vba.va.gov/bl

VA Benefit Payment Rateswww.vba.va.go

VA Facilitieswww.va.gov/directory/g

VA Formswww.v

VA Home Page

Rodger Clement's personal record of Arrivals and Departures during the 1961 Callup

1961 Oct 2, The ship was called to active duty

Oct 4 Set sail from Seattle for Long Beach Ca. where we had tender availability.

Oct 24 Steaming to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii arriving on Oct 31

1962 10 Feb. Departed Pearl Harbor

20 Feb.-21 Feb Guam (Marianas Island)

22 Feb Arrived Subic Bay (Philippine, Islands)

7 Mar. Arrived in Da Nang, Viet Nam for personnel transfer

17 Mar. We had a ships party at Da Nang Military base

23 Mar-30 Mar Hong Kong (British Crown Colony) (Rest & Relaxation)

13 Apr. Left Subic Bay for patrol in Viet Nam

19 Apr. Ise De Phu Quoc (Island off Viet Nam) to the village of An Thoi, Viet Nam (beach party)

27 Apr. Arrived Subic Bay

29 Apr. Underway –Yokuska, Japan

3 May Entered port. Yokuska, Japan

5 May Underway for Kobe, Japan

6 -9 May Kobe

10 May Underway –Yokuska , Japan

11- 27 May Yokuska Japan

28 May Underway for Pearl Harbor

5 June Arrived Pearl Harbor

10 July Underway for Seattle

17 July Arrived Seattle USNRTC Lake Union

2 Aug Released from Active duty

Page to be completed when National Archives send the logs for March & April of 1962. The National Archives Response, "The Logs are not available". mc

Posted 13 June 2009, mc

28 September 2010 Received the following photo from Tim Lake GMC USN Ret.

VA adds ships to Agent Orange exposure list

In June 2010 the VA added more ships to the already existing list for Navy and Coast Guard ships and vessels that are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange. If you served on any of these mentioned ships and you have had a claim denied, you should reapply citing the VA list as the source for your reapplication. The VA is working on a third list that will have more ships listed. If you have a claim and evidence the ship you served on was in Vietnamese waters and/or actually tied up to a dock there, make sure you include that with your claim.

Vessels that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways

All U.S. Coast Guard Cutters with hull designation WPB [patrol boat] and WHEC [high endurance cutters]

USS Mark (AKL-12) [light cargo ship]; USS Brule (AKL-28)

USS Patapsco (AOG-1) [gasoline tanker]; USS Elkhorn (AOG-7); USS Genesee (AOG-8); USS Kishwaukee (AOG-9); USS Tombigbee (AOG-11); USS Noxubee (AOG-56)

USS Okanogan (APA-210) [attack transport]; USS Montrose (APA-212); USS Bexar (APA-237)

USS Benewah (APB-35) [self-propelled barracks ship]; USS Colleton (APB-36); USS Mercer (APB-39); USS Nueces (APB-40)

Barracks Barge (APL-26) [sleeping quarters]; Barracks Barge (APL-30)

USS Tutuila (ARG-4) [repair ship]

USS Satyr (ARL-23) [repair ship]; USS Sphinx (ARL-24); USS Askari (ARL-30); USS Indra (ARL-37); USS Krishna (ARL-38)

USS Belle Grove (LSD-2) [landing ship dock]; USS Comstock (LSD-19); USS Tortuga (LSD-26)

USS Asheville (PG-84) [patrol gunboat]; USS Gallop (PG-85); USS Antelope (PG-86); USS Ready (PG-87); USS Crockett (PG-88); USS Marathon (PG-89); USS Canon (PG-90)

Floating Base Platform (YRBM-17) [repair, berthing, and messing barge]; Floating Base Platform (YRBM-18); Floating Base Platform (YRBM-20)

Winnemucca (YTB-785) [harbor tug]

Vessels that operated temporarily on Vietnam's inland waterways or docked to the shore:

USS Card (ACV-11) [escort carrier] mined, sunk, and salvaged in Saigon River Harbor during May 1964

USS Maury (AGS-16) [mapping survey ship] conducted surveys of Mekong Delta and other coastal areas and rivers beginning November 1965 through 1969

USS Henrico (APA-45) [amphibious attack transport] operated on Hue River during March '65 and conducted numerous troop landings through March '67

USS Montrose (APA-212) operated on Song Hue River during Dec. '65, operated on Long Tau River during March '67, and operated on Cua Viet River and at Dong Ha during May '67

USS Talladega (APA-208) operated on Saigon River during Oct. '67

USS Bolster (ARS-38) [salvage ship] crew operated on land

USS Canberra (CAG-2) [guided missile cruiser] operated on Saigon River from 31 Mar-1 Apr 66, on Cua Viet River on 15 Dec 66, and on Mekong Delta Ham Luong River on 15 Jan 67

USS Sproston (DD-577) [destroyer] operated on Mekong Delta and Ganh Rai Bay during Jan. '66

USS Picking (DD-685) operated on Saigon River on 16 Nov 65

USS Epperson (DD-719) docked to Da Nang Pier on 4 Oct 70

USS Southerland (DD-743) operated on Song Nga Bay and Saigon River during July '66

USS John W. Thomason (DD-760) operated on Nga Be River during 1969

USS Buck (DD-761) operated on Mekong River Delta and Saigon River during Oct. '66

USS Preston (DD-795) operated on Mekong River Delta, Ganh Rai Bay, and Saigon River during 28-29 Sep 65 and 27-29 Dec 66

USS Warrington (DD-843) operated on Mekong River Delta Rung Sat Special Zone, North of Vung Gahn Rai Bay during March '67

USS Dyeas (DD-880) operated on Saigon River and Rung Sat Special Zone from 19 June-1 July 66

USS Perkins (DD-877) operated on Saigon River during June '69

USS Orleck (DD-886) operated on Mekong River Delta during July '69

USS Joseph Strauss (DDG-16) [guided missile destroyer] operated on Mekong River Delta and Ganh Rai Bay during 7 Nov-7 Dec 68

USS Waddell (DDG-24) operated on Cua Viet River during March '67

USS Newell (DER-322) [radar destroyer escort] docked at port of Nha Trang during 22-24 Dec 65

USS Duluth (LPD-6) [amphibious transport dock] docked to pier at Da Nang during March and October '71

USS Cleveland (LPD-7) operated on Cua Viet River and at Dong Ha, as well as Hue River, from Nov. '67 through 1968 and Saigon River during Sept. '69

USS Dubuque (LPD-8) docked at Da Nang on 15 Mar 70

USS Boxer (LPH-4) [amphibious assault ship] docked to pier at Cam Rahn Bay on 9 Sep 65

USS Carter Hall (LSD-3) [landing ship dock] operated on Cua Viet River and at Dong Ha during Dec. '67