



117th Cavalry Association

www.117th-cav.org

102d CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102d CAVALRY
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President's Message Summer's end is a time for all Jersey Cavalrymen to gather together; the Troopers of the 1st Squadron of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment, just back from Annual Training at Fort Pickett, Virginia, the members of our 117th Cavalry Association and all the members of New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor community.

Two events make September a special month this year. We will be meeting on Saturday, 21 September. Again our 117th Cavalry Association meeting will join together with a Stable Call for the Officers and Senior NCOs of the 1-102nd Cavalry. It all starts at 1800 hours in the Heritage Room of the Westfield Cavalry Armory after the drill of the 1-102nd Cavalry. This joint meeting will give all of us a chance to share important information common to both organizations (*Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance, Share our Story Grant, the Family Readiness Group's November 23rd Casino Night*, and unit history are a few of the topics on the agenda) but most importantly to meet, greet, socialize, share stories, and get to know each other. It's going to be a busy night, hope to see you all there!

The second and equally important event is the *Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance*. It will take place at the Grand Summit Hotel, Summit NJ on Friday night September 27, 2013. What can you do to insure that *Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance* is a success? Simple, come to it. Call friends, who you served with and encourage them to come. It will be a time to renew friendships and meet and socialize with the current members of the 1-102nd Cavalry. Once there, I am sure you will see many others with whom you have served. Events like this provides us all with the opportunity to remember those who have dedicated their service in defense of our nation, state and community and most importantly have a good time. Again, I hope to see you at the *Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance* on Friday September 27, 2013 at 6PM at the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit New Jersey. (See the enclosed flyer for details).

Seventy years ago this September 1943 the 102nd Cavalry had just spent their first year overseas and it now appeared it would be a long time before they would be returning home to the friends and families that they had left behind when they had been mobilized in January of 1941. The 102nd Cavalry Regimental Headquarters and its first squadron were now in England. They were heavily involved in training and preparation for what would become known as Operation Overlord, the invasion of Europe, while the 2nd Squadron had arrived in Algeria in January 1943. The squadron's headquarters was located south of Algiers in the town of Douera. They would spend the next 15 months there. In September 1943, they were now the primary combat security force for General Eisenhower's Allied Forces Headquarters in Algiers, the forward command post in Constantine, Tunisia and a strong security force with the advance command post at AFHQ in Sicily.

The *Share our Story* project continues. We are in the process of restoring a very large panoramic photo (60" x 12") of the 1st New Jersey Cavalry taken in 1915. We are also in the process of making a digital copy of it to share with our members. In addition, we are digitizing a copy of the map that traces the route of the 102nd Cavalry Group across Europe in World War II. Again, the digital copy will be made available to our members when the process has been completed.

We continue to share copies of both unit and individual histories with our members and all those doing research on New Jersey's Cavalry formations (www.117th-cav.com). Currently, we have been able to help MAJ Bill Nance, a Military History instructor at the United States Military Academy working on his doctoral thesis. The title of his thesis is "*Forgotten Glory - American Mechanized Cavalry Groups in the ETO.*" In it, he is arguing that corps cavalry played a substantial role in the overall success of the US Army in Europe. He has spent several hours in our Heritage Room doing individual research and we have lent him copies of personal histories written by COL Harold Samsel and BG Charles Hodge. We plan to invite him to speak to our membership about his research once he completes his doctoral thesis at a future meeting.

Our 117th Cavalry Association would like to offer a special thanks to CPT Jason Cornwall for his support as he leaves command of Troop C and congratulations to CPT John Cradock as he assumes his new command. More good news: Congratulations to MAJ Noel Lyn-Kew on his recent promotion to Major. MAJ Lyn-Kew currently serves as the Operations Officer for the 1-102nd Cavalry.

I would be remiss if I didn't offer a special thanks to all our members who have made contributions to help defray the cost of the publication of "*The SPUR.*" Please continue to show your support in your 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 its mailing. Thanks to all of you for your generosity in support of our associations many initiatives in support of our membership and the 1-102nd Cavalry.

Show 'em the Way!

COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty





Squadron Commander LTC Bill Morris I am writing you again on the eve of our departure for three weeks of training at Fort Pickett, VA. By the time we publish this installment of *The SPUR* we will have completed the longest and most arduous reconnaissance training in decades. We transitioned from contingency operations in Iraq (and for some of our individual Soldiers, Afghanistan) we have been able to dedicate ourselves to our core missions of Reconnaissance and Security.

The training at Fort Pickett will test our platoons, line troops, support company and headquarters at every level. Unit training will include screening, area and zone recon, convoy operations, distribution and maintenance missions that call on the support company's logistical expertise. A group of trainers and *Opposing Force* members from National Guard Bureau and First Army have already joined our advance party at Fort Pickett and are preparing vehicles and the area of operations for our arrival. The involvement of NGB and First Army illustrate the commitment leveled at the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

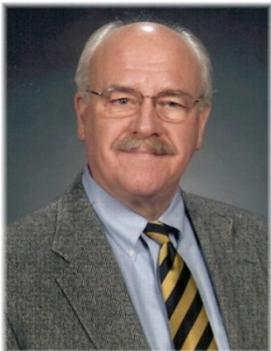
As we progress from platoon to troop/company, we'll prepare for a command post exercise that will stress the headquarters, our staff and our command team. Many of you know of or have experienced directly the stress of these exercises. We are going to be stretched and forged into something we have not yet become. I know that our Soldiers are equal to the task. I'm confident in our leaders, from the SGT to the CSM, from the 2LT to the MAJ...and even the LTC—we're dedicated and ready to display our character in the moment of truth. As is said, you cannot fake it in this business.

The honesty of soldiering reveals all flaws but it also illuminates and builds the character that we see in our Squadron.

Show 'em The Way!

LTC Bill Morris
Squadron Commander
1-102nd Cavalry





From the Editor Phil Notestine I am pleased to report that the English version of the 24-page article *The Battle of Montrevel/Malafretaz* by Frédéric Deprun, extracted from the French Magazine *39/45 Journal of the Second World War*, is now in my hands. It was our Associate Member Bruno Cavillon, a contributor to the article, who sent it to us in December 2012. Bruno, who lives in Ain, France is a member of *Mémoires de l'Ain 1939 – 1945*. He writes "When I was 20 years old, in 1994, I had the great fortune to meet with a number of 117th Cavalry veterans, Colonel Samsel and Thomas Piddington in Montrevel for the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Montrevel". Ain is about 7 miles from Montrevel. Due to the article length and many pictures, it will take several issues of *The SPUR* to serialize. Eventually, we will have both the original French and English translation posted on our web site. In addition, I will "snail mail" the English version to each of our living WWII 117th Cavalry veterans who do not use email.

In this issue, you will read about our new friend Evelyn Marie Roberta Ziltener Freeman, originally from Féricy, France, and LTC (Ret) Theodore Christopher Mataxis II, Ed.D who introduced us. Without Evelyn and Ted, we would not have an English version of the *Battle of Montrevel/Malafretaz*, with all of the surprising newly discovered information. I have included a bit about Ted's son CPT Ted Mataxis III and famous father, BG Theo Mataxis Sr. who passed away in 2006. All three Mataxis men enlisted in the reserves, all three became Master Parachutists.

I have a book recommendation for those who are interested in WWII and the use of horse cavalry. Written by Philipp *Freiherr* von Boeselager, a German "Rittmeister" – cavalry squadron or regiment commander – who served in the horse cavalry throughout the war, and was one of the *Valkyrie* plotters, the last one standing. The title is *Valkyrie The Story of the Plot to Kill Hitler, by it's Last Member*. He was born in 1917 and died 2008, 5 years after being decorated by France with the *Legion of Honor*. This is a great story, filled with action, especially in the Eastern Front against the Soviets.

Any comments and articles of interest? My postal address is 28 Oxtan Circle, Pinehurst, NC 28374-8880. Phone number 910-420-2968, email notie@msn.com

Minutes of the June meeting of the 117th Cavalry Association Our June meeting had a packed agenda. First event of the evening was a briefing by Squadron Commander LTC Bill Morris. He talked about the upcoming Annual Training Plan for AT-2013. The Annual Training period will be taking place this year at Ft Pickett Virginia. LTC Morris explained that the 50th Infantry Combat Brigade would be undergoing a very important external evaluation from the First United States Army and the 1-102nd Cavalry would be playing a key role in this process. Along with this external evaluation, the 1-102nd will also be validating many collective and individual skills that highlight recon training and gunnery skills.

The next item on the agenda for the evening was the recognition of members of the Family Readiness Groups for D Company 250th Brigade Support Battalion (D 250 is the direct support company for the 1-102nd Cavalry) and the FRG for HHT 1-102nd Cavalry. The following members of D 250 and HHT 1-102 Cavalry were recognized for their outstanding service and were recognized as *Honorary Members of the 117th Cavalry Regiment*. Tom Pickert, Mary O'Donnell, Chris Bradley, Michelle Chmura, Amy Lavatto, Anne Bergin, Carol Dannevig, Jeff O'Connor and Jen Silva. The next item on the agenda was the recognition of MAJ Andy Hague and CSM Tom Decker as *Distinguished Members of the 117th Cavalry Regiment*. I would like to congratulate them upon their selection. Distinguished Members of the Regiment provide a link with history for today's troopers. Their appointment as a *Distinguished Member of the Regiment* will help to perpetuate the history and traditions of the 117th Cavalry Regiment, thereby enhancing unit morale and esprit. The position of Distinguished Member of the 117th Cavalry Regiment is designed to recognize former members for their service to the 117th Cavalry Regiment. Their selection as a Distinguished Member has identified them as an individuals who represents all these qualities. There was also discussion led by former president of our association LTC (Ret.) Chris Sands on a study he is leading on the possible renaming of our Association to be reflective of the entire history of New Jersey's Armor and Cavalry Heritage. The last item on the agenda was the announcement of what has now become an annual event - the *Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance*. Former 1-102nd Commander COL Ed Chrystal initiated this new tradition and it has become a way to recognize and celebrate the proud traditions of all of New Jersey's Armor and Cavalry formations. This year's *Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance* will take place on Friday 27 September at the Grand Summit Hotel. This year's chairman for the event is the Troop B Commander CPT Ryan Harty. It is always a sold out event, so be sure you make your reservation and send in your money. Our next meeting will take place at 1800 in the Heritage Room on September 21st. It will be a joint meeting and Stable Call with the Officers and NCOs of the 1-102nd Cavalry. This is always a great meeting. Looking forward to seeing you then!



The French Legion of Honor (rank of Chevalier) was conferred upon LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab, USA (Ret) at the French Embassy in Washington, DC on 13 February 2013.

The medal - the highest honor of France - has been awarded to World War II veterans whose wartime service records show they played a direct role in the liberation of France. COL Jacques Aragonès, Deputy Military Attaché for the French Army, said at the ceremony, "We are proud to reward the ones that freed us. They left a part of their youth in France." Shehab's unit, the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) of the 102d Cavalry Group, was the first unit into Paris.



On 23 August 1944, the 102d Cavalry Group, composed of the 38th and 102d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz) was attached to the 4th Infantry Division and given the mission of protecting the advance of the Division to Paris by securing and protecting all intact bridges over the Seine River. By mid-afternoon that same day, all designated bridgeheads were swiftly and successfully secured. Without pausing, the unit then entered Belgium, proceeded through into easternmost Germany, at Monschau, where the mission was to hold and defend, while the Allies readied for a major thrust. On 16 December 1944, the Germans struck with a mighty force beginning the *Ardennes Offensive*, known as the "*Battle of the Bulge*". The 38th Cavalry and supportive units stood fast and rebuffed Germany's LXVII Corps. This highly successful effort earned her the *Presidential Unit Citation*. The 38th Cavalry continued to fight across central Germany under V Corps to capture Leipzig and pushed on to be the first of the Western forces to meet the Russians on the Elbe River at Torgau, Czechoslovakia.



Shehab was awarded the *Bronze Star Medal for Valor* demonstrated when serving with the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized) for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an armed enemy on 4 March 1945, near Hergarten, Germany when his platoon came under heavy enemy fire as they advanced to seize a certain strategic crossroads and high ground nearby. Then, after a ground reconnaissance under the enemy fire, he mounted an armored car and directed it across some 400 yards of open fire-swept terrain under enemy observation to a point where he destroyed a strong enemy position and led his platoon forward to seize and hold the objective.

When asked how he felt about receiving the French *Legion of Honor*, Shehab said, "I felt a sense of recognition. This medal represents the appreciation of France for the people of the United States in helping to liberate France."

Article by LTC Ruth Hamilton, USA (Ret) who witnessed the award ceremonies.





LTC (Ret) Theodore Christopher Mataxis II, Ed.D Pinehurst, North Carolina.

Always a soldier, son of a soldier and father of a soldier. My friend Ted is a man of many interests and accomplishments. A loving and devoted family man, Ted would rather help another than almost anything. His devotion to the US Army Rangers and Special Operations Forces continues even today. He is often invited to speak to graduating classes of Pathfinders and other Special Units at Fort Bragg. Ted stays close to the men he led in Vietnam. Periodically, he hosts a gathering of those able to travel, at his mountain retreat in the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Appalachians. His wife Kirby, a math professor at Sandhills Community College is always a good Army wife! She grew up in Southern Pines, NC where they married, raised kids and horses, until moving to the neighboring town of Pinehurst. After he had served for 24 years in Special Operations, he retired and earned a Masters and Ed.D. from Georgia St. Univ. He recently retired from the Moore County Schools System as a Principal. Ted Jr. grew up in Army bases around the world, attending schools from India, Germany and points in between, finishing high school in Bethesda, MD. While a senior, he enlisted in a Special Forces reserve unit. It was several years before he could focus on college, graduating from "junior" college and being commissioned, later entering Univ. of Georgia for a Bachelor's Degree in Education. During it all, he went through many military schools, jump school, Rangers, and more including Farsi and Spanish, required for Special Forces. When Vietnam got really hot, off he went as a platoon leader and Company Commander in the 101st Airborne and a Ranger company commander. From the record:

"On 4 May 71, a Ranger (Provisional) Detachment, known as Ranger Command Group 11 of G Company, commanded by CPT Theodore C. Mataxis, Jr., was activated and sent to Da Nang to provide direct support to the 196th Infantry Brigade, with continued operations of surveillance and reconnaissance, until the unit was reconsolidated, 7 August 71, as 2nd Platoon G Company (Ranger), 75th Infantry in support of the 196th Infantry Brigade until deactivation. By 10 August 71, 2nd Platoon completed 47 missions against enemy forces and was credited with the destruction of the Headquarters of the 675th NVA Rocket Battalion Base Camp. On 14 September 71, the unit was ordered to stand down under operation "Keystone Oriole Charlie" and in 10 days, the unit was at zero strength. The unit also lost 11 more Rangers bringing the Company total of KIA to 26." Pictured is BG Theo Mataxis Sr. pinning Captain's Bars on Ted Jr. These are the same bars Ted Sr. wore when promoted to Captain in 1942. This took place in Vietnam, HQ 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) where Ted Sr. was Asst. Div. Commander for Maneuver. Ted Jr. pinned these same bars on Ted III in 2009!



LTC Theodore C. Mataxis II was with JSOC, XO and DCO of 3rd and 7th Special Forces Groups. He is highly decorated, and wears Pathfinder, Ranger, Special Forces tabs, Combat Infantry, Master Parachutist, Jumpmaster, Freefall badges, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Bronze Star-Valor and many, many more medals of significance.

BG Theodore Christopher Mataxis Sr. (1917-2006) Son of Greek immigrants, Theodore joined the Army National Guard as a private when WWII broke out. He was made Captain in June 1942. From the record:



*"Major Ted Mataxis, 2nd BN, 276th Infantry 70th ID **Silver Star and Bronze Star**, GO 49 dated, 20 Jun 45. Citation for Silver Star reads: ...for gallantry in action on 10 January 1945, near Rothbach, France. When two companies had lost their commanding officers as a result of enemy action, Lieutenant Colonel (then major) Mataxis, then Battalion Executive Officer, went forward to coordinate these units in a night attack. He maneuvered one company into action, and aided the other by bringing effective fire upon enemy machine guns, which had halted the rifle platoons. Moving forward, he reorganized the front line troops, in complete darkness and under heavy artillery fire. While thus engaged, he captured two prisoners, and killed three enemy soldiers at an automatic weapons position. His aggressive leadership at a critical juncture was an inspiration to the officers and men of the battalion, and a major factor in accomplishment of his unit's mission. Entered military service from Seattle, Washington."* After plenty of interesting assignments, he served in Korea in the 17th Infantry Regiment (Buffalos) becoming CO in May 1953. (Then) **Colonel Mataxis is pictured with John Wayne in Vietnam.** His career is so storied and lengthy, I recommend that you do an internet search, and be prepared for some interesting reading!

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CPT Theodore Christopher Mataxis III Pictured here with his father LTC (Ret) Theodore C. Mataxis II, Ed.D who is pinning the "family" Captain's Bars, 20 September 2009 at Fort Bragg, NC. Currently CO of the 824th Quartermaster Company, (Heavy Airdrop Supply) 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) Army Reserves, Fort Bragg NC. CPT Mataxis served in Iraq 2005-2006 with the 10th Mountain Division Logistics Task Force 548. Ted III lives in Southern Pines, NC with family. He is a practicing psychologist.



The Liberation of Féricy, August 1944 My Remembrance - by Evelyn Marie Roberta Ziltener Freeman. Email: evandmir@nc.rr.com

I was born June 5, 1937 in Féricy, France about 45 miles from Paris and 20 miles from Fontainebleau, famous for its castle and forest. I lost my grandfather in World War I near Verdun, France. In 1964, I walked the battleground where the trench combat took place and found the marker where he was shot.

In late 1939 or early 1940, my father was drafted to go defend his country. He belonged to a reconnaissance-motorized unit (see Ed. note) which was made up of motorcycles with sidecars. His platoon was sent on a scouting mission and even though they had covered their vehicles with branches, they were surrounded and taken prisoner not too far from the Maginot Line. I cannot remember any of this time and my parents and a dear old friend who remembered so much told the above to me. My father seldom spoke about these events. He was gone until sometime in 1943. He was held on a farm on the outskirts of

Besançon. This prison camp was a work farm where they worked the land and the farm from daybreak to sundown when they would return to the prison camp to spend the night. My father said that they worked as slave labor and were nearly starved to death getting dark bread and water to sustain them, but he was not mistreated otherwise. In fact, I heard him say that at night, the German guards would sneak up to give them food putting their own lives in danger. So, some of them were compassionate and my dad was lucky in his misery. One weekend, he was given a weekend furlough to go home for the weekend. He was very sick and weak and decided not to go back. By a miracle, the Germans never came to look for him. He had been so starved that my mother could only feed him one tablespoon at a time and it had to be a liquid like soup or something very soft and light. My father never really recovered and died of stomach cancer in 1955 one year after I left home to come to America.

For some months before the combat started, I can remember the German soldiers marching up and down the street in front of my house and the clicking of their boots. German forces had moved into several houses nearby and two of their headquarters were set up in a big house next to our house and the other in the village castle. Sometimes, Germans would come in and demand to be fed.

Most of what I can remember revolves around the liberation in August of 1944. As sick as he was, my father still wanted to be of some use so he joined the rescue unit of the village. One night in early August 1944, he had to go to a meeting and decided to take the alley across from our house, which took him around the back part of the village through the fields. It was dusk when he returned, and I remember him saying that he was almost sure that he had seen people crawling in the fields. It was harvest time, the wheat had been harvested, bundled up and a few bundles were stacked up to form somewhat of a small hut with the grain part facing the top. We children used to love to play hide and seek in those wheat stacks. A few hours later, someone knocked at the door, and it was our beloved priest, with his robe in shreds, coming to tell us that the German attack was coming and that we had to spend the night in our cellar which had been transformed into a bomb shelter with food and necessities for a few weeks for our family of five and two other families who had no shelter. My mother had given birth to my brother late that February and she was still breast-feeding him. He told us that the Germans were going to attempt to cross the bridge over the Seine River and if the blowing up of the bridge failed, we would have to evacuate the next day because there would be raging combat and our village was going to be razed. So, we spent the night in the cellar. The next day, the priest came back and told us that the French Resistance had been successful in blowing up the bridge, but that we needed to get ready to spend the next few weeks in the cellar until the Americans came to liberate us. The mission had slowed the German advance and American Forces could now progress faster! I cannot recall how long we stayed in the cellar, but it was several weeks. This priest was French and fluent in English and German. He would travel on foot from camp to camp to exchange information at a great risk to his own life. He saved our lives and I would not be here if it had not been for him. He later quit the priesthood and married his housekeeper.

I can recall sub-machinegun fire behind our house. They were set up in our garden all over the place. I could hear the shells and bombs exploding and the ground would shake. One thing I remember well was this young soldier coming to our cellar and standing at the top of the steps looking at us holding a grenade over each shoulder. We were all scared to death knowing that if he launched the grenades, we would all die. Instead, he put down the grenades, his firearms, his bullet belt and put up his arms in surrender. He was probably about 18 years old and very tired and scared. He wanted us to hide him until the Americans came. Of course, we could not do that because if the Germans discovered him, he and all of us would die. So, the men decided to hide him in an old abandoned house next door, which had a cellar. At night, one of the men would crawl to the house and gave him what food and water we could spare. He hid there until the Americans came and he surrendered to them. To this day, I wish I could remember his name or by some chance, could have gone back to find him! One old man who lived across the street from us was old and deaf. Every night, he would cross the street and go to his house and cook us crêpes. They had a gas grill and so he kept us alive. He could not hear, so he really didn't care. It is a miracle he was not shot! I also remember being afraid of explosions and planes flying low. It still makes me uncomfortable to this day. I remember when the first American tanks came through and stopped in front of our house. It had been raining for days, and the tanks were covered with branches and mud and so were the GI's. We couldn't tell whether they were Germans or Americans, and we were scared! Finally, we found out that it was safe to

come out. The soldiers were covered with mud and hadn't shaved and all we could see were their eyes. I also remember the first black man I had ever seen. He played with me throwing rocks like marbles and he gave me gum.

I remember when the train Depots were blown up; one about 10 miles away in Hericy and the other about 10 miles away on the other side of our village in Melun. It burned all night and we could see the flames. A few days later, German prisoners were marching up our street with their hands in the air, and a woman soldier spit at me. I also remember wounded soldiers being brought down the alley across our house to the American Field Hospital set up in an old barn next door. Two men would form a seat with their arms and carried the wounded that way. I can't ever forget the sight of all the blood.

The last terrible explosion I remember, and that was several days after the Americans arrived, was when a tank was hit in the fields close to our house and exploded killing all of the men. Their bodies were blown up and body parts were everywhere. I can't forget that memory either. The sight was atrocious and sickening. It was so very sad. A monument was built in their memories at the entrance of the village where this took place. We went to see the sad site a few days later and picked up 37MM cannon and other types of shell casings as souvenirs.

The bridge the French Resistance blew up was later rebuilt and named the *General Patton Bridge* in memory of the brave men who helped save our lives.

This is what I can remember and some is still vivid in my memory. I want to thank all those brave Americans who laid their lives on the line or lost their lives for us so that we could live.



So now, the war was over and it took a long time to rebuild and for life to return to

somewhat normal. I finished school and in 1953, I began working with the PX office headquarters in Fontainebleau. I got this job because they needed employees who spoke English to answer the phones.

My husband was drafted out of high school in 1943 and he was shipped to the Philippines where he served for a long time. I don't know all the details. Before I met him, he was involved in a bad car accident and he almost died. His parents received a telegram to inform them that he was in a coma and not expected to recover.

I met my husband who was stationed with the Medical Supply Depot across the courtyard from the offices where I worked. He had been observing me for a while. We started dating in May of 1954 and we were married in October 1954. I was only 17 and he was 29. My parents had to sign for me because I was too young and they were very worried. We left for Germany in early November en route for the United States. *Monsieur and Madam Ziltener and daughter Evelyn*



So, we embarked on the *Captain Butner* to cross the ocean. It took over two weeks of rough seas on the tail end of a hurricane. I had my first Thanksgiving meal on the ship. He was first stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland. Then in March of 1955, he obtained a hardship transfer to Fort Bragg in order to take care of his father who was very sick. We moved to Eagle Springs to take care of his father who later got well.



In 1956, our first son was born and in March of 1957, he received orders to Korea where he served for almost two years. I remained behind to take care of his parents. He returned to Fort Bragg. A second child, a girl, was born in 1959 and another girl was born in 1962. Later that year, he received orders to Germany and again, I remained behind with his parents. His mother died in December of 1962, and he came home on a hardship transfer.

In 1964, he received orders to go to Verdun, France and this time the family went with him. A fourth child, a son was born in Verdun. We remained in Verdun until 1966, when he retired in March and we returned to the United States. In 1967, our fifth child was born, a little girl and she was the last. He remained at Womack Army Hospital working with his same job as a civilian until 1988 when he retired a second time. He died in May 2005.

I have never lived on Post and never got involved as a military wife. My husband didn't socialize well, I never attended any of the military events, and I never understood why! In 1969, I decided to go back to school and in 1974, I graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from University of North Carolina - Greensboro with a BA in French and English. In 1975, I received an assistantship from UNC-G and I taught two classes and worked on my Master's Degree for two years. In 1977, I received a phone call from the Principal at Pinecrest High School who offered me a teaching position in English with one class of French. I resigned and started teaching at Pinecrest. I continued working on my Master's and graduated in 1980 with a Master's Degree in French and English. I retired in 2012 with 36 years in teaching.

Ed. Note: Robert Ziltener was a Soldat 2nd Class in the 14th G. R. C. A. (Group Reconnaissance Corps), Army of France, a horse/mechanized cavalry unit. Read more: http://grca.free.fr/historique_grca/14_grca.htm

Editor's Note: This begins the serialization of a 29-page article, to be continued in future issues of The SPUR:

THE 11TH PANZER-DIVISION IN COMBAT
The Battle of Montrevel/Malafretaz
September 3, 1944 By: Frédéric Deprun

After the Battle of Méximieux/la Valbonne, the 11th Panzer-Division (Armored/tank Division) continues its retreat in combat order in direction northeast of France, September 2, 1944, between the Saône Valley and the Jura mountains. Bourg-en-Bresse constitutes a stage for the regrouping of the Division Units prior to progressing along the shores of the Doubs River where the next line of defense will be located. At the same time, on September 3, the 6th US Army Corps and General Truscott decided to send a reconnaissance group, the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz), in a futile mission to cut off, once more, the retreat route of the 19th Army. The objective



is established on a line Marboz-Montrevel-Macon north of Bourg. In spite of a heroic resistance, the small taskforce of the 117th Cavalry's Recon Troop B and part of Recon Troop A and F Company (tanks) will be defeated and captured in the village of Montrevel.

The 11th Panzer Division occupies Bourg-en-Bresse Some vanguard non-combatants from the 11th Panzer Division arrived in Bourg, northeast of Lyon, August 31. However, it is not until September 1, when the armored units kept in reserve following the Méximieux combat, cross the city. Then, three *Wespe* (wasp) self-propelled assault guns from the 1./119th Panzer Artillery Regiment are observed in transit by the residents, followed an hour later by five Panther tanks from the 15th Panzer Regiment and a Möbilwagen (moving van) coming from Pont d'Ain. The 11th Panzer Division Headquarters progressively establishes its quarters in the hotels throughout the middle of town, which is squared off and blocked at all its major axis. In the evening, three Panther tanks were camouflaged and concealed at the intersections with their cannons aimed in direction east and southeast from where could come the American threat. From 2100 to 2330 hours, a column is seen coming up from the direction of Chalamont-Méximieux, composed of a convoy of large trucks, men and supplies, tanks, three self-propelled assault guns, and ten half-tracks. These are the German forces that survived the Battle of Meximieux. An approximate account given by the residents indicates that 2000 men and 30 tanks henceforth occupy the town by evening.

It is on September 2, very early in the morning, that the light armored reconnaissance of the 2./11th Panzer-Aufklärer-Abteilung (Reconnaissance Battalion) crosses the town having completed their surveillance task of the roads of Dombes, north of Méximieux and of Pont de l'Ain. The pursuit and spoiling role of the resistance, which has remained in the region of Montauban since July, continues today to progress in direction of the first mountain pass ways east of Bourg. Toward 1130 hours, combats against the FFI (underground forces) take place at Revonnas and at the mountain pass of Sénissiat with maquisards (underground forces) of l'As de Brens and of Belley. American troops arrive in reinforcement forcing the German scouts to retreat to the center of Bourg. The town fills up with vehicles little by little throughout the day. A resident observes the Germans throughout the day: *"The city streets are full of German cars and trucks ready to depart, while American planes are flying over at low altitude through heavy fog. The Panzergrenadiers are calm; some are shining their boots, while others camouflage their vehicles with tree branches from the area."*

German columns cross the Lyon Bridge and the Plateau area. A resident witnesses the arrival of an isolated Panther tank from the 15th Panzer Regiment in the center of town of Bourg-en-Bresse: *"Coming from Basilique Street, a German tank, whose driver was searching for a quiet place to spend the night, ran through the school wall, crossed and plowed the courtyard to end up parking under the hanger. The next day, after the tank had left, I saw a gas mask forgotten in the courtyard, which horrified me. This scary mask was later stored in a closet for several months, still awakening apprehension when I see it to this day."*

The 11th Panzer Division holds a line southwest, which stretches from Marlieux, crosses south of Bourg to the village of Drom on the first slopes of the Jura Mountains. The US Army 45th Infantry Division henceforth continues to surround Bourg by holding the mountain passes and small villages east and south of the city such as Péronnas, while at the same time, the US Army 36th Infantry Division progresses up from the South. In spite of a surrounding threat from the north, the Commander of the *"Gespenster (ghost) Division"*, von Wietersheim, is not worried because he benefits from a multitude of retreat routes parallel to those of the German 19th Army in direction of Châlon, Drôle or Besançon. In spite of all, Bourg is transformed into an entrenched camp in the center of town and will be defended in case of attack. A network of anti-tank cannons and machine guns located on housetops, the 111th Panzer Grenadier Regiment and other armored vehicles still present in the perimeter will not make it easy to take over the city. Toward mid-day, the Germans will blow up the train station in Bourg; pieces of rails will rain on the gardens and houses in the area, piercing rooftops, but without injuries to the residents. During the night of September 2nd through the 3rd, the Germans complete the destruction of the large ammunition depot located in Réna, and the city must evacuate in an orderly manner during the morning hours.

To be continued...



Membership Update – SMG (Ret) Ken Mahan Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2013 or later, you are behind in your dues. Your Subscription to *THE SPUR* is going to run out, due to non-payment of dues. A sample of label:

SEPT 14

**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 and Associate dues \$15.00 are due in September.** Make checks Payable to **117th Cavalry Association.** **Boosters** help pay for SPUR mailings to WWII veterans and their widows, *not* for your dues! 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

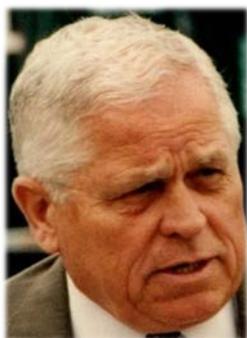
compiling an email list of members and we want to include you. **Association web site:** www.117th-cav.org/ Read past issues of *The SPUR*, look up the WWII histories of the 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). All WWII Veterans will no longer pay dues, you will see WWII over your name. **New Member’s:** Former Squadron Command SGT MAJ, CSM Thomas S. Decker; **From HHT** SGT Christopher Caamano, CPT Justin Hendricks, SFC David J. Jensen, CPT Noel Lynkew, SGT Korianno McNeal, 1LT Stephen J. Pruser, SSG Robin Ruiz, SFC Sam Weiss. **From A Troop** SSG Joshua Dickerson, SGT Joseph Schorno, 1LT Kevin Strawn, Cadet Titus Firmin. **From D Company** 1LT Denis O’Hynes.

Funeral for COL Kenneth C. Klein - CSM Henry Wetzel and wife Grace, SGM (Ret) Kenneth L. Mahan, attended Viewing and funeral.

TAPS



Dorothea Lillian Quaas (nee Lahr), formerly of Roselle and Rahway died peacefully at home in Plainfield, IL on June 9, 2013 at the age of 90. Dot was known by all for her kind, friendly and loving spirit. Dot served for many years in her Presbyterian Church in Rahway, N.J. as a greeter, deacon and Sunday school teacher. She was the beloved wife of LTC (Ret) Ken Quaas, for more than 59 years, loving mother to son Ken, beloved mother-in-law to Isabelle and devoted grandmother to Julianne, Matthew and John. She was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Martha Lahr and her brother, Charles Arthur Lahr. Dot was a good Army wife, supportive as husband Ken advanced in his military and civilian careers, and as he spent countless hours and days editing and publishing *The SPUR*, an almost 40 year voluntary “assignment”.



Samuel Lees Cunninghame, 82 passed away Thursday, July 18, 2013, at Sunnyside Nursing Home after a brave battle with Pulmonary Fibrosis. Born in Plainfield on Aug. 20, 1930, Samuel graduated from Plainfield High School, class of 1948, and attended Miami University. He joined the Marine Corps in 1951 and graduated from the NJSP Academy, class of 1955, the 48th class to graduate. Samuel served 18 years and took early retirement as Sergeant 1st Class. Samuel became President of L.J. Kennedy Trucking Co., Kearny for 15 years. He was the Executive Director and Past President of NJMTA for 15 years and until recently, Government Relations for the Association of Bi-State Harbor Carriers, Inc. of Port Newark. Samuel was a trustee and past president of the Former State Police Association and the 200 Club of Monmouth County. He worked on the Fairway Mews Committee, serving on the Board of Directors for 7 years. He was a member of the Spring Lake Golf Club, American Legion, State Trooper NCO Association, Friends of NJ Transportation Heritage Center, National Rotary Association, and Marine Corps Law Enforcement. Samuel was also the member of the Newark Traffic Club, Jersey Coast Traffic Club, 2nd Marine Division Association (Mid Atlantic Chapter), Navy League of U.S., Marine Corps League, VFW, Manasquan Elks Lodge #2534, Northwest University. Traffic Institute Association. As a teenager, he was a member of the *Junior Essex Troop*. He often attended the *Class of '41 Luncheon*, bringing members who needed transportation. Samuel was also a lobbyist for many years for the state of NJ. Sam lived life to the fullest - those who were part of his life through the years will be a part of his heart and he will be forever missed.





Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance
Friday 27 September 2013
The Grand Summit Hotel
50 Springfield Avenue, Summit NJ

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

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

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

Rooms are blocked under the 117th Cavalry Association.

Ticket Information

Dinner Choice for Each Guest

Field Grade Officers/E 9	\$75 per person	Chateau Briand	_____
Company Grade Officers/E 7 & 8:	\$70 per person	Sautéed Breast of Chicken	_____
E 6 and below:	\$60 per person		
Retirees and Civilians:	\$65 per person		

Reservations

Money and reservations **by 23 September 2013**, Make check payable to:

117th Cavalry Association and mail to: **Captain Ryan Harty**
211 Midway Ave
Fanwood, NJ 07023
...or PayPal at www.117th-cav.org

Name: _____ Guest: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____





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

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



SP-15 EMIL & MARGARET ALLGEIER
 SU-15 NANCY ASHFORD & JEANNIE BROWN (sisters)
 (mem. father) SSG WM. T. TITTER
 WWII B TROOP 117th CAV
 SU-25 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
 SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR)
 5-117th CAV
 FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
 SU-14 THOMAS BULLOCK
 FA- 24 JUDGE SANTI CARNEVALI, WWII 102nd & 117th CAVALRY
 FA-15 DON CARSON (mem. of) MSG GARY G. HADDICAN
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 FIGHTER SQUADRON, 368TH FIGHTER GROUP (Europe)
 FA-14 LTC (Ret) PETER D'ELIA
 SP-15 ROBERT A. DENNIN JR. - A FRIEND
 WI-13 SGM (Ret) JIM DOOLEY
 WI-13 COL (Ret) DENNIS DOUGHERTY
 WI-13 1SG (Ret) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop
 FA-13 LTC PATRICK du TERTRE (ARMY OF FRANCE)
 SP-14 1SG (Ret) DAVE ELLIS, D Troop
 WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
 WI-13 LTC (Ret) ALAN R. FISHER
 WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem. of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
 FA-14 CAROL & WILLIAM FISHER JR.
 WI-13 HENRY FORSTENHAUSLER
 WI- 42 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117TH CAV
 SP-14 BILL GRUSS (mem. of) SFC FRANCIS SKINNER
 WI-13 1SG (Ret) BOB GRZESZCZAK
 FA-14 LTC ANDREW HAGUE
 FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
 SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117th CAVALRY SGT Troop C
 SP-15 HERB HUBER, WWII 117th CAVALRY T5 Troop E
 (Assault Guns)
 WI-18 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*
 WI-16 ANNE MARIE & GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO
 FA-15 CHARLES JOHNSON WWII 117th Cavalry Recon
 SP-14 COL (Ret.) KEN KLEIN in loving mem. of wife JOANN
 WI-13 ANDREW LASNER in Honor of his Father, Arnold Lasner
 FA-13 JAY LASNER in Honor of his Dad, Arnold Lasner
 SP-15 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE
 WI-16 Dr. DANIEL W. "TREY" LEE III, (mem. of) CPT DANIEL W.
 LEE, **CMH**, WWII Troop A, 117TH CAVALRY RECON SQ.
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 117TH CAV, Montrevel POW French *Legion of Honor*
 SP-14 C. J. MacNICHOLS
 SU-16 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
 SU-14 KEN MAHAN for FRG SUPPORT TEAM
 WI-17 BRIAN & BRUCE (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
 SU-14 BRUCE MALONEY
 WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL MALONEY SR. and
 My brother TIM MALONEY
 WI-30 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
 SU-16 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father)
 T4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102nd CAV WWII
 SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE

SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK,
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 FA-14 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET
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 SGT JAMES H. O'BRIEN TROOP B (Montrevel POW)
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 SP-16 DR. FOTINOS PANAGAKOS & JUDITH
 SP-14 FRANK PATRICK
 FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of)
 RICK APBLETT
 SU-14 STEVE PETROSKY
 WI-13 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN & wife PATRICIA ANN
 WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
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 WI-13 MSG (Ret) ARTHUR L. REINBOLD Troop D
 WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
 SP-28 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN
 F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
 SU-15 DONALD SAMSEL (mem. of Father) COL (Ret.) HAROLD
 SAMSEL, *Class of '41*, 117th CAV WWII FR. *Legion of Honor*
 SP-15 SALCIDO FAMILY (in mem. of) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
 (Ft Jackson '42) 117TH CAV. F CO. KIA Italy June 1944
 SP-18 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of brother) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
 SP-17 JAMES SCANLON
 SU-14 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem) my husband WILLY
 SU-14 BILL & MARY SEDLAK
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 SU-14 ROBERT SMITH
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 WI-27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG - A Troop, 3rd Platoon
 117th CAV WWII
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 WI-13 SSG SHEILA ZELASKOWSKI
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ANNUAL FIELD TRAINING FORT PICKET VA. AUGUST 2013



1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment, 50th IBCT NJARNG

The SPUR
c/o SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan
12 W. Walnut St.
Metuchen, NJ 08840-2616



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President
LTC (Ret) Ken Quaas
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1ST New Jersey Cavalry



MISSION STATEMENT: It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the Spirit of the 117th Cavalry Association, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country. **NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS – Saturday 1800 Squadron Stable Call 21 September 2013; Regular Meetings - Fridays 1930 hours: 8 November 2013, 7 February 2014, 11 April 2014, 6 June 2014**