



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

AUG 20 2001

Mr. George T. Chandler  
Drawer N  
223 South Main  
Pratt, Kansas 67124

Dear Mr. Chandler:

The Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR) is, by law, a function of the Secretary of the Air Force. That law authorizes the Secretary, acting through a board of civilians, who are members of the executive part of the Department, to correct an error or remove an injustice from a military record when he finds it necessary. Col Rex Barber petitioned the AFBCMR to be given sole credit for the shoot down of the plane carrying Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. After World War II, a Victory Board had awarded ½ credit to Col Barber and ½ credit to Lt Col Lanphier and a Victory Credit Review Board upheld this determination. After a two-day formal hearing, conducted in October 17-18, 1991, and an exhaustive review, on January 11, 1993, the former Secretary of the Air Force, the Honorable Donald Rice, denied Col Barber's request.

On October 1, 1999, Col Barber requested reconsideration of his case based upon newly discovered evidence. Although HQ USAF/JAG determined this submission did not meet the criteria for reconsideration, the AFBCMR reconsidered the case to provide an extra measure of justice, due process, fairness and equity. A new and separate panel denied relief again.

The Director of the Air Force Review Boards Agency has reviewed your submission and determined it consists of previously considered facts, uncorroborated personal observations and additional arguments, and thus, does not meet the criteria for reconsideration, or otherwise support reopening the case. After careful examination of all the reviews, the district and appellate court decisions, and the information you submitted, I find there is nothing an independent investigator can add to all the reviews that have been completed. Therefore, your request for me, on my own authority, to make changes to the military records of either Col Barber or Col Lanphier is denied.

Finally, I have reviewed the decision rendered by the Honorable Donald B. Rice, and accept that as my position in this matter. This in no way detracts from Col Rex Barber's outstanding career or his heroic combat triumphs in many extraordinary missions. I regret that this response could not be more favorable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Rice", written in a cursive style.