

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 28 March 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230003473

APPLICANT REQUESTS: reconsideration of his previous request for award of the Ranger Tab.

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- Self-Authored letter in lieu of DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Morning Report
- Roster of Personnel
- Ranger History: Eighth Army Rangers
- Excerpt – Ranger Tab Eligibility, Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards)
- Self-authored letter, Mr. [REDACTED]

FACTS:

1. Incorporated herein by reference are military records which were summarized in the previous consideration of the applicant's case by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) in Docket Number AR20200000671 on 28 October 2020, Docket Number AR20150013619 on 29 September 2016 and Docket Number AR20130020557 on 22 July 2014.

2. The applicant states in pertinent part that he was reassigned from the Eighth Army Ranger Company to Bravo Company, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division on 1 December 1950. He contests that his service in the Eighth Army Ranger Company from 25 October – 30 November 1950 meets the eligibility requirements to be authorized the Ranger Tab and an additional Bronze Star with "V" device during this period. He argues that the Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (AHRC), may award the Ranger tab to any person who was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge while serving during the Korean Conflict with the Eighth Army Ranger Company (11 October 1950 to 27 March 1951); or to any person who completed a Ranger course conducted by the Ranger Training Command at Fort Benning, GA. He notes that the award requirement provides that an individual who

served "with" the Eighth Army Ranger Company rather than the requirement to serve as a member of the unit. He provides that the included roster of personnel dated 1 December 1950 details the assignment of Eighth Army Ranger Company along with individuals known as Rangers assigned to that same unit. He challenges the burden of providing proof of his assignment to the Eighth Army Ranger Company, noting that the statement included in this case by Mr. [REDACTED] should be sufficient to validate the fact that he was a member of the unit. The applicant's statement is further provided in its entirety for the Board's review within the supporting documents.

3. The applicant's military records are not available to the Board for review. A fire destroyed approximately 18 million service members' records at the National Personnel Records Center in 1973. It is believed that the applicant's records were lost or destroyed in that fire. However, there were sufficient documents remaining in a reconstructed record for the Board to conduct a fair and impartial review of this case.

a. On 23 December 1948, the applicant enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve (Ready Reserve)

b. On 26 September 1950, the applicant was ordered to active duty to serve in the Infantry.

c. On 24 July 1951, the applicant was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR). While on active duty, the applicant served in Korea for approximately 8 months and 6 days with Company K, 35th Infantry Regiment. His DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the U.S.) reflects the following awards:

- Purple Heart
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Korean Service Medal w/ 1 Bronze Service Star

d. On 31 August 1954, the applicant was honorably discharged from the USAR.

4. The applicant provides:

a. Morning Report dated 1 December 1950, reflective of information issued by Bravo Company, 35th Infantry Regiment while located in Korea. The applicant's name is listed with a 21-month active-duty enlistment obligation; 25 June 1952 expiration term of service date. The applicant was reassigned from the 25th Replacement Company, Detachment 1 to the 25th Infantry Division.

b. Morning Report, 11-12 December 1950, reflective of information issued by Company K, 35th Infantry Regiment while located in Korea. The applicant's name is not reflected on this document

c. Morning Report, 20 December 1950, reflective of information issued by Bravo Company, 35th Infantry Regiment while located in Korea. The applicant's name is listed as 1 of 3 service members being released from assignment and reassigned to Company K, 35th Infantry Regiment.

d. Roster of Personnel reflective of a list of personnel under the Eighth Army Ranger Company and the organizations that they were transferred to. The applicant highlights the assignment of Mr. [REDACTED] (referred to at the rank of corporal) – 304th Signal Operations Battalion, Korea.

e. Ranger History: Eighth Army Rangers, reflective of the activities and accomplishments that the Eighth Army Rangers participated in during the Korean War. The applicant highlights a statement provided by Mr. [REDACTED] (referred to as a Ranger) wherein he provides that Rangers lived in designated platoon areas in shelter-half tents with the company headquarters in a squad tent next to a boxing ring. The applicant also highlights a statement provided by another Ranger who references the quality of life and daily experiences. This document is provided in its entirety for the Board's review within the supporting documents.

f. Excerpt – Ranger Tab Eligibility, AR 600-8-22 (Military Awards) reflective of the award eligibility requirements pertaining to the Ranger tab. The applicant directs attention to the guidance pertaining to the Korean Conflict wherein it includes persons awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge while serving during the Korean Conflict with the Eighth Army Ranger Company (11 October 1950 – 27 March 1951).

g. Self-authored letter, Mr. [REDACTED] reflective of his relationship with the applicant. Mr. [REDACTED] served as the applicant's squad leader, 1st Platoon, 8th Army Ranger Company. Mr. [REDACTED] notes that the applicant joined his squad during the 2nd week of November 1950 and remained as such until he was wounded on or about 29 November 1950.

5. On 28 October 2020, Docket Number AR20200000671 the Board denied the applicant's request for correction noting that the applicant failed to provide sufficient evidence to show that he attended and graduated Ranger School; just being assigned to a Ranger Company does not qualify the applicant for the Ranger tab.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, a majority of the Board found relief is not warranted.
2. A majority of the Board noted that AR 600-8-22 contains no provision for awarding the Ranger Tab to Soldiers who received the Combat Infantryman Badge while assigned to the 8th Army Ranger Company. The source for the reference provided by the applicant is unclear. Based on a preponderance of the evidence, a majority of the Board determined the evidence does not support changing the Board's previous decision to deny relief.
3. The member in the minority found the statements and references provided by the applicant as well as the applicant's available service records support relief. The member in the minority determined the applicant should be awarded the Ranger Tab.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:	:	■	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
■	■	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined that the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis to amend the decision of the ABCMR set forth in Docket Number AR20200000671 on 28 October 2020.

7/23/2024

X

CHAIRPERSON

I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

REFERENCES:

1. Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards) provides Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. This regulation further provides that the Ranger Tab is awarded for successful completion of a Ranger Course conducted by the U.S. Army Infantry School or the Ranger Training Command. It is also awarded to any person who was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge while serving in World War II as a member of a Ranger Battalion (1st to 6th inclusive) or in the 5307th Composite Unit (Merrill's Marauders).
2. AR 600-70 (Badges), dated 24 September 1951 governed badges at the time. Change Number 2, dated 23 January 1953, authorized the Commandant of the Infantry School to award the Ranger Tab upon successful completion of company grade Ranger courses.
3. AR 15-185 (ABCMR) paragraph 2-9 states the ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//