



117th Cavalry Association

www.117th-cav.org

102d CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102d CAVALRY
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President's Message November 2014 November is a time to remember the service and sacrifices of all our veterans. In keeping with this theme, we will salute all our members. When you look at our membership you will see individuals who have served in all our nation's conflicts from the Greatest Generation who served in WWII, our veterans of the forgotten war Korea, Vietnam Vets whose service is only now being recognized, Cold War Veterans who stood guard in Europe and the hot spots throughout the world, Desert Storm Veterans who returned freedom to Kuwait and our newest veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War On Terror. CPT Ryan Harty and I participated in the Westfield, NJ Veterans Day Ceremony placing a wreath at the Veteran's Memorial in honor of all our Veterans. Today, the Cavalry Troopers of the 1-102nd Cavalry carry on the collective heritage of our Cavalry and Armor veterans in the New Jersey Army National Guard. They continue to serve in defense of our communities, state and nation.

I would also like to thank *Memories de l' Ain* and the communities of Montrevel and Dole, France for the hospitality that they showed to our association members Captains Ryan Harty and Jim Giacchi on their recent trip to Southern France to help commemorate the 70th Anniversary of their liberation by the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. (See their article in this issue of the Spur). They will be making a special presentation at the February 13, 2015 meeting on their trip and their plans to keep this developing special relationship with these communities and our 117th Cavalry Association.

Seventy years ago the Winter of 1944: In November 1944, hard fighting was the order of the day the snow rain and mud of winter had come early to Europe, the Cavalrymen of 102nd Cavalry Group (102nd & 38th Cavalry), stood eyeball-to-eyeball with the Nazi's across the Siegfried Line.

December found the 102nd Cavalry Group attached the V Corps south of Aachen and the Hürtgen Forest. It is in the southern sector of allied lines that the 102nd Cavalry Group would participate in last major offensive battle of WWII, the Battle of the Bulge, and it is here that the 38th Cavalry would fight an epic battle in defense of the town of Monschau, Germany (December 15-16) for which they would be awarded a *Presidential Unit Citation*. In early November the troopers of the 117th Cavalry had just liberated the Town of Baccarat were slugging it out the Germans in the Vosges Mountains. Every mile was desperately fought for and a high price was paid for each advance. During the last days of November, the 117th CRS participated in the liberation of Strasbourg. A cold and wet December found them on the western bank of the Rhine attached to the 79th Infantry Division. Christmas Eve found the 117th CRS now assigned to *Task Force Hudelson* in defensive positions of the snowy Vosges Mountains just south of the fortified town of Bitche.

Our 117th Cavalry Association would like to offer a special thanks to MAJ Noel Lyn-Kew during his tenure as B troop Commander and most recently Operations Officer for the 1-102nd Cavalry. He certainly *Showed 'em the Way!* We would like to wish him good luck and success in his new position on the staff of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

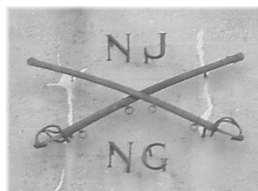
The Annual Casino Night was a great success. There were lots of great prizes, music and food for all those who attended. Thank you Danielle Bracco and *Bonds of Courage* for sponsoring what has become an annual event to help finance the Family Readiness Groups of the 1-102nd Cavalry

Our next meeting of the 117th Cavalry Association will be Friday February 13, 2015. There is a full agenda planned with recognition of members of the community for their service in support of the 1-102nd Cavalry. Please continue to show your support in your sponsorship of our 117th Cavalry Association newsletter "*The SPUR*." Many of you, especially *The SPUR Boosters* (page 10) have made and continue to make donations to help pay the cost of publication and its mailing. Thanks to all of you for your generosity in support of our Association's many initiatives in support of our membership and the 1-102nd Cavalry.

Show 'em the Way!

Dennis

COL Dennis Dougherty USA Retired





LTC Jeff Brownlee, SCO 1-102nd CAV We are about to close the 1st Quarter of the training year with our Holiday parties. The New Year will bring us challenging and demanding tasks. We have multiple training events, New Equipment Fieldings and upgrades to some of our systems. Many of these events will overlap and require much coordination. I know that the Squadron is up for the challenge and will excel in all of our missions. With all of our missions, we cannot lose sight of Soldier Readiness, which includes the administrative requirements and military education. They remain my priority during this training year. As we enter the Holiday Season, I want to wish each and every member of the Squadron and their families a happy, healthy and safe holiday. Take this time, reflect on your accomplishments, and enjoy the time with your family and friends. Remember to act as soldiers and conduct yourself in a professional and safe manner. I want to see each and every one of you in the New Year.

Saber Six



Editor's message - Phil Notestine at the range with my Smith Corona M1903A3 .30 rifle. These were wartime mass-produced versions of the U. S. Rifle .30 "Springfield" M1903 made by Remington and Smith Corona. Not enough of the new standard issue M1 "Garand" rifles available, so the bolt-action rifles were issued to many, many thousands, mostly Marines. I shoot weekly with friends and often use this grand old girl and my M1. Both are very accurate!



While at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, the 102nd Cavalry Regiment (Horse/Mecz) was issued the Garand M1, replacing M1903 rifles except for a few which had grenade launcher capabilities. By 1943, the M1 could be so equipped. Ed Leonard told me that he had to give up his Springfield 1903 while in North Africa for an M1 carbine...reluctantly.

As you will read in *TAPS*, Edward J. Leonard passed away in November. Ed was exemplary of the *Greatest Generation*, as Tom Brokaw called them, those men and women off to serve our Nation in World War II.

About 6 years ago, I was planning to dedicate the Fall 2009 issue of *The SPUR* to the Battle of Montrevel, but did not know anyone of the 117th CRS who fought in that battle. So, I called the men I knew of the "Class of '41" for help. Joe Pocoroba quickly answered "Ed Leonard, he lives near you in Pompton Plains". I used to live there too." WOW! About 10 miles away! I looked up Ed's number in our 117th Cavalry Association directory and there he was! I called and got an answering machine. While leaving my message, stating who I was and my objective, Ed picked up the phone and answered with a gravelly, Jersey City accent. He confirmed that he had been a B Troop platoon sergeant and fought in Montrevel, and taken prisoner. He agreed to a visit and interview. After setting a date, I called Frank Wiswall, another Association member who lived in Boonton. At the time we lived in Mountain Lakes, Boonton was a bordering town. When I asked Frank if he knew Ed Leonard, he told me that they were both in Troop B at Fort Jackson and had been good buddies. Frank was astounded when he learned that Ed lived in Pompton Plains! Frank had left the 102nd CAV for the Army Air Forces, became a B-17F *Flying Fortress* bombardier, flying 25 missions over Europe and retiring as an LTC, USAF after 39 years. Frank and Ed lived in their same respective homes, just a few miles apart and raised families since the late 1940's, but had no contact.

I brought Frank with me for the first visit...and many more! Both were 89 but soon, after a cuppa tea, they were acting like young horse troopers back in Troop B, 1941 (gotta blink back the tears now). We three became close. In addition to Association meetings at the Westfield Armory, I would take them to the "Class of '41" luncheons, where they were back with their comrades, including Bob Lutz, Harold "Smokie" Owen and Frank Prettyman of B Troop, Bill Maloney, Jimmy Kane, Irv Partelow, Walter Timpson, George Coburn, Joe Pocoroba and others. Favorite and difficult horses, tough First Sergeants, cooks and officers were remembered in good humor.

As time passed, most of the old soldiers would take their leave and depart for *Fiddler's Green*. Most recently, Frank Wiswall, May 2014. And now Ed Leonard. I do hope that they are talking and laughing, while passing the canteen beside cool waters, on *Fiddler's Green*.

Sorry, no space for continuing the Battle of Montrevel in this issue. Will continue in Spring 2015 issue.

Contact information: Philip Notestine - 28 Oxton Circle, Pinehurst, NC 28374; 910-420-2968; email notie@msn.com



Here in Pinehurst, NC a **dedication ceremony** was held on 7 November 2014 at **General George Catlett Marshall Park**. A 1901 *Virginia Military Institute* graduate, General Marshall (1880-1959) retired here in Pinehurst after his service as Chief of Staff, US Army, retiring in 1945. President Truman relied heavily on GEN Marshall's expertise to navigate postwar diplomacy. He was appointed Secretary of State and led a massive and successful aid package, known as the *Marshall Plan* for Western Europe, before resigning in 1949. He became President of the American Red Cross. In 1950, he returned to the Truman Cabinet as Secretary of Defense until 1951. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953 for his work to restore Europe's economy post WWII. Marshall became an involved and popular citizen of Pinehurst.

His biography, **GENERAL OF THE ARMY – GEORGE C. MARSHALL – SOLDIER AND STATESMAN** by Ed Cray is a must read. I believe that Marshall was one of the finest men of the 20th Century.



The Keynote speaker was **General Raymond T. Odierno**, *USMA* 1976, 38th Chief of Staff, U. S. Army. A native of Rockaway, NJ. GEN Odierno gave an inspirational speech before an admiring crowd, which included several active and retired General/Flag officers. GEN Odierno acknowledged many, including **GEN William F. "Buck" Kernan**, *USA Retired*, who lives in Pinehurst. Odierno hinted at retiring to Pinehurst in the near future. He will be most welcome ("Ray" and high school sweetheart Linda have bought a home here in Pinewild, a gated golf community in Pinehurst).



September Meeting of the 117th Cavalry Association Our September meeting is always special. Our *117th Cavalry Association* meeting will be joined together with a *Stable Call* for the Officers and Senior NCOs of the 1-102nd Cavalry. This joint meeting will give all of us a chance to share important information common to both organizations (Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance, Share our Story Grant, the Family Readiness Group's November 22nd Casino Night.) Events started with snacks and sandwiches provided by HHT and D Company the Family Readiness Groups. As most of you know, we take time to recognize former members of our New Jersey Cavalry and Armor community during our September meeting. Saturday night CPT Vince Tirri, MSG John Rowe and SSG Mitch Corrado were honored as *Distinguished Members of the 117th Cavalry Regiment*. Between them, they have over 30 years of service and their appointment as a *Distinguished Member of the Regiment* will help all of us perpetuate the history and traditions of New Jersey's Cavalry.

The highlight of the evening was the return appearance of Harry Yeide, author of the book **"Steeds of Steel"**, A history of American Mechanized Cavalry in World War II.

As part of our *Share our Story* initiative we invited Harry back to tell the story it is the story of New Jersey's Cavalrymen the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) and the 102nd Cavalry Group (38th & 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadrons (Mecz)). Harry has spoken twice before at Association meetings but this was the first time that his audience includes sixty plus officers and NCO's of the 1-102nd Cavalry. This presentation gave all present a new understanding of the service and sacrifices made by those who have served in the same unit that in which they now serve. The conclusion of the meeting was a presentation by COL Dougherty, President of the *117th Cavalry Association* and LTC Jeff Brownlee, Commander of the 1-102nd Cavalry to Mr. Harry Yeide for his service to the Cavalry and Armor Community of New Jersey. He was presented with the *Nobel Patron of Armor* award in recognition of his service in helping to tell story of New Jersey's Cavalry Troopers and the role they played in the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. We then adjourned to the

Heritage Room for the informal portion of the meeting, All in all another great night. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on November 14, 2014 (attendance was not available).

November Meeting of the 117th Cavalry Association Dennis outlined the *French Legion of Honor* award given to WWII veteran SGT Joe Pocoroba, Troop E, 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) that was published in the Asbury Park Press.

Ken Mahan - Membership, we have lost a few people due to lack of dues payment. We are under 200 right now. Dennis spoke of the transition to *PayPal* yet again...that is still not available. MAJ Joe McNamara was honored as a *Distinguished Member of the 117th Cavalry Regiment*. Danielle Bracco encouraged us all to come to casino night. This is a great night with fantastic prizes and food. Dennis talked about the coming reproduction of WW 2 campaign maps and availability for members to buy.

Dennis introduced CPT Ryan Harty who recently visited Montrevel, France with CPT Jim Giacchi to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Montrevel and Dole France. They attended numerous ceremonies throughout their 2 weeks there. The entire town of Montrevel came out to the ceremony at the 117th Cavalry Memorial. The ensuing ceremonies showed the great loyalty of the French people to our Soldiers and our shared heritage. Both officers were overwhelmed by the love and support showed them by the people of Dole and Montrevel.

Dennis invited the association to the Veteran's Day Celebration in Westfield on Tuesday 11 November. A member offered free breakfast on Sunday at the Cranford VFW. Also at 1100 hours, 11th of November, there is a Vet's Day Ceremony at the Memorial School in Clark.

In attendance: *Frank Mnich, Leon Wallace, Dave Mormak, Don Kondrowski, Joe Manto, Michael Hrycak, James Anglim, Bill Grus, Art Maggs, Ken Mahan, Tom Pickert, Forrest Ballard, Ed Barry, Bill Sedlak, Jim Pressman, Lee Metz Baidetore, Dennis Dougherty, Dan Mahon, Bruce Maloney, Brian Maloney, Danielle Bracco, Bill Morris, Ann Bergin, John J. Rowe, John Blake, Ryan Harty.*



SGT Joe Pocoroba has been decorated *Chevalier*, in the *French Legion of Honor* during a ceremony on November 7, 2014 in New York City.

Pocoroba joined the 102nd Cavalry Regiment in 1940. He was in the 2nd Squadron when it was sent from England to Algeria, North Africa to provide combat security for Allied HQ, January 1943. In November 1943, the squadron was reorganized and redesignated as the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz), a separate unit. After training Free French, the squadron was sent to Italy where she fought through Rome to



Fallonica when recalled to Naples to refit for the invasion of southern France, OPERATION DRAGOON. Pocoroba was a SGT in Troop E (assault guns) fighting through the Rhone Valley into Alsace-Lorraine and the Vosges Mountains. It was during the final German offensive OPERATION NORDWIND and the Battle of Bitche, 31 December 1944 where his leadership and steady professionalism providing hours of continuous fire and counter-fire in support of surrounded and retreating recon troopers from his M7 105MM HMC crew earned him a *Bronze Star for Valor*.

(Editor's note) SGT Pocoroba joins others of the WWII 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Recon Squadrons who have been decorated as *Chevalier, French Legion of Honor*. My records show them as SGT Robert Lutz, SSG Frank Prettyman, 1LT Edward Leonard, PVT Arnold Lasner, 2LT Irv Partelow, COL Harold Samsel - all 117th CAV; LTC Frank Wiswall USAF was 102nd CAV, CPT William T. Haley, MD DSC, LTC Bill Lake - both 102nd CAV and LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab, 38th CAV.



The Armor School, Cavalry and Armor Association (CAA) and the Draper Leadership Foundation recognized the winner of the 2014 GEN Starry Writing Competition, MAJ William Nance. MAJ Nance received a commemorative 1911 Pistol and a \$400 check from CAA for his article *Lost Sabers: Why We Need Operational Cavalry and How to Get It Back*. The article addressed the topic: How can we improve the capabilities of our Cavalry Squadrons to ensure they meet the demands of the Army of 2025 and beyond? Pictured left to right: CSM Michael Clemens, BG Scott McKean, MAJ William Nance, PhD and MG (R) Terry Tucker.

MAJ Nance found a rich lode of WWII Cavalry history when he visited the Westfield Armory Heritage Room, hosted by COL Dennis Dougherty in 2013; his Doctoral Thesis FORGOTTEN GLORY – U.S. CORPS CAVALRY IN THE ETO, finished some months after his visit, was surely enriched by the materials he was able to borrow and document. Subsequently, MAJ Nance was a guest speaker during the November 2013 Association meeting. His talk was about the 117th CRS and the Huddleston Task Force, during the final German offensive *Operation Nordwind*.



SSG Thomas H. Brennan, Silver Star, Troop C, 102nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) Essex Troop's SSG Thomas H. "Tommy" Brennan was born in New York State, but lived with his divorced mother Hazel La Point in Hillside, New Jersey. After grammar school, he served as a plumber's apprentice in Union and Essex counties in New Jersey.

On the day Essex Troop was called into federal service, January 6, 1941, Brennan enlisted in 102nd Cavalry Regiment at Westfield, NJ.

Prior to deployment, he married Jean Monica Fidurski, a gorgeous strawberry blond, who was the sister of his best friend, Ben John "Bill" Fidurski, who subsequently served as a carpenter in the Army Medical Corps in France.

Transported to England in 1942, Tommy Brennan achieved the rank of Sergeant by the time of deployment to France with the 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz), 102nd Cavalry Group, he was known for his willingness to commit to volunteer missions known in the military vernacular of the time as "suicide squads."

On the movement toward Paris, the 102nd Cavalry was attached to an Infantry Division, and Brennan and a six-man, volunteer patrol were tasked with capturing German soldiers for interrogation. In the hedgerows, Brennan encountered a German soldier coming over an opening in a hedgerow, and grabbed the German's rifle pulling the enemy soldier over the hedgerow. In hand-to-hand fighting, Brennan disarmed his adversary, jabbed him with his carbine and single handedly captured the German prisoner. For this "*conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy*," Brennan was awarded the *Silver Star* in a battlefield ceremony by Major General Walter M. Robertson. Brennan's exploits were documented in reports from the front by Warren H. Kennet of New Jersey's *Newark Evening News*.

On August 24, 1944, the eve of the final push into Paris, Tommy Brennan went to visit his best friend and brother-in-law, Cpl. Ben John Fidurski at the Army Medical Corps, and gave Cpl. Fidurski his riding boots, jodhpurs and trench knife with the instruction to take them home because he had the feeling that he would not be returning from mission the following day.

On August 25, 1944, in the 2nd Platoon, Troop C of 102nd CRS under Captain Milton J. Hull of Maplewood, New Jersey, Brennan was in a forward unit that had just taken the east bank of the Seine, but encountered an ambush manned by approximately 200 heavily camouflaged German infantry armed with machine guns, mortars, Panzerfaust and an 88mm artillery battery. Brennan and another platoon member were killed attempting to get aid for their trapped comrades. After fighting their way across France, they would not be part of the Troop C honor guard that served as the personal escort of the Army Group Commander Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley and France's Gen. Charles de Gaulle in their triumphant march from the *Arc de Triomphe* to the *Champs-Élysées*. In the ambush, four members of Brennan's platoon were killed in action and twelve wounded with three armored cars and four Jeeps destroyed, but Capt. Hull responded by hitting a numerically superior force hard with remaining platoons from Troop C and the enemy retreated after Troop C killed 125 enemy combatants and captured 26 prisoners of war.

Notably, the Liberation of Paris was spearheaded reconnaissance units of the 102nd Cavalry Group.

At the request of the family, Sgt. Brennan's remains were brought back to the United States and he is interred at Beverly National Cemetery in Beverly, New Jersey.

After the war, Jean Fidurski Brennan eventually married Ben Juzwik, with the understanding that "there will always be Tommy." Their only child was named Thomas.

And, therein resides the essential spirit of the 102nd Cavalry. *Hooah!*

Written by the nephew of SSG Thomas Brennan - Bill Fidurski of Clark, NJ (732) 388-6293





Operation Dragoon: 70 years later Often times, great opportunities walk through your door unexpectedly. This was exactly how CPT Jim Giacchi and myself ended up in Southern France with the immense and incredible honor of representing the 1-102d Cavalry for the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Southern France, specifically the Battle of Montrevel. COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty mentioned in passing that a reenacting group that has ties to the 117th Cavalry Association, Mémoires de l'Ain, was hosting a celebration and reenactment display for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Montrevel in the small rural farming town of Montrevel-en-Bresse. Both CPT Giacchi and I jumped at the opportunity to represent the unit and to visit in-person the battlefield that the 117th Cavalry heroically fought on during the operations of August and September of 1944. Little did we know what was in store for us!

CPT Giacchi and I began our journey after linking up in Frankfurt, Germany. CPT Giacchi flew commercial a few days earlier than I to take in the scenery of



Western Germany via motorcycle, which is a story in and of itself. We took the 6-hour drive from Frankfurt to Montrevel and made contact with our hosts, **Jean-Marie GILLET** and **Bruno CAVILLON**. >>>

Bruno is the subject matter expert on the battle and can tell you the minute-by-minute details of the battle, from vehicle positions, routes, and significant actions such as 1LT Daniel Lee's heroic

actions, which earned him the *Congressional Medal of Honor*. In what would begin 10 days of commemorations, celebrations and parades, we started off in the town of Atin (a small town south of Montrevel) with a ceremony and parade on 6 September followed by a tour of the reenactment encampment on Sougey's Farm, which was a restored 15th Century French farm. It was certainly a sight to see - French resistance, German, and American reenactors with every WWII vehicle and weapon you can imagine. It was surreal to see the guidons on A and B Troops of the 117th Cavalry flying again on the same fields of battle as they were in 1944.



The following day, the town of Montrevel had their parade and ceremony, which was an absolutely amazing experience. Men and women who were children at the time of the battle came out to speak to us and show us photographs of the 117th. We participated in an emotional ceremony at the 117th Cavalry Monument. It seemed that the entire town came out to pay tribute to the brave Soldiers of the 117th and the French Resistance fighters that fought over the very ground we stood on 70 years ago. Although we both spoke little French and the local citizens spoke little English, the passion, emotion, and heartfelt thanks for our 117th CRS brethren was undeniable. The highlight of the ceremony for us was the laying of the wreaths on the 117th CRS monument followed by the French and American national anthems played by a high school band.



There is something overwhelming about hearing *Star Spangled Banner* played when you are thousands of miles from home on foreign soil. We ended the parade and ceremony at the town hall which was the building that A and B Troop made their last stand as the 11th Panzer "Ghost" Division surrounded the town. The building still bore the scars of war with multiple bullet holes throughout the exterior.



Throughout the parade and ceremonies, both CPT Giacchi and I were in our ASUs, Stetsons, and spurs. This was quite the sight for the French citizens of Montrevel as it would be in our further travels and made us minor celebrities for a few days. We cannot count the number of pictures and even autographs we did throughout our trip!

After the ceremonies and conclusion of the reenactment, we bid adieu to our hosts and began our travels north to the city of Dole. The 117th CRS liberated Dole in September 1944 and the city reached out to us to ask us to participate in their anniversary celebrations. The city of Dole is a beautiful and immaculately preserved medieval city, something you would imagine in a storybook. In the town of Dole, our guides were two Deputy Mayors, Jean Baptiste Gagnoux and Jean-Phillippe Lefèvre. They arranged tours of the city to include the Collégiale Notre-Dame of Dole, an old Hospital that has been turned into the town library, and numerous other beautiful buildings.



In Dole, we participated with the Mayor of Dole, Jean-Marie Sermier in the unveiling of a monument to the 117th Cavalry on the bridge the Squadron entered the town in September of 1944, liberating it from the German Wehrmacht. It is hard to explain the reception we received from the town of



Dole. The city opened its arms to us and treated us with amazing generosity. A highlight of our experience in Dole was the time we were able to spend with French Resistance veterans from WWII. They were incredible men and it was humbling to be in their presence. We participated, in conjunction with the French army, in a multitude of ceremonies at various small towns' WWII memorials. Our final day in Dole was a parade through the picturesque and ancient streets of Dole in WWII jeeps and vehicles. The streets were lined with the people cheering and waving as we went by. The parade ended at Liberation Square where 70 years earlier the 117th and the town of Dole celebrated the final liberation from Nazi occupation after 4 long and arduous years. The scene that awaited us at the square is hard to put to words. There were over 5,000 cheering spectators there to honor the American Soldiers and French Resistance fighters. It was emotionally overwhelming and humbling to be part of such a wonderful celebration.



The trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity and an incredible experience. "Humbling" is a word that CPT Giacchi and I used frequently throughout the trip. It was an honor for us to represent the 1-102nd Cavalry and the 117th Cavalry Association. It is one thing to read articles and books about the battles of WWII and the campaigns of the 117th but it was

quite another to see the very ground that those brave troopers fought across in 1944. We both came back with an increased devotion to remembering and educating our Soldiers about what our predecessors accomplished so many years ago. We truly hope that this is not the last trip members of the regiment will take to visit the towns to which our unit and its history are inextricably linked.



Show 'em the Way!

CPT Ryan Harty and CPT Jim Giacchi.

Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance





Membership Update – SMG (Ret) Ken Mahan Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2015 or later, you are behind in your dues. Your Subscription to *THE SPUR* is going to run out, due to non-payment of dues. A sample of label:

SEPT 15

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

To Members behind in their dues, you will have date circled in RED! This is the only notice you will receive. Send information and/or dues to me at the Metuchen address shown above. **Annual regular dues of \$20.00, Associate dues \$15.00 and enlisted E5-E1 \$10.00 are due in September.** Make checks Payable to **117th Cavalry Association.** **Pay Pal** can be used as well – link is on our web site www.117th-cav.org **Boosters** help pay for SPUR mailings to WWII veterans and their widows, *not* for your dues! We cannot continue to mail *The SPUR* to lapsed members. Stick with us, we want you as a member, but you must pay your own “freight”. **Email:** Please send your email address to me at 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:** HHT 1SG Darrin Turner, D Company SFC Kenneth Lucas; Ray Brown, William Fidurski, Louis Drastal and Louis Schwartz.

TAPS



Edward J. Leonard, 95, a longtime resident of Pompton Plains, WWII veteran and former POW, passed away on November 10, 2014. Born in Jersey City, Edward was the son of the late John C. Leonard II and Katherine (Diehle). He served in the CCC in Montana before joining the Army as a member of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment in early 1941. There he became a farrier prior to the Cavalry becoming mechanized. His squadron was sent from England to Algeria and reflagged as the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz). SGT Leonard led recon troops in French North Africa, Italy and France where he became a POW who later escaped back to American Forces. In 2010, Edward was summoned to the French Embassy in NYC where he was appointed *Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor*, one of the highest honors bestowed by the French for service in WWII.

After the war, Edward worked for NJ Bell Telephone Company as a troubleshooter and shod horses on the weekends. Rejoining the post war 117th Cavalry, he rose to First Lieutenant, but retired early due to family and work demands. He loved animals, particularly dogs and horses, and taught his sons to be free thinkers and independent by being patient and being your own person.

Edward is survived by his sons, Edward T. and his wife Sue, Robert and his wife Leslie, Kenneth and his wife Norie, and Richard; his grandchildren, Tim, Michael, Steven, Matthew, and Lauren; and 5 great grandchildren. His wife, Frances (Kelly); his brothers, John C. Jr. and Charles; and his sisters, Pauline and Margaret, predeceased him.

Donations in Edward's memory to the *Wounded Warrior Project*, *Wilderness Volunteers*, the *Covenant House*, or the charity of your choice would be greatly appreciated by his family.

Clarence "Mac" MacNichols passed away on 12 November 2014 in West Virginia VA Medical Facility. Mac joined the Regiment after January 1941; he was most likely part of the influx of replacements in April 1941. Like so many others, enjoyed riding horses, so he did not wait for the draft, he volunteered for the cavalry service and expect to return home in a year. Originally from Long Island, and entered military service through Fort Dix.

Mac was one of the four American soldiers of Troop B, 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadron to enter Paris on 24 August 1944. Then SGT Clarence MacNichols along with PFC Albert S. Szaro of Linden, NJ, PVT Henry L. Jackson of Connersville, IN and CPT Charles Peterson of Linden, NJ. The three enlisted soldiers shared a \$750 bond, which was awarded for the honor of being the first in Paris. The bond was posted by David Kay to the NY Post to honor the first American in Paris. Clarence was awarded the *French Croix de Guerre* on 25 January 1945 for his participation in the Liberation of Paris; award recommendation was signed by COL George Saunders, Commander 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadron. Condolences may be sent to the Trinity Episcopal Church, W. German St, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

Leonard Bolzan, 67, a longtime resident of Bloomingdale, passed away peacefully at home on August 28, 2014 after a courageous battle with ALS, after being diagnosed just a year ago. Len lived life with enthusiasm and a great sense of humor. He worked very hard, but knew how to make the most of his downtime. He treasured being with his many friends, even to the end while battling this devastating disease that took so much away from him. Born in Montclair, Lenny was the son of Helen and Stanley Bolzan. He grew up in Bloomfield and had a long career as a letter carrier for the Bloomfield Post Office. After graduating from Bloomfield High School and Seton Hall University, Len proudly served in the US Army during the Vietnam War and later as a Platoon Sergeant, Company C, 2nd Tank BN, 102nd Armor, NJARNG. He was a member of the Pompton Lakes VFW and loved golf, history, travel, and enjoying life to the fullest. Len is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Catherine (Cate); his mother, Helen Staniaszek; his niece, Allison Dunko; and his nephew, Steven Bolzan. He was predeceased by his father, Stanley and by his brother, Richard.

Robert Delmonaco Army officer, Kean student, Edison resident since boyhood, Robert Delmonaco, 21, of Edison, N.J., entered into eternal rest on Friday, Oct. 3, 2014. Robert was born in Plainfield, N.J., and had lived in Edison his entire life. He graduated from Valley Forge Military College of Pennsylvania. He was currently a student at Kean University, where he was a member of the National Honor Society. Robert was presently serving in the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant with Alpha Troop 1-102nd Cavalry NJ Army National Guard. Robert is survived by his devoted parents, Dave and Karen (Segelken) Delmonaco; his loving sisters, Tara Marie and Nina Marie; his grandparents, Nicholas and Arlene Delmonaco and Jeanne Segelken; many aunts and uncles, and his god-parents, Marybeth Emson and William Edward Gatto. Robert was predeceased by his grandfather, William Segelken.



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Shown at the left of each name is the last issue and year in which your entry will be published.

SP = Spring, SU = Summer, FA = Fall, WI = Winter



WI-15 HEIDI AHLBORN daughter of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN
Class of '41 102nd and 117th CAV WWII Troops B & C
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 BENNETT
FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
FA-15 SGM (Ret) RICHARD T. BURKE
FA-24 JUDGE SANTI CARNEVALI, WWII 102nd & 117th CAVALRY
FA-15 DON CARSON (mem. of) MSG GARY G. HADDICAN
SP-15 LTC (Ret) CLAUDE and HELEN COOK
WI-14 STEVE CUP WWII TROOP A, 102nd CAVALRY
SU-15 LTC (Ret) PETER D'ELIA
FA-16 ROBERT A. DENNIN JR. - A FRIEND
FA-15 SGM (Ret) JIM DOOLEY
WI-18 1SG (Ret) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop mem. wife BETTY
WI-14 ROBERT ELLERT
WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
WI-15 LTC (Ret) ALAN R. FISHER
WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem. of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
WI-17 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
WI-14 PATRICK FRANK
WI-52 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117th CAV
SU-16 BILL GRUSS & LINDA
FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117th CAVALRY SGT Troop C
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
WI-18 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO.
WWII 117th CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*
WI-19 ANNE MARIE & GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO
FA-15 CHARLES JOHNSON WWII 117th Cavalry Recon
WI-24 ESTELLE, ANDREW & JAY LASNER in mem. Arnold
Lasner - husband, father - proud veteran Troop B 117th CAV
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.
SU-19 1LT (Ret) EDWARD J. LEONARD, Class of '41, PSG B Troop
117th CAV, Montrevel POW French *Legion of Honor*
WI-16 SSG (Ret) THOMAS J. LINDSEY & MARY
WI-18 C. J. MacNICHOLS
SU-16 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
WI-14 CSM (Ret) A. A. MAGGS
WI-17 BRIAN & BRUCE (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL MALONEY SR. and
My brother TIM MALONEY
WI-33 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
SU-16 PEDRO MARTINEZ
SU-16 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father)
T4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102nd CAV WWII
FA-16 WAYNE McCANN
SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE

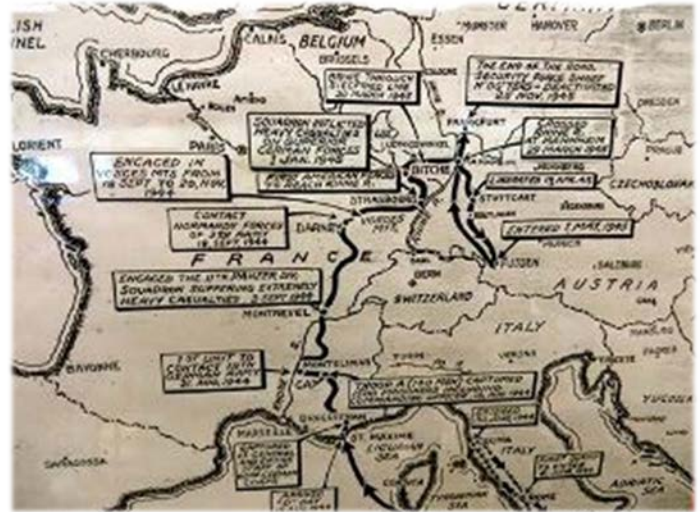
WI-16 ROMAN MILANOWICZ and BEVERLY
SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK,
Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW
WI-15 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET
WI-16 1SG (Ret) Troop D (AIR) RONNIE & CONNIE NIER in mem.
MSG ROCCO SPANO HHT 5/117th CAV
SP-17 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON
Troops C & E, Class of '41; 602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
FA-27 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN,
Class of '41, 102nd & 117th CAV - B & C Troops WWII
SP-16 DR. FOTINOS PANAGAKOS & JUDITH
WI-16 FRANK PATRICK
SP-16 TOM PETTY
WI-14 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN mem. MSG ROCCO SPANO
WI-15 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN mem. COL KEN KLEIN
WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, Class of '41
FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
SU-19 ANTON and MARILYN PLONNER
SU-15 LTC (Ret) KEN QUAAS (mem) DOROTHEA
FA-15 ROBERT RICHARDSON
WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
WI-38 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN
F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
SU-15 DONALD SAMSEL (mem. of Father) COL (Ret.) HAROLD
SAMSEL, Class of '41, 117th CAV WWII FR. *Legion of Honor*
WI-15 LTC (Ret) CHRIS SANDS
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
SP-18 BILL SEDLAK
SP-15 LTC (Ret) ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB, WWII 38th CAV
Fr. *Legion of Honor*
WI-15 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 FREDA JR.
WI-17 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
FA-16 CHARLES A VIVIANO - 50th CAV RCN SQDN
WI-15 JOHN WILSON
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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2LT Al Robbins' boys of Troop C, 117th CRS soon to enter Germany - November 1944



Advance of the 117th CRS from 15 August 1944 to VE Day 8 May 1945



<< 1SG Frank Harty, Troop A, 38th CRS, 102nd Cavalry Group in Paris, 25 August 1944. CPT William Buenzle Commanding. Both were previously in the old 102nd Cavalry Regiment.



CPT James Giacchi and CPT Ryan Harty, 1-102nd CAV
Ryan Harty is the grandson of Frank Harty (deceased)
This Picture is in Dole, with French veterans.



Madam Malorie Trombert is one of the reenactors at Montreuil. Her husband also participates and owns at least one American WWII combat vehicle. Her children love to watch! By the way, she owns a Dodge 5 ton, and can drive it in high-heels! (Jim had some trouble with the manual transmission)



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

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1ST New Jersey Cavalry



MISSION STATEMENT: It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the Spirit of the 117th Cavalry Association, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country. **NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS - Fridays 1930 hours:** February 13, 2015; April 10, 2015; June 12, 2015; September 11, 2015; November 13, 2015.