

Student Guide: Quick Glance

Synopsis

The Borinqueneers (pronounced *Boh-rin-keh-neers*) chronicles the never-before-told story of the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment, the only all-Hispanic unit in the history of the U.S. Army. This compelling documentary relies on interviews with the regiment's veterans and rare archival footage to trace the unique experience of the 65th, culminating in the Korean War and the dramatic events that would threaten its very existence. Named after "Borinquen", the word given to Puerto Rico by its original inhabitants, the Taino Indians, the Borinqueneers formed a tight-knit unit bound by a common language and a strong cultural identity. In emotional interviews, they describe the experience of fighting together in vivid detail. Through their voices, the film explores the unique history of the 65th Regiment, a history that illustrates many of the issues surrounding the U.S. relationship with Puerto Rico and the broader Latino experience.

Veterans' Voices

"I feel it's my obligation to fight for the country even if I'm Puerto Rican, I'm American, too."

Wendell Vega, "E" Company

". . . The issue of mandatory service is something which should be decided by the Puerto Ricans or the government of Puerto Rico. I don't blame any Puerto Rican who would not want to go to war, because he does not have the same rights as an American. . ."

Raul Reyes Castañeira (Ret.), "B" Company

"The fault was ours because we heard a rumor that as soon as we got to the Hill, we were going to be replaced by another company and so we left without orders." Pedro Santana, Medical Company

"If you look at the awards that were given to our people for Bronze Stars and Silver Stars, you will find out that our recommendations were more important and did more than some of these people that were given the Medal of Honor. But I can tell you actions that we did that were Medal of Honor that should have been given and weren't." LTC Romeo

"Rick" Bucknell (Ret.) 65th "A" Company

Discussion Questions about *The Borinqueneers*

1. What impacted you about the film? Why?
2. Read the quotes listed. Write a one page reflection on which veteran in the film affected you the most and which veteran you identified with the most.
3. Can you relate the film to issues that currently exist today? Explain.
4. If you had a question to ask a veteran from the 65th Infantry, what would you ask?

A PDF of the full 25-page Study Guide is available to streaming license holders upon request.

THE
BORINQUENEERS