

MAJOR GENERAL ELLIS W. WILLIAMSON

Major General Ellis W. Williamson was born in Raeford, North Carolina, 2 June 1918. Through high school and college he was a member of the 120th Infantry Regiment, North Carolina National Guard. Upon graduation from Federal Service with his unit.

General Williamson remained with the 120th Infantry Regiment throughout World War II serving in rank from private to colonel. Following commissioning as a second lieutenant of infantry in March 1941, he served as a commander at platoon, company, battalion and regimental level and as a battalion and regimental staff officer. He was regimental commander at the time of the unit's return to state control in January 1946.

The same year he was integrated into the Regular Army. For three years he was an instructor of tactics at the Infantry School. He graduated from the Command and General Staff College in 1950 and was assigned to Headquarters X Corps in Korea. He participated in the amphibious landing at Inchon as Assistant Operations Officer, X Corps, later becoming Operations Officer.

General Williamson was assigned in 1952 to the Office of the Army Chief of Staff, next attended the Armed Forces Staff College, and then returned to Washington for duty in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

He assumed command of the 13th Infantry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado in 1956 and took this unit to Germany in Operation Gyroscope. After 27 months as regimental commander, he became Chief of the Training Division, Headquarters Seventh U.S. Army. He returned home as a parachutist and attended the National War College.

Following three years in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel at Department of the Army, General Williamson assumed command of the 173d Airborne Brigade upon its' activation in Okinawa in July 1963. He organized and trained this unit for its' mission as Pacific Theater Reserve Force during the next two years.

After extensive training on the Pacific islands of Okinawa, Taiwan, Irimote and the Philippines as well as in Korea and Thailand, General Williamson's brigade, in May 1965, became the first U.S. Army ground combat unit to enter the conflict in Vietnam.

Under his command the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) participated in actions designed to protect friendly installations and to destroy enemy forces in the Bien Hoa-Vung Tau-Ben Cat areas and into the mountain plateau areas of Pleiku and Kontom.

In addition to the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate), General Williamson's command in Vietnam included all Australian and New Zealand combat elements, plus some Vietnamese units.

He served in five campaigns in Europe during World War II and seven during the Korean Conflict.

General Williamson commanded the US Army Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana, from 1 November 1965 until departing for a second Vietnam tour in July 1968.

He assumed command of the Tropic Lightning Division on 3 August 1968.

PERSONAL DATA:

Born: 2 June 1918, Raxford, North Carolina

Family: Wife; Margaret (nee McNeill)

Children; Dan F. (born 31 Jan 50) attending Carolina Academy

Wan V. (born 25 Feb 53) attendin Leesville Junior High School, 8th grade

Legal Address: 504 Carriage Hills Apartments, Elvira Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303

EDUCATION:

Atlantic Christian College, Bachelor of Arts degree, 1940
The Infantry School, Basic Officers Course
The Infantry School, Advanced Officers Course, 1943
Command and General Staff College, 1950
Armed Forces Staff College, 1954
National War College, 1960
Harvard University School of Business, 1962
George Washington University, Master of Science degree in International Affairs, 1963

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:

Distinguished Service Cross
Distinguished Service Medal
Silver Star with five Oak Leaf Clusters
Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster
Bronze Star Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters
Air Medal with nine Oak Leaf Clusters
Army Commendation Medal
Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters
American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
European African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS: (Cont'd)

World War II Victory Medal
Army of Occupation Medal (Germany)
National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
Korean Service Medal
United Nations Service Medal
Vietnamese Service Medal
Distinguished Unit Emblem
Department of Defense Identification Badge
Army General Staff Identification Badge
Combat Infantryman Badge
Master Parachutist Badge
British Distinguished Service Order
French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star
National Medal of Vietnam
Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, with Palm
Vietnamese Army Distinguished Service Medal, First Class
Belgian Fourragere
Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Enlisted Svc, N.C. National Guard and Federal Svc	Jul 35-Mar 41
120th Inf, Raleigh, N.C. and Ft Jackson, S.C.	
Platoon Leader, Co K, 120th Inf, Ft Jackson, S.C.	Mar 41-Apr 42
Student, The Infantry School, Ft Benning, Ga.	Apr 42-Jul 42
CO, Co K, 120th Inf	Jul 42-Mar 43
Bn S3, 3d Bn, 120th Inf	Mar 43-Jun 43
Student, The Infantry School, Ft Benning, Ga.	Jun 43-Oct 43
CO, Co I, 120th Inf, Ft Jackson, S.C., to ETO	Oct 43-May 44
Bn S3, 1st Bn, 120th Inf, ETO	May 44-Jul 44
Regt S3, 120th Inf, ETO	Jul 44-Oct 44
Bn CO, 1st Bn, 120th Inf, ETO	Oct 44-Nov 45
Regt Comdr, 120th Inf, Ft Jackson, S.C.	Nov 45-Jan 46
ROTC Off, HQ, First Army, Ft Bragg, N.C.	Jan 46-May 46
Instructor of Tactics, The Infantry School, Ft Benning Ga.	May 46-Jun 48

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS: (Cont'd)

XO, Tactical Department, The Infantry School, Ft Benning Ga Jun 48-Sep 49
Student, C&GS College, Ft Leavenworth, Kansas Sep 49-Jul 50
Asst G3 and G3, HQ, X Corps, Korea Aug 50-Feb 52
Staff Off, Office, CofS, DA, Wash, D.C. Mar 52-Aug 53
Plans Off, Office, Secy of Def, (International Security Affairs) Feb 54-Feb 56
Regt Comdr, 13th Inf, Ft Carson, Colorado and Germany Mar 56-Jun 58
Ch, Tng Div, HQ, Seventh Army, Germany Jul 58-Jun 59
Student, Abn Dept, The Infantry School, Ft Benning, Ga. Jul 59
Student, The National War College, Wash D.C. Aug 59-Jun 60
Div Ch and Dep Dir of Programs, ODCSPER, DA, Wash, D.C. Jul 60-Jun 63
CG, 173d Abn Bde (Sep), Okinawa - Vietnam Jul 63-Feb 66
Asst Comdt, The Infantry School, Ft Benning Ga. Mar 66-Oct 66
CG, Fort Polk, Louisiana Nov 66-Jul 68
CG, 25th Inf Div, Cu Chi, Republic Vietnam Aug 68

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF PROMOTIONS:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TEMPORARY (AUS)</u>	<u>PERMANENT (RA)</u>
2d Lieutenant	22 Mar 1941	
1st Lieutenant	22 May 1942	7 Dec 1944
Captain	8 Jan 1943	15 Jul 1948
Major	15 Aug 1944	2 Jul 1953
Lieutenant Colonel	17 Nov 1944	11 Jan 1962
Colonel	1 Jul 1955	
Brigadier General	18 Jul 1963	
Major General	27 Oct 1966	

PERSONAL BACKGROUND MATERIAL: Interests and Hobbies

Photography	Tennis	Golf
Hunting	Swimming	

Religion

Protestant (Baptist)