

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 4550

11 August 1968

SECTION I

THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARDS are announced.

WESTERMAN, FREDDIE E (SSAN: -4731) STAFF SERGEANT (E-6) Company
E 1st Battalion 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star Medal

Date action: 21 March 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 March 1968. Staff Sergeant Westerman distinguished himself while serving as an acting platoon leader during a village clearing mission in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Upon receiving a heavy volume of sniper fire, Staff Sergeant Westerman moved under the heavy enemy fire to receive a situation report from the point element. After making a quick and decisive estimation of the contact, he began to assign areas of responsibility to each of his elements by moving, with complete disregard to his personal safety, through the murderous hail of hostile fire, which continued to rake the ground, from element to element and from man to man. Staff Sergeant Westerman's movement was observed by the large enemy force in the village which immediately opened fire with automatic weapons. One man was hit as he was exposed to direct fire. Staff Sergeant Westerman dauntlessly exposed himself to the enemy fire in order to place effective fire on the enemy until the wounded man was successfully recovered from the open area. Staff Sergeant Westerman then skillfully directed two squads to lay down a base of fire while another squad maneuvered towards the village. While maneuvering towards the village, one man of the squad was hit and became pinned down in an open rice paddy. Immediately, Staff Sergeant Westerman again braved the murderous hail of enemy fire to direct and encourage his men to provide an accurate base of fire so as to permit the successful recovery of the wounded trooper. Under Staff Sergeant Westerman's astute direction, the wounded man was swiftly and safely recovered. Realizing that the enemy force was too large for his platoon to engage, Staff Sergeant Westerman regrouped his men, posted security, and directed an uninterrupted barrage of friendly artillery and air strikes upon the enemy positions. Through Staff Sergeant Westerman's precise and timely directions, a devastating attack was delivered upon the enemy force. Staff Sergeant Westerman's indomitable courage and extraordinarily valorous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President of the United States under the provisions of the Act of Congress established 9 July 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

W. P. TALLON, JR
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff



LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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