

memorandum

U-2578/DI-7

DATE: 4 November 1980

REPLY TO: DI-7C
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Journalist Request for Interview/Information

THRU: DI-7
TO: DI-D

1. On 3 November at approximately 1630 hours, I was called by Mr. Joe Hebert (AP Reporter) who stated he was interested in doing a story on the PW/MIA issue and had been provided my name (Chuck Trowbridge) as a point of contact in DIA.
2. Mr. Hebert advised that he was interested in the specifics of the intelligence efforts/methods involved in pursuing the matter of PW/MIAs. He further stated he would like to conduct his interviews as background (off the record) as well as portions for the record. He indicated he was also considering interviews with RADM Tuttle and LtGen Tighe.
3. Mr. Hebert had already been in contact with LTC Jerry Growhowski, OASD/PA, who handles DoD PW/MIA queries. LTC Growhowski passed Mr. Hebert to LtCol John Fer, OASD/PA, Office of PW/MIA Affairs. Mr. Hebert indicated he would be interviewing LtCol Fer during the week of 10 Nov.
4. Mr. Hebert attempted to obtain my consent for an interview at which time he was advised that his request would be directed to DIA's External Affairs Office for a decision. Mr. Hebert said he would call again on 6 November for our answer.

5. DI-7 and DI-3 were informed of the above request. Both were of the opinion that DIA should not be involved at the depth at which Mr. Hebert is interested in the intelligence effort. DIA's modus operandi and statement relative to the PW/MIA issue is already on the public record.

6. Mr. Geisen has discussed this matter at the OASD/PA mid-level and they concur that Mr. Hebert should be handled by OASD/ISA Office of PW/MIA Affairs and that DIA should not get involved, particularly at the command level.

7. Request guidance in responding to Mr. Hebert on 6 November:

a. Advise Mr. Hebert that DIA will consent to meet with him:

Yes _____ No

Appendix B. Costs, Casualties, and Other Data

World War II spread death and devastation throughout most of the world to an extent never before experienced. The loss of life can be only generally summarized; an attempt to express the value of property and livelihoods destroyed in terms of money is futile. The resulting figures reach astronomical figures that have little if any practical meaning.

MILITARY CASUALTIES

Probably the best documented and most meaningful figures are the battle casualties. Those for the United States, Great Britain, and Commonwealth nations are accurate; those for other nations, Allied Axis, vary in reliability. Chinese figures are largely estimates because of the lack of documentation; information on Soviet losses has been given only judiciously and in very general terms; and many records of the Axis nations were lost when those countries were overrun. The most accurate available figures are shown in Tables 1, 2, and 3.

Table 1. UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES TOTAL STRENGTH AND CASUALTIES IN WORLD WAR II, DECEMBER 7, 1941-DECEMBER 31, 1946

Service	Total strength	Battle deaths	Deaths		Wounds	Captured
			from other causes	in missing		
Army	11,360,000	34,874	83,400	565,863	118,574	
Navy	4,184,466	36,950	25,664	37,778	3,444	
Marine Corps	660,400	19,733	4,778	63,407	7,725	
Air Force	241,093	574	1,345	955		
Total	16,446,959	102,131	115,187	678,803	130,748	

In listing strength figures, it should be noted that total strength means the total number of personnel belonging to the armed forces during the entire war, whereas peak strength is the greatest strength reached at any one time during the war. Several methods of classifying and computing casualties are in use, and other variations result from

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