

In reply address not the signer of
this letter, but Bureau of Navigation,
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Refer to No. NAV-7-RDW/IDE

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 30, 1941

Rev. Matthew J. Bouterse,
Carlyle, Kentucky.

My dear Bouterse:-

This office has just been advised that the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, which is the last authority on the physical qualifications of applicants, have disapproved the findings of the Medical Board which passed upon you here in Washington on June 10th. I might also add that every single candidate, and there were seven of them approved by the Professional Board including yourself, was also disqualified in so far as physical qualifications are concerned. The matter has been given long and careful thought, with much discussion, and I have been advised that I may write to you stating that while the results of the board of physical examiners have been disapproved and you stand now as not recommended for appointment, nevertheless, the proper authorities are willing to give you a re-examination if you care to have one. The purpose of this examination is to enable them to give added thought and consideration to your physical qualifications. If you request this examination, it will take place here in Washington and will necessitate at least two days here at the least in order that necessary ex-rays may be taken and studied.

There were two points on which the disapproval was chiefly based; namely, the temperature of 99 degrees, which was unexplained and 20 pounds underweight for your height. By means of ex-rays and other tests, the doctors will be able to determine whether or not there is any physical condition to which this fever and lack of weight may be attributed.

If you will indicate as soon as practicable to me by letter whether or not you are willing to be examined and when it would be most convenient for you to come, I will arrange to have the necessary authorization issued by the Bureau of Navigation. This authorization will be similar, of course, to that originally issued to you on which you came to Washington. It will not involve, of course, a re-examination in so far as your professional qualifications are concerned. I sincerely hope you will see your way clear to agree to be re-examined.

Please accept my personal expression of regret that matters have not turned out as promptly and as well as we originally anticipated.

Awaiting your reply, I remain

Cordially,

R. D. Workman

Robert D. Workman,
Captain, Chaplain Corps, USN,
Head of Chaplains' Division.

P.S. While I have invited you to indicate when it would be convenient for you to be examined please realize that you will have to be general rather than specific: [a given date] about the matter.

R.D.W.