

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 4 February 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240008127

APPLICANT REQUESTS: in effect, correction of his WD AGO Form 53-55 (Enlisted Record and Report of Separation) to show the correct dates of service overseas.

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

- Reconsideration Letter
- Letter from the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, 21 August 2023
- Morning Report, Camp Ritchie, marked as "Company L, 3rd Military Training Battalion, 16 August 1944"
- Morning Report, Camp Ritchie, marked as "Company L, 3rd Military Training Battalion, August-September 1944"
- Photograph of two Soldiers
- Photograph of four Soldiers with names handwritten above each individual
- Email acknowledgment of the applicant's application
- WD AGO Form 53-55
- DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty)

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 this is a very belated response to the ABCMR letter of Aug 21, 2023 rejecting consideration of the portion of his request for correction of his records relating to service overseas.

a. He was separated from his teammates at MITC (Military Intelligence Training Center) at Camp Ritchie in 1944 to receive, as the sole student, extra MIS Interrogation training. He was the sole student there. In late September 1944, he proceeded to NJ and shipped out on USS Camp LeJeune, a captured German Troopship. They arrived 13 days later, our convoy having been harassed the entire way by a German sub-

Wolfpack, at Southampton, England. From there they went by train to Birmingham, site of the 10th Replacement Depot. Next, they boarded an LST and after 3 stormy days drove ashore at what he believes was Utah Beach. They quickly caught up with the troops and more particularly the 1st Armored Group.

b. He goes on describing his service and participation during World War II, near Leon, France, and then his illness and hospitalization in Nancy, France, followed by arrival in Germany, near Mannheim and Heidelberg. He then describes the action of some troops/team members, some of which were wounded and/or received valor awards. He went through Strasburg and Garmisch, and over the Alps in Austria, and Bucharest. He remained in Europe until December 1945

c. He points out that he often traveled as a party of one such as returning from Germany, which involved going to Frankfurt and taking the train to Paris, transferring to another train to the Coast, then boarding a Victory Ship which got to NJ in 4 days amid a record storm that broke off the huge aft boom of the ship. From NJ there was another train to Fort Sheridan, followed by a 2 ½-hour commute by train to Chicago.

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 his records were lost or destroyed in that fire. However, the applicant provides, and/or his record contains sufficient documents in a reconstructed record for the Board to conduct a fair and impartial review of his case.

4. His WD AGO Form 53-55 shows he enlisted in the Enlisted Army Reserve on 8 December 1942 and entered active duty at Camp Grant, IL, on 20 March 1943. At the time of his separation:

- He held military occupational specialty 631, Intelligence NCO
- He was last assigned to IPW Team 182 (Interrogator of Prisoner-of-War), Headquarters, 7th Army G-2 section

5. His WD AGO Form 53-55 shows in item 36 (Service Outside Continental United States and Return) he departed the Continental United States on 1 December 1944 and arrived in the European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Theater of Operations on 13 December 1944. He departed the EAME Theater on 10 December 1945 and arrived back in Continental United States on 19 December 1945.

6. He completed 1 year, 8 months, and 15 days of continental service and 1 year and 19 days of foreign service. He was honorably separated in the grade of Tech 5 for the convenience of the Government on 23 December 1945 at Fort Sheridan, IL. His WD AGO Form 53-55 also shows in:

- Item 31 (Military Qualifications and Date) various marksmanship badges (pistol, rifle, and sub-machine gun)
- Item 32 (Battles and Campaigns), he participated in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns
- Item 33 (Decorations and Citations), World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 2 bronze service stars, and Good Conduct Medal, and 2 overseas service bars
- Item 41 (Service Schools Attended) Aerial Photo 8 weeks, Order of Battle 3 weeks

7. On 21 August 2021, the ABCMR sent him a letter that stated:

a. This letter concerns his October 3, 2023, application to the ABCMR wherein he asked the Board to correct his WD AGO Form 53-55 by adding the training he completed correcting the dates he completed the Military Intelligence Training Center Course and entered the European Theater. With his request, he submitted copies of his training completion certificates, and he offered corrected dates but included no supporting documentation.

b. The training certificates he sent are sufficient to correct his WO AGO Form 53-55 without Board action, and a correction document will be forwarded to him under separate cover; however, neither he nor his service record provide a basis for adjusting the dates he cited. A 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), St. Louis, MO, destroyed approximately 18 million service members' records and affected Army personnel records dated between November 1912 and January 1960. Because NPRC was only able to send one document from his service record (War Department Form 372A (Final Payment - Worksheet), it appears nearly all his personnel documents were among the lost records.

c. Based on the foregoing, that portion of his request pertaining to the correction of dates will not be acted upon; nonetheless, if his case has not been resolved to his satisfaction, and he still feels that an error or injustice exists, he may resubmit his application to this Board if he can provide additional evidence in support of his claim.

8. On 26 August 2023, he was issued a DD Form 15 that added the following courses to his WD AGO Form 53-55:

- Army Specialized Training Program in Area and Language, June 1944
- Military Intelligence Training Course, August 1944

9. The applicant provides Morning Reports labeled as "Cam Ritchie, August 16, 1944, [Name] MITC, Company L, 3rd Military Intelligence Training Battalion.

10. By regulation (TM 12-236) AR 600-8-22), for item 36 (Service Outside Continental United States and Return), enter date of departure, destination, and date of arrival for each movement between theaters and between a theater and the United States.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined relief was not warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the available documentation failing to show the current dates annotated on the applicant's WG AGO 53-55 were entered in error, the Board concluded there was insufficient evidence available to change the dates to any other requested dates. Therefore, the Board recommended denying the applicant's request.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:X	:X	:X	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.

X //signed//

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. 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. War Department Technical Manual 12-236 (Preparation of Separation Forms) governs procedures for execution of the Discharge Certificates, Certificates of Service, and the respective Military Record or Enlisted Record and Report of Separation. The regulation states for item 36 (Service Outside Continental United States and Return): Enter date of departure, destination, and date of arrival for each movement between theaters and between a theater and the United States.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//