

MARSHALL, G.T.C.

1945-52

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

1 October 1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letters of September 15th and 17th in which you enclosed excerpts of letters which have come to you.

The War Department has made every effort to insure that former prisoners of war are appropriately compensated for the hardships and privations they endured while under the control of the enemy. Their return to the United States and their families has been expedited, they are granted lengthy furloughs for rest and recuperation, and they are given special consideration in other matters such as assignment and promotion.

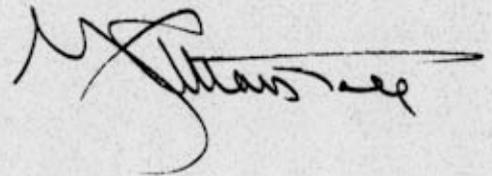
When the point score system was being formulated in the War Department, thorough consideration was given to the advisability of granting additional point credit to prisoners of war. As you may know, they did continue to receive overseas credit for the months they spent in confinement in addition to normal service and other credits previously accumulated under the point system. To grant them special credit would, in effect, favor them over soldiers who continued the fight until victory was achieved.

I believe you will agree that the Naval training program to which your correspondent refers is a subject on which I should not attempt to speak authoritatively. The Army Specialized Training Program, which is similar to the Navy program, was developed to continue the supply of specially trained personnel such as doctors and engineers who were needed as replacements by the Army during wartime. The number of points acquired by students in the ASTP is not sufficient to make them eligible for discharge unless they were sent overseas after graduation.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

I can understand the feeling expressed by the other correspondent who wrote you that some discharged veterans do not, because of modesty, wear insignia denoting their service decorations on civilian clothes. However, the War Department does authorize the wearing of lapel buttons which denote possession of War Department decorations and service medals. In the case of the Medal of Honor, a small rosette is worn in lieu of a lapel button. In addition, decorations, service medals or miniatures may be worn on civilian clothes on ceremonial occasions. Inasmuch as discharged personnel are not subject to military jurisdiction, military regulations cannot be promulgated requiring them to wear the decorations or service medals they have earned while in the service.

Faithfully yours,



Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Val-Kill Cottages
Hyde Park, New York