

INDEPENDENT DETACHMENT OF AMERICAN TROOPS  
HELD AS PRISONERS OF WAR,  
Osaka Prisoner of War Camp, Hirohata Sub - Camp,  
Hirohata, Japan.

March 1, 1945.

To: The Adjutant General, Headquarters, War Department, Washington, D. C.  
From: Marine Gunner Earl B. Ercanbrack, U.S. Marine Corps, Commanding.  
Subject: Promotion, in the case of Smith Lowery GREEN, 6259356.

1. On October 6, 1943, this camp was established, consisting of 485 soldiers, sailors, and marines of the Armed Forces of the United States and one Medical Officer of the U.S. Army. In the absence of any line officers, I did, on that date, by virtue of seniority, assume command of this group of prisoners of war.

2. I am transmitting herewith a copy of a warrant in the case of the promotion of Technical Sergeant Smith L. GREEN, ASN 6259356, 31st Infantry, to the rank of Master Sergeant (Temporary) in the U.S. Army.

3. Master Sergeant Green has, since the date he arrived at this camp, assisted me in the control and administration of this command, performing the duties normally performed by a Post Executive Officer. All matters pertaining to internal discipline, administration, morale, and general welfare have been left to my decision, the Japanese authorities only acting in cases of violations of their own regulations.

4. During the winter of 1943-1944, the men in this camp suffered from hardships, far and above those expected in a normal situation and possibly even more severe than the privations suffered by many troops engaged in actual combat. At one time the number of men sick and incapacitated for duty by reason of disease and malnutrition numbered as high as 293, with 63 bed patients; however men still able to perform duty were engaged in the heaviest type of work, chiefly shoveling iron ore, with temperatures daily below zero. At such times, I considered it imperative that discipline, morale and soldierly dignity should be maintained at a high standard if we were to survive.

5. Master Sergeant Green, although daily working at the heaviest type of manual labor, still devoted his few rest hours in assisting me to cope with the many problems daily arising. At all times, although weakened by disease and malnutrition, Master Sergeant Green strove to uphold the general morale. His personal courage, his leadership, and his high sense of personal honor and dignity in the face of untold hardships was exemplary and indicated a type of courage and loyalty that undoubtedly would be a credit to any combat organization. He is deserving of commendation or citation by higher authority for conduct ever and above the normal call of duty and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Army of the United States.

6. The undersigned is aware of the fact that this promotion is without precedent, but such action is taken as it is impossible to communicate with higher authority and, further, because of the existing situation and probable emergencies that might arise in the future, it is considered in the best interests of the service.

7. By reason of the fact that the duties Master Sergeant Green is daily performing are commensurate with the responsible duties normally performed by a Master Sergeant, the undersigned is of the opinion that this promotion should be upheld as valid and that Master Sergeant Green should be entitled to the pay, rank and privileges of the rank of Master Sergeant from this date forward.

EARL B. ERCANBRACK.

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CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

*Earl B. Ercanbrack*  
EARL B. ERCANBRACK,  
Marine Gunner, U.S. Marine Corps.