

December 11, 1968

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Bureau of Naval Persons  
Navy Department  
Washington, D. C. 20370

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Dear Sir:

I am writing a thesis on a pseudo-scientific cult called Scientology, that was founded by a man named Lafayette Ronald Hubbard. He has made a whole series of extravagant biographical claims, including his World War II Navy record. The following quotation comes from a magazine that he edits, and I would like to know if these claims are in fact true.

"Commissioned before the war in 1941 by the U.S. Navy, he was ordered to the Philippines at the outbreak of the war and was flown home in the late spring of 1942 as the first U.S. returned casualty from the Far East.

As a yachtsman he had considerable sea experience, and the scarcity of officers was such that, without rest, he was ordered at once to command of a corvette. He had served for the remainder of that year with British and American anti-submarine vessels in the North Atlantic and rose to command a squadron. In 1943 he saw duty in the North Pacific.

Crippled and blind at the end of the war, he resumed his studies of philosophy and by his discoveries recovered so fully that he was reclassified in 1949 for full combat duty. It is a matter of medical record that has twice been pronounced dead and in 1950 he was given a perfect score on mental and physical fitness reports."

Mr. Hubbard makes one additional claim: that he was the real-life "Mr. Roberts."

One of the foundations of this cult is its reverence for Mr. Hubbard. In order to attack the foundations, the real truth about his war record would be necessary. If indeed some of his claims about his war record, his claim of being the first casualty flown home, his command of a corvette, his being in the North Atlantic in 1942, the North Pacific in 1943, and his injuries and remarkable recoveries, were to be proved false, that would help deflate the cult of personality surrounding him and cast doubt on his other extravagant claims. Hence I would greatly appreciate any assistance you could give.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*Henry Doerr*

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