

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
ARTILLERY OCS HALL OF FAME

1. Name Prentiss Courson DATE 25 April 1969  
ASN O-1173570 RANK BG-Ret. DOR 11 Dec. 1962  
DOB 16 Nov. 1908
2. Address 1687 Monroe Drive, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30324
3. OCS Class Number 39  
Date Graduated/Commissioned 19 November 1942
4. Present Duty Assignment/Occupation Retired  
Occupation: Southern Manager, Answering Service, Inc.  
Address 701 Bank of Ga. Bldg.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30303
5. Brief resume of duty assignments: See photo copy of letter from  
General Westmoreland, which lists duty assignments.
6. Awards & Decorations: American Theater Ribbon  
EAMET Campaign Ribbon w/two Bronze Stars  
(Rhineland Campaign and Central Europe Campaign)  
Victory Ribbon  
Reservists Medal
7. General Remarks:  
None

Signature Prentiss Courson

UNITED STATES ARMY  
THE CHIEF OF STAFF

22 January 1969

Dear General Courson:

On the occasion of your retirement from the Army of the United States after many years of dedicated service to the Nation, I write to express to you the Army's appreciation for all you have contributed to its achievements.

From the time you first served as a lieutenant in the Artillery Reserve, you have displayed outstanding devotion to duty. Your active participation in the affairs of the Reserve components during the period between world wars proved excellent preparation for the duties you were to assume later in your career. Early in World War II, the Army was fortunate to have an officer with your qualifications to serve as Commander of Battery A and later Battery C, 351st Field Artillery Battalion at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, and in 1944 you assisted materially in the organized movement of Battery C to the European Theater of Operations. As Reconnaissance Officer, Battery Commander, and S3, you were responsible in large measure for the success of the 351st Field Artillery Battalion, and later as Port Plans and Training Officer, 52d Medium Port at Le Havre, France, you contributed substantively to the success of Allied operations.

Following the war and after your release from active duty, you continued to dedicate your time and your proven capabilities to national defense as Athletic and Recreation Officer, Assistant Chief of Staff, G2 and G3, Headquarters, 81st Infantry Division, and later as Executive Officer and Commander, 81st Infantry Division Artillery. Throughout your career, culminating in your performance as Assistant Division Commander, 81st Infantry Division, your efforts have consistently advanced the ability of the Army to promote the security of our country.

In your retirement, I hope that you will maintain a lively interest in the Army and its doings. The Army needs informed friends throughout the country to interpret its needs to our citizens. Your community will properly look to you as a retired senior officer for views on military matters. I trust that you will be an active spokesman for the Army, keeping abreast of current matters through contacts with the Army headquarters of the area in which you reside.

The best wishes of the Army will follow you in all your future endeavors. May you find in your retirement the happiness and good fortune you have so fully earned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. C. Westmoreland". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

W. C. WESTMORELAND  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

Brigadier General Prentiss Courson, AUS-Ret.