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Lawrence Westerman Collection

Creator: Lawrence Westerman; J. N. Pritzker; John Votaw
Dates: 1916-1996
Quantity: 1 linear foot, 2 boxes
Identification: PMML ID: 800253, OCLC: 16626227, Call Number: PAPERS 00006
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Biographical Note

Lawrence Westerman was born in Chicago in 1896. Westerman was raised on the North Side of Chicago, attending Wells Elementary School and Lane Technical High School. He enlisted in the Illinois National Guard in June 1916 under pressure from his father. He was assigned to the 1st Regiment (the 'Dandy First') and sent to the Texas-Mexico border as part of the Mexican Punitive expedition.

After the United States declared war on Germany in 1917, the unit was federalized as the 133rd Infantry, 33rd Division. Westerman was promoted to Sergeant then Lieutenant in Company M, and the unit trained at Rockford, Illinois, and Houston, Texas before arriving in Brest, France, in May 1918. Westerman and the 131st were soon assigned to support Australian operation in the Somme counter-offensive in France.

On August 12, 1918--soon after the Battle of Le Hamel--while scouting for barbed wire barriers near the front, a German artillery shell hit Westerman's reconnaissance party, instantly killing one soldier and severely damaging Westerman's leg. Westerman was transferred to a London hospital where he remained until 1919. Back in the U.S.,

Westerman was confined to the Army hospital at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, before being discharged from both the hospital and the Army in 1920.

As a civilian, Westerman remained active in veteran organizations, and became the charter member of the unit's American Legion Post in 1921 and served as fundraising chairman.

Scope and Content of the Collection

Items in the collection range from personal belongings of Lawrence Westerman that date to his war service to documents relating to the production and distribution of two oral histories done with Westerman in 1995. Westerman's items include copies of his official service record, pamphlets, newsletters, and newspaper clippings relating to various 33rd Division veterans groups. Also included are Pritzker's research materials for the oral history and correspondence that accompanied the distribution of the oral history to various cultural institutions.

Also included in the collection are two oral histories with Westerman in 1995. The first, conducted by Jennifer N. Pritzker, covers Westerman's family history, his teenage years in Chicago, the decision to join the National Guard, training details, premises for his promotions, his injury in France, and his subsequent stays in hospitals in Europe and the US.

Dr. John Votaw, then-director of the 1st Infantry Museum in Wheaton, Illinois, conducted the second interview four months after Pritzker's session. This transcript covers the same events as the first, in addition to more detailed information on Westerman's hospital experiences and post war life in Chicago and California.

Arrangement

The collection arrived in no discernable order. The collection is organized by subject.

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Separations

Item ID	Call Number	Description	Location
Artifacts			
800253117		Major & Mrs. Holt's Battle Map of the Somme	
800253118		Gauze from Lawrence Westerman wound	
Photographs			
1st ILNG, Mexican Punitive Expedition			
800253119		View of doorway with a man sitting in the entry	
800253120		A man standing outside of a large building in uniform, photograph has printed frame that reads "1833-1933 Century of Progress", note on back reads "Dusty[?] Donovan Co. M. 1st Ill. Inf. Alamo, 1916."	
800253121		A man standing outside of a large building in uniform, photograph has printed frame that reads "1833-1933 Century of Progress"	
800253122		A man standing on a bridge over a small pond, photograph has printed frame that reads, "1833-1933 Century of Progress"	
800253123		A man posing on a bridge over a small pond, photograph has printed frame that reads, "1833-1933 Century of Progress"	
800253124		View of doorway with a man sitting in the entry, "1833-1933 Century of Progress"	
800253125		A man posing outside in front of trees and plants, photograph has printed frame that reads, "1833-1933 Century of Progress," note on back reads "Westy Westerman 1916-with Ill Nat'l Guard chasing Poncho Via"	

Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois

800253126 Portrait of man in uniform, note on back reads, "Sargent[sic] Company M, July 1917, 131st Infantry. To Texas in the fall. To Europe, May 1918. Landed in Brest France, May 30 1918. In front line trenches June 1, 1918." Note stuck to photograph reads, "Camp Grant July 1917."

800253127 Postcard of soldiers sitting at long tables outside eating, note stuck on back reads, "Camp Grant, July 1917."

800253128 Small photograph of four men in uniform

World War I and recovery

800253129 Postcard of six soldiers posing at camp

800253130 Lawrence Westernman with friend, note on back reads "Lawrence Westerman"

800253131 Close up of wound on back of leg

800253132 Close up of wound on back of leg partially stitched closed

800253133 Close up of wound on body

800253134 Lawrence Westerman in uniform with cane, note on back reads, "Lt. Lawrence Westerman, Fort Sheridan 1919."

Reunions

800253135 Dinty[?] Donovan[?] and Westy Westerman[?] posing outside in front of a bare tree, note on back reads "Dinty[?] Donovan[?] 1963 St. Petersburg Florida."

800253136 Two men sitting at a restaurant table, note on back reads "REUN, Ralph Synnestale[?] & Al Dulton"

800253137 Group photograph of six men, note on back reads "REUN, Top Row Ralph Synnestale[?] Al Kumpfe[?] [Bottom Row] Al Dulton, Slater, Fred Emich."

800253138 Three men sitting at a restaurant table, note on back reads, "12 REU"

- 800253139 Group of four men standing outside, note on back reads, "REUN"
- 800253140 Group of three men standing outside, note on back reads, "3 REUN"
- 800253141 Three men sitting at restaurant table, note on back reads, "REUN"
- 800253142 Blurry photograph of two men standing outside of a motel, note on back reads, "Westy & Fred Emich"
- 800253143 Blurry photograph of two men standing outside of a motel, note on back reads, "Ladd Hoffman & Fred Emich, Colorado"

Oral History Session

- 800253144 Westerman sitting at a table
- 800253145 Westerman sitting at a table
- 800253146 Westerman sitting at a table
- 800253147 Westerman sitting at a table
- 800253148 Westerman sitting at a table
- 800253149 Photograph of Certificate of Continuous Membership
- 800253150 Westerman holding World War I Victory Medal
- 800253151 Westerman standing up in a house
- 800253152 Lawrence Westerman and Eddie Sheehan sitting in a crowd, not on back reads, "Lawrence Westerman Eddie Sheehan April installation of WWI aux, Ramona Peterson installing officers Lulu[?] Reck[?]"

Family and other civilian photographs

- 800253153 Photograph from Lucky Casino of Lawrence Westerman with a lei around his neck
- 800253154 Photograph from Lucky Casino of Lawrence

- Westerman with a lei around his neck
- 800253155 Photograph of a young man in a suit, possibly Westerman
- 800253156 Group photograph of men and women in a backyard
- 800253157 Group photograph of men with a dog in a backyard
- 800253158 Lawrence Westerman and Ethel at a theme park, note on back reads, "Westy & Ethel at Disneyland."
- 800253159 Ethel and Lawrence at birthday party, note on back reads, "1-14-90 Ethel & Westy birthday party showing shirt they gave me. At Wayne & Zuzzies[?] house in Lake Forest."
- 800253160 Lawrence Westerman with birthday cake in front of him, note on back reads, "Westy in front of blue pie cake, Jan-14-1990"
- 800253161 Lawrence Westerman and Ethel at a birthday party, note on back reads, "1-14-90 Ethel Balth[?] & Westy at birthday party at Lake Forest."
- 800253162 Lawrence Westerman with two women at restaurant table, note on back reads, "No. 13A 02-04-89 Railroad Dinner[?] Westy, Ruth's Daughter, Cookies."

Reunions, Negatives

- 800253163 Negative strip, four exposures of a women painting, a man and a woman holding up two photographs, and a woman holding up two photographs
- 800253164 Negative strip, five exposures of men and women painting
- 800253165 Negative strip, three exposures of a man and a woman holding two photographs
- 800253166 Negative strip, four exposures of men and women posing for photos

800253167	Negative strip, two exposures of group photographs of men
800253168	Negative, men and women at the airport
800253169	Negative, men and women at a veteran event posing with a large flag
800253170	Negative, veteran event
800253171	Negative, group photograph, note on negative reads, "Hoban, Donovan & Kennedy"
800253172	Negative, note on negative reads, "Buddies of WWI"
800253173	Negative, group photograph of men

Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Subjects

Illinois National Guard—Regiment, 1st
 United States—Army—History—Punitive Expedition into Mexico, 1916
 United States—Army—Infantry Regiment, 131st
 World War, 1914-1918—Campaigns—France—Somme
 World War, 1914-1918—Personal narratives, United States

Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID #	Title	Dates
1	1		Military and Personal Documents	1916-1918, 1926
		800253001	Volunteer Enlistment [photocopy]	6/20/1916
		800253002	Examination of Recruit [photocopy]	6/20/1916

800253003	Illinois National Guard, Physical Examination of a Recruit [photocopy]	6/20/1916
800253004	Enlistment Papers of Lawrence Westermann, Consent of Parent or Guardian [photocopy]	6/19/1916; 6/20/1916
800253005	Enlistment Record [photocopy]	5/3/1926
800253006	National Guard State of Illinois, Personal History and Military Record [photocopy]	6/14/1926
800253007	Letter of recommendation from Henry O[illegible] [photocopy]	6/8/1926
800253008	Letter of recommendation from Herman Ha[illegible] [photocopy]	6/8/1926
800253009	Order to Adjutant General about appointment of a commissioned officer [photocopy]	6/14/1926
800253010	Order approval from Milton J. Foreman [photocopy]	6/17/1926
800253011	Lawrence Westermann Oath of Office document [photocopy]	6/28/1926
800253012	Report of Physical Examination [photocopy]	6/14/1926
800253013	Statement of health [photocopy]	6/14/1926
800253014	Receipt of commission as Second Lieutenant in Illinois National Guard [photocopy]	8/15/1926
800253015	To Frieda Westerman from Lawrence Westerman: postcard with photograph of Westerman and friends on front, writes about when he will be in Chicago and that he arrived safe	9/17/1917
800253016	M Company, 131st Regiment Roster pamphlet	5/22/1918
800253017	M Company, 131st Regiment Roster	5/22/1918

pamphlet

800253018	State of Illinois appreciation of service card	u.d.
800253019	Part of "The 131st Infantry" booklet	u.d.
800253020	To Buddy Westy from James F[illegible]: letter about where men in their unit are now	u.d.

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Military Reunion and Veteran Associations

1959-1995, u.d.

800253021	Buddies of "M" Company, 131st Infantry, 41st Reunion flyer [photocopy]	2/21/1959
800253022	Buddies of "M" Company, 131st Infantry, 41st Reunion flyer	2/21/1959
800253023	Complete Roster 33rd Div. War Veterans Association booklet	1967
800253024	Officers 33rd Division, War Veterans' Association Annual Reunion booklet	1975
800253025	Memorial Day Observance booklet	5/29/1995
800253026	131st Infantry association Membership Application [photocopy]	u.d.

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Newspaper Clippings

1968-1996, u.d.

800253027	"Buddies of M Co., 131st Inf., 33rd Div., to Hold Reunion" [photocopy]	9/26/1968
800253028	"A man ask a women..."	11/10/1975
800253029	"57th Reunion" [photocopy]	12/4/1975
800253030	"Leaders" [photocopy]	5/27/1980
800253031	"Veterans: Aging Groups Plan to Shut Down" [photocopy]	12/26/1983
800253032	"Aging, death take toll on rank of WWI veterans' groups" [photocopy]	12/26/1983

800253033	"Old age takes toll on vet's group" [photocopy]	12/29/1983
800253034	"WWI groups dying of old age" [photocopy]	12/28/1983
800253035	"Honor Few"; "Veterans: World War I ranks dwindle" [photocopy]	11/13/1984
800253036	"Up close: Lawrence" [photocopy]	6/21/1990
800253037	"Westerman one of several to receive commemorative" [photocopy]	9/16/1993
800253038	"Obituaries, Lawrence Westerman" [photocopy]	8/22/1996
800253039	"Father Time takes his toll on the USA's WWI vets' groups"	u.d.
800253040	"Over the hills and through the woods..." [photocopy]	u.d.
800253041	"Community Sing to host first ever summer songfest" [photocopy]	u.d.
800253042	"Old age, death take toll on local WWI veterans' groups" [photocopy]	u.d.
800253043	"...War I vets groups fading" [photocopy]	u.d.
800253044	"A 'March' for freedom" [photocopy]	u.d.
800253045	"WWI vets organizations break up" [photocopy]	u.d.
800253046	"France was not an ice cream social" [photocopy]	u.d.

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Correspondence from J.N. Pritzker 1995-1996

800253047	To 1LT Lawrence Westerman from J.N. Pritzker: letter about arranging for Westerman to come to 131st Infantry Regiment Association annual ball	2/9/1995
800253048	To Jane from J.N. Pritzker: fax about booking airfare	2/10/1995

800253049	To Jim from Jane: memo about directions	2/14/1995
800253050	To COL David Perlman from MAJ J.N. Pritzker: memo about requesting the service records of Lawrence Westerman	3/10/1995
800253051	To COL John Votaw from J.N. Pritzker: letter about asking assistance in producing oral history with Westerman	4/20/1995
800253052	To 1LT Lawrence Westerman from MAJ J.N. Pritzker: letter enclosing an itinerary for Westerman's trip to Chicago	4/24/1995
800253053	To LT Westerman from Jane Feerer: letter to return check for 131st Infantry Regiment dinner	5/11/1995
800253054	To Dr. John Votaw from J.N. Pritzker: letter about including transcriptions of interview with Westerman	9/22/1995
800253055	To Major Thomas Weaver, DCARNG(ret) from J.N. Pritzker: letter about including interview with Westerman for their archives	9/18/1995
800253056	To BG Mountcastle from J.N. Pritzker: letter about including transcription of interview with Westerman	9/21/1995
800253057	To LTC William C. Chapman from J.N. Pritzker: letter about including transcript of interview with Westerman	9/25/1995
800253058	To Colonel Ronald A. Chapilis from J.N. Pritzker: letter about including transcript of interview with Westerman	9/25/1995
800253059	To Dr. Douglas Greenberg from J.N. Pritzker: letter about donating copies of Westerman's oral history and transcript for the Chicago History Museum	9/25/1995

800253060	To LTC Eric Swanson, ILM and CW4 Kathy Swanson, ILM from J.N. Pritzker: letter about including copies of a video interview of Westerman	9/25/1995
800253061	To John Chalmers from J.N. Pritzker: letter about donating oral histories of Westerman to the Chicago Public Library	9/26/1995
800253062	To MSG Joel Marks from J.N. Pritzker: letter about including a video interview of Westerman	9/26/1995
800253063	To Robert W. Spanogle from J.N. Pritzker: letter about donating two oral history interviews to the American Legion	9/26/1995
800253064	To BG John W. Mountcastle from J.N. Pritzker: letter about the transfer of oral histories sent previously to the Center's oral history collection and permission of use ; To Major Pritzker from John W. Mountcastle: letter to thank Pritzker for oral histories and their transfer to oral history center ; Resume of Service Career of John W. Mountcastle	10/23/1995; 10/6/1995
800253065	To Judy Feerer from J.N. Pritzker: letter to thank Feerer for meeting with Westerman to get documents signed	7/10/1996
800253066	To Carol Watkins from J.N. Pritzker: letter to express sympathy for the passing of Watkins' uncle, Westerman and enclosing a copy of his interview	10/11/1996
800253067	To Jennifer-1st Div. Museum from Jane Feerer: letter that includes release signed by Westerman	10/16/1996

1	5	Correspondence to J.N. Pritzker	1995-1996
800253068	To J.N. Pritzker from Ronald Chapulis: letter about sending letters out, correcting a certificate and a meeting at the Union League Club	9/27/1995	
800253069	To Major J.N. Pritzker from Douglas Greenberg: letter about receiving oral history and transcripts sent earlier, passing them to the Research and Curatorial Affairs, and to set up a time to talk with Pritzker	9/25/1995	
800253070	To Major J.N. Pritzker from Thomas M. Weaver: letter to thank Pritzker for donation of oral histories and donation to the Historical Society of the Militia & National Guard	10/3/1995	
800253071	To Major J.N. Pritzker from John W. Mountcastle: letter to thank Pritzker for Westerman's oral history and sending the transcripts to the Center's oral history collection	10/6/1995	
800253072	To Major J.N. Pritzker from John P. Chalmers: letter about enclosing a Deed of Gift from for Pritzker's donation of oral histories ; copy of Deed of Gift	12/14/1995	
800253073	To Jane Feerer from Denise H. Beshaw: letter about enclosing a copy of a speech given by Congressman Flanagan in recognition of Westerman's 100th birthday	6/24/1996	
800253074	To J.N. Pritzker from Carol Watkins: letter to thank Pritzker for sympathy card from Westerman's passing	11/15/1996	
800253075	To MAJ J.N. Pritzker from Lawrence Westerman: letter about questions he has about his trip to Chicago	u.d.	

1	6	Oral History Transcriptions	1995
		800253086 Questions for Westerman	2/18/1995
		800253087 Interview with Westermann with J. Pritzker	2/18/1995
		800253088 Interview with Westermann with J. Pritzker	2/18/1995
		800253089 Interview with Westermann from 1st Infantry Museum	5/26/1995
		800253090 Interview with Westermann from 1st Infantry Museum	5/26/1995

1	7	Research Materials	
		800253076 "The History of 33rd Div." booklet	u.d.
		800253077 "Casualties, Verdun-Fromereville sector and Meuse-Argonne Offensive" chart [photocopy]	u.d.
		800253078 "American Divisions Sent to Europe" chart [photocopied]	u.d.
		800253079 "33d Division at the Capture of Hamel..." and more articles [photocopy]	u.d.
		800253080 "33d Division--Summary of Operations" article [photocopy]	u.d.
		800253081 Handwritten notes about Lawrence Westerman	u.d.
		800253082 "Our Century" article [photocopy]	u.d.
		800253083 Handwritten notes about Lawrence Westerman	u.d.
		800253084 Newspaper clippings, "Death Claims Big War Hero of World War I" ; "Bairnsfather Dies; 'Old Bill' Creator" [photocopy]	1959
		800253085 Newspaper clippings, "Webster Groves Lenion News" [photocopy]	u.d.

1	8	Miscellaneous Documents	u.d.
		800253091 Contact information for Carol Watkins	u.d.
		800253092 Handwritten notes of multiple people's contact information	u.d.
		800253093 Multiple sticky notes with handwritten notes	u.d.
		800253094 Multiple sticky notes with handwritten notes	u.d.
		800253095 Bibliographic Information for a book	u.d.
1	9	800253096- 8002530105	Restricted Folder
2		Oral History Interviews	1995
		800253106 Cassette tape labeled "1LT Lawrence Westerman Interview- Feb. 18, 1995 by MAJ James N. Pritzker"	2/18/1995
		800253107 Cassette tape labeled "1LT Lawrence Westerman Interview- Feb. 18, 1995 by MAJ James N. Pritzker"	2/18/1995
		800253108 Cassette tape labeled "1LT Lawrence Westerman Interview- Feb. 18, 1995 by MAJ James N. Pritzker"	2/18/1995
		800253109 Cassette tape labeled "1LT Lawrence Westerman Interview- Feb. 18, 1995 by MAJ James N. Pritzker"	2/18/1995
		800253110 Cassette tape labeled "1LT Lawrence Westerman Interview- Feb. 18, 1995 by MAJ James N. Pritzker"	2/18/1995
		800253111 Cassette tape labeled "1LT Lawrence Westerman Interview- Feb. 18, 1995 by MAJ James N. Pritzker"	2/18/1995
		800253112 Cassette tape labeled "Westerman 18Feb95"	2/18/1995
		800253113 Magnetic tape audio reel labeled "1LT	2/18/1995

Lawrence Westerman Interview- Feb.
18, 1995 by MAJ James N. Pritzker"

800253114	VHS tape labeled "Oral History Interview with LT. Westerman 131st Inf. 33rd Division 5/26/95"	5/26/1995
800253115	VHS tape labeled "Oral History Interview with LT. Westerman 131st Inf. 33rd Division 5/26/95 MASTER"	5/26/1995
800253116	DVD labeled "Oral History of Lt. Lawrence Westerman 131st Infantry, 33rd Division, AEF, Interview by John Votaw, May 26, 1995"	5/26/1995