



117th Cavalry Association

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102nd CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102nd CAVALRY
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President's Message Winter 2010 Our 2010 Biennial Reunion was a fine event! The evening's festivities started with the posting of the Squadron Colors of the 1-102nd Cavalry, together with the Troop Guidons already on display, Gibbs Hall, Ft Monmouth looked great. The night was to be a special event celebrated by all those in attendance. It was a night that crossed the generations. Judge Santi Carnevali, former WWII 117th CAV HQ Troop commander and later S4 for all combat operations, chatted with Trooper Dan Melso, both veterans of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment (horse) and original members of the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz). Both were able to share stories with Dr. Daniel Lee III and his sister Courtland about their grandfather CPT Daniel Lee, CMH. CSM Al Phelan, MSG Rocco Spano, LTC Claude Cook, SGM Ken Mahan, MSG John Barr and SFC Phil Notestine told many a story of their service in the 50th Recon Battalion and their continued service in the 5-117th Cavalry. There was no shortage of Warrant Officers in attendance. CW4s Don Tracy, Bill Merring, Bob Kling, CW5s Frank Mnich and Bob Richardson's service represented seven decades of service and countless advice to generations of Troopers. LTC Roger Ellert, MAJ

Jim Scanlon, the Ayala brothers, SFC Harry and SSG Jaime along with SSG Bob Foley all very proud of their service as cavalry logisticians, were also there. MAJ Tom Merring, LTCs Mahon and Hrycak and aviator CPT Jim Pressman reminisced and talked of their service and the friends they had made during their years in the 5-117th Cavalry. CSM Henry Wetzel, SGM Jim Dooley, SFCs Bill Gruss and Don Kondroski were quick to share stories with today's veteran NCOs of the 1-102nd Cavalry - 1SGs Scott Mechowski, Mike Klock, John Rowe, MSG Joe Barnes, and SFC Ken Lucas. Seton Hall ROTC Cadet Sergio Suarez was the junior trooper in attendance. CPTs Joe McNamara, Vivienne Escalona-McNamara, Mike Tarricone, Ryan Bailey, and John Craddock represented the new generation of leaders in today's Army National Guard. LTC Ed Chrystal, the current commander of the 1-102nd Cavalry and our guest of honor, together with former commanders BG Ken Wondrack, LTC Jim Rosenberg and LTC Dean Spenzos all helped honor our 2010 *Member of the Year* - former Commander of the 5-117th Cavalry Colonel Ken Klein for his leadership, dedication and vision as who along with COL Harold Samsel established our *117th Cavalry Association* 30 years ago. Also recognized for their service, were LTC Dean Spenzos and MSG Joe Barnes. They were granted and assigned the distinction of Distinguished Member of the Regiment and LTC Ed Chrystal and Mrs. Danielle Bracco, leader of the Westfield FRG were made *Honorary Members of the Regiment*.

On September 1, 2008, the 102nd Armor Regiment was consolidated with the 117th Cavalry Regiment and the new unit was designated as the 102nd Cavalry Regiment (First New Jersey), to consist of the 1st Squadron, an element of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team with its Headquarters at Westfield. This simple statement reaches back into 120 years of military history and brings together the collective heritage of Cavalry and Armor in New Jersey Army National Guard.

The *Lineage and Honors Certificate* issued by the Department of the Army is the unit's official history. It is a birth certificate and family tree rolled into one document. Like a thoroughbred horse traces its bloodlines, this Lineage and Heritage Certificate traces units' locations, dates of service, campaigns and decorations. When you visualize the words on this certificate, it covers the entire state. Born as the Essex Troop of Cavalry, this unbroken Cavalry and Armor heritage lineage has existed since 1890 in our state's military forces. Units with that legacy are rich in tradition and history. They have gone by a variety of names, numbers and descriptions: Cavalry Company A, the 1st Troop, the 1st Cavalry Squadron, the 102nd Cavalry Regiment, the 102nd Cavalry Group (102nd and 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons), the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, the 102nd Armored Cavalry, the 250th Tank Battalion, the 2nd Medium Tank Battalion of the 53rd Armor, the 50th Reconnaissance Battalion, the 113th, 114th, 215th and the 644th Tank Battalions, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th Battalions of the 50th Armored and the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron of the 50th Armored, the 3rd Squadron 104th Cavalry along with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th of the Battalions of the 102nd Armor and the 5th Squadron of the 117th Cavalry. Their heritage lives on today in the 1st Squadron of the 102nd Cavalry (First New Jersey). These units carried on the proud traditions of Cavalry and Armor across the length and breadth of our state. They were stationed in familiar locations like Newark, Westfield, West Orange, Vineland, Dover and, Hackettstown, but others too that today's Cavalry Troopers have never served in; places like, Philipsburg, Orange, Red Bank, and Dumont.

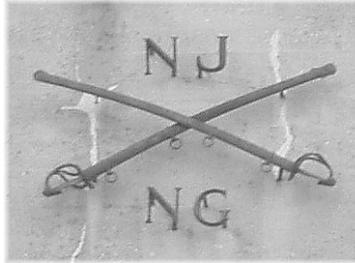
Today the Headquarters of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry (*First New Jersey*) along with its Headquarters Troop and Company D of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion is now located in Westfield; Troop A in Dover, Troop B in West Orange

and Troop C in Hackettstown.

Our legacy as members of our 117th Cavalry Association is carried on today with the Cavalry Troopers of the 1st Squadron of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment (First New Jersey). These troopers continue to serve our state and nation. They carry on this legacy, just as those before them had done for over 120 years. Our 117th Cavalry Association thanks them for their continued service and sacrifice that they have made and continue to make in defense of our state and nation.

Show'em the Way!

Dennis





LTC Ed Chrystal, Commander, 1-102nd Cavalry at the 117th Cavalry Association Biennial Reunion Good evening! Distinguished guests, fellow veterans, fellow cavalrymen, family and friends. On behalf of all of the troopers currently assigned to the First Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment, I want to thank you, COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty, and all of the members of the 117th Cavalry Association for making us a part of tonight's ceremonies and for your continued support. I would also like to thank you for the honor of making tonight's Keynote speech.

Tonight's dinner is a unique opportunity for the past, the present and the future of the cavalry in New Jersey to

come together. We come together in celebration. In celebration of what we have accomplished, what we are accomplishing and what we plan to accomplish.

There are some unique personality characteristics about a trooper in the Cavalry and Armor branches. Our mission is reconnaissance. We sneak in, we gather information and we sneak out. We carry out our cavalry mission taking great precaution to avoid provoking, agitating or making any otherwise unnecessary antagonistic contact with the enemy.

When not out on recon, however, the cavalryman performs every other aspect of his life to the absolute contrary! We are dynamic, decisive and determined.

This is often misinterpreted by the general population - as our being headstrong, stubborn and obnoxious. Luckily for us, when we get together for a stable call, a dining-in or an evening such as this, we expect such behavior from one another, we even respect each other more for it!

The cavalry community has been a part of New Jersey's history for the last 120 years. The Westfield Armory, built in 1925 is now the headquarters, and the forefront of the cavalry's future in New Jersey.

Many of you graced us with your presence at our change of command and change of responsibility a year ago in Westfield. That ceremony included the retiring of the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry Regiment colors and the unfurling of the colors of the 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment. Although this ceremony symbolized the end of the 117th Cavalry's tenure as a New Jersey Cavalry Regiment, it also symbolized a full circle of life for the New Jersey Cavalry.

While we return to our roots as the 1st New Jersey Cavalry, we fall in and assemble as a modern task organization of two mechanized cavalry recon troops, a light infantry recon troop, a forward support company and a headquarters and headquarters troop.

As we don our Stetsons and our Spurs, clap along to the *Gary Owen*, and raise our glass to those who have passed on to *Fiddler's Green*, we plan for and tackle an aggressive training year, complete with new equipment training, military occupational training, individual weapons training and unstable gunnery.

The squadron mindset is one that embraces the history and traditions of the cavalry while training to modern standards to defeat the enemy in full-spectrum missions in the ongoing Global War on Terror.

The last year has been a bit of a whirlwind for the Squadron.

The community has embraced us and we have responded in kind. The Squadron has participated in at least two homecoming parades, the Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade and the Fanwood & Scotch Plains Memorial Day Parade. Our Officers, NCOs and Troopers are in high demand at events such as speaking engagements, town meetings and Veteran's Ceremonies.

Our Troopers have been issued and trained to utilize the latest and greatest equipment the Army has to offer, and this trend is not slowing down. Everything from communications and Blue Force Tracker to the Command Post of the Future (CPOF) and new sniper rifles have been fielded to our troops.

Today's Cavalry Squadron has HMMWVs, Zodiac boats, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), TOWs, mortars and sniper teams. Our Troopers are heavily equipped, heavily armed and heavily trained. In their spare time, our troops volunteer for Airborne, Air Assault, Pathfinder and Ranger Schools. Our part-time job is fighting a war, and we take it very seriously.

My Troop Commanders and my First Sergeants are the best the Army has to offer! They count the drills between deployments and cut no slack to their Troopers in preparing for the next fight.

When we talk about The GUARD having moved in the last decade from a Strategic Reserve to an Operational Force, we are talking about the Officers, NCOs and Troopers of the 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment, NJARNG.

The majority of us returned last year from 12 months tour in Iraq with the 50th Infantry Combat Brigade Team (50th IBCT) "JERSEY BLUES". The Brigade and Squadron served in various assignments in numerous locations throughout Iraq. For many, this was their second or even their third yearlong deployment, away from their families, and on foreign soil.

As we speak, we have Troopers from our Squadron deployed in Afghanistan as volunteers with the 86th IBCT of the Vermont Army National Guard. One such Trooper is Specialist Robert Marts of our Alpha Troop. He is currently assigned to Fort Belvoir, Virginia and is recovering from wounds received in theater with the 86th IBCT VTARNG. I spoke with him this weekend. He is home on a weekend pass visiting his children in Vineland. His spirits are up and he looks forward to his recovery and return to the Alpha Troop.

I raise my glass to SPC Marts...I raise my glass to his whole generation. These young men continue to reenlist in our military despite the fact that, in the words of Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey, "We are nine years into a THIRTY YEAR WAR." These Troopers are the best our community has to offer and I am proud and humbled to have the opportunity to lead them.

I also raise my glass to the 117th Cavalry Association. I thank you for the opportunity to speak. I thank you for your continued support of me and my Squadron, and I thank you for your friendship. The Association and our Squadron have fostered a great relationship in the past year, and I look forward to our future endeavors.

Once again, thank you for inviting me here tonight to be part of this great event.

GOD BLESS you all, and GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Show 'em the Way!

Ed Chrystal



From the Editor Phil Notestine Our reunion caused old memories to rise for many of us. I must mention a few. John Barr and I were tankers in D Troop, 50th Recon BN in the late 1950's (the picture is me, a PVT in tank crew and basic armor unit training, Fort Knox 1958). John is still over 6'6" and I am 6'1" today. We did crack our noggins in our "steeds of steel"! It was great to see John and his charming wife Françoise. As young troopers, we had great times in our little M41A1 "Walker Bulldog" light tanks and hated it when they were replaced by the early M48 "Patton" gasoline fueled medium tanks. Part of the fun was aggravating our good sergeants Hank Sokolowski and Ronnie Pundock. Maybe that was among the reasons why I transferred to scouts? So many other good cavalymen were there – LTC Claude Cook, my Troop Commander for some good years, and CSM Al Phelan and MSG Rocco Spano. We were platoon sergeants with Cook. I was mentored by these three, and had many good times. COL Ken Klein was a SP4 in the troop when he went off to OCS. SGM Ken Mahan was one of our best tankers, an expert in a number of areas. Cavalymen together and friends forever.



As I sat at dinner, I wondered at the wide ranging stories to be told by the Patriots sitting together at our table. Included were CPT Joe McNamara and CPT Vivienne Escalona-McNamara, Iraq veterans and parents of little boys; CPT Mike Tarricone, 1-102nd S4, two Iraq tours; Judge Santi Carnevali, WWII "Class of '41", 102nd Cavalry (Horse), original 117th Cavalry officer and S4 during all combat operations and brother Dr. John Carnevali, USAF Flight Surgeon during Korean War; Dr. Daniel W. Lee III and his sister Courtland Lee, grandchildren of CPT Daniel W. Lee, CMH. Could it be that we were joined by the many that had rode up to "Fiddler's Green" for a time to tarry before their final destination...? I like to think so...

Spur Ride Journal, Captain Ryan C. Bailey, "Saber 1" Squadron Adjutant, 1-102nd CAV, Camp Smith New York Troopers of the 1-102nd Cavalry added another chapter to our distinguished history at Camp Smith, NY, during a hot and humid Annual Training this August as Spur Holders led by Captain Michael G. Tarricone led the Inaugural Spur Ride of the 1-102nd Cavalry. This was our first Spur Ride under the new regimental designation of 1-102nd Cavalry & the return of the entire Squadron from Operation Iraqi Freedom where we participated in a variety of Base Defense & Area Security missions. The Spur Ride is one of the events, which is unique to Cavalry and Armored Cavalry units and comprises our

means of passing on military traditions and knowledge from generation to generation. Other such events include our Cavalry Stakes, Gunneries, Gauntlets, Parades, Reviews, Ceremonies including Stetson Christening, Boots Christening, Orders of Knighthood and to a differing degree Dining-Ins and Regimental Balls. Our Squadron Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. Chrystal, Jr. has been an outspoken advocate for perpetuating the traditions of the Cavalry since assuming command. Both he & our Squadron Executive Officer Major William F. Morris were Knighted with the Order of St. George while deployed to Baghdad last year & he has undertaken efforts to cultivate a command atmosphere of pride in the wearing of the Stetson, Cavalry Boots, Sabers and Spurs throughout his command. Now the esprit-de-corps is imparted once again, as a new generation of Cavalrymen is ceremonially admitted to the Noble Rolls of the Order of The Silver Spur. Silver Spurs are awarded for successful completion of the Spur Ride. Gold Spurs are awarded for a Combat Tour with a Cavalry unit. Coming into this Annual Training with the ink still drying on the pages of our history pertaining to our last Iraq tour, the Cavalry had ample Gold Spurs but only a very small elite core fellowship of Silver Spur Holders. Now Sixty-five names have been added to that honored fellowship as the peacetime potential for Spur Tradition is preserved for another generation of Cavalry greatness.



The Squadron arrived at Camp Smith on 7 August and the days preceding the Spur Ride were filled with strenuous and hectic training schedules. Troopers had already participated in Weapons Qualification, Army Warrior Tasks, Combat Lifesaver Training/Urban Assault, Squad Training Lanes, Army Physical Fitness Tests and Land Navigation. As such many were nearing a state of exhaustion to begin with. The candidates for the Order of The Silver Spur were drawn from all ranks and military occupational specialties assigned or attached to the Squadron. This historic rite-of-passage was composed mostly of Mounted Cavalrymen from "Apache" & "Blackfoot" HMMWV Reconnaissance Troops led in the Spur Ride by their Troop Commanders; Captain Michael J. Cruz, call-sign: Apache 6 and Captain John C. Craddock, call sign: Blackfoot 6 together with Lieutenants, NCOs & Troopers who were already Gold Spur holders but wished to experience the full measure of Cavalry initiation and traditionalization by enduring the Spur-ride. Aside from these hearty Cavalry Scouts we also witnessed a significant number of participants from "Huron", Our Headquarters Troop & "Dakota" Company "D" of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion who proved their worth as Troopers faithful and true, following the Guidon into the grueling crusade to earn the coveted Silver Spurs. Upon beginning the period of trial and torment, the participants "sanitize" their uniforms to remove all marks of personal identity & assume the title "Shaved-tails", a term derived from the Equestrian practice of issuing new Troopers horses with their tails trimmed short so that other riders would know they were novices and accord them extra space in maneuvering.

The Spur Ride began as the day was dawning, before 0600. It was already hot and muggy as the Troopers stepped off on a ruck march of over three miles over undulating terrain which included several extremely sharp gradients. Sergeant Lebron led the march at the quick and served to keep everyone motivated. The Force March served as the first of Six Spur Stations to which Shave tails marched in teams and faced separate tasks and problems. In all it would take the teams two full days to accomplish the stations at intervals and in a circuitous route which they had to land navigate with compass, protractor and map. As if that wasn't all difficult enough, they had to halt in the wood line overnight and rest while keeping 360 degree security throughout, observing all priorities of work while in a hasty defense. The perimeters were tested repeatedly by friendly Spur holders and their nerve racking habits. The Troopers only sustenance was a single MRE per day. Needless to say this Spur Ride was shaping up as a real smoker in every sense of the word. Troopers sometimes felt they were all the way "down the trail to hell".

Sergeant First Class McGoonan, Sergeant Lombardi & Sergeant Rosado's Station concerned the important tactical issue of NBC or Nuclear-Biological-Chemical Warfare. These NCOs tested the Troopers' collective knowledge. All events were team oriented and team building. Here they made them don and doff Protective Masks, brief protective posture levels and finally formulate a NBC report to standard and transmit it over an FM radio which they had to connect, power & tune themselves under duress. Throughout the simulated battlefield, "Friction", of a style that would make Von Clausewitz proud, was applied by the sometimes gentle to sometimes obnoxious commentary & yelling of the devoted Spur holders. Their intent was to invade Shave tails space & pull them in different directions mentally, an effective orientation to the fog of war. This NBC/Commo station was not only very popular, but actually comprised a great training iteration for many of the Shave tails on two important skill sets.

Sergeant Schorno & Chief Paone led the Vehicle Recovery & Palletization Station which challenged Troopers with the ever toilsome & often time sensitive task of changing a HMMWV tire. Shave tails found it much harder since they had to low crawl & search for the lug nuts in the grass around the truck. Chief Paone passed along certain fundamentals of equine forelimb care employed by farriers & Sergeant Schorno covered deployment procedures for vehicles vis-à-vis pallets, railheads & steamship loading. In all of the events and stations the Shave tails found no rest as they waited. Exercises & Recitations of Fiddler's Green were peppered with choruses from such popular television shows as Gilligan's Island, Spongebob Squarepants & pretty much anything else to demoralize or embarrass the Shave tails, all in good fun. The laughs were tremendous and the Shave tails learned the importance of being able to take yourself with a degree of humor in the Cavalry tradition.

Some of the Squadron's outstanding Mortarmen ran an outstanding Station on Mortar Assembly, Targeting & Call for Fire offering Shave tails the opportunity to put together a mortar firing point to standard. Sergeant First Class DeBlock,

one of Our Army's top experts on the subject was supported by Sergeant Batista & Specialist Peralta at this Station which did everything except making the big boom. Teamwork was essential as they fought the weight of the tube with their tired arms to maneuver the heavy base plate & tube. The all-important Cavalry task of calling for fire was covered, a reminder that Cavalry Scouts make great forward observers. Needless to say, this station was a big hit with Troopers who always appreciate training with the supporting arms that will help them avoid decisive engagement during the mission of reconnaissance and surveillance.

Possibly the most motivating station of the forty-eight hour event was the Water Crossing & Crew served weapons assembly. Sergeant First Class Panowicz & Sergeant First Class Oliver supervised as teams had to send one member across the Water ford to tie off a rope, making a one rope bridge over which to commando crawl or possum across. The teams worked together to reach the far side where an essential task was awaiting them, that of putting together a machine gun from a box of disassembled parts. The teams drew upon their thorough knowledge of Scout Crew Gunnery Skills Test materials to put the weapons systems into service in short order. Everyone who saw this Station will not soon forget the sight of Scouts fording the river, crossing the bridge & gaining valuable experience & confidence at their skills.

Staff Sergeants Corrado & Rose were hand-picked for their experience to lead the all important small arms range component of the Spur Ride. The Station consisted of these two seasoned Scouts instructing Shave tails in the finer points of army marksmanship. All personnel had carried their M4 Carbines throughout & here they were able to employ them. Both of these Scout leaders have established fine records of shooting with iron sights, the close combat optic and the magnified advanced combat optical gunsight & talked on each. They also shared their experiences from firing Sniper rifles over in what our Squadron's own Command Sergeant Major Thomas S. Decker calls the "land of the two way rifle range", during their two deployments each to Iraq. Upon instruction being complete the Troopers had an opportunity to fire, always important as Range time is so important to us Scouts. There was much discussion of Cavalry missions past and present and the lore of the old timers from whom the Spur Holders had learned their tricks of the trade. I feel that these two combat veterans were able to bring an air of the realism that is so important to our profession during this Station's execution.

One of the greatest parts of the experience was the camaraderie that the Spur holders began to build with the Shave tails that they were indoctrinating into the ways of the Cavalry. Sergeant First Class Ambrose walked the ranks throughout and ensured all training was to standard and met the rigors warranted by the correlated interests of military proficiency and mounted tradition. Later, in Squadron Formation as we neared the conclusion of this Annual Training, Sergeants First Class Ambrose and Panowicz were to be honored for their championing the cause of the Spur Ride & being outstanding mentors by becoming the very first Troopers awarded the Squadron Commander's own challenge coin in Squadron formation. They made us all very proud. What's more the Shave tails themselves accomplished a great deal of bonding in and among themselves. Like every Spur Ride, friends were made for life & bonds were made that will carry on for decades between fellow Cavalrymen.

As our Spur Ride neared its end and the soon to be Spur holders approached some well deserved rest, the entire ceremonial process was brought to a crescendo of pride in our Cavalry heritage when the Shave-tails marched with their weapons, ruck-sacks and full combat gear onto the parade field, covered in the dirt and sweat of the previous days' tests of fortitude. Beholden of a newfound sense of heritage, the Troopers dignity began to rekindle as they were welcomed with hearty applause by the Command and Staff of the Squadron surrounded by all the Spur Holders with Stetsons. Together we welcomed them into the ranks of Spur Holders with the traditional "Christening of the Stetsons" which followed an emotional recitation of "Fiddler's Green". Old and new Spur holders joined together in the Spur Ceremony, as each Trooper was spurred by his cadre. Whilst mounted, individual Shave-tails friends and fellow-spur-holders placed the Spurs on their boots and charged them to carry out the grand deeds of Cavalry greatness all their days. During the ceremony, as during the entirety of the Spur Ride, we who were privileged to witness these events felt the spirits of Cavalrymen long gone, very much among us, as we pledged once again to carry on their mission and ours, the mission of defending the greatest land on Our Earth. "Show 'em the Way"

(CPT Bailey presently serves as Squadron Adjutant & has been a Troop Executive Officer, Scout Platoon Leader, Tank Platoon Leader and Intelligence Analyst in the Cavalry. Squadron service includes Counter-Terrorist Missions to the Manhattan Bridges & Tunnels, Salem Atomic Plant, Border Duty in NM, & Operation Iraqi Freedom)

Association meetings were held in September and November. At this time, the Association does not have a secretary and minutes were not taken. *Attendance on 10 September:* Arnold Lasner, Dan Melso, Robert Apgar, Ken Mahan, Dutch Gauthier, Bill Sedlak, Doug Tackach, Walt Lawrence, Joe Manto, Frank Patrick, Rodolfo Ptasnik, Dave Ellis, Don Tracy, Henry Forstenhausler, C. Curry, Leon Wallace, Art Maggs, Don Kondroski, Frank Mnich, James Anglim, Mike Hrycak, Dennis Dougherty, Bill Gruss. *Attendance on 5 November:* Bill Morris, Ed Chrystal, Danielle Bracco, Sheila Zelaskowski, Robert Apgar, Jim Pressman, Ken Mahan, Emil Allgeier, Ron Nier, Sandy Goldstein, Dave Ellis, Art Maggs, Joe Manto, Don Tracy, Henry Forstenhausler, Walt Lawrence, Arnold Lasner, Bill Gruss, Dennis Dougherty, Don Kondroski, Clement Curry, Frank Mnich, Mike Handley, Harry Ayala, John Crescenzi, David Mormak, Dan Melso, Jim Anglim, Chris Sands, Michael Hrycak, Leroy Metz, Ken Wondrack.

Class of '41 Luncheon 7 October at Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth. A special guest was CPT (Ret.) John Fallon II, a WWII veteran of the 36th Combat Engineers. John was a platoon leader of the unit's scout platoon, fighting in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. The 117th Cavalry was attached to 36th Combat Engineers during October 1944 near Baccarat, France. Fallon remembers being dug in along side of a 117th CAV Recon platoon. He had high praise for the cavalymen! Our connection with Fallon was facilitated by Gilles Guignard, a Swiss from Geneva and WWII (southern France) historian and reenactor. Guignard "found" us via our web site following a reenactment in Montrevel in early September. Gilles' unit portrayed a platoon of the 45th Infantry Division. Since then, Gilles has done much to learn about the wartime 117th Cavalry and her valiant troopers. He has returned to Montrevel and researched the 3 September 1944 battle. More about this later. COL Dennis Dougherty spoke about the reunion and sold everybody a new Association cap. We wore it proudly.



In attendance: *Class of '41* members Joe Pocoroba, Frank Wiswall, Ed Leonard, Irv Partelow, Frank Prettyman; WWII vets John Fallon II and Arnold Lasner; Don Tracy, Bill & Charlotte Merring, Ken Mahan, Dennis Dougherty and Phil Notestine.

Class of '41 Luncheon 2 December at Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth. After an excellent buffet luncheon, we retired to the Great Room and had our meeting around the massive fireplace which was festively decorated for Christmas. Ken Mahan and Phil Notestine spoke of the October Biennial Reunion. The collage of pictures (page 8) was shown and each individual picture was explained. Mahan and Notestine expressed that much of the 1-102nd CAV leadership was there as well as five past and present squadron commanders (5-117th CAV and 1-102nd CAV). Notestine told about the frequent inquiries and discoveries by Gilles Guignard, as he continues his visits to Montrevel. Ed Leonard told of the many pictures and questions from Guignard as he documents the 3 September 1944 battle. Leonard's eldest son Edward T. Leonard has been using his computer skills to display the pictures and maps and advising Guignard as to where the troopers fought from with M8 armored cars, mortar teams, machine guns and small arms.



Notestine told of gathering facts and doing interviews to develop a future *SPUR* article about the 102nd Cavalry Group fighting in Normandy at the end of July 1944, near St. Lo. Losses were about 7%, over 100 men and many fighting vehicles. Both Squadron commanders were wounded and replaced, and the Group Commander was relieved. We now know that the battles were fought valiantly and heroically against desperate, determined and superior German armor, artillery and infantry. We also know that the Group was ordered to fight as assault troops, into fortified boscages (hedgerow) positions.

In attendance: *Class of '41 members* Jack Ferguson, Ed Leonard, Joe Pocoroba, Frank Prettyman, Frank Wiswall, WWII Vet Arnold Lasner; guests Bill & Charlotte Merring, Ken Mahan, Don Tracy and Phil Notestine.

Association member Bill Lake of Vero Beach, FL has been notified by the Government of France that he has been awarded the *Legion of Honor*, and will be so decorated during a ceremony to be held in the near future. Lake was a *Class of '41* man, landing at Normandy commanding Troop E (Assault Guns), 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz). In early September CPT Lake was reassigned to command Troop A, which had been badly savaged at the end of July 1944. CPT Lake rebuilt the Troop into a solid, well-led fighting force which later turned back fierce German attacks during the Ardennes Offensive, for which the Troop was awarded the *Belgian Fourragere*. Lake returned home and rejoined the NJARNG. His last command was the 215th Tank Battalion, Dumont NJ.

Association member John Huff of Arizona was a platoon leader with Troop C, 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) during combat in Italy and southern France. He was hospitalized with malaria and sent home to recuperate. Huff stayed in the Army and retired a LTC. He remembers taking postwar C&G classes with old comrades Padraig O'Dea and Bob McGarry. LTC John Huff does not use email or a computer, and wishes to send his best regards to WWII members of *SPUR* (117th Cavalry's wartime name) and all of the Association.

Did you know that in addition to our "regular" Association web site < www.117th-cav.org > we have a **Facebook** page too? Check it out!



We have some fine friends who help with WWII information about operations following OPERATION DRAGOON, the invasion of southern France. Readers know of **Guy Julien**, whose grandparents witnessed the liberation of their lands by elements of the 117th Cavalry as they led in the *TASK FORCE BUTLER*. Guy works as an inspector for the French Treasury Admin and is a WWII historian focusing on southern France and aviation. Guy is a family man with children. He served in the Army of France, training in the famed *1er Regiment de Chasseurs* (cavalry) and the *21eme Regiment de Camp* (originally the *21eme de Ligne*). Sergeant Julien was charge of barracks *Canjuers Camp*. Most of our WWII pictures of 117th Cavalry in southern France in previous issues of *The SPUR* were obtained by Guy and sent to me. Guy made contact with the Mayor of Montrevel and was given pictures and the ceremonial speech and pictures in the last edition of *The SPUR*. Several years ago, he was made an *Honorary Member of the Regiment* for his service and friendship.

Our most recent connection is with **Gilles Guignard** of Geneva, Switzerland, about 1.5 hours drive to Montrevel, France. Also a WWII historian of southern France, Gilles is a reenactor whose unit portrayed a 45th Infantry "*Thunderbirds*" unit for ceremonies at Bourge and Montrevel. He is preparing for next September in Montrevel, and a correct enactment of the 117th Cavalry, 3 September 1944. Gilles has returned to Montrevel and did interviews of residents who were there during the battle, obtaining post-battle pictures, noting our fighting positions and taking many pictures. These have been shown to Ed Leonard who was a B Troop platoon sergeant and survivor of that day. Their collaboration has been emotional and gratifying for Ed and Gilles, who continues to research and share with us. For his hard work and efforts to honor our WWII veterans, He has been made an *Honorary Member of the Regiment*. Guignard served in the Swiss Army for over 14 years. He is the squad leader of the reenactors shown here, at the right side wearing a big smile.



These are pictures recently acquired by Gilles Guignard of Montrevel, 4 September 1944. The building is where CPT John Wood, B Troop CO and CPT Tom Piddington, A Troop CO defended. The big holes are from German MV Panther tank cannon fire. F Company M5A1 tank crews tried to support the recon troopers, but all were either destroyed or damaged. The Jeep was one of several destroyed. In fact, all of B Troop and A Troop fighting vehicles were knocked out by the overwhelming German Panzers.



Montrevel today – where an M5A1 tank was KOed on 3 September 1944.

ANNUAL REUNION GIBBS HALL FORT MONMOUTH NJ



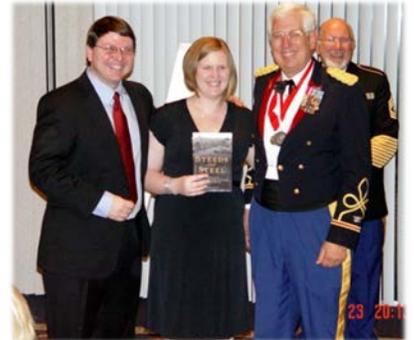
Dr. John Carnevali, Dan Melso
And Judge Santi Carnevali



SGT Anne, bride of CPT Santi Carnevali; HQ June 1945



for the Heritage Room





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 2011

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.** 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 kmahan117@aol.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).

Glad to see so many Folks at the Reunion, wish we could have had more. A total of 76 people were there to share the good old times and learn about present day National Guard. The active 1-102nd Cavalry had one of the biggest turnouts in years. Three surprise guests were Judge Santi Carnevali, WWII 117th CAV S4 and Dr. Daniel Lee III and his sister Ms. Courtland Lee. Their Grandfather was CPT Daniel Lee who received the *Congressional Medal of Honor* for his actions in the Battle of Montrevel, 3 September 1944. I offered to show the Lee's around the Heritage Room at Westfield, the next day before they started back to Maryland. We met at the Armory, and I showed them and explained some pictures & items from WWII. Dr. Daniel Lee's III wife Karra quickly pointed out the Grandmother, Mrs. Sallie Lee Pierce, in her blue dress in an earlier reunion picture. In showing them the Armory, I explained the horse rings on the drill floor and where the horse stalls were and why the walls were on an angle to protect the horses.

We missed CSM David P. Kenna, CSM Timothy D. Marvian, and 1SG John E. Kraus III. They were with the Squadron for many years. We wanted to name them *Distinguished Members of the Regiment.* We want to wish CSM Tom Decker Good Luck as NCOIC of NJ's small arms training unit at the JFHQ. We want to Welcome CSM Christopher Sheridan as the Squadron's new CSM. He was out of B Troop Westfield in late 80's. We want to wish him good luck on his new assignment.

TAPS

Emilie Juanita Roof Mitchell, 87 died September 19, 2010 Gainesville, GA. after a long illness. She was one of five children of Emilie Hook Roof and Jesse Marion Roof of Lexington, SC. She married Frank Arthur Dolge Mitchell on June 7, 1942. He was a “Class of '41” member of Troop B, 102nd Cavalry regiment (Horse) and an original NCO of Troop B, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). Mitchell was a POW after the battle of Montrevel, France. When the surviving B Troop men came home from years overseas and war, Juanita was the organizer of many social gatherings. She was loved and respected by the men and their wives. Her husband and her daughter, Linda Juanita Mitchell Tuminella, preceded her in death. She is survived by a sister and brother in law, Feaster and Razmic (Greg) Gregorian of South Carolina and a brother and sister in law, Marion and Betty Roof of Virginia. Also, by three children and their families. Frank and Cathy Mitchell of Navarre, Florida, Pamela Gunter of West Columbia, SC, Martha and Lin Zoller of Gainesville, Georgia. Her son-in-law, Jim Tuminella, also survives her. Juanita has 12 grand and 4 great-grandchildren and loved them all very much. Juanita was a wife, mother, "Oma," and avid gardener with a specialty in beautiful roses. She reentered the work force at Rich's in Atlanta. She moved to Gainesville earlier this year and found great happiness here in the last days of her life.

Harold Lester Reynolds 85 died January 30, 2008. He proudly served in WWII from Sept 43 to Dec 45 in Troop B, 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) as a T5 driver of an M3 half-track named “Big Dick”, fighting in Italy, France and Germany. He was born and raised in Jackson, NJ on his great grandfather's farm. When he came home, he worked that farm with his Uncle Elmer, a WWI vet, and raised 6 children there. He was married to Ella for 45 years before she passed. His children are Josephine, Elsa, Jacquelyn, George, Robert (1958-1974) and Mark. Seven grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He moved his family to a smaller farm down the road in 1970, worked that farm and lived there until his death. He also drove an oil home delivery truck for 40 years and was a life member of Jackson Mills Vol. Fire Co. (Reported by granddaughter Samantha Willmot, Point Pleasant NJ who loved to listen to his WWII stories, and was very proud of him)

Lillian Nafus 73 of Edison NJ, died peacefully Thursday Nov. 4, 2010, at her residence. Born in Elizabeth, she has lived in Edison for almost 50 years. Before retiring in 1992, Lillian was employed as an administrative assistant with Rutgers University. Lillian was predeceased by her parents, George Seeger and Lillian Mae (Rogers) Seeger. She is survived by her loving husband, Jack and their two sons, Scott and his wife Karen of Old Bridge, and Gary and his wife Leigh Ann of Waxhaw, N.C. Also surviving is Lillian's granddaughter, Deanna. Donations may be made in Lillian's name to the [American Cancer Society](http://www.americancancersociety.org/) .



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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



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
 WI-19 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-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-13 1SG (Ret.) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop
 FA-13 LTC PATRICK du TERTRE (ARMY OF FRANCE)
 WI-11 1SG (Ret.) DAVE ELLIS, D Troop
 WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
 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-11 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
 WI-31 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop
 WI-12 ROBERT GREEN
 WI-10 1SG (Ret.) ROBERT GRZESZCZAK
 FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
 SP-11 BILL HETRICK, CHIEF ARMORER (Ret.)
 WI-10 BG STEPHEN J. HINES
 WI-12 LTC (Ret.) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117th CAV '43-'44
 FA-14 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO. WWII 117th CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*
 FA-11 CHARLES JOHNSON
 SP-14 COL (Ret.) KEN KLEIN in loving mem. of wife JOANN
 WI-10 MADELINE KUTTER (mem. of) ERNEST KUTTER
 SP-12 ESTELLE & ARNOLD LASNER, WWII 117th CAV *French Legion of Honor*
 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
 WI-13 EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW French Legion of Honor*
 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
 SU-12 KEVIN MALONEY (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
 FA-18 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
 WI-14 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*
 SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK, *Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW*
 WI-11 CW5 (Ret.) FRANK MNICH & JANET
 FA-13 RONNIE NIER
 WI-12 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON Troops C & E, *Class of '41; 602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45*
 SP-12 JOYCE & HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN, *Class of '41, 117th CAV WWII*
 WI-11 FOTINOS PANAGAKOS
 WI-11 FRANK & BETTY PATRICK
 FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of) RICK APBLETT
 WI-12 TOM PETTY
 WI-16 (in mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
 FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
 WI-11 CSM (Ret.) AL PHELAN Jr. (mem. of) MSG FRED MATTOX
 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
 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 French 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
 FA-11 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem. of husb) WILLIE SCHNARR
 WI-12 ROBERT J. SMITH
 SP-12 JOHN SUITER
 WI-12 CPT MIKE TARRICONE
 WI-15 1SG GEORGE THOMAS
 WI-10 SFC JOSEPH W. TOOMEY, B Troop 102nd CAV (Iraq) & SABINA
 SU-13 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
 WI-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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To become a Booster of *The Spur*, please send \$10.00 for a year of inclusion as a Booster in four issues of *The Spur*. Make check payable to the **117th Cavalry Association** - \$10.00 for each year of support. Mail to **Bill Gruss, Treasurer, 117th Cavalry Association, 21 Blake Drive, Clark NJ 07066-1645**. Indicate how you wish to be listed:

We will resume the serial (Part II) of The WWII POW History of SGT Clayton Skoda, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) in the next issue of The SPUR.



January 1941 Newark NJ – 102nd Cavalry Regiment departs for Fort Jackson SC. 1SG Ken Cronin kisses his beautiful wife Marion “*So long, for now...*”, as SGT Frank Mitchell and PVT F. J. Dundon look on...



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COL (Ret.) Kenneth Klein
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COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty
President
LTC (Ret.) Ken Quaas
Editor Emeritus

DUES DUE ↓

WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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: 4 February 2011, 1 April, 3 June, 9 September, 11 November 2011