



**NJ Cavalry and Armor Association**

[www.117th-cav.org](http://www.117th-cav.org)

102d CAV (Mecz) 38<sup>th</sup> CAV (Mecz) 117<sup>th</sup> CAV (Mecz) 50<sup>th</sup> CAV RCN SQDN 50<sup>th</sup> RCN 5<sup>th</sup> RCN 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV 1-102d CAVALRY  
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**President’s Message** It is the continuing objective of The SPUR to foster and preserve the Spirit of the *117<sup>th</sup> 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.

The “friendships and camaraderie” bind us together, through our service, devotion to our country, and now by sharing the past, present, and future through our membership and participation in our Association. We represent multiple generations of service in our Squadron, or the U.S. Armed Forces, and share in the freedom that we cherish and took an oath to defend.

The Association is continuing to progress as an organization, both among our members, as well as our projects. During our last meeting, on 7 April 2017, several issues affecting the future of our Association were resolved. We held the final vote to accept renaming the *Association to the New Jersey Cavalry*

*and Armor Association d/b/a (doing business as) 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association*. The goal is to bring the Association within our current configuration, which involves members who served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Squadron 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Squadron, those who served, or are currently serving, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Squadron, as well as those that served in any Cavalry or Armor unit in the U.S. Army or Marine Corps. This change will also take us one step closer to one of our past president, COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty’s, goal or reestablishing a *U.S. Cavalry and Armor Association* chapter in New Jersey. One of the ongoing initiatives of the Association has been to award those who have proven achievement in the Cavalry and Armor community the appropriate *Order of St. George*, or to those who have supported us the *Noble Patron of Armor* award.

Another initiative, after SGM (Ret.) Ken Mahan briefed membership and publication and mailing costs of The Spur, was to reach out to our members to take the Association into our modern electronically connected era and give them the option of receiving a hard copy of The Spur, an electronic copy, or both (notice will be published in the next two editions of The Spur). I want to congratulate our new Membership Chairman, SSG Pedro Martinez, who will be, together with our vice president, LTC Bill Morris, will be updating all our member’s address and electronic mail information and The Spur will be published electronically to all members, unless a hard copy mailing is requested. Please send your updated information and The Spur publication requests to SSG Martinez and CPT Harty at [117thcavmemberships@gmail.com](mailto:117thcavmemberships@gmail.com) or to the Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry (732)499-5662.

We are continuing to move forward in several joint projects with the 1-102d Cavalry. Heritage Room Committee co-chairs LTC Bill Morris and CW5 (Ret.) Frank Mnich confirmed the sheetrock has been installed, and ask for volunteers to install trim, paint and complete the renovation of the Heritage Room. We welcome any member that wants to help in categorizing or organizing our historic material.

We congratulate 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) Commander, LTC Tim Coakley, who relinquished command on 1 February 2017 to the new Squadron Commander, MAJ Dennis Stiles. We were briefed by LTC Bill Morris, Deputy Commander, 50<sup>th</sup> IBCT, on the Squadron’s two major goals, XCTC (External Combat Training Center) evaluation (platoon/troop level ARTEP-type evaluation) at Fort Pickett, Virginia, from 20 May 2017 through 10 June 2017, which includes a railhead move of 150 pieces of Squadron equipment, followed by the Squadron participating in joint forces Operation Northern Strike in Michigan, giving the Troopers a chance to prove their readiness at multiple echelons.

We also welcome LTC Ian Palmer, incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 38<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Commander, which is standing up at Fort Benning, Georgia. *Always in Front!*

This is who we are, where we came from, we served together at some point and met many great Troopers and Soldiers, and this camaraderie is who we have become. May we always stay in touch, and be remembered as having served in the defense of our great nation’s freedoms.

Next Meeting: 2000 hrs. Heritage Room, Armory 500 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey 9 June 2017.

*Show ‘em The Way”*

Michael P. Hrycak LTC, USA, Retired  
[michaelhrycak@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelhrycak@yahoo.com)





**Squadron Commander's message** The Squadron has done a tremendous job preparing for our XCTC rotation at Fort Pickett, VA. The equipment is loaded, vehicles are staged for rail operations and the Combined Arms Rehearsal is complete. I imagine that by the time you are reading this our Troopers will be packing up for the return trip home! A year of hard training, for both maneuver and gunnery, has prepared the Squadron for this culminating event. Our D Company, led by 1LT Jay Falcon, has tackled gunnery this year (modified table VI) and will conduct a Convoy Live Fire exercise at Fort Pickett. I am especially proud that our Forward Support Company (FSC) has approached gunnery with the same vigor and enthusiasm as our mounted and dismounted reconnaissance troops. Our April IDT was filled with load out operations and rehearsals for the upcoming rotation, but I was able to break away to visit C Troopers in Hackettstown, A Troopers in Dover and B Troopers in West Orange prior to returning to the HQ in Westfield. In Hackettstown I had the honor of presenting the Army Achievement Medal to SGT Craig Risoli, Honor Graduate of the Infantry Advanced Leader Course. SGT Risoli had a 96.75% GPA and scored a 300 on his APFT! We are proud of him and his fellow NCOs who continue to set the standard in the Brigade and State. I look forward to updating you on the Squadron's performance at Fort Pickett.

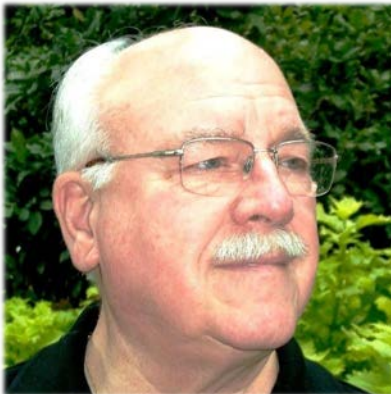
Until then....

Show 'em the Way!

MAJ Dennis Stiles  
 SCO, 1-102 CAV, 50th IBCT  
 Assistant G3, NJARNG  
[dennis.s.stiles.mil@mail.mil](mailto:dennis.s.stiles.mil@mail.mil)



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**From the Editor Phil Notestine** I was surprised but elated to receive an inquiry about the WWII 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) operating in the Rhineland Palatinate of Germany, February 1945. Townspeople have told how our GIs were kind and generous. My new friend *Stabsfeldwebel* (E9) Arnold Schmitt, of Eppenbrunn, Germany recently retired from *Luftlandebrigade 1*. You can see by his picture that Arnold is a paratrooper (*Fallschirmjäger*). He wears US jump wings and has trained in the USA with our Army units. Arnold is developing a presentation to present this summer about the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz).



He owns a WWII vintage Jeep and belongs to a club whose members collect WWII memorabilia. I will report more on Arnold in future issues.



The 5<sup>th</sup> installment of “*Larry’s War*” is included in this issue. Larry Haskett is pleased to know that his WWII diary is being enjoyed by many. Larry began his Army life as a horse cavalryman in the 102d Cavalry Regiment and was a “founding member” of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mech).

I am still hoping for a **volunteer to take up the honorable task as Editor of *The SPUR***. Please contact me by phone (910-420-2968) or email [notie@msn.com](mailto:notie@msn.com)

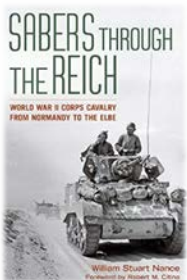
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**117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association Meeting 7 April 2017** After our Pledge of Allegiance (2000 hrs), and Moment of Silence, our Membership Chairman, SGM (Ret.) Ken Mahan, advised that we have 207 paid in full members, including 6 new Life Members (\$400 for under 55 years old, and \$200 for 55 years and older). Also, last week he had SFC (Ret.) Gerrity help in folding *The Spur* to mail out. Next, Treasurer- SFC (Ret.) Bill Gruss reported, that since the last meeting, the Association Collected \$512 (\$425 dues, \$87 Boosters), made payments for the post card notice \$76.84, The Heritage Room \$1,929.11 (\$58.60, \$170.52, and 2 payments of \$850), \$65.97 for April meeting refreshments, and \$1000 Grand Summit Hotel deposit (for next year’s Spurs and Sabers Dance), leaving a balance of \$7,227.13. The members then discussed and decided that the printing and mailing of *The Spur* should progress to the current electronic generation by allowing our members to opt out of receiving a hard copy and request electronic delivery to reduce the printing and mailing cost. Vice President LTC Bill Morris said he would help in this effort, and (see below) the new Membership Chairman, SSG Pedro Martinez will be the point of contact for members to send electronic mail messages regarding their preference to receive *The Spur* electronically and a notice will be published in the next two editions of *The Spur* (send electronic mail to to SSG Martinez and CPT Harty at [117thcavmemberships@gmail.com](mailto:117thcavmemberships@gmail.com) or call Headquarters 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry (732)499-5662). Next, COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty, our defacto Quartermaster, reminded the membership that we are selling hats for \$20, and Association crests for \$25, and we sold 120 hats and have ordered 48 more. This was followed by the Heritage Room Reorganization Committee Co-Chairmen CW5 (Ret.) Frank Mnich; LTC Bill Morris; In addition to their written report, LTC Bill Morris explained that the sheetrock, donated by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, has been installed at a cost of \$1,700 for labor. Next, the trim will have to be installed, colors picked, and volunteers are needed to paint The Heritage Room, He opined that New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs may donate the material for painting and trim. LTC (Ret.) Michael Hrycak brought a final motion after a motion had carried at the 11 November 2016 and 10 February 2017 meetings to rename the Association to New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association, as well as published in the last two editions of *The Spur* to finalize a formal name change, which carried unopposed. This confirms the New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association d/b/a (doing business as) *117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association*. Now, as LTC Morris explained we have been proceeding for the last eight plus years to be an Association that is inclusive of all Soldiers that served either in Cavalry or Armor units (as well as honorary members), and COL Dougherty also explained that we have plans in the long term to establish a New Jersey chapter of the U.S. Cavalry and Armor Association, and our renaming was a step in accomplishing this goal. Members were reminded again that *Spur* Editor Phil Notestine is looking for someone, who can attend meetings, to take over as editor of *The Spur*, our Association newsletter (Phil’s email address and telephone number in *Spur*). Then, we moved onto new business. LTC Bill Morris, Deputy Commander of 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, whose incoming commander is former Squadron Commander LTC Tim Coakley, explained the Squadron’s next two months will consist of field training, which will culminate during 20 May 2017 to 10 June 2017 Exportable Combat Training Center (XCTC) evaluation at Fort Pickett, Virginia, reminiscent of ARTEP evaluations of the 1980’s and 1990’s, at platoon level, culminating at troop level, which will also include rail loading and transporting all Squadron equipment, about 250 pieces. MAJ Stiles will then lead the Squadron in Operation Northern Strike in Michigan, an annual exercise that includes sister services Marine Corps and Air Force in an intensive combined arms operation. Next, members nominated and unanimously voted SSG Pedro Martinez as new Membership Chairman (although he wasn’t present, he was contacted electronically, and he graciously accepted). SFC (Ret.) Bill Gruss won the 50/50 (\$34), and donated the proceeds to the Association. It was moved to Conclude Meeting- 2056 hours,

Next meeting Friday, 9 June 2017.

**Attendance:** *Frank Mnich, James Anglim, Dennis J. Dougherty, Michael Hrycak, David Mormak, Art Maggs, Ken Mahan, Bill Gruss, Joe Manto, Bill Morris, Danielle Bracco, Jennifer Silva, Dan Sullivan, Keith Meehan, Robert Ryan,*

Of note: MSG (Ret.) Thomas Bullock my former Platoon Sergeant, who served in A Troop for two decades, is currently residing at the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital in Lyons, New Jersey. I would encourage, just as SGM (Ret.) Mahan did and SGT Mormak and SGT Daly are planning to, members stop by and visit him.



Editor’s note: **MAJ William Stuart Nance, PhD** is the author of a “must have” book for Cavalrymen, especially veterans of the NJARNG cavalry, and all interested in WWII in the European Theatre. Some may remember that he visited the Westfield Armory to research in our Heritage Room, hosted by COL Dennis Dougherty and later attended an Association meeting, while he was an instructor at USMA West Point. We can be proud of our contributions in helping MAJ Nance research and complete a fine book, like no other. I have read many on WWII Cavalry and Armor. This is the best, by far! Buy it on Amazon.com.



**Lieutenant Brendan Cahill Junior Officer of the Year 2016** Congratulations to LT Brendan Cahill. He was selected as the recipient of the COL Harold J. Samsel Junior Officer of the year for 2016 for the 1-102d Cavalry. LT Cahill currently serves as the Executive Officer of Troop A, 1/102 Cavalry. LT Cahill has previously served as a Platoon Leader in Troop B, 1-102d Cavalry for 3.5 years. He has taken the lead in numerous domestic support missions throughout New Jersey to include command of the Quick Reaction Force for the Super Bowl at MetLife Stadium, and assisting the township of Edison NJ move non-ambulatory patients from their homes to the local EMS teams during a blizzard in 2016.

LT Cahill is a graduate of the United States Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning Georgia and the United States Army Armor Basic Officer Leader Course as well as the United States Army Reconnaissance Course. LT Brendan Cahill is a graduate from Saint Leo University, Tampa, Florida. with a degree in Business Administration and a Minor in Management. He currently works for a Pharmaceutical Company located in Bridgewater, NJ where he is a District Manager and leads a sales team of 12 individuals.

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### **GREAT NEWS! The 38<sup>th</sup> Cavalry rides again!** See article following:

FORT MEADE, Md. (Army News Service) 17 February 2017 - A new Military Advisor Training Academy at Fort Benning, Georgia, will train both noncommissioned and commissioned officers assigned to a new type of unit: *The Security Force Assistance Brigade, or SFAB*. The first six-week course at the academy is scheduled to begin in October as the first Soldiers for the new unit report to Benning. Eventually, six of these new SFABs will stand up.

These new brigades will have no junior enlisted Soldiers. They will instead be staffed with 500 senior NCOs and officers who will have the expertise to help train foreign militaries.

The effects that the SFABs will bring to the Army will actually be three-fold, according to Col. Brian Ellis, maneuver division chief in the directorate of force management, G-3/5/7 at the Pentagon, who led planning for the new brigades.

"First, the Army will more effectively advise and assist foreign security forces," he said. "The second is to preserve the readiness of our brigade combat teams by reducing the need to break apart those formations to conduct security assistance missions." This will preserve BCT readiness for full-spectrum operations.

The third role of the SFAB is to help the Army more quickly regenerate brigade combat teams when needed. If the Army needs another BCT, for example, junior Soldiers would fall in on an existing SFAB, which is already full of senior NCOs and officers. Having a pre-built command structure in place would significantly speed up the process of generating new brigades, Ellis said.

An SFAB serves as a "standing chain of command for rapidly expanding the Army," said Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, the Army's deputy chief of staff for operations and training, G-3/5/7.

In the meantime, the SFABs will be the Army's first permanent units whose core mission is to conduct security cooperation activities, he said, allowing quick response to combatant commander requirements.

SFABs will be designed on the model of infantry and armored brigade combat teams, Ellis said, with a framework staff of NCOs in the grade of staff sergeant and above, and officers who are captains and above. Each brigade will have a cavalry squadron and two maneuver battalions, either infantry or armor.

Each company will have three teams of four trainers and a company headquarters. And even the headquarters will serve as a training team, Ellis said.

Soldiers will report by battalions to the Military Advisor Training Academy. The first battalion will begin training at the academy in October 2017.

The academy itself will have a cadre of approximately 70 instructors, including some special forces soldiers, Ellis said.

After the initial six-week course, SFAB officers and NCOs will receive follow-up training in foreign languages, cultural studies and foreign weapons, Ellis said. He explained that it will take about a year to train a unit up to full operating capability so that it can deploy to assist a combatant commander.

The first SFAB unit will be permanently stationed at Fort Benning. The second one, which is planned to stand up in the fall of 2018, will be a National Guard brigade, Ellis said. The third SFAB will be in the regular Army, and it is planned to begin training in the fall of 2018, though permanent stationing and resourcing decisions haven't been made yet past the first brigade.

Currently, the Army has three BCTs deployed for advise and assist missions, Ellis said. It may be a few years before the new SFABs will be able to handle all of that demand.

In the meantime, the 3-353rd Armor Battalion at Fort Polk, Louisiana, will continue training BCTs to handle security force assistance missions.

Ellis said the Army's six SFABs should eventually be able to handle the bulk of SFA missions, in support of security cooperation, stability operations, and counterinsurgency operations.



Ed. Note: We learned last month that LTC Ian C. Palmer, past SCO of the 8-1 Cavalry, Joint Base Lewis McCord will stand up the 1-38<sup>th</sup> Cavalry 1<sup>st</sup> SFAB Fort Benning GA beginning in June. A Cavalry Warrior – Scholar with over 20 years’ service.

LTC Palmer is pleased for this honor and has been studying about the WWII 38<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz), awarding a *Presidential Unit Citation* for actions at Monschau, Germany during the “*Battle of the Bulge*”.



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### 102d ARMOR REGIMENT



**DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA**



**COAT OF ARMS**

**Distinctive Unit Insignia. Description:** A Gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/4 inches (3.18 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Or a horse’s head erased Azure in chief two fleurs-de-lis Gules. Attached above the shield from a wreath of the colors Or and Azure a lion’s head erased Or collared four fusils Gules. Attached below the shield a Blue scroll inscribed “FIDE ET FORTITUDINE” in Gold letters.

**Symbolism:** The shield is yellow for Armor. It also refers to the early history of the Regiment as Cavalry. The two fleurs-de-lis represent the service in France during World War I and World War II, while the horse’s head is the old crest of the Essex Troop. The motto translates to “By Fidelity and Fortitude.”

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 102d Cavalry Regiment on 14 August 1923. It was amended to add the crest and motto on 16 May 1931. It was redesignated for the 102d Armored Cavalry Regiment and amended to correct the colors of the wreath in the crest on 19 January 1954. The insignia was redesignated for the 102d Armor Regiment and amended to revise the symbolism on 18 February 1970.

**Coat of Arms.**

**Blazon:**

**Shield:** Or a horse’s head erased Azure in chief two fleurs-de-lis Gules.

**Crest:** That for the regiments and separate battalions of the New Jersey Army National Guard: On a wreath of the colors Or and Azure a lion’s head erased Or collared four fusils Gules.

**Motto:** FIDE ET FORTITUDINE (By Fidelity and Fortitude).

**Symbolism:**

**Shield:** The shield is yellow for Armor. It also refers to the early history of the Regiment as Cavalry. The two fleurs-de-lis represent the service in France during World War I and World War II, while the horse's head is the old crest of the Essex Troop.

**Crest:** The crest is that of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

**Background:** The coat of arms was originally approved for the 102d Cavalry Regiment on 26 July 1922. It was redesignated for the 102d Armored Cavalry Regiment and amended to correct the colors of the wreath in the crest on 19 January 1954. The insignia was redesignated for the 102d Armor Regiment and amended to revise the symbolism on 18 February 1970.

(Contributed by COL Dennis Dougherty)

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#### *"Larry's War" installment # 5*

Now we went back to the business at hand. Our road was through Zweibrucken, Parmesans and Landau. We crossed the Rhine into Germany in the vicinity of Karlsruhe, where we planted a sign saying: "You are entering Germany, courtesy of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron." Then, turning north, we headed toward Heidelberg and Mannheim. Just outside of Heidelberg, alongside of a coal yard, we were fired on. By this time, the Germans had very young boys in their army. With a gun in their hands, they were almost as dangerous and deadly as seasoned soldiers. Our assault guns fired a few rounds into the building that the shots had come from, and we went on to enter Heidelberg. We were not bothered here. I guess that the Germans didn't want this beautiful old town destroyed. On to Mannheim, then turning south, we headed towards Heilbronn, a place where I don't think more than two or three bricks were left standing together. This was another place where the war had become vicious again.

We moved through Ludwigsburg and on into Stuttgart, another city that was completely gutted. When I say we, I am including the rest of the United States Army. Our Squadron was 6th Corps Reconnaissance and we were working in front of the 3rd, 36th, 45th and 100th Divisions. (Not all at the same time) There were others too, but I can't remember their names. The 100th Division, by the way, had been green troops, fresh from the States, back there in the Batch Woods. This was their first encounter, and they learned about war real fast. The hard way. Anyway, our problem was that being Corps Reconnaissance, when a division was relieved for a rest and stuff, we were just detached from the division leaving, and attached to the division coming up on the line to replace them. This got a little old sometimes, but that's the way it was.

We were dismounted for a few days, sending patrols out into the hills. At this particular time, our platoon had worked its way down the side of a hill, and we were looking out across the valley into the wooded hillside on the other side. Smokey took half the platoon and started out across the valley floor. I was left with the remaining soldiers to act as cover for those who were moving out in front of us. They got about half way across the valley when the Germans opened up with small arms and mortar fire. The men with me and I began firing cover fire with rifles and machine guns, giving Smokey and the men with him a chance to come back across the valley floor to safety. Our mission had been to find out if there were any enemy soldiers "in them tar hills". Mission accomplished. We moved the platoon back up our side of the hill, and then it was my turn to start back. Trouble was, Adolph had spotted me, and as I moved out, machine gun fire began to kick up the dirt at my heels. I ran. And ran. And dove into a little ditch alongside the pathway. I stayed there for what seemed like hours, and then began to edge my way back up through the trees on the side of the hill. I did make it back to my platoon, and to my great surprise and joy, I hadn't been killed.

The following night, we were ordered to take out a two-platoon patrol, the Captain in command, back into that same section. It was pretty dark, and we ran into an area that was booby trapped with "potato mashers" (German hand grenades). This was done by tying a grenade to a tree three or four feet high, then running a wire or a string from the grenade safety pin to another tree half a dozen feet away. Then in the dark, if anyone ran into the wire---BOOM! There is a little pop as the grenade pin detaches. We heard it, and all hit the dirt before the BOOM. Luckily, no one was hurt. The captain didn't like it, but it was decided that this was as far as we could go in that pitch-black night. We settled down as quietly as we could, and at first light of day, moved out once more.

Smokey was in the lead, and I was at the rear of the column. We hadn't been moving long when I heard several explosions, and screaming at the head of the column. I moved up and found that the point had stumbled into a schu minefield. A schu mine is an antipersonnel mine of about a quarter to a half pound of explosive. Several men were injured and down on the ground. The rest, Smokey included, were standing absolutely still, not daring to move, for fear of stepping

on another mine. All the injured had lost part of an arm or a leg. One man, Sergeant Bill Foster, had fallen in such a way that both his arms and legs were gone. This was on March 15, 1945, one of the few dates during all the fighting that I am sure of.

*"Little feet, be careful  
Where you take me to-  
Do not step on schu mines,  
For that would never do."*

(Well after I was discharged and safely home, I received a letter from the war department, advising that I was decorated with The Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device-- the "V" indicating Valor in Action)

But to get back to my story:

Sergeant Foster died on the way to the aid station.

It was now April, and the war was suddenly different. We knew that it was almost over, and yet we had to keep on going. None of us wanted to be the last soldier killed in Europe, but as reconnaissance, we still had to continue to stick our necks out. We went through periods when every German soldier we came upon wanted to surrender, and then we would turn a corner and suddenly be fighting for our lives.

Goppingen, Heidenheim, Memmingen and it was somewhere along in this area that we came upon the ovens. The camp was deserted. No one was left. There were these long, low sheds, and when we entered them, there they were--a long bank of ovens. I can't remember how many, but from the evidence here, we knew that they had been used as part of the process to exterminate the Jewish People. I blanked all of this out of my mind for many years, and then, not too long ago, while watching a documentary about the war on one of the educational TV Stations, some clips were shown, and it all came back. I had been there, or someplace very similar.

We went into the mountains and on into Austria - Compton, Reuse. Weisenbach and finally Steeg. This was a little town at the end of a beautiful valley, with snow-capped mountains and a ribbon like waterfall that emptied into a river that ran along the edge of the town. This is where the war ended for the 117th Cavalry on May 8, 1945.

## *The War's over! Let's celebrate!*

We had a big celebration, and later on in the black of night when all the celebrants were making their way to bed, I heard one say to another, "Come on, Jackson, you've crawled this far. You can make it the rest of the way." I guess he did, because when I looked out on the road in the morning, there was no Jackson lying there, and later, he did answer roll call.

HEADQUARTERS

APO 758, U. S. ARMY

SQUADRON ORDER OF THE DAY

OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN OF THE

117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (MECZ)

With the cessation of hostilities in Europe there has come to each of us the long-awaited peace of mind and heart. Our trail has been long and trying in England, North Africa, Italy, France, Germany and now Austria.

Throughout this long period of service and particularly that time spent on foreign shores in combat, each of you has materially contributed toward the final defeat of our enemies. The splendid performance of duty by members of this Squadron has created an enviable reputation for this organization which all of you can be justly proud.

For those who made the supreme sacrifice, we cherish their memory. They gave their lives to insure that our way of living will be in accordance with the principles of free loving people.



Your devotion to duty has been exemplary. Many of you have suffered hardships and made many sacrifices. Above all you have displayed the highest standards of American fighting men.

As your commanding officer I am proud to serve with you. To each of you I wish to commend most highly your contribution to the difficult task, which is now completed. Our eyes now turn towards the shores, which many of us left thirty-two months ago. It is not possible at this time to say when we will be seeing our loved ones. It is my wish that it will be soon for all of us. However, there will be disappointment for an early return for some of us. Whatever favor the fortunes of war may cast upon you, I am certain that you will carry on with the same devotion to duty until our final enemies have been crushed.

To each of you, therefore, my sincere appreciation for the loyalty which has been displayed. Without the collective efforts of all ranks it would not have been possible to achieve the success with which our efforts have been crowned.

Good luck and God speed along whatever future path your destiny holds in store. You have served well with pride and distinction and are deserving of all the best.

Harold J. Samuel  
Lt. Colonel, Cavalry  
Commanding

May 8, 1945

Dear Mom:

*I suppose that just about now everyone is going crazy back home., celebrating the conclusion of the European War. It has just been made official by Churchill, although it has really been over for a couple of days,*

*As for me, I can't get used to it. I'm in Austria now, sitting in the upstairs room of a hunting lodge. Looking out my window, I can see a ribbon like waterfall that stretches for a couple hundred feet down the side of a mountain.*

*Believe it or not, it's almost too much for me. Now, when I see a German soldier, I don't shoot him. A couple of days ago, I did. It's completely crazy.*

*This may sound strange to you, coming from me, but I can't help but feel that I have been watched over, and kept safe. So many times, I've been in a little hole in the ground while artillery shells pounded everything all around me, and I've lain there, whispering over and over to myself, "God, keep me safe." I've never been hurt seriously-- It's all over, and I am still here.*

*I'm working on my sixth service strips now – thirty two months it's been, so far. That's a long time, Mom, in not only days and years, but in experience. I'm older now, and wiser. I feel as though I have been fighting this war all of my life, and the conclusion, for some reason or other, leaves an emptiness in me.*

*It's a couple of days later now. Today, the Stars and Stripes paper announced the "point system to be used in discharging the men from the Army. I have the required amount, but that of course, does not mean that I will get out of the Army. I won't refuse a discharge if they offer me one, but I'm pretty sure that I'll be part of this here now Armed Force until the defeat of Japan.*

*I'm beginning to get used to the fact that the war in Europe is over, and lately, I just don't seem to be able to get enough sleep. One of the greatest things about it to me is that we are that we don't have to black out everything, and we can drive at night with our lights on.*

*I've got to go now, but if I learn anything more about the point system, I'll let you know right quick. I hope that pretty quick Bob will be on the way home.*

Love,  
Laurance

We sat around in Steeg, not doing much of anything but being happy. I had liberated a Mercedes - Benz Phaeton that I drove around until the word came down from Headquarters that we must get rid of all vehicles that were not Government Issue. It made me very sad, but I did it. There was also a motorcycle that we got running, and the first time I tried it, I drove straight into a wall. (Slow Speed) I haven't been on one since.



Then finally, THOSE GUYS THAT MAKE ALL THE DECISIONS remembered us and said, "Hey, we got that Cavalry Squadron up there in Austria just loafing around and enjoying themselves. Let's bring 'em back here to Frankfurt and put 'em to work. And so, they did.

The Squadron was quartered in several little towns south of Frankfurt. C Troop was located in a place called Neider-Erlenbach. We took over what was called a castle, but was really just a very large mansion four stories high, and with squeezing, enough room to house the whole Troop of one hundred and twenty men. Later, the Troop Officers move into the house next door, and the men were able to breathe again. The courtyard was big enough to hold all our vehicles, with still enough room for close order drill, which, I'm sure you know we were all looking forward to...motor Maintenance in Neider-Erlenbach!

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HEADQUARTERS, SIXTH ARMY GROUP

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

APO 23

Europe 1945

My pride in you is deeper than the simple pride of a commander of victorious troops, for we fought to preserve for our own people and for the people throughout the world the chance to learn or continue learning how to govern themselves and how to live together.

Before the German people can learn how to govern themselves and get along with the rest of the world they must be firmly impressed that they have been defeated, and their acceptance of Nazi leadership made their defeat necessary, and earned for them the distrust of free, peaceful people.

The fight is not over with the laying down of arms. You and your conduct in relation with the German people will largely determine whether they realize we mean business, or whether you and your children must be called again to fight and die on foreign soil.

To help you in doing your part I give you these "Special Orders". I charge you personally with the responsibility of strict compliance with their provisions. It will be hard for you, because you have not been trained that way; but it is only through this means that complete victory over Nazi ideals will be won.

JACOB L. DEVOURS  
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.  
Commanding

SPECIAL ORDERS FOR GERMAN AMERICAN RELATIONS

- 1 To always remember that Germany, though conquered, is still a dangerous enemy nation.
  - A. It is known that an underground organization for the continuation of the Nazi program for world domination is already in existence. This group will take advantage of every relaxation of vigilance on our part to carry on undercover war against us.
  - B. The occupational forces are not on a good will mission.
- 2 Never trust Germans, collectively or individually.
  - A. For most of the past century, Germany has sought to attain world domination by conquest. This has been the third major attempt in the memory of men still living. To many Germans, this defeat will only be an interlude- a time to prepare for the next war.
    - B. Except for the loss of life and property suffered by them, the Germans have no regrets for the havoc they have wrought in the world.
    - C. The German has been taught that the national goal of domination must be attained regardless of the depth of treachery, murder and destruction necessary. He has been taught to sacrifice everything- ideals, honor, and even his wife and children for the State. Defeat will not erase that idea.
- 3 To defeat German efforts to poison my thoughts or influence my attitude.
  - A. The Nazis have found that the most powerful propaganda weapon is the distortion of the truth. They have made a skillful use of it and will redouble their efforts in the event of occupation in order to influence the thinking of the occupational forces. There will probably be deliberate, studied and continuous efforts to influence our sympathies and minimize the consequence of defeat.
    - B. You may expect all manner of approach- conversations to be overheard, underground publications to be found; there will be appeals for generosity and fair play; to pity for victims of devastation; to racial and cultural similarities; and for sympathy for an allegedly oppressed people.
    - C. There will be attempts at sowing discord among Allied Nations; at undermining, Allied determination to enforce surrender; at inducing a reduction in occupational forces; at proving that Nazism was never wanted by the "gentle and cultured" German people.
- 4 To avoid acts of violence, except where required by military necessity, for you are an American Soldier, not a Nazi.
- 5 To conduct myself at all times so as to command the respect of the German people for myself, for the United States, and for the Allied Cause.

A. The Germans hold all things military in deep respect. That respect must be maintained at all times or the Allied Cause is lost and the first steps are taken toward World War III. Each soldier must watch every action of himself and his comrades. The Germans will be watching constantly, even though you don't see him. Let him see a good American Soldier.

B. Drunkenness will not be tolerated. Penalties will be severe.

6 Never associate with Germans.

A. We must bring home to the Germans that their support of Nazi leaders, their tolerance of racial hatreds and persecutions, and their unquestioning acceptance of wanton aggressions on other nations has earned for them the contempt and distrust of the civilized world. We must never forget that the German people support the Nazi principles.

B. Contacts with Germans will be made only on official business. Immediate compliance with all official orders and instructions and surrender terms will be firmly enforced.

C. American soldiers must not associate with Germans. Specifically, it is not permitted to shake hands with them, to visit their homes, to exchange gifts with them, to engage in games or sports with them, to attend their dances or social events, or to accompany them on the streets or elsewhere. Give the Germans no chance to trick you into relaxing your guard.

7 To be fair with Germans.

A. Experience has shown that Germans regard kindness as weakness. Every soldier must prove by his actions that Americans are strong. This will be accomplished if every soldier treats the Germans with firmness and stern courtesy at all times.

B. Firmness must be tempered with strict justice. Americans do not resort to Nazi gangster methods in dealing with people. Remember, your fair but firm treatment of the German people will command proper respect due to a member of a conquering nation.

...to be continued...

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**Membership Update – SSG Pedro Martinez & SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan:** First, please join me in extending our warm gratitude to Ken for his years of faithful service to the organization. You have always been an outstanding supporter of the organization, will be grateful for your dedicated service.



Fellow members, we will soon begin a campaign to remind you when your dues are due and extend the ability to pay electronically.

The Spur will be soon be published electronically to all members, unless you specifically request hard copy. Please send an email to me or CPT Harty at 117thcavmemberships@gmail.com or call the Headquarters 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry (732)499-5662 so that we have your email on file.

Send your dues to the return address on this issue. **Annual regular dues of \$20.00 and Associate dues \$15.00 are due in September.** Make checks Payable to **117<sup>th</sup> CAV Association.**

**Association web site:** [www.117th-cav.org/](http://www.117th-cav.org/) Read past issues of *The SPUR*, look up the WWII histories of the 38<sup>th</sup>, 102<sup>nd</sup> and 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). All WWII Veterans and members over 80 will no longer pay dues, you will see WWII over your name. **New Members:** Craig Boylan was a B Trooper, 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV. When he joined BG Kenneth Wondrack was a LT. He left and joined PAARNG.

#### TAPS



**Kenneth Albert Sikorski** (September 3, 1942 - April 27, 2017) Kenneth Albert Sikorski 74 of Monroe Township died Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick.

Born in New Brunswick, Mr. Sikorski was a lifelong resident of the Jamesburg - Monroe Township area. He was the owner of the Better Living Department Store, Jamesburg where began working at the family business at the age of 14. Mr. Sikorski was a member of the 1-102d ARMOR NJARNG and Army Reserve during the Vietnam War. He attained the rank of Sergeant.

He was a Past Exalted Ruler of the B.P.O. Elks Lodge #2180, Jamesburg, a member of the St. James Knights of Columbus and was a parishioner of St. James RC Church, Jamesburg. He was an NRA member and an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting, fishing and shooting sports. He was a member of the Central Jersey Rifle and Pistol Club.

He is survived by his loving wife Irene, his two sons Kenneth and his wife Vicki of Robbinsville and John and his wife Debra of Millstone, his daughter Donna Sikorski of Galloway Township, NJ, his two brothers Thomas of Tinton Falls, NJ and James of Fernandina Beach, FL, his two sisters Alice Sikorski of Monroe Township and Jean Douglas of Sinking Springs, PA and his five grandchildren John, Connor, Kenneth, Austin and Travis.



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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

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FA-20 EMIL ALLGIERE  
 WI-26 CHARLES ANGELLO  
 WI-17 SHARON & BILL ANTONUCCI mem.  
 1SG BILL MALONEY SR.  
 SP-26 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR  
 WI-18 COL (Ret) KEVIN AUSTIN 5-117 CAV  
 SU-18 JAMIE AYALA  
 SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR)  
 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE  
 WI-17 CRAIG BOLAN  
 SU-18 MSG TOM BULLOCK (mem) SGT RON MANNING  
 FA- 24 JUDGE SANTI CARNEVALI, WWII 102<sup>nd</sup> & 117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY  
 WI- 20 STEVE CUP WWII 102d CAVALRY  
 WI-17 LTC (Ret) PETER D'ELIA  
 WI-18 COL (Ret) DENNIS J. DOUGHERTY  
 WI-18 1SG (Ret) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop mem. wife BETTY  
 SP-22 JACKIE ELLIS (mem) MSG DAVID JAMES ELLIS 5-117 CAV  
 WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI  
 SU-19 CPT (Ret) GERALD D. FISCHBEIN  
 WI-17 LTC (Ret) ALAN R. FISHER  
 WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem.of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER  
 FA-19 BOB FOLEY (HHT Ret)  
 WI-17 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER  
 WI- 72 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 WI-17 BILL & LINDA GRUSS  
 FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN  
 SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY SGT Troop C  
 WI-18 LTC (Ret) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 '43-'44 mem. HANK EGBERT & BILL CRONE bros.-in-arms  
 WI-18 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO.  
 WWII 117<sup>th</sup> CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*  
 WI-19 ANNE MARIE & GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO  
 SU-18 DONALD KONDROSKI  
 WI- 20 LTC (Ret) WILLIAM KALE mem. NJ CAV SOLDIERS  
 WI -24 ESTELLE, ANDREW & JAY LASNER in mem. Arnold  
 Lasner - husband, father - proud veteran Troop B 117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 SU-19 1LT (Ret) EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41*, PSG B Troop  
 117<sup>th</sup> CAV, Montrevel POW French *Legion of Honor*  
 WI-18 C. J. MacNICHOLS  
 SP-18 CSM (Ret) AUTHUR G. A. MAGGS, JR.  
 WI-17 BARBARA MALONEY mem. BARRY, TIM & WILLIAM SR.  
 WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL MALONEY SR. and  
 My brother TIM MALONEY  
 WI-33 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ  
 FA-19 LTC (Ret) W. SCOTT McCANN  
 SP-29 CSM SCOTT MECHOWSKI 1-102<sup>nd</sup> CAVALRY  
 SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE

FA-20 RON NIER  
 WI-17 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET  
 SU-20 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON  
 Troops C & E, *Class of '41*; 602<sup>nd</sup> Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45  
 FA-37 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN,  
*Class of '41*, 102<sup>nd</sup> & 117<sup>th</sup> CAV - B & C Troops WWII  
 FA-20 FOTINOS S. PANAGAKOS  
 WI-17 FRANK PATRICK  
 SP-18 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN mem. MSG ROCCO SPANO  
 SP-19 THOMAS PETTY  
 SU-19 ANTON and MARILYN PLONNER  
 WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)  
 WI-43 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN  
 F Company (tanks) 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV WWII  
 SP-18 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of brother) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO  
 WI-97 EILEEN SCHARR mem. husband WILLIE  
 FA-19 BILL SEDLAK  
 SP-22 LTC (Ret) ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB WWII 38<sup>th</sup> CAV  
*Fr. Legion of Honor*  
 WI- 20 DONNA STINNER mem. SKIP STINNER  
 FA-17 JOHN & MARGARET SUITER  
 FA-21 GEORGE L. THOMAS  
 SP-23 SSG WILLIAM T. TITTER WWII TRP B 117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 (mem) NANCY ASHFORD  
 SP-19 JOE & SABRINA TOOMEY (mem. of) BROTHER  
 SGM ANTHONY FREDA JR.  
 WI-17 CW4 (Ret) DON TRACY & CHICKIE  
 SU-17 GRACE & CSM (Ret) HENRY WETZEL (mem)  
 1SG GEORGE W. EMERY  
 WI-18 LTC (Ret) FRANK WISWALL, USAF *Class of '41*  
 B Troop, 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV '41- '42 *Fr. Legion of Honor*  
 WI- 27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG - A Troop, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon  
 117<sup>th</sup> CAV WWII  
 SP-19 SFC SHEILA ZELASKOWSKI (past member) F TRP 5-117  
 SP-18 MARTHA ZOLLER, FRANK MITCHELL JR. & PAM GUNTER  
 (mem. of) FRANK & JUANITA MITCHELL  
 SU- 3013 FRG HHT 1-102<sup>nd</sup> 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 **117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association** - \$10.00 for each year of support. Mail to **Bill Gruss, Treasurer, 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association, 21 Blake Drive, Clark NJ**

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*The SPUR*  
c/o SSG Pedro Martinez  
500 Rahway Ave  
Westfield, NJ 07090



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**DUES DUE** ↓

*1<sup>ST</sup> New Jersey Cavalry*



**MISSION STATEMENT:** It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the Spirit of the *117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association*, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country. **NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS - Fridays 1930 hours:** June 9; September 8 and November 10, 2017