



Los Angeles Times

September 9, 1986

Navy Liaison Officer
National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO. 63132

Dear Sir:

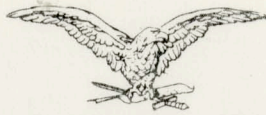
This request is made pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Please send me any and all files possessed by the Personnel Records Center that pertain in any fashion to former Lt. LaFayette Ronald Hubbard of the U.S. Naval Reserve. Hubbard was born on March 13, 1911, and died in January of this year. A copy of his death certificate is attached. Hubbard entered naval service in July 1941 and was discharged in October 1950.

Hubbard's death, of course, makes accessible records that have previously been withheld as confidential under the FOI and privacy acts. The privacy rights of Hubbard's surviving relatives must be considered in the narrowest of terms and cannot be used as an excuse to provide only the barest details of Hubbard's military service. Remember, the applicable statutes require that you adopt a view favoring the broadest possible public disclosure.

Moreover, should you withhold any documents, you must cite the precise statutory exemption for your refusal. As you know, the law requires also that "any segregable portion of a record shall be provided...after deletion of the portions which are exempt by law." Please be advised that, if necessary, the Los Angeles Times is prepared to pursue all available legal avenues to obtain the records herein sought. If you refuse to disclose certain documents, and a court overturns your decision, the court is empowered to award the person seeking the documents attorney fees and court costs.

My request includes, but is not limited to, Hubbard's military personnel records, his medical personnel records, a list of all medals he was authorized to wear at the close of World War II and all official inquiries and correspondence pertaining to Hubbard's military performance. This would include his "reports on the fitness of officers" and the report of a naval board of investigation concerning the firing of shots near the Mexican coast by a vessel under Hubbard's command. I believe this report was dated Dec. 1943.



Los Angeles Times

Navy Liaison Officer--Page 2

Please also send all documents concerning Hubbard's removal from command positions as a result of possibly being unfit. In addition, it is imperative that you provide documentation that would either support or refute contentions that the Navy maintained at least two separate and different personnel files on Hubbard, one being a cover for his intelligence work. I ask that you also either confirm or deny an assertion by Hubbard that his naval records state: "This officer has no neurotic or psychotic tendencies whatsoever."

I additionally request all records regarding Hubbard's involvement in a naval investigation of John Whiteside Parsons, a rocket fuels expert, or whether such an investigation was ever undertaken during the mid 1940s.

I understand that you probably have a backlog of requests. However, the requested information is of a timely nature for a newspaper article and I would be grateful for any help you could provide in expediting this matter. On Aug. 6, I mailed a similar request to the director of the National Personnel Records Center, which apparently was lost. Understandably, those things happen, but it has made a prompt response to this request all the more important.

Thank you for your assistance. I promise to pay reasonable search and duplication fees in connection with this request. Please bill the Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, Ca. 90053. I look forward to receiving your reply within 10 business days, as required by law.

Very Truly Yours,

Joel Sappell
Staff Writer
Los Angeles Times
Times Mirror Square
Los Angeles, Ca. 90053
(213) 972-4497

cc: Jeffrey S. Klein, Senior Counsel, Los Angeles Times
David Rosenzweig, Times Metropolitan Editor