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TENNESSEE GUARDSMAN

S P E C I A L H E R I T A G E I S S U E

ARMY EDITION



■ FROM THE EDITOR

LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS
MANAGING EDITOR

One of the great things about being a part of the Tennessee National Guard is belonging to an organization steeped in history and tradition. We have a long, proud heritage that extends back more than 240 years, well before the American Revolution, and it cannot be overemphasized. Heroes like John Sevier and Hugh Mott have stood in our ranks and led us through conflicts and peace, always ensuring we keep the citizens of Tennessee safe and setting examples for us to follow.

We look a lot different now than when the Tennessee Militia first mustered on August 17, 1774. On that summer day, many prominent citizens of the self-governing Watauga settlement (now Tennessee's Sullivan and Carter counties) formed a volunteer company to fight alongside the Virginia militia in what became known as Lord Dunmore's War. Commanded by Capt. Evan Shelby, his company of 49 other militiamen, which included his son, Isaac, volunteered and formed the settlements first volunteer company. This marked the first time "Tennesseans" deployed for war as a militia and it began Tennessee's now legendary, volunteer tradition.

This volunteer tradition continued until 1846 when President James K. Polk, a Tennessean, put out a nationwide call for volunteers to serve in the Mexican-American War. Tennessee Governor Aaron Brown was asked to raise two infantry regiments and one cavalry regiment, a total force of 2,400 men. When Brown called for volunteers, 30,000 Tennesseans offered their services, some towns forming entire companies on the spot. A lottery system had to be established to determine who would be allowed to serve. This fervent response forever cemented Tennessee's reputation as the Volunteer State, a nickname we celebrate with pride.

In order to help keep that heritage and volunteer spirit alive, and celebrate the great lineage we carry, we have decided to publish 2 special editions of the *Tennessee Guardsman*, one Army, one Air Force. In the Army issue you now hold we are highlighting just a few of our organization's stories. We picked some of the best articles published over the last few years and reprinted them in the magazine you now hold. First, we thought it was fitting to look at the storied military career of President Andrew Jackson, one of the most celebrated Tennesseans and former commander of the Tennessee Militia. His influence continues to resonate within our organization still, and it is apparent in the second article about Shoulder Sleeve Insignias we wear. The first patch ever worn by Tennessee Guardsmen had an O and H embedded in it, after Jackson's nickname, Old Hickory. His imagery still continues as you will see. Lastly, we take a look at the life of Maj. Gen. Hugh Mott, another former Adjutant General who distinguished himself during World War II. He then went on to lead a very distinguished career in Tennessee and the main building at Joint Force Headquarters is named in his honor.

This fall, be on the lookout for our second issue focusing on the heritage of the Tennessee Air National Guard. It is our hope, that these stories can give you a taste of the long and distinguished heritage we have and can possibly serve to help educate and inspire our newest members.



ON THE COVER: Photos of Maj. Gen. Hugh Mott and various Tennessee National Guard patches. (Photo by retired Sgt. 1st Class William Jones)



ARMY EDITION

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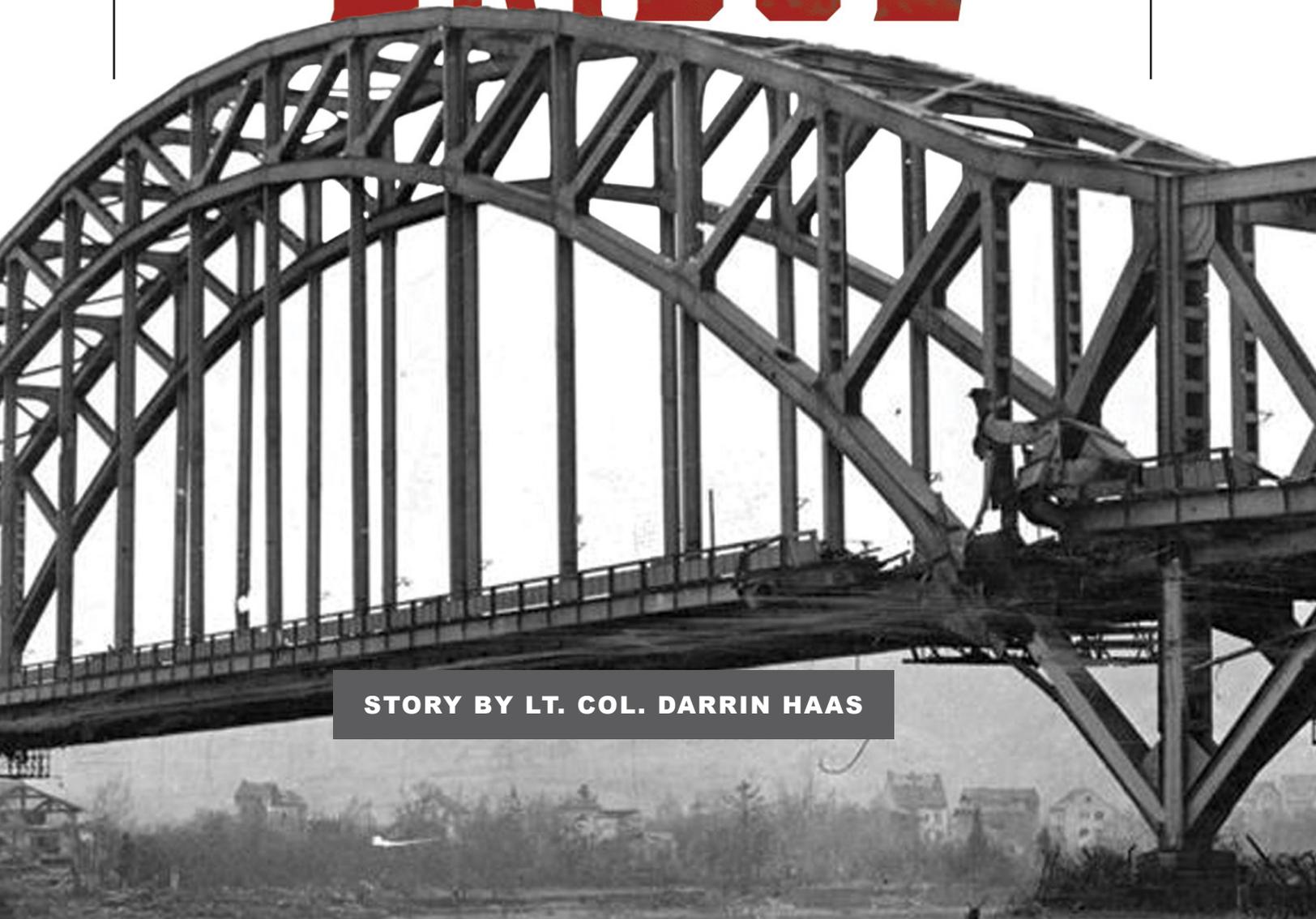
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HUGH MOTT AND THE
**BATTLE OF
REMAGEN
BRIDGE**

STORY BY LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS



In the spring of 1945, Hugh Mott, a young engineer officer from Tennessee was with the U.S. Army's 9th Armored Division fighting across Europe. He fought in some grueling battles, but in early March, he arrived at the Ludendorff railroad bridge in Remagen, Germany, where he would become a part of Tennessee and U.S. military history.

Ruby and John Mott's only son, Hugh Mott, was born on August 14, 1920 in Nashville, Tennessee. Raised in Nashville, Hugh Mott had two sisters and attended East Nashville High School and helped his father after school running a lumber business. In 1939, Mott had his first taste of the military as a captain in his school's Reserve Officer Training Corps. After graduating from high school, he attended the Marion Military Institute in Alabama, a preparatory school for the various military service academies. There, he studied and planned to attend West Point.

Mott was a great student and he was quickly recognized as an industrious and talented young man. After graduation, Bob Neyland, the legendary University of Tennessee Football Coach and engineer with the Corps of Engineers, helped Mott obtain a temporary job as a rodman with the United States Corps of Engineers. Mott worked on the Wolf Creek Dam from August 1940 to January 1941, while applying for admission into West Point.

As war swept through Europe, Mott finished his assignment at the Wolf Creek Dam and started a job at the Vultee Aircraft plant in January 1941. He worked 70 hours a week as the company raced to build dive bombers for the Allies.

When the United States entered World War II, Mott continued working at the Vultee Aircraft Plant and applying for West Point until he enlisted in the Army on November 1, 1942. Pvt. Mott reported to Fort Eustis, Virginia for basic training and specialized in anti-aircraft artillery. Before graduating, he was promoted to corporal and then selected to attend Artillery Officer Candidate School. On March 1, 1943, he attended officer candidate school at Camp Davis, North Carolina.



The Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany, five days after it was captured and crossed by U.S. Army Soldiers.
(Photo courtesy U.S. Army / National Archives)



Quickly completing OCS, Cpl. Mott was commissioned a second lieutenant on June 3, 1943. He remained as an instructor at the facility for nearly a year until he was transferred on February 10, 1944, to the engineer branch and attended Engineer Basic Officer School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Mott completed engineering school in six weeks and was assigned as a platoon leader in the 9th Armored Division Engineer Battalion at Camp Polk, Louisiana. As a combat engineer, Mott and his platoon were responsible for working with combat troops in numerous capacities, from construction and repair of roads and bridges, to the demolition and deployment of mines, explosives, and assorted booby traps.

He deployed with the 9th Armored Division to Europe on August 20, 1944, to take part in the liberation of France, eventually landing at the beach in Normandy on October 9, 1944. Throughout October, Mott moved east across France, engaging in fierce combat in the Battle of the Bulge. The Germans eventually lost ground and retreated into Germany, destroying bridges and crossing over the Rhine River to halt the American advance.

On March 7, 1945, the 9th Armored Division and recently promoted 1st Lt. Mott, arrived at the town of Remagen as the division was heading to Sinzig. Needing bridges to cross the Rhine River, U.S. forces were surprised to see that the Ludendorff railroad bridge was



Top: Maj. Gen. Hugh Mott (left), circa 1970.
Bottom: Maj. Gen. Hugh Mott, Command Photo.

BATTLE OF REMAGEN BRIDGE

MOTT LED HIS PLATOON UNDER HEAVY SNIPER AND MACHINE GUN FIRE, PATCHING THE GAPING HOLES IN THE BRIDGE PLANKING.

still intact. As German troops were still retreating across the bridge and destroying their positions along the way, Col. Engeman, commander of the 14th Tank Battalion, ordered that the bridge be taken intact. He deployed his troops to attack and secure the bridge and the approaches on either side, but he soon learned that the bridge was rigged with explosives and could be destroyed within minutes.

Engeman ordered Mott to prevent the destruction of the bridge, which had already been weakened by German soldiers through a series of explosive charges, artillery and mortar fire. With the help of Mott's two most reliable soldiers, Sgt. Eugene Dorland and Staff Sgt. John Reynolds, he received his mission and heroically led his team under fire to the bridge approach. The Germans had blown a huge crater in the approach to the bridge, prohibiting the use of tanks, but giving some cover for the small team.

After a quick visual reconnaissance from the crater, Mott and his team raced across the entire length of the bridge, cutting the wires leading to a multitude of explosive charges, all the while under intense fire from snipers, machine guns, and 20mm guns. As the team was cutting various wires to the explosives, Mott witnessed a tremendous explosion on the far side of the bridge. He thought he may have been too late, but the explosion was a minor blast only causing some structural damage on the far side.

The team continued, with Mott discovering four packages of TNT weighing 30-pounds each, as well as one 600-pound charge rigged to explode. They disabled the charges and threw them into the river. Dorland discovered the main cable to the explosives, but could not cut them with his pliers. Without hesitating, he shot the cable with his carbine, completely severing the line.

As the final charges were being disabled, an infantry platoon arrived to secure the bridge. Mott then called for his platoon to be brought up to begin repairs on the structure in order to move tanks across. When they arrived, Mott led his platoon under heavy sniper and machine gun fire, patching the gaping holes in the bridge planking. They worked frantically on their hands and knees to repair the damaged bridge, eventually allowing tanks to cross and ensuring the Allies an eastern foothold on the Rhine.

The skill, speed, and boldness of their successful mission won resounding congratulations and praise from high-ranking military officials. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was reported to be jubilant.

Gen. Omar Bradley said, "This bold advance, characterized by able willingness to chance great risks for great rewards, speeds the day when our full forces

BATTLE OF REMAGEN BRIDGE



The Ludendorff bridge at Remagen, shortly after it was captured, on March 7, 1945. The bridge collapsed 10 days after it was seized because of bomb damage. (Photo courtesy Bundesarchiv/Creative Commons)

can come to grips with the enemy.”

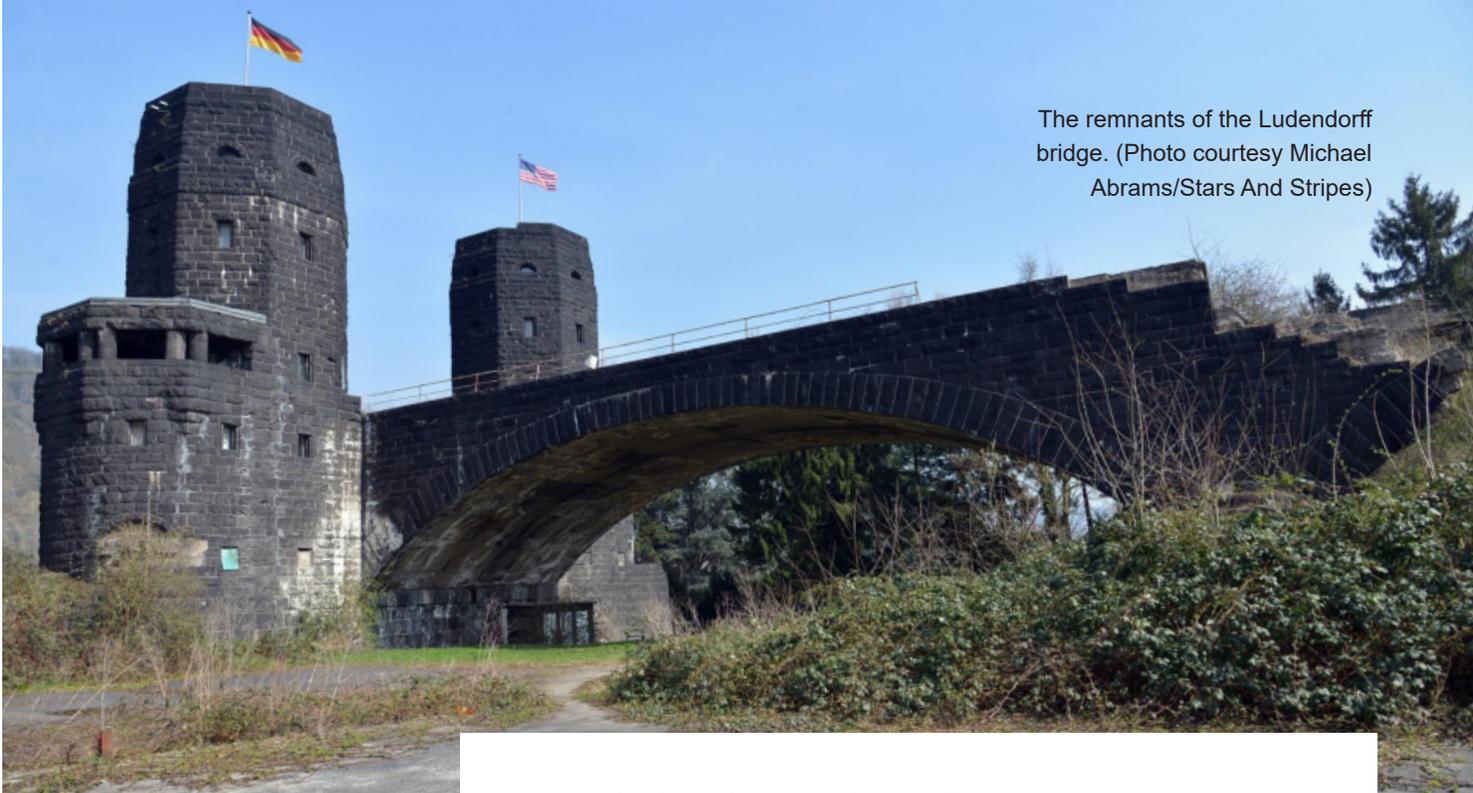
For this heroic act, Mott was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the commendation citing his unhesitating action and courage amid intense enemy fire aimed directly at him. Dorland and Reynolds were also awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Officials at the time said the war was probably shortened by about six months due to his action, perhaps preventing 5,000 to 10,000 Allied casualties.

After the battle at Remagen Bridge, Mott continued to fiercely engage the German Army, pressing into Germany, fighting in the capture of Limberg, Frankfurt, Leipzig, and heading into Czechoslovakia just before V-E Day. At the end of war, he was assigned to the engineer battalion of the 90th Infantry Division. He served in the Army of Occupation as a platoon leader and company commander until returning to the United States in 1946. Mott was separated from active military service on June 9, 1946 and entered the Army Reserves at the rank of captain.

Hugh Mott returned home to Tennessee after the war as a highly decorated soldier and initially started working with his father at his lumber business. Being greatly admired, Mott was soon called to run for public office. He won election to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1948 and served until 1951.

After three years in the Reserves, Mott decided to join the Tennessee Army National Guard. On March 15, 1949, he was assigned as the operations and training officer of the 173rd Armored Group in Jackson, Tennessee. He quickly rose through the ranks and was

HUGH MOTT
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The remnants of the Ludendorff bridge. (Photo courtesy Michael Abrams/Stars And Stripes)



Maj. Gen. Hugh Mott as the Commander of the 30th Armored Division

promoted to brigadier general in April 1964.

From April 4-14, 1968, Brig. Gen. Mott commanded Task Force Bravo, a force of over 3,300 Guard members, during civil disturbances in Nashville following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Miraculously, without loss of life, Mott led Guard members, city police, and state troopers into Tennessee's A & I University dormitories while under sniper fire. He searched and confiscated weapons and tools used to set fire to the school's Air Force ROTC building.

Following the civil unrest throughout the state, Mott was selected to be the commanding general of the 30th Armored Division at the end of April and then promoted to major general on June 28, 1968.

This assignment didn't last long, because on December 1, 1968, Maj. Gen. Mott was named the Adjutant General for the State of Tennessee by Gov. Buford Ellington. He simultaneously acted as Commander of the 30th Armored Division until February 1969. As the Adjutant General, Mott worked tirelessly at his post during a period of continual civil unrest. He would stay the head of the Tennessee National Guard until May 26, 1971 and then he was released from the Tennessee Army National Guard on May 31. He continued working for the National Guard Directorate until retiring from the military in November 1975.

Hugh Mott died in June 2005, at the age of 84. In tribute to Mott, the U.S. Army Engineer School, located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, named the Bachelor Officers Quarters building Mott Hall in his honor. The building showcases a beautiful portrait of him with an impressive display of his World War II exploits. The Tennessee National Guard Joint Force Headquarters was also named after him in 2006.

What's that patch mean?



A soldier's patch lets others know what unit they're in, where they're from, and it gives hints as to what they do. It allows others to understand their mission and who their peers are while often telling a story about their history and culture. Officially referred to as a Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (SSI), the patch hasn't always been an integral part of a soldier's uniform. It wasn't until World War I that the U.S. Army authorized commanders to give their units distinctive nicknames and insignias to help identify unit equipment and baggage as well as foster esprit-de-corps. By the end of the war, shoulder patches were authorized. From World War I to today, the Tennessee National Guard has officially had nine SSIs to represent various commands over the years. But today we have four that embody the history and mission of Tennessee.



JFHQ AND 30TH TROOP COMMAND

Symbolism: The hickory tree refers to Andrew Jackson who was known as “Old Hickory” because of his toughness as a fighter. The three white stars which appear on the state flag alludes to the three grand divisions or areas of the State: East Tennessee, Middle Tennessee and West Tennessee. The white and red twists of the wreath refer to the English origin of the original settlers.



The three stars, which also appear on the state flag shown above, allude to the three grand divisions of the State.



The hickory tree refers to President Andrew Jackson's toughness as a fighter, “tough as old hickory.”

History: The oldest and longest running SSI still used by the Tennessee National Guard, the original design was approved for the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment for the Tennessee Army National Guard on May 29, 1950. It was amended to add symbolism to the design on April 1, 1974, and then redesignated on December 30, 1983, for Headquarters, State Area Command. On April 2, 2009, it was redesignated again to represent the Joint Forces Headquarters and 30th Troop Command.



194TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

Symbolism: Scarlet and white are the colors of the Corps of Engineers, and a castle turret alludes to the branch insignia. Scarlet, white, blue, and three stars refer to the State Flag of Tennessee. Three stars are also on the Tennessee Army National Guard crest, and are used to denote the unit's allocation. The saltire (a diagonal cross) and turret symbolize the overall mission of the organization.



The castle turret alludes to the branch insignia.

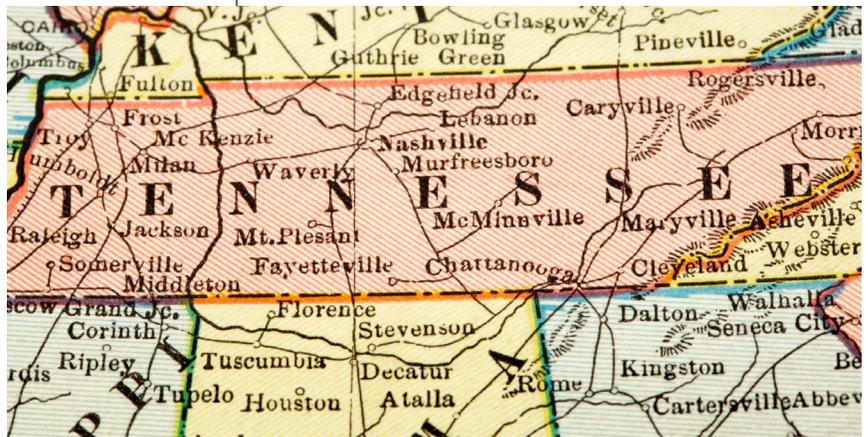
History: Originally approved on January 30, 1974, the patch was designed for the 194th Engineer Brigade when it was established in Nashville in 1973 following the deactivation of the 30th Armored Division. In 1996, the unit headquarters was moved to its current location in Jackson, Tennessee, where it resides today.

**230TH
SUSTAINMENT
BRIGADE**

Symbolism: Red and buff are the colors traditionally used by sustainment units. Red, white, and blue are the national colors and also the colors of the Tennessee State Flag. The chevron suggests support, the mission of the brigade. The sword, pointing up, symbolizes military readiness. The three stars allude to the three grand divisions of the state of Tennessee.



The sword, pointing up, symbolizes military readiness.



Three stars represent the three divisions of the state of Tennessee.

History: The newest SSI in the Tennessee Army National Guard, it was developed and approved on January 11, 2007. The new SSI and the 230th Sustainment Brigade replaced the 196th Field Artillery Brigade that was also headquartered in Chattanooga.



278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

Symbolism: The green background with three stars refers to the hickory tree crest of the Tennessee Army National Guard. The wavy blue three-armed partition represents the coming together of the Holston and the French Broad Rivers to form the beginning of the Tennessee River in Knoxville, where the Regiment's headquarters are located.

History: The current SSI was authorized for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment on August 19, 1977. It was originally approved for the 278th Infantry Brigade on March 19, 1974, following the deactivation of the 30th Armored Division.



The wavy blue three-armed partition represents the coming together of the Holston and the French Broad Rivers to form the beginning of the Tennessee River.



30TH DIVISION

Symbolism: The letters "O H" are the initials of "Old Hickory" and the "XXX" is the Roman numeral for 30, the number of the division.



"Old Hickory" refers to President Andrew Jackson's toughness as a fighter, "tough as old hickory."

History: During World War I, nearly all members of the Tennessee National Guard were mobilized and became part of the 30th Division. Made up of Soldiers from Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina, they were nicknamed the Old Hickory Division after Gen. Andrew Jackson, representing the "sturdy fighting qualities of soldiers from these states." The nickname stuck and Maj. Gen. George Read, the division commander at the time, personally developed the logo, and authorized its use in divisional transportation as early as June 1918.

It was a custom during the war that the logo, which was an oval shape, be displayed with its long axis laid horizontally. The patch was then authorized for wear on the uniform by Gen. John Pershing in October 1918, but with a maroon background and still displayed with its long axis horizontal. The color caused some confusion when seen from a distance, it looked purple, as well as the fact that the "O" symbolizing Old Hickory was laying on its side. But in June 1922, the design was officially changed to have a red background and the long axis would be vertical, to look like the letter "O".

These changes weren't widely known by the Soldiers now spread throughout three different states and the wear of the patch became confusing. The Office of the Quartermaster General was also mistaken in this change, and in 1928, approved for the design to be worn with the long axis horizontal, a change from vertical, but the background color was still red.

Confusion would last throughout the 30s, but by World War II, the division had its soldiers wearing the patch vertically, officially against regulations. Following the war, changes were again made to the design, and by 1951, the patch was officially oriented vertically and its size and dimensions made clearer.

Many Tennessee Guardsmen wore this patch from 1918 until 1955, when most Guardsmen in Tennessee were reorganized under the 30th Armored Division. The wear of the patch continued on in other states and was redesignated for the 30th Infantry Brigade in February 1974 and again in 2004 for the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team with the North Carolina Army National Guard.

HERALDRY

30TH ARMORED DIVISION

Symbolism: Yellow, blue and red are the colors of the branches from which armored units were formed. The tank tread, gun and lightning flash are symbolic of mobility, power and speed. The division's designation is in Arabic numerals.



History: The 30th Armored Division was organized in Tennessee on October 1954 from Tennessee units that were part of the 30th Infantry Division, making it the largest organization in the state. During the 1960s and 1970s, the division responded to many state emergencies, to include riots in Memphis and Nashville in 1968. The division was the State's largest unit until it was deactivated in 1973 and the SSI was canceled for wear effective November 1973.

The patch was often seen with a "Volunteer" tab when worn with khakis or the dress uniform. It was unauthorized, and in 1962, the Division Commander requested that that the division officially be given the nickname "Volunteers" and be allowed to wear the tab. The Chief of Historical Services denied the request and recommended that the division nickname be changed to "Volunteer State" or "Vols." because most Army units were historically made up of volunteers. The recommendation was never acted on and soldiers continued to wear the unauthorized tab.



30TH SEPARATE ARMORED BRIGADE

Symbolism: The colors yellow and green are for Armor, blue for Infantry and scarlet for Artillery. The disk alludes to a targe and buckler and symbolizes the armored strength and protection offered by the unit. The disk bearing three stars is also found on the State Flag of Tennessee. The annulet, or ring around the disk of three stars, refers to the unit's speed and mobility.

History: Designed in 1974 for the 30th Separate Armored Brigade that was organized in 1973 due to the deactivation of the 30th Armored Division. It consisted of most of the former division units located in West Tennessee, and was headquartered in Jackson. The 278th Infantry Brigade was organized in East Tennessee and headquartered in Knoxville at the same time, encompassing the former division units located in the east. The 30th Separate Armored Brigade was deactivated in 1996.



A "targe" or "buckler" was a small shield, used, not to cover the body, but to stop or parry blows.

196TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

Symbolism: Scarlet and yellow are the colors used for Artillery. The vertical band, known as a “bend” in heraldry, is an allusion to the bend in the Tennessee River known as Moccasin Bend which, is in Chattanooga, the home of the Brigade headquarters. The gun barrel represents the basic mission, and the blue disk with the three stars, adapted from Tennessee’s state flag, further alludes to the home area of the organization.



Moccasin Bend in Chattanooga, Tennessee

History: In 1973, the 30th Armored Division Artillery, headquartered in Chattanooga, was reorganized and redesignated as the Headquarters for the 196th Field Artillery Group, and relieved from assignment to the 30th Armored Division. It was then changed in 1978 to the 196th Field Artillery Brigade, spurring the need for a new patch. Designed and authorized in January 1979, the unit would wear this patch during its deployment to Desert Shield and Desert Storm from December 1990 to May 1991. In 2006, the 196th was converted to the 230th Sustainment Brigade and the unit patch was replaced in 2007.



278TH INFANTRY REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

Symbolism: The design of one gold pheon, an ancient combat weapon, symbolizes the unity and readiness of the 278th Infantry Regimental Combat Team to accomplish its mission.



A pheon is a conventional heraldic representation of the head of a javelin, dart or arrow point.

History: The 278th Infantry Regimental Combat Team was originally created as an Armored Infantry Battalion in 1946 from elements of the 117th Infantry Regiment which had just returned from combat in the European theater during World War II. In March 1947, the 278th Armored Infantry Battalion was expanded to become the 278th Infantry Regiment headquartered in Cleveland, Tennessee. At that time, the 278th Infantry Regiment, along with the 190th Combat Engineer Company headquartered in Dayton, and the 191st Field Artillery Battalion headquartered in Maryville, comprised the 278th Infantry Regimental Combat Team headquartered in Athens.

On September 1, 1950, over 2,600 Tennessee National Guardsmen from the 278th Regimental Combat Team were mobilized in support of the Korean War. The unit was part of the fourth increment of mobilizations called up starting in August of 1950. The regiment was divided up and served in Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Pine Camp, New York (now known as Fort Drum); and Reykjanesbaer, Iceland.

In June 1951, the Regiment requested a new SSI. The original design was not accepted and in September 1951, the gold pheon patch was authorized for wear. After four years on active duty, the 278th RCT was released from federal service on September 8th, 1954, and reverted to state control. The unit was not reconstituted and disbanded by October 1954.



The original patch design that the Regiment requested in 1951, as seen above, was not approved for wear. The patch's symbolism was: "The atomic explosion represents the striking power of the Regiment, also East Tennessee played an important part in the research and manufacture of the Atomic Bomb."

JFHQ 101

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD'S JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

STORY BY RETIRED MAJ. RANDY D. HARRIS



The Sidco Drive Area Barracks housed Nashville area military veterans and their families when they needed a place to live.

In 1942, the area south of Thompson Lane became the Classification Center for the U.S. Army Air Corps. Towards the end of World War II, and up until Oct. 1, 1945, it was the Separation Center for the U.S. Navy. Now the hill, overlooking Powell Avenue and Sidco Drive, is home to the Tennessee National Guard Headquarters, Houston Barracks. The Maj. Gen. Hugh B. Mott National Guard Headquarters, and the Clement-Nunnally Armory dominate the area south of Armory Drive to the

intersection of Powell and Sidco.

The World War II complex had at least 14 Mess Halls, fire halls, recreation halls, two theaters, a chapel, school, library, warehouses, drill fields, pistol ranges, and rows of barracks with nearby wash houses to provide showers and toilets at its peak.

The \$5 million facility was two miles long and accommodated 10,000 cadets, 500 enlisted soldiers and 200 officers. After expansion, the capacity was reported by the me-

dia to be over 30,000.

The military complex sprawled over as many as 560 acres starting in 1942. The hundreds of barracks and buildings were intended to be temporary, mostly sided with nothing but tar-paper, which stayed in use as long as 10 years.

In the beginning, the center was seen as a great addition to the Nashville area at Radnor Yards. After proposal in 1942, it was rushed into construction under the direction of the Nashville Architectural firms



of Warfield & Keeble and Foster & Creighton, and accepted its first cadets in mid July of that same year.

Nashville's City Council had quickly approved contracts with the federal government to provide water, sewer and electric services. The sites proximity to the rail lines at Radnor Yards was also considered a plus.

The role of the Classification Center was evaluation of skills and aptitudes before classifying cadets as pilots, navigators, or bombardiers. The process took from a matter of days to a few weeks.

Pilot candidates were then sent to Maxwell Field (now Maxwell Air Force Base) in Alabama for training, bombardiers to Santa Anna, California, and navigators to Monroe, Louisiana.

Candidates recalled that the

“BARRACKS WERE DIVIDED INTO TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS, TAR-PAPER WAS PEELING OUTSIDE, BUT TO THE FAMILIES, IT WAS HOME.”

psychological tests were the most feared.

“There were questions such as, ‘what would you do if you were driving a military truck with a load of GIs in the back and a little girl ran in front of you. Would you turn quickly and risk injuring the passengers in the back, or would you hit the girl?’”

A Women's Army Corps (WAC) contingent was added by 1943, and brought females into the classification center mix. They performed

mostly clerical duties which freed male soldiers for foreign service. The center's 1,000 personnel were about 60 percent women at this time.

The Nashville community was aided in several ways by the center. When it was discovered that no one had thought to provide clothes hangers, a public drive to supply them was launched. When soldier's relatives would visit for holidays or other events, more than 400 Nashvillians opened their homes to provide rooms.

The arrival of 86 enlisted men in April of 1944 marked the first group of Army Air Corps casualties being placed in a new convalescent centers developed on the site. They flew in to Berry Field and were transported to their wards by ambulance and staff cars.

When the war ended, the Clas-

sification Center was transformed into the Naval Personnel Separation Center, one of only five in the country. This new facility opened in October of 1945, and was intended to process about 7,000 to 20,000 Navy personnel weekly. The average stay for these troops was three days.

City officials anticipated some problems from what one newspaper described as, “the underworld, gamblers, prostitutes and camp followers, or amateur prostitutes.” Listening to this concern, the Navy sent several hundred Shore Patrolmen to the center to keep order as the thousands of veterans moved in and out of the city with their discharge pay of \$200 to \$1,000, of which only \$50 was in cash.

A permanently assigned staff of 1,400 enlisted sailors and 120 Navy officers operated the center. They provided those passing through with “full information on the re-integration to civilian life.” This re-integration included lectures, movies and pamphlets, as well as physical exams, discharge papers and transportation arrangements.

After the Navy’s use, late in 1945, the complex took on a third role housing the Nashville area’s military veterans who needed a place to live. About 800 families ended up there. The barracks were divided into two family dwellings. The tar-paper was peeling outside, but to the families, it was home. The \$15 monthly rent included electricity and water. A

coal stove provided heat, a wood stove was there for cooking, and the kitchen had a sink with running water. For bathing, washing clothes and toilet needs, there was a shared “wash house” in another building nearby.

The federal government leased the site to the Nashville Public Housing Authority until it was declared surplus in 1952. The remaining veterans and their families, about 275 in all, were relocated.

The Nashville Chamber of Commerce led an effort in 1952 to transform the site into industrial tracts in hopes of luring factories to locate there. Four local businessmen bought 113 acres of land in the area for \$456,000, and the city hoped to get another 189 acres for about \$800 per acre, the original price determined by the federal government.

Its location between the L&N Railroad tracks on the east, Radnor Yard on the south and Thompson Lane on the north made the location ideal. The Southern Industrial Development Company, formed in 1953, gave the street through the site its current name, SIDCO Drive.

By the next year, the military complex had been destroyed and construction began to transform the former Classification Center for the U.S. Army Air Corps into a warehousing and industrial complex. The first 50-acre portion was completed by 1959.

The Tennessee Army National



The Army Air Force Classification Center on Sidco Drive in 1943.

Guard leased the property in 1955, and construction began on the Clement-Nunnally armory in 1959, and was completed by 1962. A new wing was added to the armory in 1976.

The 30th Armored Division Headquarters was located at the post, along with several other army units such as the 3-109th Armor Battalion and the 173rd Support Battalion. In 1973, the 30th Armored Division was dissolved and became separate units to include the 30th Separate Armored Brigade, the 194th Engineer Brigade, the 196th Field Artillery Brigade and the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

From 1947 to the mid 60’s the post had a swimming pool that was fed by a natural spring that stayed at 56.7 degrees, and was manned by the Navy, Marines and National Guard personnel stationed there. They maintained the pool and served as life guards. Personnel and guests paid a nominal fee for the use of the pool, and the water in the pool



Major General Hugh B. Mott Building Tennessee National Guard Headquarters in Nashville. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa Wood)

was known to be clean and always at the same temperature. The pool was closed around 1970.

In 1975, construction began to add a new wing of the Clement-Nunnally Armory. It was completed by the spring of 1976.

Construction began on the Major General Hugh B. Mott National Guard Headquarters building in 2006 along with renovations to the Clement-Nunnally Armory, was completed in early 2009.

The four-story Mott Building dominates the hillside overlooking Sidco Drive and Powell Avenue. Known today as the Joint Force Headquarters-Tennessee, Houston Barracks is also home to the Headquarters, Tennessee Air National Guard; the 301st Troop Command; the 129th Army Band; the 230th Signal Company; the 1128th, 1129th and 1130th Finance Detachments; the 118th

Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, and Troop A, Special Troops Squadron, 278th ACR. Other key agencies of the Tennessee Military Department located here are the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and the Headquarters for the Tennessee State Guard.

The Sidco area still has the plants, factories and warehouses that were the excitement of the post-war years in Nashville. The building frenzy continued until nothing of the original Army Air Corps Classification Center was left. Those driving by the area today will not realize that during World War II the region between I-65 and the Radnor Rail Yards was home to tens of thousands of American soldiers.

One cannot write a history of Nashville's Houston Barracks without recognizing the contribution of so many dedicated professional offi-

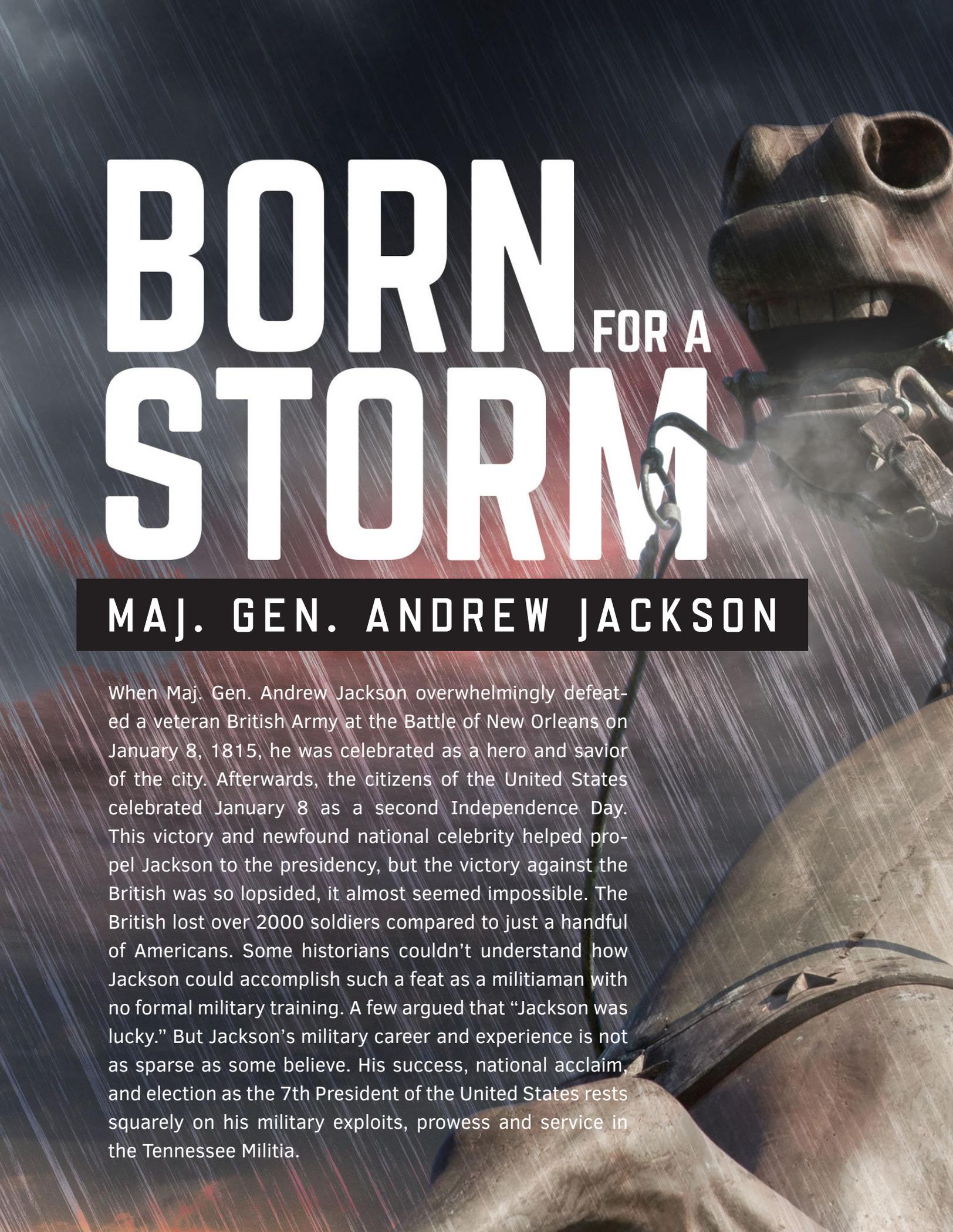
cers and enlisted soldiers who have, and still continue to uphold the very flame of the volunteer spirit of military service by which this state is renowned.

Beginning with the Overmountain Men (Tennesseans, Virginians, and North Carolinians who defeated the British at Kings Mountain in 1780) and continuing today, Tennessee stands tall because of those heroes in our past who have laid the foundation for us to follow.

The outstanding officers and enlisted men and women who served in the 30th Armored Division, and all units housed at Houston Barracks, have participated in every major and minor U.S. war endeavor and conflict since World War II. It is a list of who's who, and the service they have rendered to our beloved state and nation should be forever remembered. The sacrifice of those Soldiers who gave the ultimate price of their lives for the freedom we share as Tennesseans, and consequently, as Americans. - **RETIRED**

MAJ. RANDY D. HARRIS

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BORN FOR A STORM

MAJ. GEN. ANDREW JACKSON

When Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson overwhelmingly defeated a veteran British Army at the Battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1815, he was celebrated as a hero and savior of the city. Afterwards, the citizens of the United States celebrated January 8 as a second Independence Day. This victory and newfound national celebrity helped propel Jackson to the presidency, but the victory against the British was so lopsided, it almost seemed impossible. The British lost over 2000 soldiers compared to just a handful of Americans. Some historians couldn't understand how Jackson could accomplish such a feat as a militiaman with no formal military training. A few argued that "Jackson was lucky." But Jackson's military career and experience is not as sparse as some believe. His success, national acclaim, and election as the 7th President of the United States rests squarely on his military exploits, prowess and service in the Tennessee Militia.



Equestrian statue of Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson, one of four identical statues in the U.S. erected after Jackson's victory in the Battle of New Orleans. Illustration by Rob Pennington.

STORY BY LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS

BECOMING A SOLDIER

Andrew Jackson was exposed to militia service and the horrors of warfare at an early age. Born in 1767 and raised in the Waxhaw settlement, a frontier area of South Carolina, there was a constant threat of Indian attack. Jackson was raised fearing the possibility and taught how to protect himself; he learned how to make and fire a bow and arrow, as well as to shoot firearms.

Once the Revolutionary War began, Jackson and his older brother, Robert, began drilling with the local militia. Only ten and with his mother's support, he learned military commands and basic tactics. Jackson came "to appreciate the value and necessity of the militia." It wouldn't be long before he got his first taste of combat. In 1780, British soldiers attacked Jackson's hometown. Approximately 110 patriots were killed and 150 wounded in what is now called the Waxhaw Massacre. The town meetinghouse became a temporary hospital and 13-year-old Jackson helped tend to the wounded.

Following the massacre, Col. William Davie, and a small force, came to Waxhaw intent on avenging the attack. Jackson and his brother joined the unit as messengers. They would ride with Davie and were with him at the Battle of Hanging Rock. Afterwards, he and his brother returned home to help defend



Portrait of young Andrew Jackson.

their settlements. Jackson helped ward off various attacks. One night, he was helping guard the house of an American Patriot, when they were attacked by Tories, (colonists who supported the British). Jackson exchanged rifle fire with the Tories and a fellow guard was shot and killed beside Jackson.

Later, Jackson and his brother were scavenging for food in a local home when they were captured by

British dragoons and taken prisoner. The dragoon's commanding officer demanded that Jackson clean his boots, but he calmly refused. Angry by Jackson's reply, the officer slashed at Jackson's head with his sword. Jackson ducked and threw up his left hand to protect himself, receiving a deep gash on his head and fingers; it would be a scar he'd carry for the rest of his life.

Jackson and his brother, along

with 20 other captives, were then jailed in Camden, South Carolina. The conditions were horrible. They were robbed, mistreated and eventually contracted small pox. Luckily, their mother helped arrange a prisoner transfer, but two days after being released, Robert died from his wounds and disease. It took Jackson months to recover from his. Unfortunately, Jackson's mother died of cholera shortly afterwards, leaving him an orphan and veteran at the age of 15.

For the next few years, Jackson lived off his small inheritance until he began studying law at 17. It was reported that during this time, he was sometimes attacked by Indians while traveling. It was written that, "he would instinctively take command of the party and conduct the defensive actions."

After earning the right to practice

law, Jackson was offered a position as public prosecutor in western Tennessee and he set off for Nashville in 1788.

In Nashville, he helped defend the settlement like most men of the time. He aided in "garrisoning the forts, and in pursuing and chastising the enemy." When he first arrived in Nashville, he took part in a punitive expedition against the Cherokee Indians. Part of a 60-70 man company, Pvt. Jackson helped attack a Cherokee camp, resulting in several enemies killed and the capture of most of their equipment. Considered his first Indian fight in Tennessee, he was called, "bold, dashing, fearless, and mad upon his enemies."

Over the next seven years, Jackson made 22 known trips through Tennessee traveling to build his legal business. He often came into contact with hostile Indians and would

command the traveling party's defense. Jackson earned a reputation as a capable Indian fighter. In 1792, Governor William Blount appointed Jackson as the judge advocate for a cavalry regiment in Davidson County at the rank of major. It was Jackson's first official position and recognized his long service volunteering in the armed militia.

For the next two years, Jackson continued defending his home against Indian attacks. In 1794, he helped plan and participated in the Nickajack Campaign which destroyed two Cherokee villages. The campaign pacified the Indian threat around Nashville and Jackson showed "good conduct," during the campaign.

MAJOR GENERAL AND COMMANDER OF THE MILITIA

Jackson was a delegate to Tennessee's constitutional convention and on June 1, 1796, George Washington made Tennessee the 16th state. Jackson was elected to be Tennessee's single congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives. Before leaving for Washington, he made a daring attempt to win an election as the Major General for the Tennessee State Militia, but was narrowly defeated.

As a congressman, Jackson chaired a committee submitting a bill rec-



Pair of Jackson's pistols on display at the Hermitage.

ommending the full compensation for Tennessee's militia campaign against the Cherokee in 1793, where they attacked several hostile Indian towns. The bill passed. This act greatly raised Jackson's popularity among the militia. He also managed to get the federal government to pay those who participated in the Nickajack expedition.

After his congressional term was complete, Jackson was elected to the U.S. Senate but resigned the next year without an explanation and returned to Tennessee. He was then appointed as a State Superior Court Judge.

As a Judge, he often traveled the state hearing cases. He used the opportunity to meet with and listen to the complaints of militia leaders, showing his concern and building friendships. In 1802, Jackson ran again for command of the Tennessee militia, but his opponent was Gen. John Sevier, a former governor and the "Hero of King's Mountain." When the results were in, it was declared a tie. Gov. Archibald Roane, then became the deciding vote, and since he was a good friend of Jackson's, Jackson became a major general at the age of 35.

Jackson and Sevier would feud over the election as well as other political issues, even after Sevier was elected as governor a second time. Their feud ultimately resulted in a duel near the end of 1803. Neither man was injured.

As a major general, Jackson quickly looked and acted the part, silencing any critic. He showed concern for his soldiers and demanded respect through his leadership. According to one historian, "he brought a higher level of discipline to the militia." Over the next several years, Jackson held regular drills and managed the business of commanding the militia with skill. He dealt quickly with unlawful activities along the frontier between Indians and settlers. One of Jackson's first duties was to stop a major from organizing an unlawful punitive raid on some Indians camps.

OLD HICKORY

In May of 1812, Jackson learned that Creek Indians had killed civilians and taken a woman captive at a settlement on the Duck River in Humphreys County. Jackson was angered and pledged to quickly raise 2,500 competent soldiers to "carry fire and sword to the heart of the Creek Nation," as punishment. He made preparations to lead the punitive expedition, but before he could get his revenge, he heard that the Duck River massacre participants were killed by a Creek war party and the woman had escaped.

Next, Jackson learned that the United States had declared war against Great Britain and his forces were now needed elsewhere. He offered 2,500 volunteers to the president, but Tennessee was not asked for volunteers until October. The

president eventually asked the governor for 1,500 men to defend New Orleans from a southern invasion. Jackson was given command and a commission as a major general of the United States volunteers to lead the force.

He assembled two divisions in Nashville, over 2,000 soldiers in total. He acquired the necessary supplies, transportation, and made sure they had arms and clothing for a five to six month expedition. On January 7, 1813, the governor ordered him to move south. The mounted infantry and cavalry traveled by land while the riflemen, accompanied by Jackson, traveled by boat. All forces were to rendezvous in Natchez, Mississippi, before continuing to New Orleans.

Once in Natchez, Jackson was ordered to halt and await further orders. He and his army established a camp a few miles from the town and stayed there for weeks waiting. Orders eventually came in March and Jackson was enraged. The Secretary of War dismissed Jackson's force from service, saying that they were no longer needed. Jackson was to turn over all property to Gen. James Wilkinson in New Orleans and his troops were to fend for themselves in Natchez.

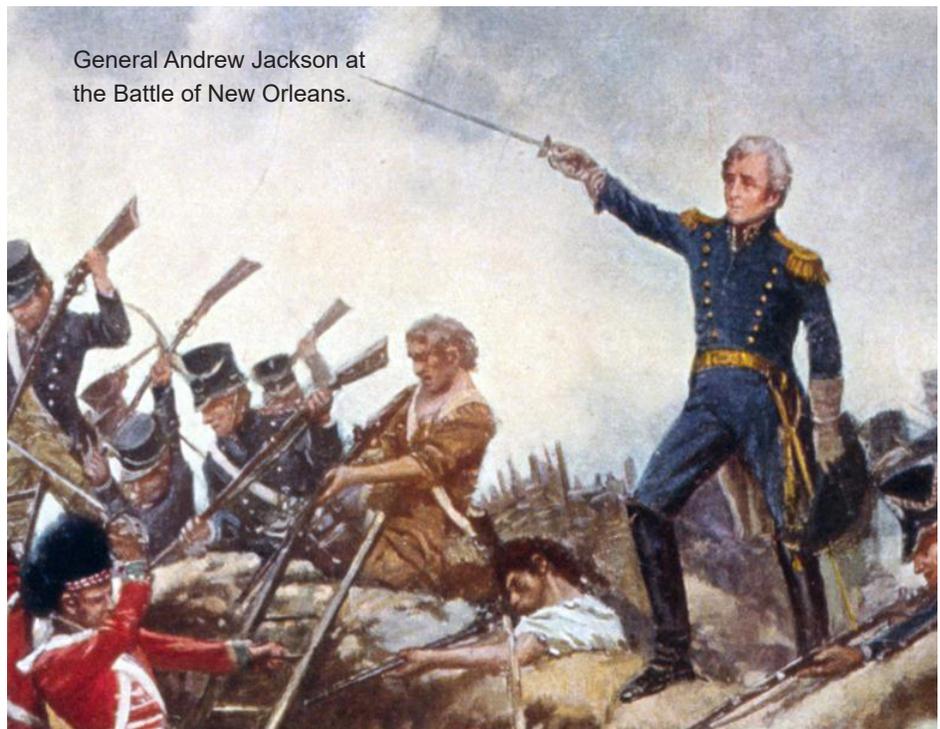
Jackson decided to disobey the order. He felt that "those brave fellows who followed me at the call of their country, deserve more from their government." He decided to march

his entire force home and at his own expense.

When Jackson's Army set out for Nashville on foot, there were 150 men on the sick list. Many could not even sit upright. With only 11 wagons to transport them, Jackson ordered all of his officers to give up their horses to the sick. Jackson had three personal horses and he surrendered them all. Jackson walked alongside his soldiers every day, cheering them on. In a letter to his wife Rachael, he wrote, "it is therefore my duty to act as a father to the sick and to the well and stay with them until I march them into Nashville."

Jackson supervised the distribution of rations and encouraged his men to keep going. The soldiers admired Jackson's strength and concern for his men. Trying to determine what the toughest thing they could think of was, they started saying that Jackson was, "tough as hickory." Soon the soldiers just started calling him "Hickory" and later added the prefix "Old," giving Jackson the nickname he would carry for the rest of his life.

The march moved quickly and within a month the Army returned to Nashville. The stories of Jackson's conduct circulated rapidly and soon all of Tennessee knew his nickname. One Tennessee paper wrote, "Long will their General live in the memory of his volunteers... for his benevolence, humane, and fatherly treatment to his Soldiers." He was now



General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans.

considered, "the most beloved and esteemed of private citizens in western Tennessee."

Jackson sent his soldiers home and began preparations for a possible return to war. At age 46, he became a proud father figure to those in the militia and the public. He was not aware that his greatest feats were still ahead of him.

OFF TO WAR

On August 18, 1813, a militant group of Creek Indians, called Red Sticks, attacked and killed hundreds of American settlers at Fort Mims. Tennesseans were infuriated. The governor ordered Jackson to call out

the militia to punish the Creeks for the massacre. Jackson was excited, he now had the opportunity to get "vengeance and atonement" for the Duck River Massacre and this recent attack.

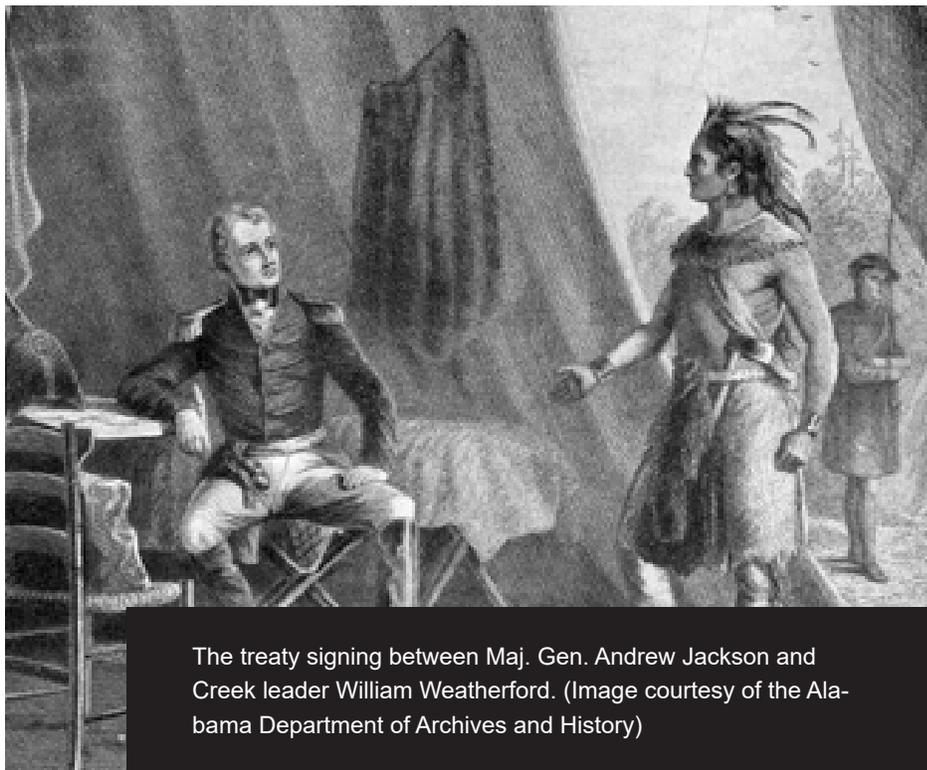
With his arm in a sling from being shot in the shoulder and arm during a recent duel, Jackson took command of his force and headed south, intent on rendezvousing with other forces in Northern Alabama. Jackson's force got there quickly, and after setting up Fort Deposit, and later Fort Strother, Jackson attacked the nearby Creek village of Tallushatchee, containing 200 hostile warriors. With 1,000 soldiers, he surrounded the village and slaughtered all the inhabitants.

BORN FOR A STORM

Next, Jackson attacked the town of Talladega, which was under siege by 1,000 enemy warriors. He attacked the enemy force with 2,000 soldiers, killing 300 hostile Indians. Unfortunately, over the next month and a half, Jackson's Army met with disaster. Enlistments expired, Soldiers went home, and supplies were scarce. Jackson did not have the men or food to continue fighting. His Army almost completely dissolved until 800 raw recruits joined his forces at Fort Strother.

Jackson then went back on the offensive. While heading to attack a fortified Creek camp at Horseshoe Bend, he met and engaged a hostile force at Emuckfaw Creek. Jackson's Army was attacked but the battle ended in a stalemate. Realizing he did not have enough soldiers to press the attack, he retired to await reinforcements. On his return to camp, his force was again attacked by the Red Sticks at Enotachopco Creek. He managed to organize his soldiers for a defense and fought off the attackers. Jackson lost several soldiers, 20 killed and 75 wounded, but also killed 200 Red Sticks.

Next, he gathered reinforcements and trained his soldiers. By March, he had 5,000 troops under his command. On March 14, Jackson and his Army began moving on Horseshoe Bend to attack a force of 1,000 Red Stick warriors. They moved cautiously and on the 27th, attacked. He had the enemy surrounded and



The treaty signing between Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson and Creek leader William Weatherford. (Image courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History)

his forces assailed mercilessly. When it was over, Jackson wrote that, "the carnage was awful." His army had killed roughly 900 Red Sticks and invariably crushed the Creek Nation.

When Jackson's forces left Horseshoe Bend, they destroyed every village they came across. On April 17, Jackson converged on the Hickory Ground where he started collecting surrendering Indians and began negotiations with the defeated Creeks. Soon, Jackson turned over negotiations to Gen. Thomas Pinckney and then marched his Soldiers home.

Jackson returned to Nashville for a hero's welcome. For his victory over the Creeks, he was offered the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S.

Army with a brevet to Major General. Jackson was outraged and thought it was an insult. A few weeks later, he was offered the full rank of Major General and he accepted it. Jackson was then put in command of the 7th Military District which covered the southeast United States with his first task being to take over the peace negotiations with the Creeks.

At the negotiations, Jackson secured over 20 million acres of land from the Creeks, the largest amount of land surrendered to the United States by any southeastern tribe. Next, he turned his attention to defending the Southeast from a British invasion. First, he went to Mobile, Alabama, and strengthened their

defenses. In October, he turned his attention to Pensacola, Florida, which was under Spanish control. They were neutral, but Jackson felt they were harboring British Soldiers and a British attack would originate there. In November, Jackson attacked Pensacola and drove the British out. He then returned control of the city to the Spanish governor.

Next, Jackson learned that the British were about to launch a full scale invasion of New Orleans. He hurriedly moved west, first reinforcing Mobile, and then set up defenses in New Orleans. By mid-December, the British anchored in Mississippi Sound and started deploying troops ten miles below New Orleans. From there, the British launched a series of strikes against the city. Jackson defended it by using a mixture of militiamen from various states, regulars, pirates, locals and freedmen. On January 8, the British attempted a frontal assault on Jackson's lines which turned out to be disastrous. The British suffered 2,000 casualties compared to 16 American casualties. At the time, the Treaty of Ghent had already been signed and the War of 1812 was virtually over.

Overnight, Jackson became the Hero of New Orleans. It was one of the few victories during the War of 1812, and it made Jackson a national celebrity.

After the war, the Army was downsized into just the northern and southern division, with Jackson

commanding the south. His headquarters was established at his home in Nashville.

One of his most important undertakings in this post was to build a military road that ran through the former hostile Indian territory. It took two years to complete and extended 483 miles.

FIGHTING IN FLORIDA

Jackson's final military campaign was into Florida. He was infuriated by the existence of a runaway slave fort close to the Gulf of Mexico and that Seminole raids along the Georgia-Florida border were worsening. Jackson took measures to eliminate the threats. He had the slave fort destroyed and then tried to have a Seminole Chief arrested for not following the Creek treaties. The arrest resulted in a battle at the village of Fowltown, thus starting the First Seminole War.

In March 1818, Jackson led a force into Florida to subdue the Seminole threat. He destroyed the towns of Tallahassee and Miccosukee. Then Jackson marched on St. Marks, where he seized the Spanish Fort. Next, Jackson left St. Marks to attack villages along the Suwannee River. He declared victory and then returned to St. Marks, where he executed two British subjects for reportedly aiding the Seminoles and inciting them to war against the United States.

Jackson left troops to garrison St. Marks and returned to Fort Gadsden, Florida. He heard that Indians were gathering in Pensacola. In May, Jackson left Fort Gadsden, Alabama with 1,000 soldiers to destroy them. When Jackson reached Pensacola, Florida, he attacked, forcing the governor and Spanish garrison to retreat to Fort Barrancas, just outside Pensacola, surrendering the city. Within a few days, the Spanish surrendered Fort Barrancas.

Inadvertently, Jackson had seized Spanish controlled Florida causing an international incident.

After the war was over, he was offered the job as Governor of Florida. At first he declined, but eventually accepted the offer. In June of 1821, Jackson resigned his commission. His military career may have ended but his political one was taking off. He would become the seventh President of the United States and simultaneously the Commander-in-Chief, a position he probably would never have attained without his militia experience and fame.

Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson had a long and distinguished military career before the Battle of New Orleans. He may not have been classically trained in warfare, but he made up for it in experience and raw leadership. His success at New Orleans and later in life can all be attributed to his military experience, prowess, and service in the Tennessee Militia.

- LT. COL. DARRIN HAAS



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and the Tennessee National Guard