

8900 Gallant Women Drive  
McLean, Virginia 22101

May 21, 1972

Captain R.F. Hunt  
Bureau of Naval Personnel  
Department of the Navy  
Washington, D.C. 20370

Dear Captain Hunt:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation I am writing to obtain information about the service records of Commander H.R. Hubbard and his son Lieutenant Lafayette R. Hubbard, formerly of the U.S. Navy.

I would like to know where and when Commander Hubbard was commissioned, I believe in the Supply Corps, where he served both at home and abroad, including any war service, and for how long. Also the date of his resignation or retirement. The same applies to Lieutenant Hubbard.

As you know, I am doing a book on Mr. Hubbard and his organization for Harper & Row of New York.

From biographical material published in pamphlets produced by Mr. Hubbard's present organization I gather that he was commissioned in the Navy's Public Relations Department as a Lieutenant J.G. in 1941 and that he requested transfer to a PT Squadron. In December of 1941 Hubbard was said to be aboard a cargo loaded with PT boats en route to the Philippines, and that to avoid Japanese raiders the ship was diverted to Java.

It is reported that in the Spring of 1942 Hubbard was returned from the Far East as a casualty. There is a report that Hubbard was skipper of a patrol cruiser in Alaskan waters when a shell (friendly or enemy not specified) landed on the fantail. Hubbard is reported to have picked it up and dropped it overboard and received a severe concussion when the shell went off before hitting the water, the explosion loosening three ribs from Hubbard's spine and putting him in the sickbag. The patrol cruiser is listed as PC615.

Later in 1942, because of his experience as a yachtsman, Hubbard was reported in command of the former British corvette the "Mist" which served in antisubmarine warfare in the North Atlantic. Hubbard is said to have risen to command the squadron with the rank of full Lieutenant.

There is a hearsay report from a U.S. Marine officer to the effect that Hubbard got in trouble because of a shell fired on a German submarine which landed on Mexican territory.

Towards the end of the war Hubbard was reported released because of his physical condition to the Amphibious forces in the Pacific where he is said to have served aboard the AKA 54, or USS Algol, under Commander Axton F. Jones.

Hubbard says he spent the better part of 1945 at the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in California because his optic nerve was impaired, causing blindness, and that he was lamed by injuries to his hip and back. He says his service record described him as "permanently disabled" but that he cured himself of his injuries and that by 1949 he was declared fit for active duty.

I would appreciate the above statements being checked against the official record for confirmation or denial.