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VA #25 085 085 James A. Waddell to fellow Korea DMZ Veterans 10/8/2014
1101 Stone Canyon Dr. #1333, Roseville, CA 95661-4074: Re; Ronald G. Blake



Here is the MAY 2011 VA Federal Register listing of Agent Orange and other herbicides' Presumptive AO Exposure, published by Veterans Affairs and has been shown to be incorrect and downright insulting to those of us who were there and left out! Agent Orange, Agent blue and Agent White herbicides poisoned thousands of us in South Korea: *(All of us who were actually in the 2nd Infantry Division, attached to the 2nd Inf. Div., sent TDY to the 2nd ID... in the 7th Inf. Div. or in Combat Elements in Field Positions; especially those who were sent TDY from other US Compounds somewhere else in South Korea for only a few weeks or more but had no recorded orders of having ever been in the DMZ... know the truth!*



All others who were in the 2nd Inf. Div. & 7th Inf. Div. who were attached to, assigned to TDY, or temporary TDY for months to reinforce these Combat Infantry Regiments know;

Some of the soldiers never received Written Orders as proof of their duty on the DMZ!

2nd Infantry Division Combat and support units and 7th Division Units or Combat Elements in Field Positions inside of the 2nd ID Combat Zone were all exposed to herbicides: 72nd Armor, 1st & 2nd Battalions; 12th Artillery, 1st Battalion; 15th Artillery 1st Battalion; 17th Artillery, 7th Battalion; 37th Artillery, 6th Battalion; 38th Artillery, 5th Battalion; 7th Cavalry, 4th Sqdn. Counter Agent Co.; 9th Infantry, 1st & 2nd Battalions; 23 Infantry, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Battalions; 31st Infantry, 2nd Battalion (* 2nd or 7th divisions); 32nd Infantry, 3rd Battalion (* 2nd or 7th divisions); 38th Infantry, 1st & 2nd Battalions.

7th Infantry Division:

73rd Armor, 1st Battalion; 10th Cavalry, 2nd Battalion; 13th Engineer Combat Battalion; 17th Infantry, 1st & 2nd Battalions; 31 Infantry, 1st & 2nd Battalions; 32nd Infantry, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Battalions; U. N. Command Security Battalion- Joint Security Area.

Other soldiers were not in this 2011 list like me I list here as best I can remember:

2nd Inf. Div. Chemical Company who operated out of Camp Houze under LTC Hodge (*see here; Steve Witter letters of his participation in the spraying all over the Hostile Fire Zone of the 2nd Inf. Div.*); Roving MPs, Convoy Escort MPs, Bridge Guards MPs, especially 2nd MP Co.;

Rifle and M-60 machinegun guards of HQ&HQ Company and Band-part-time; *I was assigned to the HQ&HQ Support Command and we of the 2nd Infantry Division Band were assigned as Guards for HQ at Camp Ross and Field Positions, Sweep Patrol men and bands men were armed guards for more than 60 missions Convoy Trucks and Busses north of the Imjin River via Freedom Bridge or Libby Bridge; 2nd Administration Co. Camp Ross and Field Positions; Motor Pool soldiers for drivers of Jeeps, trucks and buses to all areas of the DMZ-Hostile Fire Zone.*

Combat Medics who were sent TDY on many occasions to various areas of the 2nd Inf. Div. and some Combat Medics were sent more than once.

Frankie Lopez was sent TDY to Camp Custer, and when on Combat Patrols, he and other soldiers had to wear gas masks for more than one week due to the strong-smelling herbicides. Last time I heard from Frankie, he had failed many times to convince the VA that he was at Camp Custer at Munsan on the Imjin River.

There were soldiers in Camp Casey and other compounds south of the Barrier Fences who have succeeded in Appeals of VA denials of AO Contamination.

**I found this letter on the internet 10-19-2010; some spelling errors were corrected.
Transcript of a Steve P. Witter letter of Agent Orange everywhere 1968-1969.**

June 29th, 2004

Steve P. Witter
1824 Castlerock St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

I Steve Witter, served with the 2nd 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 Spoonbill Bridge which I believed was a 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 known 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 contend 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 this island they would target 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 tires on the truck would soften like gum when exposed to the agents. The hoses on the tanks constantly melded 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 locations where we had released agents.

I understand that the herbicide agents were transported to Korea from Vietnam. They were flown into Kimpo, Seoul, 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 the same 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 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 make herbicide applications which I contend is not true. I myself, on several occasion, made these applications.

Col. Hodge was head of the division's 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 an 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 Korea conflict.

On a daily basis, units out of Seoul were transport the agents on 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 duty 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. Within 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 aerial 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 herbicide 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, on 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 from 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.

Respectfully,

Steve Witter

Signed *Steve Witter*

Notarized signature was included, County of Chelan, WA 8/16/2004.

NOTE: Agent Orange herbicides are DIOXINS and were in the "Dioxin and Radiation Contamination Standards Act of 1985" by U. S. Congress; and those Veterans' Benefits of the Dioxin Act '85 were transferred into the "Agent Orange Act of 1991" by VA Federal Register; therefore the VA determination of Compensation to veterans is under Congressional Law to pay Veterans' Compensation all the way back to 1991 AO Act.

This is not just my opinion, but I was told this by a Sacramento County Veterans Service Officer.

Abbreviated report from “**Never Quit!**” James A. Waddell; 1101 Stone Canyon Dr. #1333, Roseville, CA 95661; 76 pages written by James A. Waddell (Wad-Dell). My 45 years of “Fighting the Veterans Affairs” to finally get my Veterans benefits earned in South Korea DMZ 1968-1969 and my many disabilities from **Agent Orange** diseases.

I kept trying to get the VA to believe my tour of duty! VA treated me as if I was a “...**liar and a fraud!**” about combat actions and Agent Orange!

2nd Infantry Division shoulder patch

“Keep at it!” I was told. “You have a good case!” Veteran Advocate Attorneys of Theodore Jarvi and Gregg Maxon of Arizona.



Finally, by 2013 after 45 years, I have received VA 100% Service Connected Disability Pension for Agent Orange multiple disabilities and a Special Monthly Compensation for serious Agent Orange disease disabilities, a special monthly allowance for my wife... and VA Regional Office say they are working on my Compensation. That is the law of Congress!

9/22/14; still no VA compensation... VA letter of 5/22/13 & letter of 9/4/13; nothing was done!

I was in the Korea DMZ Hostile Fire Zone in 1968-1969. I am now a **100%, Service Connected, Disabled Veteran** per VA Georgia 2012, with multiple Agent Orange disease disabilities. I served from March 1, 1968 to June 13, 1969. I was there in the combat zone for 15.5 months and 1,300 North Korean commando attacks onto the 2nd Inf. Div. I was involved in half-dozen NK commando combat attacks!

I was in 60+ truck convoys of supplies and replacement troops as rifle and Machine gun guards and occasionally as 2nd Div. Bandsmen! I graduated US Military School of Music 1967.

I was assigned to HQ&HQ Co. & Band Support Command at Camp Ross, South Korea, as a sax-man. But most often I was in combat alerts assigned as a convoy rifleman and an M-60 assistant machine gunner. Playing music was only on orders and rarely.

*In freezing cold of March 1968, I was an M-14 rifle guard at the main point of entry to a field position northwest of Camp Ross where we had incoming North Korean small arms gunfire. Combat Ambush Patrols killed two North Korean commandos north of our Field Position.

*April 2, 1968, US Army declared the 2nd Inf. Div. as an Hostile Fire Zone because the soldiers in the 2nd Inf. Div. were in fact in Combat against hundreds of North Korean commando attacks!

*April 14, 1968, North Korean machine guns ambushed a ¾ ton convoy vehicle several miles south of Imjin River at Munsan; two 2nd Inf. Div. MPs and two KATUSA MPs were killed In Action. I was there and helped Tim Alexander film the vehicle's +- 250 bullet holes with blood everywhere; after the bodies were removed by combat medics. Corky Noland of Texas was with the Combat Patrol who chased the NKs.

*In about May of 1968, on Munsan Road south of the Imjin River, a North Korean landmine blasted our truck convoy's Lead Jeep off the road. A 1st Lt. in the lead jeep was Killed-in-Action and the driver was Wounded-in-Action.

*In the middle of May, 1968 our convoy was headed to a compound north of the Imjin River that had been ambushed with NK machine fire and killed 17 US soldiers! All covered up!

*In the summer of 1968, sirens blasted signals for North Korean attacks. Machine gunner Mendocha and I hiked through the small gate from Camp Ross into the adjacent PX Compound



to a foxhole. We could see that a fire fight was going on to the north at 400-600 meters. Later, we learned that 2nd Inf. Div. soldiers had killed 2 men and 2 women NK commandos.

*In June 1968, a 7th Inf. Div. soldier of combat elements in support of the 2nd ID was shot in the back by a NK sniper while walking to Camp Ross where I was Acting Sgt of the guard. We sent him to Camp Houze Dispensary. I never knew if he died!

*August 24, 25- 26, 1968, I was with 16 soldiers in the Lead Truck of a convoy to a new Field Position just south of the Imjin River. It was monsoon raining and the roads were muddy. Our truck overturned into a rice paddy contaminated with Agent Orange. I was thrown backwards and landed on the back of my head hurting my spine bones in several places. The M-14 rifle sight cut a 1" hole in my forehead. Men were buried under field gear. We set up guards and then we caught other trucks headed to our new field position.

In hours, soldiers developed skin sores and rashes from Agent Orange. I was transported to a dispensary at Camp Houze, loaded into an ambulance and taken to 44th Surgical Hospital. I was never treated for any injuries or Agent Orange Chloracne sores: still here after 45 years!

*2nd Inf. Div. area September 1968, I was riding a South Korean bus to Seoul and passed through Military Check Points. At a Korean Check Point, 4 South Korean soldiers seized a North Korean commando in the back in civilian clothes. He had a handbag with hand grenades!

*October 23, 1968, I was with a ½ Band of 2nd Inf. Div. left Camp Ross in a bus to go to a UN ceremony up north of Libby Bridge when the bus was halted by two 2nd ID MPs. The bus was driving into a firefight of NK Infiltrators and 2nd ID troops. A NK commando was fleeing and firing back. He was hit in the left shoulder with a grenade from an M-79 launcher. He had pulled the pin on his grenade before he died, which killed a 2nd ID Sgt who approached. We went on to play music in our combat gear and with our musical instruments.

*December 26, 1968, the US Army awarded the **Combat Infantry Badge** to the 2nd Inf. Division but many of us never received our CIB. The US Army had already declared the 2nd Inf. Div. as a Hostile Fire Zone 4/2/1968.

*May of 1969, North Korean jets shoot down of an unarmed reconnaissance plane over the Sea of Japan with 31 US men aboard, all troops were killed. At Recreation Compound #1, Yonjugol, all soldiers signed away non-combat gear and kept combat gear and weapons in an "Alert-to-Move-Out" in Attack Mode into North Korea.

*After three days in alert, US President Richard Nixon made the decision not to Attack!

If I had **quit...** trying to get the VA to believe my truth of Korea, I would never have received my **earned** veterans' benefits! After many doctor visits to VA mobile medical van in Scott Valley, multiple doctors and nurses Redding Outpatient Clinic and received no help... and VA charged me \$55.00 for each visit, I did not quit!

The Siskiyou County Veterans Service Officer lady, Pam Rowe, would not believe me.

An Agent Orange Exam done for 3 ½ hours in Redding was never filed for me to be in the Agent Orange Register.

Now I am!

A veteran with Agent Orange diseases who "**Never Quits**" can finally get his veterans benefits!

Note: 1,300 NK commando attacks in 15.5 months would be 83.8 attacks per month!

James A. Waddell

James A. Waddell; 1101 Stone Canyon Dr. #1333, Roseville, CA 95661