



Douglas Frank Matthews Co I-2

The original "slip stick" genius who works math problems in his head on occasions, oh so strange. A veteran soldier, he came, he saw, he conquered Europe playboy style. He lives for his R.A. commission, a ranger tab, and a pair of paratrooper boots. He will be a triple threat: airborne, ranger, infantry.....soon it will be back to Europe.

Born – 14 Oct 1938, Detroit, MI.

To USMA – Came from Southfield, MI. Appointed by Michigan 18th.

Died – 13 Nov 1964 (age 26) at Thailand. Buried at Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley, MI.

Military Awards – National Defense Service Medal.

Schooling – Unknown.

Family – Wife – Janice Lynn Koenig Matthews (3 years – third couple to be married in the Cadet Chapel on graduation day) – 2 children (Carolynn and Scott) – grandchildren.

Contact – Janice Matthews Kuschner, Address 1313 Patterson Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048, Phone 913-680-1939, Email akuschner@kc.rr.com

Doug served on active duty in the Army (Infantry then Ordnance Corps) for 3 plus years, until his untimely death in 1964, with the rank of 1st Lieutenant. His first assignment was with the 502nd Airborne Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Ft. Campbell, KY. He then served with the 801st Maintenance Battalion and then the 57th Ordnance Company, 9th Logistics Command, Camp Friendship, Korat, Thailand.

Doug passed away in a jeep accident during the evening of 13 November 1964, on the way from Korat to Bangkok Thailand. Classmate Manly Parks and another Lieutenant also died in the accident. The accident report indicated the tires of their jeep caught the edge of the highway shoulder at a road construction site, causing the jeep to overturn.

Footnote from wife Jan - Doug and Jan Koenig started their courtship as 15 and 14 year-olds. It began in 1953, when Jan's family moved from Detroit to Southfield, MI. The home across the street held a special interest for Jan, as she was quick to notice a cute, brown-eyed young man. As Jan vividly recalls, Doug was fairly shy but definitely appeared to be interested. Jan made the first move and, as she has so eloquently states, "it was love at first sight with the beginning of many years of friendship and adventure."