

28 Jan. '47

Dear Senator Capper:

Some twenty months ago my parents received a letter from you in which you expressed your sympathy because I had been seriously wounded in action in Italy. Since that time I've pursued a rather stormy course on the road to recovery and am still quite far from complete recovery. My chief concern naturally, is to regain my health, but I have a secondary interest regarding a promotion that you may, or may not be able to help me with. Several interested persons in my home town have urged me to contact you in regard to the matter, and since you've always shown a keen interest in anything concerning Kansas or the people in it I'm asking your assistance if at all possible.

I was wounded 14 April '45 and entered the 70th. General Hospital in Pistoia, Italy as a Second Lieutenant. On April 3, '46 I was promoted to First Lieutenant by virtue of being in grade 18 months as a Second Lt. and having the efficiency rating required. It is termed the "automatic promotion", which is given to Second Lts. if they have been in grade 18 months. Then on 19 July, '46, WD Circular 215 was released which stated that anyone who had been authorized award of the Purple Heart and had 18 months continuous hospitalization was eligible for promotion of one grade. On 14 October '46 which is 18 months after my initial hospitalization I contacted my Army Ground Force Liaison Officer in regards to a promotion to Captain under provisions of WD Circular 215. It was then he informed me that anyone who had received a previous promotion while in the hospital was not eligible for a second one. He stated that unless his office could establish the fact that I was promoted since the date of incurrence of combat wound as a direct result of a recommendation submitted prior to

date of wound, I would not be eligible for promotion to Captain under provisions of WD Circular 215. The promotion I received on 3 April '46 to First Lieutenant was not as a direct result of a recommendation submitted prior to date of wound so my attempt was stymied momentarily.

I was not trying to obtain something that I didn't believe I was entitled to and the following explanation may clarify ~~to~~ ~~the~~ why I still am trying to obtain the promotion to Captain. I am enclosing an affidavit from my former Company Commander which states that I had been recommended for promotion from Second to First Lieutenant, but during the time in which my recommendation was going through proper channels I was wounded and evacuated and the promotion withdrawn by higher headquarters. Had I gotten that promotion there would have been no hesitation in promoting me to Captain under WD Circular 215. It seems that fate has been unkind enough to me the last two years without this intervention. I am also enclosing Section pertaining to promotion of qualified disabled officers ~~who~~ and a Citation I received while with the 85th Mountain Infantry.

I hope that I have explained my problem in a way that can be ~~easily~~ <sup>readily</sup> understood. Army Regulations at their best are sometimes confusing so if it is not entirely clear I will be only too glad to further clarify any of <sup>The</sup> ~~my~~ preceding statements.

Respectfully yours,

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