

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF: DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-01694

COUNSEL: NONE

APPLICANT:

HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His late father be recognized as an ACE Fighter Pilot for aerial victories during World War II (WWII).

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He wants this distinction to be included in his father's memoirs and service record.

In support of his request, the applicant provides copies of an attestation/confirmation of aerial victories letter from the decedent's former commander, supporting documents and the decedent's birth and death certificates.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

Documents in the decedent's Military Personnel Record indicate he served in the Air Force from 6 February 1943 to 31 May 1963, and was credited with 20 years, 3 months and 25 days of active federal service. He received three Bronze Service Stars, the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Gold Clasp and 1 loop, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award w/4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and a Distinguished Unit Citation. Information submitted by the applicant reflects the decedent died on 1 June 1997.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

HQ USAF/A30-A1F recommends denial. A30-A1F states the decedent received credit for two aerial victories on 2 April 1944, and one aerial victory on 10 May 1944. The 37th Fighter Squadron history for April 1944 also mentions the two aerial victories on 2 April 1944, for which two different orders were cut. These three aerial victory credits are already officially listed for the decedent, and are consistent with the documentation the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA) has on record as aerial victory sources of credit for the decedent. The AFHRA is the keeper of the records for aerial victories.

The AFHRA states the applicant received credit for shooting down three aircraft during his service in World War II. All three kills came in 1944, two on 2 April and one on 10 May. With three kills, the applicant would not be eligible for the honorary designation as an "ace." The term "ace" is an unofficial honorary designation for an aviator who has scored five kills. There is no award referred to as an "Ace Award."

The complete A30-A1F evaluation, with AFHRA email correspondence, is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

On 19 June 2012, a copy of the Air Force evaluation was forwarded to the applicant for review and comment within 30 days (Exhibit D). To date, this office has not received a response.

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. Insufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of error or injustice. We took notice of the applicant's complete submission in judging the merits of the case; however, the Board majority agrees with the opinion and recommendation of the Air Force office of primary responsibility and adopts its rationale as the basis for our conclusion that the former member has not been the victim of an error or injustice. The personal sacrifice the former member endured for our country

is noted; however, insufficient evidence has been presented to show that he be awarded credit for five kills. Therefore, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the Board majority finds no basis to recommend granting the relief sought in this application.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD:

A majority of the Board finds insufficient evidence of error or injustice and recommends the application be denied.

The following members of the Board considered Docket Number BC-2012-01694 in Executive Session on 14 November 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

, Panel Chair
, Member
, Member

By a majority vote, the Board recommended denial of the application. Mr. Paul P. Barany voted to correct the record but does not wish to submit a Minority Report. The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149 w/atchs, dated 4 April 2012.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, USAF/ A30-A1F, not dated.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 19 June 2012.

Panel Chair