



117th Cavalry Association

www.117th-cav.org

102d CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102d CAVALRY
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President's Message Summer 2015 June is always a busy time for membership and for the Troopers of the 1-102d Cavalry. June's meeting had a full agenda. We finished a major project of our Share Our Story Initiative with the presentation to the Squadron Commander LTC Jeff Brownlee, with a complete set of the Distinctive Unit Insignias of all New Jersey's Armor and Cavalry formations. (644th Tank, 113th Tank, 114th Tank, 215th Tank, 50th Armor, 50th Reconnaissance, 252d Tank, 53rd Armor, 102d Armor, 117th Cavalry and 102d Cavalry). We owe a special thank you to Bonnie Henning of the US Army's Institute of Heraldry for helping our 117th Cavalry Association recover this living history, lineage and honors of our states Armor and Cavalry Formations that now resides in the 1st Squadron of the 102d Cavalry Regiment. These DUI's are now proudly displayed on the walls outside our 117th Cavalry Association's Heritage Room, so that all the troopers and visitors to the Westfield Armory will be able to trace the 1-102d Cavalry history of over 100 years of service to our state and nation. Thanks to SGM Ron Ambrose for all your efforts in helping us hang and arrange these DUI's on the walls outside the Heritage Room.

We also recognized the achievements of two of our members. Former 1SG John Kraus was honored for his service as *Distinguished Member of the 117th Cavalry Regiment*. Distinguished Members of the Regiment provide a link with history for today's troopers. Kraus was a longtime member of the 5-117th Cavalry; Kraus was HHT First Sergeant during the 102d Cavalry's deployment to Iraq in 2008-09.

SFC John Cosel was named the *1SG William B. Maloney Trooper of the Year* for 2014. LTC (Ret) Barry Maloney, son of 1SG Maloney and Squadron Commander LTC Jeff Brownlee presented him with his award. SFC Cosel's stellar personal and professional efforts exemplify the National Guard's motto, "*Always Ready, Always There*", as he continues to *Show 'em the Way!* (picture appears in this issue of the Spur)

I would also like to say thanks to CPT Jim Giacchi, the A Troop Commander, for his excellent presentation on his troops Annual Training period at Fort Irwin CA this year. A combined company team of troopers from A, C and HHT augmented the 11th ACR this year as OP-FOR in an exercise this spring against a BCT from the 1st Cavalry Division. AT-15 provided the troopers of the 1-102d Cavalry with a once in a lifetime opportunity to test their reconnaissance skills against one of our army's premier units. They *Showed 'em the Way!*

June's meeting was also a time to recognize the US Army's 240 years of selfless service to our nation. We celebrated a delicious cake. Thank you to Anne Bergin our FRGs leader for baking the cake and thanks to all our Family Readiness Group members for their continued support of the Troopers of the 102d Cavalry and the members of our 117th Cavalry Association (picture appears in this issue of the Spur).

LTC Brownlee has extended an invitation for our 117th Cavalry Association to join with the Troopers of the 1st Squadron, 102d Cavalry Regiment for great joint social event, *The Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance*. It will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the Grand Summit Hotel, 50 Springfield Avenue, Summit NJ. (See the attached flyer for details). It promises to be a special event, a time for fellowship and camaraderie, and chance to recognize the service of our members who have served in our nation's conflicts from WWII to the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As always, when we come together it will be a time to remember those who have served and those who continue to serve. Today the Cavalry Troopers of the 1st Squadron 102d Cavalry Regiment carry on this collective heritage of Armor and Cavalry in New Jersey. I would like to personally thank LTC Jeff Brownlee the Squadron Commander for his invitation to join with his Cavalry Troopers and encourage all our members to attend *The Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance* on September 19, 2015.

70 Years ago this month: With the end of May 1945 came a new mission for the 117th Cavalry. They were to move at once from the pristine Austrian Valley they had occupied at the end of the hostilities in Europe. It had been the most restful period they had experienced since their deployment overseas, thus ended the 3 weeks of rest and recuperation. June 1945 found the 117th CRS stationed in the vicinity of the I.G. Farben Complex in Frankfurt Germany, The 117th CRS had been selected to be the security force for General Eisenhower's headquarters. Upon their arrival in Germany, the squadron headquarters were located about 20 miles north of Frankfurt just off the Frankfurt-Berlin Autobahn. The mission of the 117th CRS was to form a defensive perimeter around Frankfurt and to be prepared to take any offensive action necessary for the protection of General Eisenhower and his headquarters. LTC Samsel the squadron commander was appointed the military governor for the area. All elements of the squadron soon occupied their new quarters and took up the necessary patrol duty, which was designed only to maintain a show of force to discourage any ideas of hostile actions. In fact, once a week the entire squadron would conduct a road march, fully combat loaded guns unlimbered and troopers

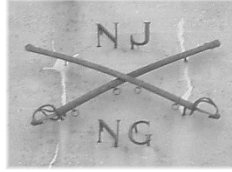
alert, through the entire area to impress the locals and show a visible presence of the United States Army in and around Frankfurt, Germany.

Our next meeting of the *117th Cavalry Association* will be Friday September 11, 2015. There is a full agenda planned. Please continue to show your support in your sponsor of our *117th Cavalry Association* newsletter "*The SPUR*." Many of you, especially *The SPUR* Boosters (page 10) 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 Association our many initiatives in support of our membership and the 1-102d Cavalry.

Show 'em the Way!

Dennis

Colonel Dennis J. Dougherty, USA Retired





From the Squadron Commander As we enter the 4th Quarter of the training year the Squadron continues to face challenging training events. HHT 1-102d CAV and D Co 250th Brigade Support BN conducted Annual Training in June at Joint Base McGuire, Dix, Lakehurst and homestation. Training events included the *Obstacle Course, Leadership Reaction Course, Drivers Training, Weapons Training, Land Navigation, and Night Vision Device Training*. The Squadron Staff continued to develop and refine the TY-16 training plan. The troopers of HHT and D Co executed the training with a high degree of excellence and motivation. B Troop augmented with a platoon from C Troop will be headed to the National Training Center (NTC) to conduct an Opposing Force Mission (OPFOR) in July. D Co augmented with B Co 250th Brigade Support Battalion will also be headed to NTC in July also to conduct a maintenance mission supporting the BLUEFOR.

Leadership is defined as the process of influencing people by providing purpose, direction, and motivation to accomplish the mission and improve the organization. I am proud to say that the Squadron has some of the best leaders I have experienced in my military career. Their tenacity, attention to detail, and ability to plan and execute training and missions has been proven time and again.

Saber Six Out

LTC Jeffrey K. Brownlee, SCO

1-102d Cavalry 50th IBCT NJARNG





From the Command Sergeant Major 1-102d Cavalry: I want to start this edition off by talking about Leadership in Today's Army. In the stereotypical view of a military organization, there are a few people at the top give commands, and everyone down the line salutes and does what he/she is told. However, if this old picture were ever true, it is certainly not true today. Consider just who in the Army is expected to be a leader - it is not just generals.

At any level, anyone responsible for supervising people or accomplishing a mission that involves other people is a leader. Anyone who influences others, motivating them to action or influencing their thinking or decision-making, is a leader. It is not just a function only of position; it is also a function of role. In addition, everyone in the Army-including every leader fits somewhere in the chain of command

(COC). Everyone in the Army is also a follower or subordinate. There are, obviously many leaders in an organization, it

is important to understand that you do not just lead subordinates- you lead other leaders. Even at the lowest levels of our organization, you are leaders of leaders.

The Army has taught me many things throughout my military career, but the appreciation I have for all of you was not taught, it was earned. Thank you all, Enlisted and Officer Corps for making this Squadron what it is today.

Stay in touch with your Troopers and ensure we provide accurate guidance when they need assistance; I have included information for Troopers and Families who need assistance below. Keep the command informed; we cannot help if we are not aware. Army One Source: <http://www.myarmyonesource.com> The State Family Assistance Center, NJ: 888-859-0352 Troopers of the 1-102d Cavalry: Continue to Train our Troopers to Standard, Train to fight, Keep leading by example,

Sabre Seven Out.

Scott E. Mechkowski
Command Sergeant Major
1-102d Cavalry
50th IBCT, NJARNG



"Show 'em the Way"



From the Editor Phil Notestine My apologies for The SPUR being delivered out of sequence. I had cervical surgery done in early May and was unable to spend much time at the computer until my hard cast was off and my neck could endure more than an hour or so of work. The surgery went very well; into therapy now for the neck muscles.

Here in Pinewild, of Pinehurst, NC we have many active, retired and past military. ARMY dominates! About 100 of us "Pinewilders" – Regulars, Army National Guard and Reserve and our guests gathered together to celebrate the 240th Birthday of the US Army. We had a wide-ranging representation! From a 4 Star General to Spec 4, men and women. Entertainment was the 82d Airborne Chorus from Fort Bragg. All enlisted, all paratroopers with "day jobs". They were outstanding!

I wore our Regimental DUI patch on my blue blazer. Some were complimentary and curious. More than a few were quick to tell of their time in or with Cavalry and Armor. It was a wonderful event. I was proud to be part of it, and to have met so many Army patriots. My

wife Ginny also enjoyed herself...her eyes were opened and now may understand her old husband just a bit more.

Next year will be my 10th as Editor of The SPUR. I relieved WWII veteran LTC (Ret) Ken Quaas who devoted some 27 years as Editor, doing the job faithfully and effectively without benefit of a computer. Ken used a typewriter, fax and copier, "cut and paste"...literally. Without the use of PC and software, Ken had to spend many days seeking and researching for articles, typing, cutting, pasting and assembling an edition. He had many great WWII 38th, 102d and 117th CAV veterans to send articles; many around this great Nation always anticipated his editions.

Now it is time for someone to step up and volunteer to take over as Editor of The SPUR! I look forward to the first inquiry. Call me at 910-420-2968, email is notie@msn.com

When I took over, I vowed to report about our WWII Unit histories and the men who served and fought in them. I have done that, as best I could. Internet inquiries do help to "keep it going". In the last month, two such inquiries – relatives looking for information on Tech SGT James H. Smith of F Company and PFC Eugene J. Schmidt, Troop C. It is a pleasure to research from our records and help the families understand more about where they fought and what they did in the wartime 117th CRS.

The following are two inquiries and our responses, helping family members learn more about their relatives who served with the WWII 117th CRS. I began editing The SPUR in late 2006; all issues of The SPUR since then have been posted on our web site www.117th-cav.org as have WWII Unit Histories and other supportive documents. It has been my pleasure, and honor to help many in their search for information about relatives who served in the WWII 38th, 102d and 117th CRS. Again, these 2 are the most recent inquiries, and my replies. They are edited and not complete:

June 4, 2015 - My name is Marie A. McDonough (Schmidt) and my father's name is Eugene J. Schmidt. My siblings and I have been doing our family genealogy and I was tasked with getting all our father's service records and information. I did get my father's records from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. but unfortunately, my father's records, as well as many others, were damaged in the fire in the 1970s. I did pay to have them cleaned and most are readable except for the names of the two (2) battles that my dad fought in, the two (2) Bronze Stars he was awarded and one (1) Purple Heart are unreadable. One battle is semi-readable, it looks like the Battle of the Rhineland Campaign, and I cannot make out the other battle.

We know that much time has passed and like our dad, many heroes have probably past away, but if anyone can help answer the following questions, our family would truly be grateful.

EUGENE J. SCHMIDT / Army Serial #33 815 125 / PFC / Service - CAV / Component - AUS Organization - 117th CAV REC SQ / Active Service Started - August 17, 1944 / Basic Training - Fort Riley, Kansas / Arrived in Scotland in February 1945 / Fought in European Theater (Germany).

QUESTIONS: Can anyone tell me anything about the battles my dad fought in. What did he do to receive the Bronze Stars? What did my dad do to get the Purple Heart? Any information would be appreciated.

Thanking you in advance for any help you or anyone may be able to provide.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie A. McDonough (Schmidt)
75 Williams Corner Road
Port Haywood, VA. 23138
E-mail address: mariemcdonough2013@yahoo.com*

Dear Marie,

Thank you for the inquiry about your father PFC Eugene J. Schmidt. Our records show him as a Bantam (Jeep) driver in the 1st Platoon, Troop C (Reconnaissance), 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). The roster is dated May 31, 1945. American Bantam Car Company "Bantam" was the original General Purpose "Jeep" truck ¼-ton manufacturer, which was most numerous of the wheeled and tracked vehicles that replaced the cavalry horses in 1941-1942. The cavalry troopers did not use "Jeep"; it was Bantam to them, even though Willys and Ford also supplied the ubiquitous Jeep.

Looking at the WWII Unit History: <http://www.117th-cav.org/WWII%20History%20of%20the%20117th%20CAV.pdf> and knowing that he was a replacement trooper, I presume that he arrived and joined the squadron in early March 1945. While reading the unit history, concentrate on March through May 1945. Begin on page 67. Things were still pretty "hot" and your father, as a recon trooper, was up front and into the Germans, as you will read.

His troop commander was Captain William Nugent and the Executive Officer was First Lieutenant Daniel W. Lee. Both were with the outfit for years and fine leaders. 1LT Daniel Lee was decorated (post war) by President Truman with the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions at Montrevel, southern France on September 3, 1944. Read about it beginning page 25. 1LT Lee was not fully recovered when he returned to the squadron in January 16, 1945.

1st Platoon was led by Second Lieutenant Harold "Smokie" Owen, another "original" and hero. I know of one living C Troop man, SGT Larry Haskett, now 95. I just now called him to see if he remembers the replacement Jeep driver PFC Eugene Schmidt. Larry was just leaving for a meeting and will try and remember later, while looking through his relevant papers.

The Squadron Commander was Lieutenant Colonel Harold J. Samsel. He rose from Corporal to LTC in 5 years! Harold died a few years ago, then 99.

Your father certainly was a brave cavalryman! Bronze Star and a Purple Heart! All in just a month or two. And, in that he was on the 31 May 1945 roster, means that he was out of the doctor's care and "back in the saddle", wounds be damned! PFC Eugene Schmidt was no ordinary soldier.

Please know that the unit history was reconstructed from "Morning Reports" and recollections of two veterans of the 102d Cavalry Regiment and later the fabulous 117th CRS, notably SGT Robert "Bob" Lutz. Bob died several years ago, in his 90s. Everything was recorded using typewriters by HQ clerks, while in combat and on the move. Much was not recorded or lost over the decades. This is why your father's name does not appear in the unit history. I was happy to find him in the 31 May 1945 Squadron Roles.

Your father's outfit, the 117th CRS, was a truly great mechanized cavalry squadron, and was in theater and in combat longer than most, if not all such units. He was well led and served with the best. No doubt, he would have developed into a good leader himself.

Please do tell me about him! Where was he born, what did he do post war?

I am very happy to help family members learn about their father's service in our three related cavalry squadrons, 38th, 102d and 117th CSR. You do him an honor, and the rest of the WWII men he served with by wanting to know more, and to share it.

Our 117th Cavalry Association maintains a "Heritage Room" in the Westfield Armory, Westfield NJ, current HQ of the 102d Cavalry, New Jersey Army National Guard. Several years ago, the 117th and the 102d were merged as the Army reduces overall forces. We invite you to visit the Westfield Armory Heritage Room some day. We have a fine collection of memorabilia and documents.

If you can copy and mail the documents you have, I will try to develop more info. I have done this successfully for other families in the past.

Respectfully,

Phil Notestine, Editor, The SPUR Newsletter
Historian, 117th Cavalry Association

Dear Mr. Notestine,

Good evening! I want to thank you so very much for the information you forwarded to me yesterday regarding my father. It was so exciting to learn exactly what my Dad did during the war. As I got older, I use to ask my dad about his time in the war but he really did not want to talk about it. He did tell my sibling and I that he didn't jump in a foxhole fast enough so he got shot in the buttocks. I ask my Mom if that was true and she said that he was shot in the buttocks. The only other thing I ever got out of him was that he learned how to drive a truck and was in a reconnaissance squadron. My Mother saved all the letters and postcards my father sent to her, as well as his

hat and medals. Before my Mother passed away in 2006, she told us we could read the letters my father wrote to her. After we read the letters and postcards, we got a pretty good idea where my father was in Germany. Unfortunately, even my Mother did not know a lot about what my Dad did during the war. Just like my Dad told us about not wanting to talk about the war, he told my Mom the same. We do know that my Dad was proud to serve his country. He said he would do it again.

My Dad was born in Philadelphia, PA on August 2, 1918. He was the 14th out of 15 children. His Mother was from Poland and is Father was from Alsace-Lorraine. After the war, my father became a truck driver until about 1955. He then started, along with a partner, a construction company name Schmidt & Fagen, which lasted until sometime in early 1960. He then went to work for General Electric in Valley Forge, PA. My father passed away on September 3, 1978 at the age of 60. My Dad was such a wonderful person. He is still missed everyday by all his children (there are five of us).

I am going to get the documents together and mail them to you. It is so very nice of you to offer to develop more information on my Dad, if possible. I just wish I had started my search much sooner.

Again, thank you. You do not know how happy you have made my siblings and me. I e-mailed your information out to everyone as soon as I received it.

Sincerely yours,
Marie A. McDonough

INQUIRY ABOUT A WWII VETERAN OF THE 117th CRS by Peter Pritchard, Montclair, NJ:

My wife's father died when she was five years old and her mother has passed away as well. She and her sister have minimal information on their father's service during WWII. For that reason I began to try to find out more information about him and sent the following email to the editor of The Spur, a resource I had found on the internet.

Good evening,

I am attempting to verify that my wife's father, James Harvey (Buddy) Smith, who died when she was nine, was a member of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. He lived in Newark, New Jersey and we think was part of the Essex Troop which was part of the 102nd Cavalry which split into the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance squadron that fought in Africa in World War II.

Could you recommend a site, organization or registry that I could go to in my attempt to confirm what squadron he served in during World War II so that I could create a gift for her honoring him? I received the following response from Phil Notestine:

Good Day Peter,

You have found what you asked for in your message, below.

Our May 31 1945 records show that Tech. SGT James H. Smith, 20244050 was Platoon Leader, First Platoon, Company F (tanks) of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). First Lieutenant Paul Seidel was Company Commander. Lieutenant Colonel Harold J. Samsel was Squadron Commander. Both Seidel and Samsel have died a few years ago.

T/SGT James Harvey Smith would have commanded men fighting in the M5A1 "Stuart" light tank, until March 1945 when they were issued the new M24 "Chaffee", pictures attached. T/SGT Smith would have been a tank commander too. The men that fought superior German armor and anti-tank weapons in the "sardine can" "Stuart" light tank, obsolete from the outset, were all heroes!!

The WWII 117th Cavalry was a separate unit, not part of a cavalry group. When sent from England in 1943 as the 2d Squadron, 102d Cavalry Regiment to Algeria, she was soon reflagged as the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). The 117th CRS was a very fine fighting outfit. She was in theater and on line more than most, if not all cavalry squadrons. The 117th CRS did combat security for Allied HQ in North Africa, and was in combat in Italy, France, Germany and Austria.

You can read the 117th CRS WWII Unit History and also TASK FORCE BUTLER on our WWII Unit Histories page, www.117th-cav.org

I suggest that you visit our Heritage Room in the Westfield Armory to learn more. As you can see, I have included our 117th Cavalry Association President Colonel Dennis Dougherty, U S Army Retired in this message. Dennis lives in Westfield. Call him at (908) 230-4020.

Thanks for your interest and for honoring one of our WWII heroes, T/SGT James Harvey Smith.

Call me if you wish,

Phil Notestine, Editor
The SPUR newsletter and Historian, 117th Cavalry Association

His note went on to provide further information about how my father-in-law would have been involved in WWII. He also suggested I visit the Heritage Room at the Westfield NJ armory for more information. I visited that amazing room and was given a tour by Ken Mahan and had a chance to meet Dennis Dougherty. They gave me a map of the route of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) from North Africa through Italy, France, Austria and Germany and pictures of the squadron including one saying, "You are now entering Germany courtesy of the 117th CAV RCN sq."

I have been able to sit down with my wife and will do the same with her sister and share this information with her to the point of saying "Your father's tank passed that sign", specific information that provided context about a father she only knew until she was five years old.

The positive impact on our family that you all have shown through your prompt, specific, and generous response to my outreach will never be forgotten.

With huge respect and thanks, Peter Prichard

Association Meetings were held on April 10 and June 12, 2015. COL Dougherty reported on both in his message. Here are some pictures:



Top left: 1SG John Kraus was made a *Distinguished Member of the 117th Cavalry Regiment*.

Top right: CPT Ryan Bailey gave a presentation on his and SGM Rizzo's deployment to Afghanistan on Military Advisor Team 5, ISAF – NATO. The team included NJARNG and Albanian soldiers.

Left: SFC Cosel was named the *1SG William B. Maloney Trooper of the Year for 2014*.

In attendance for June meeting: *Bill Gruss, Dave Mormak, James Anglim, Ken Mahan, Robert Apgar, Mike Hrycak, Jim Pressman, Harry Ayala, Barry Maloney, Bruce Maloney Sr., Bruce Maloney JR., Greg Lister, Robert Hasanogddin, Art Maggs, Frank Patrick, Sandy Goldstein, John Rowr, Anne Bergin, Jennifer Silva, Danielle Bracco, Robert Freeman, Frank Mnich, John Kraus, Jeff Brownlee, Don Kondrowski, Ed Barry and Dennis Dougherty.*



For the second time in its history, the **2d Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment**, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, cased its colors, as a symbol of the squadron's inactivation. The unit's colors were cased in a ceremony at its West Fort Hood headquarters Friday morning, closing another chapter of a history dating back to 1942. During WWII, the 38th Cavalry replaced the 2d Squadron of the 102d Cavalry Regiment (reorganized as the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) when it deployed to North Africa in 1943) and fought as a squadron of the 102d Cavalry Group.

"You can look at the colors and see where this unit has been. Each streamer on the squadron colors that we just rolled up symbolizes courage and sacrifice," said Lt. Col. John Cogbill, the squadron's commander.

In June 2010, the 2d "Phantom Recon" Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, was reactivated at Fort Hood, after its demobilization following World War II.

Since then, Phantom Recon troops deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 and Kosovo in 2014. "Colors can be cased, artifacts can be stored, equipment can be turned in and personnel can be reassigned, but memories, shared experiences, joy, pain, pride and a sense of accomplishment, the camaraderie that only a soldier will ever know, will live on forever in every one of you," Cogbill said. "When our nation calls again, and it undoubtedly will, the men and women of the Phantom Recon squadron will stand ready."

Guests included LTC (Ret) Alfred H. M. Shehab, who served in the WWII 38th Cavalry and LTC (Ret) Ruth Hamilton. They are pictured here with the Cogbill family.



LTC Shehab was guest speaker. He had provided many WWII pictures from his collection while serving in the wartime 38th Cavalry. These were important in helping the Squadron learn and develop pride in their heritage and Esprit d 'Corps.

Readers will recall that the 1-38th Cavalry at Fort Bragg, NC stood down in 2014. We are now aware that the 3-38th Cavalry, Fort Lewis – McCord WA has also recently cased their colors.



38th Cavalry Regiment

[Ed. Note] Sadly, such is the fate of some Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine units around the globe, due to the ongoing “sequester” process and Defense budget reductions. When will the politicians ever learn? Are our General and Flag Officers afraid to challenge the civilian overseers and the President? GEN Raymond T. Odierno has shown his courage, repeatedly protesting and warning against deep cuts. GEN Odierno is expected to retire in August. GEN Mark Milley becomes Army Chief of Staff. What will he do? Threats are growing, not diminishing! Once we retire or shed trained and fit officers and enlisted troops, it will be impossible to quickly grow, train and make ready troops, combat and support alike. Years, not months! Our nation’s youth are less and less fit. Warfighting becomes technological and expensive. I say, warning, DANGER.



Membership Update – SMG (Ret) Ken Mahan Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2015 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 15

**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, Associate dues \$15.00 and enlisted E5-E1 \$10.00 are due in September.** Make checks Payable to **117th Cavalry**

Association. Pay Pal can be used as well – link is on our web site www.117th-cav.org **Boosters** help pay for SPUR mailings to WWII veterans and their widows, *not* for your dues! We cannot continue to mail *The SPUR* to lapsed members. Stick with us, we want you as a member, but you must pay your own “freight”. **Email:** Please send your email address to me at Kennethmahan05@gmail.com We are compiling an email list of members and we want to include you. **Association web site:** www.117th-cav.org/ Read past issues of *The SPUR*, look up the WWII histories of the 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). All WWII Veterans will no longer pay dues, you will see WWII over your name. **New Members** SSG Mitchell Corrado. Past **Members Dropped** due to lack of dues payment - LTC Timothy Coakley, Elisha McKinley and Hector Fernandez.

TAPS



Colonel Victor V. Arzooonian passed away peacefully at his home on June 13, 2015 at the age of 93. He had been a resident of Hackensack for 63 years. "The Colonel," as he was fondly known, began his career in the Army as a Private, serving proudly in the South Pacific during [WWII](#). After the war, he rejoined the NJ Army National Guard and advanced to Colonel. He was the first commanding officer of the 102d Armored Group. Upon his retirement from the Army, he became the Executive Director of Armenian Church Endowment Fund of the Eastern Diocese and assisted in its growth from \$1.5 million to over \$40 million. Prior to being an active member of St Leon Armenian Church he had served in many capacities for St. Thomas Armenian Church in Tenafly, NJ - Parish Council, Bazaar, and Picnic Chairman, Men's Club, Church Bowling League. In addition, Victor was Master of Ceremonies for many events pleasing crowds with his infectious sense of humor. His loving wife Alice predeceased him. Devoted father of Janet Davidian and her husband Bob, Edward Arzooonian, Karen Garcia and her husband Carlos, and Nancy Gilbert and her husband Dennis. He was a proud grandfather to Robert and Gregory Davidian, Jennifer Sorenson and husband Chris, Michael and Lauren Garcia, and Daniel and William Gilbert. He was also great-grandfather to Rya Sorenson.



Irving K. Partelow 94, of Watchung died on Wednesday May 27, 2015 at the Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains. Born in Newark, he lived in Maplewood, Union, Scotch Plains, & Brick, before moving to Watchung 6 years ago. He was a diamond setter for Irving K. Partelow and Son for many years, before becoming a furniture salesman with Huffman Koos Furniture Stores in Rahway, for 35 years, retiring 34 years ago.

A veteran of WWII, he served in the US Army as a member of the 102d Cavalry Regiment (Horse-Mecz) and the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) as a tank platoon sergeant, fighting in Italy and southern France. During combat in France, he received a Battlefield Commission to the 3d Infantry Division as a 2nd Lieutenant. While leading a combat patrol in northern France, he was severely wounded. He was awarded 2 *Purple Hearts*, a *Bronze Star for Valor* and the *French Legion of Honor* from the French Government. He also was a member of the 117th Cavalry Association, the American Legion post # 35 in Union, and The VFW Post # 8867 in Brick, NJ.

Irving was the husband of the late Hazel (nee Klepp) and the late Margaret (Peggy) (nee Mull). He is the father of Alanson R. Partelow and his wife Shirley, Patricia A. Heck and her husband Robert, and Constance J. Klenke, and her husband John, the stepfather of Bruce Watts and his wife Cindy, Brian Watts and his wife Fern, and the late Kathleen Wright. He was also the brother of the late Warren Partelow, Helen Hoffman, and Marion Knox. He is survived by 12 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.

Robert John Kling 82 Public works official in Westfield and Raritan Township, a fan of Westerns, passed away on May 1, 2015, in Culpeper, Va. Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at Dooley Colonial Funeral Home in Westfield, N.J. A memorial service will begin at 4 p.m. Private interment will be at Fairview Cemetery. An online guestbook and tribute wall are available at www.foundandsons.com. Born in Staten Island, Robert lived most of his years in New Jersey, where he was a dedicated member of the 50th Recon BN, the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry and the 1-102d ARMOR, NJ Army National Guard, retiring as Chief Warrant Officer 4, and led the public works departments of Westfield and Raritan Township. Following retirement, he moved to New York, living in Sherburne and later building a log cabin in Madison. Two years ago, he moved to Culpeper, Va., to be closer to family. He was an avid agriculturalist and a fan of Westerns. Family and community were of utmost importance to him, and he enjoyed lifelong friendships with neighbors and coworkers. He also maintained fraternal order memberships with the Atlas Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Westfield, the Corinthian Lodge Royal Arc of Westfield, Tall Cedars of Lebanon of Phillipsburg, Crescent Shrine of Burlington, Hamilton Lodge 120, and the Flemington Elks. He is survived by three generations of nieces and nephews. The first generation includes Rick Hege, Gay Lynn Hege, Terry Hege, Sandra Kling, Cynthia PreVatte, and John Kling. Please consider a donation to the Culpeper 4-H Club, 101 South West St., Culpeper, Va. 22701.



Raymond Paul Ferrante of Long Valley, NJ died unexpectedly Saturday, April 18. He was 68 years old. A beloved husband, father, son and friend, he leaves behind a family bereft—his wife Sherry, daughter Nancy and sons James and Warren. Born November 4, 1946 in the Bronx, NY to Marie (née Morel) and Ugo Ferrante, who predeceased him along with his brother Louis and stepfather James Myers. After two years at Manhattan College, he joined the Army's 101st Airborne Division as a helicopter pilot, which would become both his lifelong passion and career with over 25,000 flight hours. In Vietnam, he completed over 2,100 hours of combat flight time and received 48 Air Medals, 3 with Valor as well as a Bronze Star. He returned to Vietnam with Air America for three years, met his wife Sherry in Saigon and then worked around the world in Iran, Mexico, the Arctic, Morocco, the Bahamas and Saudi Arabia. He joined Trump Airlines in 1984 and later served as Mr. Trump's personal pilot. He retired from the NJ National Guard in 2006 as a CW5 Master Chief Warrant Officer, the highest rank achievable by an Army Warrant Officer, with over twenty years of service. A skilled carpenter, builder and devoted lover of all things mechanical, especially classic cars; he passed away in the 1961 Chevrolet Corvette he

meticulously restored piece by piece. No man can be summed up in a single paragraph, least of all Raymond Ferrante. He was a true wealth of knowledge and possessed wisdom, wit, strength, work ethic, loyalty and integrity that was apparent to all he encountered. Raymond will be remembered as an uncommonly generous and selfless man, never thinking of himself and always willing to lend a helping hand. He will be profoundly missed. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in his name to the Army Aviation Association of America, the NJARNG Yellow Ribbon Program or a national veterans charity of your choice.



Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance

Saturday September 19, 2015

The Grand Summit Hotel

570 Springfield Avenue, Summit NJ

Please join the Troopers of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment and the 117th Cavalry Association for The Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance Cocktails at 6PM, Dinner at 7PM. Cash Bar.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Grand Summit Hotel (908) 273-3000.

Rates for overnight accommodations are \$129 Single, \$139 Double and include a full breakfast.

Rooms are blocked under the 117th Cavalry Association.

Ticket Information

Dinner Choice

Field Grade Officers/E9:	\$75 per person	Char-Grilled Rib Eye Steak	_____
Company Grade Officers/E7 & E8:	\$70 per person	Seared Chicken Topped w/Prosciutto	_____
E6 and below:	\$60 per person	Vegetarian	_____
Retirees and Civilians:	\$65 per person		

Reservations

Money and reservations **by September 14, 2015**, Make check payable to:

117th Cavalry Association and mail to: CPT Ryan Harty

211 Midway Ave

Fanwood, NJ 07023

Or sign up at the **117th Cavalry Association Web Page @ Spurs and Sabers**

<http://www.117th-cav.org/Spurs%20and%20Sabers.htm>

Name: _____ Guest: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____





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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



WI-15 HEIDI AHLBORN daughter of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN *Class of '41* 102nd and 117th CAV WWII Troops B & C

WI-26 CHARLES ANGELLO

SU-15 NANCY ASHFORD & JEANNIE BROWN (sisters) (mem. father) SSG WM. T. TITTER WWII B TROOP 117th CAV

SP-26 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR

SU-18 JAMIE AYALA

SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR) 5-117th CAV

SP-17 BILL BENNETT

FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE

SP-17 MSG TOM BULLOCK TROOP A 5-117th CAVALRY

FA-15 SGM (Ret) RICHARD T. BURKE

FA- 24 JUDGE SANTI CARNEVALI, WWII 102nd & 117th CAVALRY

FA-15 DON CARSON (mem. of) MSG GARY G. HADDICAN

SU-16 LTC (Ret) PETER D'ELIA

FA-16 ROBERT A. DENNIN JR. - A FRIEND

FA-16 SGM (Ret) JIM DOOLEY

SU-16 COL (Ret) DENNIS J. DOUGHERTY

WI-18 1SG (Ret) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop mem. wife BETTY

SP-16 ROGER ELLERT

SU-16 JACKIE ELLIS (mem) MSG DAVID JAMES ELLIS 5-117 CAV

WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI

SU-19 CPT (Ret) GERALD D. FISCHBEIN

WI-15 LTC (Ret) ALAN R. FISHER

WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem.of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER

WI-17 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER

WI- 52 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117th CAV

SU-16 BILL GRUSS & LINDA

FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN

SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117th CAVALRY SGT Troop C

WI-18 LTC (Ret) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117th CAV '43-'44 mem. HANK EGBERT & BILL CRONE bros.-in-arms

WI-18 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO. WWII 117th CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*

WI-19 ANNE MARIE & GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO

FA-15 CHARLES JOHNSON WWII 117th Cavalry Recon

WI -24 ESTELLE, ANDREW & JAY LASNER in mem. Arnold Lasner – husband, father – proud veteran Troop B 117th CAV

WI-16 Dr. DANIEL W. "TREY" LEE III, (mem. of) CPT DANIEL W. LEE, **CMH**, WWII Troop A, 117th CAVALRY RECON SQ.

SU-19 1LT (Ret) EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41*, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW French *Legion of Honor*

WI-16 SSG (Ret) THOMAS J. LINDSEY & MARY

SU-16 GREGG S. LISTER

WI-18 C. J. MacNICHOLS

SU-16 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN

SP-17 CSM (Ret) A. A. MAGGS

SP-16 BRIAN & BRUCE MALONEY (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY

WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL MALONEY SR. and My brother TIM MALONEY

WI-33 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ

SU-16 PEDRO MARTINEZ

SU-16 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father) T4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102nd CAV WWII

FA-16 WAYNE McCANN

SP-29 CSM SCOTT MECHANOWSKI 1-102nd CAVALRY

SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE

WI-16 ROMAN MILANOWICZ and BEVERLY

SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK, *Class of '41*, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW

WI-15 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET

SP-17 DENNIS & GARY MONAHAN (mem. father) PVT MILLARD D. MONAHAN TRP B 117th CAV – POW MONTREVEL

WI-16 1SG (Ret) Troop D (AIR) RONNIE & CONNIE NIER in mem. MSG ROCCO SPANO HHT 5/117th CAV

SP-17 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON Troops C & E, *Class of '41*; 602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45

FA-27 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN, *Class of '41*, 102nd & 117th CAV - B & C Troops WWII

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WI-16 FRANK PATRICK

SP-16 TOM PETTY

WI-15 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN (mem.) COL KEN KLEIN

WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*

FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**

SU-19 ANTON and MARILYN PLONNER

SU-16 PETER A. PRICHARD (mem.) T/SGT JAMES H. SMITH WWII 117th CAV F COMPANY

SU-16 LTC (Ret) KEN QUAAS (mem) DOROTHEA

SP-17 ARTHUR REINBOLD

FA-15 ROBERT RICHARDSON

WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)

WI-38 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII

SU-15 DONALD SAMSEL (mem. of Father) COL (Ret.) HAROLD SAMSEL, *Class of '41*, 117th CAV WWII FR. *Legion of Honor*

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SP-17 JAMES SCANLON

SP-16 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem. husband) WILLIE

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SU-15 CPT VINCENT SOLOMENO (mem.) LTC (Ret) JAMES A. BRODERICK & COL RUDY SAULTER

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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 - Fridays 1930 hours:** September 11, 2015; November 13, 2015.