

4. The FSM's WD AGO Form 53-55 shows he was inducted into the Army of the United States on 15 February 1943, and he entered active service at Fort Sam Houston, TX on 22 February 1943. This form also shows at the time of separation:

- he held military occupational specialty (MOS) 745, Rifleman
- he was assigned to Company C, 253rd Infantry.

5. He departed continental United States on 19 February 1945 and arrived in the European Theater of Operations (ETO) on 26 February 1945. He departed the ETO on an unknown date and arrived back in the United States on 9 April 1946.

6. He was honorably separated at Camp Chafee, AR on 15 April 1946. He completed 2 years and 3 days of Continental service and 1 year, 1 month, and 21 days of foreign service. His WD AGO Form 53-55 shows in:

a. Item 31 (Military Qualifications and Date) shows he was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge.

b. Item 32 (Battles and Campaigns), he participated in the Rhineland campaign during World War II:

c. Item 33 (Decorations and Citations) and item 55 (Remarks), he was awarded or authorized the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one bronze service stars, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Army Lapel Button.

d. Item 34 (Wounds Received in Action), the entry "None"

7. He provided the following documents:

a. A post card, issued by the 23rd General Hospital informing his mother that on 3 April 1945, the FSM was making normal progress following his wound to the forehead.

b. Extract of his WD AGO Form 24 (Service Record) (temporary) that reads: "wounded in action, slight, shell wound (Grenade), lower right eye, Western Germany" and "Served in France 28 February to 9 March 1945, and Germany from 10 to 15 March 1945; evacuated to France 15 March 1945."

c. Special Order Number 109, issued by the 23rd Surgical Hospital on 21 April 1945, releasing the FSM from the hospital and transferring him back to duty with Company C, 253rd Infantry.

d. Battle Casualty Roster, that shows he was returned to duty on 21 April 1945.

8. Information from the Hospital Admission Cards Created by the Office of The Surgeon General, Department of the Army (1942 to 1945) shows the FSM was wounded in the European Theater, Battle Casualty. He sustained wound to his face, forehead, and frontal region, and underwent debridement with sutures. The cause of the wound was fragments of a hand grenade. He was admitted to the hospital on 15 March 1945.

9. The U.S. Army SGO (Surgeon General Office) Hospitalization File Listing for 1945 lists the FSM's also lists the FSM's wound in a coded format.

10. By regulation (AR 600-8-22):

a. The Purple Heart is awarded for a wound sustained while in action against an enemy or as a result of hostile action. Substantiating evidence must be provided to verify that the wound was the result of hostile action, the wound must have required treatment, and the medical treatment must have been made a matter of official record.

b. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to members of the armed forces who, after 6 December 1941 and prior to 3 September 1945, have been cited in orders or in a formal certificate for meritorious or exemplary conduct in ground combat against the armed enemy. A citation in orders for the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge awarded in the field during the period of actual combat against the armed enemy is considered as a citation for exemplary conduct in ground combat.

11. DA Pamphlet 672-1 shows the FSMs unit during WWII, Company C, 253rd Infantry received occupation credit for Germany from 2 May to 15 September 1945. [Qualifies the FSM for the Army of Occupation Medal (Germany Clasp)]

12. DA Pamphlet 672-3 shows General Orders Number 44 issued in 1946 awarded Company C, 253rd Infantry the Distinguished Unit Citation (now Presidential Unit Citation) for service from 3 to 4 March 1945.

13. War Department Technical Manual 12-236 (Preparation of Separation Forms) provides that the appropriate separation form will be prepared for all enlisted personnel separated from the service by reason of discharge, retirement, or release from active duty or transfer to a Reserve Component. It states item 34 shows wounds in action, country, and date.

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 Board carefully considered the former servicemember's record of service, documents submitted in

support of the petition and executed a comprehensive and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available former SM's military records, the Board determined there is sufficient evidence to correct the former SM's WD AGO Form 53-55 and award the Purple Heart. The Board noted the former SM was wounded in action by fragments of a hand grenade in the European Theater.

2. The Board noted the information from the Hospital Admission Cards Created by the Office of The Surgeon General, Department of the Army (1942 to 1945) showing the FSM was wounded Battle Casualty. The Board determined, based on regulatory guidance the former SM met the criteria for award of the Purple Heart and correction to his WD AGO Form 53-55 to reflect in Block 34 (Wounds Received in Action) Yes. Therefore, the Board granted relief to award the Purple Heart and correct the former SM

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 Form 53-55 for the period ending 15 April 1946 to show award of the Purple Heart and correction to block 34 (Wounds Received in Action) – Yes.

5/14/2024

X [REDACTED]

CHAIRPERSON
[REDACTED]

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. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) provides for the following awards:

a. The Purple Heart is awarded for a wound sustained while in action against an enemy or as a result of hostile action. Substantiating evidence must be provided to verify that the wound was the result of hostile action, the wound must have required treatment, and the medical treatment must have been made a matter of official record.

b. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to members of the armed forces who, after 6 December 1941 and prior to 3 September 1945, have been cited in orders or in a formal certificate for meritorious or exemplary conduct in ground combat against the armed enemy. A citation in orders for the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge awarded in the field during the period of actual combat against the armed enemy is considered as a citation for exemplary conduct in ground combat.

c. The Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp qualifying service must have occurred between 9 May 1945 and 5 May 1955. Service between 9 May 1945 and 8

November 1945 will be counted only if the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded for service before 9 May 1945.

3. DA Pamphlet 672-1 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 credit for World War II and the Korean War.

a. Company C, 253rd Infantry was cited for award of the Presidential Unit Citation from 3 to 5 March 1945 by General Orders Number 44, issued by 63rd Infantry Division in 1946.

b. The 253rd Infantry Regiment received occupation credit for Germany from 20 May to 18 September 1945.

4. War Department Technical Manual 12-236 (Preparation of Separation Forms) provides that the appropriate separation form will be prepared for all enlisted personnel separated from the service by reason of discharge, retirement, or release from active duty or transfer to a Reserve Component. This manual states that item 34 lists combat wounds, location/county, and date.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//