



117th Cavalry Association

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102nd CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102nd CAVALRY
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President's Message In my last President's message I talked about the reorganization and consolidation of the 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion 102nd Armor Regiment into the new 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment. The New Jersey Cavalry story continues with a short history of the Westfield Cavalry Armory.

With the end of World War I, all units of New Jersey's National Guard returned home. In the summer of 1919, the Governor authorized the reorganization of First Cavalry, New Jersey National Guard. Prior to World War I, mobilization Troop D of the First Cavalry had been stationed in Plainfield. Raymond A. Miller of Westfield a former D Trooper and World War I veteran was successful in his drive to relocate Troop D to Westfield. In order to have arms, uniforms, horses, equipment and funds for maintenance issued by the Federal Government, Troop D needed 3 officers and 75 enlisted men. This goal was soon met, Troop D was federally recognized, and Westfield designated as its home station. The National Guard furnished some discarded one-story wooden barracks; they were erected on state rented land at the end of Summit Avenue. The barracks were remodeled to make them into stables. This would be the home of the Troop's horses for the next four years. An orderly room and supply room were established several blocks away in old Prospect Street School Building. Troop formations were held in the aisles between the horse stalls; drill both mounted and dismounted was in an outdoor ring near the stables. On August 17, 1921, the First Cavalry New Jersey National Guard underwent a re-organization, creating the 102nd Cavalry Regiment of two Squadrons of three Saber Troops and a Headquarters Detachment. The headquarters remained in Newark with troops now stationed in Red Bank, Orange and Westfield. Westfield was designated as the 2nd Squadron Headquarters and Troop D was re-designated as Troop G. July 1925 brought an appropriation of \$150,000 from the State of New Jersey to build a new Cavalry Armory on the Rahway Avenue property in Westfield. It was a convenient riding distance from the stables and had been used for maneuvers and a number of horse shows, before the construction of the Armory. The plans for the new Cavalry Armory called for stables, riding ring, blacksmith shop, storage for forage, supply rooms, locker rooms, offices, and a grillroom with kitchen.

Today, after a military presence in Westfield of over 90 years the Cavalry Armory on 500 Rahway Avenue is an established fixture in the community. It is the home of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment, New Jersey Army National Guard. Polo Matches and Horse Shows have been replaced by a variety of social, educational, commercial, and community activities. Even though there have been many changes to the facility, it remains remarkably the same. Only the tie-down rings on the walls of the drill floor remind one of the presence of horse cavalry. Today's Cavalry Troopers who drill there are not very different than their predecessors in the First Cavalry New Jersey National Guard. They are a veteran force that has served their nation in time of war and now stand ready to continue to serve and protect their community, state and nation when called upon to do so. Our 117th Cavalry Association thanks all the Troopers of the 1st Squadron of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment for their continued service and sacrifice they have made and continue to make on a daily basis in the defense of our nation.

A special thanks to all our members who have contributed to help defray the cost of the publication of "The SPUR." Please continue to show your support in your Booster sponsorship of our 117th Cavalry Association newsletter "The SPUR." Many of you have made and continue to make donations, to help pay the cost of publication and mailing. Thanks to all of you for your generosity in support of our associations many initiatives in support of our membership and the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment.

Show' em the Way!

Dennis

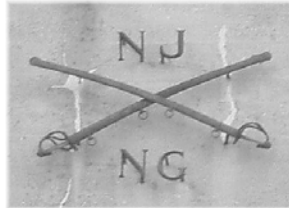
Hail -- Farewell -- Congratulations On Sunday the 23rd of January there was change of Responsibility between CSM Tom Decker and CSM Chris Sheridan. It took place on the drill floor of the Westfield, New Jersey Army National Guard Armory. Our 117th Cavalry Association wish to thank CSM Decker for his service to the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment and the 117th Cavalry Association and wish him well in his next assignment. The 117th Cavalry Association also would like to congratulate CSM Chris Sheridan and wish him success as the CSM of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment.

We would also like to congratulate 117th Cavalry Association members Tim Coakley and Bill Morris on their recent promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Welcome to the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment, MAJ Ron Deloatch the new Squadron Executive Officer and MAJ Dave Melendez the new Squadron Operations Officer and to Troop A 1SG Gary Davidson.

Thanks for your years of service in both the 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry Regiment and the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment to former Squadron S3 Andy Hague, CPT Kevin Welsh former C Troop commander and Asst. S3 and former Troop A First Sergeant Mark Rizzo, former Ast. S3 Pete Zapeta and B Troop Platoon Sergeant Greg Butch Panowicz. Between all of the above, there is over 75 years of service to New Jersey's Cavalry!

We know you all will continue to *Show 'em the Way!*

Dennis





From the Commander 1-102nd Cavalry - Greetings to all fellow Troopers and their families! We wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2011! First and foremost, I would like to wish Command Sergeant Major Thomas Decker all the best of luck in his new assignment. I would like you all to join me in welcoming Command Sergeant Major Christopher Sheridan to the 1-102 CAV as the new Command Sergeant Major.

A Change of Responsibility Ceremony was conducted at the Headquarters in Westfield where CSM Decker was knighted into the *Order of St. George*. He was presented the medal by the Squadron Commander. CSM Decker gave a heartfelt farewell speech and words of wisdom to the squadron formation upon passing the colors. A special thanks goes out to BG (Ret) Frank Dulfer for his attendance at the event and his continued support of the Squadron.

Our new S-3, Major Dave Melendez and his assistant, Captain Joe McNamara, traveled to Fort A.P. Hill, VA with other representatives throughout the 50th IBCT to conduct a recon for our upcoming Annual Training period. 2011 will find the 1-102 CAV conducting Annual Training alongside all the Battalions and the HQ of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in August.

Please join me in congratulating former Executive Officers of the Squadron, Bill Morris and Tim Coakley on their recent promotions to Lieutenant Colonel by the Department of the Army Reserve Component LTC Promotion Board.

The Squadron's training continues to ramp up as we progress through the ARFORGEN cycle towards future missions. SFC Snook has taken on the reins as our Squadron Master Gunner and is developing a training program to develop Troop Master Gunners and cycle the Troops through Scout Gunnery Tables.

We wish you all well and look forward to our joint endeavors and social events.

"SHOW 'em the WAY!"

LTC Edward Chrystal
Commander
1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment, 50th IBCT

CSM Christopher Sheridan Enlisted in the NJARNG 113th Infantry in 1982; transferred to the 5-117th Cavalry in 1985, B Troop cavalry scout to (acting) First Sergeant, Troop B in 2001. NJ Homeland security missions followed, and by 2003, he was transferred and promoted to 1SG, Company C, 102nd ARMOR. In 2004, he deployed to GITMO and assigned to 50th Brigade, HHC as 1SG Joint Task Force JTF-GITMO-5 (Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force). Deployed as 1SG B Troop 102nd ARMOR to New Mexico border security "*Operation Jump Start*". Promoted to Command Sergeant Major, 102nd ARMOR BN in 2006. In 2007, transferred to 50th BSTB-Brigade Special Troops BN. 2008-2009 deployed to Iraq with 50th IBCT, Security Oprns Sergeant Major, Security Directorate MFNI Baghdad Iraq International Zone. December 2010 promoted to CSM 1-102nd



Cavalry. Sheridan holds a double BS in Business Management and Marketing from Kean College and is currently working on an MBA at NYU. The CSM owns and operates Tri State Marketing and Media Group, Good Neighbor Publishing. He is also Director of Sales and Partner in several multi-media publications. Married to Carol, they have 3 children and live in Bloomfield, NJ.



From the Editor – Phil Notestine Memories of our Reunion of November 2010 urged me to dig out some pictures going back to my 1958 active duty times at Fort Dix and Fort Knox, and Annual Training at Camp Drum NY (Fort Drum). During the 2 weeks “Summer Camp” in 1966, the 5-117th CAV, 50th Armored Division provided part of Troop A to act as aggressors to help prepare a NJARNG Transportation unit and a Medical Detachment for duty in Vietnam. We were tasked with harassing and penetrating their security. It was fun for us cavalymen, but not so for our “victims”! We worked day and night to “condition” our fellow NJARNG soldiers. Pictured are PSG Rocco Spano, Scout Section SSG Philip Notestine and SGT Jerry Miscovich, one of my scout squad leaders. As you can see, our Jeep was WWII era!



Members are asked to seek and recruit new members and associate members into the Association. My latest “recruit” is a friend of almost 40 years, a son of a 1930's Essex Trooper and a Vietnam veteran. Read about Fred Kent in the Class of '41 luncheon article and on page 11.

As you will read in the article by 1LT Ryan Harty, 1-102nd Cavalymen are Troopers of many talents – they have to be! 1LT Harty, the grandson of 1SG Frank Harty, *Bronze Star* (deceased) who was a *Class of '41* 102nd Cavalry Regiment NCO and the First Sergeant of Troop A, 38th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz). 1LT Harty is XO of C Troop (dismounted). Ryan's well-written article is a fine one and we thank him.

Due to limitations in the number of pages allowed in each edition of *The SPUR*, we have to defer including more of SGT Clayton Skoda's WWII POW Diary. However, we do have the complete document on the WWII Unit Histories page of our Association web site www.117th-cav.org in a PDF file.

Our *Heritage Room* in the Westfield Armory is a *Place of Honor* dedicated to our NJ Cavalymen over these many decades. COL Harold Samsel (deceased) had contributed both items and money, as have many veterans of the years; previous historians “Bob” Schreil (deceased) and Bob Lutz, both WWII veterans have done a great deal to collect and assemble our history in pictures and written documents. Ken Mahan, Don Tracy and others have affixed cabinetry and made orderly our several displays. Ken Mahan acts as our curator. Anyone who visits the Heritage Room and adjacent displays can learn a great deal about the history and service of NJ Cavalymen. We are justifiably proud, and welcome all to visit and learn. We hope to develop a multi-media library so that troopers, families and researchers may use the Heritage Room and resources to learn and document. So, gathering documents, such as the 1925 book “*HISTORY OF THE ESSEX TROOP*” and COL Harold Samsel's two compilations-books “*OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE 102nd CAVALRY REGIMENT “ESSEX TROOP” WORLD WAR II*” (blue) and “*OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE 117th CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (MECZ) WORLD WAR II*” (brown) and the pictorial “yearbook” done at Fort Jackson, SC “*102nd UNITED STATES CAVALRY (Horse-Mecz) 1941-1942*”. The latter has hundreds of pictures of horses, equipment, activities, officers and men of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment in training and preparation for WWII. Another document, a memoir written by TECHSGT William A. Walsh (1913-1994), a *Class of '41* horse trooper who became a PSG of Troop E (assault guns) 102nd Cavalry and fought from Normandy to Czechoslovakia. Bill Walsh was a fine man, of the first order. His memoir “*GALLOP HO*” was written at the urging of family and finished in the 1980's. It is very well written and shows the fine mind and good spirit of this proud Essex Trooper.

We ask that anyone in possession of and wishing to donate these and other documents, diaries, letters, pictures, artifacts and such relevant to NJ Cavalry and those who served, especially in WWII please contact SGM Ken Mahan or any Association officer. In time, we would like to be able to be a lending library.

We have added two interesting documents to the web site, www.117th-cav.org on the WWII Unit Histories page. They are “*RECON SQUADRONS FM 2-30-2 July 1944* and, compiled by author Harry Yeide “*WWII AMERICAN MECHANIZED CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON AND ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION PROFILES*”

The 66th Anniversary of the Battle Of Arnhem The prop engines hummed as the C-47 Dakota lurches across the Dutch countryside. I was sitting at the number two-man slot next to the open door looking watching the country side pass below us. The cold September air coupled with the steel bench of the aircraft had us all a bit chilled. Out of the aircraft door, I could see the flat countryside with canals and hedgerows dividing the farmlands like a checkerboard with the occasional small town marked by a simple church steeple. Seven Paratroopers including myself from United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC), the 4th Battalion, Parachute Regiment of the British Army were at 800 feet and heading towards Ginkel-Heath Drop Zone.



Behind us were four more C-130s carrying additional paratroopers anxiously waiting to put their knees to the breeze. The Royal Air Force version of our jumpmasters gave the always slightly unnerving "Stand up!" As we tried to steady ourselves while the aircraft weaved and bobbed with the wind, we received the commands for "Hook Up" and equipment check, familiar to all Paratroopers. The number one man was brought to the open door as we all shifted forward using the fuselage of the aircraft to balance ourselves. I stared at the red light bulb waiting for the inevitable green light that would signal to the jumpmasters that we were over the drop zone and ready to begin exiting the jumpers. Outside the aircraft door, you could see the drop zone coming into view.

It was a perfect crisp blue sky and chilly autumn morning. You could not ask for a better day. "Standby!" We all braced ourselves as that last shot of adrenaline shot into my veins. What is most likely just a second or two always seems much longer. I mentally go over all the performance points drilled into my brain at Airborne School. "Green Light!" Here it comes. "Go!" The number one man in front of me exits and I hand off my static line to the jumpmaster, turn to the door exit out into the cold autumn sky. There is that sudden rollercoaster feeling and I could feel my stomach in my throat. There isn't much of a prop blast so I could hear the risers popping the rubber band retainers as I rush downward. I count and wait for the reassuring "pop" of the canopy opening and as soon as I see that chute overhead, I breathe a sigh of relief. Now comes the tricky part - landing. "Feet and knees together, feet and knees together" I keep telling myself as the ground starts rushing towards me. I pull the risers down to my chest. Here comes the ground. I look towards the horizon and then in a split second, I crash and tumble to the earth.

It isn't September of 1944 but September of 2010. On the ground, a welcoming and gracious Dutch crowd awaits us, which is a stark difference to the welcome that the brave Allied paratroopers faced as they dropped into this same drop zone exactly 66 years to the day. Much to this young lieutenant's delight cold beer and good food waited for us on the drop zone rather than panzer tanks and battle tested German Wehrmacht troops.

Although currently serving as the Executive Officer of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment, I am mobilized as an operations officer at the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, the installation equivalent of the G-3 Shop at United States Army Support Activity-Fort Dix (USASA-Fort Dix). This past summer I had the unique opportunity to serve as the Liaison Officer for the 4th Battalion, Parachute Regiment (4 PARA) of the British Army as they conducted their annual two-week exchange training exercise at Fort Dix known as "OPERATION BLACK WARRIOR". LTC Stu Gillard, a former member of the NJARNG's aviation community was the Officer-in-Charge and 1SG Ken Ashley from Bravo Company, 250th BSB served as the Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge.

There were 31 Paratroopers from the Battalion, which is a Territorial Army unit or what we would call a reserve unit that came to train at USASA-Fort Dix lead by the battalion's Training Major or S-3, MAJ Andy Wareing. While at Fort Dix, 4 PARA trained on US weapons, equipment and parachute operations in preparation for the unit's coming deployment to Afghanistan. They conducted small arms training with the Army Reserves' Regional Training Center-East, the FBI small arms range, simulation training with our NJARNG's JT2DC Battle Lab, and air assault and urban operations at the high tech Urban Assault facility at range 59E. The 404th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) stationed at the Kelly Reserve Center headed up the parachute operations portion of the training. We conducted three successful parachute drops into Coyle Drop Zone out of a UH-60 Blackhawk, CH-47 Chinook, and a C-23 Sherpa. It was great opportunity to conduct training with a steadfast and vital coalition partner and a great chance for a "Five Jump Chump" such as myself to lose that moniker. Also representing the NJARNG during the parachute operations was our state's own Judge Advocate General, COL Gene Ingrao, a qualified jumpmaster.

The 4 PARA lads received carte blanche access to Fort Dix's resources and facilities and the installation pulled out all the stops to ensure the operation's success. MAJ Wareing, a seasoned combat veteran of the parachute regiment went so far to as state that it was one of the best military experiences of his career. Of course, we would have been remiss not to have exposed the young paratroopers to Morale, Welfare, Recreation (MWR) activities at the Jersey Shore during the few but much deserved moments of down time after continuous training in the field. Let us just say the Jersey Shore bore the brunt of a full-scale assault by 4 PARA! As any good liaison officer would do, I ensured the MWR activities' success with subject matter expertise and guidance. At the end of the day, 4 PARA went home with a great experience that we hope to repeat this coming year.

In return for hosting the 4 PARA at Dix, MAJ Wareing and the unit invited me to attend the 66th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem event in the Netherlands. The Battle of Arnhem, part of *Operation Market Garden* in 1944, holds a

special place in the history of the British Airborne forces. The 1st Airborne Division along with a Polish Airborne brigade jumped into Arnhem in September 1944 as part of Field Marshal Montgomery's plan to secure bridgeheads over the Rhine River in an attempt to push allied forces into Germany and eventually seize Berlin. Because of faulty intelligence, 1st Airborne Division (UK) jumped almost directly into a seasoned Panzer division. The fight that ensued would decimate the 1st Airborne division as they heroically attempted to secure the bridgeheads in Arnhem and await the Allied armored forces pushing their way up North. Three-quarters of the division would be captured, killed, or wounded and the operation would fail to provide a quick entrance into Germany further prolonging the carnage of the war.

The anniversary jump had participants from Great Britain, the US, Netherlands, and for the first time since the Anniversary jump has been held, Germany. The event serves as an opportunity for paratroopers from the participating nations to jump with each other's parachutes, aircraft, and jumpmasters, which earn them each other's country's airborne wings. There is a great feeling of camaraderie and many of the paratroopers refer to the event as "Airborne Festival". I jumped with the British Low Level Parachute (LLP) and had the incredible opportunity to jump from a Royal Air Force (RAF) *Dakota* (USAAF C47 *Skytrain*) from WW II. Because I jumped with British equipment and aircraft, I was awarded British Airborne Wings from the RAF.

After I had landed, I did a quick check to make sure my legs and arms were in good working order and quickly packed up my chute. It was amazing to look out on the drop zone and see wave after wave of aircraft dropping a hodgepodge of paratroopers from all different nations, including a former adversary. Following the successful, albeit fast and hard landing, MAJ Wareing and I linked up and headed back to the rally point. About 7,000 spectators were on the drop zone that day to greet all the modern day paratroopers honoring their forbearers. The crowd clapped and cheered as each jumper came by the on the way back to the assembly area. Along the way we were interviewed by a 3rd grade class and received a lot of "Cheers" along with chocolates from the spectators. In a tradition that probably goes back to WWII, a lot of the children collect patches from the different countries and units. The introduction of the ACU and Velcro made this all the easier. I ended up walking away from the drop zone with only my nametape left.

From the drop zone, we went on a whirlwind tour of the Arnhem battleground following the operations of 4 PARA during the battle. A Lieutenant Colonel from the Parachute Regiment led us on a staff ride through the battlefield. I had just finished reading "*A Bridge too Far*" by Cornelius Ryan the day before so many of the battle's details were still fresh in my mind. It was amazing to walk through some of the crucial areas of the battlefield where the British Paratroopers slugged it out for days and recognize the names and buildings and the associated heroic deeds and horrors described in the book. It is hard to describe the atmosphere in the normally quiet town of Arnhem during the event. The town was overflowing with veterans, tourists, and a division's worth of folks dressed in World War II garb riding around in convoys of every small 1940s era military and civilian vehicles that you could imagine. Although the town did have a festival like setting, the somber reminder of the ferocious fighting that took place 66 years earlier was ever present. Various memorial ceremonies were held throughout the towns and military cemeteries. Although dwindling in numbers, the veterans of the battle trekked back to the town that baptized them in fire in their youth. Stone churches still bore the scars of the battle and the landscape echoed the pain suffered and inflicted by a conflict that sometimes seems so far removed from the present day. One of the present day paratroopers that succinctly summed up the incredible courage and fortitude of the men gave me a poem titled "*What Manner of Men*" by Harvey Haywood, a veteran of the battle, that succinctly summed up the incredible courage and fortitude of the men that fought at Arnhem:

*What manner of mortal can these be,
Said the devil, to make such sport of thee,
As the old man tenderly smoothed his hide,
They're the Men of Arnhem, Sire, he cried!*

Just to walk in the path of those "Men of Arnhem" was both sobering and inspiring. There are always those days in the Army where there are significant "suck", annoyances, and hardships. This day though was one of those days where I said to myself, "*It's a good day to be a Soldier.*"

After bidding my 4 PARA brethren adieu, I ventured off on a few days of leave to Amsterdam, Brussels and Bruges. The experience was a once in lifetime opportunity and I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to honor the bravery and valor of the paratroopers that fought during the battle of Arnhem and to experience such a great event with our allies. United States Army Support Activity-Fort Dix has cemented a great reciprocal relationship with the 4 PARA that will, hopefully, continue into the future.

By 1LT Ryan M. Harty
XO, C Troop, 1-102d Cavalry



Association meeting 4 February 2011 COL Dougherty opened the meeting at 2000 hours with *The Pledge of Allegiance*, followed by remembrances of those who have recently died, and a moment of silence. He reported that the Family Readiness Group had financially supported a new cooler for the bar and our annual insurance costs. Representing the FRG was Amy Lovato and Danielle Bracco. An invitation to the 1-102 CAV and the 117th Cavalry Association has been extended by the Mayor of Westfield to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on 12 March 2011. COL Dougherty spoke of the new *Lineage and Honors Certificate*, entitled "102nd CAVALRY REGIMENT (FIRST NEW JERSEY)" published by the Department of the Army, Center of Military History. Copies are now posted in each 1-102nd CAV Armory. He explained that all of the old NJARNG Cavalry, Tank and Tank Destroyer units are part of the lineage. We can all be very proud of our heritage. The past campaigns, battles and honors are many. Even today, our living WWII veterans who served on French soil are being inducted into the French *Legion of Honor*. SGM Ken Mahan, our membership chair reported 193 active and 12 honorary members.

MAJ Bill Morris, past XO (promoted 12 February 2011 to LTC) reported that the officers and NCOs of the 1-102nd CAV have deliberated on developing their own respective associations, and have concluded that a better plan is to join the 117th Cavalry Association. A brief discussion followed, with words of hearty approval offered, notably by WWII veteran Arnold Lasner (who was a replacement trooper joining B Troop, 117th Cavalry shortly after the Battle of Montrevel. PFC Lasner earned the *Bronze Star for Valor* during the *Battle of Bitche*, 1 January 1945). Approval was unanimous.

COL Dougherty announced that CSM (Ret.) Henry Wetzel is now our Sergeant-at-Arms. Dougherty spoke about and showed various shirts with the 1-102nd Cavalry insignia, soon to be for sale.

Phil Notestine exhibited and spoke about his "Garand" .30 M1 and M1903A3 rifles. The 102nd and 117th Cavalry used both types during WWII. Transition from the M1903 began in Fort Jackson SC. However, some individuals kept M1903 rifles. This venerable bolt-action rifle had a rifle grenade launcher available before the M1 semi-automatic rifle did. Ed Leonard of B Troop carried the M1903 because he preferred it and had a rifle grenade launcher. (M1903 rifles were replaced by the new M1 Carbine before the squadron landed in Italy). The Garand M1 served post war into the late 1960's, eventually replaced by the M14.

Notestine also spoke of his digging into available facts about the great Battle of St. Lo (OPERATION COBRA) and 102nd Cavalry Group, during late July 1944. He noted that the Group incurred almost 10% casualties and a loss of most tanks. Part of a coordinated offensive, the Group was ordered to attack and assault with recon troops *dismounted*, into fortified areas around Saint Pierre-de-Semilly, an area rife with hedgerows. Notestine said that our WWII Histories offer little detail, but Association honorary member and Author Harry Yeide supplied the Group's *Daily Reports* and supporting documents for the several days of action. The Group's Daily Reports (DR) reveal very hot combat, heavy artillery support, determined German defense, counter fires and counter attacks. Sadly, friendly artillery fire and USAAF P-47 fighters mistakenly caused further casualties and confusion. Both squadron commanders were wounded by enemy small arms and taken from the battlefield. Recon Troops A & B suffered many casualties. 102nd CAV Troop A lost five officers. At the end of the day, objectives lost were retaken and gains consolidated. The Group Commander, COL Donald W. McGowan, was relieved. Some believe that COL McGowan resisted using his magnificent, highly trained cavalry as assault troops. He knew that cavalry troops are not organized, trained nor armed to be dismounted infantry. He was later appointed Provost Marshal, Normandy Base Section. His responsibilities were expanded to include Brittany, the Lower Seine, Belgium and Holland. McGowan was to become a Major General and head of the Nation's National Guard Bureau, retiring with great accomplishments and honors. Notestine believes that it is time to recognize and honor 102nd Cavalry Group - the officers and men who fought so valiantly and effectively during these several days of OPERATION COBRA.

In attendance: Barry Maloney, Brian Maloney, Bruce Maloney, Kevin Maloney, Amy Lovato, Danielle Bracco, Steven Petroski, Phil Notestine, Arnold Lasner, Frank Wiswall, Ryan Harty, Joseph McNamara, Bill Morris, Ed Chrystal, Ron Deloatch, Ken Mahan, Bob Apgar, Frank Mnich, Frank Patrick, Jim Pressman, Don Kondroski, Henry Forstenhausler, Don Tracy, Michael Hrycak, Henry Wetzel, Pablo Chavez, Art Maggs, John Suiter, C. M. Curry Sr., Dave Ellis, Dennis Dougherty, Forest W. Ballard, Leroy Metz, Jr., Leon J. Wallace.

Class of '41 Luncheon, 3 March, Gibbs Hall Fort Monmouth NJ

All arrived early, and dug right in to a scrumptious buffet luncheon. Some went back for seconds! After lunch, we gathered in the Great Room for the informal meeting. SGM Ken Mahan told about the plans of the 1-102nd CAV officers and NCOs to join the 117th Cavalry Association. Notestine introduced his friend Fred Kent, the 6'8" lad in the picture. Fred's father Robert B. Kent was a Corporal in the 102nd Cavalry Regiment during the 1930's. Fred spoke about his father's cavalry service and dedication to the *Essex Troop Association* (see page 11). Phil told of a time when Fred, Phil and Fred's father Bob were shooting muzzleloaders in preparation for deer hunting. Bob was too old to hunt, but did some shooting. His first shot with Fred's .50 Hawken at 50 yards was about perfect! Bob's smile did not fade for some time. Fred, a Rutgers ROTC grad, served in Germany and



Vietnam as an MP officer. He told some stories about Vietnam, including being one of the last to depart, his name being checked off by an NVA officer. *Pictured are Lasner, Partelow, Kent, Leonard, Wiswall and Poceroba.*

Notestine told of a new book "*Dogface Soldier*" about WWII LTG Lucien K. Truscott Jr. who led the 3rd Infantry Division in Sicily and Italy, and, while in Italy, was promoted to command the VI Corps, which later led the 7th Army in OPERATION DRAGOOD, the invasion of southern France. MG Truscott, an old horse cavalry officer selected the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) as his Corps cavalry squadron and set the 117th CAV as the core of "*Task Force Butler*". This fact is well documented in the post war paper written by BG Frederick B. Butler entitled "*Task Force Butler*". In October 1944, Truscott was promoted to LTG and soon sent to Italy to command the 5th Army, relieving General Mark Clark. After VE Day, LTG Truscott was sent to America and Asia for conferences. In October 1945, he relieved GEN George Patton and took command of the 3rd Army in Bavaria. Restoring order and "de-Nazification" was accomplished. LTG Lucien K. Truscott Jr. retired from the U. S. Army in September 1947 on disability status, diagnosed as having vascular and heart disease, previously suffering a mild heart attack. However, the old warhorse was not turned out to pasture. LTG Truscott was to serve on several Army advisory and inquiry panels, with great effect. He was called out of retirement to serve in the new CIA, posted in Germany in early 1951. By October 1955, he had accomplished much and returned to Washington, where complex duties continued while his health deteriorated; he retired in 1959. Honors and awards followed a-plenty. LTG Lucien K. Truscott Jr. died on 12 September 1965. He was born in Chatfield, Texas January 9, 1891. A great patriot and one of America's finest military men.

This sparked a discussion about the 117th Cavalry fighting in Italy and southern France, and Ed Leonard's buddy Frank Mitchell "saving" him from starvation when they were POWs.

Notestine told of another internet inquiry about the service of a WWII 117th Cavalryman, William T. Titter. His daughter Jeannie Brown had been trying to find information about her father's service, as he never spoke of it and died in 1971, just 52 years old. She wanted to develop a complete file for herself and family. Bill Titter joined the 102nd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Jackson, SC, one of the early "Remounts" from Fort Riley KS. A PVT in Troop B, he was known as a man of good humor and stout heart. A dairy farmer from southeastern PA of German extraction, Titter loved the horses. Frank Prettyman remembered Titter as a B Trooper until North Africa, as Prettyman was transferred into C Troop before combat in Italy. Our records show that SSG William T. Titter was PSG of 1st Platoon, Troop B on 31 May 1945 in Reutte, Austria. **SSG Bill Titter, Bronze Star-V >**



The Salcido men, patriots from El Paso

This latest of many such inquiries reminded the men of the Salcido family of El Paso Texas and the attendance of a *Class of '41* luncheon in August 2009 by Roberto Salcido Sr. and sons Robert, Manuel and Pete. The Salcidos had made the journey in honor of 1LT Manuel Salome Salcido, a 117th Cavalry platoon leader in F Troop (tanks). 1LT Salcido was the first officer to be KIA, 26 June 1944 near Fallonica, Italy. He was the older brother of Roberto, who was a WWII recon scout with the 746th Tank Battalion, landing on D Day at Normandy and fighting in many of the same battles as the 102nd Cavalry Group (see SPUR issues Summer and Fall 2009). Roberto had asked his son Pete, an El Paso PD sergeant to research his beloved brother's WWII service. Pete had never met Uncle Manuel, and spent years in research, doing great honor to his Uncle Manuel. Roberto Sr. is a member of the 117th Cavalry Association and the family are Boosters.

In attendance, *Class of '41* – Ed Leonard, Irv Partelow, Joe Poceroba, Frank Wiswall; WWII 117th CAV vet Arnold Lasner; Bob Apgar, Ken Mahan, Charlotte and Bill Merring, Phil Notestine and Fred Kent.



117th CAV in North Africa 1944

Cavalrymen in an iron pony.... an old cavalryman performs a *coup de grace*....



Bill Mauldin cartoon WWII >



Membership Update – SMG (Ret.) Ken Mahan Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2010 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 2011

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). We are happy to see more support from the 1-102nd Cavalry Squadron. We had a good turnout from the 1-102nd Cavalry Squadron & general membership, the Reunion and at the February meeting. As we get to work more with the Squadron, we are learning about their operation. It is different from when most of us were in the Squadron. We should see a big growth in membership in the months to come, as the Officers and NCOs of the Squadron will be joining the 117th Cavalry Association.

New Members LTC Timothy Coakley, wife Genessa; William M. Keys; Robert Salcido - WWII veteran and brother of 1LT Manuel Salcido, who was first officer combat casualty of the 117th CAV in Italy, June 1944 (see *The SPUR* Fall 2009 Issue about his story).

TAPS



David B. Wible, Sr. 86 Glassboro NJ, formerly of Moorestown NJ, died February 26, 2011. He attended Moorestown High School until entry into the military. He was a U.S. Army veteran of WWII, serving in the Southwest Pacific. Among his awards were the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with two Battle Stars, Bronze Arrowhead and Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He retired as MSG E-8 from the NJARNG Tank Battalion in Vineland, after 23 years of service. He was a co-founder and member of the 3rd Battalion 102nd Armor Retirees Association and a member of the 31st Infantry "Dixie" Division Society, past Sr. Vice Commander and Life Member of the VFW Post 679, a member of American Legion Post 241 of Glassboro, and a member of the Retreads Motorcycle Club. He retired from Stratton Pontiac in Hurffville as Assistant Service Manager and was the former Service Manager of Campbell Chevrolet in Runnemede. Predeceased by his beloved wife of 57 years, the former Frances Fiorentino of Maple Shade NJ, and sisters Natalie Collin of DE and Patricia Kraft of Moorestown, NJ. He is survived by sons Richard (Yolanda) and Lawrence (Johann) of CA, Robert, of NY, David Jr. (Kathryn) and Charles of NJ, daughters Joanne of NJ and Patricia Folk (Billy) of KY, sister Sally Doyle (Tom) of PA, 23 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.



Robert Jenkins, 68 Staten Island, N.Y. A military veteran, pioneer black draftsman and neighborhood role model, was killed Feb. 25, 2011 in his West Brighton home. Born in Elizabeth, he was brought to Mariners Harbor as a young boy and attended Port Richmond High School. He later settled in West Brighton. Mr. Jenkins enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1960 and was honorably discharged in 1966. He then began working at Nassau Smelting and Refining Co. in Richmond Valley, becoming the first black draftsman there. He retired after 30 years on the job. Mr. Jenkins remained active in the military throughout his life, and family members recalled that his devotion to his country and his thirst for knowledge knew no boundaries. While working at Nassau, he enlisted in the NJARNG, and in 1980 earned his aircraft power plant license and a diploma in helicopter repair, becoming responsible for maintenance of combat helicopters. He was promoted to staff sergeant in 1984, and in 1991 received certificates of recognition for skillful helicopter repair and U.S. Army aviation logistics. In 1995, he received the Army National Guard Retirement Reserve certificate. Mr. Jenkins was a member of the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry, Troop D - Air, and a lifetime member and former vice president of the 369th Veterans Association, Richmond District. His friends and family knew him as “Paca,” a name given to him by his grandson, “E. J.” “Paca was the center of his family and his community. He opened his home to anyone,” said his daughter, Darlene Rivera. “Everyone who knew him loved him. He was a happy, friendly, wonderful human being. He would give you the shirt off his back.” Mr. Jenkins regularly fixed cars for people in his West Brighton neighborhood and never asked for payment. He made his home into a gathering place for friends and extended family. He was a fixture at the annual “Fathers & Sons” breakfast at St. Philip’s Baptist Church in Port Richmond, and every year after the breakfast, held a barbecue in his back yard for everyone to come, reflect, and celebrate life. He and other older men of the congregation would provide guidance to the younger generation, and he was credited as the father they never knew by

many young people who grew up in single-parent households, family said. After he retired, Mr. Jenkins often could be found on the porch of his home, having a cigar with friends, or enjoying the company of his children and grandchildren. "He has touched many lives and will remain in the hearts of many forever. No words can describe the loss," his daughter said. Mr. Jenkins' wife of 28 years, the former Verna Mae Pegeron, died in 1992. Along with his daughter, Darlene, surviving are his sons, Robert P. Jr. and Thomas; his daughter, Verna Maddox; three brothers, John Leroy Sr., Prince Earl, and James R.; two sisters, Jacqueline Jenkins and Syline Cheeseboro; 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. *Submitted by 1SG (Ret.) Joe Arca, past 1SG of Troop A.*



James E. Kiernan, 77, of Sayreville, died Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Jersey City, he lived in Sayreville for the past 55 years. He was employed by Western Electric as an installer for 40 years. He retired as a Command Sergeant Major from the New Jersey National Guard after 42 years of service, and was Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment, *Essex Troop Association*. Son of the late Dorothy and Aloysius Kiernan of Jersey City, he was also predeceased by his sisters, Dorothy Carter and Joanmarie Harrison and his brother, Owen Kiernan. Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Catherine Carroll Kiernan; three daughters, Sharon White and her daughter, Jillian, Susan Kiernan and her daughter, Marlee and Carolyn Grocki and her husband, John; a son, James Kiernan of the New Jersey State Police and his wife, Laura and their children, Shannon, Jimmy and Joey; and several nieces and nephews.



Cesar Carlos Rondon, 68, of Elizabeth, N.J., passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011. Rondon was a Staff Sergeant in the Army National Guard, where he served for 26 years. He was a veteran of the Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He was a machine operator for Gentek Building Products, Woodbridge, N.J., prior to his retirement. Mr. Rondon was the beloved husband for 38 years of Oveida Liz (Marquez) Rondon; devoted father of Cesar A. Rondon and Patricia M. Rondon, both of Elizabeth, N.J., and Cindy Rondon Keenan and her husband, Edward B. Keenan, of Jersey City, N.J.; loving brother of Clara, Juana, Isolda and Luisa.



Donald W (Mac) McAvoy, Colonel (Ret), USA San Diego, California. died December 10, 2010. He retired in 1971 after 32 years of service. He entered the service in New Jersey with the 102nd Cavalry Regiment. As a member of the Regular Army, he was a 1942 graduate of the U.S. Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas, Armored School, Command and General Staff College and the Armed Forces Staff College. During World War II, (then CPT) McAvoy served as S-2 of the 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz), landing in Normandy on Omaha Beach on D-Day. He participated in the liberation of Paris, the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of Czechoslovakia. Following World War II, Col. McAvoy entered the Foreign Service as a Vice Consul in Berlin, Germany, where his future wife, Kathleen, was serving as secretary to the U.S. Ambassador. During the Korean War, COL. McAvoy was recalled to active duty. In his long and varied military career, he served as Command and Staff Officer in several armored units, the Logistical Advisor to the 11th Airborne Division of the Korean Army, and advisor to the Office of the Chief of Staff for Intelligence at the Pentagon during the Vietnam War. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Kathleen, daughters Marilyn McAvoy Bergman (Robert), Patricia L. Swanson (David), three grandchildren, James (Joan), Jenna and Jacob Swanson, and a great-grandson, Oliver Swanson. *Provided by the Essex Troop Association.*





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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
 FA-12 BILL ANTONUCCI (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY SR.
 SU-25 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
 FA-12 ROSE MARIE BENNERT (mem. of) BILL BENNERT
 WI-19 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
 FA-11 DOROTHY CASPAR (mem. of husb.) RICHARD J. CASPAR
 WI-12 MSG TOM BULLOCK A Troop
 FA-12 SANTI CARNEVALI *Class of '41, 117th CAV WWII*
 SP-13 SSG (Ret.) CLEMENT & JEAN CURRY
 WI-11 LTC (Ret.) PETER D'ELIA
 WI-13 COL (Ret.) DENNIS DOUGHERTY
 WI-13 1SG (Ret.) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop
 FA-13 LTC PATRICK du TERTRE (ARMY OF FRANCE)
 WI-11 1SG (Ret.) DAVE ELLIS, D Troop
 WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
 WI-11 LTC (Ret.) ALAN R. FISHER
 WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem. of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
 SP-12 WILLIAM FISHER JR.
 FA-11 BOB FOLEY, HHT (Ret.)
 WI-11 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
 WI-31 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop
 WI-12 ROBERT GREEN
 SP-13 LOIS HAAIS (mem.) CW4 WALTER HAAIS
 FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
 SP-11 BILL HETRICK, CHIEF ARMORER (Ret.)
 WI-12 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*
 FA-11 CHARLES JOHNSON
 SP-14 COL (Ret.) KEN KLEIN in loving mem. of wife JOANN
 SP-12 ESTELLE & ARNOLD LASNER, WWII 117th CAV *French Legion of Honor*
 SP-11 JAY LASNER (in honor of father) ARNOLD LASNER
 SP-13 RON La VERDE (mem. of uncle) T-5 THOMAS G. HENNESSY, A Troop, 117th CAV KIA 5 JUNE '44 ROME
 WI-11 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE
 WI-13 EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW French Legion of Honor*
 SP-12 BOB LUTZ *Class of '41, C Troop 117th CAV WWII French Legion of Honor*
 WI-13 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
 SU-12 KEVIN MALONEY (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
 SP-12 BRIAN & BRUCE (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
 FA-18 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
 WI-14 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father) T-4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102nd CAV WWII
 SP-11 W. SCOTT McCANN
 FA-11 CHARLOTTE & BILL MERRING

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*
 WI-11 CW5 (Ret.) FRANK MNICH & JANET
 SP-12 ZACK MOUSHEGIAN (mem.) JAMES A MOUSHEGIAN
 FA-13 RONNIE NIER
 WI-12 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON Troops C & E, *Class of '41; 602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45*
 SP-12 JOYCE & HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN, *Class of '41, 117th CAV WWII*
 WI-11 FOTINOS PANAGAKOS
 WI-11 FRANK & BETTY PATRICK
 FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of) RICK APBLETT
 WI-12 TOM PETTY
 WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
 FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
 WI-11 CSM (Ret.) AL PHELAN Jr. (mem. of) MSG FRED MATTOX
 SP-11 DOT & LTC (Ret.) KEN QUAAS
 FA-11 ART REINBOLD (mem. of) ED SUTTON
 SP-11 ART & RUTH REINBOLD
 WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
 FA-21 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
 SU-11 COL (Ret.) HAROLD SAMSEL, *Class of '41, 117th CAV WWII French 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
 FA-11 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem. of husb) WILLIE SCHNARR
 WI-12 ROBERT J. SMITH
 SP-12 JOHN SUITER
 WI-12 CPT MIKE TARRICONE
 WI-15 1SG GEORGE THOMAS
 SU-13 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
 FA-11 CHARLES A VIVIANO (50th CAV RCN SQDN)
 SP-12 CSM (Ret.) HENRY WETZEL & GRACE, (mem. of) GEORGE "RED" EMERY
 WI-14 LTC (Ret.) FRANK WISWALL, USAF *Class of '41 B Troop, 102nd CAV '41- '42 Fr. Legion of Honor*
 SP-11 MRS. EDWARD J. WITOS (loving mem. of husb.) EDWARD J. WITOS SR.
 WI-27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG A Troop, 3rd Platoon 117th CAV WWII
 SP-13 FRG HHT 1-102nd CAVALRY

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To become a Booster of *The Spur*, please send \$10.00 for a year of inclusion as a Booster in four issues of *The Spur*. Make check payable to the **117th Cavalry Association** - \$10.00 for each year of support. Mail to **Bill Gruss, Treasurer, 117th Cavalry Association, 21 Blake Drive, Clark NJ 07066-1645**. Indicate how you wish to be listed:

Here is one of those unusual “connections” vis-à-vis families and military history...CPL Bob Kent was a proud *Essex Trooper* in the 1930's. Kent was out of the 102nd Cavalry before they were called up in 1941. He was in a defense industry job during WWII. His son Fred, a Rutgers ROTC grad (1968) served in Germany and Vietnam as an MP officer.



CPL Bob Kent (behind guidon) 102nd CAV Indiantown Gap 1938 CPT Fred Kent, CO 560th MP CO - 1972 Pleiku, Vietnam

The 73rd Military Police Company (Separate) was “born” in the sands of Oran, Algeria on 25 February 1944, composed of personnel from the 202nd Infantry BN. On 29 Feb 1944, the Company deployed to Algiers and camped at Douera. Originally the 2nd Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Group, the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) was stationed at Douera since January 1943, serving as Combat Security for Allied HQ. Both outfits also served in Italy and France at the same time. The 73rd MP CO was disbanded on 3 August 1946 and re-activated in 1949 in the Philippines, renamed the 560th Military Police Company. Therefore, part of Bob Kent's beloved *Essex Troop* and the origins of Fred Kent's 560th MP CO were close together in WWII.



Recon troopers of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) welcome other American units into Germany about 38 kilometers east northeast of Bitche, France. Date unknown; probably February 1945.

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COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty
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DUES DUE ↓

1ST New Jersey Cavalry



MISSION STATEMENT: It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the Spirit of the 117th Cavalry Association, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country.

NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS - Friday evenings 1930 hours: 1 April, 3 June, 9 September, 11 November 2011