



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
Volume 33, Number 3 137th Issue (post WWII) Fall 2012



President's Message Fall 2012 As the summer comes to an end, it is time for our 16th Biennial Reunion. This year it will be a very special event! For the first time in our 117th Cavalry Association's history, we will join the Troopers of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment's *Spurs and Sabers* Dinner Dance. When we come together at the Grand Summit Hotel on the 28th of September, our celebration will cross the generations of service. The lineage, honors and history of all New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor force is today carried on by Troopers of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment. Now is the time to make your reservation to attend the *Spurs and Sabers* Dinner Dance. Join with your fellow troopers and help us celebrate over 122 years of service of New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor force our state and nation (See the flyer included in this issue of *The Spur* for details).

This year's September meeting will bring change to our 117th Cavalry Association. For the first time ever we will meet on a Saturday night instead of our usual Friday night meeting. We will be meeting on Saturday the 8th of September. The reason for this change of date is to combine our 117th Cavalry Association meeting with a *Stable Call* for the Officers and Senior NCOs of the 1-102nd Cavalry. We will come together at 1800 hours in the Heritage Room of the Westfield Cavalry Armory after the drill of the 1-102nd Cavalry. It 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 3rd Casino Night, and unit history are a few of the topics on the agenda) but most importantly to meet, greet, socialize, share stories, and get to know each other. It is going to be a busy night, hope to see you all there!

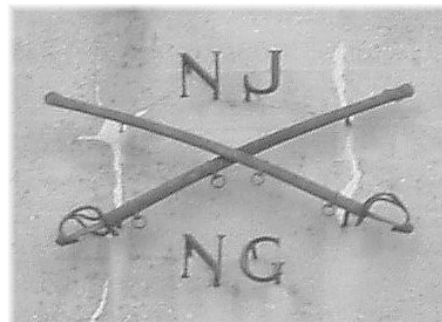
The following individuals have been named *Distinguished Members of the 117th Cavalry Regiment*. The position of Distinguished Member of the 117th Cavalry Regiment is designed to recognize former members for their service to the 117th Cavalry Regiment. Their appointment as a *Distinguished Member of the Regiment* will help to perpetuate the history and traditions of the 117th Cavalry Regiment, thereby enhancing unit morale and esprit. This year selections include the following individuals: MAJ Andrew Hague, MAJ Kevin Welsh, CPT Michael Tarricone, SGM Thomas Decker, SGM Christopher Sheridan, CSM (Ret) Arthur Maggs, and MSG Mark Rizzo. They will be honored at our joint meeting of the 117th Cavalry Association and *Stable Call* of the 1-102nd Cavalry on September 8, 2012.

The combination of the 2012 Biennial Reunion of the 117th Cavalry Association with the *Spurs and Sabers* Dinner Dance promises to be a great event. What can you do to ensure that is a success? Simple, come to it. Call a friend, who you served with, encourage him to come. Events like this are a time to renew friendships, tell stories and celebrate the collective heritage and traditions of those who serve and have served in New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor forces. Once there, I am sure you will see many others with whom you have served. It is a time to remember those who have dedicated their service in defense of our nation, state and community and most importantly have a good time. See you there.

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





LTC William Morris, Squadron Commander 1-102nd Cavalry Hello again fellow Cavalry Troopers! By the time you read this our Annual Training period for 2012 will be almost behind us and we'll be leaning forward again into our next training evolution. We do not regard training years now as artificial separations in the training schedule. We do not put down what we did and start over again to conduct the same training we did last year. There are, of course, some things that must repeat cyclically like Individual Weapons Qualification and the Army Physical Fitness Test. However, we must continue to build and *not* "get back to basics".

Getting back to basics is good for managers and *very* important to maintain core functions. We, however, must also continue to build and step forward. As I am writing this, we are preparing to validate 11 platoons and the command post. Eight platoons will validate reconnaissance tasks from area recon to screen and myriad tasks that are part of those evolutions. Three support platoons in the Forward Support Company will validate tasks within their company headquarters (which includes food service), transport and distribution of supplies and maintenance of the Squadron's equipment. What we are progressing toward is troop-level operations next year and validating our troop level units on the tasks that they do as a group.

I imagine our forebears doing the same as they prepared to embark for Europe 70 years ago. Throughout generations of time, we have built individual Soldiers into cohesive units. Therefore, it is today and the struggle is the same. How much time do we have to train? How much ammunition? Which tasks are the most important and serve the greatest number of possibilities we could find ourselves in?

The sweat expended in training does not just save blood in combat by refining just how well we do a task. It welds us together. I think that the fraternal organizations we are part of—our associations—are a way that we demonstrate and celebrate those bonds. There are several opportunities coming up for us to do that. I encourage you all to come to the Stable Call I am holding on the evening of September 8th. Two of my scout section sergeants will give leadership development presentations and we'll share experiences before and after in the heritage room. At the end of September, on the 28th, we'll hold our annual Spurs and Sabers Ball at the Grand Summit Hotel. I hope that you will consider coming to both. The privilege we have to serve in one another's company is fleeting and over time, I see the meaning that service and our bonds give to our lives. I hope you see it the same.

"Show 'Em the Way!"

CSM Jeffrey Pels Back in 1998, I was assigned to C-Troop of the 5-117th CAV as a Scout Platoon Sergeant in Woodstown. I left to take an AGR Position as the Assistant Operations NCO for the 1-102nd ARMOR in Port Murray. At that time, 1LT Bill Morris was my training officer. When I found out I was transferring back to the now 1-102nd CAV and LTC Morris was now the Squadron Commander and I would be their CSM, I was excited to be both back in the Cavalry and back with my former Training Officer - now LTC Morris, as well as a lot of familiar faces that I have served with over the years - too many to name! A lot of the technology has changed since I was a Scout.



I spent April and June IDT with A, B, C Troops and Company D at Fort Dix watching their platoons go through multiple training scenarios. I was impressed by the technology of the Enhanced Driver System and the LRAS, both are "game changing" enhancements to what a scout can see and do at night; I was most impressed by the professionalism, motivation, and independence that I observed in the NCOs, Enlisted, and officers alike. It was 0100 Hours Sunday AM, and after a long day and night of both mounted and dismounted operations, they went systematically through the After Actions Review process. From the Senior NCOs down to the Junior EM, they were motivated, eager to train and to learn.

I am looking forward to Annual Training this year at Fort Drum! It is good to be back...to *Show 'em the Way!*





From the Editor – Phil Notestine In recent years, our Association has been connecting with the “New” 38th Cavalry. Readers will remember that the WWII 102nd Cavalry Group consisted of the 1st and 2nd Squadrons until the 2nd Squadron was sent to North Africa in 1943, to become the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). 2nd Squadron was replaced by the 38th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz). A bit of history – on 15 November 1942, the 3rd Recon Squadron was formed of Regular and National Guard elements and later redesignated the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). The 38th CAV was shipped to UK in November 1943 to join the 102nd Cavalry Group, consisting of the 102nd and 38th Cavalry Recon Squadrons (Mecz). Their battlefield recon and combat records are renowned. The 38th CAV came to be known as “*The Lucky 38th*”. Like most WWII Army units, she was disbanded soon after VE Day.

In June, I was fortunate to meet with LTC James E. Gaylord Jr. before he left Fort Bragg and FORSCOM for Connecticut and his new post as Regular Army Advisor to the CTARNG. Readers will recall that LTC Gaylord was the first Squadron Commander of the recently reformed 1-38th Cavalry. Jim, his wife Dawn and their three daughters are settling into their new home in Tolland, CT while enjoying a well-deserved vacation. Connecticut is their home state! Jim is a 1992 USMA graduate. He promises to send a picture and write an article for the Winter 2012 issue *THE SPUR*. He may join us for the 8 September Association meeting, Westfield Armory Heritage Room.

A few weeks later, 1-38 CAV SCO LTC Eric Crider and CSM Travis Votaw and I had lunch at Squadron HQ. Man! The Army provides a terrific meal selection and environment these days. The meals and mess halls of my time were...stuff of legend, if you will. My “mission”, in addition to meeting with the SCO and CSM, was to deliver 2 copies of a book, a memoir “*In Front of the Front-Line*” by Corporal Raymond J. Leone, a WWII veteran of the



38th CAV and a letter from his daughter Denise Leone Horning. Her father died in September 2011. Mr. Leone was a fine man, highly educated and accomplished. He and his beautiful wife Virginia raised their family and made a wonderful life together. Only after many years did he speak of his wartime experiences, even though he was proud of his service and a true American Patriot. He and I were able to speak before he passed; he never told me that he was ill. Leone was a recon squad leader in Troop A. His First Sergeant was Frank Harty. The CO was CPT Bill Buenzle. Both were originally “*Class of ‘41*” horse cavalymen on the 102nd Cavalry Regiment. Troop A, 38th CAV was the first American unit to enter Paris on 25 August 1944. *Pictured is Ray Leone standing alongside of an M5A1 tank and CPT Buenzle in his M8 Armored Car, in a Life magazine photo taken late August 1944.*



While visiting with LTC Crider and CSM Votaw, they took pride in showing the History Display of the WWII 38th Cavalry. Much of the material was provided by WWII 38th Cavalry veteran LTC (Ret) Alfred H. M. Shehab, who joined Troop B in September 1944 (see the Summer 2011 issue of *THE SPUR*). The Wall is pictured in the first paragraph. CSM Travis Votaw is obvious! By the way, I am 6’1”, 260 Lbs. Travis is one long, lean, tough Cavalryman – and a great guy. Later, we called LTC Shehab and spoke of the Unit Pride that he has helped to develop. LTC Shehab will be an honored guest during Regimental Day at Fort Bragg, 11 October 2012.



LTC Eric S Crider, Commander, 1-38 CAV, 525 BfSB LTC Eric S Crider is originally from Warner Robins, Georgia. He was commissioned an Armor Officer through the ROTC program at Georgia Military College in 1994. LTC Crider has served in a variety of command and staff positions to include Platoon Leader and Executive Officer, A Troop, 5th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea; Executive Officer and Squadron Adjutant, 1st Squadron, 16th Cavalry, Fort Knox, Kentucky; Brigade Planner, Brigade S4, Brigade Recon Troop Commander, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany; Observer Controller, Assistant S3, TAF Analyst, Tarantula Team, OPS Group, Fort Irwin, California; Current Operations Officer, Division Staff, 82nd Airborne Division; Squadron Operations Officer, Squadron Executive Officer, 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment; Regimental Operations Officer, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC. His most recent assignment was as the Executive Officer for the Security Assistance Training Management Organization (SATMO) here at Fort Bragg.

LTC Crider is a graduate of Georgia College in Milledgeville, Georgia where he earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Masters in Business Administration. His military education includes the Armor Basic and Advance Courses, the Combined Arms Services Staff School and the Intermediate Level Education (ILE) Resident Course.

LTC Crider's operational deployments include Operation Joint Guardian (Kosovo), Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Untied Response (Haiti).

LTC Crider's awards and decorations include the *Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters (2 OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Combat Action Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Ranger Tab and German Parachutist Badge.*

LTC Crider and his wife Stephanie have made Fayetteville their home for the last 5 years. Stephanie currently serves as the Associate Editor for Fayetteville's "Up and Coming Weekly". They have three children: Erinn (16); Emily (12) and Liam (10).



SGM Travis D. Votaw, Command Sergeant Major, 1-38 CAV, 525 BfSB Sergeant Major Travis D. Votaw, a native of Hays, Kansas, entered the Army in June of 1990. He completed Cavalry Scout OSUT at Fort Knox, Kentucky and has been assigned to 3-4 CAV, 3ID in Schweinfurt, Germany; Recon Troop, 2nd ACR Fort Lewis, Washington; 2-2 ACR Fort Polk, Louisiana; Military Honors Detachment at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; 1-509 PIB at Fort Polk, Louisiana; 5-15 CAV Fort Knox, Kentucky; 1-17 CAV, 82nd ABN DIV Fort Bragg, North Carolina; 145 CAV McAlester, Oklahoma; 1-40 CAV, 4/25 ABN Fort Richardson, Alaska; Missouri State University Springfield, Missouri; USASMA Fort Bliss, Texas; and 1-38 CAV, 525 BfSB Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Sergeant Major Votaw's operational deployments include two in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and two in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan.

SGM Votaw has served in every Non-Commissioned Officer leadership position from team leader to Squadron Command Sergeant Major. He has also served as a Drill Sergeant, AC/RC Advisor to the Oklahoma National Guard, and a Senior Military Science Instructor at Missouri State University.

SGM Votaw's military education includes all courses in the NCOES realm culminating with Class 60 of the Sergeant's Major Course: Pathfinder, Jumpmaster, Drill Sergeant, Master Fitness, and Combatives level one and two. His civilian education includes a Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice from Southwestern College-Kansas and a Master of Arts in Leadership and Management from the University of Texas-El Paso.

SGM Votaw's awards and decorations include the *Bronze Star Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters (4 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Good Conduct Medal (7th award), National Defense Service Medal (2), Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals (3 and 2 Campaign Stars respectively), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, NATO Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (4), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (5), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Superior Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award; and Drill Sergeant, Pathfinder, Master Parachutist, and Combat Action Badges.* SGM Votaw is also a recipient of the *German and Ukrainian Parachutist Badges, German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, German Marksmanship (Schutzenshnurr-Bronze) and the Order of Saint George.*

SGM Travis Votaw has been married to the former Penny Dixon for 18 years and they have one daughter, Kirsten.



117th Cavalry Association Meeting, June 1, 2012 The meeting was called to order by the Association President who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. There was then a moment of silence for our fallen comrades. We recognized and celebrated the Army's 237th Birthday. Our *117th Cavalry Association* was awarded a grant from the Westfield Foundation. We have called it the "Share our Story" Grant and will tell the story of the Cavalry units that have been stationed in the Westfield Armory through the preservation of historical artifacts, flags and pictures with a special emphasis being placed on their mobilizations and wartime service. To date 9 distinctive pieces (20"x30") have been created. They tell a pictorial story of Troop C 5-117th Cavalry and the 1-102nd Cavalry's service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We have also been able to restore a 1932 vintage Polo Match Poster and an Army Historical Series Poster of Troop A 38th Cavalry, 102nd Cavalry Group in front of the *Arc de Triomphe*.

In addition, three distinct pieces of trooper art have been taken from the 1942 102nd Cavalry (H-Mecz) Yearbook (see page 11) and made into distinctive posters that help tell the story of the 102nd Cavalry's Mobilization at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. They help tell the story of New Jersey's Cavalry and Armored Force that is today carried on by the Troopers of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment. All will be hung throughout the Westfield Cavalry Armory. We will continue to post update of our Share our Story Grant in future issues of *The Spur*.

There was also an update on our 2012 Biennial Reunion and the combination of it with the Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance of the 1-102nd Cavalry. It is scheduled for September 28, 2012. See the attached flyer in this edition of *The SPUR*. The membership also invited all our WWII veterans to be guests of the 117th Cavalry Association. We hope that many of them will be able to attend as our guests.

Funds were approved to purchase pavers to honor the service of CPT Daniel W. Lee - *Medal of Honor*, COL Harold J. Samsel and COL Kenneth C. Klein to the 117th Cavalry. They are being sold by *National Armor and Cavalry Heritage Foundation* to assist in the construction of the National Armor and Cavalry Museum at Fort Benning. They will be honored at the Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance of the 1-102nd Cavalry and the 117th Cavalry Association.

Amy Lovato of the Family Readiness Group gave an update on the Support our Troops Casino Night. It is scheduled for November 3, 2012. Contact Danielle Bracco at daniellebracco@verizon.net or Amy Lovato at alovato2@verizon.net for details.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for Saturday September 8 and Friday November 2, 2012. The September meeting will be combined with a Stable Call for 1-102nd Cavalry and November's meeting will recognize the service of our community's veterans. The following members were at the meeting: *Bill Gruss, Henry Wetzel, Dennis Dougherty, Bill O'Brien, Amy Lovato, Jerry Infantino, Dave Ellis, Robert Ryan, Donald Emery, Don Tracy, Henry Forstenhausler, Ron Nier, Emil Allgeier, Frank Patrick, Jim Pressman, Ed Barry, Bob Apgar, Ken Mahan, Chris Sands, Art Maggs, Don Kondroski, and Mike Festa.*



SFC (Ret) William Gruss Member of the Year 2011 The 117th Cavalry Association's *Member of the Year* is awarded to individuals who go above and beyond in their service to our organization. This year's selection is SFC (Ret) William Gruss. He served his state and nation with distinction as a member of Troop, B 5-117th Cavalry and in the Material Management Section of the 42nd Infantry Division Support Command and upon his retirement from the New Jersey Army National Guard, he volunteered to become part of our leadership team for our 117th Cavalry Association. He has been a long-term member of our 117th Cavalry Association and currently serves our organization as our Treasurer. He has also served as the association secretary. In these roles, he has gone above and beyond in his dedication to all our members. In particular, his ability to organize, plan and implement a sound and responsible budget designed to ensure that that we have the financial resources to serve our membership has identified him a valued member our 117th Cavalry Association's leadership team. It is because of his quiet professionalism and selfless and distinguished service to the 117th Cavalry Association, SFC (Ret.) that

he has been named our *Member of the Year* for 2011.



Phase One of Share Our Story Project Completed!

In February 2012, the 117th Cavalry Association received a grant from the Westfield Foundation. The grant will be used to preserve, collect, mount and display photographs, flags and maps, that will help tell the story of New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor Forces. This project will be called the Share Our Story Project. The first phase of this project was the



collection and display of new photographs that depict the service of those Cavalry Troopers from Troop C/ 5-117th Cavalry and the 1-102nd Cavalry who were mobilized and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom is now on display in the Westfield, NJ, and Cavalry Armory. A series of nine 20" X 30" posters helps tell the story of their service. These unit photographs and soldier art that are displayed on these posters help tell the story of their mobilization and service in Iraq through the photographs of the troops who took them. Come to our next meeting of the 117th Cavalry Association on September 8 at 6PM, see the posters and hear the future plans for *Share Our Story* Project. The completion of Phase 1 would not have happened without the hard work and dedication of the following individuals: CSM (Ret) Henry Wetzel, Joe Smith, CSM (Ret) Art Maggs and SSG (Ret) Don Emery. (*Emery and Maggs hold the picture*)



Class of '41 Luncheon August 8, 2012 at the River Rock Restaurant in Brick Township, NJ. Thanks to Edward Leonard for bringing Frank Wiswall and his father Edward J. Leonard. It was good to see them both, after too many months of illness. We were sorry that Jim Kane and Arnold Lasner could not make it, as they were not feeling well. Also missed were Robert Apgar and Sam Cunningham, Dennis Dougherty, and Irv Partelow. We talked about the Reunion and that all WWII members have been invited – gratis, as the *117th Cavalry Association* is picking up their cost. We spoke about Sea Girt NJ Militia Museum and about their hours of operation, 7 days a week.

In attendance: *Class of '41* members Jim Coburn, Jack Ferguson, Edward Leonard, Joseph Pocaroba and Frank Wiswall; also Charlotte & Bill Merring, Donald Tracy, Kenneth Mahan and Ed Leonard, US Army Vietnam veteran, oldest son of WWII veteran Edward Leonard.

ED note: Our Association web site www.117th-cav.org has been used by many searching for information about a relative who served in one of the three associated WWII cavalry squadrons – 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). Dennis Monahan contacted me recently and asked for a picture of the Monument to the 117th Cavalry Troopers who fought there on 3 September 1944. We were able to help him. This was the end of his “journey” of 5 years in developing the WWII record of his father, Millard D. Monahan. As you will read, Monahan was a recon trooper in the 36th ID before joining Troop B, 117th Cavalry, a fateful event. The article has been sent to the 36th Infantry Division Association “T-Patcher” and will be included in their next newsletter. If anyone has any further information about Trooper Monahan, please contact his son, Dennis.



My Father **Millard D. Monahan** was born on May 16, 1925 in Philadelphia, Pa. He grew up in what is known as the "Frankford" section of the city. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Army on November 11, 1942. He was sent to the Cavalry Replacement Training Center at Ft. Riley, Kansas for basic training.

He joined the 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (Mecz), 36th Infantry Division (*T-Patchers*) on March 14, 1943. He would serve with the 36th Cavalry Recon Troop, 36th Infantry Division in North Africa where they conducted amphibious invasion training, the Invasion of Italy at Salerno, the Battle of Pietro, the Rapido River crossing and Monte Cassino. After sustained, bloody and courageous combat, the 36th ID was relieved from the line in March 1944. On March 21, 1944 my father and 38 other enlisted men of the 36th Cavalry Recon Troops were transferred to a Personnel Center in Naples. He was then assigned to the 2nd Replacement Depot in Capua.



On August 8, 1944, he and 10 other enlisted men were transferred from the 2nd Replacement Depot to Troop B, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) in Naples as they were preparing for the Invasion of Southern France (Operation Dragoon). He was a Private and Demolition Specialist (MOS 433). He would serve with Troop B, 117th Cavalry Recon. Squadron until most of Troop B was forced to surrender to the 11th Panzer Division in Montrevel, France

on September 3, 1944. After the surrender at Montrevel, he would be held at two POW camps briefly before arriving at Stalag XIIA on October 18, 1944. Stalag XIIA was located near the town of Moosburg, Germany that is about 30 miles northeast of the city of Munich. He would remain at Stalag XIIA until the camp was liberated on April 29, 1945. He returned to the U.S. on June 12, 1945 and was Honorably Discharged on October 15, 1945. After the war, he returned to Philadelphia and married Annetta LeCompte in 1945. They had three children, Dennis [me], Gary and Jane. My father began to work at the Grinnell Fire Protection Co. in Philadelphia. I believe he started out as a pipe fitters helper and worked



his way up to a management level position.

Because of my father's job, the family moved around the country. In the late 1950's, we moved to Rochester, N.Y. My father died on April 18, 1961 while living in Rochester. He was 36 years old.

After my father's death, my mother moved the family to Burlington, N.J. to be closer to her family. In 1979, we all moved to the Tampa, Fl. area. After my mother's death in 1992, I took possession of my father's military records, which motivated me to research my father's WWII military service. *Dennis Monahan, 5736 W. Murphy Ct. Homosassa, FL 34446 Telephone (352) 628-3312 email dmonahan2@tampabay.rr.com*



CPT Ryan Harty takes command of Troop B, 1-102nd Cavalry from CPT John Craddock on 15 June 2012. "Thank you CPT Craddock for your outstanding leadership and service during your command of Troop B. Your stellar personal and professional efforts exemplify the Guard's motto, "Always Ready, Always there." You Showed 'em the Way!"

Ryan Harty continues a family tradition in the Cavalry. He is the grandson of Frank Harty (deceased) who was a "Class of '41" horse trooper and WWII 1SG of Troop A, 38th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz), 102nd Cavalry Group.

OCS Class 55 started over a year ago in March of 2011, with over 45 Soldiers aspiring to be Officers in the United States Army. These soldiers came from various backgrounds ranging from seasoned combat veterans to brand new 09S (Soldiers who enlist directly into OCS). No matter what their background, this course was going to challenge everyone in one way or another. By the time Class 55 graduated, a close-knit team of 20 Officer Candidates remained. Throughout the course of training, the Officer Candidates had to complete many tasks, two of which were the Annual SGT Sam Nutter Run 5k Race and a Dining-in. The SGT Sam Nutter Run is a race organized by each OCS Class to raise money for New Jersey National Guard members in need. Class 55 exceeded all previous classes by raising close to thirty thousand dollars which was donated to four NJ National Guard families. *Pictured is Sue Divila, AUSA Monmouth Chapter President presenting the 254th Regimental Leadership Award to 2LT Joseph J. Quigley. LT Quigley was commissioned as a Military Intelligence Officer. He will serve with HHB 3-112th Field Artillery. Joe had served for 13 years as a scout and team leader, Troop B 5-117th Cavalry. He retired in 2007 and returned in 2011, as an Officer Candidate.*





In June of 2012, Class 55 organized the annual OCS Dining-in. The Dining-in was held at the NJ National Guard Museum in Sea Girt, NJ. The Dining-in was a great success and all who attended had a good time. One of the highlights of the Dining-in was the guest speakers, Regimental Commander COL James Stenson and COL (Ret) Sanford Goldstein.

"Sandy" began his service as an EM in the 24th Recon BN, 24th Infantry Division. He transferred to the 52nd Field Artillery in Korea, rising to 1SG of Battery A. He later joined the NJARNG as an NCO. He applied for OCS and became a member of Class 2, NJ OCS in 1959. After Graduation, he was a Platoon Leader and Company Commander in the 50th Recon BN. He then attended flight school and returned to be CO of Troop D (Air) and rose to Squadron Commander, 5-117th Cavalry. His last command was a Support Brigade based in Atlantic City. The Colonel had a long civilian career as a commercial helicopter pilot. COL Goldstein (*pictured left with 2LT Quigley*) shared his valuable knowledge gained from his 36 years of experience as an

enlisted Soldier and then as an Officer.

After a long eighteen months of training, on 5 August 2012, Class 55 graduated. For Class 55 the easy part is over, now they will go out to units across NJ and give 100% to the Soldiers of the United States Army





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 2013

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

To Members behind in their dues, you will have date circled in RED! This is the only notice you will receive. Send information and/or dues to me at the Metuchen address shown above. **Annual regular dues of \$20.00 are due in September.** Make checks payable to

117th CAV Association. We cannot continue to mail *The SPUR* to lapsed members. Stick with us, we want you as a member, but you must pay your own "freight"! **Email:** Please send your email address to me at kmahan117@aol.com. We are compiling an email list of members and we want to include you. **Association web site:** www.117th-cav.org/ Read past issues of *The SPUR*, look up the WWII histories of the 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). **New Members:** LTC Bill O'Brien - he was S-3. **Do not forget the Reunion - Friday, September 28, 2012.**

TAPS



Blaine Richard Emken, 35 of Ocean Twp., passed away peacefully on Wed. June 20, 2012. Born in Red Bank, he lived most of his life in Ocean Twp. He worked in Aberdeen, MD at the Military Proving Grounds. He was a Captain in the US Army and served two tours in Iraq, from 2003-2004 in the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and from 2008-2009 as a supporting civilian for US operations. Blaine was an All - State football player with the "Big Red" of Ocean Twp. High School and key member of their 1993 undefeated State Championship team. He continued his academics and athletics at Shippensburg University, PA. While at Shippensburg, Blaine became a member of ROTC and went to serve his country immediately after graduation in the US Army and also served in the 5-117th Cavalry, NJ Army National Guard.

He was the proud son of the late Mary Emken who died in 2008. He is survived by his father Arthur Emken Jr.; his brothers Arthur Emken III, and Nicholas Emken; his sister-in-law, Tracy Emken; his niece, Ryan Emken; his nephew Tyler Emken. He is also survived by his loving aunts, Norene Sandifer, Suzie Calafiore, and Linda McCarron; his uncles Fred Emken, Bob McCarron and Billy Sandifer as well as his cousins Keim Calafiore, Andy Micucci, and Makaela and Sean McCarron, his wife Lindsay and Joella, and his godmother Eileen Pagnozzi. He was also loved by many other family members as well as an incredible circle of friends who were very dear to him and forever will remain so.

Mary Jane (Mullen) Mahon passed away on May 12, 2012 at home after a brief illness. She had a full and eventful life with her extended family and many friends. She was predeceased by her husband, Will. Her son is LTC Daniel Mahon, NJARNG and member of the 117th Cavalry Association. He lives in Warren, NJ.



Eric S. Petrozzi, 53, of Howard Avenue, Scituate, died January 2009 at home. Born in Warwick, he was a beloved son of Peter F. Petrozzi of West Warwick and the late Charlotte (Tucker) Petrozzi. Mr. Petrozzi was a Welder for Electric Boat in Quonset Point. He served as a Sergeant in F Troop, 5-117 Cavalry, NJARNG. He was the loving brother of Peter C. Petrozzi of Coventry, Ann J. Cortellessa of West Warwick and Heidi S. Legault of West Warwick. Caring grandson of Charles Milliard of Coventry. Cherished uncle of several nieces and nephews.



SSG Daryall "Chappy" Chapman (1962 – 2004) Providence, RI I still remember the day Chappy showed up for his first drill in the RIARNG as a member of the Class III/V Platoon. I was a newly promoted PSG in a severely undermanned platoon responsible for the refueling and rearming of an Attack Helicopter Battalion. Chappy came to us with active duty service completed with the US Army in Europe. I could tell by Chappy's presentation that he would be a good addition to my platoon. Chappy's uniform was crisply pressed, boots shined, Chappy was attentive and interested in our mission and most importantly, Chappy was physically fit. He was an excellent team player and leader, eventually as a PSG. This unit was the forerunner of what would eventually become F Troop

5-117 Cavalry. As we worked tirelessly at improving our skills we became more than soldiers serving a common cause, we became brothers! *By Association member Tom Houde.*



Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance

Friday September 28, 2012

The Grand Summit Hotel

50 Springfield Avenue, Summit NJ

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

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

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

Rooms are blocked under the 117th Cavalry Association.

Ticket Information

Dinner Choice

Field Grade Officers/CSM	\$75 per person	Chateau Briand	_____
Company Grade Officers/E 8	\$65 per person	Sautéed Breast of Chicken	_____
E 7 and below:	\$60 per person		
Retirees:	\$60 per person		
Civilians:	\$65 per person		

Reservations

Money and reservations **by September 24, 2012**, Make check payable to:

117th Cavalry Association and mail to: COL (Ret.) Dennis J. Dougherty

615 Raymond Street

Westfield, NJ 07090

Name: _____ Guest: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed:





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

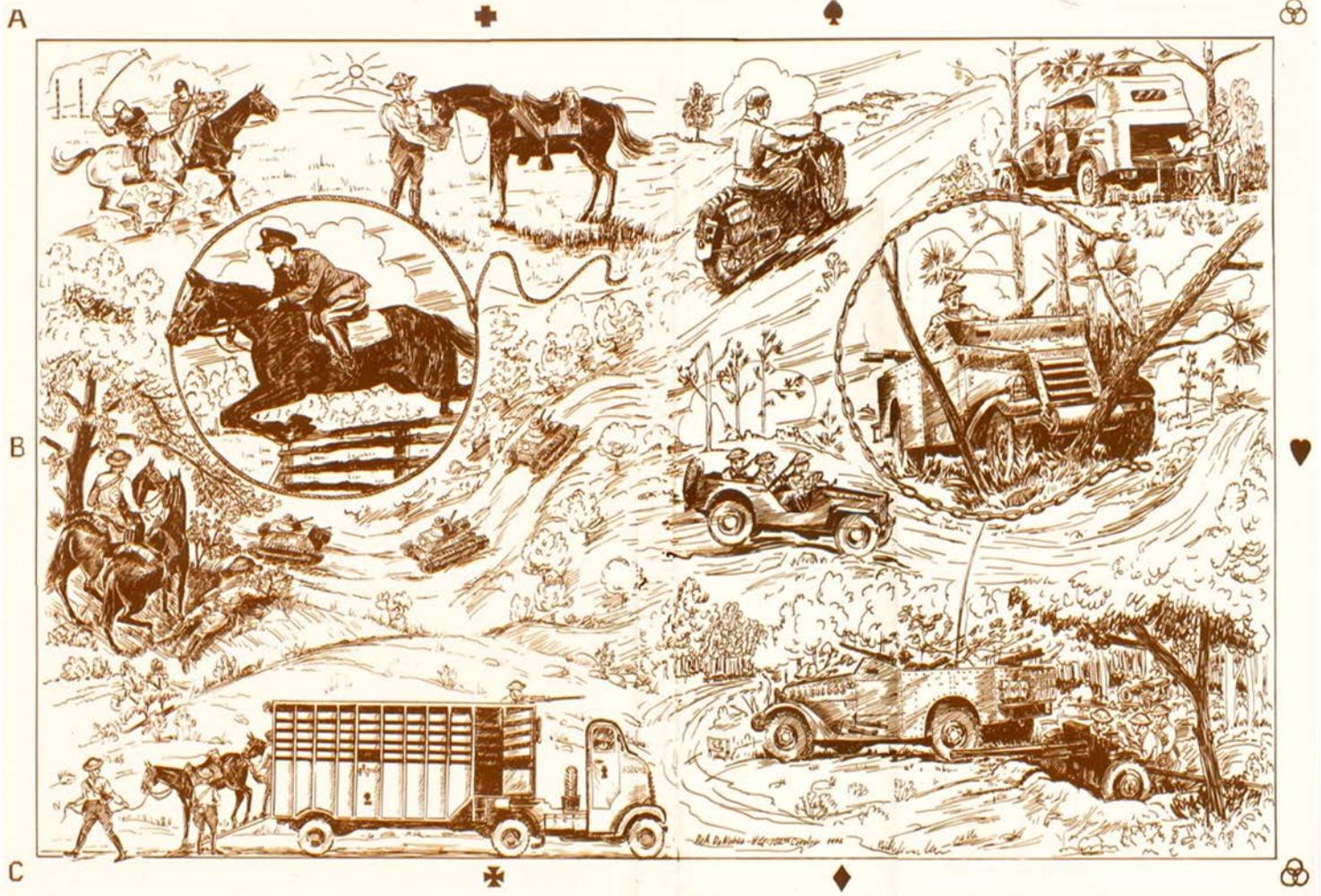
SP = Spring, SU = Summer, FA = Fall, WI = Winter



- SP-15 EMIL & MARGARET ALLGEIER
SP-13 BILL ANTONUCCI (mem. of) CPT WM. ANTONUCCI JR.
SU-15 NANCY ASHFORD & JEANNIE BROWN (sisters)
(mem. father) SSG WM. T. TITTER
WWII B TROOP 117th CAV
FA-12 BILL ANTONUCCI (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY SR.
SU-25 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR)
5-117th CAV
SU-13 CRAIG BEACHER
FA-12 ROSE MARIE BENNERT (mem. of) BILL BENNERT
SU-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
WI-12 MSG TOM BULLOCK A Troop
FA-12 SANTI CARNEVALI *Class of '41, 117th CAV WWII*
SP-14 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-13 SSG (Ret.) CLEMENT & JEAN CURRY
WI-12 LTC (Ret.) PETER D'ELIA
SP-15 ROBERT A. DENNIN JR. - A FRIEND
SP-13 SGM (Ret) JIM DOOLEY
WI-13 COL (Ret.) DENNIS DOUGHERTY
WI-13 1SG (Ret.) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop
FA-13 LTC PATRICK du TERTRE (ARMY OF FRANCE)
SP-14 1SG (Ret.) DAVE ELLIS, D Troop
WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
WI-13 LTC (Ret.) ALAN R. FISHER
WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem. of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
WI-32 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop
WI-12 ROBERT GREEN
SP-14 BILL GRUSS (mem. of) SFC FRANCIS SKINNER
SP-13 LOIS HAASIS (mem. of) CW4 WALTER HAASIS
FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117th CAVALRY SGT Troop C
SP-14 HERB HUBER, WWII 117th CAVALRY T5 Troop E
(Assault Guns)
SU-15 LTC (Ret.) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117th CAV
'43-'44
FA-14 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO.
WWII 117th CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*
SU-13 GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO
FA-15 CHARLES JOHNSON WWII 117th Cavalry Recon
SP-14 COL (Ret.) KEN KLEIN in loving mem. of wife JOANN
WI-12 ANDREW LASNER in Honor of his Father, Arnold Lasner
FA-13 JAY LASNER in Honor of his Dad, Arnold Lasner
SP-13 RON La VERDE (mem. of uncle) T-5 THOMAS G.
HENNESSY, A Troop, 117th CAV KIA 5 JUNE '44 ROME
SP-15 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE
WI-13 EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41, PSG B Troop*
117th CAV, Montrevel POW French Legion of Honor
SP-14 C. J. MacNICHOLS
WI-13 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
SU-14 KEN MAHAN for FRG SUPPORT TEAM
WI-17 BRIAN & BRUCE (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
FA-20 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
SU-16 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father)
T4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102nd CAV WWII
- SU-13 PAMELA THONACK MILLER (mem. of father)
HERBERT A. THONACK, *Class of '41, 117th CAV*
SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK,
Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW
SP-13 CW5 (Ret.) FRANK MNICH & JANET
SP-13 LTC WILLIAM MORRIS
FA-13 RONNIE NIER
SU-14 HENRY NIESE 102nd CAV TRP A 1943-1945 (Stateside)
WI-12 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON
Troops C & E, *Class of '41;*
602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
FA-22 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN,
Class of '41, 102nd & 117th CAV - B & C Troops WWII
FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of)
RICK APBLET
WI-12 CSM (Ret.) AL PHELAN Jr. (mem. of) MSG FRED MATTOX
WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
FA-12 (mem. of) MAJ CHARLES B. PIERCE, WWII 102nd CAV
WI-12 TOM PETTY
FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
SP-13 DOT & LTC (Ret.) KEN QUAAS
WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
WI-24 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN
F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
SP-13 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
WI-12 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem. of husb) WILLIE SCHNARR
SU-14 BILL & MARY SEDLAK
WI-12 ROBERT J. SMITH
FA-13 1LT VINCENT SOLOMENO (in mem.) COL RUDY SAULTER
FA-17 JOHN & MARGARET SUITER
WI-12 CPT MIKE TARRICONE
WI-15 1SG GEORGE THOMAS
SU-13 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
FA-16 CHARLES A VIVIANO (50th CAV RCN SQDN)
SP-15 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
SP-13 FRG HHT 1-102nd CAVALRY

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From the Yearbook of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment (Horse-Mecz) 1941-1942



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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 - 1930 hours: Saturday 8 September, Friday 2 November 2012, Friday 1 February 2013,**