

Part Three is a compilation of short memories, vignettes and anecdotes submitted by members of the 50th Company. We were asked for stories about our post-OCS military experiences and a number of us responded, some with more than one story. The collection is a bit Vietnam-heavy, since that is where most of us eventually served, but there is also a wide range of stories covering other deployment destinations and assignments, including from those who made the military their career. The items are a smorgasbord, richly diverse in subject matter. Their tone ranges from humor and irony to drama and pathos. The intent was simply to let the 50th Company tell some stories. We have grouped the stories into six loosely-themed categories to avoid presenting the reader with a monolithic bloc of prose, as well as to help readers navigate through the range and breadth of our diverse recollections.

Section One is entitled “Remembering Missing Comrades.” It contains remembrances of comrades lost in battle and lists the names of others from the 50th Company who have passed away of other causes.

Section Two is named “Branch Options and Assignments Other than Infantry.” Fiftieth Company was designed to produce Infantry officers, which is the route most of us took. A number of our classmates, however, transferred into other branches or did assignments outside of the Infantry Branch. This section contains their experiences.

Section Three, “Stateside Duty,” is comprised of random stories about military service while based in the United States. It includes descriptions of Jungle School and Airborne School. It also has interesting accounts from those who joined the National Guard or the Army Reserves in various capacities after leaving active duty. They were often deployed on overseas missions.

Section Four, entitled “You Americans Will Never Understand Vietnam,” explores some ironic aspects of that strange and indecipherable conflict.

Section Five, entitled simply “Vignettes from Vietnam, a Most Interesting Place” is a compilation of miscellaneous memories of our generation’s “Over There” destination.

Section Six, “The Other Front Lines: Germany and Korea,” has stories from 50th Company members who served in West Germany and South Korea, where they faced off against the Soviet Red Army or the North Korean People’s Army.

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