



117th Cavalry Association

www.117th-cav.org

102nd CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102nd CAVALRY

Volume 31, Number 2

127th Issue (post WWII)

Spring 2010



President's Message Spring 2010 Get ready for the 2010 Biennial Reunion! Our reunion committee has already devoted many hours getting ready for what we believe will be a tremendous upcoming reunion. The 2010 Biennial Reunion promises to be a great event! Our reunion committee has outdone itself with a program that will please all. I'm sure all who attend will have their own story and their own memories to share with their friends and fellow troopers. Saturday night the 23rd of October the Reunion will commence at Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth. Over seventy years of history will be present in one place. What a great way to study the history of an outstanding organization. Our membership includes members of the Greatest Generation who answered our nation's call to service with the 102nd Cavalry "the Essex Troop", the "Class of 41", those among us who were mobilized for service in WWII with the 102nd, 38th and 117th Cavalry. It grew with troopers who joined when the New Jersey National Guard was reformed in the years right after WWII. Korean War Veterans joined our ranks in the early 1950's. Many of our members answered the call to service during the Cold War. It included troopers who

joined the 50th Cavalry Recon or the units following to the 5-117th Cavalry and now the 1-102nd Cavalry. They came to serve their state and nation and served with honor when called to serve their state in times of crisis. Our membership was diverse and represented all facets of our society. We gained experience into our ranks as returning veterans from all branches of service returned home from service overseas in places like Vietnam, Korea, Germany and the Middle East. Their service forged in war and defending freedom throughout the world helped us grow and bring a level of experience that is found in few organizations.

Today our members continue to serve. A new century has brought the challenge of the *Global War on Terror*. It has also brought together the collective heritage of two great organizations; the 102nd Armor and the 117th Cavalry reborn in the current 1-102nd Cavalry. Members of the *117th Cavalry Association* and the units who comprise its collective heritage continue to serve in defense of our communities, state and nation. I hope to see you all at Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth on the 23rd of October so we as an organization can come together to honor those who have served and those who continue to serve.

We all have friends who have served in Armor and Cavalry units whose lineage flow through the Westfield Armory, West Orange, Dover, Hackettstown and other Armories and are not members of our *117th Cavalry Association*. I encourage everyone to call one of these people and invite them to come to our next meeting on Friday April 2nd. Make it a busy night for Ken Mahan our membership chairman! Also, let them know you are planning to attend our 2010 Biennial Reunion on October 23rd and you would like to share a table and lots of memories with them.

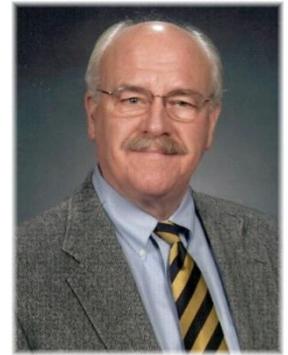
I would be remiss if I didn't offer a special thanks to all our members who have made contributions to help defray the cost of the publication of "The SPUR." Please continue to show your support in your sponsorship of our *117th Cavalry Association* newsletter "The SPUR." Many of you have made and continue to make donations to help pay the cost of publication and its mailing. Thanks to all of you for your generosity in support of our associations many initiatives in support of our membership and the 1-102nd Cavalry.

Show 'em the Way!

Dennis



From the Editor Phil Notestine We are pleased to have an article by the 1-102nd CAV executive officer MAJ Bill Morris. As you will read, MAJ Morris' article is very helpful in helping us to understand more about the "new" squadron vis-à-vis the last 70 years of our NJ Cavalry. We plan to have many more articles about our active squadron and troopers.



We have been approached by Phil Hendren of Denver, Colorado who is developing a documentary about specific WWII battles including *Operation Dragoon*, the invasion of southern France. Called "*Our Time of War*" <http://ourtimeofwar.com/> He will be conducting video interviews with several of our WWII 117th Cavalry veterans in April, here in New Jersey.

Did you know that many of our NJ WWII veterans have done oral interviews with the Rutgers University Oral History project? Go here: <http://oralhistory.rutgers.edu/> Our NJ Militia Museum <http://www.state.nj.us/military/museum/index.html> has also been doing interviews of NJ veterans. You can learn a lot, and your appreciation for their service and sacrifices will certainly grow. Share these with family and friends. Have you visited the NJ Militia Museum sites at Sea Girt and Lawrenceville? If not, you should! Bring family and friends.

I welcome emails, phone calls and letters from our readers! Some are involved with searches for information on relatives who served in one of the 3 wartime squadrons; some have stories to tell, some offer corrections of past articles. We are always grateful for pictures and memorabilia for the Heritage Room, cared for by SGM (Ret.) Ken Mahan.

Quarterly meeting of the Association 5 February 2010 at the Westfield Armory Presided over by COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty. The meeting was opened with *The Pledge of Allegiance* and a moment of silence for all those fallen and the recently deceased. Several visitors were introduced. Ed and Beth Matthews from Rye, NY - Ed Matthews is the son of WWII 102nd CAV veteran Ed Matthews, in E Troop in Fort Jackson and a T-4 radio operator in B Troop, fighting from the Normandy beaches through Belgium and Germany into Czechoslovakia. He is doing research on his father's service for the family. Also Nancy LaCorte, Amy Lovato, Danielle Bracco of FRG who spoke of support activities for drilling units. Annie Yerservics of the NJ American Legion, who served in the USAF as a Flight Nurse encouraged joining the American Legion and of women's programs within the Legion. SGM (Ret.) Ken Mahan reported that we have 195 members and will be "recruiting" by approaching 1-102nd CAV troopers during drills. CW4 (Ret.) Don Tracy, Treasurer, gave a financial report, which shows erosion. Dues and Boosters are not offsetting expenses. The key is to have a growing membership. COL Dougherty spoke of the planned Bi-Annual Reunion to be held on 23 October 2010 at Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth NJ. CPT McNamara spoke about troopers using *Facebook* and placing a link to the 117th Cavalry Association web site www.117th-cav.org within the communal *Facebook* site. June 2010 is the 120th Anniversary of *Essex Troop*. In attendance: Nancy LaCorte, Amy Lovato, Danielle Bracco, Annie Yerservics, Dave Ellis, Robert Apgar, Michael Hrycak, Clement Curry Sr., Walt Lawrence, Jim Pressman, Ken Mahan, Arnold Lasner, Don Tracy, Bill Gruss, Dennis Dougherty, Ed Matthews, Beth Matthews, Frank Wiswall, David Mormack and Phil Notestine.

The 3 March 3, 2010 Class of '41 Luncheon was cancelled due to weather. The next is 5 May 2010.



The French Legion of Honor was conferred upon COL (Ret.) Harold J. Samsel on Veteran's Day, 11 November 2009 along with 19 other WWII veterans during a ceremony in Boynton Beach, Florida. A number of dignitaries witnessed as French Consul General Gael de Maisonneuve of the Miami Consulate spoke of each new *Chevalier* and their exploits while serving on French soil, adding "The French will never forget what you did" and more. He spoke for the President of the Republic of France Nicholas Paul Stephane Sarkozy and the People of France.

Chevalier COL (Ret.) Harold J. Samsel, (pictured here as a 1LT of E Troop, 102nd Cavalry Regiment in June, 1942) left England for Algeria with the 2nd Squadron 102nd Cavalry as CPT, S-3. In November 1942 the 2nd Squadron was made a separate unit, the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). Samsel was promoted to Major in January 1943. Operating as Combat Security for Allied HQ, many superior operations in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia prepared the squadron for combat in Italy, May through July 1944. Bloodied but successful, the squadron was then pulled off line to prepare for *Operation Dragoon*, the invasion of Southern France, 15 August 1944. (More on next page)



As the VI Corps recon squadron, the 117th Cavalry became the core of *Task Force Butler*, a highly successful group that took hundreds of miles of the Rhone Valley. Samsel became the squadron executive officer in October 1944. While fighting in the Vosges Mountains, on 1 January 1945 MAJ Samsel was appointed Squadron Commander. This took place during the German counterattack known as *Operation Nordwind*, a continuation of the *Ardennes Offensive*. He was brevetted to Lieutenant Colonel on 16 April 1945, the last wartime commander of the valiant, peerless 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz).

Greetings from the desk of the Squadron XO! I've got the opportunity to write a few words this month as LTC Chrystal is attending the Armor Pre-Command Course at Fort Knox and as I write this, he is visiting the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA as part of that course. I hope this issue of *The SPUR* finds you well and trust you're all as ready as I am for spring to arrive.

This month the squadron continues preparation for a logistics inspection from National Guard Bureau scheduled for sometime in May. The work we're doing is focused a great deal on equipment readiness. We're fielding a significant amount of new equipment as well from new radios, to the latest trucks to brand new



M107 50 cal. and M110 7.62mm semi-automatic Sniper Rifles.

These are physical evidence of the transformation of our Cavalry back to light reconnaissance, outward signs of an inner evolution in our mindsets, techniques and approaches to our missions.



While we revolve back to roots we have the benefit of modern tools like Blue Force Tracker (BFT) which shows BFT equipped friendly elements tracked by satellite, new intelligence analysis equipment and a digital operations center. In our reconnaissance role or in other contingency operations, these tools give leaders a discernible edge in keeping aware of the current and emerging situation. As one studies the history of cavalry through the ages many challenges are unchanged. One of those challenges is how to stay informed of what's actually going on, where friendlies and enemies are and how these relate to the terrain and the mission. The tools that transformation delivers don't eliminate that difficulty, but they go a long way to giving our Cavalrymen a unique edge.

We've had some questions this month about how new recon organizations move once in theater, their dependence on outside transportation and their ability to defeat both enemy armor and air assets. The squadron is capable, but in different ways as when it was a heavy, M1A1, M3A3 based organization. Both A and B troops are Motorized Reconnaissance Troops with their own HMMWVs. C troop is a Dismounted Recon Troop with no organic wheeled assets. It's heavily dependent on aviation utility helicopters for movement. Interestingly enough, it does possess inflatable boats for missions that require water insertion.

Army aviation provides different types of support for the squadron. Both A and B troops will use that aviation for movement when their missions call for air assault. C troop is almost exclusively reliant on the air lift they provide and also moves within the squadron area of operations on foot like the infantry battalions that we're performing recon for. As well, A and B troop may also provide transport for C troopers in some scenarios. All in all, the answer is we move by organic wheeled vehicles, external lift and on foot. It's similar with regard to anti-armor.

Armor defeating capability is also found both within the squadron and outside of it. Internally, all troops have the man-portable anti-tank guided missile called the Javelin with 3 per platoon. A & B troops have the latest version of the TOW missile, with two for each of their three platoons. An important tenant to understand in this migration to a lighter force is that army organizations have effectively interdicted tanks and tank-like targets with external rotary wing assets like the AH-64. The squadron multiplies its own power with air support. Somewhat related, we also use our organic fire support personnel to call for fires (tube and rocket artillery) from both inside and outside the brigade.

We don't have any organic air defeating capability, outside of the M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun (and perhaps its Javelins—if you count the trooper I saw shoot down an OH-58D with one at the National Training Center—but that's another story). The techniques, tactics and procedures for our squadron are still being developed. Here and now we're deep into transformation and while we ponder our next mission we also prepare. This year that means equipping and training a foundation that will permit more and more challenging Cavalry training for the men and women of the 1-102nd Cavalry.

From a support perspective this year is about restoring that baseline of job and leader qualification for our personnel and about new fieldings, reestablishing supply procedures and operational readiness for our equipment. We're glad to have you striding along with us as we shift the load from Iraq to missions in the future. (More on next page)

"Show 'Em The Way!"

MAJ Bill Morris
Squadron Executive Officer



Major Morris on a visit to B & D Troops in Ashraf, Iraq >

< UH-60 Blackhawk



CONTINUED - The WWII History of the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mech) of the 102nd Cavalry Group; from "A Short History of the 38th ...written by Major Charles Rousek, XO of the 38th Cavalry eff. August 1944"

HEADQUARTERS, V CORP AP0305

13 March 1945

Under the provisions of Section IV, War Department Circular No. 333, 22 December 1943, and Section VII, Circular No.2, Headquarters, First United States Army, 4 January 1945, citation of the following units, as approved by the Commanding General, First United States Army, is announced. The citation reads as follows:

38th CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (MECHANIZED)
3rd PLATOON, COMPANY "A" 112th ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
COMPANY "A", 146th ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION.

The 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized) with attached units consisting of the 3rd Platoon Company "A", 112th Engineer Combat Battalion, and Company "A" 146th Engineer Combat Battalion are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy during the period 16 - 18 December 1944, in Germany. During the major counter-offensive staged by the German Sixth Panzer army, the Squadron and attached units displayed extraordinary heroism and outstanding combat proficiency in repelling for three successive days the desperate attempts by the 326th Volks Grenadier Division to open the Monschau sector for exploitation by the 2nd Panzer Division. Defending a front of 9,000 yards and standing alone before the full scale German attack and vital road nets leading to Eupen and Liege. This thinly spread force held its ground in the face of five attacks, ranging in strength from a reinforced battalion to the combined elements of two infantry regiments. Three of these assaults were supported by direct self-propelled artillery and rocket fire which preceded the attacking infantry. The battalion of German paratroopers which had been dropped behind the lines on the first night of the engagement seriously harassed front line elements as well as the forces rear areas. Despite the fact that the numerically superior enemy made several penetrations, in battalion strength, isolated outposts and platoons held their lines with grim determination. Although artillery observation posts were overrun, the personnel fought with small arms to maintain their positions and adjusted devastating fire upon waves of German infantry. All enemy infiltrations were thwarted by determined fighting and close hand to hand combat. When the battle was most intense, every available man, including personnel of rear echelon maintenance and supply sections, and soldiers being treated in the Squadron infirmary, were employed to drive back the invading forces. The gallantry and combined skill of this force resulted in 200 enemy killed, thirty-one prisoners taken and countless casualties inflicted upon the enemy ranks. The strength, courage and determination exhibited by the Personnel of the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), 3rd Platoon, Company "A", 112th Engineer Combat Battalion, and Company "A" 146th Engineer Combat Battalion in denying the Germans access to the vital road net contributed largely to the ultimate defeat of the German offensive in the Ardennes.

By command of Major General Huebner:
Official:

Edward W. Skelly
Lt. Colonel, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General

S. B. Mason
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff

VI. THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED

On 26 January, the Squadron was relieved in its area by the 102nd Squadron and took up the defense of Monschau again. These moves were made as the 102nd Cavalry Group concentrated to aid in the offensive to pierce the Siegfried Line and seize the Roer Dam. The German threat to blow these dams had been holding up the First and Ninth Armies on the west bank of the Roer for weeks.

On the night of **29-30 January**, the 78th Division on the left of the Group launched a masterful attack which took Imgenbroich to our front while the 9th Division seized Rohren on the right. As these two divisions drove eastward through the Siegfried defenses, the Squadron stabilized their attack by relieving assault infantry in the towns of Rohren, Hammer and Deddenborn.

In the last instance, the infantry had not taken the town, so "A" Troop completed it's mopping up, taking several prisoners. The 9th Division then swept on to the Urft River, Pinching out the Squadron which went into reserve in Eichersheid.

It was necessary for Corps to hold up its attack for three weeks while the water drained from the Roer Lakes after the Germans blew the main dam. The time was well spent by the 38th Company "F" trained in the driving, maintenance and gunnery of its new M24 tanks and the reconnaissance troops trained in the use of their M5A1 tanks of which nine had been substituted for armored cars. Platoon exercises were held in mounted tactics and extensive gunnery practice was held for all weapons. The result was that the Squadron was trained and keyed to fine edge when it came time to fight again. When training exercises were conducted in conjunction with the 2nd Ranger Battalion, the team supported by the 62nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, was completely formed and readied.

On 2nd March, the Squadron moved dismounted into the wooded and precipitous Kermeter Peninsula to find the Germans had pulled to the base of the peninsula. On the 3rd, the Rangers drove these defenders back as Corps Engineers built a bridge at Ruhrberg and cleared the road through the Peninsula of mines and fallen tree roadblocks. That night, the vehicles were brought up over the Engineer Bridge and the Squadron was ready to join the great offensive which finally broke the German Armies west of the Rhine. By this time, the Roer had been successfully crossed to the north and the 2nd Division and other troops to the south were about to jump off in the final attack on the defenders of the Siegfried Line. On the 4th, the long awaited word to take off in the pursuit attack was received. "B" Troop, with Company "C" of the Rangers attached, marched into Herrgarten by way of Heimbach and Vlatten, and ran into determined delaying action on the hill east of town. While "C" Troop came up fast to protect "B's" right and "A" Troop protected their left along the ridge northeast of Herrgarten, "B" Troop and "C" Company Rangers executed a brilliant marching fire attack on the enemy delaying force. The attack was ably supported by armored cars, artillery and mortars and was completely successful in destroying the enemy force in not more than two hours after the first contact was made.

On the 5th, "A" Troop with "A" Company of the Rangers attached moved out to protect the 78th Division's right flank and advanced 10 miles to Antweiler, which it reached at midnight. This tremendous advance revealed the rapid disintegration of the German defenses. "B" Troop moved through the 78th sector to enter its objective of Schwerten from the east or rear and then moved south under artillery fire to Gehn where they surprised 100 enemy laying mines on the roads to the south and east. This activity was broken up with artillery fire from the 62nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion which supported the Squadron, and the enemy retreated to the east.

On the 6th, Troop "A's" 1st Platoon attacked the town of Iversheim while the Squadron CP, "C" Troop and "F" Company continued east to Kreuzweingarten in rear of the 102nd Squadron. The "A" Troop attack was gallantly led by S/Sgt. Naldrett and caused many casualties to the enemy.

The situation on the 7th showed the 78th driving hard toward Dernau with the 2nd Division echelons several miles to the right rear in the endeavor to create a pocket by not pressing too hard. It was the Group's mission to protect the exposed right flank of the 78th Division. On the night of 6-7 March, the Squadron received the mission of protecting the right of the 78th Division by advancing in the Group zone. This meant a pursuit attack while protecting our own right flank.

The orders were given to "C" Troop to force reconnaissance in the Group zone which included Altenahr and Kreuzberg, while "A" Troop would follow the right battalion of the 78th and peel off to enter the Squadron zone to aid the advance of "C" Troop. It was anticipated that the infantry attack would progress much faster than the one troop of cavalry. "B" Troop was to protect "C" Troop's right. All troops jumped off promptly on the 7th to perform what was to be a most brilliant piece of work.

"C" Troop, moving fast and aggressively, took 50 prisoners out of OberKralingen after a sharp fight. Having cleared this town, the 1st platoon led out for Kreuzberg, followed by the 3rd platoon and an attached platoon of "F" Company tanks under S/Sgt. Lindquist, all commanded by 1st Lt. Farmer, the Troop Executive Officer. The task force descended on Kreuzberg with a dash, Lt. Farmer leading. The Lt. captured a large number of prisoners single handedly. He then led his force toward Altenahr only to be almost blown from his armored car when a bazooka shell, fired from the high ground on the right, just missed his car. There followed a fight in which Captain Lewis was killed and several other "C" Troopers were wounded, but in which the enemy was driven from his ledge. The Troop and its attached Company of Rangers then launched an all out attack on the 400 men defending Altenahr. Although the Rangers and "C" Troop lost several killed and wounded, the task force cleared the town destroying four enemy tanks and SP guns by M24 tank fire and mortar fire. It was an aggressive and inspired attack seldom equaled by any troops and earned for LT. Farmer a DSC.

While "C" Troop and the "B" Company Rangers were attacking Altenahr, the other troops were attacking in their sectors. "A" Troop watched its chance to slip into the Squadron zone and did so at Vischel where S/Sgt. Tietjen lead his platoon into the attack to kill 13 and capture 9 of the enemy. Lt. Yontz of "B" Troop surprised a column on the march at Binzenbach, fired on the column and took 52 prisoners, while the remainder of the troop protected "C" Troop's flank. During the day's offensive action the Squadron and Rangers took 400 PWs, killed 60 enemy soldiers, destroyed 25 unarmored vehicles, 2 tanks and 2 SP guns.

Following the capture of Altenahr, the Squadron was pinched out as the 9th Armored Division went on to take the bridge at Remagen. **On 10th March**, the Squadron and Group Headquarters marched to Saverne, France to join the VI Corps, 7th Army in their offensive to the north. However, the Squadron never saw action with the VI Corps and returned happily to V Corps on the 30th March.

VIII. CENTRAL GERMANY

The final march into Germany was an anti-climax, for the Squadron was never allowed to spearhead the Corps effort. The first mission was to set up screen from Fritzlar to Merxhausen near Kassel.

It was difficult to tell which way to face the screen since there were as many Germans in the Ruhr pocket behind as there were in front, which was supposedly east. Many prisoners were picked up trying to escape from the pocket.

From 11 through 19 April, the Squadron protected the flank of the 2nd Division as it drove on Leipzig. "B" Troop had some patrol action outside of Halle, but there was little other action. These were happy days for troopers, with little fighting and plenty of opportunity to see the country. The remainder of the month was spent in searching woods in the rear of the front lines for German soldiers and guerrilla bands.

On 27 April, "B" Troop had the honor of escorting Major General Heubner, Commanding General V Corps, to Torgau where he met the Commanding General of the Russian Corps. Several of the Officers and men attended the festivities.

V-E Day found the Squadron about to be committed with the 1st Division on its advance into Czechoslovakia at Eger. However, just as the order was received to take over a zone of advance, the order came to cease all forward movement. Two days later, the war was officially over. So ended the war record of the "Lucky 38th". A month later, the Squadron suffered a shattering blow, when it was placed in category VI to be demobilized. It was hard to believe that the government did not need a Squadron anymore with the reputation and spirit of the "38th", but there were enough new Squadrons to fight the Pacific War. The Squadron accepted the decision sadly.

For those who served in the 38th, there will never be another outfit quite like it. She was a gallant, happy and lucky Squadron with a personality of her own. Born during the war for the purpose of fighting the Germans in Europe, it fulfilled that purpose brilliantly and then faded into history.

But the Squadron, though demobilized, will never die. She will live forever in the hearts of the brave men who fought with the "Lucky 38th".

Membership Update – SMG (ret) Ken Mahan



Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2010 or later, you are behind in your dues. Your subscription to *The SPUR* is going to run out due to non-payment of dues. A sample of label:

SEPT 10

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

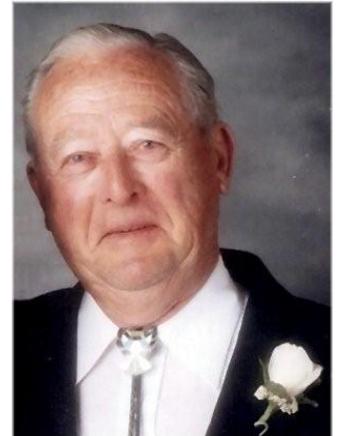
To Members behind in their dues, you will have date circled in RED! This is the only notice you will receive. Send information and/or dues to me at the Metuchen address shown above. **Annual regular dues of \$20.00 are due in September.**

Make checks payable to **117th CAV Association. NOTE: As of the February meeting it was voted to increase dues to \$20.00, starting September 2009. Email: If you** have an e-mail address, please send it to me at KMAHAN117@AOL.COM We are compiling an email list of members and we want and to include you.

Association web site: www.117th-cav.org/ If you have a computer, try going to the web site. You can look up the WWII histories of the 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). **New Members:** Edward A. Matthews (Wife Beth) as an Associate Member, His father (deceased) was Edward Matthews, 102nd Cavalry at Ft. Jackson, landed at Normandy with B Troop. He was T-4 radio operator. Was a NYC Policeman. Charles Angello as a Member, He was in "C" Troop in 1965 to 1971. Edward J. Murphy was 1SG and CO was CPT Vincent Carlino. **People that have done back to back tours.** SSG Leroy Metz just came home January after 2 years. SP4 Evan Dickerson got home in June from Iraq, he is with "B" Troop, and is volunteering to go back with the Vermont National Guard when he goes back to the Sand Box. **It was My pleasure** to go see 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion and Detachment 1, B Company, 628th Aviation Support Battalion come in to Ft. Dix after their deployment in Iraq. I also went to the Welcome Home for them at The War Memorial, and met some people I haven't seen in 4 or 5 Years. It was good to see them all home and well.

TAPS

Francis "Frank" E. Fowler, 89, passed away January 17, 2010 in Prescott, AZ after a 4 year battle with cancer. He was born June 14, 1920, on Flag Day, in East Orange, New Jersey to Edgar and Mable G. Fowler. Frank attended high school in East Orange, New Jersey. He attended Rutgers University and several specialty trade schools. Frank began his military service with *Essex Troop, 102nd Cavalry Regiment*, Troop A of the NJARNG, called up in January 1941 to Federal Service, a *Class of '41* member. He also married Florence "Florry" Dietz in 1941. He served during WWII in Africa, Italy, France and Germany with the *117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz)*. He was honorably discharged on July 5, 1945. Following his military service, Frank worked for the NJ Bell system. After Frank's first wife passed away he met and married Isabelle Fowler in 1959. When he came to Prescott from New Jersey in 1962, he owned two businesses, incl. the Copper Basin Supply. He also was a Deputy Sheriff for Yavapai County and Douglas County, Oregon. Frank retired in 1982. Frank was involved in his community as a Boy Scout Leader for 34 years and participated in a World Jamboree. He was also a Sunday school teacher and a church deacon. He was a member and officer in the Prescott Kiwanis Club. He attended Prescott Community Church, where he sang in their choir. Frank had many hobbies and interests. He enjoyed camping, hiking, woodworking, model trains, and along with his wife Isabelle, built 2 houses in Prescott. Francis Fowler is survived by his son Charles Fowler of New Jersey, adopted daughter Patricia Fowler of New Jersey, step-daughters Florence Brady of California, JoAnn Hardy of Maine, 7 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. Frank was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Florence Dietz in 1959 and Isabelle Fowler who preceded him in death in 2005.



Joan Van Arsdale died on December 28, 2009. She was born in Bound Brook and lived in New Brunswick for many years. She was a graduate of Drake Business School. Mrs. Van Arsdale was active in helping others by her involvement with both the Damien-Dutton Society For Leprosy Aid and volunteering at Saint Peter University Hospital for many years. She also was a member of the Altar Rosary Society for over 17 years at Sacred Heart Church in New Brunswick. She was a communicant of Saint Mary of Mount Virgin RC Church in New Brunswick. She was predeceased by her husband, Henry, in 1998. MAJ Van Arsdale was a line and staff officer of the 5-117th Cavalry, NJARNG. She was also predeceased by her sisters, Ella and Katherine and her brothers, John and Philip. Mrs. Van Arsdale is survived by a brother, Peter Spies; and many nieces and nephews.

117th Cavalry Association

Financial Statement 1 January – 31 December 2009

BANK BALANCE 1 January 2009 **\$6,099.59**

INCOME 2009

Membership Dues	2, 530.00	
Contributions	472.00	
Spur Boosters	785.00	
Shirts, Caps & Buckles	497.00	
Interest CD, Savings & Checking	254.37	
Coffee Express	550.00	
Total Income		5,088.47

TOTAL \$11,188.06

EXPENSES 2009

Insurance	395.00	
General Meetings (refreshments)	834.55	
Printing (<i>The SPUR</i> - 4 issues)	1,478.00	
Golf Match (LTC Sands)	50.00	
Heritage Room	548.43	
Postage (<i>The SPUR</i>) & postcards	569.95	
Awards	236.17	
Buckles & Crests	556.56	
Armory Rental	25.00	
Coffee Express	1,438.75	
AUS Books	100.00	
Treasurer Expense – Checkbook	121.34	
Total Expenses		6,353.75

TOTAL BANK BALANCE 31 December 2009 **\$4,834.31**

Investors Checking	689.24	
Investors Bank CD (3)	A 1,302.07	
	B 1,333.54	
	C 1,330.44	
Investors Bank savings	179.02	





117TH CAVALRY ASSOCIATION

2010 BIENNIAL REUNION

OCTOBER 23, 2010

GIBBS HALL-FORT MONMOUTH

Honoring Those Who Have Served and Those Who Continue to Serve

\$45.00 per person (cash bar)

if received before Aug 20, 2010

\$50 thereafter

Cocktail Hour: 6 – 7 PM / Dinner 7 PM

Meal Choices

Chicken Francaise/Prime Rib/Stuffed Flounder

Reservations

Money and reservations by Oct. 15, 2010

Respond to: COL (Ret.) Dennis J. Dougherty

615 Raymond Street

Westfield, NJ 07090

Saturday October 23 X \$45.00 _____

X \$50.00 _____ after August 20

Meal Choice: Chicken _____ Beef _____ Fish _____

Name: _____ Guest: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Seat With: _____



BE A BOOSTER OF THE SPUR

Shown at the left of each name is the last issue and year in which your entry will be published. SP = Spring, SU = Summer, FA = Fall, WI = Winter



SP-15 EMIL & MARGARET ALLGEIER
FA-12 BILL ANTONUCCI (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY SR.
SU-25 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
FA-12 ROSE MARIE BENNERT (mem. of) BILL BENNERT
SP-15 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
FA-11 DOROTHY CASPAR (mem. of husb.) RICHARD J. CASPAR
WI-12 MSG TOM BULLOCK A Troop
FA-12 SANTI CARNEVALI *Class of '41*, 117th CAV WWII
SP-10 LTC (Ret.) CLAUDE COOK & HELEN
SP-13 SSG (Ret.) CLEMENT & JEAN CURRY
WI-11 LTC (Ret.) PETER D'ELIA
WI-10 MARIE DARBY (mem. of husb.) CPT JOHN DARBY
WI-10 WALT DITZEL
WI-10 SGM (Ret.) JIM DOOLEY & JUDITH
WI-13 COL (Ret.) DENNIS DOUGHERTY
WI-10 1SG (Ret.) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop
FA-13 LTC PATRICK du TERTRE (ARMY OF FRANCE)
WI-10 1SG (Ret.) DAVE ELLIS, D Troop
WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
SP-10 MAURO FIERRO
WI-11 LTC (Ret.) ALAN R. FISHER
WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem. of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
SP-12 WILLIAM FISHER JR.
FA-11 BOB FOLEY, HHT (Ret.)
WI-10 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
WI-31 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop
WI-12 ROBERT GREEN
WI-10 1SG (Ret.) ROBERT GRZESZCZAK
SP-11 BILL HETTRICK, CHIEF ARMORER (Ret.)
WI-10 BG STEPHEN J. HINES
SP-10 LTC (Ret.) MIKE HRYCAK
FA-11 LTC (Ret.) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117th CAV '43-'44
FA-11 CHARLES JOHNSON
SU-10 (mem. of) GEORGE F. (FRED) KIMBLE
SP-14 COL (Ret.) KEN KLEIN in loving mem. of wife JOANN
SU-10 DONALD KONDROSKI
WI-10 MADELINE KUTTER (mem. of) ERNEST KUTTER
SP-12 ESTELLE & ARNOLD LASNER, WWII 117th CAV
French Legion of Honor 30 September 2010
SP-11 JAY LASNER (in honor of father) ARNOLD LASNER
SP-13 RON La VERDE (mem. of uncle) T-5 THOMAS G. HENNESSY, A Troop, 117th CAV KIA 5 JUNE '44 ROME
WI-11 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE
WI-10 WALTER LAWRENCE
SU-12 EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41*, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW
SP-12 BOB LUTZ *Class of '41*, C Troop 117th CAV WWII
French Legion of Honor
WI-10 ARTHUR G. A. MAGGS JR. CSM (Ret.)
WI-13 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
FA-14 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
SP-12 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father)
T-4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102nd CAV WWII
SP-11 W. SCOTT McCANN
FA-11 CHARLOTTE & BILL MERRING
SU-13 PAMELA THONACK MILLER (mem. of father)
HERBERT A. THONACK, *Class of '41*, 117th CAV
FA- 10 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK,
Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW
WI-10 CW5 (Ret.) FRANK MNICH & JANET
FA-13 RONNIE NIER
WI-12 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON
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602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
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117th CAV WWII
WI-11 FOTINOS PANAGAKOS
WI-11 FRANK & BETTY PATRICK
SP-11 COL (Ret.) BOB PIERCE & CAROL, (mem. of)
RICK APBLETT
SP-10 TOM PETTY
WI-16 (in mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
SU-12 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
WI-10 CSM (Ret.) AL PHELAN Jr.
WI-10 LTC (Ret.) TONY PLONNER
SP-11 DOT & LTC (Ret.) KEN QUAAS
FA-11 ART REINBOLD (mem. of) ED SUTTON
SP-11 ART & RUTH REINBOLD
SP-10 PAUL RIOS
WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
FA-21 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN
F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
SU-11 COL (Ret.) HAROLD SAMSEL, *Class of '41*,
117th CAV WWII Fr. *Legion of Honor*
SP-15 SALCIDO FAMILY (in mem. of) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
(Ft Jackson '42) 117th CAV. F CO. KIA Italy June 1944
SP-17 JAMES SCANLON
WI-10 ROBERT J. SMITH
SP-10 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem. of husband) WILLIE
SP-12 JOHN SUITER
WI-10 SFC JOSEPH W. TOOMEY, B Troop 102nd CAV (Iraq)
& SABINA
WI-10 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
FA-11 CHARLES A VIVIANO (50th CAV RCN SQDN)
SP-12 CSM (Ret.) HENRY WETZEL & GRACE, (mem. of)
GEORGE "RED" EMERY
SP-14 LTC (Ret.) FRANK WISWALL, USAF *Class of '41*
B Troop, 102nd CAV '41- '42 Fr. *Legion of Honor*
SP-11 MRS. EDWARD J. WITOS (loving mem. of husb.)
EDWARD J. WITOS SR.
WI-27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG A Troop, 3rd Platoon
117th CAV WWII

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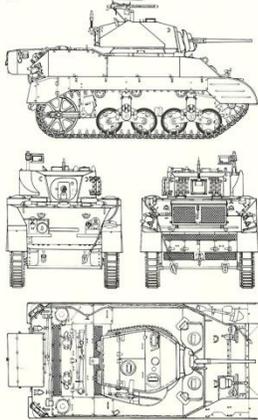
Sergeant Paul Kenworthy, Canton, New York



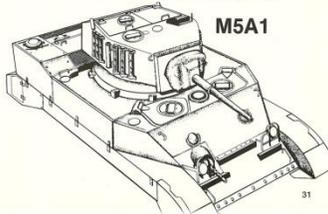
Corporal Bud Hauffler, June 1941, Ft. Jackson NC

Gasoline & oil instead of oats & fodder, wheels & tracks instead of horse shoes & saddles...hot metal instead of sweaty blankets...what changes! Essex Troopers changed from polo playing horse soldiers to armored cavalymen, writing a wartime record rivaled by none!

Light Tank M5A1



Variations of the Culin hedgerow cutters that were manufactured from old German beach obstructions are seen here. The device was designed to allow a tank to cut through the dense hedges in the Normandy farm country. Note also the well sand-bagged glacis plate which served to protect the M5A1 from German Panzerfaust and Panzerschreck rocket weapons. (US Army)



Below – the M24 “Chaffee” Light Tank, 75 MM M6 gun. The best light tank of WWII.



An M24 of the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron test fires its gun in the St. Jean Saverne area of France, March 1945. The circled turret star is rare for an ETO vehicle. (US Army)

Above - the M5A1 “Stuart” Light Tank, 37 MM gun. F Company tankers fought well, but the M5A1 was outclassed by German panzers. Maneuver, courage and accuracy could, and often did defeat the panzers.

Our three squadrons, the 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry were issued the new M24 during February & March 1945, giving up the little M5A1. Some of the recon troops took the M5A1, swapping out their M8 Armored Cars; the tank was better off-road and provided more protection.

1LT Paul Seidel was F Company (tanks) commander when the M24’s were issued to the 117th Cavalry. He and his tankers were VERY happy and quickly adapted to the fast, powerful and tough new tank.

Phil Notestine, Editor, *The SPUR*
22 Yorke Road
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046
Email: notie@msn.com



COL (Ret.) Harold Samsel
President Emeritus
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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: 2 APRIL 2010, 4 JUNE 2010, 10 September 2010 and then *Reunion* at Fort Monmouth 23 October 2010