

May 9, 2000

Dr. Jan Willem Nienhuys



Dear Dr. Nienhuys:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act request, dated April 17, 2000, directed to Willie J. Bostick, Chief, Navy Reference Branch. Mr. Bostick is no longer assigned to the National Personnel Records Center, and your request has been referred to me for response. In reply to your questions, I can supply the following information:

1. We cannot supply you with a complete copy of the NAVPERS 553, Notice of Separation from the U.S. Naval Service, issued to Lafayette Ronald Hubbard on February 16, 1946. The National Personnel Records Center is the physical custodian of the military personnel records in our holdings, but legal custody remains with the individual military service departments that retire the records to us. What this means is that, in response to a third-party request such as yours, we are only allowed to release certain items of information from the records. We are not allowed to release complete or undeleted copies of documents, however, without the authorization of the veteran, or the veteran's next-of-kin. We suggest, therefore, that you contact the office listed below for a response to that portion of your request relating to a complete copy of the NAVPERS 553:

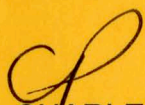
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Liaison Office, Room 5409
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

2. We could find no document, a NAVPERS 553 or equivalent, issued to Mr. Hubbard at the end of the two-week period of Active Duty which he served from September 22, 1941, to October 6, 1941. We have, however, supplied a copy of a document from Mr. Hubbard's record indicating official notice of this period of duty.

3. We have been unable to identify a Howard D. Thompson who served as an officer in 1945 at the U.S. Naval Separation Center in San Francisco, California. We have reviewed the Register of Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the United States Naval Reserve for 1944. There was no Howard D. Thompson listed. We have no Register for the year of 1945, but we did check two other sources, including a microfilm listing of all Naval Officers. We found no evidence of a Howard D. Thompson who served as an officer in 1945.
4. We have also reviewed the Register of the Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the United States Navy and Marine Corps for the years of 1911 and 1923. There was no Howard D. Thompson listed in these publications.

I hope that the information we have provided will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



CHARLES PELLEGRINI
Management Analyst

Enclosure

cc: NRP, NRP - Official File (Pellegrini), OMPF (Hubbard)

FILENAME: nien

NRP:CPELLEGRINI:ca:5/9/00