



**Class Narrative Class 30-67 D1
22 May 1967 – 2 November 1967
U.S. Army Armor School OCS**



Spizzerinctum, Sir! That was the characteristic shout of élan by OC's in the D Company classes, and especially by the OC's of Class 30-67 which would be the last D1 Company of Armor OCS. The class was the 46th OCS class at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era and the 40th Armor branch specific class. Starting OCS on Monday 22 May 1967 the graduates of the class would pin on their "little bars of gold" on Thursday, 2 November 1967. Starting the class with 110 basic candidates there would be seven OC's recycled in from other classes and four of the seven would graduate with 30-67. The four were from Class 22-67, A2; Class 26-67, A1; Class 27-67, G1; and 28-67, F1. The other three were not listed on the class roster kept at the company level and probably did not graduate with 30-67. During the twenty-three week training cycle twenty-seven members of the class would either quit or be relieved from the program and five would be recycled to at least two other classes. Three were sent to Class 1-68, E1 and one was sent to Class 2-68, E2. None of the four graduated OCS. The fifth person recycled was not able to be determined. The 85 graduates of Class 30-67 achieved a class average of 84.94. Thanks to class member Francis "Mother Rowe" who has shared many of his OCS documents we learn that the Intermediate Status Party was held on Friday, 4 August 1967 at 1930 hours at the Half Track Club. Dress was Informal. The Senior Status Party was held on Friday, 22 September 1967 at 1930 hours at the Country Club. Dress was Formal and RSVP's for both were to be to Captain Edward R. Szeman, the Company Commander, at 4-5418.

COL William W. Cobb, Assistant Commandant of the Armor School presided over the graduation ceremony. Guest speaker was COL Albert H. Hislop, commander of the 16th Armor Group at Fort Knox. COL Hislop was a 1940 graduate of Norwich University and WWII veteran. He told the class that a new lieutenant should exhibit the four basic characteristics of positive attitude, maturity, a knowledge of tomorrow's job and a good appearance. Class member Leverett P. Flint delivered the class response. COL announced the honor graduates and winner of the Military Stakes Course. Douglas M. Flenniken was the Distinguished Honor Graduate. Honor Graduate was Francis J. Rowe and the Distinguished Military Graduates were Robert E.B. DeSmet, Carlos A. Poveda, Bernardo Ramirez, Patrick E. Stewart, Menice M. Rawls, Jr., Howard H. Droege and Robert J. Lifsey. Allan J. Orbesen was the winner of the Military Stakes Course earning 881 points of the possible 1000.

Sixteen graduates would attend the Rotary Wing Aviator Course. Two would be killed in action and four other members of 30-67 have their names inscribed on The Wall in Washington, D.C. An additional ten classmates have died since their military service. As of this writing fourteen Class 30-67, D1 Troopers have been located. The Powers Alumni Performing Arts Center, Building 7469, next to the Fort Knox High School was named in recognition of class member Edward C. Powers who was killed in action on 2 May 1969. The building has since been demolished due to deterioration.

1LT Bernard L. Pierce was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for valorous actions on 19 June 1969 while serving as leader of an armored platoon leader with Troop I, 3d Squadron, 11 Armored Cavalry Regiment. His DSC citation can be read at <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php...>

2 November 2018