



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 COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty Our spring meeting will take place on June 3, 2011 at 8 PM in the Heritage Room of the Westfield Armory. Cavalry Troopers have met in Westfield since the early 1920’s. June 3rd is an important date for all New Jersey Cavalrymen. It is the birthday of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment. The re-designation of the First Cavalry N.J. N.G. to the 102nd Cavalry Regiment actually took place on August 17, 1921. June 3 was selected as the official regimental birthday in order to further the traditions and esprit de corps of the *Essex Troop*, the original military organization from which today’s 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry traces its origins.

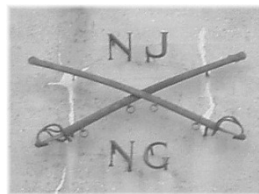
The 1-102nd Cavalry traces its history through the 20th Century. The accomplishments of the WWII 102nd Cavalry Group and the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) Troopers are well documented; Rome-Arno, Normandy (with arrowhead), Northern France, Southern France (with Arrowhead), Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe are all part of their collective history. History refers to them as our *Greatest Generation*.

Today’s 21st Century Cavalrymen have carried on this proud tradition of service. Soon after the attack on our nation on September 11, 2001, Troopers of the 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry Regiment were mobilized as part of *Operation Enduring Freedom* to help provide security at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Picatinny Army Depot and the nuclear power facilities in our state. Troop C of the 5-117 CAV was mobilized and deployed to Balad, Iraq from March 2006 to July 2007. They provided security for LSA Anaconda. Called to federal service again in June 2008, the 5-117 CAV and the 2nd Battalion 102nd Armor were consolidated and designated the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry in September 2008. They returned home to New Jersey in July 2009. Units that had been split apart in the conflict that was World War II were now forged together again by their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Joint Base Balad, Camps Bucca, Grizzly, and Syverson as well as al Basrah, and Diyala Provinces were now part of the unit history of the 1-102 CAV. The cavalry troopers that served in these places are now part of new Greatest Generation of Veterans.

We as members of the *117th Cavalry Association* wish to thank them for their service. They now have joined the generations of New Jersey Cavalrymen who have when called upon to serve their state and nation have done so in an outstanding manner. Again, I hope to see you all there on June 3rd in the Heritage Room of the Westfield Armory. Help us all celebrate 90 years of history, traditions and service of the 102nd Cavalry! 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 1-102 CAV. We all have served.

Show 'em the Way!

Dennis



You are all invited! LTC Ed Chrystal commander of the 1-102nd CAV has invited all the members of our *117th Cavalry Association* to attend their *First Annual Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance*. It will take place on Friday September 23, 2011 at 6PM at the Grand Summit Hotel, 570 Springfield Avenue, Summit, New Jersey. Cocktail hour will begin at 6 PM; dinner begins at 7 PM. Cash Bar. The dress is Mess Dress, Dress Blue or appropriate civilian attire. The dinner choices are Chateaubriand or Chicken. The price for Retirees and civilians is \$60 per person. If you plan on attending, RSVP to CPT Joseph McNamara, 1-102nd Cavalry NJARNG, 500 Rahway Av. Westfield NJ 07090 with your name, address and email. Make checks payable to the *102nd Cavalry Officers Association*. If you plan to spend the night, hotel reservations can be made by calling the Grand Summit Hotel (908-273-3000). Rates for the overnight accommodations are \$139 Single, \$149 Double. Rates include full breakfast the next morning. Rooms are blocked under “Cavalry Association”.



LTC Ed Chrystal, Commander, 1-102nd CAV Greetings to all fellow Troopers, families and Association members. The Squadron is currently in the planning phase for our upcoming Annual Training period. The Squadron is going to Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia along with the rest of the 50th Brigade Combat Team to conduct Team and Squad level training. Our Training and Operations officers and NCO's have made the initial contact and tour of the base earlier this year. As I am writing to you, my Troop Commanders and subordinate leaders, along with our logistics NCO's, are at Fort A.P. Hill conducting a "Leader's Recon" with key leadership from the Brigade and the other Battalions. The Squadron has been busily coordinating and planning training such as squad live fire, convoy operations, area recon and staff training. Our two-week training will culminate in a Squad Tactical Exercise involving the entire Squadron conducting reconnaissance of an urban training area and conducting a passage of lines of an infantry troop to conduct a raid on a suspected IED

(improvised explosive device) development area. We are looking forward to the trip and to getting our hands dirty in the field environment once again.

The Squadron and the Association have been continuing to foster their relationship through joint meetings, Heritage Room gatherings and Association members' support at our Drill Weekends and other events. We especially appreciate the efforts of SGM Mahan and others in enhancing the historical displays at the Armory in Westfield.

While we celebrate the destruction of the key planner of the attacks on our nation, our Troopers remain vigilant and aware of the threats our nation still face. These Troopers maintain the oath and are preparing diligently to stand against those that do us harm and wherever our future missions and deployments take them.

"SHOW 'EM THE WAY"

LTC Ed Chrystal

From the Command Sergeant Major 1-102nd Cavalry Leadership in Today's Army of persistent conflict and Technology has created new demands on all levels of our Troopers, NCOs and Officers. The Army National Guard is now a fully equipped and operational component of Army Force Structure and is relied on to deploy in support of Missions across the full spectrum of combat operations. As the Army evolves and makes changes to doctrine based on lessons learned, leaders at all levels must adapt and continually remain technically and tactically proficient in their duty position and responsibility as leaders.

This is a demanding challenge for the National Guard who only gets to train 2-3 days a month, and is tasked to deploy as a trained fighting force. The reason we are able to accomplish so much with so little, is because of the Dedication, Motivation and Professional attitude of our Troopers and Leaders. We must continue to mentor and professionally develop our subordinates, provide realistic well-planned training and expect change. As technology changes we must change and continually train to stay proficient in our weapon systems, equipment, communication, and administration.



As leaders, we are charged with the safety, care, conduct and well-being of our Troopers, this includes their physical ability to perform their jobs, mental stability to continue, their personal health and family wellness. Many of our Troopers are struggling in the tough economy. Stay in touch with your Troopers and ensure we provide accurate guidance when they need assistance; I have included information for Troopers and Families who need assistance below. Keep the command informed; we cannot help if we are not aware.

Army One Source: <http://www.myarmyonesource.com> The State Family Assistance Center, NJ: 888-859-0352

Troopers of the 1-102nd Cavalry: *Continue to Train our Troopers to Standard, Train to fight, Keep leading by example, and "Show 'em the Way!"*

CSM Christopher Sheridan



From the Editor Phil Notestine Our web site www.117th-cav.org and the new *Facebook* page continues to be found by searchers looking for information on their relative's WWII service, researchers and others, including a WWII veteran of the 38th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) of the 102nd Cavalry Group. LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab and I began communication several years ago, after he found the WWII History of the 38th Cavalry on our web site. You will read more about my friend Colonel Shehab in this issue. A recent contact (through *Facebook* by granddaughter Alisha Walker) is Trooper James McDaniel of Atwood, Oklahoma. Jim was a replacement trooper, joining Troop C, 117th Cavalry just after the squadron landed in France, *Operation Dragoon*, August 1944. He was an M8 Armored Car gunner. T5 McDaniel was severely wounded during a mortar attack in November 1944, recovering in hospital near Paris before being sent home and discharged. McDaniel soon was in college, earning both Bachelor and Master's degrees. He enjoyed a long teaching career and was a rancher. His son LTC James Earl McDaniel, USMC (Ret.) was a fighter pilot, serving in Vietnam. He is also a teacher and lives about 30 miles from his father. A grandson was a Navy SEAL, an Iraq combat veteran. A truly patriotic family, from America's Heartland. Trooper James McDaniel is nearing 88 years of age, and is now a member of the *117th Cavalry Association*.





Association Meeting 1 April 2011 Called to order on 2000 hours by COL Dennis Dougherty, who then led in the Pledge of Allegiance. As the names and remembrance of those recently deceased was read, a moment of silence was held. AUSA Northern NJ Chapter members were welcomed; the meeting was then considered joint. COL Dougherty recognized two special guests, LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab USA (Ret.) and LTC Ruth Hamilton USA (Ret.). Alfred and Ruth, good friends and neighbors in their Maryland community, had attended a dinner with a few Association members, hosted by COL Dougherty. Colonel Shehab was introduced by Phil Notestine, who mentioned some historical facts about Shehab, soon to be 92, including his WWII service as an officer in the 38th Cavalry, 102nd Cavalry Group. As our main speaker, Shehab spoke of his early years in NJ and as a cavalry officer at Forts Knox and Chaffee, before joining the 38th Cavalry in September 1944 in Belgium. He then spoke for close to an hour about combat in Europe, especially the defense at Monschau, during the "*Battle of the Bulge*" for which the 38th CAV was decorated with the US Army *Presidential Unit Citation*, shown to the



right, after being honored with French and Belgian citations. He went on to relate his colorful post war career as a cavalry officer, serving over 20 years active duty. When Shehab concluded, with rousing applause, he was made an *Honorary Member of The Regiment*.

Notestine introduced a new member, CPT (Ret.) Fred Kent, a Vietnam veteran and son of Robert B. "Bob" Kent, 102nd Cavalry in the 1930's. A Rutgers ROTC graduate, Fred was CO of the 560th MP Company, about the last man out of Saigon when the US military and State Department departed for home. Notestine asked for hands of anyone who served in Vietnam. Kent and the several met at the bar after the meeting.

Notestine then introduced our WWII veterans in attendance -- right to left: *Shehab, Leonard, Wiswall, Lasner, Melso*.

A motion was made to make all WWII veteran members exempt from dues. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. An announcement and invitation to the first annual *Spurs and Sabers* dance was made (see page 1). The meeting was concluded at 2105; all repaired to the Heritage Room and bar. In attendance: Robert Apgar, Don Tracy, Henry Forstenhausler, Donald Emery, Ken Mahan, Foti Panagakos, James Anglim, Dominic Melso, Arnold Lasner, Bob Foley, Dan Mahon, Dutch Gautier, Vincent Tirri, John Crescenzi, Phil Notestine, Frank Wiswall, Edward Leonard, Ryan Harty, Patrick du Tertre, Fred Santoro, Don Kondrowski, Steve Petroski, Dave Ellis, Frank Patrick, Robert Hasannoeddin, David Mormak, Mike Handy, Art



Maggs, Rochus Lawrence, Walter Lawrence, Bill Morris, Mike Hrycak, Joe McNamara, Dennis Dougherty, Frank Mnich; Guests - Alfred Shehab, Ruth Hamilton, Fred Kent, Kyle Jones, Jerry Infantino.

Our new Association Secretary CPT Vince Tirri, CO Troop C 1-102nd CAV and a high school teacher, might, on occasion, say that "*The pen is mightier than the sword*". I suppose that the situation must be the main consideration. Thomas Jefferson, who in 1796 sent a letter to Thomas Paine in which he wrote: "*Go on doing with your pen what in other times was done with the sword.*"

In our "*Global war on Terror*", it is the sword that is respected, as are those that use it well.





LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab USA (Ret.) enjoyed a rich and varied career in the U. S. Army, serving for 22 years. Shehab's parents were Lebanese, Maronite Catholics. He was born in America and raised in Cape May, NJ. He enlisted on 10 January 1942 and was later commissioned as a 2LT of Cavalry, in Recon Troop, 37th Cavalry, 4th Armored Division, and later as a Troop CO in the 23rd Cavalry. He joined the 38th Cavalry in Belgium in September 1944. Post WWII, Shehab served in the 4th Cavalry at Fort Knox. Fluent in English, French and Arabic, he was sent to counterintelligence schools. In 1952, CPT Shehab was sent to Saudi Arabia to advise the Saudi First Reconnaissance Squadron. As a member and Emir of the dominant Arab Quraysh Tribe, he was highly respected. While serving in the 14th Cavalry Regiment in Germany, Shehab was sent to Lebanon in 1958 as part of a high-level team to help the Lebanese during the crisis. His direct assignment was to interface with General Fouad Shehab, a cousin. General Shehab was to become the President of Lebanon. The crisis eased and

the U. S. Military departed Lebanon. Colonel Shehab's last post was at Fort Mead, where he served in the office of the Inspector General. LTC Alfred H.M. Shehab is past Commander-in-Chief of *The Military Order of the World Wars*. Alfred is a widower and father of a daughter with children. His email is hotspur38@verizon.net



LTC Ruth Hamilton USA (Ret.) is a recently retired Adjutant General's Corps officer. While not Cavalry, she has supported many Cavalry troops and she has had quite a distinguished career in her own right.

Ruth was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has three bachelor's degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Nutrition Education, Dietetics, and Home Economics Education. While living and working in Indiana, Pennsylvania, she joined the Army (on a dare) in 1984 as a private first class--a bit later than most of her fellow basic trainees. She applied for, was selected to attend the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning's School for Boys immediately after her basic training, and was commissioned a second lieutenant among a group of 23 former drill corporals, who were among her closest classmates.

During her first Army assignment in Izmir, Turkey, Ruth, a second lieutenant, was selected to serve as the LANDSOUTHEAST U.S. Army Element Honor Guard Commander. This was a unique opportunity for a female officer stationed in a Muslim country. In fact, there was a plan to have her male noncommissioned officer-in-charge take over the honor guard during her first ceremony, if she as not accepted in her capacity. She and the U.S. Army Element were very pleased that she was not only accepted in her role, she was embraced in it. In fact, Lieutenant Hamilton appeared on the front page of Turkey's national newspaper, the *Hurriyet Gazette*, and several articles were written on her and other female members of her honor guard.

As a first lieutenant, prior to attending the Adjutant General's Officer Advanced Course or the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, she commanded the 175th Personnel Service Company in Aschaffenburg, Germany.

In a later assignment, as a captain, Ruth was assigned as Trip Coordinator to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander-in-Chief, European Command while stationed at SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) in Mons/Casteau Belgium. She planned a multitude of complex trip schedules for General George A. Joulwan to places all around the world and managed the many and varied nuances of each one with great finesse. While serving in this demanding position, she obtained a Master of Human Relations degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Following her promotion to major, she attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Later she managed all of the enlisted personnel assignments to the Republic of Korea (including the 2nd Cavalry) while serving in Seoul, Korea, at the 8th Personnel Command. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, Ruth was personally responsible for compiling and reporting data on all Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians and their family members assigned to the Korean Peninsula, totaling over 37,000 personnel, whether they were on the peninsula, on leave or temporary duty in the United States or elsewhere. In conjunction with her marriage to her second husband, she served in the Pentagon as the first Military Liaison to the Military Entrance Processing Command while also performing duties for the Department of Defense in the Accession Policy Directorate under the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy.

The Adjutant General of the Army, a former boss, reached out and touched Ruth asking her to serve as Executive Officer to The Adjutant General upon her promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. She served in that capacity at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command (USAHRC), in Alexandria, Virginia, for over 3 years, under the Adjutants General. Sadly, her husband passed away during this time and she was retained with the USAHRC in the Evaluations Branch, the Army's subject matter expert in evaluation reports. She revised the evaluation governing the U.S. Army's evaluation reporting system and stayed on in the Command's rear element to close down a large portion of the office space occupied by it in



the Hoffman Building after the USAHRC had relocated to its current location in Fort Knox, Kentucky, the original home of the Armor Branch.

Ruth has always been athletically, artistically, and mechanically inclined; she enjoys cooking, crafts, home repairs and remodeling, gardening, sketching (in charcoal pencil and ink), and keeping Alfred straight. Her future employment plans are undetermined at this time, but she anticipates writing a book about her many and varied experiences in the near future. LTC (Ret.) Ruth Hamilton: ruth12345@aol.com



Class of '41 Luncheon 4 May 2011 Gibbs Hall Fort Monmouth NJ All were happy to have Bob Lutz return, after many months of absence, and also Jimmy Kane. We missed the other loyal members, especially Ed Leonard and Frank



Prettyman who were both unwell at this time. A special guest was Colonel John Booth, Lutz's friend and neighbor. A retired Army Engineer, Booth is managing services operations at Fort Monmouth as it closes all operations and sells off all assets. At our request, he told of the history of Fort Monmouth, the BRAC plan and resulting transfer of mission and staff to Aberdeen (APG) MD and other posts. COL Dennis Dougherty spoke of AUSA activities and "current events" of the 1-102nd CAV. Phil Notestine told about the recent 117th Cavalry Association meeting and LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab who served in the WWII 38th Cavalry, our guest and speaker. We discussed the future venue and evolution of the Class of '41 Luncheon, possibly holding events in northern and central NJ. In attendance: *Class of '41* veterans – Bob Lutz, Jim Kane, Joe Pocaroba and Frank Wiswall. Guests – John Booth, Dennis Dougherty, Don Tracy, Ken Mahan, Charlotte and Bill Merring, Phil Notestine.

Continued from *The SPUR*, Summer 2010: The POW Diary of SGT Clayton Skoda, Troop B 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz). Skoda was taken prisoner with most of B Troop and part of A Troop at Montrevel, France 3 September 1944. The picture is of PVT Clayton Skoda, 1942. Platoon Sergeant Ed Leonard considered Skoda, a rancher from Nebraska, "a man among boys" and a good soldier.



1 January 1945 – A New Year and it is very cold and snowing. Nothing special doing today. Eating plenty from the box. Nels came over for a while.

2 January - Just sat around, today went over to see Nels tonight and played cards and listened to the music some of the boys were playing.

3 January - Played cards all morning and afternoon. Went over to see Nels and played more cards until they started playing Hillbilly music and we listened to that 'til lights out.

4 January - Tried to fix the outside door to our room but couldn't get the needed material so gave up the job. Shaved and am now waiting for tea call. Went and took a shower. Three air raids tonight.

5 January – Nothing doing today, played cards for awhile and read the rest of the day. Two air raids again tonight.

6 January – Same as yesterday didn't do a thing all day. Went over to see Nels tonight, he wasn't feeling well so came back early.

7 January - Played cards most of the day. Parcels didn't come in today 'til late, issue them tomorrow.

8 January - Snowing today and looks as though will continue. Played cards most of the day and evening.

9 January – Real cold all day, had a fire all day, first time this winter. Went to bed early as lights go off at 2000 instead of 2100 from now on.

10 January - Still cold and snowing. Went over to Block III today to see some of the boys and have addresses put in my book. Went over to 10 Co. to listen to the Hillbilly music.

11 January – Nothing happened today, just the same old routine. Went to bed early.

12 January - Same as yesterday, nothing doing. Went over to 9 Co. to see Fred Donato in the evening.

13 January – Sunday, so went to church in the morning. Afternoon went to the jam session in the rec. hall and watched a football game between teams made up of prisoners.

14 January - Issued a parcel today, took a shower in the afternoon, went up to see Nels for a while in the evening. 15 January - Chow was late today because of the air raid, three of them today. No roll call tonight and at the present am waiting to get on the stove. Nels came down to see me. We made coffee and talked 'til about 2300.

16 January - Spent the day as usual playing cards and reading. Went to bed early as there was nothing to do.

17 January - Rumors are good this morning. Russians are supposed to be on a big offensive. Played cards most of the day. Nels and I had coffee together last night then we talked 'til quite late.

18 January - Roll call was rather long this morning as the captain was there and everything had to be so-so before he would dismiss us.

19 January - Same old thing today two roll calls and that was all. Nels was down for a while and we cached away some stuff because of the shake-down.

20 January - No parcels again today. Maybe they will go late this evening. They went for parcels, but they will not be given out 'til tomorrow.

21 January - Went to church. Had early chow and am now going to write my letter home. Parcels issued this morning.

22 January - Same old story, nothing new and plenty of good rumors.

23 January - Same as yesterday (nothing) washed a few clothes and like to have froze my fingers.

24 January - Went to the laundry this morning, washed some more clothes. Inspection by German captain, our room was the best he had seen. Lights went out at 1900.

25 January - Room orderly today - no lights at night anymore as front lines are getting too close. Soup is late today because of no coal.

26 January - Very cold and stormy. No coal for barracks anymore - means no more cooking.

27 January - Drew clothes this morning. Clothes sent by the Red Cross. Went to the jam session this afternoon and going up to see Nels tonight.

28 January - Things were the same old thing today; soup call and two roll calls,

29 January - Lots of rumors today that the Russians are getting very close. Hope it's true. Nels was down for a while tonight.

30 January - Issued out a lot of stuff today as they think we are going to be evacuated soon. That is all they talked about around here today was that we are going to be evacuated. Hope not.

31 January - Were awakened at 0400 this morning and told to pack all our stuff as we are going to be moved out of here at 0700. Started to move us at 0700 but the boys in the other compound are giving them a hard time. They get them out of one room and they run into another room. Jerry finally got things under control and started us out of camp. Got down the road about 3 miles and were fired on by machine guns and shellfire from Russian guns. Several of our boys were wounded and some killed and a good many were cut off. Russians found out who we were so held their fire. Were taken back to the camp and everyone was happy to know we were cut off. Was back in camp only a half hour when we got bad news that they were going to try and take us out a new way. Started out and got on the edge of camp when the Russians fired again. We all took off and went back in the compound and took for the air raid shelters. In about an hour, the Russians took the camp with very little resistance from the Germans. Spent most of the night in the air raid shelter. That night was quiet but was afraid the Germans would throw in artillery.

1 February - Today has been a lot of air activity by German planes. They are strafing and dive bombing Russian equipment and columns. Everyone is afraid they are going to bomb this camp. They dropped one bomb here in camp; one American was killed and 6 injured. Things quieted down some tonight. Some incoming artillery fire, but it is not bad.

2 February - Things are quiet early this morning, but as time passed on there is more and more air activity. Got some news just now and things seem to be progressing fairly well. Hope that is true. Plenty of planes overhead and things are really hot around here. Went up and slept with Nels tonight so we would be closer to the air raid shelter. Made one trip down there at 0100.

3 February - Things were little better today; quite a few planes again, otherwise things wore normal. Went to the warehouse and got some potatoes and had a big meal. Got orders to be ready to move out at 1700 and moved out promptly. Walked all night cross-country and plenty of mud; rough going, but we didn't mind as long as we were going back. Stopped in a German town at 0300. Moved in all the houses and went to bed.

4 February - Got up and we all started a search for food. Found plenty of canned goods: tomatoes, plums, meat, bread, beans and a lot of other canned goods. The fruit really tasted good after not having any for 6 months. Right now we are frying steak and getting ready for a big meal. Got the steak fried and was it delicious, first fresh meat since have been a POW. We are going to stay in Zardorf tonight and find out what takes place tomorrow.

5 February - Had a good night's sleep on a day bed. Cook fixed breakfast for himself, Nels and I. We had sausage, potatoes, bread, butter and molasses and coffee, breakfast fit for a king. Laid around 'til noon and then fixed dinner, even made sugar doughnuts. Got orders for everyone to move back to Landsberg; to go whenever you please and to go in small groups. Sixteen of us left Zardorf at 1530 and walked as far as Vietz where we went to bed in a barn.

6 February - Got up at 0700 and started on our march to Landsberg. Went about 3 or 4 miles and went into a German home that had been vacated and started to prepare breakfast. Found some oatmeal, meat, potatoes and fruit. Needed milk for the cereal so I went out and milked two cows. First time I milked a cow since September 1942. Ate and sat around 'til 1100. Then started on our journey. Walked 'til we got 2 miles from Landsberg and went to another vacated house for the night. We fixed supper and what a meal: potatoes, sausage, beans and peas, bread, coffee, canned strawberries and pears. Got through shaving and washing and am now about ready for bed.

7 February - Got up early, ate breakfast and went on into Landsberg. Went to this so-called collecting point and hung around most of the day, but there was no one in charge-and no one knew where we were to go or what we were to do (From what I can see the Russian Army has no organization whatsoever). Went back out to the same farm for the night.

8 February - Went back into Landsberg and hung around that Headquarters and they told us to go to Friedberg and there we will be taken care of. No one was put in charge nor did the Russians furnish a guide. Got into Friedberg 1700 and found the Headquarters, but that's all we did find out. They don't have any place here for us or any transportation to take us to any collecting point, in fact, they don't even know where there is a collecting point. Found us a house to stay in for the night and found some food. Fixed supper and then went to bed early as we were all very tired.

9 February - Slept late this morning. Fixed breakfast and just laid around the rest of the morning. This afternoon we are going to the Russian headquarters to see if we can get any information whatsoever. It gets mighty tiresome roaming around and not knowing where to go or what to do. Nels and I went down to the headquarters and all we found out was that we are on our own until we get to Warsaw. Talked with French captain and he told us he had heard there was an International Red Cross in Kreuz, so that is where we are starting for in the morning. Going to spend tonight in Friesberg again.

10 February - Started out early on bicycles for Kreuz. Traveled all day; only time we stopped was to fix the bicycles. Got into Kreuz at 1700 and started looking for a house. Found one but very little to eat. Russian tank crew came in the house to talk, found out we didn't have much food so took us to the place they stayed. They gave us plenty to eat and plenty of vodka to drink.

11 February - Got up rather late today as I didn't feel none too good after drinking all that vodka. Went over and ate breakfast with the Russians. Spent the rest of the day lying around. We are going back over and eat supper with them Russians at 1700. Tomorrow we are starting out for Bromberg, Poland. Went over and ate with the Russians, they had 4 girls there with them and they were just as drunk as the men. We went to bed fairly early as we plan to get an early start in the morning.

12 February - Got started early, went 13 kilometers and crossed the border into Poland. Went a few more kilometers and came into a town called Filehne and found that Polish people were taking care of all refugees and prisoners of war and from this town you can catch trains going back. We spent the day here and are going to spend the night here and try to get a train tomorrow.

13 February - Went to the station and hung around for a while and found out there would be no train 'til tomorrow so we went back down to the place where all the Americans are staying and spent the day.

14 February - Went to the station again this morning and was told again there would be no train today and maybe none tomorrow. This is getting awful disgusting running to the station and back all the time. If no train comes in tomorrow we may try and hitch-hike out of here or start walking.

15 February - This makes our 3rd day in Filehne, Poland and still haven't been able to get a train. Went down to the meat market and bought 6 steaks and 4 rings of liverwurst. Going to start out walking again in the morning.

16 February - Still sitting around waiting for a train. Been here all day and going to stay tonight, Cook and Bain went down after some meat, so we will have something to eat again tonight. Don't know what our plans for tomorrow will be.

17 February - Finally caught a train at 0430 this morning rode all day, but don't get know where as train goes slow and travels only half the time.

18 February - Had a rough night sleeping, too many people in the car. Travelled all day again, but ain't making any better headway. Looks like we will be on here again tonight.

19 February - Still going slow and we are out of food. Maybe will get off in the next town and see if we can find food. Got off in Lodz and a Red Cross girl came to the train and took all the GIs to a place where we were fed and given a place to sleep,

20 February - Went down town and looked around and tried to find a little information as what to do. Found a theatre, but didn't go as it was getting late. Staying in the same place.

21 February - Laid around all morning, went downtown, talked with four different Polish men that could speak English. Saw a nice looking cafe so went in and got us a cup of coffee. When we got ready to pay it cost 30 zlotys which was equivalent to \$12.00 in our money. From what we can find out our best bet is to stay in Lodz as they are trying to get an American Representative to come here. Had soup tonight, ate four bowls. Going to try and find out about writing home.

22 February - We were down town early this morning, went to the bank and changed marks for Polish money. Called on our friend at the post office; wrote letters home. Returned to the Red Cross and spent the rest of the day.

23 February - Did nothing today but lay around and smoke and sleep.

24 February - Played cards in the forenoon and in the afternoon went to the show. First show I had seen for 7 months. Really enjoyed Bing's singing. Two of the girls...

(All the above was taken from a book that I posted in camp & on our trip through Germany and Poland. After we were in the Russian's hands we could keep no books to log every day, so balance is written through memory.)

We were waiting for more Allied prisoners to come in to Lodz, a Major took over the forces and was doing all the dealing with the Russians and they promised him when we had 500 men together they would haul us to Odessa. We rode in class from Lodz for about 5 hours and then were unloaded from the passenger train to a freight train. We figured the only reason we were loaded on a passenger was to show the Poles and Germans what good treatment they gave the Allies. These box cars were fixed up for hauling troops, they had a heating stove, double wooden platforms for us to sleep on with straw mattresses. They had a Russian field wagon for a kitchen. We were served soup, the only difference between what they gave us and what the Germans fed us was that the soup was thicker.

We knew as soon as we were in American hands we would be issued new clothing so we started selling the clothes off our backs. The train would stop in villages, we'd sell our clothes and buy eggs and cheese and any other kind we could find. I sold a woolen scarf for \$4; a wool shirt brought \$12. Another kid sold a pair of German boots for \$30. We sold to Russian soldiers as well as civilians. It was extremely cold in Russia, we didn't get to see much of the country as we traveled we had to keep the box car doors closed because of the weather. The people we did see looked almost as hungry as we did. We noticed women doing men's work in the railroad yard. Our stove set in a sand box and one night we built such a hot fire that the box caught afire. The Russians had to stop the train and put the fire out. They made an awful fuss about it, but we couldn't understand what they said so it didn't matter to us.

After we arrived at Odessa were marched over to a big old building and wore bathed and deloused there. We stayed there that night. Couldn't get out to see the city as we were heavily guarded by the Russians. We moved again to a funny looking place, they had a big mess hall and then in the yards were houses instead of barracks. They were furnished with just a stove. We had to sleep on the floor; however, we received our first American food, and were issued new clothing. Four days later we were marched by the Russians to the docks and loaded on a British ship the "*Duchess of Bedford*". I was as glad to leave the Russians as I was the Germans.

We left Odessa on March 14th on my first ocean voyage without a convoy. We sailed alone. The British issued us new clothing and loaned us 5 pounds, about \$20, and we got to buy our first candy in the PX and other things we hadn't seen for many months. Our first stop was Istanbul, Turkey. Our ship stayed there for that night and next day, leaving the following evening. A British sailor showed me the seven mountain peaks that they call "the Seven Sisters". Then when we went through the Dardanelles, he showed me the monument built for the British that died during the last war trying to get up through the Dardanelles.

We then came through the Aegean Sea along the coast of Greece. We stopped at the seaport of Valletta in Malta where we saw a lot of half sunken ships that were ruined during the awful bombing of Malta. Valetta looked badly wrecked from our boat. We could see some of the destruction. While we waited in the harbor we watched a convoy being formed. We were guessing they might be going to the Pacific. We followed along the coast of Africa back through Gibraltar to Marseille, France to unload the French prisoners. Then we went to Naples. We got in to Naples and were greeted by a band playing and since we wore the first bunch of liberated prisoners to

come back, a lot of soldiers came down to gawk at us. We had to stay on the boat until about noon, so asked the band to play new songs that we hadn't heard.

Of course, the Red Cross girls were on hand and gave us each a "buddy bag" – we called them "comfort bags". We were hauled to a building that was set up for incoming POWs. We had the best of chow and care. We were processed there and got paid \$100 back pay.

On March 31st we loaded on the "Ameriposa" and started our journey home. The last day at sea, we knew a sub was close to us because our ship kept changing its course every 9 minutes. We were without a convoy and we all started sweating. How awful if we would get sunk just a day from home after all we had been through.

We tied up in Boston about 0800 April 9th. There was a band again, and by the way George Hinn was playing in that band that night. We drowned the music out with our cheering and hollering and we were mad that they wouldn't let us off to step on that grand old U. S. soil. We had to wait until the next day. After we reached Miles Standish, first in everyone's mind was to call home.

It was all a big wonderful thrill, but nothing to compare with the exaltation I felt when I finally reached Rushville and saw my folks, and all those people and that band. It was by far the greatest thrill of my life. I saw a lot of the world and, to me, there is no place like Rushville, Nebraska. *Separated from Service July 7th, 1945 at Fort Riley, Kansas.*

Pictured are ex-POWs Edward Baines, Andrew Cook, Clayton Skoda and Nels Anderson, in Naples, Italy. *Going home!*

Clayton Thomas Skoda was 91 when he died on March 27, 2010, having lived a full life. Skoda was a faithful Christian and proud patriot. He was a much honored and beloved member of his community. See his obituary and remembrance in *The SPUR*, Summer 2010.





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). **New Members** Jerry Infantino (Wife Ann-Marie) was a scout in D Troop which became A Troop in 1963 to 1969. Both he and Ann-Marie have supported various functions, such as the pancake breakfast, Casino Nights, and support the Family Support Group for 1-102nd CAV HHT

TAPS



Stauderman, Herbert Allen died 2 November 2009 La Jolla, CA. A longtime resident of Summit, NJ, Stauderman attended Syracuse University. Both *Class of '41* troopers, he and his twin brother Bruce enlisted in the 102nd Cavalry Regiment, B Troop in 1940, and off to Fort Jackson SC in January 1941. Herb was a bugler in B Troop, renowned for his fine rendition of "Taps". He attended OCS in 1942 and was posted to England and later to France and Germany in a Signal Corps Intel unit. He and some of his fellow officers were decorated with the *Bronze Star for Valor* after repulsing German Troops. Brother Bruce was also commissioned, as a SHAFE intelligence officer while in the

UK. They were able to connect often while serving on the continent, after D-Day. Following the war, Herb worked for Howes Publishing Co. rising from sales to president. Howes later became SAF International Publications. Stauderman was well known as the publisher of *American Dyestuff Reporter* (ADR), where he worked until retirement. He eventually sold ADR to AATCC in 1999. He was an active member of AATCC for 60 years. He is survived by his wife Doris, of 76 years; a son Kenneth (Marta) and a daughter Lynda Stauderman and two grandchildren.

William J. "Butch" Ball, 77, of Stevensville, PA, passed away on Saturday, April 23, 2011, at the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA. He was born on March 14, 1934, in Orange, NJ, a son of the late William J. Ball, Sr. and Gilda H. (Dimarzo) Ball. He worked for the New Jersey Army National Guard as a Chief Warrant Officer for 44 years. 250th Signal BN and 1-102 ARMOR, Hq Co. Bill was the OMS Chief at the Philipsburg NJ Armory for many years. In 1990, he was preceded in death by his wife Anna Greta (Malmquist) Ball. He has been a resident of Bradford County since 1994, having moved from Washington, NJ. He is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, in Wyalusing, and is a past member of St. Rose of Lima, in Oxford, NJ. Mr. Ball was a member of Wyalusing American Post No. 534. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and repairing things. He liked his time spent in the outdoors, and especially enjoyed engaging in conversation. Surviving are his children: Anna Greta Rossi and husband Joseph, of Washington, NJ, Liz McFarland and Neysa, of Plymouth, IN, William Joseph III, and wife Nancy, of North Pole, Alaska, Peter D. and wife Barbara, of Washington, NJ, and David A. & Bud, of Haddon Twp., NJ; sister and brother-in-law: Wilma and Fred Santoro, of Verona, NJ; brothers and sister-in-laws: Robert J. and Pat Ball, of Lebanon Twp., NJ, John and Maryann Ball, of Effort, PA, Arthur and Bettyann Ball, of Rutland, MA, Eugene T. Ball, of Stevensville, PA; by 9 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren; and by his beloved dog Rosie.

William D. Hill, 85, of Bridgeton died peacefully Saturday morning, March 5, 2011 at South Jersey Healthcare-Regional Medical Center in Vineland following a short illness. Mr. Hill was born in Alderson, W.Va., on August 7, 1925. He was the son of the late William J. and Renee (nee Geddes) Hill. He was raised and graduated from high school in West Virginia and received his college degree from the West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1951. He proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Marine Corps. He saw active duty during the occupation of Japan and fought against the enemy in the Battle of Iwo Jima and the Volcano Islands. A member of the 5th Marine Division, he witnessed the raising of the American flag on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima. A longtime resident of Bridgeton, Mr. Hill moved to the area and worked as an electrician at Seabrook Farms and later became the assistant plant engineer at Owens-Illinois where he spent 27 years before retiring in 1983. During his "retirement," he worked for the Bridgeton School System for five years at the Bridgeton Middle School in maintenance. Mr. Hill served as a captain in the N.J. National Guard and was a member, since 1971, of Brearley Lodge #2, F. & A.M in Bridgeton. In addition, he was active with North Cumberland Little League in the 1970s and served as league president. Bill was part of "the breakfast club" at McDonalds and he loved to travel in his camper and RV with his good friend, Zona. He was known as an excellent craftsman and for his woodworking abilities. He was also a longtime Philadelphia Eagles and Philadelphia Phillies fan.

He is survived by four children, Debra Lynn May and her husband Edgar of Upper Deerfield, W. David Hill and his wife Denise of Bridgeton, Diane Tisa and her husband Ron of Upper Deerfield and Darryl Hill and his wife Chris of Deerfield Twp.; seven grandchildren, Eddie May (Kara), Shawn May, Kacy Godfrey (Lenny), Jamie Rossi (John), Bryan Tisa and Nickolas and Natalie Hill; and two great-grandchildren, Madison May and Jonathan Rossi. He is also survived by his good friend and breakfast club buddy, Urie Morris. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois Marcelene "Marcy" Hill, in 1982 and a sister, Nancy Hill, in 2004.



Dolores Quintana Salcido, born March 27, 1927 crossed over March 10, 2011 El Paso, Texas. Dolores or "Lolis" as she was known to her family and friends met the love of her life, Robert "Tito" Salcido. They were married and were blessed with 3 sons, Robert "Tito" Jr., Manuel David and Pedro Martin. They have 9 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Lolis was not only a mother to her children, but a mother to many other persons within the family as well as outside the family. If you needed any sanctuary, our mother would provide it for you. She loved playing Santa Claus for the orphans and needy and would volunteer much of her time in helping others. Lolis is survived by her brother Joe Quintana and sister Maria Pilar Palmer. She has been lifted by the hand of our Lord and is now rejoicing in His glory. (Husband Robert "Tito" Salcido is a member of the 117th Cavalry Association

and WWII combat veteran. His brother 1LT Manuel Salome Salcido, a platoon leader of F Company (Tanks), 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) was KIA in Italy, 26 June 1944.)





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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
 SU-15 NANCY ASHFORD & JEANNIE BROWN (sisters)
 (mem. father) SSG WM. T. TITTER
 WWII B TROOP 117th CAV
 FA-12 BILL ANTONUCCI (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY SR.
 SU-25 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
 SU-13 CRAIG BEACHER
 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
 SU-12 STEVE CUP, SCOUT A TROOP 102nd 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. of) CW4 WALTER HAAIS
 FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
 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-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
 SU-12 CSM(Ret.) ARTHUR MAGGS (mem.)
 CSM (Ret.) JAMES E. KIERNAN
 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
 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-12 DOT & LTC (Ret.) KEN QUAAS
 FA-11 ART REINBOLD (mem. of) ED SUTTON
 SU-12 MSG (Ret.) ART & RUTH REINBOLD (mem. of)
 "POP" CHRISTOPHER
 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*
 WI-27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG A Troop, 3rd Platoon
 117th CAV WWII
 SP-13 FRG HHT 1-102nd CAVALRY

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The Liberators!



Briancon, France, near the Swiss border. Probably C Troop, 117th Cavalry, 1 September 1944. Picture courtesy of Honorary Association member Gilles Guignard, Genève, Switzerland 2011.



Phil Notestine, Editor, *The SPUR*
22 Yorke Road
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046
Email: notie@msn.com



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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: 3 June, 9 September, 11 November 2011**