

30 Jun 94

TO: Military Coalition Members

FROM: Ken Goss, Director *G.H.*
National Defense Issues

SUBJECT: *The Enola Gay* Controversy or
Who Started World War II?

Many of you have seen material in Air Force Association publications and material regarding the controversy over the proposed exhibit of the historic *Enola Gay* aircraft at the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum (NASM). Because many of you also have received information from the NASM staff, the Association wanted to share our position and supporting information with you.

The Association believes, after hundreds of hours of research and analysis by historical and aerospace experts, that the proposed exhibit is politically biased and reinterprets history in a manner that distorts the role of the United States in World War II. The gravity of this distortion is exacerbated by the portrayal of the United States as irresponsible in the use of nuclear weapons to bring the War to conclusion thus saving both American and Japanese lives.

The Association recognizes and acknowledges that war against any nation for any reason is a grim prospect, hardly suitable for glamorization. Events in war, however, should be displayed in the overall context in which they occurred, not in isolation. According to John Correll, Editor-in-Chief of AIR FORCE Magazine, unless major, substantive revisions are made to the exhibit, Americans will be viewed as waging a war of vengeance against the Japanese; the Japanese will be viewed largely as victims of American aggression.

Repeated meetings and dialogue with the NASM staff and curators have resulted in minor modifications to the original script. AFA wanted to provide you with our report and analysis on this important program.

Attachments

JOHN T. CORRELL
Editor in Chief

July 28, 1994

Ms. Linda St. Thomas
Director
Office of Public Affairs
The Smithsonian Institution
900 Jefferson Drive, S.W., Rm. 2410
Washington, D.C. 20560

Dear Ms. St. Thomas:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

I am writing to request the following documents and information:

1) Documents related to the script review for the National Air and Space Museum's planned 1995 exhibit, "The Last Act - The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II," that was completed in July 1994 by a committee, dubbed "The Tiger Team," led by Brig. Gen. William Constantine, USAF (Ret.). I am specifically requesting the Tiger Team's overall comments on the script as well as the line-by-line comments of the individual members of the team.

2) List of the sources of funding for the National Air and Space Museum's planned 1995 exhibit, "The Last Act - The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II."

3) List of the sources of funding of the salaries of any private role curator associated with the National Air and Space Museum's planned 1995 exhibit, "The Last Act - The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II."

This request includes any and all documents, computer tapes or transcripts, photographs, drawings or other information related to the specific document(s) in this request.

As you know, the amended Act provides that if some parts of a file are exempt from release, that "reasonably segregable" portions shall be provided. I therefore request that if you determine that some portions of this request are exempt from release, that you provide me immediately with a copy of the remainder of the material.

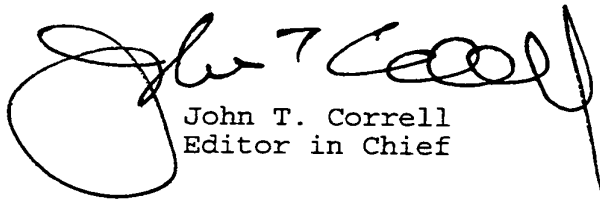
If you determine that some or all of the material I seek is exempt from release, I request a detailed explanation as to which exemption(s) in the amended Act you determine apply to the denial. I reserve my right to appeal any decisions on your part declaring portions of this request as exempt from release.

I am prepared to pay reasonable costs for retrieving and photocopying the material in this request, and authorize you to proceed processing this request in an amount charged on your fee schedule to me not to exceed \$1,000. Please notify me immediately by telephone, (703) 247-5821, or fax (703) 247-5855, prior to my incurring expenses in excess of that amount.

As you know, the amended Act provides that you can reduce or waive the file search and reproduction charges if that is found to be "in the public interest because furnishing the information can be seen as primarily benefiting the public." Since the purpose of this request is to obtain material for a magazine article to be published by AIR FORCE Magazine for the purpose of informing its readers of governmental activities, I request a full waiver of fees under that section of the Act.

As provided for under the amended Act, I expect to receive a written reply from you within 10 working days. However, if there are any questions you have about this request, please feel free to telephone me at once, (703) 247-5821, and I'll be happy to discuss the request with you. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Correll". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John T. Correll
Editor in Chief