



Ralph William Garens, Jr. Co B-2

R.W. is a sworn bachelor but to see him in action in New York no one would guess this. Since R.W.'s arrival at West Point, he has attempted to prove that Milwaukee is the country's beer capital. His real enjoyment lies in working on the side horse. His dedication to the Army will always distinguish him and carry him far.

Born – 23 May 1938, in Wisconsin.

To USMA – from Milwaukee, WI. Nickname – “R.W.”

Died – 26 Oct. 2011 (age 73) at Lacrosse, WI. Buried at Pinelawn Memorial Park, Milwaukee, WI.

Military Awards – Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit.

Schooling – Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, Purdue University.

Family - Wife – Helga Garens – No children.

Contact – Helga Garens (wife), Address 2062 River Road, Sparta, WI 54656, Phone unknown, Email unknown.

Ralph served on active duty in the Army (Infantry) for 20 years, retiring in 1981, with the rank of Lt. Colonel. His first assignment was with the 504th Air and 509th Infantry in Germany. He then served at Monterey, CA (DLI, Defense Language Institute), Vietnam (first tour, MACV), Fort Benning, GA (Infantry Advanced Course), West Lafayette, IN (Purdue University), Vietnam (second tour, headquarters, MACV), West Point, NY (Instructor, Department of Electrical Engineering), Fort Leavenworth, KS (CGSC, Command and General Staff College), Fort Stewart, GA (1st Brigade and Headquarters, 24th Division), Fort Knox, KY (TTC, Tass Training Center), Rock Island Arsenal, IL (Headquarters, ARRCOM, Army Armament Materiel Readiness Command).

Ralph passed away on 26 October 2011.

Footnote – From the fifty year yearbook – “I retired in the fall of 1981. My wife Helfa and I moved back to Wisconsin and bought a small hobby farm (5 acres) ten miles from Fort McCoy. We raised animals and had a big garden. Since we have no children, we have enjoyed a quiet life. I had a stroke in 2005 which has slowed me down.”