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*If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?*

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Steve P. Witter  
1824 Castlerock St  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

I Steve Witter, served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Division, Chemical Company. We were based out of Camp Howze, Korea from 1968-1969. The Chemical Company was responsible for the application of herbicides in the North, South, East and Western areas of KOREA. Including areas in and around the Libby Bridge and Spoon Bill Bridge which I believe was pontoon bridge. We also traveled in and or near the DMZ. We also treated areas along and or near to the Imjin River with herbicide agents we commonly traveled by means of these bridges one bridge was also know as the Freedom bridge. We also traveled from one camp to another. Upon our arrival at each camp we were required to document the locations we had completed spray missions. At this time we received instructions/orders as to other areas in need of attention. An escort from the camp would direct us to the location needing attention. High risk areas such as the DMZ required a Piper Cub/ Bird Dog plane to confirm the area was clear and safe in order that we could enter the location. Our missions occurred on a daily basis consisting of many areas which were treated with herbicide agents to include more than just areas along the DMZ.

It was not uncommon for the Chemical Companies to spray locations throughout not only Southern areas of Korea but also the Northern I Corps including camp perimeters, mess hall areas, look out towers and some camp churches such as at Camp Howze. One of the look out towers was located in an extremely steep area. Others on my truck would not ride up the incline in the truck due to the high elevation and dangers regarding the trip up the mountain.

There appears to be some question as to whether Camp Casey was affected by the spray missions. The perimeter of Camp Casey and the mess hall was in fact treated with herbicide agents.

I do content that we in fact traveled and treated areas in Southern Korea but I am unable to recall all the names of these locations. One such location treated with herbicide agents was in Southern Korea which I am unsure of the name, but I clearly recall it being a location where our troops would perform target practice of the coast of Korea. I believe the island they would targeted was Turtle Island. I also recall tanks conducting target practice at this location. The point is that the location our troops were based at who performed these target practices is an area we did treat with herbicide agents.

I found it odd the hoses and tiers on the truck would soften like gum when exposed to the agents. The hoses on the tanks constantly melted causing them to break and created direct exposure. The rubber on the soles of our shoes would also turn soft and glue like. At no time were we ever supplied protective equipment. We were never warned that the agents were hazardous nor told that we could not dump the chemicals on roadways in rivers and or creek beds. We were never warned of the hazards of spray drift (wind). We commonly treated look out towers.

There appears to be some question as to whether members in the Engineering crews were exposed to herbicide agents. It was common for members of the US Military Engineer Construction crews to assist the Chemical Company during our spray missions. While on spray missions it was not uncommon for our trucks to get stuck in the mud and the Engineer Company would tow our trucks out. They also traveled the same roads we did in location were we had released agents.

I understood that the herbicide agents were transported to Korea from Vietnam. They were flown into Kimpo, Souel, Korea. The agents would then be trucked into Camp Howze to a staging area. Please note, Camp Howze was very close to Camp Eiler. We would receive about 30, 55 gallon drums on a flat bed truck at a time. The barrels were identified by a painted strip indicating the specific formula in the drum. Some of the herbicide agents were in powder form. All agents were combined with diesel in preparation for application. The agents were mixed in the tanks on the decontamination trucks. The trucks were dusin/ halves, with a 400 or 450 gallon tank attached to them. I was responsible for the maintenance of my truck, the tank and the mixing of the agents and on many occasions the application of the agents. Many times we found broken glass in the tanks as though it had been put there on purpose.

ROK members assisted in the application of herbicides. Members of the ROK were rotated on a daily basis. Some have said they were the only members to have made herbicide applications which I content is not true. I myself, on several occasion, made these applications.

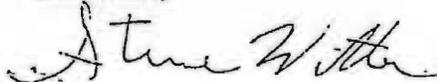
Col. Hodge was head of the divisions chemical company. His staff would direct and escorted us to an area near the DMZ where herbicide agents were being tested. The area had tape which divided the sections into squares, resembling a checker board effect. It was made clear to me that several agents were being tested in each particular square. I am not aware of any other Military Chemical Company existed in Korea other than my particular unit which had a history and present in during the Korean conflict.

On a daily basis, units out of Souel would transport the agents to a staging area on the DMZ, or at a camp. This allowed us to address several locations with in that particular area. The staging area also provided a safe location where we could fill our tanks in preparation for the daily missions and to perform any mechanical repairs. We usually filled the tanks twice a day. In some cases a ¾ ton truck with a trailer loaded with additional herbicide agents would accompany us to avoid us from having to return to the staging area. There were three or four trucks in my unit making these daily applications. Typically after the applications of herbicide agents we found our skin and eyes would feel irritated, burning, leaving a grayish color to our skin. With in two days of treating a location we would return to the area and then burn it with Napalm. My partner Jim Reese drove the truck of Napalm. After burning the area, CS would then be applied by arial methods which would causes one to defecate, vomit and also feel burning of the eyes and skin. Because there weren't provisions in camps or at staging locations to dump the herbicides agents at days end, we would open the valve to drain the tanks. It was common maintenance practice for us to release the remaining agents on to road ways, road sides, in rivers including the Imjin River or into creek beds. We would release anywhere from 25 to 100 gallons of the agent before returning to camp to refill the tanks in preparation for the next days duties. We would try to clean the trucks daily but due to some of our locations this would not always occur causing others at staging areas to include camps to be exposed to the residual agent on the truck.

I am in hopes this statement clarifies some of the Chemical Companies activities during the time in which I served.

Repestfully,

Steve Witter,



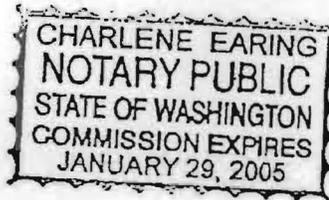
WASHINGTON SHORT-FORM INDIVIDUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT (RCW 42.44.100)

State of Washington }  
County of Chelan } ss.

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that Steve Witter  
Name of Signer

is the person who appeared before me, and said person acknowledged that he/she signed this instrument and acknowledged it to be his/her free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

Dated: 8-16-04  
Month/Day/Year



Charlene Earing  
Signature of Notarizing Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title (Such as "Notary Public")

My appointment expires 1-29-05  
Month/Day/Year of Appointment Expiration

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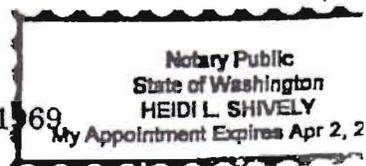
## Topic Agent Orange

Korea - Agent Orange 1968 - 1969 Spec 4 Witter report to LTC Hodge 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Division Chemical Sections TDY. There were four decon trucks and four drivers to report to LTC Hodge 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. division. Our job was to put Agent Orange on foliage. On our way up to the DMZ, we would stop and pick up rock soldiers that would be doing the work. We would have one rock captain or Lt., which would be the interrupter for me, and his six people that would be working for me. There would be three on one side of the truck and three on the other. They were on a cat walk on the truck. The tank was filled with diesel approximately 400 - 500 gallons run by a bean sprayer. From one end of the tank to the other, there were paddles which would mix the Agent Orange with the diesel. I would pour the bags of Agent Orange into the tank, and make sure everything on the truck was working. The rock soldiers would do the spraying. We had approx. 300 - 400 ft of hose and they would go out into the brush in the DMZ and spray as much as they could during the time working in the DMZ. After several days, we would go back in and burn the foliage. Then we would take twenty-five pound bags of C-S gas with detonating cord around each bag and blasting cap. We would use a helicopter and throw the bags out, so the wash (air flow) would put the C-S down on the ground further. Spraying the Agent Orange, the rock soldiers and myself would be more or less soaked with the diesel and Agent Orange. The substance would be like real fine cement in bags. Toward the end of the day, I could only see the whites of our eyes and our teeth. As we got into the middle of summer and later on, one of the guys said look at your boots. He said look at mine, he could pull the rubber sole and it was like bubble gum. It would just snap back like a rubber band. We got looking at the tires on my truck and the rubber molding around the doors and windows were the same. Evidently, the Agent Orange and diesel mix would dissolve the rubber. I also noticed later on I would have more flat tires than before. The time that we were suppose to be on the DMZ second inf. division chemical TDY duty was from May 1968 to July 1968. But we hadn't finished the job, so I received an extension. I was there then until after Christmas on into 1969 and we kept spraying up until then.

One of our other jobs was to take fifty gallon drums and cut the tops out. Then take napalm, rocks, bottles, glass, nails, and whatever into these drums. These were called poo gas bombs. They were aimed toward the North Korea side of the DMZ. The people that were picked to do this were volunteers.

We also had tried to use Agent White and Agent Blue, but they were not as successful as the Agent Orange.

By: Steve P. Witter *Steve Witter*  
1824 Castlerock  
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2301 (509) 662-1773  
Decon Unit (spread Agent Orange) Camp Howze 1968 - 1969



*State of Washington  
County of Douglas*

*Signed or attested before me on 11/20/03. Heidi L. Shively*

To Whom This may Concern,

I Steve Witten was involved with spraying Agent Orange in and around the DMZ, while I was stationed at Camp Howze 1968-1969  
2nd Inf. Division Chemical Company.

On occasion if I had any A.O. spray maybe 25-100 gallons left in the tank on my truck I would open the valve and let remaining A.O. liquid run out as I would drive down creek, river, or road. We would sometime wash our hands and face in the creek or river.

During my service time involved with Agent Orange I was not aware of any precautions to prevent spray drift or run off. We were not given any protective clothing or etc. Hazardous?

When washing truck sometimes at Camp Howze or staging areas, there would be some of the liquid A.O. spray run out onto ground.

Steven P Witten