

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: ██████████

BOARD DATE: 17 May 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230010389

APPLICANT REQUESTS: reconsideration of his previous request for correction of his WD AGO Form 53-55 (Enlisted Record and Report of Separation – Honorable Discharge) to show his service in Korea.

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

- Letter, 21 July 2023, with Enclosures –
 - WD AGO Form 24 (Service Record) covering the period 6 July 1943 to 14 March 1946
 - Wikipedia Article, "United States Army Military Government in Korea," 5 July 2023
 - Wikipedia Article, "Tenth United States Army," 4 July 2023
 - Photographs
- Documents from Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) Docket Number AR20220009003, 25 April 2023 –
 - Photographs
 - Army of Occupation Certificate, 25 December 1945
 - WD AGO Form 100 (Separation Qualification Record) covering the period 20 July 1943 to 14 March 1946
 - WD AGO Form 53-280 (Honorable Discharge Certificate), 14 March 1946
 - WD AGO Form 53-55
 - WD Form 372A (Final Payment – Worksheet), 4 March 1946

FACTS:

1. Incorporated herein by reference are military records which were summarized in the previous consideration of the applicant's case by the ABCMR in Docket Number AR20220009003 on 25 April 2023.

2. The applicant's complete military records are not available 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. This case is being considered based on the evidence he provided with his previous application and the evidence he now provides.

3. The applicant states he located his WD AGO Form 24, additional photographs, and Wikipedia articles about his units of assignment, showing his service in Korea that were not previously provided for consideration.

a. Page 11 of his WD AGO Form 24 clearly shows he departed Okinawa on 12 September 1945 and arrived in Korea on 17 September 1945. Additionally, page 6 of his WD AGO Form 24 rightfully shows he departed Korea en route to the United States on 20 February 1946.

b. The photographs reflect his service with the 57th Signal Service Battalion, Tenth U.S. Army.

4. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 6 July 1943 and entered active duty on 20 July 1943.

5. The locally produced certificate from "South of 38 on the Korean Peninsula" certified that he "served in the Army of Occupation with his friends and associates in Korea as inscribed below on this 25th day of December in the year of our Lord 1945" and is inscribed with 36 signatures. (The 38th parallel was the name given to latitude 38° north in East Asia that roughly demarcates North Korea and South Korea).

6. His WD AGO Form 24 covering the period 6 July 1943 to 14 March 1946 shows in:

a. "Organizations to which Attached," he was assigned to the 57th Signal Repair Company, Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, on 11 January 1946;

b. "Foreign Service," he departed the United States from the Seattle port of embarkation on 19 February 1945 for duty in the Asiatic Pacific theater. He arrived at Oahu Tripler Hospital on 25 February 1945. He departed Korea for the United States on 20 February 1946 and arrived at the Seattle port of debarkation on 4 March 1946; and

c. "Medals, Decorations, and Citations," he was awarded the:

- World War II Victory Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon
- American Theater Campaign Ribbon

7. His WD Form 372A (Final Payment – Worksheet) (best copy) shows he transferred from Korea on 20 February 1946 and arrived in the United States on 4 March 1946. He received foreign service pay for February and March 1946.

8. His WD AGO Form 100 covering the period 20 July 1943 through 14 March 1946 shows he served with Company A, 3180th Signal Service Battalion, as a radio repairman in the Asiatic-Pacific theater of operations.

9. He was honorably discharged on 14 March 1946. He completed 1 year, 7 months, and 9 days of continental United States service and 1 year and 16 days of foreign service. His WD Form 53-55 shows in:

- item 32 (Battles and Campaigns) – Ryukyus, Okinawa
- item 33 (Decorations and Citations) –
 - Army Good Conduct Medal
 - Asiatic-Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon
 - World War II Victory Medal
 - American Theater Campaign Ribbon
- item 36 (Service Outside Continental United States and Return) –
 - departed the United States en route to the Asiatic-Pacific theater on 19 February 1945 and arrived on 25 February 1945
 - departed the Asiatic-Pacific theater en route to the United States on 20 February 1946 and arrived on 4 March 1946

10. His Honorable Discharge Certificate shows he was honorably discharged in the grade of technician fourth grade on 14 March 1946. His unit of assignment is shown as Company A, 3180th Signal Service Battalion.

11. On 25 April 2013 in Docket Number AR20220009003, the ABCMR denied his request for correction of his records to show his foreign service in Korea. Based on the documentary evidence he provided, the Board found there was insufficient evidence to show he served in Korea. As a result, the Board concluded there was insufficient evidence of an error or injustice which would warrant correction.

12. He provided photographs presumed to have been taken during his service in Korea and two Wikipedia articles for consideration.

a. The Wikipedia article titled, "United States Army Military Government in Korea," notes the U.S. Army Military Government in Korea as the official ruling body of the southern half of the Korean Peninsula from 8 September 1945 to 15 August 1948. The

article states U.S. forces landed at Incheon, South Korea, on 8 September 1945, and established a military government. The forces landing at Incheon were the XXIV Corps of the of the Tenth U.S. Army.

b. The Wikipedia article titled, "Tenth United States Army," notes the Tenth U.S. Army was the last Army-level command established in the Pacific theater of operations during World War II. The article notes the campaign in Okinawa (Ryukyus) was the only campaign the Tenth U.S. Army would take part in during World War II.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After review of the application and all evidence, the Board found relief is warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive review based on law, policy, and regulation. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records, the Board determined his WD AGO 24 (Service Record) indicates he left the United States for duty in the Asiatic Pacific Theater on 19 February 1945 and arrived in Oahu on 25 February 1945. It also shows he left Korea for the United States on 20 February 1946.

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 amending his WD AGO 53-55 to show in item 55 (Remarks): Service in Korea from 17 September 1945 to 20 February 1946.

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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 15-185 (Army Board for Correction of Military Records) prescribes policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army acting through the ABCMR. Board members will review all applications that are properly before them to determine the existence of an error or injustice and direct or recommend changes in military records to correct the error or injustice, if persuaded that material error or injustice exists and that sufficient evidence exists in the record. The ABCMR will decide cases on the evidence of record; it is not an investigative body. 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.

2. Department of the Army Technical Manual 12-236 (Preparation of Separation Forms), 1 April 1945, stated the purpose of the separation form is to provide the veteran with a separation certificate and a Military or Enlisted Record and Report of Separation. Copies of the Military or Enlisted Record and Report of Separation produced will serve as vital War Department records and as notification to interested Governmental agencies which assist the veteran in obtaining his rights and benefits.

a. The general instructions stated the following records would be used as a basis for preparation of the separation form for enlisted personnel:

- WD AGO Form 24 (Service Record)
- WD AGO Form 20 (Qualification Card)
- WD AGO Form 8-117 (Immunization Register)
- WD AGO Form 40 (Certificate of Disability for Discharge), when applicable
- citations
- general court-martial orders, when applicable
- WD AGO Form 100, when applicable

b. The specific instructions for item 32 stated to enter battles or campaigns as authorized by War Department general orders.

c. The specific instructions for item 36 stated to enter the date of departure, destination, and date of arrival for each movement between theaters and between a theater and the United States.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//