

Opinion No. 480.**Veterans—Citizenship—Overseas
Service.**

HELD: A veteran who served overseas is not automatically admitted to citizenship but must file an "overseas petition" and take the oath of allegiance in proper form.

March 2, 1934.

We have your letter of February 27th in which you ask: "Does a man who went overseas and fought for the U. S. A. automatically become a citizen of the United States at the time of his enlistment?"

We are unable to find any Act of Congress authorizing such automatic admission to citizenship, but on the contrary those Federal Statutes which exempt aliens in the military service of the United States in the World War from certain requirements of the naturalization laws nevertheless require that such aliens file what is called an "overseas petition" with, and take the oath of allegiance before, some court authorized to naturalize aliens. (See, Act of May 9, 1918, Chap. 69, 40 Stat. 542, 543 and 544; U. S. C. A., Title 8, Sec. 389, 390, 391, and 392.)

Your question must therefore be answered in the negative.