

HEADQUARTERS
40TH SIGNAL LIGHT CONSTRUCTION BATTALION
APO 655, US Army

200.6/201-Westerman, George F (0)

27 June 1945

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Bronze Star Medal.

TO : Commanding Officer, 5146th Signal Service Group, APO 655, US Army.

1. a. It is recommended that GEORGE F WESTERMAN, 0362748, Captain, Signal Corps, 40th Signal Light Construction Battalion, be awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Captain WESTERMAN is on duty with the 40th Signal Light Construction Battalion at the present time.

b. Captain WESTERMAN was serving in the grade of Captain as the Commanding Officer of Headquarters Company, 40th Signal Construction Battalion (later redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 40th Signal Light Construction Battalion) and Battalion S-2, at the time of the act or service for which this award is recommended.

c. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs Doris Westerman, Wife, Roosevelt Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

d. Entered military service from Darlington, Wisconsin.

e. Decorations previously awarded: None.

f. The entire service of Captain WESTERMAN has been honorable since the rendition by him of the act or service upon which this recommendation is based.

g. A similar recommendation for this individual has not been submitted.

2. The officer recommending this award has personal knowledge of the act or service upon which this recommendation is based.

3. Captain WESTERMAN, while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 22 November 1944 to 28 March 1945.

a. In the period between 22 November and 16 December 1944, the 40th Signal Light Construction Battalion (then the 40th Signal Construction Battalion), was engaged in building an open wire line from Liege, Belgium to Aachen, Germany and from Aachen to the East toward Cologne, Germany. Under Captain WESTERMAN's direction, three booby traps and a large number of mines were neutralized or destroyed.

b. Between 18 January and 25 January 1945, in the vicinity of Marche, Belgium and Jamelle, Belgium, Captain WESTERMAN directed the sweeping of critical spots along the many miles of roads this Battalion was using to rehabilitate open wire lines damaged by the German breakthrough in the Ardennes. Approximately 35 mines were destroyed as a result of this work which otherwise would have produced casualties.

c. From 10 to 28 March 1945, Captain WESTERMAN directed the sweeping of a path through the Siegfried Line minefields West of Prum, Germany to permit the construction of an open wire line. A large number of mines were encountered.

d. On 29 March 1945, Captain WESTERMAN detected and destroyed a hasty mine-field placed by the enemy near Bitburg, Germany. This minefield was in the route of a cable line that this Battalion was building and would have caused loss of life and equipment if it had not been detected by Captain WESTERMAN.

e. Captain WESTERMAN sustained no injuries or wounds during this period directly attributable to the service for which this recommendation is made.

4. Proposed citation:

"For distinguished service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from 22 November 1944 to 29 March 1945. Captain WESTERMAN's skill in the detection and neutralization of enemy mines and booby traps during this period permitted the construction of communication lines with a minimum of casualties and loss of critical equipment through heavily mined sections of the Siegfried Line in the vicinity of Aachen and Prum, Germany. His ability to cope with all types of mined areas inspired confidence in his men to proceed with their normal duties, unhampered by the fear of faulty detection. This was a determining factor in the speedy construction and restoration of communications for the 12th Army Group".

WILLIAM H COE
Lieutenant Colonel, Signal Corps
Commanding