



MAR 68



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Swimming Pool Dedicated

DAU TIENG—The 3rd Bde, 25th Div. swimming pool was officially named the 1LT Joel T. Willis Memorial Pool in a ceremony here recently.

"Lieutenant Willis will be remembered by all those who knew him," commented COL Kenneth E. Buell, 3rd Bde commander. "His perseverance and bravery were an example for all of us to follow."

When Willis of Stockton, Calif., first saw the swimming pool built by the French at the Michelin Rubber Plantation base camp, he recognized that it could be one of the biggest morale builders the unit could ever have.

At this time, the huge 13-foot deep pool had decayed from many years of disuse. The bottom was coated with several feet of muck and trash, the shower room below was strewn with waste and the paint had cracked off the walls.

Willis, then the Special Services officer, organized workers

to clean up the pool. He worked quickly and within a month, the water surged into the freshly painted walls of the main tank.

From that day on, the "swimming hole" at Dau Tieng has been a welcome site for the men coming back from Operations Junction City, Manhattan, Cedar Falls and many more. Two or three days of the "good life" around the pool revitalizes the combat weary soldier and gives him something more than a tent to return to.

For "Joe" Willis, the men using the brigade pool meant

something special to him and he volunteered to serve with them in the field.

One month after Willis left for duty as a platoon leader with the 2nd Bn (Mech), 22nd Inf, an enemy claymore mine ended his life.

