

SECOND ADDENDUM TO  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

AUG 27 1998

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: 86-04518



COUNSEL: None

HEARING DESIRED: Yes

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His WD AGO 53-55, Enlisted Record and Report of Separation - Honorable Discharge, be corrected to show that his rank at separation was sergeant, rather than private; his organization at the time of separation was the 482nd Svc Sq, rather than the [REDACTED] Bomb Sq; and, he participated in the "Morotai, Philippine Islands, Leyte Island, Mindanao, Mindoro Island, and Okinawa Island" Battles and Campaigns.

His medical records be corrected to show that he was hospitalized during the period 25 December 1944 to 4 January 1945 for yellow jaundice.

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RESUME OF THE CASE:

The applicant's records were lost or destroyed in the fire at the National Personnel Records Center on 12 July 1973. The applicant's separation document indicates that he was inducted into the Army of the United States on 7 April 1943 and entered active duty on 14 April 1943. He was assigned to duties in the Air Corps as an airplane sheet metal worker.

The applicant's separation document further indicates that he was honorably discharged on 12 January 1946 because of demobilization. He had served on active duty for 2 years, 9 months and 6 days of which 1 year, 11 months and 18 days was foreign service in the Asia-Pacific Theater of Operations. His rank at separation was recorded as private first class (PFC) and it was indicated the highest grade he held was corporal. His organization was the 820<sup>th</sup> Bomber Squadron, 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He had participated in the GO 33 & 40 WD 45, New Guinea, South Philippines, and Luzon Battles and Campaigns. He was authorized to wear the Good Conduct medal, the Philippines Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star, the American Theater Service Medal, the Asia-Pacific Theater Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

In an application submitted under AFR 31-3, dated 11 March 1986, the applicant requested his separation documents be corrected to show he was separated in the grade of sergeant, his organization at

separation be changed 482<sup>nd</sup> Svc Sq, his eye color was blue, the addition of several battles and campaigns, and one overseas bar. He also requested his records be corrected to show he received medical treatment for yellow jaundice. He also requested that his records be corrected to show his entitlement to an Overseas Bar. His request for an overseas bar was resolved administratively on 26 September 1986 and the case was thereafter forwarded to the Board for consideration. The application was considered by the Board on 12 March 1987 and denied as untimely (see AFBCMR 86-04518, with Exhibits A through E).

On 26 September 1986, a DD Form 215, Correction to Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, was issued, which amended the applicant's separation document to show he was entitled to one Overseas Bar.

On 10 September 1996 and 25 April 1997, the Board reconsidered and denied the applicant's requests that his WD AGO 53-55, Enlisted Record and Report of Separation - Honorable Discharge, be corrected to show that his rank at separation was sergeant, rather than private; his organization at the time of separation was the 482nd Svc Sq, rather than the 820th Bomb Sq; his eye color was blue, rather than gray; and, he participated in the "Morotai, Philippine Islands, Leyte Island, Mindoro Island, and Okinawa Island" Battles and Campaigns. Also denied was the applicant's request that his medical records be corrected to show that he was hospitalized during the period 25 December 1944 to 4 January 1945 for yellow jaundice (see Addendum to Record of Proceedings, dated 9 June 1997, with Exhibit F).

The applicant's request for a change of his eye color was thereafter staffed to the appropriate office of primary responsibility for administrative correction to the record based on the evidence provided. On 28 August 1997, a DD Form 215, was issued correcting the applicant's eye color from gray to blue.

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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

Through a member of Congress, the applicant submitted evidence which he believes verifies his claims that he was assigned to the 482<sup>nd</sup> Air Service Squadron and that his Place of Entry (POE) was Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He also would appreciate the Board's full consideration of his requests for a change in his rank to sergeant and correction of his battles and campaigns.

This submission is at Exhibit G.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The Directorate of Assignments, AFPC/DPAIS1, reviewed this application and indicated that although it appears that the applicant was assigned to the 482<sup>nd</sup> Air Service Squadron during his military service, they do not believe evidence to support that assignment at the time of separation has been presented. Due to the passage of time since the applicant's separation and no evidence to discredit the discharge form, DPAIS1 recommended that this portion of the appeal be denied (see Exhibit H).

The Recognitions and Programs Branch, AFPC/DPPPRA, reviewed this application and stated that campaign credit is given to units for participation in specified campaigns; this information is listed in Air Force Pamphlet (AFP) 900-2. The applicant's Report of Separation reflects campaign credit for New Guinea, Southern Philippines, and Luzon. This document further shows he was entitled to the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, that his organization was the 820<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, and that he was assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations from 15 January 1944 to 13 December 1945.

DPPPRA stated that the 820<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron only received credit for participation in two campaigns: Eastern Mandates (7 December 1943 to 16 April 1944) and Ryukyus (26 March to 2 July 1945). Under this unit, the applicant would only be entitled to two bronze service stars, not three.

The 482<sup>nd</sup> Service Squadron only received credit for participation in two campaigns: New Guinea (24 January 1943 to 31 December 1944) and Papua (23 July 1942 - 23 January 1943). Under this unit, the applicant would only be entitled to one bronze service star, not three.

It appears to DPPPRA that the applicant believes that campaign credit is given for each area in which he served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations; this is not true. Only campaigns which are listed in AFP 900-2 are authorized campaigns, and only the campaigns for which the unit has received credit can entitle an individual to bronze service stars if he or she was assigned to that unit during the campaign. However, since the applicant's Report of Separation lists three campaigns and awarded him three bronze service stars for his Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, they do not wish to make any changes (deletions).

A complete copy of this evaluation, including an extract from AFP 900-2, is at Exhibit I.

The Enlisted Promotion Branch, AFPC/DPPPWB, reviewed this application and stated that there is no documentation available to reflect that the applicant's grade at the time of separation was anything other than private. As indicated in their staff advisory

opinion dated 23 September 1986 (Exhibit C), his Report of Separation shows his grade as private and his highest grade held as corporal. In addition, his Final Payment - Work Sheet, prepared at the time of discharge, reflects his grade as private. In the absence of documentation to the contrary, DPPPW concludes that his rank at the time of discharge was private. Therefore, they recommend denial of his request for a higher grade (Exhibit J).

The Skills Management Branch, AFPC/DPPAE, stated that, after reviewing the documents provided, they agree that the applicant's records should be administratively corrected to show that his Place of Entry (POE) was Harrisburg, PA (see Exhibit K).

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APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

Copies of the advisory opinions were forwarded to the applicant for review and comment. Through a member of Congress, the applicant submitted additional evidence and requested that the Board grant him a personal hearing (Exhibit M).

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THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. Sufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of probable error or injustice with respect to the applicant's request for the addition of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on his separation document as the place he entered active duty. Specifically, the applicant provided a copy of a Special Order apparently issued in April 1943 by an Armed Forces Induction Station in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which includes his name among the other inductees. In view of this evidence, and because we are aware of the fact that this correction has not yet been made, to ensure he is afforded this relief, his records should be corrected as indicated below.

2. We are not persuaded by the evidence provided with the applicant's most recent submissions that favorable consideration of his requests for changes to his rank and organization at separation, and, credit for additional battles and campaigns is appropriate. As new evidence in support of his requests for promotion and credit for battles and campaigns, the applicant provided a statement he wrote in which he reiterated his assertions which was thereafter signed by former comrades at a convention. Also provided are copies of an order showing that on 7 January 1945, he and others assigned to the 482<sup>nd</sup> Service Squadron were awarded the Good Conduct Medal and that he was issued a Pass authorizing him to visit Manila on 27 May 1945 (there is no indication on the latter document of the issuing organization). It is our opinion that this evidence is not sufficient to warrant approval of the requested relief.

a. With respect to the applicant's asserted promotion to sergeant, the only new evidence provided is the above-cited statement -- no official document has been provided showing that the applicant met the eligibility criteria for promotion to or ever held the rank of sergeant. Without some confirmation in the form of a contemporaneous official document, or, a statement by a promotion recommending or approving official, we are not inclined to favorably consider this request.

b. Since no evidence has been provided concerning the applicant's alleged treatment for yellow jaundice, our earlier findings with respect to this issue are affirmed.

c. We have noted the statements and evidence indicating that the applicant was assigned to the 482<sup>nd</sup> Service Squadron for a period of time. No persuasive evidence has been provided which would lead us to believe that the applicant's last unit of assignment, for however brief that assignment may have been, was not the 820<sup>th</sup> Bomber Squadron, or that this information was improperly recorded on his separation document.

d. The officially-recognized battles and campaigns which could be entered on a member's separation document, provided the member was assigned to a participating unit during the period for which credit was given, were listed in Air Force Pamphlet (AFP) 900-2. We note the Air Force's observation concerning the inconsistencies in the number of bronze service stars the applicant's separation document shows he had accrued and the number of bronze service stars which were officially sanctioned for the two organizations cited in this appeal. Based on the information contained in AFP 900-2 and the following discussion, it would appear that if an error was made with respect to the number of bronze service stars to which he was entitled, it was made to the applicant's benefit.

e. The record shows that the applicant served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations (APTO) during the period 15 January 1944 through 13 December 1945. His separation document reveals he served in the New Guinea (24 Jul 1942 - 31 Dec 1944), the Southern Philippines (27 Feb - 4 Jul 1945) and Luzon (15 Dec 1944 - 4 Jul 1945) battles and campaigns. The dates for these events are not inconsistent with his overseas service dates, notwithstanding the fact that they are not consistent with the officially-recognized participation of the two organizations cited in this application. The applicant has requested credit for participation in the "Moroti," "Mindanao," "Mindoro Island," and "Okinawa Island" battles and campaigns. While the applicant may have been at these locations at some time during his service in the APTO, these entries were not officially recognized "battles" or "campaigns." AFP 900-2 indicates that the inclusive period for the Philippines Islands campaign was 7 December 1941 to 10 May 1942 -- prior to the applicant's arrival in the theater. Finally, the inclusive period for the "Leyte Island" campaign was 17 October 1944 to 1 July 1945. However, neither the 482<sup>nd</sup> Svc Sq or the 820<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq were authorized credit for participation in this campaign and the

applicant has provided no evidence indicating he was assigned to some other organization which was so entitled.

f. As a final matter, we again note that the applicant did not appeal the issues under review until approximately 40 years after his separation. It is now more than 52 years since his separation. Because of the passage of time during which memories can fade or become distorted and the accidental destruction of his records, the applicant's ability to substantiate his claims has been severely diminished. We are not unmindful or unappreciative of the applicant's service to his Nation. Nevertheless, in view of the ambiguous information shown on the few existing official documents provided for our review without more compelling information to substantiate the applicant's claims, we are unable to conclude that sufficient doubt has been created concerning the propriety of the applicant's records to warrant favorable consideration of this application.

3. The applicant's case is adequately documented and it has not been shown that a personal appearance with or without counsel will materially add to our understanding of the issues involved. Therefore, the request for a hearing is not favorably considered.

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THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected by amending Item 25 of his WD AGO Form 53-55, Enlisted Record and Report of Separation - Honorable Discharge, issued on 12 January 1946, to show that his Place of Entry into Service was Harrisburg, PA.

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The following members of the Board considered this application in Executive Session on 10 August 1998 under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Mrs. Barbara A. Westgate, Panel Chair  
Mr. Frederick R. Beaman III, Member  
Mr. Jackson A. Hauslein, Member

All members voted to correct the records, as recommended. The following additional documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit G. Letter from C/M Gekas, dated 25 September 1997, with attachments.
- Exhibit H. Letter, AFPC/DPAIS1, dated 20 December 1997.
- Exhibit I. Letter, AFPC/DPPRA, dated 6 January 1998, with attachments.
- Exhibit J. Letter, AFPC/DPPPWB, dated 8 January 1998.
- Exhibit K. Letter, AFPC/DPPAE, dated 23 February 1998, with attachment.

- Exhibit L. Letter, SAF/MIBR, dated 25 February 1998.  
Exhibit M. Letter from C/M Gekas, dated 26 March 1998, with  
attachments.



BARBARA A. WESTGATE  
Panel Chair



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

WASHINGTON, DC

AUG 27 1998

Office of the Assistant Secretary

AFBCMR 86-04518

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Having received and considered the recommendation of the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records and under the authority of Section 1552, Title 10, United States Code (70A Stat 116), it is directed that:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to [REDACTED] be corrected by amending Item 25 of his WD AGO Form 53-55, Enlisted Record and Report of Separation - Honorable Discharge, issued on 12 January 1946, to show that his Place of Entry into Service was [REDACTED]

  
JOE G. LINEBERGER  
Director  
Air Force Review Boards Agency