

1967

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) John F. Bohlender

Class of 1924

A full dress ceremonial parade honored Maj. Gen. Bohlender at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in November, 1961, on his retirement from the Army. More than 4,000 medical center troops saluted the Grove City alumnus in recognition of his 33-plus years of military service. In addition, he was awarded the Legion of Merit for "exceptional meritorious service."

A native of Grove City, Bohlender was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps in 1928 and interned at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C. With the military buildup for World War II, Gen. Bohlender went to Camp Grant, Ill., to help organize the establishment of one of the first medical replacement training centers in the country. In 1944, he was sent to the Asiatic Pacific Theater as surgeon of the U.S. Eighth Army, and later he became a staff medical officer with the General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Theater. He was among the first U.S. occupation forces entering Tokyo.

In 1946, Bohlender became commanding officer of the Medical Training Center at Brooke Army Medical Center. The following year he was transferred to Munich, Germany, to command the 98th General Hospital and in 1950 returned to the United States to become a member of the staff and faculty of the Army War College.

In 1955, the General was named commanding officer of Tripler General Hospital in Hawaii, and it was that year he was promoted to brigadier general. Two years later he became major general. He was appointed commanding general of Fitzsimons General Hospital at Denver, Colo., and moved to Brooke Army Medical Center in 1960.

He passed away Nov. 1, 1985.

Additional degrees: Medical degree, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia

