



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

██████████
Docket No. 3866-25

Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records

To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER ██████████, USN,
SERVICE NUMBER ██████████

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. 1552

(b) DoD Manual 1348.33 (Manual of Military Decorations and Awards)

(c) SECNAVINST 1640.1H (Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments

(2) Case summary

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Petitioner, the surviving daughter of the subject service member ("Sailor"), filed enclosure (1) with this Board requesting a change to his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty or its ██████████ service equivalent ("DD Form 214"), to reflect the Sailor's entitlement to the Purple Heart Medal ("PHM").

2. The Board, consisting of ██████████, ██████████, and ██████████, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 20 June 2025 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, relevant portions of the Sailor's naval service records, and applicable statutes, regulations, policies.

3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice finds as follows:

a. Before applying to this Board, Petitioner exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy, and although enclosure (1) was not filed by Petitioner in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider his application on its merits.

b. The Sailor's USN service number was ██████████. The Sailor died at age 43 in October 1956. The Petitioner did not provide a Social Security Number on the DD Form 149.

c. The Sailor served in the U.S. Navy from 26 April 1943 to 19 November 1945 and he earned an Honorable discharge upon his release from active duty. While stationed in the European theater during ██████████, the Sailor served on board the ██████████ (██████████).

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d. Reference (c) lists the eligibility requirements for the PHM. Within the Department of the Navy, to qualify for the PHM the wound received has to be the direct or indirect result of enemy action, and such wound required treatment by a medical officer at the time of injury. Both criteria must be met to be awarded the PHM.

e. The Sailor's service record indicates that he participated in action against enemy [REDACTED] forces in support of the Allied Forces' [REDACTED] invasion on the morning of 6 June 1944.

f. On the morning of 6 June 1944, the [REDACTED] was at the tip of the Allied spear that sought to penetrate the [REDACTED]-defended coastline. The [REDACTED] initial assignment that day, was to escort heavy ships and transports crossing the [REDACTED]. In the later early morning hours, she was then deployed to shell [REDACTED] defenses along [REDACTED] in support of troop landings in the area. She moved into firing position near [REDACTED], in the [REDACTED], where, approximately 4,000 yards off [REDACTED], she exchanged heavy fire with shore batteries for 15 to 20 minutes. At approximately 0633 hours, while shelling enemy positions beyond the beach and simultaneously attempting to avoid [REDACTED] fire, the [REDACTED] fouled a mine almost directly amidships. As water reached her main deck, at approximately 0639 hours, the commanding officer, passed the word to prepare to abandon ship. The surviving crew members spent up to two hours in the water as [REDACTED] munitions continued to explode in the area.

g. Petitioner's service record clearly indicated that he was wounded during the assault on the coast of [REDACTED] when he struck his head as the ship was struck by a shell. Petitioner suffered a lacerated scalp and was unconscious for a short time. Following the [REDACTED] sinking, Petitioner remained in the frigid water for approximately ninety (90) minutes until rescued. Petitioner was hospitalized in the [REDACTED] for treatment of his wounds.

h. On 12 April 1945, the Chief of Naval Personnel, Medals and Awards Section, Enlisted Performance Division, in response to the Sailor's spouse's inquiry regarding the potential receipt of the PHM, stated, in pertinent part:

In order to avoid duplicating awards made by Fleet commands, this Bureau confers the Purple Heart only upon receipt of an application from the man, forwarded via official channels. If your husband feels that he is eligible for the decoration he may submit such an application via his Commanding Officer, and prompt consideration will be given to his eligibility to receive the award.

There is no documentation in the Sailor's service record that he ever submitted an application for PHM consideration while on active duty and prior to his ultimate discharge.

CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, and the Board's own independent analysis, the Board determined that Petitioner's request warrants relief. The Board determined

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that the Sailor is entitled to the PHM and concluded that their decision was consistent with current awards guidance as outlined in references (b) and (c).

In view of the above, the Board directs the following corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Sailor be issued a "Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty" (DD Form 215), to indicate the additional entitlement to the following decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and campaign ribbons:

- 1) Purple Heart Medal.

That Sailor's next of kin be issued a PHM, certificate, and citation.

That Commander, Navy Personnel Command review the Sailor's service record to determine any and all additional decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and campaign ribbons that Sailor may be entitled to receive based on his [REDACTED] service, and to document any necessary changes via the DD Form 215, as well as issue to Petitioner's next of kin any corresponding decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and/or campaign ribbons, as applicable.

Following the corrections to the DD Form 214 indicating the revised entitlement to Sailor's decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and campaign ribbons, that all other information currently listed on such DD-214 remain the same.

That a copy of this report of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board's proceedings in the above entitled matter.
5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 723.6(e)) and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of reference (a), has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

7/2/2025

