

## **Wes Hoch**

The following presentation depicts part of the life of Wes Hoch. Included is an introduction by two officers from the Hugh Purvis, and HPRA members, Stan Weiner and Jerry Larson. The actual article is part 2 of a two part ACMA magazine article. Jerry Larson made a presentation about Wes at the 2013 HPRA Reunion Dinner in Norfolk, Va.

As of this date, part 1 is unavailable. If anyone has information for the missing article, let us know so it can be included.

\*\*\*

(Scroll down for to start.)

Lt. Cmdr Wesley A. Hoch, USN

Wes Hoch joined the Purvis in 1958. He was the Operations Officer and a Lieutenant at the time. Wes had a sea going history. He went to prep schools associated with the sea, attended Maine Maritime Academy, spent years in the Merchant Marine traveling the world and to hear him tell it, was abducted into the Navy by the “Feds”.

Wes was noted for being an exceptional officer. His division liked and respected him. He was an outstanding ship handler and was considered extremely competent. On top of that, he was a great story teller. He had the crew in stitches with stories of his exploits. And, there was no doubt, some embellishment.

Wes left the Purvis in 1960. He then served on the USS Monrovia as Operations Officer and Boat Group Commander. He was scheduled for shore duty and asked for an overseas assignment. He was assigned to Vietnam, probably in 1963 and was appointed as an Adviser to Vietnamese Junk Force on the island of PHU QUOC.

The story of Wes in this assignment is not one of military exploits, but rather what he did for the people of this island. Wes realized that to win the people over from the Vietcong, he had to improve their lot in life and he did it superbly. He was reported on by magazines and newspapers. His achievements are noted in the congressional record. He was decorated by both the US and the Vietnamese Navies.

Following his stint in the Navy, Wes wound up in the business of fabricating hulls for yachts and fishing boats. He was named man of the year by his trade association and in 2000 had a two part article written about him by Andy Rusnak the editor of *Composites Fabrication Magazine*. Part II of the article follows this introduction.

There is little doubt that Wes Hoch made a significant personal contribution to the early phases of the US involvement in Vietnam.

To read part two of the article, go to the following link...

[“Make me whole Dai Uy” - A Search for the Man in North End’s Wes Hoch](#)

Wes passed away in December 2004.