68TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
2d Session } { No. 1121

THOMAS VINCENT COREY

JANUARY 9, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. VINSON of Georgia, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4927]

The Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4927) for the relief of Thomas Vincent Corey, having had the same under consideration, report the same back to the House without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

Thomas Vincent Corey was, in May, 1917, assigned to Federal service while an ensign in the Naval Militia of New York. He was appointed an ensign in the National Naval Volunteers on October 10, 1917, and was transferred to the Naval Reserve Force on July 1, 1918. He was promoted to the grade of lieutenant (junior grade) in the Reserve Force on January 1, 1919, and was temporarily appointed an ensign in the Navy on April 22, 1919, serving as such until November 30, 1921, when such appointment was revoked.

There is nothing of record in the department to show that Mr. Corey suffered any physical disability while on active duty in the Federal service, except a statement on his part that he incurred some stomach disorder in 1919.

Although the letter from the former Secretary of the Navy, under date of February 7, 1924, states that there is nothing of record in the department to show that Mr. Corey suffered any physical disability while on active duty in the Federal service except a statement on his part that he incurred some stomach disorder, the following affidavits from some of the leading citizens of Richmond County, State of New York, show conclusively that Mr. Corey was in perfect health when he entered the naval service, and his medical record (which is hereby made a part of this report) will show that Mr. Corey was frequently in the hospital.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

STATE OF NEW YORK,
County of Richmond, ss:

Thomas Vincent Corey, being duly sworn, deposes and says: I reside at 59 Hamilton Avenue, New Brighton, Staten Island, county of Richmond, city and State of New York.

Up to about the 15th of October, 1924, I resided at 80 Broad Street, Stapleton, in the same county, city, and State.

That I was 30 years of age on the 21st day of May, 1924. On the 9th day of May, 1917, I was commissioned an ensign in the Naval Militia of the State of New York. Some time subsequently I was drafted into the service of the United States Navy and continued in this service until the 30th day of November, 1921, at which time I received an honorable discharge.

On the date of my entry into the naval service I was in perfect health; robust, active, and suffering from no disease or ills of any description, as can be attested by the physical examination conducted by the naval authorities at the time of said entrance into the service.

During the month of November, 1917, I was acting as senior naval officer in charge of the U. S. S. (A. C. T.) *Buena Ventura*, and while en route to France I met with an injury on the deck of this ship. This injury has caused me to undergo several operations and has impaired my health to such an extent that I am unable to follow my calling on the water. I have trained a great many years previous to the war as a mariner and possess a masters' license to pilot ocean-going vessels. It is this calling that I am unable to pursue as a result of the above-stated injuries. I am and have been since my discharge from the naval service under the care of a physician.

THOMAS VINCENT COREY.

Sworn to before me this 6th day of January, 1925.

REUBEN BERNSTEIN,
Notary Public, Richmond County, N. Y.

CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK,
Borough and County of Richmond, ss:

J. Harry Tiernan, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he resides at No. 53 Ward Avenue, Tompkinsville, borough and county of Richmond, city and State of New York; that I am the county judge and surrogate of the county of Richmond, and that I have been acquainted with Thomas Vincent Corey, of No. 80 Broad Street, Stapleton, Richmond County, N. Y., all his life; that I was well acquainted with him when he entered the Navy in the month of May, 1917, and prior to that date saw him quite frequently; from personal observation I am convinced he was a well-developed, healthy, strong individual at the time he entered the service.

J. HARRY TIERNAN.

Sworn to before me this 6th day of January, 1925.
[SEAL.]

THOMAS KENNY,
Notary Public, Richmond County, N. Y.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
County of Richmond, city of New York:

I, Charles A. Bruns, being duly sworn, depose and say that I have lived in Staten Island over 35 years and have known Thomas Vincent Corey most of that time. I know that he was in perfect health, strong and vigorous, when he entered the United States naval service during the World War in 1917.

CHARLES A. BRUNS.

Sworn to before me this 6th day of January, 1925.

CHARLES FLANNIGAN,
Notary Public, Richmond County, N Y.

CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK,
Borough and County of Richmond:

Michael J. Kane, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he resides at Dongan Hills, borough and county of Richmond, city and State of New York; that I have resided in the said county of Richmond over 50 years, and that I have been

acquainted with Thomas Vincent Corey, of No. 80 Broad Street, Stapleton, Richmond County, N. Y., all his lifetime and that I am intimately acquainted with him. I know that he served in the United States Navy during the World War, entering the service in May, 1917. I also am acquainted with people who know him intimately. His reputation for honesty, integrity, and good character is of the highest degree. From personal knowledge he was in perfect health at the time he entered the United States naval service.

M. J. KANE.

Sworn to before me this 6th day of January, 1925.

REUBEN BERNSTEIN,
Notary Public, Richmond County, N. Y.

MEDICAL RECORD OF THOMAS VINCENT COREY, ENSIGN, UNITED STATES NAVY

U. S. S. "GRANITE STATE"

September 8, 1917. Admitted with "fermentation intestinal. Origin, duty. Mild attack.

September 9, 1917. To duty; well.

NAVAL TRAINING STATION, NORFOLK, VA.

January 20, 1918. Admitted with "appendicitis chronic." Origin, line of duty. Patient states he has had several attacks, the last one was about four weeks ago; was treated by Doctor Kelting, Army base hospital. Usual symptoms.

January 20, 1918. To Naval hospital.

UNITED STATES NAVAL HOSPITAL, NORFOLK, VA.

January 20, 1918. Readmitted with "appendicitis chronic." Origin in line of duty. History: Present trouble began about three months ago with indefinite pain attacks in epigastrium. Pain was sharp and referred always to epigastrium. It had no relation to intake of food. Examination: Temperature normal. Face is anxious as though patient had worried a good deal. Physical examination negative except for slight deep tenderness over gall bladder.

January 25, 1918. No fever. Patient continues mild attacks pain in abdomen. X-ray examination shows no obstruction but indicates slight accelleration of movements of stomach and intestines. The point of deep tenderness seems to be over the gall bladder and not associated with stomach or duodenum. Put in mineral oil.

February 1, 1918. Patient has improved and is given one month's leave.

March 1, 1918. Returned, relating he had had severe attack of abdominal pain past four days. Civilian doctor made positive diagnosis of gall stones.

March 4, 1918. Operation under ether. No evidence of gall stones. Gall bladder opened and found to contain considerable mucous. Drained.

March 10, 1918. Uneventful.

April 15, 1918. Up and about. Very slight skin wound; all bile drainage ceased. Diagnosis changed to "cholecystitis." Origin, duty. Infection.

April 20, 1918. Left on one month's sick leave. Healed; free from symptoms.

May 20, 1918. Readmitted with "cholecystitis." Origin, duty. Patient returned from sick leave this date and reports he has been free from all symptoms and enjoyed good health. Examination shows patient fit for duty. To duty.

U. S. S. "DOLPHIN"

September 29, 1918. Admitted with "influenza." Origin, duty, due to an epidemic. Temperature on admission, 101.4° F., P. 84, R. 22. Patient complains of pain in head, back, and limbs with prostration. Treatment given, eliminative and supportive. Transferred to naval hospital for treatment.

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, KEY WEST, FLA.

September 29, 1918. Readmitted with "influenza." Origin, duty. Symptoms as above. Rest, isolation, diet.

October 3, 1918. Discharged to duty, well.

U. S. S. "DOROTHEA"

December 11, 1918. Admitted with "diagnosis undetermined." Origin duty. Patient complaining with following symptoms: Attacks of extreme pain of colicky character in region of stomach and upper bowels; patient usually has two or three of these attacks a day, which causes him to double up at times. Patient has gas eructation. No nausea or vomiting; no fever. Treatment symptomatic.

December 11, 1918. To naval hospital for further treatment.

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, CHARLESTON, S. C.

December 11, 1918. Readmitted with "diagnosis undetermined." Origin in line of duty. Not due to own misconduct. History of colicky pains in epigastrium: Tenderness beneath end of sternum. Pain radiating beneath both scapular. No nausea or vomiting. No elevation of tmperature. Physical examination shows tenderness on palpation in region of gall bladder and also in region of appendix.

December 16, 1918. Diagnosis changed to "appendicitis chronic." Origin in line of duty, not due to own misconduct. History of pain of a colicky nature in region of gall bladder and duodenum. Pain radiates to both scapulæ. Tenderness in region of appendix. No nausea or vomiting. No elevation of temperature. Physical examination negative with encaption of tenderness in region of gall bladder and duodenum, also tenderness in region of appendix. Blood count about normal. X-ray report as follows: Stomach and duodenum normal except cap looks irregular, probably some adhesions; large intestines normal.

December 18, 1918. Patient states these pains as located about have subsided. He feels stronger and sleeps well.

December 18, 1918. Condition of patient shows improvement. Temperature normal. Pains in region of gall bladder and appendix have subsided. Patient rests well and complains of no discomfort. He is this date discharged to duty improved.

December 20, 1918. To duty.

UNITED STATES NAVY HOSPITAL, NEW YORK, N. Y.

January 4, 1919. Readmitted with "diagnosis undetermined." Origin in line of duty. Origin duty, condition incident to service. Has had pain over lower right abdomen. Severe nausea and vomiting. Examination shows scar over gall bladder and ring inguinal hernia. Tenderness over appendix from operation January 6, 1919. Right rectus short incision appendix found attached at tip. Removed. Wound closed layer by layer at same time old hernia scar straightened. Condition good.

January 14, 1919. Wound clean and out of bed.

January 16, 1919. Diagnosis changed to "appendicitis chronic". Origin in line of duty not incident to service.

January 18, 1919. Out of bed; wound clean.

February 11, 1919. Discharged to duty.

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY, ANNAPOLIS, MD.

April 29, 1919. Note.—Examined and found physically qualified for rank of ensign (T.).

January 10, 1920. Examined and found physically qualified for naval service.

U. S. S. "RENNA MERCEDES"

February 25, 1920. Admitted with "influenza." Origin duty. Infectious influences. Severe headache with bodily pains. Cough with slightly blood-stained sputum. Diarrhea and prostration. Temperature, 102.4°; pulse, 124; respiration, 21. To naval hospital, Annapolis, Md.

UNITED STATES NAVAL HOSPITAL, ANNAPOLIS, MD.

February 25, 1920. Readmitted with "influenza." Origin in line of duty, due to infectious influences. Usual symptoms and treatment. Temperature, 102; pulse, 104; respiration, 20.

February 27, 1920. Temperature, pulse, and respiration normal.
February 28, 1920. Out of bed.
March 3, 1920. Discharged to duty.
July 30, 1920. Patient reported sick bay, complaining of acute abdominal pain, which comes on from two to three hours after meals. Physical examination reveals old hernia and gall-bladder operation.
July 31, 1920. Pain still persists. Soft diet no relief.
August 10, 1920. No improvement.
August 20, 1920. Unable to obtain X-ray examination at United States naval hospital, as machine is not working.
December 8, 1920. Examined this date and found fit for transfer, but advised to consult doctor upon arrival at recruiting ship and have X-ray examination of stomach.

U. S. NAVY HOSPITAL, NEW YORK, N. Y.

January 18, 1921. Readmitted with "ulcer of stomach." Origin, in line of duty. Incident to service.
On December 24, 1920, while in office of his brother in New York City he was seized with a sudden sharp severe pain high in abdomen. This was followed by vomiting of some bitter stomach contents with considerable blood. The family called Dr. John F. Erdman and patient was taken to Post Graduate Hospital, where he was operated on the same day. The ulcer was supposedly tied off and a gastroenterostomy performed. Operation was drained about eight days. As soon as able to walk about he reported to this hospital. On admission he showed a well-healed scar on median epigastric region; no points of pain or tenderness noted. Telephone to Doctor Erdman brought information that he had operated for a perforated duodenal ulcer with dense adhesions to gall bladder, doing a gastroenterostomy and cholecystectomy. Diet recommended. Was no red marks such as streaks or muttonchops.
January 23, 1921. Patient doing well; no symptoms.
January 29, 1921. Patient passed some blood with stool, black in color.
January 30, 1921. More blood.
January 31, 1921. Bright red blood after stool. Put to bed.
February 1, 1921. Very small quantity of blood with stool.
February 4, 1921. No blood in stool; allowed up. Examination shows a few small hemorrhoids about one-half inch within sphincter. There was no hemorrhage down there but this might be the source of the blood.
February 11, 1921. No change. Physiotherapy for constipation. Complains of some gastric distress.
February 18, 1921. Patient doing well; is gaining weight.
February 25, 1921. Continues improvement. Granted 10 days' sick leave.
March 14, 1921. Ten days' extension granted.
March 25, 1921. Wound in good condition; abdominal wall firm. Has slight gastric distress, such as hyperacidity. Could be discharged to duty.
March 28, 1921. To duty, well.

The committee is of the opinion that Mr. Corey was in perfect health when he entered the naval service, that his disability is a result of the service, and that he is entitled to the relief which he seeks.

The following letter from the former Secretary of the Navy to the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives sets forth the attitude of the Navy Department in cases of this kind:

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 7, 1924.

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS,
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Replying further to the committee's letter of January 10, 1924, inclosing a bill (H. R. 4927) for the relief of Thomas Vincent Corey, and requesting the views and recommendations of the department theron, I have the honor to inform you as follows:

Thomas Vincent Corey was, in May, 1917, assigned to Federal service while an ensign in the Naval Militia of New York. He was appointed an ensign in the National Naval Volunteers on October 10, 1917, and was transferred to the

Naval Reserve Force on July 1, 1918. He was promoted to the grade of lieutenant (j. g.) in the Reserve Force on January 1, 1919, and was temporarily appointed an ensign in the Navy on April 22, 1919, serving as such until November 30, 1921, when such appointment was revoked.

There is nothing of record in the department to show that Mr. Corey suffered any physical disability while on active duty in the Federal service, except a statement on his part that he incurred some stomach disorder in 1919.

In cases such as these the department would not oppose general legislation with proper limitations, which would provide for the retirement of former temporary and reserve officers who contracted physical disability while on active duty during the period from April 7, 1917, to March 3, 1921, but it can not consistently recommend the enactment of legislation for the relief of an individual to the exclusion of others whose cases are equally deserving.

In view of the foregoing, the department does not recommend that the bill (H. R. 4927) be enacted.

Sincerely yours,

EDWIN DENBY, *Secretary of the Navy.*