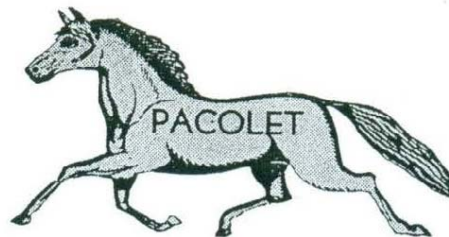




Pacolet Mills National Guard

Album 13





The National Guard Armory on Sunny Acres Road. It was built in the early 1950's and is no longer used. For many years it was the home of the Pacolet Mills National Guard Unit.



Four tanks belonging to the 218th Infantry Heavy Tank Company of the Pacolet Mills National Guard. Picture believed taken about 1950. The two tanks in front are M24 Chaffee light tanks and the last two are M26 Pershing medium tanks.



Photo of the 218th Infantry Heavy Tank Company of the Pacolet Mills National Guard taken outside the armory. Picture believed taken about 1950. Close-ups of this pictures are shown on the following pages - 5, 6 and 7. Some of these men are identified but most are not. If you recognize any of these people please let us know. This photo is in a PDF format that allows you to zoom in for a closer look. Photos courtesy of Easter Steadings Fisher.

Group A - See Page 6

Group B - See Page 7

Group C - See Page 8



This picture has been divided up into three parts as shown to allow for easier identification. If you recognize any of these people please let us know. This photo and the ones following are in a PDF format that allows you to zoom in for a closer look.



Charles Steadings



Group A

Richard Jennings Banks

Frank Teaster



Jerome Hayes

Group B

William P. Goforth



Wallace Hayes

Jimmy Hodge

Group C

National Guard Unit Growing

By SGT. JAMES GREENE

The Heavy Tank Company 218th Infantry of Pacolet Mills has made considerable progress during the past few weeks. Beginning March 1st the National Guard started an extensive recruiting drive. Since that time the company has recruited 24 men, making a total strength of three officers and 79 enlisted men. Authorized 93 men, we now have only 14 more vacancies in the company. The Governor of South Carolina has issued a proclamation that any man between 17 and 18½ years of age may enlist in the National Guard and be exempt from the draft. Veterans may enlist in the National Guard at the rank held when discharged from the Army. First come—first served — NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN.

The company was notified recently that a new tank has been shipped here. Soon, we expect to have a full strength company with full strength equipment. We are authorized 14 tanks, 7 trucks, and 2 armored cars.

The first three week-ends in May, the company will go to the range at Fort Jackson and fire the pistol and carbine rifle. The 3rd of July, the company leaves for Ft. Jackson for 15 days training.

Lt. William Goforth's National Guard baseball team is rounding into shape and we are looking forward to having a championship team. This team will be in the Mid-County league and play Tuesday and Thursday of each week. Although the team is sponsored by the National Guard, men do not have to be members of the National Guard to play on the team. Any newcomer is welcome to try out for the team.

We expect to move into the new constructed garage storage building soon. This building was constructed for a garage and a storage place for our vehicles. It will also be used as a temporary armory until funds are available to build an armory.

The National Guard welcomes any visitor and at any time would be glad to show you our tanks and weapons.

Articles from the *Pacolet Neigh* Newspaper

May, 1949

July, 1949

Pacolet National Guardsmen Leave For Army School

Four National Guard men are leaving June 24th for Army schools. The men are: James C. Trent, Jr., Alfred E. Moss, Dorsey B. Greene, Jr., and James A. Padgett. Junior Trent will attend a motor mechanics school at Ft. Eustis, Va. for eight weeks. The others go to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, to a tank and artillery school for twelve weeks. Members of the National Guard have their choice of attending Army schools in almost any field they choose. While attending an Army school, all expenses are paid and the men receive regular Army pay.

The Pacolet National Guard Company is now getting ready to attend summer camp at Ft. Jackson from July 3rd to 17th. Any one wishing to join the National Guard and go to camp should do so immediately, for we only have a few more vacancies. We will not be able to enlist any men after a quota has been reached.

Following is a pay table showing what a National Guardsman receives for a two hour drill period.

Recruit	\$2.50
Private	2.66
Private First Class	3.00
Corporal	3.33
Sergeant	3.83
Sergeant First Class	4.50
First Sergeant	5.50

National Guardsmen Return From Two Week Encampment At Jackson

Heavy Tank Company 218th Infantry, Pacolet's National Guard Company, returned from Fort Jackson on Sunday, July 17th after two weeks of intensive training. Every member enjoyed his encampment and also received a lot of valuable training during the two weeks.

Upon arrival at Ft. Jackson the company was issued a new M26 tank. This tank, one of the latest models, weighs 46 tons, is powered by a 500 horsepower Ford motor, has hydraulic drive, and can be driven from either side. On the tank there is a 90mm gun, two 30 cal. machine guns and one 50 cal. machine gun. Every member of the company drove the tank, fired the 90mm gun and the 30 cal. machine gun. The company expects to receive more of these new tanks in the very near future. This new tank made a total of four in the company.

Immediately after returning from Ft. Jackson the Company started moving into the newly constructed National Guard building.

This building was primarily constructed for a garage storage building, to be used as a temporary armory until funds are available to build an armory. The building that the Company now occupies has an orderly room, supply room, shower room, strong room, and a large room upstairs that can be used as a classroom or storage room. With this building, training can be carried on better than ever before.

The Company was commended on the training at Ft. Jackson and we have been given priority on an armory due to the fact that the Company has reached full strength and that the unit has made considerable progress during the past few months.

As soon as we can get things straightened out in the new building, we expect to display our tanks, weapons, and equipment and have a day of open house to the public. We invite the public to visit us at any time. Pay us a visit and see what the New National Guard is doing.

—Contributed.

Pacolet Neigh Newspaper

August, 1949.

Goforth Heads Guard Unit

First Lt. William P. Goforth of Pacolet has succeeded Capt. John H. Sawyer of Spartanburg as commanding officer of Pacolet's Tank Company of the 218th Infantry Regiment, National Guard, according to Master Sgt. James H. Greene, unit administrative assistant.

Capt. Sawyer has been called to active duty with the Third Armored Division at Fort Knox, Ky. He left for the assignment Oct. 14.

Lt. Goforth is a graduate of Pacolet High School. He was a member of the National Guard, Company F of the 118th Infantry Regiment, Spartanburg, when it was called to federal service in September, 1940. He served during World War II in England, France, Belgium and Germany.

He became a platoon sergeant in the Pacolet unit when it was activated in 1947 and received his commission in the National Guard, being qualified through service experience and correspondence courses.

HIS WIFE is the former Miss Peggy Fuller of Pacolet. They have a son, Billy, 5.

Sgt. Greene also announced the following promotions, effective Nov. 1: To sergeant, Billy S. Genoble; to corporal, John C. Atkins, Donald R. Garrison, James F. Thompson; to private first class, William G. Carter.

The unit has vacancies for one officer and 18 enlisted men, Sgt. Greene said. There are openings for 3 sergeants and 9 corporals. A person must be qualified by prior service for enlistment in a grade higher than recruit, he stated.

Men who are subject to draft may have induction postponed indefinitely by joining the National Guard or some other active reserve component. The postponement is effective only if the person is a member of a unit before he gets induction orders.

October 27, 1950.

Guard Plans Open House

PACOLET — Pacolet's National Guard Tank Co. will hold open house Saturday, Armed Forces Day, Capt. James L. Thomas, commander, has announced.

The unit will demonstrate its big tanks and other equipment, Capt. Thomas said.

The open house will be held from 1 to 5 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining the Tank Company will be invited to ask questions and inspect the equipment.

May 17, 1957.

Spartanburg Herald Journal Newspaper Articles related to the Pacolet Mills National Guard

NATIONAL GUARD

2 county units face changes

By REGINALD FIELDS

Staff Writer

A national guard unit from Pacolet will be moved to Manning to take over for a deactivated unit under a restructuring program, and a unit from Spartanburg will be moved to Pacolet.

But unlike nearly 500 guardsmen in the Lowcountry, Spartanburg County guardsmen will not lose their positions or have to move.

In conforming with Washington plans for reducing the military, the S.C. National Guard announced it was deactivating the 4th Battalion of the 178th Field Artillery in Georgetown.

The 4th/178th, which has units in Andrews, Lake City, Hemingway and Manning, has nearly 500 full-time and part-time positions. It will be decommissioned Sept. 1, 1993.

Many of the guardsmen in the 4th Battalion of the 178th Field Artillery will have to be retrained to integrate into new units under different battalions.

State National Guard Maj. Gen. T. Eston Marchant released a plan that will replace the units in Hemingway and Manning with batteries from the 1st Battalion of the 178th Field Artillery, which has companies in Greer, Wellford, Spartanburg, Pacolet and Inman.

A unit from the first battalion of the 178th Field Artillery located in Pacolet will move to fill the void in Manning. A service battery will be created and located in Hemingway.

A unit from Spartanburg will be moved to Pacolet. Spartanburg will still be the headquarters for the Guard's 228th Signal Brigade.

Capt. Les Carroll said although units are moving, people are not. Guard members in Pacolet will not have to move with their unit across state to Manning but will now become members of the unit moving in from Spartanburg.

Spartanburg Guard members losing their unit to Pacolet will be relocated to other nearby units in Wellford, Greer, Inman and possibly Pacolet.

Spartanburg Herald Journal

April 29, 1993.

**Newspaper Article related to the
Pacolet Mills National Guard**

Pacolet Mills armory closes

The Pacolet Mills National Guard Armory has closed and the building has become the headquarters of the town's rescue squad.

After deciding that it does not need the armory, the S.C. National Guard agreed to lease the building to the town. The proximity of Pacolet Mills to several other local armories was a key factor in the National Guard's decision.

The Pacolet Mills Emergency Medical System will use the facility as its main office. The old EMS location will be used by the town as a vehicle maintenance center.

The Pacolet Mills Rescue Squad, which has about 25 staff members, will be able to expand, thanks to the increased room for training and equipment in its new headquarters. The rescue squad responds to more than 1,000 calls each year.

"This is a wonderful chance for us to give back to the community a portion of what they give us as an organization," said Maj. Gen. Stanhope S. Spears, who heads the S.C. National Guard.

This story is from the *Spartanburg Herald Journal* of October 22, 1996.

Newspaper Article related to the Pacolet Mills National Guard