

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

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Application for Correction  
of Coast Guard Record of:

BCMR Docket  
No. 34-96

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FINAL DECISION

██████████ Chairman:

This is a proceeding under the provisions of section 1552 of title 10, United States Code. It was commenced on December 5, 1995, upon the receipt by the BCMR of the applicant's request for correction of his military record.

The final decision, dated March 18, 1997, is signed by the three duly appointed members who were designated to serve as the Board in this case.

**Applicant's Request for Correction**

The applicant enlisted in the Coast Guard on May 9, 1949. He was discharged from the Coast Guard on September 8, 1952 with the grade of seaman (SN).

On or about July 27, 1950, he was examined by a Board of Medical Survey. The Board found that his present condition was "unfit for service" and its recommendation was that he be "discharged from the service - medical reasons." On November 16, 1950, that evaluation was reversed by a Physical Evaluation Board which found that he had no permanent of measurable disability and should be retained in the Coast Guard.

The applicant asked the BCMR to correct his record to show that he received the "Korean Service Citation." He submitted a copy of his DD Form 214 which stated that he had one year, two months, and 21 days "Foreign and/or Sea Service." The applicant claimed that his tour of duty ended before the end of hostilities (hostilities ended 7/27/53; he separated 9/8/52), and the Korean Citation was never given because the war will still going on when he separated.

**Views of the Coast Guard**

On November 13, 1996, the Chief Counsel of the Coast Guard recommended to the BCMR that the relief requested by the applicant be denied. The Coast Guard said that the "[a]pplicant has presented no proof that he is eligible for [the Korean Service

Medal]."<sup>1</sup>

On October 1, 1996, the Coast Guard Personnel Command (PC) stated that members who participated in operations in the Korean area between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 were entitled to the Korean Service Medal. The PC submitted a list of all the Coast Guard units that were eligible for the Korean Service Medal. According to the command, there were no units to which the applicant was assigned that fell within the time requirements for the medal. The PC also listed the location of the bases and the ships on which the applicant served from 1949 to 1952; all his postings were in Virginia, California, Hawaii, and Chicago.

The Coast Guard also said that the applicant may be interpreting the credit he received for sea service, on his DD Form 214, as foreign or overseas service.

### Response of the Applicant

On November 19, 1996, a copy of the views of the Coast Guard was sent to the applicant with an invitation to respond to the views of the Service.

No response was received.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Board makes the following findings and conclusions on the basis of the submissions of the applicant and the Coast Guard, the military record of the applicant, and applicable law.

1. The BCMR has jurisdiction of the case pursuant to section 1552 of title 10, United States Code.

2. The applicant alleged that his discharge document (DD Form 214) did not reflect the fact that he was involved in the Korean conflict.

3. The Coast Guard stated that he was not involved in the Korean conflict and was not, accordingly, eligible for the Korean Service Medal.

4. The applicant did not state the days that he was in the Korean area, and he did not introduce any corroborating statements to the effect that he was ever in the Korean theater.

5. The applicant also did not explain why the Coast Guard would have sent him

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<sup>1</sup> The Coast Guard presumed that the "Korean Service Citation" in the application refers to the Korean Service Medal.

5. The applicant also did not explain why the Coast Guard would have sent him to a war zone , inasmuch as serious questions had been raised about his health. It had taken a Physical Evaluation Review Board on November 16, 1950 to find him fit for duty. Two senior surgeons had diagnosed him as suffering from a scoliosis of the lumbar region associated with a osteochondrosis of the thoracic vertebrae, with a mild kyphosis, but they concluded that his symptoms were not permanent.

6. Accordingly, the application should be denied.

**[ORDER AND SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]**

**ORDER**

The application of former  
for correction of his military record is denied.

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