

JUL 14 1998

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: 98-00241

COUNSEL: None

HEARING DESIRED: No

Applicant requests award of the Silver Star medal for World War II actions. Applicant's submission is at Exhibit A.

Applicant's military personnel records were destroyed by fire in 1973. The Air Force indicates he was issued a re-constructed Discharge Certificate on 22 Jan 93. His Report of Separation was reviewed and it was determined that he was entitled to the Air Medal with four (4) Oak Leaf Clusters (4OLCs), Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one (1) Silver and one (1) Bronze Service Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, American Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal which were forwarded to applicant. His Report of Separation was corrected to add the American Campaign Medal and World War II Victory Medal. However, the applicant did not provide any documents or corroborating statements to show that he was recommended for the Silver Star medal or that such a recommendation was ever in official channels.

The Recognition Programs Branch, AFPC/DPPRA, reviewed this application and indicated that many individuals were promised certain decorations by their commanders and/or supervisors during World War II but never followed through. After over 53 years and with no records to review or documentation provided, DPPRA cannot verify the applicant's eligibility or entitlement to the Silver Star medal. They cannot verify anything regarding his service except what is listed on his Report of Separation, not even his unit of assignment. Therefore, they recommend disapproval of applicant's request.

After careful consideration of applicant's request for award of the Silver Star medal and the available evidence of record, we find insufficient evidence of error or injustice to warrant corrective action. The facts and opinions stated in the advisory opinion appear to be based on the evidence of record and have not been rebutted by applicant. Absent persuasive evidence applicant was denied rights to which entitled, appropriate regulations were not followed, or appropriate standards were not applied, we find no basis to disturb the existing record.

Accordingly, applicant's request is denied.

The Board staff is directed to inform applicant of this decision. Applicant should also be informed that this decision is final and will only be reconsidered upon the presentation of new relevant evidence which was not reasonably available at the time the application was filed.

Members of the Board Mr. LeRoy T. Baseman, Mr. Gregory H. Petkoff, and Mr. Patrick R. Wheeler considered this application on 2 July 1998 in accordance with the provisions of Air Force Instruction 36-2603, and the governing statute, 10, U.S.C. 1552.


LEROY T. BASEMAN
Panel Chair

Exhibits :

- A. Applicant's DD Form 149
- B. Advisory Opinion
- C. AFBCMR Ltr Forwarding Advisory Opinion



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS

MEMORANDUM FOR AFBCMR

12 February 1998

FROM: HQ AFPC/DPPPRA
550 C Street West Ste 12
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4714

SUBJECT: Application for Correction of Military Records (DD Form 149)

I. **REQUESTED ACTION.** Applicant requests award of the Silver Star Medal for World War II actions.

2. **BASIS FOR REQUEST.** Applicant states he and others were "promised" this decoration for flying hazardous missions over Borneo.

3. **FACTS.**

a. Applicant's records were destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center. He was issued a re-constructed Discharge Certificate in 1993. His Report of Separation was forwarded with the Application.

b. Applicant also wanted to know why he had never received his medals. His Report of Separation was reviewed, and it was determined that he is entitled to the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Service Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, American Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. These were sent to him (see attached letter), and his Report of Separation corrected to add the American Campaign Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

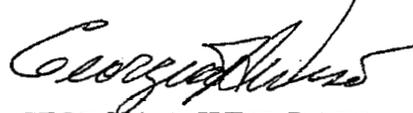
c. Applicant did not provide any documents or corroborating statements to show that he was recommended for the Silver Star Medal, or that such a recommendation was ever in official channels.

4. **DISCUSSION.** Many individuals were promised certain decorations by their commanders and/or supervisors during World War II (as during most wars), but never followed through. After over 53 years, and with no records to review or documentation provided, we can not verify the applicant's eligibility or entitlement to the Silver Star Medal. We can not verify anything regarding his service except what is listed on his Report of Separation, not even his unit of assignment.

5. RECOMMENDATION.

We recommend disapproval of the applicant's request for award of the Silver Star Medal.

FOR **THE** COMMANDER



GEORGIA A. WISE, DAFC
Recognition Programs Branch
Promotions, Eval & Recognition Div



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS

FEE 2 5 1398

HQ AFPC/DPPRR
550 C Street West, Ste. 11
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4713

Dear [REDACTED]

Reference your Application for Correction of Military Record, DD Form 149, 16 Jan 98. The attached DD Form 215, Correction to WD AGO Form 53-98, Military Record and Report of Separation, has been prepared to correct Item 29 of the WD AGO Form 53-98 issued to you on 22 Nov 1945, reflecting award of the American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

The attached DD Form 215 should be attached to your original copy of WD AGO Form 53-98 as evidence of this correction.

All agencies previously furnished a copy of the WD AGO Form 53-98 have been provided with a copy of the DD Form 215.

Your Application for Correction of Military Record will be forwarded to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records for their determination concerning your request for award of the Silver Star Medal.

Sincerely

WILLIAM GIBBS

Retirement & Separations Ops Sec
Directorate of Pers Program Mgt



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CLNTPR
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS

HQ AFPC/DPPPRA
550 C Street West Ste 12
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4714

12 February 1998

Dear [REDACTED]

This is an interim response to your 16 Jan 98 Application for Correction of Military Record requesting issuance of the Silver Star Medal for actions during World War II. This office is responsible for determining Air Force members' eligibility and entitlement to awards and decorations, and your case was sent to us for review.

In your Application, you asked where were your Theatre of War medals. Although your records were in the section of the National Personnel Records Center that was destroyed in 1973, a copy of your Report of Separation was available. From that document, we were able to verify that you are entitled to the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Service Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, American Campaign Medal, and World War II Medal. You will find these enclosed with this letter, including the World War II Honorable Service Lapel Button.

Your case has been forwarded to the Board for action regarding award of the Silver Star Medal, and you will receive separate correspondence regarding that action.

Sincerely

GEORGIA A. WISE, DAFC
Recognition Programs Branch
Promotion, Eval, & Recognition Division