



Bryan White &lt;zebrafactcheck@gmail.com&gt;

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**Correction request: Miscount of Americans who died in WWII**

1 message

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**Bryan White** <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>  
To: truthometer@politifact.com

Sun, Jan 31, 2021 at 12:52 AM

Dear Truth-O-Meter,

Your fact check of President Biden's inaugural address contains an error in need of correction.

In fact-checking Mr. Biden's claim that the coronavirus has caused more deaths than Americans suffered in WWII, you used figures specific to those serving in the military. There were at least 10,000 civilian casualties ([nearly 10,000](#) from the civilian merchant marine) not reflected in [the source material you used](#).

This line from the fact check is therefore false: "That is just shy of the 405,399 U.S. deaths during World War II, according to the [Congressional Research Service](#)." Rather, it comes to 405,399 total U.S. **military** deaths in World War II.

Please correct the mistake, owning up to your readers that it counts as a methodological blunder to judge the total number of American deaths from WWII (apples) using data only for American military deaths from WWII (oranges).

Thanks &amp; cheers.

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Sincerely,

Bryan W. White  
editor  
[zebrafactcheck.com](http://zebrafactcheck.com)