

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00612

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING DESIRED: NO

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

The deceased former member's records be corrected to reflect he was awarded the following awards and decorations:

1. The Silver Star (SS) **(Already reflected on WD AGO 53, dated 21 Feb 49).**
  2. The Prisoner of War (POW) Medal **(Administratively corrected).**
  3. The Army Good Conduct Medal with four Bronze Loops (GCM w/4 Brz Lps) **(Already reflected on WD AGO 53, dated 21 Feb 49).**
  4. The American Defense Service Medal (ADSM) with foreign service clasp **(Administratively corrected to the ADSM w/1 Bronze Service Star (BSS) and the foreign service clasp).**
  5. The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star (APCM w/1 BSS) **(Administratively corrected to APCM w/3 BSS).**
  6. The Philippine Defense Ribbon with one Bronze Service Star (PDR w/1 BSS) **(Administratively corrected).**
  7. The Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) with two Oak Leaf Clusters (PUC w/2 OLCs) **(Administratively corrected to PUC w/1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster (SOLC)).**
  8. The Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (PPUC) **(Administratively corrected).**
  9. The Army/Air Force Air Crew Badge.
  10. The Army/Air Force Flight Engineering Badge.
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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

There are numerous errors and/or omissions in the deceased former member's military records. These errors were not known until a 9 Jan 12 review of his personal files.

1. The deceased qualifies for the Air Crew Badge because he was eligible to wear wings while on active duty, as evidenced by two Special Orders (Number 125, dated 6 May 49 & Number 157, dated 6 Jun 49) in which he is identified as the Crew Chief of the aircraft involved in the transportation of personnel, his Physical Record Card which reflects his Aeronautical Rating indicating he was "Qualified" each year during the period 1947 to 1951, and his official military photo showing him wearing wings.

2. The deceased qualifies for the Flight Engineering Badge because he was a qualified flight engineer eligible to wear this badge while on active duty, as evidenced by two Special Orders (Number 90, dated 1 Apr 49 & Number 117, dated 28 Apr 49) placing the applicant on TDY in which he is identified as the Assistant Aerial Engineer (Aircrew) and Aerial Engineer (Aircrew), respectively, "requiring regular and frequent participation in aerial fights."

In support of his appeal, the applicant provides copies of the deceased former member's death certificate, four Special Orders, Flight Physical Records, and other documentation related to his requests.

The applicant's complete submission, with attachments, is at Exhibit A.

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The deceased entered active duty on 21 Feb 39.

The deceased was a prisoner of war of the Japanese Government from 7 May 42 to 5 Sep 45.

On 23 Nov 52, while on active duty, the deceased former member passed away when he drowned at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Military Reservation, Colorado.

On 16 Apr 12, AFPC/DPSIDRA notified the applicant they had reviewed his application and the deceased former member's official military records and were able to verify his entitlement to the following awards and decorations: 1) the SS, 2) the POW Medal, 3) the GCM w/4 Brz Lps, 4) the ADMS w/1 BSS and the foreign service clasp, 5) APCM w/3 BSS, 6) the PDR w/1 BSS, 7) the PUC w/1 SOLC, and 8) the PPUC.

The remaining relevant facts pertaining to this application are contained in the letter prepared by the Air Force office of primary responsibility (OPR), which is attached at Exhibit C.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

USAF/A30-AIF recommends denial of the applicant's request for the Aircrew Member and Flight Engineer Badges indicating there is no evidence of an error or injustice. During the period of the deceased former member's service, individuals were authorized to permanently wear the Aircrew Member Badge providing they met one of the following requirements of the Army Air Force Regulation 35-30, dated Dec 43:

1. Attained at least 150 hours of flying duty as an assigned member of an aircrew.
2. Participated in at least 10 combat missions as a crew member.
3. Incapacitation for further aircrew duty, as a result of enemy action or injury while performing aircrew duties.

The deceased former member's personnel record indicates he was an Airplane Mechanic during his service. There is no indication he was ever placed on aeronautical orders or was required to perform flying duties as a member of an aircrew.

A complete copy of the USAF/A30-AIF evaluation is at Exhibit C.

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APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

A copy of the Air Force evaluation was forwarded to the applicant on 6 Jun 12 for review and comment within 30 days. As of this date, no response has been received by this office (Exhibit E).

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THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. The applicant has exhausted all remedies provided by existing law or regulations.
2. The application was not timely filed; however, it is in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to timely file.
3. Sufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of an error or injustice regarding the applicant's request for the Army/Air Force Aircrew Member Badge

and the Army/Air Force Flight Engineer Badge. We note the comments of the Air Force OPR indicating there is no indication the applicant was ever placed on aeronautical orders or was required to perform flying duties as a member of an aircrew; however, after careful review of the applicant's complete submission, to include the Special Orders provided which indicate he was assigned as a Crew Chief, Assistant Aerial Engineer (Aircrew), and Aerial Engineer (Aircrew) respectively, his Aircrew Member Physical Card showing this qualification for Aircrew service each year from May 47 through Jan 51, and his official photo showing him wearing Aircrew wings, we believe a preponderance of the evidence supports corrective action. We note the Air Force OPR determined the applicant is entitled to: 1) the SS, 2) the POW Medal, 3) the GCM w/4 Brz Lps, 4) the ADSM w/1 BSS and the foreign service clasp, 5) APCM w/3 BSS, 6) the PDR w/1 BSS, 7) the PUC w/1 SOLC, and 8) the PPUC, and made the appropriate administrative corrections to his records. Therefore, we recommend his records be corrected to the extent indicated below.

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THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to the APPLICANT be corrected to show that he was awarded the Air Force Aircrew Member Badge and the Air Force Flight Engineer Badge.

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The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00612 in Executive Session on 31 Oct 12, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair  
Member  
Member

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

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 14 Feb 12, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AF/A30-A1F, undated.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 6 Jun 12.

Panel Chair