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TANK INSTRUCTION—This snapshot sent to the Pilot from Moore County's Company D, 130th Tank Battalion, shows members of the local unit undergoing tank instruction at Camp Stewart, Ga. The big post offers excellent facilities for training. Shown left to right on the M-47 medium tank (the type the local unit will receive) are 1st Lt. James Harrington of Pinehurst, Sgt. Ray K. Schilling of Southern Pines and Pvt. Randolph Black of Pinehurst.

Moore National Guard Company Returns From Training In Georgia

Units Inspected By Generals: Members Get Tank Training

Members of the 130th Tank Battalion, 30th Infantry Division, North Carolina National Guard returned Sunday from two weeks of summer training at Camp Stewart, Ga.

The units comprising the 130th Tank Battalion include: Headquarters and Service Company from Red Springs, "A" Company from Raeford, "B" Company from St. Pauls, "C" Company from Lumberton and "D" Company from Southern Pines.

The local National Guard unit has resumed "business as usual," cleaning up equipment and looking for new members, after the intensive two-week period of training.

The local company is commanded by Capt. William J. Wilson of Southern Pines.

Training, under the supervision of regular army tankers stationed at Camp Stewart, covered tank gunnery, operation and maintenance, and communications, as well as the usual housekeeping duties common to all army units. The latter, including KP and guard duty, although not remembered as the most pleasant aspects of the camp, nevertheless gave new members of the outfit their first taste of army life, and in spite of the hard work, the local Guardsmen proved themselves capable soldiers, it was reported.

The excellent training program condensed a 14-week course into two weeks. Automotive training, tank driving and maintenance, and communications took up one week, with the other week given over to tank gunnery. Each Guardsman participated in written examinations and practical exercises, highlighted by service firing of the 90mm tank gun.

Captain Wilson said this week that he was "highly pleased with the individual performances" of the local men, and praised the regular army instructors for what he termed "a superior course of instruction."

Company officers are now compiling the results of the examinations, and plan to make some public recognition of those Guardsmen with outstanding grades.

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PS-14

Future training for the company will consist of cleaning up from the summer encampment, followed by individual training in armored tactics and techniques.

Captain Wilson pointed out that the company still needed more members, and suggested that local young men faced with an obligation under the new Reserve Plan investigate opportunities available to them in the National Guard.

Other North Carolina units trained with the 130th Tank Battalion at Camp Stewart are Tank Company, 119th Infantry Regiment from Ahoskie, Tank Company, 120th Infantry Regiment from Waynesville, Tank Company, 139th Infantry Regiment from Parkton, and the 30th Recon Company from Sanford.

The first week's training was climaxed by a parade and inspection.

Regular Army instructors furnished by the 710th Tank Battalion stationed at Camp Stewart were busy grounding the Guardsmen in the fundamentals of tank operation. The training included all phases of tank operation, driving, communication and gunnery.

The 130th Tank Battalion and attached units were visited the first week by Major General Claude T. Bowers, Commanding General of the 30th Infantry Division, North Carolina's National Guard Division. General Bowers and his staff arrived by Air National Guard plane from Fort Bragg where other units of the 30th Infantry Division were en-



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camped undergoing summer field training.

Next day, Major General Robert G. Gard, Deputy Commander of the Third Army, arrived at Camp Stewart from Third Army Headquarters at Fort McPherson in Atlanta to inspect National Guard troops in training.

Both General Bowers and General Gard seemed well pleased with the progress of training.

The Moore County National Guard company made their trip via bus to Fayetteville and then by train to Camp Stewart. They returned in the same manner. It was erroneously stated in The Pilot two weeks ago that the unit made the trip to Georgia by truck. As a tank organization, the unit does not have sufficient trucks to make the trip in this manner.

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