



NJ Cavalry and Armor Association

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

Volume 41, Number 1

164th Issue (post WWII)

Winter 2020



President's Message

Hello again my fellow soldiers. Where did 2019 go? I would like to extend our Association's warmest regards for a healthy and prosperous 2020 for you all. Well what a tremendous year we have had as our Association has seen our current serving Warriors go off into Active Duty status to support the strategic requirements of our great country. Our soldiers have been to numerous locations in the Middle East and Horn of Africa and thankfully all of our soldiers have recently returned to the friendly confines of New Jersey. **LTC Omar Minot, his Officers and NCO's have our sincere gratitude and admiration for their stellar performance of duty and leadership throughout this arduous deployment.**

We are continuing our efforts in recruiting new members, collecting dues and email addresses and looking for ways to support our soldiers and their families and loved ones. During the past year we have had a member of our Association, a retired Sergeant Major of the German Army Arnold Schmitt, conduct a weekend re-enactment of the battle for Eppenbrunn, Germany. It consisted of briefings and local citizens dressed in authentic US Military uniforms from the WWII period. He focused on "What an American Soldier carried in his pockets." I attempted to catch a Space A flight out of McGuire AFB to Ramstein, Germany so I may attend this weekend event. However it was too late to plan, but with some time this year I will again attempt if anyone else is interested let me know. We also had several children of former members of the 117th and 102nd contact us with artifacts that they wanted to donate, which we graciously accepted.

Frank Mnich has Co-Chaired the Heritage Room renovations and continued enhancing the appearance of our Heritage displays which can be viewed before and after our meetings or we can meet you during the week for a personal walk thru. We need to plan a Re-Dedication as soon as possible after displaying articles donated to us from the returning units. We hope that you will come out and give us your ideas on how we can improve "telling the Association's Story." Thanks to Frank, Don Kondroski, Art Maggs, Ed Barry for approximately 250 hours of volunteer work over the past year.

In closing I must inform you of some devastating news in the unfortunate passing of our beloved SGM(ret) Ken Mahan. Ken has been in failing health for the past year and has succumbed to the dreaded disease of Alzheimers at the end of December. He was sent off to "**Fiddler's Green**" by members of our Association we could reach out to in short notice. (The value of e-mail addresses). Once again I would like to pass on a hearty "**WELCOME HOME**" to our recently returned soldiers.

Next meetings for this year will be 7 Feb 2020, 3 April, 12 June, 11 Sep and 13 Nov 2020. See ya when I see ya..... **SHOW EM THE WAY.**

Show 'Em The Way!

Daniel T. Mahon, Colonel, Retired, USA

col.daniel.t.mahon@gmail.com



Squadron Commander's Message:



"Our focus now is two-fold: First, we need to prepare our counterparts from Washington and Oregon to assume our missions in Jordan and HOA, respectively, with a smooth battle hand-over to each of them. Second, we must execute a successful DEMOB, fully reintegrating ourselves back to NJARNG. We'll do both of these things while continuing current operations in both Theaters, as well as back in the rear. It's a busy time for the SQDN, and we will excel in all tasks as we forge ahead, like always." "LTC Minott, as quoted in THE SABER, 1-102nd Cavalry Regiment, 01 OCT 19, Volume 1, Issue

7, 1LT Jennifer Wain & SSG Karen Adrada,

Joint Training Center, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Armed Forces الاردن ية ال م س لحة ال قوات

Show 'Em the Way!

LTC Omar Minott,

1-102nd Cavalry Squadron Commander



NOTE: The Spur will be published electronically to all members, unless a hard copy mailing is requested. Please send your updated information and The Spur publication requests to SSG Martinez and MAJ Harty at (732)499-5662, 117thcavmemberships@gmail.com or to the Headquarters 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry, Armory, 500 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey 07090



From the Editor – MAJ Ryan C. Bailey Welcome Home Troopers! Special Thanks to every deployed Trooper who took the time to communicate with us especially Public Affairs Troopers 1LT Wain & SSG Adrada. Now is a perfect time to reconnect with your Cavalry Heritage and take an opportunity to welcome home young new Veterans, make new friends and reconnect with old ones at one of our meetings. Show 'Em the Way! ryan.c.bailey@hotmail.com

Welcome Home From the Frontlines Special Thanks for On Site Deployment Correspondents; Squadron Public Affairs Detachment, 1LT Jennifer Wain & SSG Karen Adrada at Joint Training Center, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Armed Forces الاردنية المسلحة القوات



JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NJ, UNITED STATES

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5977970/1st-squadron-102nd-cavalry-regiment-troopers-home-holidays>

“Westfield, N.J. police officers and first responders greet troopers with 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment, as the Regiment arrives home to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. on Dec. 12, 2019. The 1-102nd was deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Matt Hecht)

“Brig. Gen. Jemal J. Beale, The Adjutant General of New Jersey shakes hands with Lt. Col. Omar T. Minott, commander of 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment, as the Regiment arrives home to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. on Dec. 12, 2019. The 1-102nd was deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Matt Hecht)” source: DVIDS



A Leonard's Return to MONTREVEL



When I emailed Gilles Guignard out-of-the-blue this August, I didn't expect much. My aunt and uncle, Sue and Ed Leonard, had put us in touch after Gilles hosted them in 2012, but neither had heard from the other since. Ping! Less than two hours later I had a response from Gilles. Yes, he would love to meet us for a visit to Montrevel, where my grandfather Edward J. Leonard fought. And did we need a ride? Or a place to stay? I was overwhelmed with his hospitality, and had a good feeling about the adventure ahead.

Some background on Gilles - Gilles is a friend of the Spur, and a veritable expert on the US Army in Southern France. As he would explain to us, while you can read endlessly about the invasion of Northern France during WW2, relatively little has been written about Operation Dragoon in comparison, and even less about the Battle of Montrevel. Gilles loves the challenge of piecing together first-hand accounts, interviewing locals, hunting for buried treasure where battles once raged, and bringing to life history that would otherwise be lost. When Sue and Ed decided to make the pilgrimage to Montrevel in 2012, they were connected with Gilles via the Spur.

Seven years later - five years after my grandfather's passing - I planned to make the same pilgrimage. Armed with a map my grandfather drew and annotated with details of the battle, we met Gilles and his mom Suzy at the train station in Bourgen-Bresse. They spotted us immediately, and their warm faces and eager smiles put us at ease. It was the first feeling of serendipity on an almost unbelievably serendipitous day.

My grandfather has been a personal hero of mine and just about everyone in my family for as long as I can remember. In his 70s and 80s, he began sharing memories of his tour in WW2 after being mostly stoic and quiet on the topic for much of his life. In 2008, my brother Mike Leonard began sneaking a tape recorder in during lunch dates and recording chats over his kitchen table. It seemed once his memories began to flow, they could not be stopped. And we didn't want them to. We loved listening to his stories.

We capitalized on this windfall of memories and signed him up for the Rutgers University Oral History project. Thanks to this, we now have over 60 pages of his life story transcribed, and a recording of him telling it in his own voice. Over the course of several hours, he details his childhood and tenure with the 117th Cavalry, B Troop - from New Jersey, to England, to North Africa, Italy and France - with the story reaching a crescendo at the Battle of Montrevel, September 3rd, 1944. There he courageously fought alongside 150 US Cavalymen for 12 hours against the 11th Panzer Division (3,000+ men), and later was captured and taken prisoner. He remained a prisoner for the next nine months before escaping in May 1945. Throughout his oral history - and in many kitchen table chats before - he mentioned wishing to return to Montrevel. Montrevel represented a turning point in his life, and he lamented not having gone back when he was younger and more physically able.

When we got to Montrevel-en-Bresse on September 26th, our first stop was along the North-South road into town, the same road the 11th Panzer Division took as they approached the morning of the battle. Gilles pointed out the location of a barn - no longer standing - where my grandfather and fellow Cavalymen slept after being taken prisoner the night after the battle. He told the story of the soldiers being woken up there and lined up outside. I instantly recognized the story from my grandfather's account. He had assumed they would be executed. Instead, they were assembled to watch a funeral for the German officer his troop had killed the day before. I was amazed to hear this story - my grandfather's story - from someone I had just met. As we trekked around the field where the barn once stood, Gilles oriented us to the landscape and the action that took place there: the high ground occupied by the Germans; the East-West road where the 117th's supply vehicles were all destroyed; the main intersection of town, which my grandfather nicknamed "Renzi's corner" for Leopold Renzi, the heroic gunner responsible for that German officer's death, who was killed in battle later that day; and, of course, the hillside where Daniel Lee earned a Medal of Honor for his heroism. The stories I knew began to come alive and intersect with others Gilles had gathered over the course of his research.

Gilles later took us to the town hall. We stood outside and looked at a picture the villagers had taken in the days after the battle of the town hall. In it, you could see damage from cannon fire. This had been where the battle converged at the end of the day and where the Americans ultimately surrendered. As we approached the stucco building, recently renovated inside, Gilles pointed out bullet holes left over from the battle, and patches on window frames in the exact spots where we could see gaping holes in the photograph. It struck me that I had never before seen the physical scars of war like this, let alone ones so personal to my grandfather. As we left, Gilles pointed out that the interior renovations were likely a harbinger of exterior renovations to come. Someday - maybe soon - these scars would no longer exist. As we continued around town

comparing photographs from the days after the battle to the present-day landscape, history seemed tangible in a way I had never experienced.



As we sat down for lunch at Le Comptoir, a restaurant recommended to us by the Mayor's office, I was content. The restaurant was full with the warm, friendly faces of locals. A short time into our meal, a woman named Jackie approached Gilles. She had seen us taking photos outside town hall and wondered what brought us there. Gilles explained, and she lit up. She and her husband Cedric were the owners of another restaurant in town where veterans of the 117th had gathered on past anniversaries of the battle. In French, they asked Gilles if I would be willing to sign a guestbook from their restaurant. Gilles translated. "Of course!" I said. Cedric returned a few minutes later with two books. The first was open to a blank page for me to sign. The second was open to an entry dated September 3rd, 1984. The entry was from William McCabe of the 117th Cavalry, B Troop. He had returned to Montrevel for the 40th anniversary of the battle. The next entry was from his wife and daughter, dated September 3rd, 1994, who had returned ten years later for the 50th anniversary. I was moved by how connected I suddenly felt to these people and this place, and how fragile that connection seemed. If not for Gilles and his ability to translate, or a chance encounter at town hall, these connections might have been missed.

I scrawled an entry - through tears - in Cedric and Jackie's guestbook, and Gilles translated aloud. Their faces as Gilles read the entry were windows into the soul of this little town and the sacrifice the 117th made for it in 1944 - while Jackie and Cedric were (at most) young children at the time, in a way their understanding of that day was much deeper than mine had ever been. The town square in Montrevel is named Place du 3rd Septembre 1944 - that day is and always will be a part of the fabric of the town. We hugged and said goodbye and au revoir through a few more tears, and went on our way.

Gilles took us to one last landmark on our way out of town, the Command Post of the 117th. As we walked up the alley alongside the Command Post spotting bullet holes, we pulled out my grandfather's map. As Gilles pointed around the map to orient us, his finger hovered over a square box in the middle, not far from where we were standing. In it were the names of two men, designating their location that day: O'Dea and McCabe. "McCabe!" I shouted. Gilles looked up. "McCabe!" We knew this was William McCabe, who had visited in 1984 and left an entry in Jackie and Cedric's guestbook. And suddenly time collapsed - here we were in Montrevel 75 years later, with what felt like zero degrees of separation between us and that day, a day that made my grandfather who he was.



We wrapped up the tour with a few moments of reflection at the monument to the 117th in Montrevel. Atop the monument is the crest and motto, "Show 'em the way." I had always loved the plucky spirit of that motto and thought it exemplified my grandfather well. As I stood there, I understood the meaning it holds for the people of Montrevel, for whom the 117th truly lit the way to freedom. At once proud and humbled, I sat and thanked my grandfather for a few moments before departing.

I'll be forever grateful to Gilles, not only for the dogged curiosity that has made him so knowledgeable about the Battle of Montrevel, but also for the kindness and compassion that has helped him forge countless connections among the families and friends of the 117th. While he appears to do this effortlessly, I know he has spent many hours and days like the ones spent with me at the sacrifice of his own free time. In the spirit of the 117th, Gilles truly showed me the way. Words cannot express my gratitude for this.

By Lauren Leonard Tracy



Cavalry Troopers Earn Silver Spurs

By Sgt. 1st Class Shaiyla Hakeem | Area Support Group - Jordan |

August 19, 2019

JOINT TRAINING CENTER, Jordan --

The echoes of, "Yes spur holder!" reverberated in the mountainous rock-ribbed, desert terrain that made it challenging for shave-tails to fight mental fatigue, dehydration and full physical exhaustion in a relentless effort to obtain one item...a set of spurs.

U.S. Army spur holders, with 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment (1-102 CAV), 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) of the 42nd Infantry Division (42ID), New Jersey National Guard (NJARNG), conducted a Spur Ride from Aug. 10 to 13 at Joint Training Center-Jordan (JTC-J), allowing non-spur holders the opportunity to earn a pair. Sixty-two spur candidates began, but only 44 successfully completed and were awarded with a set of silver spurs, formally inducting them into the, "Order of the Spur.

The Spur Ride is a time-honored tradition deeply rooted into the U.S. Cavalry culture dating back more than a century. In times past, green Troopers who arrived at their new cavalry assignment were called, "shave-tails." The newbies needed extensive swordsmanship training, from atop a horse, so their horse's tail would be shaved, identifying them as a potential hazard due to their horsemanship inexperience. Once they proved themselves in mounted swordsmanship, they were awarded a set of spurs, their horse's hair grew back, and they were no longer referred to as, "shave-tails."

Modern-day Spur Rides are non-military occupational specialty specific and the only means to join the, "Order of the Spur," aside from a wartime induction. Serving with a cavalry unit in a war zone authorizes Troopers to wear a set of gold Prince of Wales type spurs.

The 72-hour Spur Ride at JTC-J tested spur candidates on weapons familiarization, land navigation, radio communications/maintenance, vehicle recovery, live-fire maneuvers, first aid and tactical team maneuvers, among other combat specific tasks. The Army's first priority is readiness - ensuring Soldiers have the tools and training needed to be lethal and ready to fight and win.

U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Ronald Ambrose, Mendham, New Jersey resident and senior spur holder with 1-102 CAV, 44th IBCT of the 42ID, NJARNG, has more than 34 years of military service with the Cavalry Regiment. The JTC-J Spur Ride marked the 6th ride he has partaken in.

According to Ambrose, cavalry units are predominately used for mission reconnaissance, encompassing several support elements that aid the overall surveillance effort. Despite the difficult terrain, he was pleased to see the vigorous enthusiasm in the spur candidates and their resiliency to deal with the desert environment. Ambrose said he hopes the new Troopers now understand what it means to be a spur holder and to carry on the revered cavalry tradition.

"I won't be around anymore to do it [Spur Rides], the next one will be conducted on their own," he explained, "They have to move forward, but continue with the same cavalry traditions and the same esprit de corps as they did with this one."

According to a cavalry legend, "As a member of the order, a Trooper also acquires the last benefit of stopping for a drink at the mythical canteen 'Fiddler's Green' on their descent into Hell." The "Fiddlers Green" was a ballad written by an unknown author for Troopers, originally published in the 1923 U.S. Cavalry Manual, modernly used by cavalry units to memorialize the deceased. Spur candidates were required to memorize and recite this ballad, verbatim, whenever requested by a Spur Holder.

In addition to spurs, Troopers who successfully complete a Spur Ride are authorized to wear the infamous Cavalry Stetson. This custom dates to the late 1800s when cavalry troops were stationed on the frontier during America's westward expansion. The late John Stetson, founder of John B. Stetson Hat Company, began manufacturing headgear durable enough to be worn by cowboys and Soldiers. An old-time cavalry saying is, "When a Trooper dons his Stetson lesser men step aside, children stop to stare in awe, and the ladies whisper his name."

Present-day, they whisper his or her name.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jennifer Wain, with 1-102 CAV, 44th IBCT of the 42ID, NJARNG, is a field artillery officer who resides in Bangor, Pennsylvania. She said the Spur Ride provided her with a better knowledge base for assessment of the battlefield, Soldier placement and how to use Soldier assets. This knowledge base helps with readiness; the capability of forces to conduct the full range of military operations to defeat all enemies regardless of the threats they pose. She explained that as an officer, you should be able to do whatever you task your Soldiers to do.

"I know more now of what my Soldiers go through," explained Wain, "So when I ask them to do things, I know what it means, and I know how long it takes."

Receiving her spurs was a very humbling experience and a personal milestone for Wain. She said

her goal was, and still is, to motivate females and be the example of what they can do. She commended everyone on their efforts and said regardless of if they passed or not, they are all still family.

"We are all one team, whether you finished or not," Wain said respectfully, "We all worked very hard and everybody is proud of each other.

Heritage of the 117th Cavalry Presented Online

<https://njmilitiamuseum.org/historical-narratives/117-cavalry-regiment>

Squadron history has been presented on new historical pages online. Several websites have recently been revised. In part of presenting the offerings of "New Jersey's preeminent military history museum", in reference to the dual sites on Sea Girt & Lawrenceville as living historical activities, which like our own Heritage Room, encapsulate and present much of our own history of achievement. "The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey tells the story of the state's Militia and National Guard beginning with Dutch, Swedish and British colonization through the War for Independence to the Civil War, World Wars I and II and up to the present day, paying particular attention to the diversity of the New Jersey citizen soldier and his or her experience. Notably, the museum has one of the largest collections of New Jersey related Civil War research material in the country, including copies of diaries, letters, newspaper clippings, memoirs, regimental histories and articles." Source: -<https://njmilitiamuseum.org/>

New Jersey Cavalry & Armor Association Minutes November 8, 2019

President Mahon began the meeting with a reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. It was followed by a moment of silence for those who had passed from the last meeting and for all veterans,

The reading of the minutes from the last meeting was suspended and the minutes were accepted.

Mike Hrycak is working on changing the organization's name so that we can get our banking affairs in order. Progress has been made on updating dues, the membership roster and current email addresses. The next *Spur* will be sent by email to reduce costs.

President Mahon is aware that there was some out of date information published in *The Spur*. This information will be corrected when Major Bailey returns from his deployment.

President Mahon suggested moving the dates of the February and April meetings so that they don't coincide with Valentine's Day and Good Friday. The new dates for 2020 will be 7 February, 3 April, 12 June, 11 September and 13 November. We want to get the dates out as soon as possible. In the future we are going to try to line up the meetings with drill dates. The dates may

be unofficial, allowing association members the opportunity to just come in and talk to current soldiers.

President Mahon recognize Mr. and Mrs. Kopaz. Mr Kopaz's father served in 117th and 102nd during the Second World War. They came up to see the Heritage room and made a nice donation to the Heritage Room

Heritage Room Committee Update

Col Morris

The Heritage room committee is continuing to update the display cases and rewire the Heritage Room. Image Art from Princeton is reproducing the newspaper articles about Curtis Cullen. This is being done because there was a fear that the newsprint would deteriorate over time. It will include photographs of making the Rhino plow that helped defeat the Germans in the hedgerows. These displays help civilians to understand the history of the organization and the contributions made to winning World War II.

President Mahon also invited all those interested in contributing to the Heritage room to contact him as we now meet sporadically on Wednesdays

Treasurer's report

Bill Gruss

Starting total was \$17,628.06. We collected \$485.00 in dues and sold \$20 in boosters. The following checks were disbursed: check 713, \$65 for refreshments, check 714 \$93 Heritage room, check 715, \$70 for Pizza and Check 716, \$460 Watson Graphics. Bank total \$17884.90

Membership

Chris Sands

Membership chairman Chris and reports that their 264 members on the books and only 80 paying members, about thirty or so are life members. There has been a problem with some members sending info to the defunct website 117thcavmembership.org. **Do not use this website .**

Family Readiness Group (FRG) - Danielle Bracco

The FRG held a pizza party in October that was well attended by 40 people. Many of the deployed soldier's children were in attendance. The children made welcome home posters for their father's return.

November 23rd was the 10th Annual Casino Night in Westfield Armory. The Casino Night is how the FRG gets it funds for the year. Bill Morris request as many members of the association attend as possible as the units are deployed and will not be able to attend.

On Sunday December 8th the FRG will be hosting their holiday party. Santa Claus will be in attendance for the members of the unit's family. The FRG is planning a welcome home party for

about a thousand people the date of which is to be determined but probably around December 14th.

Taps: Don Emory's mother passed away a week before the meeting. David Mormac's mother passed away in August

Col Dougherty's remarks: Al Robbins' family donated a book of his memories of World War II, Vic Ianelli Donated his father, Salvatore's 1942 yearbook to The Heritage Room. Steve Pruser mailed an American flag that was flown in Jordan.

Member of the Association made plans to meet for memorial day at the Westfield Memorial on Veterans day.

Miscellaneous: The widow of LTC Michael Evans would appreciate any information that can be rendered on his working as a mechanic that led to him succumbing to mesothelioma

The Association received a retelling of a battle that the 117 was in during World War II. It was written in French by a retired German Sergeant Major Arnold Schmidt. He discussed what the 117th accomplished and how they liberated the area.

Col Morris Taking command on 16 Nov 2019 Observer Coach Trainer Ops Group.

Jewish Family Services got a grant for veterans programs they can help with the homebound or food pantry services. This is available for vets and not vet seniors, Please contact Danielle for more info

From The Front: Kosovo Force Deployment for 44th IBCT HQ

Major John Craddock, Cavalry Trooper and Former Commander of both B & C Troops of the 1-102nd Cavalry, is presently leading the Brigade Headquarters through a series of Multi-National NATO exercises of his own design. Assigned as Brigade Operations Officer, S-3, John has brought the Fundamentals of Reconnaissance to bear in creating a more capable partnership force within regional Command East, Kosovo Force Rotation 26 for the United States Contingent, led by HQs 44th IBCT. OPERATION AMBER CASTLE involves aerial reconnaissance and air insertion of US, Turkish and Polish air rifle platoons and scout platoons throughout the Area of Operations in support of NATO's readiness and relevancy on the Eurasian Land Mass.



OPERATION AMBER CASTLE comes during a period of transition as a new government has been formed and there is the increased opportunity for diplomatic victories capitalizing on the accomplishments of KFOR 26's rotation. Plans have been developed for road, rail and air network coordination within the Former Yugoslavia that would benefit the economies and lift the standard of living for the people. KFOR, a NATO led UN Mission, secures the Freedom of Movement and Safe and Secure Environment within the Area of Responsibility.

**NEW JERSEY CAVALRY AND ARMOR ASSOCIATION HERITAGE ROOM
COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT WINTER 2020**

We are no longer holding workshops on Wednesdays, however we continue working on the remaining milestones of displaying, sorting, categorizing, logging, and labeling all items for accountability. If you would like to be a part of this historical effort, please contact Frank Mnich or COL Bill Morris. We would gladly welcome your assistance.

UPDATED - ONGOING PROJECTS and RENOVATIONS:

- Our German Nazi Flag has been reframed and is now hung on the right inside wall as you enter the back room area. We are presently in the process of printing a narrative that will be displayed next to the flag explaining its remembrance and importance to our association.
- We are still working on having the entire electrical wiring system above the drop ceiling redone. This has been a slow but very professionally done task and is almost completed. It needs to be reinstalled correctly in accordance to the current state electrical code. When completed, the state electrical inspector must verify the work for code standards and then must sign off its approval. For their untiring assistance in this time consuming effort, our thanks go to Art Maggs, Ed Barry and our President Dan Mahon.
- We are still awaiting a reply from our Regional Chief Armorer, Frank Martinez, who has submitted a state request to have a professional contractor clean the outside of all the building's windows.
- To be more uniform, we are still looking into having additional camouflage covers made for all remaining stools that presently do not have camouflage coverings.
- We are presently working on a wall project to recognize and honor SGT Curtis Grubb Culin III, a native of Cranford, NJ for his credited invention of the hedge-breaching device fitted to Allied armored vehicles during the Battle of Normandy. SGT Culin received the Legion of Merit for his contributions.
- We are still presently in the process of sorting out and categorizing many loose pictures. We will then further proceed to label, file and organize them for easier identification and more secure accountability.

Respectfully submitted by Co-Chairmen,
COL Bill Morris and CW5 (Ret) Frank Mnich

New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association Membership Life Membership \$400 for under 55 years old, and \$200 for 55 years and older. Send electronic mail to SSG Martinez and MAJ Harty at 117thcavmemberships@gmail.com or call Headquarters, 1-102 Cavalry 732-499-5662. Regimental Ballcaps, American Made, In Coyote Brown; OCP ACU Scorpion W2 or Coyote 498. The same color presently worn by our Troopers overseas on the Frontiers of Freedom in the 21st Century. COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty, Hats for \$20, and Association crests for \$25.

Of note: MSG (Ret.) Thomas Bullock, who served in A Troop for two decades, is currently residing at Veteran's Haven North, 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 Fax: 908-537-1987 Telephone: 908-537-1999 Toll Free: 877-648-0091. SGM Ken Mahan is currently residing at JFK Hartwick Nursing Home, 10 Brunswick Ave, Edison, NJ 08817, ATTN: SGM Ken Mahan RM 238

Submission Deadlines for The SPUR: March 1st, June 1st, September 1st, December 1st. Call for Articles: Contributing Columnists will receive certificates of achievement via email.

Membership Update – SSG Pedro Martinez: Please send an email to me or CPT Harty at 117thcavmemberships@gmail.com or call the Headquarters 1st Squadron 102d Cavalry (732)499-5662 so that we have your email on file. Send your dues to the return address on this issue.

Annual regular dues of \$20.00 and Associate dues \$15.00 are due in September. Make checks Payable to **117th CAV Association**. Association web site: <http://njcavalryandarmorassociation.org>

Read past issues of *The SPUR*, look up the WWII histories of the 38th, 102d and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). All WWII Veterans and members over 80 will no longer pay dues, you will see WWII over your name.

TAPS

Kenneth L. Mahan, 81, of Metuchen, passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 29, 2019 at JFK Hartwyck in Edison.

Kenneth was born in Sullivan, Indiana to the late Ross and Virginia Mahan before becoming a lifelong resident of Metuchen. He was a member of the United States Army National Guard for 33 years retiring as a Sergeant Major. Kenneth was also a Pressman for multiple printing companies in NY before retiring from Graphic Equipment in Metuchen. He was a member at the First Baptist Church of Metuchen where he was a Trustee. He also was a former member of the Salvation Army and First Aid Squad of Metuchen. Kenneth was known for his service to mankind.

Kenneth is survived by his wife of 56 years, Jean (Drake); his daughter, Kimberly Mahan of Vineland. A visitation will take place on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 from 11am to 2pm, with a service to follow at 2pm at the Costello-Runyon Funeral Home, 568 Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.



BE A BOOSTER OF THE SPUR

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



FA-20 EMIL ALLGIERE
WI-26 CHARLES ANGELLOS.R.
SP-26 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
SU-19 JAMIE AYALA
SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL
BARR TROOP D (AIR) 5-117th
CAV
FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife
CATHERINE
CAVALRY WI- 20 STEVE CUP WWII 102d
CAVALRY
WI-22 1SG (Ret) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop mem.
wife BETTY
SP-22 JACKIE ELLIS (mem) MSG DAVID
JAMES ELLIS 5-117 CAV
WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem.of husb.)
WILLIAM E.
FISHER FA-19 BOB FOLEY (HHT Ret)
WI- 72 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117th
CAV WI-19 BILL & LINDA GRUSS
FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM
HANSEN
WI- 20 LTC (Ret) WILLIAM KALE mem. NJ
CAV
SOLDIERS
WI -24 ESTELLE, ANDREW & JAY LASNER in
mem.
Arnold Lasner – husband, father – proud
veteran Troop B 117th CAV
WI-22 SSG(Ret) ROCHUS E. & CELESTE
LAWRENCE
WI-22 TOM PETTY MAJ, RET
SU-20 SSG Pedro Martinez
SU-21 1SG Ret, Ron Neer n memory of
Amil Allgiere 20.00 2 years
FA-24, MAJ (RET) JIM SCANLON

WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL
MALONEY
SR. and My brother TIM MALONEY Destroyer BN
'43-'45
WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of
ROBBIE)
WI-43 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER
RODMAN
F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
SP-19 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of brother) 1LT
MANUEL
SALCIDO
WI-97 EILEEN SCHARR mem. husband WILLIE
SP-22 LTC (Ret) ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB WWII 38th
CAV Fr.
Legion of Honor
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FA-21 GEORGE L. THOMAS
SP-23 SSG WILLIAM T. TITTER WWII TRP 117th
CAV (mem) NANCY ASHFORD

SU-20 PETER DELIA
SU-23 SFC WILLIAM J. SEDLAK D TRP AIR
SU-24 LTC (ret) MITCHELL B, COHEN
SU-29 ROBERT AND CAROL PEARCE IN MEMORY
OF CPT.WILLIAM R. APBLET
SU- 3013 FRG HHT 1-102nd CAVALRY
WI-33 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
SP-29 CSM SCOTT MECHOWSKI 1-102 & BDE CSM
SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE
FA-20 RON NIER
WI-20 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET
SU-20 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ
JOHN B. COULSTON Troops C & E, *Class of*
'41; 602nd Tank LTC (ret) PETER A. D* ELIA

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