

RESERVIST BURCHARD JACKSON

By Richard Long

US Army National Guardsman Burchard (Bert) Jackson served his country faithfully as a reservist from 1957 to 1965. Most of us would've found this an onerous assignment. It meant commitment to a long timeframe where your destiny wasn't of your own making. First, drills were one evening each week, eventually becoming one week-end per month plus two weeks of summer camp. And, one never knew when they may be activated! Bert, however, said he enjoyed the time and gave and thought to going on active duty.

Upon enlistment, Bert's assignment was Heavy Weapons Company as an Armored Intelligence Specialist. He also served as a medic in Headquarters Company and was assigned to the Quartermaster Company but that position wasn't staffed during non-war time.

Specialist First Class Jackson laughingly recalled that the most excitement he saw was when their company while on a drill with tanks shooting high explosive anti-tank shells (HEAT) accidentally started the area on fire.

The fact that Bert was never called to active duty was both lucky and unlucky. Of course, it meant he could finish his college degree program and start his elementary teaching career. Unlucky because as a result of never actually being on active duty or out of country, he wasn't entitled to any Veteran benefits, including burial in a Veteran cemetery.

Bert's two sons followed their fathers commitment to their country. Both were career military, one Navy and one Marines.

Reservist Jackson, we honor you and thank for your service.