

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

AUG 18 1998

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: 98-00214

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

He be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for service during World War 11.

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

The reasons the applicant believes the records to be in error or unjust and the evidence submitted in support of the appeal are at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

Applicant's military personnel records were destroyed by fire in 1973. Therefore, the facts surrounding his military service cannot be verified.

However, documents provided by the applicant reflect he entered active service on 5 September 1942 and was separated on 17 September 1945.

While assigned to [REDACTED] Air Force, [REDACTED] Bombardment Group, he was awarded Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal on 2 April, 24 April and 27 May 1944, for exceptionally meritorious achievement while participating in bomber combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

HQ AFPC/DPPRA reviewed this application and recommended denial. A complete copy of the evaluation is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

Applicant's response to the advisory opinion is at Exhibit E.

THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. The applicant has exhausted all remedies provided by existing law or regulations.
2. The application was not timely filed; however, it is in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to timely file.
3. Sufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of probable error or injustice. Applicant's military records were not available for our review since they were apparently destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Nevertheless, after careful consideration of the applicant's supporting documents, including extracts of the orders awarding him three oak leaf clusters to the Air Medal, and a newspaper article indicating he had completed 27 missions, it is our opinion that the applicant most likely had completed the requisite number of combat missions for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross. Therefore, we believe any doubt should be resolved in his favor and recommend that the records be corrected as indicated below.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT, be corrected to show that on 17 June 1944, while assigned to the [REDACTED] Bombardment Group (H), Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement while participating as a Tail Gunner on B-17 bombers in combat missions against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations from January 1944 to 14 June 1944.

The following members of the Board considered this application in Executive Session on 18 June 1998, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Mr. Charles E. Bennett, Panel Chair
Mr. John T. Dorsett, Member
Mr. Steven A. Shaw, Member

All members voted to correct the records, as recommended. The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 13 Jan 98, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Available Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPPPPRA, dated 10 Feb 98.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MIBR, dated 16 Mar 98.
- Exhibit E. Letter, Applicant, dated 9 April 98, w/atchs.


CHARLES E. BENNETT
Panel Chair



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

MEMORANDUM FOR AFBCMR

10 February 1998

FROM HQAFPC/DPPRA
550 C Street West Ste 12
Randolph AFB TX 78150-47 4

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

- [REDACTED]
1. **REQUESTED ACTION.** Applicant requests award of the **Distinguished Flying Cross** for service during World War II.
 2. **BASIS FOR REQUEST.** Applicant believes individuals [during World War II] earned one oak leaf cluster for every five bombing missions, and the Distinguished Flying Cross for every five oak leaf clusters.
 3. **FACTS.**
 - a. Applicant's records were in the section of the **National Personnel Records Center** that was destroyed by **fire** in **1973**. Only his **final** pay record was obtained **from** another source and placed into a new folder.
 - b. Applicant applied through **Congressional** channels in 1995 for the Distinguished Flying **Cross**. He **was** informed that he needed to provide a copy of his Report of Separation (WD AGO Form 53-98, 53-99, **etc.**), any documentation **reflecting his unit(s)** of assignment overseas, and statements from **other** individuals in his unit to corroborate **his** claim regarding the number of missions required to earn the Distinguished Flying **Cross**.
 - c. Applicant **has** provided **no** documentation to substantiate **any of his** claims.
 4. **DISCUSSION.** Regardless of local **commanders'** policies regarding **award** of the **Air Medal** and Distinguished Flying **Cross** based on the number of combat flight missions completed, a written recommendation **had** to be submitted into official channels **before a** decoration was approved. Even after being **advised** of the documents needed, **the** applicant has failed to provide **a copy** of his Report of Separation, or any documents or statements to **substantiate his** claim regarding the number of combat flight missions accomplished or the local policy regarding award of the **Air Medal** or Distinguished Flying **Cross**. Applicant **has** failed to **provide** any documentation to show that he was recommended for any **additional oak** leaf clusters to the Air Medal or for the Distinguished Flying Cross.

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5. RECOMMENDATION.

We recommend disapproval of *the* applicant's request for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

FOR THE COMMANDER



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



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

AUG 18 1998

Office of the Assistant Secretary

AFBCMR 98-00214

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Having received and considered the recommendation of the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records and under the authority of Section 1552, Title 10, United States Code (70A Stat 116), it is directed that:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to [REDACTED] be corrected to show that on 17 June 1944, while assigned to the [REDACTED] Bombardment Group (H), Headquarters, [REDACTED] Air Force, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement while participating as a Tail Gunner on B-17 bombers in combat missions against the enemy in the [REDACTED] Theater of Operations from January 1944 to 14 June 1944.


JOE G. LINEBERGER

Director
Air Force Review Boards Agency