



117th Cavalry Association

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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 President's Message Spring 2014 Get ready for the 2014 Biennial Reunion! This will be our 18th Biennial Reunion for our 117th Cavalry Association. It will take place together with the annual Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance of the 1-102nd Cavalry at the Grand Summit Hotel on Friday October 3, 2014. I'm sure all who attend will have their own story and their own memories to share with their fellow troopers and with the current troopers of the 1-102nd Cavalry, with which we share a common heritage. Our history brings together all of us who have served with Cavalry and Armor squadrons and battalions whose lineage flow through Westfield, Newark, West Orange, Dover, Riverdale, Red Bank, Phillipsburg, Port Murray and the Vineland Armories, all at one time the home of Cavalry and Armor squadrons or battalions and now live on in the collective lineage and heritage of the 1-102nd Cavalry now headquartered in Westfield. I encourage everyone to call someone who you served with and ask them to put the Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance / 2014 Biennial 117th Cavalry Association Reunion on their calendar. Let them know you are planning to attend and you would like to share a table and lots of memories with them on October 3, 2014 at the Grand Summit Hotel.

Three years ago our 117th Cavalry Association started **The Share our Story Initiative** to tell the stories and heritage of all New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor formations, so that they will not be forgotten or placed aside and that today's Cavalry Troopers will understand the dedication and service to state and nation of those who have served and/or continue to serve. At our last meeting we discussed the tragic death in a training accident of four members of the 5-117th Cavalry, CPT Rick Apblett, CWO Robert Goebel, SP5 Charles Ward and SP5 Leonard Vellucci while at Annual Training at Ft. Drum, NY on May 24, 1978. There had been a plaque commemorating their sacrifice at the Picatinny Flight facility that was dedicated to these troopers but it has been lost or misplaced in the closing of the flight facility years ago. We have set a date to dedicate a new plaque in their honor at the Westfield Armory. It is scheduled to take place at the June meeting of our 117th Cavalry Association meeting on Friday June 6, 2014. This plaque and the recognition of those who gave their lives in the service to their country are overdue, 36 years. It is something we should have done long ago!

70 Years Ago: The Spring of 1944 found the 102nd Cavalry Group in Exeter, Southeast England undergoing intensive training on preparing vehicles for amphibious operations, landing exercises, and waterproofing as well as tactical operations that would ensure that their reconnaissance, surveillance and security skills were at the highest state of combat readiness. They had learned that they would be part of the First U.S. Army V Corps and be part of the initial assault force designated to make the initial landings and secure a beachhead on the European continent. Shortly before the 102nd Cavalry Group was scheduled to move out of Exeter, General Dwight Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander visited them. He told Warren Kennet, War correspondent for the *Newark Evening News* "You can't write a thing I said to the men. You can say I was here and you can say what I did but you can't say what I said to my fighting men" Kennet's reply was a simple "Yes Sir". Such was the security that surrounded the upcoming invasion!

The spring of 1944 found the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) bivouacked in the Forest De La Macta on the Mediterranean Coast of Algeria, twenty miles east of Oran. It was the first time the entire squadron had been totally assembled since arriving in North Africa. MAJ Harold Samsel the squadron operations officer described the training as intensive with emphasis on exercises utilizing a mock-up town where we had realistic use of explosives of all kinds, hand grenades, mortars and direct tank fire. In April 1944, the 117th Cavalry was attached to the Fifth U.S. Army and began preparations to embark for Naples, Italy.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting of our 117th Cavalry Association Friday evening April 11, 2014 at 7:30 PM in the Heritage Room of the Westfield Cavalry Armory. A special thanks to all our members who have contributed 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 association and it's many initiatives in support of our membership and the 1-102nd Cavalry.

Show' em the Way!

Dennis

COL Dennis Dougherty, USA (Ret)



LTC Jeffrey Brownlee takes command With the passing of the Squadron Colors, we begin the next chapter in the 1-102nd CAV history. I want to thank the Squadron and all who assisted in putting together an outstanding ceremony. It was a fitting send off for LTC Bill Morris, who has left a lasting mark on the Squadron. We wish him great success in his new position. I am honored and privileged to command this fine organization. I look forward to writing the next chapter of the 1-102nd Cavalry story with all of you.

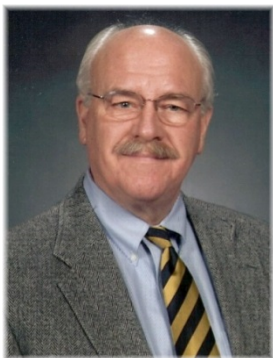
Show 'em the Way!
Saber Six



LTC Jeffrey K. Brownlee joined the Army as a Helicopter Crew Chief in November 1985 and was assigned to the 150th Combat Aviation Battalion. In 1986, he entered the full time NJARNG Technician Force as an aircraft mechanic. During that period, he attended college. LTC Brownlee graduated OCS in 1991, completed BNCOC in 1992 and took his commission as an Armor Officer in 1993. LTC Brownlee was assigned to the 3rd Battalion 102nd Armor as the Training Officer in May of 1993. In 1995, the 3rd Battalion 102nd Armor converted to the 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry where he remained the Training Officer until 1996. In October of 1996, LTC Brownlee took an AGR position as the 50th IBCT Assistant S4. He remained there for 5 years and held Company Command as the HHC Commander 50th BDE. In 2001, LTC Brownlee was assigned as the Full Time Support Supervisor of the 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry. From 2002 to 2007, LTC Brownlee held positions within Recruiting, JDOMS, and the JT2DC. In 2007, LTC Brownlee was reassigned to the 50th IBCT as the S4 and deployed with the Command from 2008 to 2009 as the Brigade S4 and Director of Logistics International Zone

Iraq. In 2010, LTC Brownlee was assigned to the 250th Brigade Support Battalion as the Executive Officer/Full Time Support Supervisor. Upon promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 2011, he was assigned as the Deputy J3, JDOMS where he served until 2012. Currently he is assigned as the Surface Maintenance Manager of the New Jersey Army National Guard. He assumes command of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry February 2014. LTC Brownlee is father to two sons, Eric (19) and Evan (15). He has a Bachelor of Science in General Business from Regents College, and has completed Command and General Staff College. His decorations include Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.





Phil Notestine, Editor Greetings from beautiful Pinehurst, NC where the 2014 U. S. Open Men and Women's Championships take place on Pinehurst No. 2, beginning 14 June. Ginny and I will be hosting family guests for the "duration". Sounds like fun, you say?

I asked my friend LTC (Ret) Mike Hrycak, past president of our Association to write a piece on the developing Ukraine – Russia situation. You will read it beginning on page 3. As a student of world history with an emphasis on struggles and war, I am more than anxious about Russia – or more precisely President Vladimir Putin, the past KGB Colonel. His recent actions in Georgia and now the Ukraine are reminiscent of Adolf Hitler, who used the excuse of protecting German peoples in Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia, Silesia of Poland, etc. to invade and take control. Soon, we were in WWII. Putin knows that NATO is weak, and perceives the current USA Administration to be – inexperienced and inept. Believe me; I am very sad and even ashamed to say it. I believe that NATO, which is 90% US Forces, must immediately be called up and emplace

in-depth combat and support forces on the eastern borders of all NATO countries facing Russia. Not to be provocative, but to prove resolve and strength – and protect the Baltics and free eastern European nations. Strength and action, not words. This is what bullies understand.

We resume the recently translated article on *the Battle of Montrevel-Malafretaz*, with reference the Fall 2013 issue of THE SPUR. Review that issue for continuity. Comments? Email: notie@msn.com Tel. 910-420-2968

February 7 2014 meeting 117th Cavalry Association was a busy evening. The night started with the introduction of a new digital membership initiative aimed at E5 and below. It establishes a \$10 per year membership fee for a year. This will make membership in our 117th Cavalry Association more affordable for junior enlisted members of the 1-102nd Cavalry. Next on the evening's agenda was an update briefing on our *Share our Story* initiative. This is an ongoing project designed to tell the stories and heritage of all New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor formations, so that they will not be forgotten or placed aside and that today's Cavalry Troopers will understand the dedication and service to state and nation of those who have served and/or continue to serve. We shared the story of Captain William Everitt of Westfield. He was a commander of Troop K, 102nd Cavalry in the 1930's. Also on the agenda was a discussion on the placement of a plaque in the Westfield Armory to commemorate the deaths of four members of the 5-117th Cavalry while at Annual Training at Ft Drum, NY in May of 1978. Our Association approved the placing of a plaque in the Heritage to commemorate their service. There is an ongoing discussion on this topic with a dedication date set for our June 6, 2014 meeting. This plaque and the recognition of those who gave their lives in the service are long overdue. It is something we should have done long ago!

We had two guest speakers for the evening. Our first speaker was MSG Shiloh Butterworth. He is the senior military instructor for the *Scarlet Knight Battalion* of Rutgers ROTC. MSG Butterworth talked about the role of ROTC and its relationship to the New Jersey Army National Guard. Over half of the 100 plus members of the Rutgers University Army ROTC battalion are members of the NJ Army Guard. Our next speaker was LTC Patrick du Tertre (Army of France - Reserve). Patrick is a longtime member of our association and one of the founders of the *French Will Never Forget*. This is a French-American organization dedicated to telling, remembering and commemorating the service of US servicemen and the role they played in the liberation of France in WWII. Patrick spoke on his organization's role in the commemoration of 9-11, Normandy invasion, and future plans to celebrate the liberation of France by the United States and the Allied forces.

Honorary Members of the Regiment are individuals who provide extraordinary support of 1-102nd Cavalry. We were honored to designate the following individuals as *Honorary Members of the Regiment*: Jack Kane, Fred Penaranda, and Darrell Root of the Nutley, NJ VFW for their support of Troop B, Kevin Scott of Carrabbas Italian Grill for his support of HHT 1-102nd and Company D 250th BSB and Tom Termyna of Apple for his support of all the Troopers of the 1-102nd Cavalry.

We honored SFC Joe Toomey of B Troop as the *1SG William B Maloney Trooper of the Year*. The 1st Region of AUSA sponsors this award. LTC (Ret) Barry Maloney, son and grandsons Brian and Bruce Maloney presented the award. The 1st Region of the Association of the United States Army presented LTC Bill Morris, commander of the 1-102nd Cavalry and Troop B commander CPT Ryan Harty with a historic photograph that depicted the 1st New Jersey Cavalry taken in 1915 together with the current 1-102nd Cavalry taken in 2013, commemorating a century of service to our state and nation of New Jersey Cavalry.

The last event of this very busy evening was the recognition of LTC Bill Morris with a panoramic photographic of the 1-102nd Cavalry taken at annual training this year at Fort Pickett, VA. This presentation was in recognition of LTC Morris's change of command this month. We would like to thank him for his dedication and service to the troopers, to the 1-102nd Cavalry and our 117th Cavalry Association.



Situation in Ukraine – a Cavalry Officer's Assessment - March 2014 by LTC (Ret) Mike Hrycak

Currently, Ukraine is facing a crisis in governance as well as a violation of its borders in Crimea by Russian Armed Forces. The trouble started 21 November 2013, when former President Yanukovych decided to suspend preparations for Ukraine's entry into an Association Agreement and Free Trade Agreement with the European Union, instead opting to pursue a Russian-backed trade agreement, all in conformance with Russian President Putin's directive. Protests started immediately at the Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square – the “*Maidan*”) in Kyiv, Ukraine's capitol, initially by university students who shunned violence and political grandstanding. Instead, their 24-hour vigil presented unadulterated information of government mismanagement and corruption to the world with the goal of forcing Yanukovych to resign. The Ukrainian government responded by sending their Ministry of

Internal Affairs Militia (police) spearheaded by a specialized task force Berkut. The first instance of violence, reported by protestors and journalists, was a 30 November 2013, 0400 hrs. attack by Berkut forces with the goal of ridding the Maidan of protestors and journalists alike, resulting in beatings of many, some severe.

Yanukovych was surprised when the reaction was 800,000 protestors rallying at the Maidan starting the next day, December 1, 2013, and every Sunday thereafter. Additionally, the protestors organized themselves, changing Maidan into the “*Euromaidan*” and governance by three opposition leaders: 1. Vitali Klitschko, Ph.D. Member of Ukrainian Parliament and presidential candidate of Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform, as well as a world champion boxer; 2. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, parliamentary faction chair of the Batkivshchyna party; 3. Oleh Tyahnybok, M.D., member of

Ukrainian Parliament and leader of Svoboda party. The leaders organized self-defense units, which erected barricades surrounding the Euromaidan, controlled access into the area, set up a university and library for those staying there, and started negotiations with Yanukovych.

Putin called Yanukovych to Sochi for two meetings thereafter, during which he offered multi-billion dollars in aid and, presumably, presented the classic KGB playbook. Yanukovych returned and went to work to get Ukraine back on Putin's track. He organized "Titushky", government paid provocateurs, who were being paid 200 Hryvnas/day (about \$22- a month's rent), organizers of Titushky were paid 5000 Hryvnas/day. Their role was to integrate within the protestors to create situations to provoke the police, and within the police to urge them into attacking protestors. He also organized Anti-Maidan protesters, shipped in from all regions of Ukraine. Some government workers in other oblasts (administrative regions – sort of like federal circuits) had workers who were given dismissal statements and admission back into your job when you agreed to go to help with Anti-Maidan protests at \$37.50/day (compared to regular \$250/month salary). Yanukovych, and by now Putin and his Russian special forces/militia (militia insignia were found within the Euromaidan), organized media, private and government-controlled, to provide disinformation regarding the composition and activities of the protestors (which, by now, had also appeared in other Ukrainian cities).

Next, on January 16, 2014, Yanukovych's Party of Regions rammed through a series of anti-protest laws, modeled after Russian laws, except more severe, to remove protestors. But, from January 19 through 27, 2014, a group of protestors, the Right Sector, started skirmishes with police, who used stun grenades, tear gas and rubber bullets, until the Berkut forces opened fire, fatally shooting four protestors, one of which was only holding a Ukrainian blue and yellow national flag. Protestors set up operating rooms and medical units, which are attacked by riot police and injured protestors are kidnapped from hospitals (note: to date some 267 protestors are still unaccounted for, with 101 identified fatalities). Next, Internal Minister Azarov resigns on the condition of protestors clearing out, which they resist, but as a showing of good will return several seized government buildings. The leaders present their negotiated deals to Euromaidan protestors for their approval, but on February 18, 2014, during a peaceful march, riot police dropped stun grenades followed by shooting from rooftops (during this time Russian insignia is found), injuring many and killing ten. Yanukovych declares a truce on February 19, but overnight a major force is brought in to eliminate all protestors from the area, and a major attack on February 20, 2014, claims over 88 protestor's lives (and police fatalities as well) and over 1,000 injured. The next day, February 21, 2014, an agreement with Yanukovych is made, with the assistance with foreign ministers of Poland, France, and Germany, although the Russian envoy would not sign the document, it calls for presidential elections in 10 months, an amnesty, and resort to the 2004 constitution with limitations on the President's powers. Yanukovych flees shortly thereafter and many of his party members resign from Parliament. Through on or about February 27, 2014, an interim government is formed, elections are moved up to May, and an interim Prime Minister is appointed.

Putin reacts on February 28, 2014, with the landing of about a brigade of armed forces into Crimea, who are without insignia and rank but immediately surround Ukrainian bases. Within days he has several brigades, and within a week and a half about two divisions of armed forces, as well as dominating airspace and seaward passage with Russian Air Force and Navy, respectively. It is immediately pointed out that the introduction of Russian forces violates many multilateral and bilateral treaties, but, more importantly the 1994 *Budapest Memorandum*, which prompted a newly independent Ukraine, with the world's third largest nuclear arsenal, to become a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by giving all weapons to Russia in exchange for Russia, US, and UK promising to support their territorial integrity and not allow armed or economic aggression (with China and France also including separate statements in support). That same year, a bilateral treaty with Russia, signed in Kharkiv, did allow Russian military in Crimea, but those numbers were now exceeded by several magnitudes. It was readily apparent that during the Sochi Olympics (Putin's penultimate Potemkin Village) special conventional forces infiltrated into the Crimea to facilitate the incursion. Now there continue daily provocations of Ukrainian Armed Forces to provoke armed response. The United States has spearheaded sanctions, bolstered NATO forces in the region, and diplomatic measures, with European Union support, but other European and world powers have not yet followed. The Crimean forces are also accompanied by large-scale Russian Army maneuvers along some of Ukraine's borders.

Update: On Saturday, March 15, 2014, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations presented a draft resolution condemning the Crimea Referendum scheduled for the next day. All members (13) voted for its adoption, but China abstained and the Russian Federation, one of five permanent members, vetoed it. The President of the Security Council Ms. Sylvie Lucas, made the following statement (in part):

Indeed, the Charter of the United Nations states that, in discharging its duties, the Security Council, I quote, "shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations", end of quote. Today, the Russian veto has prevented the Security Council from acting in conformity with this provision.

2. Now dialogue. Applying Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, the aim of the draft resolution the Council had before it this morning was to urge all parties to pursue immediately a peaceful resolution through direct political dialogue, to exercise restraint, to refrain from unilateral actions and inflammatory rhetoric that may increase tensions, and to engage fully with international mediation efforts. However, the referendum organized tomorrow in Crimea would seek to alter the status of this Ukrainian territory against the will of Ukraine. Were this

referendum to take place, it would constitute a unilateral action which would carry the risk of very seriously destabilizing Ukraine and the entire region.

Under the Charter of the United Nations, the Member States of the UN have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Today, the Russian veto has prevented the Security Council from assuming this responsibility in the interest of peace and security in Ukraine, in Europe.

Concurrently, Russian Armed Forces further violated Ukrainian sovereignty by entering Eastern Ukraine and seizing a natural gas pumping station, as well as inflicting further damage and casualties. Additionally, Russian Army units are massing at other areas of the Ukrainian border. On Monday, March 17, 2014, Crimea requests annexation to the Russian Federation and President Putin conveys recognition. March 18, 2014 – Vladimir Putin signs treaty to annex Crimea.



LTC Mike Hrycak, US Army (Ret) served in 5-117th Cavalry and was President of the 117th Cavalry Association. He deployed to Iraq in 2006 as an advisor. A first generation Ukrainian American, Mike was thrilled to work with Ukrainian troops. The Ukrainians were cavalry and many were Kozak (Cossack). Mike's heritage is also Ukrainian Kozak!

Pictured are a Ukrainian LTC and Mike. Although they were mortared daily, the soldiers trained well and took advantage of down time – including doing some fishing in a nearby river.



THE 11TH PANZER-DIVISION IN COMBAT

The Battle of Montrevel/Malafretaz

September 3, 1944 By: Frédéric Deprun

(Continued from the Fall 2013 issue of THE SPUR)

The Ride of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron

The 6th Army Corps under Lieutenant General Truscott has been slowed down strongly by the battle of Mèrimieux and of Pont d'Ain which has transformed the progression of the 115th and 36th Infantry Divisions to a stand-still in the plains of the Ain in the very beginning of September 1944. This General had been hoping for several days to realize a "miracle" and succeed in going around the German lines by cutting off one of their main retreat passes from their rear guard. *Task Force Butler* was assigned again following the Montélimar combat to harness themselves to this task by sending the core of the reconnaissance, the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron led by Lieutenant-Colonel Hodge, toward the north of Bourg and Macon as soon as possible.

The "117th" receives this message the following day: "Take and hold Montrevel by day, establish barricades on the roads leading to town, coming from the south, from east and north in order to cut off the retreat pass of the 19th German Army. Advance in front with Troop "B" followed by Troop "A", reinforced by Troops "E" and "F"."

The village square of Montrevel north of Bourg-en-Bresse is occupied by German troops in transit such as service and supply units and some reconnaissance scouts from the 11th Panzer-Division (*Ghost*), trucks from the 159th Infantry-Division, as well as some *Gebirgsjäger* (mountain troops) from the 157th Infantry-Division along with isolated vehicles. The Town Hall Square is loaded with trucks and camouflaged vehicles with two German armored vehicles stopped under sycamore trees according to reports from residents.

The support unit for all these vehicles occupies the surrounding houses. The Town Hall building and the Theater building are full of sleeping Germans. Other vehicles are stopping on the church square but also around the village houses in periphery. In early morning, around 200 Germans are bivouacked in Montrevel with some forty vehicles. It's on the highway coming from Bourg as well as at Malafretaz, a village which borders Montrevel to the south, where the 11th Panzer-Division has fighting forces equal to two *Kompanien* (companies).



Under cover of night and rain, the Task Force of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of about 124 men, 12 armored vehicles, 18 jeeps and a handful of trucks move around the German rear lines in a stealthy manner by infiltrating themselves in the small routes to the north-east of Bourg, reach Marboz and approach Montrevel by way of Etrez toward six o'clock in the morning. The group is too weak to undertake such a task and lacks ammunition, like grenades and 37MM cannon shells, M8 armored cars and M5A1 Stuart Tanks. The operation is almost to the limits of the impossible. In spite of Hodge's protest from the last evening, close to insubordination, the General from the 6th US Corps persisted...that at 2300hrs, the four "Troops" from the "117th" must get ready and march to capture and hold Montrevel/Malafretaz.

Organization of the Task Force of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron

Troop A (Recon) – Captain Tom Piddington (2 M8, 2 half-tracks, 4 jeeps 1 Opel Blitz)

Troop B (Recon) – Captain John Wood – mission commander (2 M8, 2 half-tracks, 4 jeeps 2 GMC)

Troop E (Assault Guns) – (3 M7 105MM HMC "Priest", 3 half-tracks, 4 jeeps, trucks)

Troop F (Tanks) – (4 M5A1 Stuart, 1 half-track, 6 jeeps, trucks)



<< Captain John L. Wood

Captain Thomas Piddington >>
photographed in front of his jeep "Ah Viola" toward the city of Digne, August 1944.

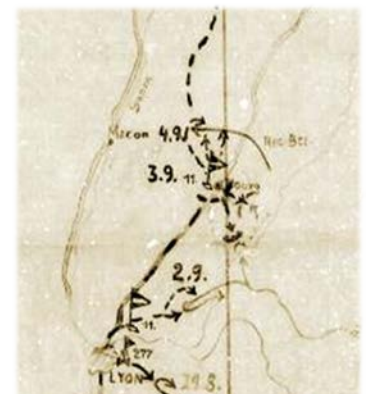


18 August 1944 - Jeep from Troop "C" of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron advancing on a road in the south of France. One can notice the cable bar located in front of the vehicle and the Browning M2-caliber 50 machine gun.



Insignia for the Gespensterbrigade Angern created in 1941, the original emblem of the 11th Panzer-Division. The veterans and officers of the 111th Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment are for certain left from the 11th Schützen-Regiment. The Commander Günter Angern suffered a heroic fate on the Eastern Front where he was certainly an example in forging the legend of the 11th Panzer-Division. (Coll. C.A.)

Map sketched after the war per indication from the Commander Wend von Wietersheim showing the progression of the 11th Panzer-Division north of Lyon from August 31 to September 4, 1944.



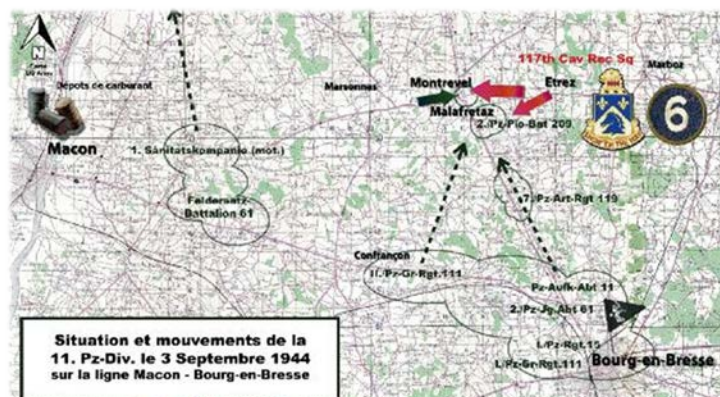


Patch for the 6th US Corps attached to the 117 Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on September 3, 1944. Some soldiers from the "117th" will display this patch on their sleeves.

Picture taken during the retreat of the 11th Panzer-Division end of August and beginning September 1944. A Panzer IV tank of the Stabs-Panzer-Kompanie of the 11th Panzer-Regiment 15 is stopping on the road of Bourg-en-Bresse while long columns of camouflaged vehicles progress in direction north.



<< M5A1A1 "Stuart" light tank of Troop "F" in the center of the village of Simandre-sur-Suran, east of Bourg-en-Bresse, the night before the attack on Montrevel. These are men who will be surrounded by the 11th Panzer-Division in the village of Montrevel/Malafretaz the next day.



Situation and movements of the 11th Panzer-Div. September 3, 1944 on the German combat line Macon-Bourg-en-Bresse.

The Capture of Montrevel The American attempt to take and hold Montrevel begins at 0630 hours in the morning with a coup de force. Guided by local residents (Lieutenant Valla of the Treffort-Cuisiat Maquis and Paul Venet from l'As north of Ain (underground forces), the convoy of Troops "A" and "B" advance rapidly on the road to Etrez toward the Town Hall Square. Jeeps and M8s surround the area opening fire at German vehicles all the way to the streets bordering the highway north/south that separates the locality. While the tanks are blocking the entrances and exits around the square, eighty Germans are gathered at waking time and regrouped, hands in the air, around the square. The capture of the area lasted less than ten minutes but the whole village is far from being free of Germans. Two shots are immediately fired coming from the surrounding streets, s Sd.kfz.250 fires canister rounds on the connecting streets leading to the Town Hall before fleeing west. A German Opel Blitz (large truck) taken by the 117th Cavalry and used as a supply truck burns to the ground on the road to Etrez, the jeeps and half-tracks wait in line at the village entrance all the way to Moulin-Neuf.

Photographs showing soldiers from the 11th Panzer-Division on the way to retreat during that period are very rare. The association "Mémoire de l'Ain" (Remembrance of Ain) has however succeeded to retrieve these two photos taken covertly of trucks and vehicles from the 11th Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment (armored infantry), getting ready to leave an occupied castle in Confrançon between Macon and Bourg-en-Bresse on September 2nd or 3rd, 1944. One can see a 402 Peugeot as well as a truck which resembles a 1500A Mercedes. All the vehicles are heavily camouflaged with branches and maneuver in the muddy alleys soaked by the heavy rains of the last few days.



Street combat continues and will not cease until the surrender of the Troopers of the "117" in mid-afternoon. Following is the witnessing account of Trooper William McCabe of Troop "B": *"We crossed a bridge before progressing toward town. About half-way, the road took a progressive turn to the left and at the top, I saw 80-90 German soldiers with a woman in civilian clothes. There were a few brief cannon shots and we received orders to disperse. Thus, I turned around and started to come back down the road until I arrived on a paved street leading right and we were followed by our two armored vehicles and a German truck that we had captured in Italy and they were full of equipment, supplies, our mechanics and our supplement ammunitions. Continuing about sixty meters down the street, the street took a sharp turn to the right and I parked my jeep along a narrow building with the half-tracks and truck at proximity. The truck was completely destroyed by gunfire by a Panther tank in the course of combat but I don't remember the fate of the half-tracks. The jeep of the first Sergeant Bill Grant arrived, and I never saw this man again. The first armored vehicle was driven by Benny Raby, Captain John Wood was the Commander, Sergeant Larry Barsby was Chief Radio Operator who was killed by a burst of gunfire when German tanks opened fire on him toward the middle of the day."*

While the M8 armored car and jeeps leave from Etrez to get ready to attack at the height of Montrevel, F Troop tanks advance slightly south. The Three Stuart M5A1 tanks and the jeeps cross a small hill rapidly and arrive at Malafretaz through a narrow street which crosses two bridges. As in Montrevel, the Americans wake up the many German soldiers asleep in many of the buildings. The given order was certainly to create a first roadblock some distance away on the road to Bourg south of Montrevel to slow down the possible reinforcements which would arrive at the time of the capture of the center of town. But the American officers were not aware of the situation in Malafretaz.

A Post Command from the 3rd Panzer-Pionier-Battalion 209 (combat engineers) is already in place with a few foot soldiers from other units. They had arrived in masse the night before and all the farms and houses were occupied by the Germans. They were drinking and eating while some twenty vehicles were parked in the village, (Citroën tractions, other civilian vehicles, supply trucks, and one Maultier truck.)

After a few minutes, Troop F column endures attacks coming from all directions. They form a loop in the village with machine guns sending showers of gunfire on the vehicles parked along its axis of progression. Two trucks loaded with ammunitions and grenades are destroyed on the road to Malafretaz leading to the road to Bourg, probably under attack by a M5A1 Stuart tank that attempted to force through the exit of the village. Their load is spilled on the road. A resident is killed by an armored shell which pierced through her home. The Troopers hold the triangular intersection in the center of Malafretaz for a while before coming back down rapidly in reverse order to take position at Mr. Bellody's farm on the other end of town because of the strong German hold. The road to Bourg will not be reached and is cut off. It's the first indication that the American forces are too weak for such a mission. The Germans regain their strength and wait for reinforcement blocking the road where the Americans had advanced and two dump trucks will be crushed later by the passing of tanks. The Pioniers and the GI's from the "117th" will confront each other and exchange gunfire at a distance



<<View of tactical markings on the front of an armored Sd.Kfz.251 of the 11th Panzer Division in Russia in 1942. It's very frequent to still see side-by-side the fantôme (phantom or ghost) emblem and the tactical sign which is the yellow striped circle on the vehicles in 1944. This half-track belonged to the 3./Pz-Gr.Reg.111 exist for a majority of vehicles and trucks. (11 Pz.Div. Kameradschaft.)

This photograph with "Ersatzkompanie, Montrevel-September 1944" written on the back shows a Sd.kfz.251 Ausf.B, of the 10(Pio./Pz-Gr.Rgt.111 This armored vehicle, completely camouflaged, is in maneuvers in a muddy field south of Montrevel with a Peugeot 402 and a

Sdkz.7 visible on the back of the picture. These soldiers and vehicles had been transferred from Dijon to Bourg on September 1, to reinforce the Panzer-Regiment with men coming out of convalescence. The Panzer-Grenadiers are well equipped and it is they who will launch the attack on the intersection of Montrevel during the day of September 3, 1944. (Boehmer, coll. F. Deprun.)



(To be continued in subsequent issues...)



Membership Update – SMG (Ret) Ken Mahan Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2013 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 14

**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 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). All WWII Veterans will no longer pay dues, you will see WWII over your name. **New Members** - LTC (Ret) Robert H. Hasannoeddin, SGM (Ret) Richard Burke, John Wincz.

TAPS



Robert "Tito" Salcido, 89 was called by THE LORD on Feb. 5th, to be reunited with his sisters, brother, granddaughter and his wife "Dolores". A WWII veteran serving as a recon scout in the 764th Tank Battalion, he fought at the *Battle of the Bulge*, a recipient of the Purple Heart, awarded Four Battle Stars, and numerous other citations. He was a proud member and post past commander of VFW Post 5615 during its heyday. He joined the *117th Cavalry Association* in honor of his brother 1LT Manuel Salome Salcido, who served with distinction in WWII as a tank platoon leader in the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz), killed in action in the Italian Campaign, 24 June 1944. "Tito" will be remembered as one who always extended his hand in helping others. He took part in assisting the earthquake victims in Mexico City. He assisted the tornado victims from Saragosa, Texas. He was a volunteer in the restoration program of Mt. Cristo Rey from the 50's to the 80's when he could no longer make the climb. He was involved with the Boy's Club from the Segundo Barrio, as well as with the Golden Gloves Boxing Teams from El Paso and Ft. Bliss. He established his own Graffiti Busters Program to get the youth involved in cleaning up their neighborhood and steered them away

from gangs. He is survived by his sister, Estela Cortez and his brother Salvador and three sons, Tito Jr., Flaco and Pete, to include nine grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.





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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
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-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR)
5-117th CAV
SP-17 BILL BENNERT
FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
SU-14 THOMAS BULLOCK
WI-14 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-14 DOROTHY CASPAR (mem. of) RICHARD J. CASPAR
SP-14 GEORGE "JIM" COBURN, *Class of '41* USAAF 395th
FIGHTER SQUADRON, 368TH FIGHTER GROUP (Europe)
SP-15 LTC (Ret) CLAUDE and HELEN COOK
WI-14 STEVE CUP WWII TROOP A, 102nd CAVALRY
FA-14 LTC (Ret) PETER D'ELIA
SP-15 ROBERT A. DENNIN JR. - A FRIEND
WI-14 SGM (Ret) JIM DOOLEY
WI-18 1SG (Ret) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop mem. wife BETTY
SP-14 1SG (Ret) DAVE ELLIS, D Troop
WI-14 ROBERT ELLERT
WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
WI-14 LTC (Ret) ALAN R. FISHER
WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem. of) WILLIAM E. FISHER
FA-14 CAROL & WILLIAM FISHER JR.
WI-15 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
WI-14 PATRICK FRANK
WI- 42 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117TH CAV
SP-14 BILL GRUSS (mem. of) SFC FRANCIS SKINNER
FA-14 LTC ANDREW HAGUE
FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117th CAVALRY SGT Troop C
SP-14 VINCENT HINDRICKS
SP-15 HERB HUBER, WWII 117th CAVALRY T5 Troop E
(Assault Guns)
WI-18 LTC (Ret) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117th CAV
'43-'44 mem. HANK EGBERT & BILL CRONE bros.-in-arms
FA-14 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
SP-14 COL (Ret.) KEN KLEIN in loving mem. of wife JOANN
WI -24 ESTELLE, ANDREW & JAY LASNER in mem. Arnold
Lasner - husband, father - proud veteran Troop B 117th CAV
SP-15 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE
WI-16 Dr. DANIEL W. "TREY" LEE III, (mem. of) CPT DANIEL W.
LEE, **CMH**, WWII Troop A, 117TH CAVALRY RECON SQ.
WI-18 C. J. MacNICHOLS
WI-14 SSG (Ret) THOMAS J. LINDSAY & MARY
SU-16 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
SU-14 KEN MAHAN for FRG SUPPORT TEAM
WI-14 CSM (Ret) A. A. MAGGS
WI-17 BRIAN & BRUCE (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
SU-14 BRUCE MALONEY
WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL MALONEY SR. and
My brother TIM MALONEY
WI-33 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
SU-16 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father)
T4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102nd CAV WWII
SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE
SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of) FRANK,
Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW
FA-14 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET
WI-16 1SG (Ret) Troop D (AIR) RONNIE & CONNIE NIER in mem.
MSG ROCCO SPANO HHT 5/117th CAV
SU-14 HENRY NIESE 102nd CAV TRP A 1943-1945 (Stateside)
SP-17 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON
Troops C & E, *Class of '41*; 602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
SU-14 LTC (Ret) TOM O'BRIEN, USAF (mem) my Father
SGT JAMES H. O'BRIEN TROOP B (Montrevel POW)
FA-27 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN,
Class of '41, 102nd & 117th CAV - B & C Troops WWII
SP-16 DR. FOTINOS PANAGAKOS & JUDITH
SP-14 FRANK PATRICK
FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of)
RICK APBLET
SU-14 STEVE PETROSKY
SP-16 TOM PETTY
WI-14 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN mem. MSG ROCCO SPANO
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
SP-14 LTC (Ret) KEN QUAAS (mem) DOROTHEA
WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of) ROBBIE
SP-33 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*
SP-15 SALCIDO FAMILY (in mem. of) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
(Ft Jackson '42) 117TH CAV. F CO. KIA Italy June 1944
SP-18 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of) brother) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
SP-17 JAMES SCANLON
SU-14 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem) my husband WILLY
SP-18 BILL SEDLAK
SP-15 LTC (Ret) ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB, WWII 38th CAV
SU-14 ROBERT SMITH
SU-15 CPT VINCENT SOLOMENO (mem.) LTC (Ret) JAMES A.
BRODERICK & COL RUDY SAULTER
FA-17 JOHN & MARGARET SUITER
WI-15 1SG GEORGE THOMAS
SP-15 JOE & SABRINA TOOMEY (mem. of) BROTHER
SGM ANTHONY FRED A JR.
SP-15 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
FA-16 CHARLES A VIVIANO - 50TH CAV RCN SQDN
SP-14 CSM (Ret) HENRY M. WETZEL & GRACE (mem. of)
1SG GEORGE "RED" EMERY
WI-18 LTC (Ret.) FRANK WISWALL, USAF *Class of '41*
B Troop, 102nd CAV '41- '42 Fr. *Legion of Honor*
WI-27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG - A Troop, 3rd Platoon
117th CAV WWII
SP-18 MARTHA ZOLLER, FRANK MITCHELL JR. & PAM GUNTER
(mem. of) FRANK & JUANITA MITCHELL
SU- 3013 FRG HHT 1-102nd CAVALRY

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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:



Italy, June 1944 - Troop B, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) Platoon Sergeant Ed Leonard holds an Italian MAB 38A submachine gun he took from a German prisoner. The German soldier had taken the SMG from an Italian partisan. Ed joined the 102nd Cavalry Regiment in January 1941. During 1941 in Fort Jackson, he was a farrier in Troop B. When the horses were replaced by wheeled and tracked fighting vehicles, CPL Leonard commanded a 37MM cannon anti-tank squad. He was a platoon sergeant in B Troop fighting through Italy and into France, and the Battle of Montrevel. Escaping a German POW camp in April 1945, he returned home to rejoin the 117th Cavalry, retiring as a 1LT. Ed has enjoyed a long and happy life. Now 94, he is a very proud Distinguished Member of the 117th Cavalry Association.

Late May 1944 - GEN Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander addresses the 102nd Cavalry Group, consisting of the 38th and 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadrons (Mecz) readying for Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy, France. Colonel Donald McGowan, commanding.



March 2014 – Colonel Dan Mahon retires from the NJARNG. Included in his long career, were many years in the 5-117th Cavalry. Dan is a loyal 117th Cavalry Association member.

The SPUR
c/o SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan
12 W. Walnut St.
Metuchen, NJ 08840-2616



COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty
President
LTC (Ret) Ken Quaas
Editor Emeritus
Philip S. Notestine
Editor

DUES DUE ↓

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 – Regular Meetings - Fridays 1930 hours: 11 April 2014, 6 June and Saturday 13 September 2014 (Joint meeting Squadron Stable Call).**