



117th Cavalry Association



102nd CAV 38th CAV 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th RECON 5TH RECON 5/117th CAV 102nd CAV (RSTA)
Volume 28, Number 3 116th Issue (post WWII) Fall 2007



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Saturday, June 23, 2007 was a great day. It was the day that Captain Kevin Welsh and First Sergeant Wayne May of C Troop 5-117th Cavalry and Captain Alex Tran and First Sergeant Michael Rigby of Company D 250th Brigade Support Battalion and 148 of their troops were welcomed home from their deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom. They had been mobilized from their armories in Vineland, Bordentown, West Orange and Dover, New Jersey in October of 2005 and were part of the 167th Cavalry of the 1-34th Brigade Combat team of the Minnesota Army National Guard. As the troops marched into the Joint Training and Development Center at Fort Dix, New Jersey after a 21 month deployment, the New Jersey Army National Guard's newest veterans were greeted by a thunderous applause from family, friends and all those in attendance.

All of the members of the 117th Cavalry Association would like to welcome home them home and thank them for their service to their communities, state and nation. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next 117th Cavalry Association meeting on 7 September 2007.

Don't forget! The 117th Cavalry flag will be folded at the Westfield Armory, 1100 hours 22 September 2007. I Hope to see you there!

Show 'em the Way! *Dennis*

FROM THE EDITOR - Phil Notestine: To reduce annual costs, we did not do a June *Spur*. We were on a path to greatly exceed previous annual *Spur* costs due to the unusually large *Special Edition* and *Spring* issues, and the latest postal increase. Going forward, we will have to keep *Spur* issues to 12 pages. Consequently, the (WWII 102nd Cavalry Group) 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) and the 38th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) dedicated issues will be serialized. For each issue we will feature one of the living WWII vets who served in that unit. In this issue, 1SG (Ret) Bill Maloney is our man. Bill agreed to a personal interview that lasted about 2 hours. He is an old and valued friend from my days in the 117th CAV and our 117th Cavalry Association. But, my, have we changed! I was just 17 when I joined in September 1957, and Bill was thirty seven years old. He is 87 now, and will be 88 on 28 January 2008. With reference to the *Special Edition* of *The Spur*, February 2007, we'll not repeat the period of time at Ft. Jackson through to England and reorganization, which saw the 2nd Squadron ship out to North Africa for Allied HQ security duty and later separation as the new 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz), and the arrival in England of the 38th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) to join the 102nd Cavalry Group. I imagine that we'll need to stretch the two unit WWII histories over three or four issues.

Remember that in the last two issues I asked for our WWII veteran readers to contact me with anecdotes of their service in WWII. I am disappointed that there have been very few. My mainstay and inspiration have been Bob Lutz and COL (Ret) Harold Samsel. Bob has given me written histories of all 3 squadrons and a very fine memoir written by Bill Walsh (1913-1994), who served in the same Troop E (assault guns) 102nd Cav. Recon. Squadron (Mecz) as Bill Maloney. Walsh was a rare and good man. His book *Gallop Ho!* is a personal accounting of the time between playing polo at the Westfield Armory with the 102nd Cavalry (horse) and the end of WWII in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia and then on to separation at Ft. Monmouth, NJ at the end of September, 1945. I wish that this memoir was available to all, but there were few copies printed. Harold Samsel is always ready to take a call to answer my questions and share a tale or two. His memory is sharp, extraordinary! He is always in good spirits despite the wear of time - he is approaching his 98th birthday! I think that he can still "smell" the horses after a good ride, and the hot metal of an M-5 "General Stuart" light tank in action.

**117th CAVALRY ASSOCIATION REGULAR MEETING 1 JUNE 2007
WESTFIELD ARMORY**

The President, COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty, called the meeting to order. Those who have journeyed on to Fiddler's Green were remembered. Dennis reported on the successful completion of mission by C Troop, 5/117th Cavalry and their plans to return and demobilization, after 22 months of Federal Service including 16 months in Iraq. (See related report from CPT Kevin Welsh, Troop Commander). He reported that the headquarters for the reconstituted 2/102nd Cavalry RSTA are in the Westfield Armory. The new unit will absorb the 117th Cavalry and the 102nd Armor, the flags of which will be retired. The Colonel related the efforts of the French people and government to seek, identify and honor those who served in WWII and fought in and over French soil or waters. Our known WWII vets of the 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Recon Squadrons (Mecz) will be advised and aided by a committee of our association. See related letter in this issue. Other matters were covered and reported in the minutes taken by Bill Gruss, Secretary.

In order of the sign-in sheet, members and guests attending: Bill Gruss, Bob Apgar, Bruce Maloney, Bill Maloney, Phil Notestine, Joe Manto, Harry Ayala, Henry Forstenhausler, Dave Ellis, Guy Haddix, John Kieslor, Dutch Gauthier, Leroy Metz, Len Luzky, Sandy Goldstein, Bill Merring, Ron Nier, Emil Allgeier, Don Kondroski, Frank Mnich, Rich Luciano, Walt Lawrence, Ken Mahan, Rochus E. Lawrence, Frank Patrick, Chris Sands, Dave Mormack, Sheila Zelaskowski, Mike Handley, Bob Lutz, Dan Melso and Dennis Dougherty.

**CLASS OF '41 LUNCHEON MEETING 11 JULY 2007
GIBBS HALL, FORT MONMOUTH, NJ**

The meeting was called to order by Bob Lutz (Trooper Lutz also organizes all meetings) who introduced 117th Cavalry Assn. president COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty. Dennis spoke about the return and demobilization of C-5/117th Cavalry after their successful mission in Iraq. Dougherty related the efforts of France to honor WWII vets who fought in the liberation of France. He outlined the plans of our association to inform, encourage and help our WWII vets apply (see letter in this issue).

SMG (Ret) Ken Mahan, association membership chair reviewed the structure and mission of the new 2/102nd Cavalry RSTA (Recon, Surveillance, Target Acquisition). He tried to have a returning vet attend and speak, but no one was available - busy with demob, family and civilian career matters. Ken gave out an illustrated outline of the new outfit. Members wondered why the name RSTA, as the mission seems to mirror that of the Cavalry.

Member John Ferguson shared two old and very worn air-dropped Allied propaganda newspapers that were picked up in a German village, very close to the war's end. In German, English, French and Russian, reported was the surrender of German Army Group G, 1,000,000,000 troops to General Devers, USA and an order by Field Marshall Montgomery that the Germans obey his orders without argument!

Lutz reported that Bob Theall is at Arnold Walters Nursing Home in Hazlet, and Paul Kenworthy is at Holmdel Convalescent Center.

Attending the meeting, in order of the sign-in sheet: Bob Apgar, Jack Coogan, Ken Mahan, Joe Prettyman, Don Tracy, Bill Maloney, Joyce and Smokie Owen, Barbara Malandro, Cheryl & Ron Gamba, Bill & Charlotte Merring, Joe Pocaroba, Jim Kane and Phil Notestine.

CONSIDERATION FOR AN ASSOCIATION COLLEGIATE RING

An inquiry has been sent to Balfour Military Rings about the development of a ring that could be worn by those who served in the WWII 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Recon Squadrons (Mecz) and all related units through to the 2/102nd Cavalry (RSTA) of today, including the 50th and 5th Recon Battalions, 5/117th Cavalry, 102nd Armored Group, etc. The ring would be in 10K gold or a non-gold alloy, with a blue stone, crossed sabers on the side and the units encircled around the stone. That is the current concept. Nothing has been decided – we need your input and eventually a commitment to purchase. Costs are estimated to be from \$225 (alloy) to \$550 or more, depending on the final design and quantity. Interested? Send email or letter to one of us -Dennis Dougherty, Ken Mahan or Phil Notestine (editor)

C TROOP 5/117 CAVALRY COMES HOME

After 16 months in Iraq and a total of 22 months in Federal service, our Troopers have returned to New Jersey and their homes and families. The troop sustained only a few serious casualties, but no deaths while on active service. With a primary mission of Base Defense Operations, the troop also was involved in Combat Recon Patrols, Convoy Logistical Patrols and Civil Military Operations in a number of villages. More details to follow in the November *Spur*. Missions completed successfully! Welcome home! **HOOAAHH!**



As previously reported, the 5/117 Cavalry and 2/102 Armor have been reconstituted as the 2/102nd RSTA. "Essex Troopers" back together after 64 years! Troop Commander Captain Kevin Welsh and his leadership team were able to place all troopers into new assignments.

CPT Welsh remains on active duty, having accepted a new position with *Operation Warrior Trainer* at Fort Dix, assigned to the 2/309th Training BN, 72nd Training Brigade. He is part of the overall training for units and soldiers in preparation for duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. He began his Army career with the 2/508th IN, 82nd Airborne Division in 1982, at the age of 17. His first combat action was in 1983 - Grenada, *Operation Urgent Fury*. He later accepted a voluntary levy to Germany, serving in D - 1/4th IN, 3rd ID, participating in REFORGER exercises plus duty on the Czech border and at the Fulda Gap. Leaving the Army in 1986, he met his future wife Teresa and began a family. Kevin joined the NJARNG in 1997, C-5/117th CAV, initially serving in an M-1 Abrams Tank crew as a loader. He volunteered for OCS in 1998 at the age of 34. Graduating as Honor Graduate, Class 42, he was commissioned 27 June 1999, the same day as fourth child Noah was born. He has been platoon leader of both Tank and Scout Platoons and XO, then CO of the Troop in January of 2005. The Troop was stood up and assigned as part of the 1BCT, 34ID Minnesota ARNG, in October 2005. Kevin and his wife Teresa live in New Egypt, NJ. They have 4 children, Evan (22), Jacqueline (18), Bethany (15), and Noah (8).

1SG ANTHONY FREDA RETURNS FROM AFGHANISTAN



Tony served 12 months in Afghanistan after training in Camp Shelby, Mississippi (which received a "mixed" review). He has been on active duty since 2003, initially doing security assignments in NJ. He was deployed in February 2006 to Camp Cobra, near Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. Four other 117th CAV men were with him - SFC Ronald Ambrose, SSG Paul Zuzzio, SSG Joseph Hammerle and CPL Eric Easter. The mission was to work with Afghan Army personnel and conduct infantry training for NCOs at all unit levels through brigade. This was done with the help of interpreters. In the old Afghan Army, organization was similar to the old Soviet model. NCOs had no significant leadership roles. Now, with US Army and other Coalition training, NCOs are developed to organize, take charge and lead. They operated out of Forward Operating Bases (FOB) which house up to 200; about 160 military and 40 KBR (Kellogg, Brown & Root) contractors. US Forces also work with military personnel from Great Britain, France, Germany, Hungary and Italy. When their Afghan unit was tasked with a mission, the advisors go with them. Normally, US Special Forces had identified an enemy position to be attacked and overwhelmed. These were the typical mission. The terrain was invariably very rugged. In time, 1SG Freda was able to perceive the drift of the dialog between interpreter and Afghani. He believes that his ability was a result of growing up in a household where Italian was spoken. The expressiveness of Italian, with complex body language an important element, was a good preparation! Missions ranged widely from the Kabul area, so much of the country was covered. The people were grateful and hopeful.



Freda remains on active duty at the Westfield Army, HQ for the 2/102nd RSTA. He is glad to be home in Cedar Lake, Denville NJ with wife Jane and daughters Loren (17) and Catherine (14). Jane was active in the Family Readiness Group (FRG), so important to the families of the deployed troops. 1SG Freda began his Army career in "The Regulars" in 1981. After a time out, he joined the NJ National Guard at the Dover Army, 113th Infantry as a mortar crewman in 1987. Freda became 1SG in 2003. By 2005, reorganization resulted in conversion to the 117th CAV and now 2/102nd RSTA. Now stationed in the Westfield Army, HQ 2/102nd RSTA, Freda has over 20 years of service.

LTC CHRIS SANDS TAKES COMMAND OF 3/312th of the 72nd FA BRIGADE



Chris Sands took command on 24 July, one day after ending a 22 month mobilization. He will mobilize again as soon as he has rehabbed from rotator cuff surgery. The unit is the 3rd/312th, a Training Support Battalion, headquartered at Fort Meade but deployed to Fort Dix. Its mission is to train mobilized and deploying Army Reserve, Army National Guard and all Sister Services. The battalion is part of the 72nd FA Brigade, First Army Division East.

LTC Sands is on the left, receiving the battalion flag as the new commander. Chris spent part of his Army career with the 5/117th Cavalry officer, serving in HHT and as Commander of A Troop. He also was president of the 117th Cavalry Association.

THE 102ND CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (MECZ) PARTICIPATES IN THE WWII NORMANDY INVASION AND FIGHTS UNTIL VICTORY IN EUROPE, with Class of '41 member 1SG (Ret) Bill Maloney

Born in the Elizabeth General Hospital on January 28th, 1920, Bill Maloney was a happy young bachelor living with family in Cranford, NJ. He was a “soda jerk” at the local drug store, casually dating a childhood sweetheart, Janet Fleck. The economy was improving after years of a depression, and there was war in Europe and Asia. German submarines had been attacking US Navy warships off the Atlantic coast. The draft was underway and the nation’s military forces were building and training in preparation for imminent action. Maloney and his buddy Jack Fogerty had thought it out and planned to join a local Army National Guard outfit, the renown “Essex Troop” - the 102nd Cavalry, a “swank” polo-playing horse outfit stationed at the Westfield and Newark Armories. So they agreed to meet at the Westfield Armory and join together. Maloney was told that he was underweight, as the minimum was 120 pounds, and to come back when he was ready. Some several weeks later, his mother and he bought several pounds of bananas and plenty of water to drink while on the bus to the Armory and a new physical. When he stepped on the scale, the weight indicator bounced about at 120 lbs, and the doc said “off, quick” and 120 lbs recorded. Passed - and enlisted in early January as a recruit-assault gun crewman.

Federalized! Immediately, the 102nd was entrained to Fort Jackson, NC for 1 year. Bill was never a horse cavalryman; he trained from the start in cannon – half-track mounted 75MM guns. At first, equipment was so short that drill and training was done with *stovepipes!* Training was tough, but Bill found time to have a bit of fun - and to get in a bit of it. So much so, that his friend Ed Murphy would avoid such after hours activities, so as to keep out of trouble! However, the friends did marry their hometown girls while on a week-end pass (Bill’s young wife Janet Fleck would bear some fine sons, after the war). Bill remembers a time on guard duty, when he and a few others, including then LT Harold Samsel were gathered ‘round a camp fire, trying to keep warm and dry from heavy rains. Maloney’s boots were still on his feet, right near the flames when they started smoking. LT Samsel yelled at him “*You dumb Irishman, didn’t you feel your boots burning!?!?*” All was well, and Bill remembers “Sammie” as a damned good officer.



WAR! When war was declared after December 7th, 1941 the attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan, the troopers were “in” for the duration. Training and reorganizations continued for many months, as the Army learned much from observing the Wehrmacht Panzer units and “Blitzkrieg” easily defeat other armored and horse cavalry forces. All horse units were “mechanized” by the time they were packed up and shipped off to Great Britain in 1943. Soon, the gun crews gave up the half-tracks and were issued the new M-8 self-propelled assault gun – a modified M-5 light tank with the turret replaced with a larger, open-topped turret with a 75MM howitzer. The crews trained long and hard, becoming highly proficient with direct and indirect fire accuracy and rate of fire. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howitzer_Motor_Carriage_M8





THE ALLIED INVASION OF EUROPE AT NORMANDY, FRANCE

As recorded by MAJOR DAVID M. RUSSEN, XO, HQ 102nd CAVALRY GROUP

(From Col. Harold J. Samsel's Book
"Operational History of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment, Essex Troop World War II")

WITH THE EUROPEAN PHASE OF WORLD WAR II NOW HISTORY AND THE DEEDS OF THE 102ND CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (MECHANIZED) AN INTEGRAL PART OF THAT HISTORY, THIS RESUME' OF THE UNIT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE 334 DAYS OF COMBAT IS DEDICATED TO THE 71 MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE CAUSE THEY BELIEVED IN AND FOUGHT FOR

June 6th 1944, is the day all the world speaks of simply as "D-Day", but for the men of this Squadron and the other units preparing to assault the European mainland it marked the sudden end of months of anxious waiting for the unknown. Troops B, C, and Headquarters and Service, plus elements of the balance of the Squadron, lay anchored off the coast of France expecting at any minute to hear the ominous order to disembark. As the first assault waves hit the beach and little L.S.T. boats approached the beachhead, the Squadron had its "baptism of fire". Hostile aircraft bombed and strafed incessantly and artillery in battery position on the high ground just beyond the beach line bracketed the small craft outlined against the water. As barrage after barrage fell in the immediate vicinity of the three L.S.T.s carrying the 102nd Cavalry personnel, the assault of the beach hung in the balance. To the men riding at anchor in the bay, it seemed that for every three boats that were ordered shoreward by the beach-master, one struck a mine, a second was blown to bits by artillery and the third limped back loaded to the gunwales with wounded. How much longer could the carnage last before one side or the other was forced back?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Normandy#Omaha_Beach

Maloney remembers going in that day at 1730 hours with LT Bill Lake and 4 others to identify an assembly area just off the landing areas. He was shaken by the carnage. They returned to the LST later to land with their units.

For nearly two days and nights that seemed like an eternity, the unit lay less than a thousand yards off shore waiting for the beachhead to expand enough for cavalry vehicles to disembark. The German shore batteries kept up their ceaseless fire at the shuttling convoys in the bay while friendly warships further out matched them round for round. Wave after wave of strongly escorted bomber armadas dropped thousands of tons of explosives on the steel and concrete emplacements overlooking the beach and the enemy in retaliation sent every plane at their disposal to try to counterbalance the joint air and land attacks by brute force. Anti-aircraft guns on the ships, and later on shore, sent up a quantity of flack never before equaled in the history of aerial combat.

"Omaha, East Red" was the code name for the sector from St. LAURENT SUR MERE to ISIGNY and the massive identifying signs implanted on the sloping beach marked the spot where the landing was to be made. Every contingency of weather and terrain had been anticipated in the months of planning; nothing was left to chance.

June 8, 1332hrs - After 24 hours of false reports, rumors and counter rumors, L.S.T. #16 was ordered to "go in", and Troop C began to disembark 228 minutes later at ST. LAURENT SUR MERE. The tenseness of waiting was over. This, finally, was what the men had been training for these many long months in the United States and England. The route to the beach was strewn with still burning ships that had run upon sunken concrete pilings or mines, and ahead lay the shoreline slopping gently upward to the high bluffs overlooking the bay. The beach proper was littered with demolished vehicles and American and German soldiers unrecognizably intermingled in death. The cost in lives of slightly over 48 hours of one of history's bloodiest engagements will go into the records as a mere impersonal statistical computation; but to those who landed on Omaha Beach and lived to retain the vivid picture, the war was suddenly transmitted from routine, dull, heartbreaking training to grim kill or be killed reality.

Maloney remembers the near disaster as his M-8 self-propelled 75mm howitzer with towed ammo trailer almost tumbled off the ramp into the sea. Almost!

Recon trooper Steve Cup recalls being dumped into the sea from his Jeep and losing his rifle, helmet and gear. He struggled to retrieve them, but his buddy stopped him, saying that lots of rifles, helmets and equipment could be had on the bloody beach, from the badly wounded and dead. Cup picked up an M-1 Garand that had carved into the stock "welcome". He carried it throughout the war. Cup was a seasoned hunter and sharpshooter from eastern PA, a coal miner. He was to gather lots of meat for his fellow troopers.

After partially de-waterproofing their vehicles, Troop C displaced forward 6 miles to a field near SURRAIN, France, and at 1900 the same day, elements of Troops A and B disembarked to join them. The balance of the Squadron put ashore the following morning, and with entire fighting strength assembled, The Troops bivouacked for the rest of the night.

10 June 1944 - The first mission. Elements of the Reconnaissance Troops left their areas before dawn with orders to proceed to ISIGNY and clear out enemy pockets of resistance in the beach area north of the town. It was here that the Squadron saw its first action as a strong dismounted force opposed the advance into ISIGNY with small arms and automatic weapons. 74 of the enemy including several White Russians forced to fight alongside the Nazis, were taken prisoner and turned over to the 29th Infantry Division before the troops retraced their route to the previous night's assembly area.

Troops B and C plus attached platoons of Company F and Troop E were alerted at the first light the following morning and proceeded in a southeasterly direction as a screen for the 1st Division. For three days those two Troops led that division through BALLEROY, and finally as far as CAUMONT where the first difficult opposition was encountered on the 12th. Three platoons of Troop B were reconnoitering along parallel north-south roads east of the town and as the 2nd platoon approached an intersection, a well camouflaged unidentified tank fired, point blank at the lead 1/4 ton vehicle. The 75mm gun was fortunately set to hit the turret of a tank or armored car and the shell burst above the jeep wounding one man in the head and face. The tank was later revealed to have been a "Sherman". The Squadron's first casualty thus occurred simply because a nervous gunner, over zealous in his first action, failed to recognize friendly identifying markings.

The platoon passed through the edge of CAUMONT; then with the mission satisfactorily completed, the entire Troop was ordered to pull back. German snipers with rifles and 20mm guns ambushed the men as they passed the first houses and for nearly an hour the opposing forces exchanged fire at close range. A second casualty occurred before two tanks and the rest of the troop came up to support the beleaguered men while they drew back out of range. In a second phase of the CAUMONT skirmish, a C Troop man became the first of the Squadron's "killed in action". An enemy machine gun opened up on the lead 1/4 ton vehicle as the column moved toward the town, and as the men dismounted to return fire, several bullets ripped through Private Donald C. Redmond's stomach and chest, killing him instantly.

On June 13th. Troop B pulled back to ISIGNY; then rejoined the balance of the Squadron in CERISY FOREST the following morning. Troop C remained detached to the 1st Division until two days later. From the 14th until the 22nd of June, the Squadron was alternately attached to the 9th and 23rd Infantry Regiments of the 2nd Division and screened the advances of these two units as they pushed the enemy toward their ST. LO ROAD defense lines. Tanks and assault guns actively supported in forward positions while the Reconnaissance Troops alternated on the front line; each taking two days up, two in reserve and two aggressively patrolling to the front. Troop E and Company F repeatedly proved themselves as they knocked out countless strong points, opposing armored vehicles and concentrations of troops and supplies on either side of the ST. LO ROAD. Casualties were comparatively light considering the resistance encountered, but F Company lost several tanks in the units first armored actions on the 14th and 17th. Gains were measured in yards as the men out-fought and out-maneuvered the enemy from hedge-row to hedge-row. The still powerful "LUFTWAFFE" made daily raids all along the extent of the line in a desperate effort to break up the steadily advancing American attack.

The Squadron captured many prisoners during the period, and casualties inflicted on the determined enemy units blocking the drive far exceeded those sustained by the 102nd Cavalry.

(TO BE CONTINUED IN SUBSEQUENT ISSUES OF *THE SPUR*)

JULY 4TH 2007 - OMAHA BEACH AND OMAHA CEMETERY FOR U.S. FORCES



“The French Will Never Forget” organized an extraordinary gathering of approximately 2,500 people in Omaha Beach, Normandy for July 4th 2007. Intended as a birthday present to America, the crowd formed a human logo spelling out the phrase: **“FRANCE WILL NEVER FORGET”**.

The message was aimed at honoring the fallen American heroes including our own from the 102nd Cavalry Group, who sacrificed their lives to liberate France at the end of WW II. *“Our goal is, once again, to demonstrate the deep respect and gratitude of the people of France, for their recovered freedom, thanks to America’s extreme sacrifices during the Second World War and which no one can, or will ever forget.”* declared the co-founders of the organization. The site of Omaha Beach was chosen because of its history and symbolism. The beach is located just below the main American cemetery where, prior to the event there was a brief ceremony to lay a flower wreath, in the presence of the US Ambassador H.E Craig R. Stapleton. The whole event was filmed and photographed from two helicopters and released to major television and newspaper media worldwide. The media coverage in the USA, however was disappointing; but the event took on a life of his own on the Internet. A final DVD version and a book are also in the works. It was such an emotional moment and a strong message from the people of France, who cherish their alliance and friendship with America, that Ambassador Stapleton made it a key point of his official address at the US Embassy in Paris during his official July 4 reception.

Two preliminary versions of the excellent and meaningful videos are available at the following links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbeL2QbdE8g> and <http://youtube.com/watch?v=MQzF4o3qM14>

(Make sure to have your volume turned up)

The French Will Never Forget is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 by four French citizens (left to right): Paul Bensabat, Patrick du Tertre, Jean-Pierre Heim and Christian Millet.

This program is one of few grassroots organizations whose objective is to reinforce at all times the friendship between the French and American Peoples and to constantly demonstrate the eternal gratitude that the French have for their American ally for the sacrifices she made during WW II to liberate France.



More info is available at www.thefrenchwillneverforget.com.

LTC Patrick du Tertre, Army of France (reserve) is a member of the 117th Cavalry Association and a resident of Mountain Lakes, NJ.



**117th Cavalry Association
New Jersey Army National Guard Armory
500 Rahway Avenue
Westfield, New Jersey 07090**

TO: All World War II Veterans

July 4th, 2007

As part of the 60th anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 2004, the government of France awarded 100 United States veterans of the Liberation of France the **Legion of Honor**. The *Legion of Honor* is one of the greatest decorations that can be bestowed by the French Republic, and each award is personally approved by the President of France.

The French government continues to identify those heroes who took part in the "Campagne de France". Many of our 117th Cavalry Association members participated in the Liberation of France as members of the 117th, 102nd and 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz) are eligible for consideration for this prestigious award. The French government has established the following criteria for nomination of the *Legion of Honor*:

- To have fought on French soil or in French territorial waters or in French air space. Remember "French" at the time included colonies and overseas territories.
- To supply a copy front and back of the Honorable Discharge from the US armed forces.
- To supply a copy of any military diploma, certificates or awards especially when it comes to US medals such as, but not limited to:
 - *Distinguished Service Cross*
 - *Silver Star*
 - *Bronze Star*
 - *Purple Heart*
 - any French medal such as the *Croix de Guerre*
- To advise of any French collective award received by the unit in which one served.
- A detail description of your service while fighting in France, including unit(s) time-line, locations and responsibilities or tasks conducted.

Please examine your military records and send the appropriate information to our 117th Cavalry Association Awards Committee, attention:

COL (ret) Dennis J. Dougherty
615 Raymond Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

We will then forward your service record to the Grand Chancellery of the *Legion of Honor* for selection.

(Signed By)

COL (Ret) Dennis J. Dougherty
President
117th Cavalry Association

Membership Update – SMG (ret) Ken Mahan



Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not Sept. 07 or later, you are **behind** in your dues. Your subscription to THE SPUR is going to run out because of non-payment of dues. A sample of label:

SEPT 07

**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 dues are due in September; regular dues are \$15 annually. Make checks payable to **117th CAV Assn.** **Note:** If you have an e-mail address, please send it to me at KMAHAN117@AOL.COM. We are in the process of compiling an e-mail list of members and we want to include you. We now have over 63 addresses.

Association web site: www.117th-cav.org/

New Members

Rich Luciano (wife, Mevyl)
Was in "A" Troop, 5/117th CAV, Westfield

Found Member (lost track) Welcome Back

CPT Gavin Rizk
Was in HHT in Westfield and A Troop in Dover.
Just back from Iraq, is in the Army Reserve

WELCOME HOME As of the printing of THE SPUR, all members of 117th CAV Assn. and 102nd RSTA have returned home from deployment overseas. It was great to see the units march in at the Welcome Home Ceremony that was held at Joint Training and Development Center, Fort Dix. We want to thank the commanders for bringing back all their people.

CPT Kevin H. Welsh,
Commander of "C" Troop, 5/117th CAV

CPT Alex D. Tran,
Commander of "D" (FSC) 250th BSB

We hope that all of the People that came back from Iraq will find slots in units in the National Guard. The units that were in Iraq have been done away with or moved to another part of the State, which makes it hard for people to stay in a unit, or stay with the heritage of a unit.

On active duty, Medical holding

LTC Christopher Sands
LTC Michael Hrycak
SGT David Mormack

TAPS

ALFRED V. YERSEVICH — CLARK, N.J. PASSED AWAY 2 MAY 2007
MR. YERSEVICH WORKED FOR THE WESTERN ELECTRIC CO. BEFORE JOINING THE CLARK POLICE DEPARTMENT IN 1960. HE WAS A POLICE OFFICER IN CLARK FOR 30 YEARS RISING TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT BEFORE RETIRING IN 1990. HE HONORABLY SERVED IN THE U.S. MARINE CORPS DURING THE KOREAN CONFLICT FROM 1949 TO 1952. AL WAS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE POLICE AND FIRE RETIREES OF ESSEX COUNTY, THE HONOR LEGION OF NEW JERSEY, THE N.J. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 5TH SQUADRON 117TH CAVALRY, THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 328, A LIFE MEMBER OF THE VFW 7363, AND THE DEUTSCHER CLUB ALL OF CLARK.

MIRIAM E FISHER - NORTH CAROLINA. PASSED AWAY 21 MAY 2007. WIDOW OF 1ST LT (RET) WILLIAM E. FISHER, "CLASS OF '41". HE ENLISTED IN 1939 AT THE ROSEVILLE ARMORY, NEWARK, NJ AS TROOP BUGLER IN THE 102ND CAVALRY (ESSEX TROOP) AND WAS LATER TRANSFERRED TO THE WWII 117TH CAVALRY RECON SQUADRON (MECZ). HE FOUGHT IN EUROPE. SHE WAS A WESTERN UNION GIRL IN COLUMBIA SC WHEN SHE AND FISHER MET AND MARRIED. THEY WERE TOGETHER UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1999. MRS. FISHER WAS PROUD OF HER TROOPER AND THE TROOP, AND WAS GRATEFUL WHEN A MEMBER OF THE 117TH CAVALRY ATTENDED HIS FINAL SERVICES.



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 MG TROOP 102 CAV '40 -42)

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1st New Jersey Cavalry



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NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS: (always Friday) 7 SEPTEMBER 2007; 2 NOVEMBER 2007;
1 FEBRUARY 2008; 4 APRIL 2008; 6 JUNE 2008; 5 SEPTEMBER 2008; 7 NOVEMBER 2008