

**Information Sheet
For Asbestos Researchers**

Certificates of Approval. From the early 1930's through the early part of 1950, Certificates of Approval were issued for products tested and found to be in conformance with a governing Navy Department material specification. Certificates of Approval identified the manufacturer, the product, and specification. Qualified Products Lists (QPLs) succeeded the Certificates of Approval.

Command Histories*. From 1952, commissioned ships were supposed to write an annual command history (a brief summary of their activities during the previous year). No specific guidance as to scope or content was originally provided in the directive, and the requirement did not begin to be followed until about 1970. For this reason, earlier histories were often incomplete or even lacking. Command Histories are held by the Department of the Navy, Naval Historical Center (SH), 805 Kidder Breese SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060.

Deck Logs*. From commissioning to decommissioning, Navy ships would have written daily deck logs. The deck log is a daily chronology of certain events for administrative and legal purposes. Additional information concerning researching and copying deck logs can be found at <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq73-1.htm>.

Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships (DANFS). The Ships History Branch, Naval Historical Center, researches and writes the multi-volume DANFS, which contains historical information about the ships of the Continental and United States Navies. The history of each ship includes, where known, the name of the builder and the dates the ship was constructed, commissioned, and decommissioned. DANFS is available in many libraries in the United States and abroad and is available for purchase from the Government Printing Office.

Medical and Personnel Records. Medical and personnel records are protected by the Privacy Act. Therefore, they may not generally be released except with the written consent of the person to whom the record pertains.

Send requests for military records to:

Military Personnel Records
Medical and Employment Records
U.S. Navy Branch (Attn: Records Custodian)
9700 Page Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Former federal employees may request a copy of their final Standard Form 50, Notification of Personnel Action (SF 50), a complete copy of their Official Personnel Folder (OPF), or certain other forms by writing to:

National Personnel Records Center
111 Winnebago Street
St. Louis, MO 63118-4126

National Archives and Records Administration, www.nara.gov. Records at the National and Regional Archives are open to the public and are available for inspection. If you wish to review records at any of these facilities, please contact them directly. To find a regional facility near you, see <http://www.archives.gov/facilities>.

Naval Vessel Registry, www.nvr.navy.mil. The Naval Vessel Register contains information on ships and service craft that comprise the official inventory of the US Navy from the time of vessel authorization through its life cycle and disposal. It also includes ships that have been stricken but not disposed. Ships and service craft disposed of prior to 1987 are currently not included, however the data is gradually being added along with other updates.

Photographs. Naval ship photographs may be obtained from the Still Pictures Branch, National Archives, 3601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, and the Ships and Aircraft Photo Collection, U.S. Naval Institute, Annapolis, MD 21402.

Purchase orders, invoices, etc. Information that might identify specific materials procured or used in the construction or repair of a ship is generally not available. Any Navy documents that might identify specific products procured during the construction or overhaul of a ship would have been destroyed within three (3) to six (6) years after completion of the procurement process, in accordance with approved disposition schedules. Moreover, a private shipbuilder would have procured materials that were used during the original ship construction.

Qualified Products Lists (QPLs). QPLs have been used since about 1950. They identify products (and their manufacturers) that were tested to a restricted category of military specifications and were pre-qualified for U.S. Navy procurement. QPLs may not include all manufacturers who supplied materials to the U.S. Navy. There may have been other military specifications to which asbestos-containing products were supplied that did not require QPL testing, and therefore, did not have associated QPLs.

Ship Availability Database (SAV), www.navsea.navy.mil/sav. The SAV provides information about when and where a ship was constructed, converted, maintained or repaired.

Ships History Branch, Naval Historical Center, <http://www.history.navy.mil/branches/nhcorg9.htm>. This Branch collects and maintains information on U.S. Navy ships, provides reference assistance to the Navy and the public, and researches and writes the multi-volume *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*.

War Dairies*. Shortly after the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, ships were required to write a monthly chronology of their movements and activities, called a war diary. If a ship took part in an operation, it would also write an action report and a letter report of its participation in combat. These records are held by the Textual Reference Branch, National Archives, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.

*Command Histories, Deck Logs and War Diaries may mention that a ship went through an overhaul at a particular time and place. However, these documents do not normally specify what work was done or identify what materials were used.