

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 7 May 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230011799

APPLICANT REQUESTS: the former service members (SM) records be corrected to show award of the Bronze Star Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Basic Training Certificate
- Army Service Forces authorized awards
- WD AGO Form 100 (Separation Qualification Record)
- WD AGO Form 55-53 (Enlisted Record and Report of Separation - Honorable Discharge)
- Army Honorable Discharge Certificate
- Applicant's birth certificate
- SM death certificate

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. It is believed that the former service member's military records were lost or destroyed in the National Personnel Records Center fire of 1973. Information herein was obtained from documents provided by the applicant.
3. The applicant states the SM served as a member of the 475th Infantry Regiment (formally 5307th Composite Unit) during the Central Burma Campaign And The India Burma Campaign. all members of the unit were awarded the "Presidential Unit Citation" And The "Bronze Star".
4. The SM was inducted into the Army of the United States (AUS) on 8 March 1943 and entered active duty on 15 March 1943. He completed training as a rifleman on 26 June 1943.

5. The SM volunteered for duty with the 5307th Composite Unit (Merrill's Marauders) serving in Burma for 23 months.

6. He was honorably discharged on 28 October 1945 for the convenience of the Government in the grade of E-3. His WD AGO Form 55-53 shows:

- service in the military occupational specialty 745 (Rifleman)
- service in two campaigns
- he was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge
- his awards are listed as the:
 - Army Good Conduct Medal
 - Asiatic Pacific Theater with two bronze service stars
 - Distinguished Unit Badge
 - World War II Victory Medal

7. A FSFC Form 1152 (Army Service Forces awards form) lists the SM's authorized awards as:

- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Asiatic Pacific Theater with two bronze service stars
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Presidential Unit Citation
- Three Overseas Service Bars

8. The notation on the FSFC Form 1152 for authorization of a Presidential or Unit Citation appears to be referencing the Distinguished Unit Badge which is now referred to as the Distinguished Unit Citation.

9. The SM passed away on 7 April 1997.

10. A Review of the Army's Official history of the Merrill's Marauders shows that the men of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) enjoyed the rare distinction of having each Soldier awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Distinguished Unit Citation. On 6 October 2020 the members of Merrill's Marauders were also honored with the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to honor their extraordinary service.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

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. Although the SM's service records are limited/scarce, the Board noted that the SM was

awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge. Based on his award of the Combat Infantryman Badge, he is authorized a conversion award, the Bronze Star Medal. Additionally, the Board noted that the Distinguished Unit Insignia (now called Presidential Unit Citation) is already listed on the SM's WD AGO Form 53-55.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

1.
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 SM the Bronze Star Medal for service from 28 October 1943 to 8 May 1945
- Adding the Bronze Star Medal to his WD AGO Form 53-55

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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. 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 635-5 (Separation Documents) prescribes the separation documents that must be prepared for Soldiers on retirement, discharge, release from active duty service, or control of the Active Army. It establishes standardized policy for preparing and distributing the DD Form 214 and states that awards and decorations for all periods of service are to be listed in the priority sequence specified in AR 600-8-22. Each entry will be verified by the Soldier's records.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//