



**Class Narrative Class 28-67 F1  
5 May 1967 –13 October 1967  
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



On Saturday, 6 May 1967 the 93<sup>rd</sup> Kentucky Derby was run at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky and Proud Clarion was the winner. But no one from Armor OCS Class 28-67, F1 was there because they had started OCS the day before on Friday, 5 May 1967. The class was the 32<sup>nd</sup> Armor branch specific class, the 44<sup>th</sup> OCS class at Fort Knox since the Korean War, and the third and last Company F1 to follow the F1 Troop guidon in the Officer Candidate Brigade at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War. The class started with 112 “Butter Bar Hopefuls” and during the next twenty-three weeks twelve OC’s were recycled/turned-back from six classes and added to the class roster. Four came from Class 22-67, A2; one from Class 23-67, C1; three from Class 24-67, B2; one from Class 25-67, D2; two from Class 26-67, A1 and one from Class 27-67, G1. Eleven of the twelve would graduate with Class 28-67. Thirty-three members of the class either quit or were relieved from the course. Eight members would be recycled/turned-back to other classes and six would graduate and be commissioned. One graduated with Class 30-67, D1; one with Class 31-67, C2; two with Class 32-67, B1; one with Class 1-68, E1 and one with Class 2-68, E2.

Exactly at the end of twenty-three weeks, Friday, 13 October 1967, 83 graduates would pin on the gold bars of Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. The graduation ceremony was held in Gaffey Hall with the Assistant Commandant of the Armor School, COL William W. Cobb officiating. He introduced COL William E. Fox, III the Assistant G-4 of the Armor Center as the guest speaker. COL Cobb announced that the Distinguished Honor Graduate was James T. Helwig. The Honor Graduate was Land Grant, and the Distinguished Military Graduates were Lewis K. Woodward, Jr., Phillip D. Walther, Bruce C. Anderson, David K. James, Peter T. Bepler and Robert M. Van Degna. The class average was 84.68 and the Winner of Military Stakes was Lewis K. Woodward, Jr. who earned 884 points out of a possible 1000.

Eighteen class members would attend the Rotary Wing Aviators Course, and fortunately none of the eighteen helicopter pilots were killed in Vietnam. However, two class members would be killed in action. One as a Captain with the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade in 1970, and one as a 1LT with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division who would be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Nineteen class members have died since their military service, and 53 class members have been located thanks to the efforts of Pat and Judy Voce, and Fred Van Orden.

1LT Robert L. Poxon from Detroit, Michigan served as a Reconnaissance Platoon Leader, B Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. His tour in Vietnam started on 10 Oct 68 in Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam. On 2 June 1969 he was mortally wounded during intense fire as he charged a bunker silencing the enemy guns with a hand grenade. His Medal of Honor citation is at the following link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Leslie\\_Poxon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Leslie_Poxon).

1LT Poxon was inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia in 2016. Among the memorials to 1LT Poxon are Poxon Barracks at the U.S. Army Armor School at Fort Benning, GA, the Robert L. Poxon American Legion Post in Sterling Heights, MI, and the Poxon Guesthouse at Fort Hood, TX. His Medal of Honor and accompanying citation is displayed at The Michigan Military and Space Museum in Frankenmuth, MI.

13 October 2018