

On the evening of Smokie's passing, Bob Lutz and Larry Haskett remembered him, along with so many others that they served with during 1941 through 1945, when they were young, strong and courageous. Bob and Larry spoke for a long time, and were young comrades once again. I invite you to call Bob and Larry.

COL (Ret) Harold Samsel received his Christmas present from the Association, the first "official" 117th Cavalry Association ring. He said in a letter to COL Dougherty "...Today, UPS delivered a beautiful regimental ring...cannot describe the full beauty of it and the unbelievable support from the members of the 117th Cavalry Association. Please extend my...thanks for the most generous support from the membership. I will wear this beautiful ring with profound pride, it is a wonderful Christmas gift..." (signed) Respectfully, Harold J. Samsel, Colonel, Cavalry (Ret.)



117th Cavalry Association Ring Due to the price of gold, the ring price has increased. **The ring can be ordered today** by contacting Mr. Wren Bartee, **JOSTENS MILITARY SALES**, 2812 Northaven, Corinth, TX 76210. Telephone 940-497-4536, email bartee@att.net Mr. Bartee served in the US Army Cavalry in Germany, post WWII. Since I have already paid for the bezel design, which is the wording around the stone "NJARNG 117TH CAVALRY ASSOCIATION" your costs will be as follows: 10 karat yellow gold, w/blue Spinel stone \$455.00, (ladies \$350.00). 14 and 18 carat gold can also be ordered for a bit more \$. You may also order gold tone Questra, blue Spinel stone \$217.00 (ladies \$209.00). Options – encrusted crossed sabers \$15.00, full name engraving inside \$15.00. Shipping and handling, per ring \$5.95. Spinel is a gemstone related to the ruby. If the Association decides at a future time to have different wording on the bezel, a new bezel-casting fee will be \$127.00 or more for the initial casting, a one-time charge. Ring bezel

wording can be changed by returning the ring for the same cost of a new bezel design (each).

Association Meeting 2 November 2007 Westfield Armory Was lead by Colonel Dougherty and again very well attended, a good trend! LTC Patrick du Tertre presented a video and talk about the making of the "*The French will Never Forget*" <http://www.malaurie.com/frenchamericanfriendship/index1.php?id=60> Be sure to watch the video, it is very moving. SGT Pablo Chavez, B Troop Artist showed some works done in Iraq. COL Dougherty introduced COL Rich Plechner of the AUSA Chapter 1502, who brought with him *Class of '41* member Walter K. Timpson transferred to the USAAF and piloted B-17 Flying Fortresses over Europe with the famed 8th Air Force <http://usaaf.com/8thaf/> and completed 30 combat missions. The proposed Association Ring was presented, very well received and the design was approved. A motion was made to gift the first official issue to *Class of '41* member Colonel (Ret) Harold J. Samsel, S-3, XO and finally, Commander of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) from 1 January 1945 to the end of WWII and demobilization. He is a founder of the Association and first commander of the post war Westfield based 50th Recon Battalion. The motion was unanimously approved. In attendance by order of the sign-in sheet: Dennis Dougherty, Don Tracy, Bill Gruss, Bob Lutz, Francis (Skip) Stinner, C. Williams, Dave Ellis, Bill Merring, Henry Forstenhausler, Frank Mnich, Emil Allgeier, Dutch Gauthier, Walter Lawrence, Jim Pressman, Ron Nier, Frank Patrick, Clement M. Curry, Sr., Mike Handley, Fred Pescatore, Norman Stickle, David L. Mormak, Ken Wondrack, Jim Dooley, Pablo Chavez, Don Kondroski, Michael Hrycak, Marta Biskup (USN), Arnold Lasner, Rochus E. Lawrence, Walter Timpson, Mauro Fierro, Jaime Ayala, Bob Foley, Patrick du Tertre, Ken Mahan and Phil Notestine.

NEXT MEETING! 1930 hours 1 February 2008 Westfield Armory Heritage Room – Combined Association and AUSA meeting! The 117th Cavalry Association and the Association of the U. S. Army (AUSA) Northern NJ Chapter 1502 will host Kevin M. Hymel, author of the book **Patton's Photographs: War as He Saw It**. Hymel also is associate editor for *ARMY* magazine [Ed. Note: The magazine is outstanding!] and research director for *WWII History* [Ed. Note: Also a favorite!] and *Military Heritage* magazines. *Be there!*

Class of '41 Luncheon 1200 hours 9 January 2008, Gibbs Hall, Ft. Monmouth NJ Organized and chaired by member Bob Lutz, who always does a great job. Phil Notestine lead in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Ken Mahan lead in a prayer of thanks and for members absent. Bob went through various personnel matters, including the passing of Smokie Owen. He had spoken with Joyce Owen who advised him of the Memorial Service to be held 1500 hours, 30 January at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Cranford, followed by a reception off-site. All Welcome, esp. *Class of '41*. He also spoke of Bill Maloney, who was recently hospitalized in Morristown Memorial, and in rehab at this writing.

COL Dougherty had visited Bill; he was chowing down and getting stronger. Dennis Dougherty, President of the 117th Cavalry Association spoke about the upcoming February 1st combined Association & AUSA meeting (see previous article) and of his call to COL Samsel, who was in great spirits and enjoying his new 117th Cavalry Association ring. Phil Notestine told the group about meeting with Class of '41 member George "Red" King, 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) Medical Section, who served from 1941 until late 1945. George was unable to make the trip for the luncheon, but sent his very best wishes to all, including a well-rendered hand salute, crisply returned by Notestine. See Ken Mahan's Membership page. Bob Lutz told of the connection with Larry Haskett, who joined the 102nd Cav at Ft. Jackson and was an original 117th Cav member, a recon troop man serving with Lutz and finally Smokie Owen, who saw to it that SGT Haskett received the *Bronze Star* for Valor, sometime after the *Battle of Bitche*. A new Association member was introduced, SGT Joe Quigley. Joe has been with the Squadron for 14 years, always a Scout. He was activated for 22 months and stationed in Iraq for 16 months at Camp Anaconda, with C Troop, returning in June 2007. Joe is a DEA Investigator in NYC. Yeah, he came back home to more combat duty! He gave an interesting talk about his experiences in Iraq, and many questions were asked and well answered. Joe was awarded the new *Combat Action Badge* and explained the difference between it and the *Combat Infantry Badge*. He also spoke about the new *Combat Medic Badge*. A great meal and good fellowship was enjoyed by all. In Attendance, in order of sign-in sheet: Bob Lutz, Joe Pocaroba, Jack Coogan (guest), Irv Partelow, Jack Ferguson, Frank Prettyman, Joseph Quigley, Phil Notestine, Dennis Dougherty, Nancy Vassallo, Karen Raffa, Bill Merring, Charlotte Merring, Ken Mahan, Don Tracey and Frank Apgar.

Continuation (3^d & final installment) of the WWII History of the 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) as compiled by Major David Russen, 102nd Cavalry Group and interviews with our own Association member (and past president) 1SG (Ret) William (Wild Bill) Maloney (BS Valor & PH), E Troop (Assault Gun) platoon sergeant who was with the outfit from 1940 until his discharge in late 1945. Here we return to the saga began in the Fall issue of The Spur.

8 September 1944 - Troop A was ordered to outpost the town of PALISEUL while infantrymen assaulted another town about a mile distant. A German force, believing PALISEUL to be lightly held, launched a counter attack from a weeded area to the east. The attack was repulsed with but two casualties incurred by Troop A. The enemy lost five vehicles destroyed and 15 men killed as assault guns and automatic weapons directed almost point blank fire into their ranks when they exposed themselves on the main road. On that same day, a Company F platoon working with Troop C, knocked out two German light tanks and destroyed four other vehicles as they ambushed a main road near BIEVRE. [Ed. Note: Maloney receives the *Bronze Star for Valor* for actions this date. See excerpts at end of article]

On 10 September, the third platoon of Troop B was given the special mission of escorting H.R.P John of Luxembourg back to his Capital City. The Prince and his American escort were accorded a warm welcome by the ruler's subjects. The balance of the Squadron assembled and bivouacked near the Belgium-Luxembourg border to await the return of the B Troop platoon.

The following morning Troop A relieved Troop B and took over the responsibility of protecting V Corps' Forward Headquarters. The other component elements of the Squadron received the mission of securing the left flank of the 4th Division preparing to advance through ST VITH to the forward fringe of the *Siegfried Line*. A series of defended roadblocks opposed the advance, but Troop B deployed to the flanks with its attached assault guns and knocked out each one in turn. Troop A moved into BASTOGNE at 1500 - the same BASTOGNE whose American garrison held out so gallantly against numerically superior German armor and infantry during the Ardennes Breakthrough three months later.

On September 13th, Troop B reconnoitering beyond AUW, became the first 102nd Cavalry Troop to reach the Belgium-German border. The forward Siegfried defenses were located by the Troop the following morning, but as extremely heavy artillery and mortar fire was directed at the Cavalry vehicles, the column drew back. It is interesting to note that this sector of the German defense wall was never breached until the final advances in February 1945.

Troop C relieved Troop A, in BASTOGNE on September 15th, and the latter was attached to the 28th Division http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/28th_Infantry_Division_%28United_States%29 to precede that unit and reconnoiter into Luxembourg. Enemy artillery was extremely active in the Squadron zone the following morning, and for the next two days, as the balance of the unit also displaced south to act as a protective screen west of the German border between the 5th Armored Division on the right (south) and the 28th Infantry Division on the left (north).

Colonel (then Major) George S. Saunders, assumed command of the Squadron on 17 Sept. The Troops established and held roadblocks, out-posted their respective zones and maintained a warning screen between DIEKIRCH and HOSINGEN until the 27th of the month when elements of the 5th Armored Division effected their physical relief. Except for artillery fire which was frequently heavy, enemy activity in the Squadron zone was comparatively slight during the period. German patrols made daily sorties into the HOSINGEN vicinity but in all cases they were discovered and forced to withdraw without penetrating the outpost line. Troop E, alternately attached to the Troops or set up in battery firing position, fired a number of missions at targets of opportunity on either side of the River Our.

27 September - The Troops assembled and all but Troop A moved north to HOLZHEIM, Belgium. From then until the 1st of October, the entire unit was relatively inactive. On that date, the Squadron was given the mission of forming a counter-reconnaissance screen in the vicinity of BULLINGEN, Belgium. Many casualties were inflicted on active German groups trying to penetrate the screening line, and numerous prisoners were taken during the five days.

On the afternoon of 6 October, elements of the 4th Division relieved Troops A, B, and C, and the Squadron moved to the vicinity of HOFEN and KALTERHERBERG, Germany. The new mission was to protect the flanks of V Corps and to gain and maintain contact with the 85th Reconnaissance Squadron on the right and the 24th Reconnaissance Squadron on the left. The two towns were shelled periodically during the entire period the Squadron remained in that sector. Troop E and Company F were especially active as their guns fired daily harassing, interdictory and counter battery missions into forward Siegfried Line defenses. Mortar crews of the Reconnaissance Troops fired hundreds of rounds interdicting patrol areas and avenues of approach, and knocking out observed enemy concentrations of personnel or equipment. Siegfried defenses in the sector were strongly held and patrols discovered at least two machine guns protecting each pillbox. Actual physical contact with enemy units was limited to brief firefights as the Germans seemed reluctant to leave the cover of their concrete emplacements, despite frequent attempts by patrols to activate them.

With the mission of forming a counter reconnaissance screen and maintaining contact with the 85th and 24th Reconnaissance Squadrons on the right and left flanks, Troops A, B and E displaced south one mile to ELSENBORN on October 22nd. Company F joined them the following day while Troop C and Headquarters and Service remained in KALTENHERBERG. Enemy activity continued to be relatively light as the Reconnaissance Troops sent out daily patrols and Troop E assault guns persisted in their former task of firing periodic missions into the pillbox defense network. On October 27th, Headquarters and Service Troop moved to ELSENBORN and the Squadron disposition from then until 9 Nov. stowed all elements except C (still in KALTERHERBERG), in or near that town.

Elements of the 99th Infantry Division [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/99th_Infantry_Division_\(United_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/99th_Infantry_Division_(United_States)) relieved the Squadron on the night of November 9th and the troops assembled to await further march orders. The following morning the Squadron (less rear echelon) moved to the vicinity of the towns of LAMMERSDORF and PAUSTENBACH and physically relieved elements of the 4th Reconnaissance Squadron by 0630 on the 11th. Again the unit formed a defensive line in its zone as it held the gap between the 38th and 28th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons. For 32 days the combat activities and dispositions of the component elements remained substantially unaltered, with Troop E in battery firing position and Company F attached to the 3 Reconnaissance units on the line. Troops A, B and C held the enemy under close observation all during the period and Troop E, the most forward artillery unit in the sector fired approximately 8000 rounds at targets near STRAUTH, SIMMERATH, STECKENBORN, ROLLESBROICH and KESTERNICH. Enemy activity was restricted mainly to artillery and mortar fire as the Squadron zone was shelled almost daily. On several occasions enemy planes strafed the LAMMERSDORF area. On December 3rd, thirty *Luftwaffe* FW 190 and ME 109 fighters attacked the unit's positions but they were driven off by alert machine gunners before any serious damage could be caused. One plane was downed and one definitely crippled by men of the Squadron.

11 December - A day certain men of the Squadron aren't likely to forget. Headquarters Forward Command Post, S-1 and one platoon of Company F received a slight taste of what the enemy had to contend with, as 10-15 USAAF P-47 *Thunderbolt* fighter-bombers peeled off over the Squadron CP and for 20 minutes bombed and strafed LAMMERSDORF. As soon as the markings on the planes were identified as Allied, yellow panels and smoke grenades were displayed. Twelve 500-pound bombs were dropped before the pilots discovered their error and by that time one man of the 78th Division [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/78th_Division_\(United_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/78th_Division_(United_States)) had been killed and fourteen others wounded seriously enough to be evacuated.

At the first light on 13 December, elements of the 78th Infantry Division passed through the Squadron's positions to attack objectives in the vicinity of ROLLESBROICH, SIMMERATH and KESTERNICH.

Resistance at ROLLESBROICH ceased within an hour and a half after the first waves attacked and at 1343 SIMMERATH fell as the enemy offered very little ground resistance. Heavy artillery concentrations impeded the assault to some extent but nevertheless advances were steady.

With friendly troops between the Squadron and the enemy for the first time in over a month, the line Troops maintained their defenses, but ceased active patrolling. Air, artillery and mortar activity increased after the 78th Division attacked, and on the night of the 16th, *Luftwaffe* parachutists were dropped in the general area held by this unit. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Bulge All Troops were alerted for any possible paratrooper infiltrations or a counter attack by nearby infantry units. No action developed in that sector of the line, but not many miles to the south the Germans were beginning their last desperate breakthrough in the Ardennes Forest regions. Daily movements of enemy personnel and equipment were observed and reported by the Squadron but the expected counter-thrust in strength never developed that far north. All line Troops improved their defenses as they continued to hold behind the 78th Division.

The Squadron CP was moved to ROETGEN on 28 December and the balance of the unit (less the rear echelon located in MEMBACH, Belgium) began to take up defensive positions in that general area throughout the day. Not having been assigned a new mission after being relieved by elements of the 78th Division, the Squadron was held as a tactical reserve force in that Division's sector. The portion held by the 102nd Cavalry was very near the front in an area in which an enemy breakthrough was not at all improbable.

The protection of the defensive positions, begun in mid December, was continued and improvements were continually made throughout the period the Squadron remained in the ROETGEN vicinity. In the event of an enemy counter-attack through the 78th Division sector, this unit was to occupy and hold these prepared positions all the way back to EUPEN. Trial runs of delaying tactics and extensive training on the various phases of defensive warfare were conducted until near the end of January when the German threat subsided and the Troops were alerted to move again.

At noon on the 24th of January the Squadron was ordered to assemble at MEMBACH, Belgium, 12 miles from ROTGEN, and two days later the men moved to accomplish relief of the 38th Cavalry Squadron in the vicinity of MUTZENICH, Germany. The new mission called for the establishment of a defensive line within the assigned zone, and maintenance of contact with the 38th Cavalry on the right and the 310th Infantry Regiment on the left. Mortars of the Reconnaissance Troops and Troop E assault guns placed harassing fire in the sector around KONZEN in support of the attack on the town by the 78th Division, and patrols actively operated to and beyond the enemy's forward defense network.

On 31 January, the Squadron was alerted to move to a new area in the vicinity of ROHREN, and upon arrival the following morning, the Troops out-posted the village. In addition to assuming the defense of this area, the Squadron was to secure a nearby partially blown bridge across the ROER RIVER and prevent the enemy from causing further damage to it. Troop C secured the bridge while the other two Reconnaissance Troops, with attached elements of Company F, formed the defensive line. Troop E went into battery firing position, preparing to support the Squadron by fire. From that date to 4 February, when the Squadron was displaced to RURBERG, the men thoroughly reconnoitered the heavily mined ROHREN, HAMMER sector and made improvements in their defensive positions along the river.

The 311th Infantry Regiment had recently taken RURBERG, and as soon as the Squadron moved in to relieve them it became obvious that intense enemy activity could be expected. Hills rose to heights of over 400 feet on both side of the ROER and the enemy on the east bank had strongly defended pillbox positions along and below the military crest, as well as well as concealed artillery batteries zeroed in on previously strategic sections of RURBERG. Any movement, mounted or dismounted, brought forth small arms fire of all types, and a systematic bombardment of the remaining house in the town seemed to be the mission given the opposing artillery batteries.

The 38th Cavalry Squadron and the 7th Armored Division http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._7th_Armored_Division occupied sectors to the right and left of the Squadron, and for thirty days these three units absorbed extremely heavy enemy fire in their west bank positions. RURBERG itself was all but completely demolished and a number of casualties were inflicted. The assault guns of Troop E, firing from several different battery positions, knocked out or neutralized a number of machine gun nests, causing innumerable casualties to the enemy force across the stream. A number of quite extensive mine fields were discovered and marked during the period. The Reconnaissance Troops alternated in the forward river positions as the strategy called for two Troops up and one in reserve at all times.

With orders to secure a particular section of the high ground on the east bank of the river, the Squadron was alerted to move on March 1st.

A temporary footbridge was constructed by Squadron personnel and the long awaited drive to the RHINE started the next day. Companies D, E and F of the 2nd Ranger Battalion were attached to the Reconnaissance Troops. After the first mission was successfully accomplished and with this added strength the unit proceeded through heavily mined enemy territory toward Germany's last natural defense barrier. [Ed. Note: According to himself, Maloney and the cavalymen had great respect for the highly aggressive Rangers!]

The route of march took the Troops through HERRGARTEN, KOMMERN, WEINGARTEN, SCHEUREN, DERNAU and finally AHRWIELLER, as they protected the north flank of V Corps. Many prisoners of all ranks were taken during the period as the enemy's chief resistance was in the form of impotent delaying actions and harassing mortar fire. On 12 March, a small B Troop patrol captured the Major General commanding the 5th German Paratroop Division. The General's unit had already withdrawn toward the RHINE, but in order to clear up a final few matters, he, and two orderlies, remained behind. Their preparations to rejoin their Division miscarried by a matter of minutes when three members of the patrol discovered the house in which they were hiding.

On March 13th, the Squadron reached AHRWEILER and went into Corps Reserve. While awaiting a new combat mission, a program of personal rehabilitation and maintenance of vehicles and weapons was put into effect.

After almost two weeks of relative rest, during which the First Army spearheads a few miles to the east had forced the first crossing of the RHINE RIVER, the Squadron was alerted to move out again on March 26th. The mission was to relieve elements of the 9th Armored Division at VALLANDER and the initial crossing of the RHINE by the main body of the Squadron was made in the accomplishment of the task. For the first time in several weeks the Troops received artillery and mortar and small arms fire as they moved south along the east bank of the river. 20 and 40mm anti-aircraft guns fired direct fire on the assembly area as the men bivouacked for the night.

The Squadron was attached to the 69th Division for one day and each Reconnaissance Troop had attached one platoon of Company F tanks, one platoon of Troop E assault guns and one Company of *Rangers*. At the first light on the 28th, the Squadron was ordered to effect the relief of the 9th Armored Division at DIEZ. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9th_Armored_Division_\(United_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9th_Armored_Division_(United_States)) Troop A made contact with the Third Army near COBLENZ to close the sole remaining escape gap for the thousands of Germans still operating in the SAAR Basin west of the RHINE.

For the next two weeks the unit moved generally eastward with missions of establishing and maintaining road blocks, patrolling aggressively to the front and flanks, providing V Corps security and cleaning up enemy pockets of resistance within the Corps sphere of action. The route of march took the Troops through LIMBERG, WETZLAR, GIESSEN, FRITZLAR (1 April), WOLFHAGEN (2-9 April), KASSEL, HANN, MUNDAN (9-11 April), HEILIGENSTADT (11-12 April), WEISSENSEE (12-15 April) and finally NAUMBERG (15-30 April). Enemy activity, for the most part, consisted of weak delaying actions, and small disorganized forces attempting to filter through American lines to return to their units further east. Enemy morale was growing steadily lower, and in most cases Germans cut off from their main bodies were willing, if not anxious, to surrender.

The Squadron Executive Officer, Major Fred F. Walsh and two others were wounded on the 13th of April as a strong German force in the town of WEISSENFEL ambushed six members of the Squadron. Major James G. Depew took over as second in command of the unit from that date on.

38th Cavalry Troop B was detached from the Squadron for three days from the 18th to the 20th of April, and acting as protection for the north of the 2nd Division in the vicinity of LEIPZIG, the Troop took 190 prisoners in less than 72 hours. One week later, Troop B again received a special mission, as three of it's armored cars and three of it's 1/4 ton vehicles escorted the Commanding Generals of V Corps and the 69th Division as they went to TORGAU to meet high ranking Russian Officers in the official link up of the two Allied Armies.

On 29 April, Troop B left NAUMBERG and preceded the balance of the unit to GRAFENWOHR, Bavaria. Until the entire Squadron displaced east to PILSEN, Czechoslovakia on the 7th and 8th of May, the mission was to provide V Corps security and mop up scattered pockets of resistance in and around GRAFENWOHR.

The European War officially ended at one minute past midnight on the 9th of May and the final Unconditional Surrender of the German Armies found the 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) in one of the eastern-most sectors of the American advance - PILSEN. During the entire 11 months from D Day to VE Day the unit had missions at, or very near, the front line of the American advance. As a mobile fighting force we have fired our last shots in the struggle to defeat a powerful Nazi Germany.

What lies ahead for the Squadron in general, or the men who made up the unit cannot be guessed. Many of the men who landed with the Squadron on Omaha Beach will never leave Europe, still others will soon be going home for good, and some will fight again on foreign soil before many months have elapsed.

The Officers and men of the 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) have finished one job and done it well. Their records attest to the magnificent manner in which they accomplished every mission, and whatever may be in store for the unit in the future, the memory of it's past deeds through France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany can never be erased.

The 102nd Cavalry Association is indebted to Major David M. Russen, S2 102nd Cavalry Group, for this summary of the outstanding performance of 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) in combat during WW II from June 6, 1944 (D Day) through May 8, 1945 (VE Day).



Post war: The 102nd Cavalry Group and the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) receive high honors from the Government of France, the Croix du Guerre



The Bronze Star (Valor) was awarded to (then) SGT William B. Maloney for Gallantry in Action on 8 September 1944.



Excerpts of the Citation: *An enemy road block, deep ditches and the fire of enemy automatic weapons, bazookas and anti tank guns had trapped elements of Troop C 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) on the road. Upon observing this, Sgt. Maloney commanding a section of assault guns attached to the troop, directed the fire of his section on the enemy. To better direct the fire of his section, Sergeant Maloney, under intense enemy fire, stood outside the turret of his assault gun and designated the target, by firing tracers from his .50 caliber machine gun into the enemy position, for over 30 minutes. Sgt. Maloney was completely exposed to enemy fire, thus directed the fire of his assault gun section while the trapped troops withdrew. For this he received the Bronze Star ... "the initiative and personal bravery and fearlessness displayed by him reflects great credit on him and the military service".*



Maloney also received **The Purple Heart**. He took shrapnel in a wrist while commanding his Assault Gun in the open turret. *"Pluck" it, stop the bleeding, clean it, wrap it, keep going!* He doesn't remember the event date.



He does remember many of the great guys with whom he served! Here are two pictures, taken 11 March 1945:

Johnson, Oetjen and Tucker (AG driver)



SSG Maloney (himself!), LT Ray Wilbert, SGT Jack Fogerty



Notice that AG crew carried the .45 cal. M1A1 Thompson submachine gun and M1911 pistol. Some preferred the .30 cal. M1 Garand rifle for it's accuracy, power and reach!



At the end of it, in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia SSG Maloney and his buddy HQ Trooper TSG Ed Murphy still had a bit too much fight left and really let it off! Enough so that they went back home with bare sleeves in August 1945. *Up the Irish!*



Back home to his wife Janet Fleck Maloney (now deceased). Remember that the young corporal Maloney and 3 of his fellow troopers, including Ed Murphy were "cornered" at Ft. Jackson by their NJ girlfriends and married in 1942? Home, Sweet Home! Now, to get going at breadwinning and raising families.

Maloney and Murphy both were to rejoin some of their *Class of '41* mates, now all combat veterans of the 38th, 102nd and the 117th in forming up a new NJARNG outfit under COL Harold J. Samsel, the 50th Recon Battalion, which evolved through time to become the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry. Maloney and Murphy became "full timers". Many kept continuing comradeship in the *Essex Troop* and 117th Cavalry Associations. 1SG William B. Maloney served in the NJ Army National Guard for 39 years. During that time, he was a mentor for many and performed his job well. He was to earn recognition and honors from Squadron Commanders and friendship, respect and admiration from his peers and subordinates.



[Ed note: The following was written by his son Bruce] More importantly, he added a spark of humor to the workplace and made many friends. In these later years, he has been active in the 117th Cavalry Association including serving as president. If a comrade were ill or confined, Bill would regularly visit. A visit from "Wild Bill" is sure to cheer anyone! Some years ago, he organized and spoke at a funeral for one of these comrades at the request of the comrade's wife. She requested that there be no prayers, but Bill felt inclined to say the *Our Father*. The straight and narrow course is sure to bend in Bill's hands. I think he is proud of the fact that each



of his sons...Barry, Bruce, Tim and Kevin...all served in the NJARNG. His grandson Brian also followed the tradition, and recently reenlisted. His oldest son Barry made a career of it and is a Lt. Colonel. Doesn't matter that he outranks Bill, because Bill never let rank interfere with what he had to say! His companion **Jan Planer** is pictured with Bill. 1SG (Ret) William B. Maloney will be 88 on 28 January 12, 2008!

Membership Update – SMG (ret) Ken Mahan



Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not Sept. 08 or later, you are **behind** in your dues. Your subscription to THE SPUR is going to run out because of non-payment of dues. A sample of label:

SEPT 08

**KENNETH L. MAHAN
12 W. WALNUT ST.
METUCHEN NJ 08840-2616**

To Members behind in their dues, you will have date circled in RED! This is the only notice you will receive. Send information and/or dues to me at the Metuchen address shown above. Annual dues are due in September; regular dues are \$15 annually. Make checks payable to **117th CAV Assn.** **Note:** If you have an e-mail address, please send it to me at KMAHAN117@AOL.COM . We are in the process of compiling an e-mail list of members and we want to include you. **Association web site:** www.117th-cav.org/

New Members

SGT Nathaniel Simmons Jr. (Jackie)

Norman Stickle (Susan)

He came back from Iraq in June.

Was in B Troop

Change of Address

Elisha L. McKinley (Mac)

William B. Maloney Sr.

George "Red" King

We are looking for Andre O. Meyer and Walter R. Settle We have lost contact with them. **Anybody that knows a new address let us know.**

I stand corrected: We have a total of 4 Brigadier Generals that come out of the Squadron. The First Brigadier General was BG Charles J. Hodge. He was the First Squadron Commander. Along with BG Kenneth F. Wondrack and BG Stephen J. Hines. All where Squadron Commanders. BG Stephen Solomon was A Troop Commander, S-2 and in D-Air.

Belt Buckles of the Last Ride I have 17 Belt Buckles that are spoken for. I can take 8 more orders for a total of 25, price will be about \$35 Each. **Don't send Money just your name and quantity.** To Kenneth Mahan, 12 W. Walnut St. Metuchen, NJ 08840 or e-mail kmahan117@aol.com. **Dues and Booster** Some people don't know the difference? **Dues** are for all Members, Active and Associate **Booster's** are for use to cover cost for Widow's and other Association's that get THE SPUR. *Not to cover your dues.*

Who are these two 102nd Cavalry troopers?

Where are they? When were they there?

Send your answers to Phil Notestine!

See address on mailer (last page)



TAPS

JOHN W. 'JACK' DEACON — MENDHAM, NJ PASSED AWAY 27 DECEMBER, 2007 SERVED IN THE DOVER NJ ARMORY - 5TH TANK BATTALION, 50TH ARMORED DIVISION (JERSEY BLUES) AS A MEDIC FROM 1955 TO 1965. THIS UNIT WAS LATER THE 5TH TANK, 102ND ARMORED GROUP, AND EVENTUALLY THE 5/117TH CAVALRY. HE WORKED AT THE PICATINNY ARSENAL FOR 38 YEARS, AND WAS A SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT IN SMALL ARMS DEVELOPMENT. DEACON WAS A FOUNDER AND 48 YEAR MEMBER OF THE MINE HILL FIRST AID SQUAD; HELPED ORGANIZE THE PICATINNY AMBULANCE SQUAD AND HELPED MAN THE FIRE DEPT. HE WAS AN ADVISOR TO MANY START-UP RESCUE SQUADS IN NJ. HE IS SURVIVED BY EDNA TROAST DEACON, HIS WIFE OF 51 YEARS, TWO DAUGHTERS, A SISTER AND A BROTHER.

[HTTP://WWW.DAILYRECORD.COM/APPS/PBCS.DLL/ARTICLE?AID=/20071230/ANNOUNCE05/712300336/1143](http://www.dailyrecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?aid=/20071230/ANNOUNCE05/712300336/1143)



HAROLD DAVID "SMOKIE" OWEN — CRANFORD NJ ON TO FIDDLER'S GREEN 3 JANUARY, 2008. SMOKIE WAS A CLASS OF '41 MEMBER AND AN ORIGINAL 117TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (MECZ) TROOPER. HE WAS A RECON NCO AND RECEIVED A BATTLEFIELD COMMISSION AFTER THE BATTLE OF THE BITCHE SALIENT, VOSGES MOUNTAINS, DURING THE "NORDWIND" GERMAN OFFENSIVE. LIEUTENANT OWEN WAS DECORATED WITH 3 BRONZE STARS, 2 INVASION ARROWHEADS AND A PURPLE HEART. PROUD ESSEX TROOPER OWEN WAS A *DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE REGIMENT*, 117TH CAVALRY ASSOCIATION. HE WAS FEATURED IN *THE SPUR SPECIAL EDITION FEBRUARY 2007* WHICH CHRONICLED THE EVOLUTION, JOURNEYS AND ACTIONS OF THE 117TH, "BORN" OF THE 102ND CAVALRY, FROM JANUARY 1941 UNTIL THE FINAL VICTORY IN EUROPE AND RETURN TO THE USA IN LATE 1945.

[HTTP://OBITS.NJ.COM/STARLEDGER/DEATHNOTICES.ASP?PAGE=LIFESTORY&PERSONID=100884531](http://obits.nj.com/starledger/deathnotices.asp?page=lifestory&personid=100884531)



HE STUDIED ART AND WAS A TALENTED ARTIST. HE AND HIS WIFE OWNED AND OPERATED A SUCCESSFUL SIGN PAINTING BUSINESS, OWEN SIGNS FOR 50 YEARS BEFORE RETIRING. OWEN IS SURVIVED BY HIS MUCH BELOVED WIFE JOYCE MILLS OWEN. THEY MET AND MARRIED SOON AFTER HIS RETURN HOME FROM EUROPE. JOYCE AND SMOKIE HAVE 2 CHILDREN - DR. DAVID OWEN AND HIS WIFE MARTY; DR. HEIDI OWEN AHLBORN AND HER HUSBAND DR. THOMAS A. AHLBORN. THERE ARE 6 CHERISHED GRANDCHILDREN.



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 WI-24 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
 FA-09 ROSE MARIE BENNERT (in memory of) BILL BENNERT
 FA-08 DORIS & JIM BRODERICK
 SP-08 DONALD F. CARLSON, (in memory of) MSG GARY D. HADDICAN
 WI-08 SANTI L. CARNEVALI
 WI-08 DOROTHY L. CASPAR (in memory of) MY HUSBAND, RICHARD J. CASPAR
 WI-08 HARRY J. CHRISTOPHER, JR (in memory of) BY SHIRLEY M. CHRISTOPHER (WIFE OF 58 YRS)
 SP-08 STEVE S. CUP Scout, A Troop 102ND CAV (WWII)
 WI-09 1SG (Ret) DON CHAMBERLAIN in mem. of 1SG PHIL CURRAN
 WI-09 CLEMENT & JEAN CURRY
 WI-10 MARIE DARBY in memory of husband CPT JOHN DARBY
 SP-11 DENNIS DOUGHERTY, COL (ret)
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 WI-08 LTC (ret) ALAN R. FISHER
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 SP-12 WILLIAM FISHER, JR
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 WI-08 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
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 WI-07 JOHN W. HOLTER (IN MEMORIAM)
 WI-07 JOHN S. HUFF (in memory of) C Troop 117th Cav. 1943-44
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 WI-13 JEAN & SGM (ret) KEN MAHAN
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 FA-09 (in memory of) TIM MALONEY
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 WI-09 OSCAR MERBER
 WI-08 CHARLOTTE MERRING

FA-08 JOSEPH MINNITI
 WI-09 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET
 FA-10 JUANITA MITCHELL (W OF FRANK)
 SP-08 JAMES A. MOUSHEGIAN (IN HONOR OF MY FATHER)
 SP-09 RONNIE NIER
 WI-12 PHILIP NOTESTINE (in memory of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON, TROOPS C& E, 102 CAV '39 -'42, 602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
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 SP-12 JOYCE & HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN
 FA-08 FOTINOS PANAGAKOS
 WI-09 FRANK & BETTY PATRICK
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 WI-08 DOT & KEN QUAAS, LTC (ret)
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 SP-09 PAUL RIOS
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 WI-14 FRED RODMAN (in memory of brother) WALTER L. RODMAN, F Co. 102nd Cav. WWII)
 SU-11 HAROLD J. SAMSEL, COL (ret)
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 WI-08 EILEEN SCHNARR (in memory of) HUSBAND, "WILLY")
 WI -08 ROBERT J. SMITH
 WI-09 MSG (Ret) ROCCO SPANO
 WI-09 ELMER K. SQUIER TRP B 117th CAV
 SP-12 JOHN SUITER
 WI-07 1SG GEORGE THOMAS
 WI-10 DON & CHICKIE TRACY, CWO 4 (ret)
 FA-11 CHARLES A. VIVIANO (50th RECON BN)
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 SU-08 FRANK WISWALL, LTC USAF (ret) B TRP 102 CAV JAN '41-JUL '42
 SP-10 MRS. EDWARD J. WITOS, JR (in loving memory of) MY HUSBAND, ED SR
 FA-19 FRANK A. WOODS SSG TRP A 3RD PLATOON
 WI-07 JOHN I. ZARING C TRP 117th CAV (in memory of)

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1st New Jersey Cavalry



MISSION STATEMENT: It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the spirit of the 117th Cavalry Association, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country. **NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS:** (always Friday) 1 FEBRUARY 2008; 4 APRIL 2008; 6 JUNE 2008; 5 SEPTEMBER 2008; 7 NOVEMBER 2008