



Class Narrative Class 4-67 E2 5 August 1966 – 27 January 1967 U.S. Army Armor School OCS



Starting OCS on Friday 5 August 1966, Class 4-67, Company E2 the second of four E2 classes, the class would be the eighth Armor branch specific class and the twentieth class of the fifty-three OCS classes at Fort Knox during the Vietnam War Era. One hundred-three Basic Officer Candidates started the class. The company roster does not indicate that there were any individuals recycled into the class. Five individuals were determined to have been recycled to other OCS classes before Class 4-67 graduated. Four of the five would graduate. Two graduated with Class 8-67, B2; one graduated with Class 9-67, D2 and one made it through OCS with Class 10-67, A1. Twenty-three “gold-bar-hopefuls” would either quit the program or be relieved because of unsatisfactory progress during the training cycle. On Friday, 27 January 1967 seventy-five new Second Lieutenants of Armor would be commissioned in Gaffey Auditorium.

A very brief news article in the post weekly newspaper, Inside the Turret, mentions the class graduation in Gaffey Auditorium with BG Albin F. Irzyk, assistant commandant of the Armor School giving the opening remarks. The guest speaker was COL James J. McAloon, chief of the Material Agency at Fort Knox who told the graduates that more complex problems were ahead of them. After COL McAloon’s address it was announced that the Distinguished Honor Graduate was Edward A. White. The Honor Graduate was Stephen D. Bate and the Distinguished Military Graduates were William G. Boyd, Frederick N. Suttle, Jr., Thomas B. Kilmer, Timothy W. Shrewsbury and Donald L. Trent. Earning honors as the winner of the Military States Course was Ralph J. LaChance, Jr. who earned 949 of the possible 1000 points.

Accompanying the news article was a photo of class member Michael A. McCarville having his leg cast signed by BG Irzyk after receiving his gold bars. It’s not known how Mike broke his leg. Twenty-three members of the class would receive orders for the Officers Rotary Wing Aviator Course. Two members of the class, both helicopter pilots, would be killed in action and sixteen other class members have died since their military service.

Class member Ace A. Cozzalio was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving as a helicopter pilot with Company D, 3d Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division. His DSC citation is at <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=5105>. Ace made the Army a career rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel with OER’s indicating he would definitely achieve the rank of Colonel. Unfortunately he contracted the Epstein Barr virus during a military exercise and was medically retired on 29 April 1986. He returned to the family ranch in Oregon to live and in 1992 he was required to live in Portland, Oregon to be available for a heart transplant. A transplant was performed on 28 April 1993. The transplant was not successful because the transplanted heart was defective and he died on 30 April 1993. In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross, he was the recipient of the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Soldiers Medal, Bronze Star Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Purple Heart (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Medal (48 awards, one with V Device). In 1992 he was inducted into the Legion of Valor.

Thanks to the efforts of Ace’s brother Rex Cozzalio, Rex Gooch the author of “Ace: The Story of LT. COL. Ace Cozzalio”, Ace’s classmate Tom Doucette, and Doug Burmester, Ace will be posthumously inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia in April 2019.

15 January 2019