

# Lindsay guilty on all counts

By Don Lehman  
Staff Writer

A federal court jury late Friday afternoon found a former Hampton man guilty on 21 separate counts that he ran a continuing drug enterprise in Whitehall from 1985 to 1990.

On its second day of deliberation, the jury unanimously convicted David J. Lindsay, 54, on drugs and weapons charges in connection with a cocaine distribution operation he ran from his former Whitehall tavern.

Lindsay will be sentenced in U.S. District Court on Oct. 23.

He faces a mandatory minimum prison term of 10 years to life on two of the major counts, one

at he discharged a weapon with a silencer and another that he operated a continuing criminal enterprise, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. McCann.

"He was selling and giving cocaine to 15-, 16-, 17-, 18-year-old kids," McCann said. "I think the jury saw this was a very dangerous individual."

Lindsay's girlfriend, Lisa Guitar, 23, was found guilty of charges of conspiracy to distribute cocaine, but found not guilty of counts she possessed the drug, U.S. District Court Judge John G. Cholakakis said.

In closing arguments Wednesday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Henry M. Greenberg — who prosecuted the case along with McCann — charged that Lindsay "systematically, over a seven-year

period, waged a calculated campaign of terror in a small community of Whitehall, New York." With a conviction under the federal "drug kingpin" statute — which charges he ran a continuing narcotics operation out of his bar, D.J.'s Lounge

Lindsay will face a minimum of 20 years to 30 years without parole.

The conviction for using a silencer-equipped firearm carries a minimum penalty of 30 years to 30 years, McCann said. Both sentences would run consecutively.

The jury took only two days to reach a verdict after three weeks of testimony in the case, in which Lindsay's defense attorney Charles J.

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Wilcox presented a case that the Vietnam veteran was insane and suffering from a stress syndrome related to seeing combat.

The prosecution was able to prove that Lindsay did not see the combat in Vietnam that he said he had, and that only one of the 14 medals of valor he received were valid, McCann said.

A U.S. Army officer testified that Lindsay falsely represented his military record, claiming he served sev-

eral more tours of duty in Vietnam than he actually did. The Army officer also testified that one of the medals Lindsay said he was awarded was actually taken from a fellow soldier who died in combat, McCann stated.

McCann said the testimony of several Whitehall residents who had plea bargained and pleaded guilty to narcotics charges before Lindsay's trial was also crucial in condemning the defendant.

Wilcox could not be reached for comment Friday.

Fourteen defendants who pleaded guilty to various drug charges and testified against Lindsay will be sentenced this month, McCann said.