

Published on *CIA FOIA* ([foia.cia.gov](https://www.cia.gov/readingroom)) (<https://www.cia.gov/readingroom>)

LETTER TO WILLIAM H. WEBSTER FROM CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE

Document Type: CREST ^[1]

Collection: General CIA Records ^[2]

Document Number (FOIA) /ESDN (CREST): CIA-RDP92G00017R000400050001-8

Release Decision: RIFPUB

Original Classification: K

Document Page Count: 14

Document Creation Date: December 23, 2016

Document Release Date: December 4, 2013

Sequence Number: 1

Case Number:

Publication Date: June 19, 1989

Content Type: LETTER

File:

Attachment

Size

 CIA-RDP92G00017R000400050001-8.pdf ^[3] 420.54 KB

Body:

Declassified and Aooroved For Release 2013/12/04 :

CIA-

DP92G00017R000400050001-8

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

DATE

TO:

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

REMARKS:

ADDA

DDA

D/PAO

Registry

0

\

SS%

1989

wi

A A

2210N

-2 2 JUN

has action

(File)

FROM:

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

EXTENSION

FORM NO. _ REPLACES FORM 36-8 (47)

Declassified and Approved For Release 2013/12/04:

GPO : 1988 0 - 207-558

CIA-RDP92G00017R000400050001-8

Source URL: <https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/document/cia-rdp92g00017r000400050001-8>

Links

[1] <https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/document-type/crest>

[2] <https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/collection/general-cia-records>

[3] <https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP92G00017R000400050001-8.pdf>

[Charles S. Whitehouse, assistant Secretary of Defense. (Jun. 19, 1989). LETTER TO WILLIAM H. WEBSTER FROM CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE re. 'Wild Bill' Donovan and the OSS dedictionation at MacDill AFB Tampa, CIA-RDP92G00017R000400050001-8. CIA FOIA Archives.]

DATE

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

[Charles S. Whitehouse, assistant Secretary of Defense. (Jun. 19, 1989). LETTER TO WILLIAM H. WEBSTER FROM CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE re. 'Wild Bill' Donovan and the OSS dedication at MacDill AFB Tampa. CIA-RDP92G00017R000400050001-8. CIA FOIA Archives.]

TO:

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

REMARKS:

ADDA

fn

22 JUN 1989

DDA

fn

22 JUN 1989

D/PAO has action

Registry (File)

FROM:

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

EXTENSION

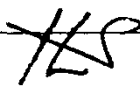
ROUTING SLIP

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA		X		
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OCA				
14	D/PAO	X			
15	D/PERS				
16	D/Ex Staff				
17	OIR/Historical				
18	Intell Collection	X			
19	Rm 1E 41A, OHB				
20					
21					
22					

SUSPENSE — 30 ~~Jun~~ ^{Date} 89 —

Remarks To # 14: Please have response prepared for DCI signature.

ER 89-2482


 Executive Secretary
 21 Jun '89
 Date

3637 (10-81)



SPECIAL OPERATIONS/
LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2400



19 June 1989

The Honorable William H. Webster
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster,

I thought you would be interested to know that U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill AFB dedicated its auditorium in memory of Major General William J. Donovan on June 16th. General Donovan's grandson and I unveiled a painting of the general as well as a cabinet with his uniform, medals and other memorabilia. I enclose a copy of the remarks I made at the ceremony and a copy of the program.

As you know the Special Forces community considers OSS to be its precursor organization and the patch worn by Special Forces officers is that worn by OSS officers in World War II.

I am sure you will agree that this was a thoughtful gesture on the part of General James Lindsay, the Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command.

All the best,

Very sincerely,

Charles S. Whitehouse

Enclosures
a/s

Bldg-18

PROPOSED REMARKS FOR
AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE
MG DONOVAN ROOM DEDICATION
MACDILL AFB, TAMPA, FL
16 JUNE 1989

It is most appropriate that the United States Special Operations Command, pay tribute to Major General William J. Donovan, and that this room be named in his honor.

General Donovan was a lawyer, a courageous soldier and a legendary figure even in his lifetime, but the accomplishment for which we hail him here today was his success in creating the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in World War II and giving our country its first national capability in foreign intelligence and special operations.

General Donovan was, indeed, a larger-than-life figure one that Hollywood often aspires to replicate but rarely portrays with the right mixture of qualities. Donovan's life reads like a Horatio Alger novel--he was a hero of World War I and World War II as well as a self-made man and successful lawyer. Born in Buffalo of poor Irish immigrant parents, he made his way up the corporate ladder, culminating with a flourishing law practice on Wall Street. Out of a sense of duty and patriotism, Donovan joined Troop I, 1st Cavalry Regiment, New York National Guard, in 1912. Four years later, Donovan found himself in Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa, good preparation for the life he subsequently lead. In March 1917, Troop I was again mustered into Service, and Donovan was given command of the 1st Battalion of the 69th "Fighting Irish" Infantry Regiment. On 28 February 1918, Donovan and his battalion entered the fighting for the

first time. He subsequently led his troops in some of the fiercest trench fighting of the war, a searing experience that would lead him later to seek other unconventional means to fight more craftily and more imaginatively.

General Donovan's dauntless courage and leadership made him a superb commander. His gallantry under fire won him the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Croix De Guerre, and the Distinguished Service Cross. He came out of the war as one of America's most decorated officers, and earned him the sobriquet "Wild Bill" Donovan.

General Donovan then returned to the world of business and the practice of law, but in the summer of 1940, following the collapse of France and the Dunkirk Evacuation, when Britain "stood alone", Donovan

visited Britain as President Roosevelt's personal representative. Upon his return to the United States he helped negotiate the historic "destroyers for bases" deal of September 1940 that linked the defense of Britain with that of the United States and marked a major step toward the Anglo-American wartime alliance. Later in the same year Donovan returned to London, and in early 1941 spent several weeks visiting British forces in North Africa and the Mediterranean as well as examining the political and military situation in Yugoslavia and Greece.

During these missions Donovan gave high priority to the intelligence and counter-intelligence issues facing Britain and the United States.

When Donovan returned from his second mission in the early spring of 1941, he lobbied hard in

Washington for the creation of a centralized intelligence agency. Donovan's successful missions to England helped to convince President Roosevelt to accept the essence of his plan, and on July 11, 1941, the President appointed Donovan, Coordinator of Information.

In this capacity and, more importantly, as Director of the Office of Strategic Services later in the war, Donovan was the impetus behind the creation of a modern, unified special operations capability. Within the OSS, he proposed including intelligence and counter-intelligence, psychological operations and what he called unorthodox warfare (or what we know as unconventional warfare). In conjunction with conventional forces, these special operations capabilities--what he called a "new instrument of

war"--could be employed to prevent the carnage of World War I trench warfare. Not unlike our own experiences four decades later trying to establish this command, Donovan had no easy time establishing the OSS because the military Services evinced little interest in this "new and difficult to understand" capability. Many military professionals regarded special operations as unorthodox, untried activities; so the military response to Donovan and the OSS was at times hesitant, skeptical, indifferent, and even antagonistic.

Under the auspices of the OSS, Donovan was able to implement his concept of special operations. In the words of Donovan, this "new instrument" wore down the enemy psychologically, diverted his resources, kept him off balance, and sapped his energy." By war's end, the OSS had evolved into the first truly Unified Special Operations Command. And, thus, Donovan can

legitimately be considered the spiritual father of a "special warfare" capability for the Department of Defense.

The OSS sent its members to conduct operations around the globe. Agents and Guerrilla leaders were infiltrated into Europe and the Balkans.

In the China-Burma-India Theater, Detachment 101 went into combat in late 1942, engaging in classic unconventional warfare in Burma. By February 1945, 101ers commanded over 10,000 Guerrillas who forced the Japanese out of the jungle into open areas where they were vulnerable to allied attacks.

During World War II the armed services provided forces for special operations just as they do today. The bulk of the OSS personnel were volunteers from Army

ranks. The Army Air Force supported the OSS and SOE in the European Theater of operations by creating special units to conduct resupply, infiltration, and PSYOP missions. In the China-Burma-India Theater the 1st Air Commando Group, the predecessor of today's 1st Special Operations Wing, provided fighter, bomber, evacuation, and resupply support for Wingate's Raiders and DET 101 of the OSS. The Navy created the Scouts and Raiders to perform pre-landing reconnaissance, to clear the way of obstacles, and to lead the invasion forces ashore. These forerunners of today's SEALs participated in the landings in North Africa, Italy, and France. Beginning with the 1944 invasion of Saipan, Underwater Demolition Teams (UDTs) performed similar operations during the Pacific Beach Assaults.

World War II witnessed the creation of modern special operations and, in some regards, its halcyon period as well. By war's end, special operations units had adequate resources and were closely associated with the conventional forces, and had made significant contributions to the allied cause.

In May 1945 General Dwight D. Eisenhower praised the contribution made by Special Operations Forces in Europe by proclaiming that [Quote] "in no previous war . . . have resistance forces been so closely harnessed to the main military effort. . . I consider that the disruption of enemy rail communications, the harassing of German road moves and the continual and increasing strain placed on the German war economy and internal security services. . . played a very considerable part in our complete and final victory. . . .
..Finally, I must express my great admiration for the

brave and often spectacular exploits of the agents and special groups under control of special forces headquarters." [Unquote]

OSS was disbanded after World War II and I will not try to trace the many, varied organizational experiments which our country has made since that time to provide for special operations which can be as fully integrated into our national security structure as OSS was. I think we have now partially succeeded.

So what we commemorate today is the vision of "Wild Bill" Donovan who envisaged and created a unified special operations capability that is the direct precursor of U.S. Special Operations Command.

I trust that the room we are dedicating will long be a reminder of the imagination and courage of General

Donovan and of the men and women of our country who have given their lives while carrying out special operations all over the world. U.S. Special Operations Command has a proud heritage. I know that whenever the occasion arises this Command will be true to that heritage.

Thank You.