

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 23 February 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230008512

APPLICANT REQUESTS: the WD AGO Form 53-55 (Enlisted Record and Report of Separation - Honorable Discharge) of his deceased great grandfather, a former service member (FSM) be corrected to show the:

- Army of Occupation Medal (Italy)
- Meritorious Unit Commendation

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- FSM Certificate of Death
- FSM WD AGO Form 53-55, for the period ending 18 November 1945
- Extract of DA Pamphlet 672-1 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register)
- Extract of Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards)
- Certificates of Live Birth (2)

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b); however, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) conducted a substantive review of this case and determined it is in the interest of justice to excuse the applicant's failure to timely file.
2. The applicant states he would like a complete and accurate record of the FSM's time in service.
3. The FSM'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 his records were lost or destroyed in that fire. However, there were sufficient documents remaining in a reconstructed record to conduct a fair and impartial review of this case. This case is being considered using reconstructed records, which primarily consist of a WD AGO Form 53-55.

4. The FSM's WD AGO Form 53-55 shows he was inducted into the Army of the United States and entered active service on 18 March 1942. This form also shows that at the time of separation, the FSM:

- held Arm or Service: Ordnance and military occupational specialty 194, Salvage Technician
- was assigned to Headquarters Detachment, 3029th Company, 125th Ordnance (Base Automotive Maintenance (BAM)) Battalion

5. His WD AGO Form 53-55 also shows he departed the continental United States (CONUS) on 21 September 1942 and arrived in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of (EAMET) Operations on 31 October 1942. He departed the EAMET on 1 November 1945 and arrived back in the USA on 13 November 1945.

6. The FSM's specific unit of attachment/assignment during World War II is unknown.

7. He was honorably separated at Fort Bragg, NC on 18 November 1945. He completed 6 months and 8 days of continental service and 3 years, 1 month, and 23 days of foreign service. His WD AGO Form 53-55 shows in:

- Item 31 (Military Qualifications and Date): None
- Item 32 (Battles and Campaigns): he participated in the Rome-Arno Campaign during WWII
- Item 33 (Decorations and Citations): he was awarded the American Theater Ribbon, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Service Ribbon with one bronze service star, Good Conduct Medal, and the [World War II] Victory Medal

8. By regulation (AR 600-8-22), the Army of Occupation Medal was established by War Department General Orders 32, 1946. It is awarded for service for 30 consecutive days at a normal post of duty (as contrasted to inspector, visitor, courier, escort, passenger, TDY, or detached service) while assigned to any of the following: Army of Occupation of Italy between 9 May 1945 and 15 September 1947, in the compartment of Venezia Giulia E. Zara or Province of Udine or with a unit in Italy as designated in AGO 1947-4. Service between 9 May and 8 November 1945 will be counted only if the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded for service before 9 May 1945.

9. By regulation (DA Pam 672-1), the 125th Ordnance Base Automotive Maintenance Battalion did not receive occupation credit for Germany or Italy. Additionally, the following subordinate units of this battalion were awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation: from 1 November 1944 to 1 May 1945, General Order 183, Headquarters, Peninsular Base Sec., dated 3 July 1945, Headquarters and Service Company and the Medical Detachment.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered.
2. The Board noted the absence of the FSM's unit of assignment during World War II and that the unit annotated was not awarded occupation credit or the Meritorious Unit Commendation; however, determined through the applicant's contentions that the FSM is be awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation and Army of Occupation Medal for his service during World War II.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by:

- Awarding the FSM the Army of Occupation Medal
- awarding the FSM the Meritorious Unit Commendation
- adding the Army of Occupation Medal to the FSM's WD AGO 53-55
- adding the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the FSM's WD AGO 53-55

█

---

█ █

█

█

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. Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the ABCMR to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the 3-year statute of limitations if the ABCMR determines it would be in the interest of justice to do so.

2. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-1 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) is published to assist commanders and personnel officers in determining or establishing the eligibility of individual members for campaign participation credit, assault landing credit, unit citation emblems, and occupation duty credit for World War II and for the Korean War. This DA Pam shows:

a. The 125th Ordnance Base Automotive Maintenance Battalion did not receive occupation credit for Germany or Italy.

b. The Meritorious Unit Commendation was awarded to Headquarters and Service Company and the Medical Detachment of the 125th Ordnance Base Automotive Maintenance Battalion, from 1 November 1944 to 1 May 1945, General Order 183, Headquarters, Peninsular Base Sec., dated 3 July 1945.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//