



117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association

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

102d CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117<sup>th</sup> CAV (Mecz) 50<sup>th</sup> CAV RCN SQDN 50<sup>th</sup> RCN 5<sup>th</sup> RCN 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV 1-102d CAVALRY  
Volume 34, Number 1 139<sup>th</sup> Issue (post WWII) Special Edition 2013



**President's Message January 2013** Hurricane Sandy arrived here in New Jersey the night of October 29, 2012. The Troopers of the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry had just completed their October Drill weekend and to quote CPT Ryan Harty, Troop B Commander the troopers of the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry were about to start their longest drill. Called to active duty by Governor Chris Christie, members of the New Jersey National Guard, both Army and Air National Guardsmen were ordered to state duty to prepare for the arrival of Hurricane Sandy. They were to provide emergency aid, rescue, relief and shelter to the citizens of our state.

This Special Issue of The SPUR is an issue like no other. It tells the story of Hurricane Sandy through the words and pictures of the troopers of the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry to the citizens of our state. Before they were through, they would have been deployed through Monmouth and Ocean Counties from the cities along the Raritan Bay to the Barrier Island Shore communities along New Jersey's Atlantic coastline, from Union Beach to Sea Bright and beyond. They lived the

National Guards motto - "Always Ready Always There!"

In February of 2012, our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association received a very generous grant from the Westfield Foundation. With it we have created a Tell the Story Initiative to help tell the story of New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor community and in particular those members of New Jersey's Army National Guard who have served in the Westfield Armory and their subordinate units. This grant has been a catalyst to our organization to renew our efforts to preserve our history for those who have served and those who continue to serve in today's 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry and the units who share its collective heritage, lineage and honors. In particular, I would like to thank the following members for their contributions for making this happen: CSM (Ret) Henry Wetzels, CSM (Ret) Art Maggs, SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan and SSG (Ret) Don Emery. It would not have been possible without the many hours they have devoted to this project a reality.

Phase Two of our *Share Our Story* initiative has just been completed with the hanging of the Commanders Poster from the deployments of Troop C 5-117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry's deployments during Operation Iraqi Freedom and the historical lithographs taken from the 1942 yearbook of 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry (H-Mecz) Regiment. If you have not been to our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association Heritage Room lately, it is worth the trip to see the new additions that have been made possible by our Share our Story Initiative.

Of historical note, it has been 70 years since the 2-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry set off from Shrivingsham Barracks to Shippside on the Clyde just outside of Glasgow, Scotland. They boarded the HMS Straithard on Christmas Eve December 24, 1942 and sailed through the Irish Sea into the open Atlantic and across the Bay of Biscay. Just outside the Strait of Gibraltar, German U-Boats and dive-bombers attacked their convoy. Three ships were sunk. After passing into the Mediterranean Sea, they sailed on without incident arriving at the port of Algiers early on the morning of January 3, 1943. With the departure of its 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron and the addition of the 38<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, the 102<sup>nd</sup> Regiment was re-designated as the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Group. The 2-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry would also be re-designated as the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) and become the primary security force for General Eisenhower's Allied Forces Headquarters while the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Group continued to train for what became known as *Operation Overlord*, D-Day the invasion of Europe. Both units would serve with distinction throughout WWII and return home to NJ at the end of the war. Today, the heritage, lineage, honors and traditions of all New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor formations lives on in the Troopers of the 1-102nd Cavalry headquartered in Westfield, NJ.

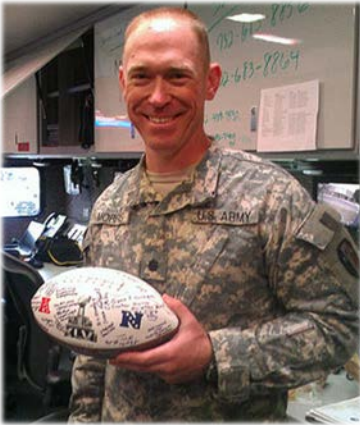
Again, I would like to thank all our members who have contributed to help defray the cost of the publication of "The SPUR." Please continue to show your support in your sponsorship of our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association newsletter "The SPUR." Many of you have made and continue to make donations 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 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry.

Show 'em the Way!

*Dennis*

COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty





**Squadron Commander's Message** At the close of every year we find a natural pause and reflection on the time that has so rapidly passed us by. As well, new beginnings mean possibilities. We remember the lessons we have learned, the accomplishments of past year with bright hope for what is in front of us.

One of the things that I always try to have throughout the organization is an appreciation for the challenges at every level. I want to appreciate the challenges the staff has, commanders have—that section members have all the way down to the individual scout, mortarman, mechanic, driver or administrator. As well, I want them to have the same for their superiors. Being in charge and guiding a section, platoon, troop or squadron is a constant struggle to make good decisions, weigh options and acknowledge trade-offs since we cannot always have our cake and eat it too.

As we look back at 2012, I see that—I see that appreciation and that struggle to refine plans, to make good decisions—to accomplish the mission without unnecessary risk or toil. In the last quarter, we have had the greatest example of professionalism, dedication and capability I have ever seen. The response to Hurricane Sandy started like every operation—with friction, forgotten details and uncertainty. You should each stop, pause, and be proud - because our Cavalry does not stop, relent or give way. Each of you in your own station turned questions into answers, found out what was next—explored the relationships with citizens, law enforcement and emergency managers and were professional in the face of adversity and uncertainty. Folks across the spectrum, from local to national authority and citizenry were amazed at the work you did.

I remind people that we are volunteers—but that we are paid for what we do. We are professionals and we answer when called. When the mission is over, we are gone in a flash. However, whom we are when we are there, that gains people's attention. The squadron ran missions at shelters in Rutgers and Monmouth Park. We volunteered off-duty with the Salvation Army and Red Cross, comforted the weary and brought hope to those that had none. We performed security and humanitarian assistance missions in Union Beach, Atlantic Highlands, Sandy Hook, Seabright, Rumson, Long Branch, Brielle, Avon, Ortley Beach and Belmar—this is just off the top of my head. I witnessed and was told that our presence immediately quelled uncertainty and fear. We headquartered in Hazlet's Holy Family School, the Monmouth Fire Academy, Silverton's First Aid Squad and Long Branch's Elementary School as well as a very robust squadron HQ in Westfield.

In every single case our troopers rose to the occasion. There were some adverse conditions, tempers among those we served and normal friction within organizations. None of this impacted our ability to perform. Truly, words cannot express the colossal nature of prepping equipment, moving it, establishing operations in austere conditions and facing the normal day to challenges of evolving missions, boredom or the emerging local crisis. I wish I could speak to all of you individually about the work you did—and about the work your peers did miles across the state so that you could fully appreciate the firm foundation across our units all the way down to the individual buddy-team level.

Be proud. Focus on what is ahead; release yourself from burdens of the past while remembering lessons and accomplishments. We have a long road ahead to a deployment that is still a long way off and fraught with unknowns. XCTC (eXportable Combat Training Capability) at Fort AP Hill and Fort Pickett is the mid-range goal with short-range plans focused on retaining platoon maneuver proficiency and gunnery. I have no doubt that we will surmount those obstacles as we have those in the past, deliberately and with absolute determination.

*"Show 'em the Way!"*

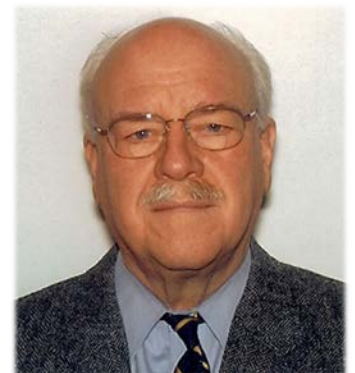
LTC Bill Morris, SCO  
1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, 50<sup>th</sup> ICBT  
NJARNG



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**From the Editor – Phil Notestine** This *"Special Edition"* is dedicated to the people and communities of New Jersey who were severely affected by *"Superstorm Sandy"* and the thousands of Army and Air Guardsmen, Federal Military, FEMA, State and Local Police, Firefighters, our wonderful FRG ladies and all emergency responders who so willingly came and stayed to help. The related articles and pictures just "scratch the surface". The economic and emotional pain and suffering, which will be lasting for thousands of good people, cannot be described.

Reflecting back to September 1944, one of our friends in southern France, Bruno Cavillon sent a 24-page article from a French Magazine on WWII History about the *Battle of Montrevel - Malafretaz 3 September 1944* by Frederic Deprun.



This article is a great treasure for us and our WWII 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Recon Squadron veterans, for it includes information and perspectives and pictures of both German and American adversaries and the French civilians. The Germans were reconnaissance, grenadier, panzer, pioneer and other elements of the 11<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division "Ghost", a renowned veteran combat outfit that saw much service in the eastern front against the Russians.

This excellent article is in French. I intend to have it translated into English, and maybe even German for posting on our web site [www.117th-cav.org](http://www.117th-cav.org) We do have permission; some of the pictures and information were taken from *The SPUR* articles and our *WWII Unit Histories*.



An excerpt from the article: *"Insigne de la Gespensterbrigade Angern créé en 1941 à l'origine de l'emblème de la 11. Panzer-Division. Les vétérans et cadres du Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 111 sont pour certains issus de la Schützen-Brigade 11 et du Schützen-Regiment 111. Le Kommandeur Günther Angern a eu un destin héroïque sur le front de l'Est et il a certainement été un exemple pour forger la légende de la 11. Panzer-Division. (Coll C.A.)"*

We are very grateful for this very rich and informative article! Just as we are for our several friends from France and Switzerland who have sent many pictures, web links and other bits of information about *Operation Dragoon* and our own 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz), the "tip of the spear" for *Task Force Butler* and more.

An article by LTC (Ret) Tom O'Brien USAF, son of SGT Jim O'Brien (deceased), an original WWII B Trooper of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry who became a POW at Montrevel is included in this issue. As you will read, Tom writes about his October 2012 trip to France and his visit in Montrevel.

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**Regular November 2012 Meeting of the Association** Cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy

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**Class of '41 Luncheon January 2013** Cancelled due to illness of several members.

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**Member of the Year 2012 CSM (Ret) Henry Wetzel (big guy on left)** The 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association's Member of the Year is awarded to individuals who go above and beyond in their service to our organization. This year's selection is CSM (Ret) Henry Wetzel He served his state and nation with distinction retiring as the Command Sergeant Major of the 5<sup>th</sup> Squadron 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment in 2000. Upon his retirement from the New Jersey Army National Guard, he volunteered to become part of our leadership team for our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association. He has been a long-term member of our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association and currently serves our organization as our Sergeant at Arms.

He has also taken the lead in the implementation of our associations Share our Story Initiative. CSM (Ret) Wetzel's skills have come to the forefront in the design, and execution of the new pictorial history of ten large posters that help to tell the story of C-Troop 5-117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry's service in Operation Iraqi Freedom of that now hangs along the corridor leading to the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association's Heritage Room. He has also played a significant part in the organization and implementation of expanding membership volunteerism in our association. Under his leadership he has identified a cadre of members to design, organize, construct and hang a series of lithograph, pictures and flags that help tell the story of New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor formations to the new generations of Cavalrymen who now serve in the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry.

CSM (Ret) Henry Wetzel has gone above and beyond in his dedication and service to all our members and is a valued member our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association's leadership team. It is because of his quiet professionalism and selfless service to our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association, that he has been named our Member of the Year for 2012.

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**On the occasion of the Commemoration Ceremony of November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Insignias of the Legion of Honor have been bestowed upon 19 American veterans of the Second World War by the Consul General of France, Mr Bertrand Lortholary, and by Mr Guy Wildenstein, the President of the American Society of the Legion of Honor.** They were accompanied by the President of the Federation of French War Veterans, Alain Dupuis, and the Head of School of the Lycée Français de New York, Sean Lynch.



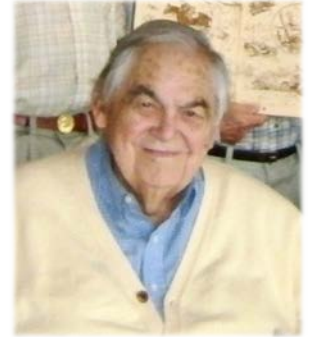
*"Gentlemen, Today we honor the French-American friendship, a friendship you have been incarnating ever since you fought for France's liberation in 1944, a long-lasting friendship more than 200 years old, which has demonstrated its deep solidarity during the most crucial moments of our history: from La Fayette's intervention in Washington's favor in 1777, to the United-States' engagement in both World Wars on France's side. Two million American*

soldiers fought in France during a war, which, unfortunately, was not the “*der des ders*”, the “*last of the last*”. Like your predecessors, you too have learned the true meaning of fear, of death, and also of great courage. You were indeed rather young when you left 68 years ago to fight alongside the Allies. You left for a cause and for values our countries have always shared in common: Democracy, State of Law, and Liberty. 800,000 of you participated in liberating France. In Normandy, Provence and the Ardennes you became the heroes of the entire French people. It is thanks to all of you veterans that France is free and independent, and that Europe is today reconciled in a long sustainable peace. In this context, and only a few months away from a different commemoration, that of the 50th anniversary of the French-German cooperation treaty, I would like to also mention the solid friendship that unites our two people ever since.

Gentlemen, The French nation wishes to solemnly pay you a tribute for liberating our country. I hereby join the youngest generations— who, I hope, would not have to endure as much suffering, – in order to show you our wholehearted gratitude, and say to you that we will never forget your courage.

Gentlemen, You were chosen by the President of France, Mr. François Hollande, to receive the insignia of Chevalier in the Order of the French Legion of Honor. Our country wished to honor you for your eminent merits rendered to the French Nation, by bestowing upon you its highest decoration”

**George Coburn, “Class of ‘41” member** was the most recent of our WWII combat veterans who have been honored and decorated by the People of France. George joined the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment in 1940 and was called up January 1941. He chose to transfer to the USAAF and was commissioned a 2LT, serving in 395<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 368<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group. His unit went into combat immediately in support of the Invasion of Normandy. Armament Officer 1LT Coburn and his men kept their P-47s loaded with bombs, .50 ammo and fuel as they did multiple daily sorties, moving from base to base, supporting the advancing Allies. The German forces feared the Allied fighter-bombers more than anything. The destruction they wrought upon the enemy was awesome and terrifying. Ground attack was a very dangerous mission; many fine young pilots were lost or wounded, even though the P-47 “*Thunderbolt*” was very tough and hard to bring down.



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**Montrevel, France by Tom O'Brien, Lt Col USAF (Ret)** In early October my wife Goldee and I visited France with three other couples. The guys went to college together and we have been close friends for over 40 years. Our trip included three days in Normandy and a week on a barge trip through Burgundy. After our barge adventure, which I highly recommend, we spent the weekend in Paris. Our visit to the site of the Normandy invasion was an experience that I don't think one will ever forget. Standing on the shoreline of Omaha Beach and thinking about the brave men that assaulted what appeared to be almost impregnable German fortifications on June 6, 1944 sent a chill down my spine. Their courage is beyond my ability to describe. We also walked the American Cemetery, which was a very emotional experience. As we walked among the graves, my wife and I broke into tears. We happened to be there in the late afternoon when the flag was being lowered. During the ceremony, I saluted the flag, and after it was lowered, the head of the detail walked over to me and asked if I would help fold the flag. What an honor. It was a moment I will cherish for the rest of my life.

After our week of fun and frivolity on the barge and in Paris, we said farewell to our friends and took the train to Geneva where we were met by Gilles Guignard and his mother, who would take us to Montrevel the next day. After an afternoon seeing the highlights of Geneva, we had dinner with Gilles and his parents at their home in Tannay, which is a quaint village on the shore of Lake Geneva. What a beautiful part of the world! The Grignard's hospitality was wonderful. The following morning, Gilles, his mother Susie, Goldee and I headed to Montrevel. The drive from the Lake Geneva area took about an hour and a half. Again, the countryside is beautiful. Gilles, as our tour guide, pointed out some interesting sites along the way. (Pictured below are *Guillaume Michon, LTC Tom O'Brien, Bruno Cavillon and Gilles Guignard*)

When we arrived in Montrevel, we were met by Gilles' friend Bruno Cavillon, and a colleague, Guillaume Michon. These men are passionate WWII history enthusiasts and have a long relationship with the Village of Montrevel. Gilles, Bruno, and Guillaume described the battle as we retraced the steps of the 117<sup>th</sup> on September 3, 1944. There is still evidence of the fighting. Many buildings are pockmarked with bullet and cannon shell scars from the fighting that day. It was surreal to stand where my father, B Troop Sergeant Jim O'Brien and his “Band of Brothers” gallantly fought the enemy. It was kind of an Alamo scenario when you consider about 6,000 Germans, tanks and self-propelled cannon taking on a couple of hundred lightly armed Americans. Gilles and Bruno also had a little surprise planned. At lunchtime we were introduced to the Mayor of Montrevel, Jean-Pierre Roche, who treated us to lunch and hosted a tour of municipal/school house building where the battle finally ended. Virtually surrounded and with many wounded and dead, ammo exhausted, the brave men of Troops A and B, received permission to surrender to the German forces. The Germans accepted, saying that they had never experienced such a fierce battle from such a small force. The 11<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division “*Ghost*” had fought for many months on the Eastern Front against the Soviets.



My father, along with Frank Mitchell, Ed Leonard, Bill Withers and others ended up in Stalag III C, near Drezwice, Poland. Over the years I don't remember my father saying a lot about Montrevel, life as a POW, other than it was a tough fight, and life as a prisoner was rough. He did talk about a German prison guard they called Pops. Apparently, Pops was a schoolteacher. I think he had a son in the German army who was about the same age as my father. I believe Pops saw a lot of his son in the Americans. He treated them with an unexpected kindness and respect. When the Germans abandoned Stalag III C, my father gave Pops his address and they corresponded for years after the war. When he learned of Pop's death many years later he was very moved because I think it kindled a lot of old memories. To me it's a great human-interest story.

In reflecting on my visit to Normandy and Montrevel, I'm awed by the courage of the men who are our fathers, our uncles, and our friends. We can never forget their sacrifice for us, and I hope to return in 2014 for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Montrevel.

My wife and I also want to, again, offer a special thanks to Gilles, his mother and father, and Bruno for hosting us on this memorable adventure.

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Our Association member and friend Guy JULIEN from Montpellier, France has been a contributor of pictures and information about the WWII 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) and *Task Force Butler* for some years now. His latest bit of work is a short *YouTube* video, using pictures taken by French citizens documenting the advance and liberation of Rhone Valley villages and towns. Please take a look and share it: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=is5PbUVm2Go>

Speaking for our Association, our WWII veterans and their families, we are very grateful for the friendship, support and continuous efforts by our many friends in France and Switzerland to remember and honor those who fought, bled, died and survived Operation Dragoon and the fight into and beyond Germany to win the war and liberate Europe from the NAZI grasp and enslavement. This includes the Free French forces and the French Resistance (FFI), who fought so valiantly as integral forces to take back their homeland and pride.

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**The Barrel** by Shepherd A. Casden It's the early 1960s, we've moved from our crowded apartment in the city to our new home in the suburbs. I'm in my early teens. Dad has built a loft in the garage for extra storage. The moving barrels filled with mothballs and assorted "stuff" is up there. This barrel isn't empty. What's this? Who's this? Camera equipment, a pipe, skating medals, photographs, and *spurs*. That was your Uncle Shep's. He was killed in the war. You're named after him. Oh! He couldn't have had a normal name? Thanks. I'll probably change it when I get older. Pain. I'm 13 or 14. I suffer the name and survive adolescence. World War II morphs in my mind from TV shows and movies to historical, political, economic and philosophical concepts. Yet there is fascination. Amazement. How could it have been? What was it really like?

Jump a half century. I'm retired, browsing the internet. I type in my name. My name? It never felt like my name. It was his name. Now the journey begins. *There is his grave!* His name, Shepherd Casden; date of death, April 11, 1945 and ... 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Group. Who were they? What did they do? Was he a new replacement late in the war? He was the youngest of four. Where did he go?

What did he see? *He almost made it.* He was 26 years old! He never came home. He was loved. Pain. My father's first gift to his first son.

As I learned more of my uncle's role with the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Group, I was infused with something I cannot describe. More than pride, a sense of fulfillment. Honoring his life with this one well spent. It seems there was always something there. Thanks to the internet, its antecedent, the 1-102 Cavalry Regiment and their kind, and Phil Notestine, I can stop and pause for a moment in gratitude and peace. My Uncle's journey from the Bronx to Normandy and through Europe has given me something that I can not yet name.

Yet, in this season, what comes to mind is the necessity to be vigilant, learn and understand peace.

*Editor's note: PVT Shepherd Casden 32087173 enlisted in 21 April 1941, joining the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment. An educated man, he was in Regimental Headquarters and rose to TECH 4, 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Group HQ. He was accidentally killed just a month before VE Day.*



**Comanche Troop - Super Storm Sandy 2012** Comanche Troop received its orders for State Active duty on the afternoon of Sunday 28 NOV. 2012 after the completion of a drill weekend. With the ability to adapt and overcome the obstacles of mission accomplishment the NCO's ensured the soldiers were properly outfitted for the mission at hand. The Troop Commander received mission orders at approximately 2100hrs to move to Rutgers College to assist with securing the Sonny Werblin Recreation Center and the Livingston Recreation Center. Initially we were tasked to provide security, however upon arrived we discovered Comanche Troop would manage the entire facility. After the occupants were moved farther south and the Rutgers facilities were returned to the College, Comanche Troop prepared for our follow on mission. Pictured - CPT Cornwell and 1SG Klock with Pat Christie and children



We arrived at the Long Branch middle school and conducted a RIP/TOA with D Co. Our mission was very complex giving many municipalities were severely affected by Super Storm Sandy. C Troop manned check points in Pier Village in Long Branch up to Monmouth Beach and Sea Bright. Despite the brutal temperatures and freezing rain, C Troop allowed local law enforcement the freedom of maneuver to enforce local laws and further deter looting.

During the Nor'easter, C Troop was tasked to assist local law enforcement and firefighters with responding to emergency situations. 2LT Terrill and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon conducted this mission flawlessly. After evaluation by the county OEM and military leaders, it was determined only a small contingent was needed from C Troop.

CPT Jason Cornwell, CO  
C Troop, 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry

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**Into the Storm: Task Force Blackfoot and Operation Sandy** We joke that Operation Sandy was the longest drill weekend in recent history. B Troop along with the rest of the squadron conducted their October drill weekend from the 26-28<sup>th</sup> at Fort Dix in what is a staple of the training year: Individual Weapons qualification. Rumors of hurricane brewing were floating around but the severity of the storm was yet to be determined. As we were wrapping up range operations on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> the path of the storm along with its increasing power were now in full focus. We listened intently as the Governor and Adjutant General spoke on the radio and prepared New Jersey for the worst. Hurricane Sandy was due to make a direct hit along the coast of New Jersey. It wasn't until we were back at the West Orange Armory that we were informed by the Squadron Commander that

we were placed on State Active Duty in preparation for hurricane response efforts. *B Troop, Delta CO, HHT along with Sheriff's Officer Orgen and Prosecutor's Officer Jeff Wilbert with the Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano.*

As the storm hit over the course of Monday into Tuesday morning we made all necessary preparations to vehicle staging, load plans, maintenance and personal preparation. We waited anxiously for a mission and in the meantime conducted a reconnaissance of the routes in and around the West Orange Armory to stretch our legs and prepare to conduct movement to as of yet unknown objective. After a few alerts that never came to fruition, B Troop was tasked with linking up with elements of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop along with Delta Company at the Cheesequake Rest Area at the Garden State Parkway. The Troop moved out in three chinks heading towards our link-up point at approximately 1700. As with all emergencies, the situation was developing rapidly. At the Cheesequake rest area the Troop linked up with elements of HHT and D CO bringing our numbers up to 120 Soldiers and 50 Vehicles. We were informed that we were to link up with the Monmouth County Prosecutor and Sherriff's officers at a Catholic school in Union Beach and to develop the situation.

As we made our way into Union beach, the power outages and devastation made for an eerie scene. The only lights to be seen were those from police and first responders. We moved quickly into the Holy Family Catholic School and established our base of Operations. We made contact with the lead Monmouth County Prosecutor Officer, Detective Jeff Wilbert and Sherriff's Officer SGT Brian Orgen and plotted out the strategy for securing the devastated areas along the Monmouth County shoreline. The initial assessment was grim. Union Beach was hit the hardest with houses either no longer present or destroyed. There was still a count of local civilians that were reported as missing.

Throughout the night elements of TF Blackfoot moved out to secure bridge points and access ways to the devastated areas. Our footprint consisted of security of Union Beach, the Sandy Hook Bridge, the Atlantic Highlands Marina, The Rumson Bridge, and Long Branch. We eventually assisted with a food/ice/water distribution site at the Holy Family church that serviced displaced local residents. During our two weeks on duty our Soldiers manned security check-points, assisted with search and rescue operations, assisted the Salvation Army, worked the Food/Ice/Water distribution center and countless other missions.

As the full extent of the damage in our area of responsibility became apparent, it proved to be a heartbreaking scene. Soldiers are prepared to see destruction and devastation in faraway lands but not in their own state. Local residents were without even the basic necessities such as heat, water, and food. As Soldiers always do, they ran towards the chaos- not away- in order to provide comfort and a sense of security to those whose lives were terribly altered in the wake of the storm.

The operation in Monmouth County concluded on November 10<sup>th</sup>. As our convoy moved out back towards home, the local police, fire departments, first responders, state police, Prosecutors Office and Sherriff officers came out to escort us to the Parkway. Along the streets local residents poured out from churches and house to give us a heartfelt thanks and farewell. It was truly a moving scene and an honor to contribute to the recovery of our home state in its time of desperate need. The 1-102d Cavalry came to the rescue of its home state and did so with honor, dedication and sense of commitment that forms the core of our values. As always, the Citizen Soldier stands ready to respond to both the state and the nation whenever she calls.

CPT Ryan M. Harty, CO  
B Troop, 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry NJARNG

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**Superstorm Journal 2012** Westfield, NJ-Drill weekend, 26-28 October 2012, as Hurricane Sandy was developing into the largest weather system to impact Coastal New Jersey in over a generation, I was informed on Saturday by my Squadron Commander Lieutenant Colonel William F. Morris, call sign Saber 6, that we would be retained on orders and immediately transition to State Active Duty. The Superstorm Mobilization had begun. Capitalizing on lessons learned only thirteen months earlier during Hurricane Irene, the entire State and Federal emergency response infrastructure deployed and We The Troopers of HHT, 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry were right in the middle of the action. Cavalrymen faithful and true from HHT as well as Troops; "A" in Dover, "B" in West Orange, "C" in Hackettstown and "D" Company, 250<sup>th</sup> BSB in Westfield, manned prepositioned command centers, shelters, caches and consolidated relief items and planned convoy routes and rosters as the storm bore down. Across the State, in the Armories of the Squadron, Troopers fuelled generators, filled water trailers, inspected high-wheeled trucks and drilled in emergency response techniques in preparation for the approaching onslaught. Determinedly preparing for the worst, whilst hoping for the best, every man was resolved to do his duty and drew increased devotion from his personal proximity to the crisis.

A quiet tension covered the entire formation Sunday night as I briefed our mission. As they stood ready to aid and relieve every fellow citizen who needed their help, in the backs of the Soldiers' minds would be the security of their own families in the communities they were leaving behind, a situation exacerbated by the composition of my force including volunteer and professional firemen, policemen, EMT's, ambulance drivers and paramedics. Their personal preparations were brief and had to be secondary to the needs of the greater good. Their self-sacrifice and patriotic zeal in this term of Civil-Military Operations is a prime example of the good citizenship of Guardsmen that makes this great country of ours work. Every Trooper knew Saturday night when he was sent home that he might not see his family again for the duration of the Emergency. This was exactly what we train for and every man would, as it turned out, meet the challenges with full vigor and do his duty with intrepidity and enterprise.

As the storm impacted and delivered a knockout blow to The Jersey Shore, one which would recast the landscape and alter the State for years to come, walls of water came pushing ashore shattering flood records by nearly ten feet in places as they punched their way up the backwaters and riverheads. The Westfield Armory was not spared the ravages of this storm's devastation as the dark night of the storm witnessed the upper, East-facing bay window in our tower entirely blown in and damage to sun lights and other windows as well as extensive tree fall. Thankfully, no one was injured as personnel were, due to the exigency of the mission, quartered on site at the time of the storm. At dawn, Troopers took the initiative and hastily reconnoitered the Westfield neighborhoods surrounding the Armory while helping clear trees and limbs and mark hazards. Hatchet Troopers spirits were lifted and they greatly impressed the community by breaking out axes and saws, trucks and forklifts to make the roads passable for our relief convoys, emergency missions and the utility crews that would eventually be advancing from across the country to reconnect houses to the 20<sup>th</sup> century wonders of electrical utility lines with their indispensable amenity, a fountainhead of blessing delivered from New Jersey to Our Earth through the personage of Mr. Edison, for which the citizen's hearts grew collectively fonder in absences lasting up to weeks.

By the afternoon after the storm, Convoys were moving forward to positions of relief and security missions along the ravaged barrier islands and devastated coastal plains all of which have been inundated. Hard hit areas of Monmouth and Ocean Counties would be the deployment sites, which would see the direct action of Troopers aiding their fellow New Jerseyans with the charity of sincerity that only comes from the colossal hearts of local volunteers. Each community the Troopers entered became their own for the interval of their stay and they were in turn adopted as faithful sons of the same. Their mission was often accomplished simply in being there but always in being ready to take any action required by circumstance to ensure absolute security and expediency of rebuilding, reconnecting, recovering and reviving the inundated towns. This victory was achieved through a spirit of survivorhood over victimhood and the assurance that when we work together there is really nothing we cannot accomplish. On more than one occasion, I had the privilege of

decorating medics for individual acts of selfless service and commendable achievements under duress. These outstanding deeds done included regular on the spot linguistic capabilities to support first responders and police, medical diagnoses above and beyond their scope of duties as well as over-the-counter dispensary operations, medical treatments, evacuation for further care and on site first aid of emergencies including strains, cardiac events and wounds. Troopers of every Military Occupational Specialty were essentially expected to be scouts first, dedicated to sector observation, sketching, patrolling, assessing, refining and more. The Troop's primary contribution to the return to some type of normalcy was security, through observation and reporting. This required liaising with local law enforcement and our Troopers were expert at it. They quickly developed sensitivities to the needs and priorities of their respective areas.

Based upon first person reports, personal photography, digital sharing and social network site updates by Troopers on the ground and open source intelligence gathering, Mrs. Danielle Bracco, HHT Family Readiness Group President, in concert with community leaders and unit supporters arranged a donation drive for foodstuffs, clothing, blankets, water, cleaning supplies and more as the emergency wore on. This operation, based in the dining hall adjacent to the Westfield Armory's drill floor was a relief mission of the first order. The room would eventually fill to overflowing with the donated goods. It was my intent that no need would go unmet in our areas of operation and it was my conviction that every encumbrance under bureaucracy, given such circumstances, was to be circumvented whenever necessary in the constraint of relieving human misery. President Bracco did not hesitate for one instant in conscripting her family's van, as well as those of others, to carry out this errand of mercy. My First Sergeant John Rowe, call sign Hatchet 7, in a perfect exhibit of mutual support, sustained her efforts through direct coordination with civilian and military agencies. He also volunteered his own four-wheel drive pickup as well as those of other senior Non-Commissioned Officers of the Troop for additional relief missions and Morale & Welfare functions within the unit. He was never hesitant to drive a HMMWV through red tape in order to help our Soldiers or New Jerseyans in need and for that, he will have my persistent admiration. Our FRG's drive received support from as far as California and dispensed goods through multiple sites in the disaster area. This mission was facilitated, in great part, by the daily efforts of Company "D" 250<sup>th</sup> BSB and their logistical convoys into the area. They met needs on the ground through soup kitchens, pantry, clothes closets and disbursement points, which were manned by NGOs, mostly churches and charities, already on site with hundreds of volunteers and helping teams. This was mass relief at its finest and we could not be prouder of the historic role filled by our FRG.

Also inspiring to me personally was the spirit of volunteerism among our Troopers in forward areas. I received dispatch after dispatch mentioning young Soldiers who would come off a shift standing at a frozen security post and chose to warm up by cooking in a Salvation Army kitchen or distributing clothing to the impoverished or mopping hallways in a church or helping local citizens literally pick up the pieces of all their worldly goods. In future years, I will draw strength from these random acts of kindness in the face of indiscriminating misery and we all remain grateful for their prime example of good citizenship. Hatchet Troopers also continually volunteered themselves for extra duty when they had the opportunity to go home and kept patrolling the windswept, austere beaches and roadways. In the week after the storm, during an evacuation which saw the retreat of State and Federal agencies, your Troopers stayed at their posts in the face of a North Atlantic snow storm convoluted by gale force winds and squall lines. The presence of our Troopers, as all guardsmen, we feel is the best all-around response to any civil emergency and there is emergent consensus that, as those of us already familiar with our Squadron might have imagined, early deployment of Scouts into the evacuated towns and islands successfully deterred criminality and kept the peace without which we couldn't have come so far so fast in reconstruction. Troopers from throughout the Squadron supported both the State Police and the Coast Guard in preventing the piracy of boats cut off from their usual navigable waterways in back bays, in our areas of operation. One of our military's premiere observation systems, the LRAS3 was brought to bear by Troops "A" & "B" HMMWV Trucks as a force multiplier which provided overwatch in magnification under all conditions regardless of weather effects and illumination allowing us to literally own the night.

Your Cavalrymen received praises throughout all chapters of this historic mobilization from such varied agencies and offices as the Governor's office, the Attorney General's office, Police and Public Safety agencies of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, Offices of Emergency Management, Federal Emergency Management Agency and more.

During the missions, all Troopers gained experience at vital civil-military operations protocols and procedures, liaising with elected officials, nationwide law enforcement agencies, utilities technicians and significantly, Non-Governmental Organizations such as The Salvation Army, Episcopal Relief and Development and The American Red Cross, in the interest of civil infrastructure preservation and restoration. It was equally rewarding to be able to share important bonding experiences, which are the hallmark of unit cohesion, to include a Thanksgiving Day Feast with our deployed Troopers at the Ortlely Beach First Aid Center in Ocean County. Two evenings subsequent, First Sergeant Rowe arranged for off shift Troopers to be able to share in the fellowship of our annual Casino Night, a Squadron level community event, open house and fundraiser put on by our FRG.

When New Jersey needed superior security forces tailor-designed for adaptable and multifaceted missions, we were there. When our evacuated population needed to know that their homes were being looked after, no one was better equipped to have their backs. The continuing chronicle of how this Squadron was there for the State and Nation during this time of trial is significant to our overall heritage and reflects a record of continuing service of which we should all be justifiably proud.

*"Show 'Em the Way"*

CPT Ryan C. Bailey, CO, Headquarters Troop





**TROOPERS!** 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:

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**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 **117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry 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](mailto:kmahan117@aol.com) We are compiling an email list of members and we want to include you. **Association web site:** [www.117th-cav.org](http://www.117th-cav.org) Read past issues of *The SPUR*, look up the WWII histories of the 38<sup>th</sup>, 102<sup>nd</sup> and 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). All WWII Veterans will no longer pay dues, you will see WWII over your name. **Squadron News** As of October 29, 2012, troopers from the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> CAV and "D" Company have been deployed for hurricane Sandy. They expect to be done around the first of the New Year. I have been working with the Salvation Army feeding some of these victims. Each time I would go to a new location the Squadron was there, from "A" Troop the first day at Rutgers thru our move to Union Beach "C" Troop helped us to load while at Union Beach, HHT provided help at Union Beach. The men from the Squadron helped us out, from loading supplies to serving food or making sandwiches to setting up in the morning and put things away at night. I would like to Thank **SSG Just-Cornelius for his NCO leadership** and motivation that kept the men under him, to do an outstanding job in helping us to serve the Victims, we could have not done the job without their Help. Also thanks to "D" Company for moving the canteen with the wrecker so we could use it. Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wish for you a Happy, Healthy New Year.

**TAPS**



**Margaret "Peggy" (Mull) Partelow, 85,** passed away on Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012, at her home at Brandywine at Mountain Ridge Assisted Living, Watchung, N.J. Born in Newark, N.J., Mrs. Partelow has lived in Scotch Plains, N.J., Brick, N.J., and for the past two years in Watchung. Peggy was an administrator at Croll-Reynolds, Westfield, N.J., for 20 years, retiring in 1989. She was the beloved wife for 36 years of Irving K. Partelow Jr.; devoted mother of Bruce Watts and his wife, Cindy, of South Plainfield, N.J.; Brian Watts and his wife, Fern, of Somerset, N.J.; Patricia Heck and her husband, Robert, of Madison, N.J.; Alan Partelow and his wife, Shirley, of Westfield, N.J.; Connie Klenke and her husband, John, of Union, N.J., and the late Kathleen Wright; loving sister of Mary Jane Delahunt of Nutley, N.J., and cherished grandmother of 13 and great-grandmother of 14. *Her husband Irving Partelow is a WWII veteran of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment "Class of '41", an original member of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) and later commissioned into the 3<sup>d</sup> Infantry Division.*

**Lawrence K. Memmola, 64, of Asbury Park,** died Sunday, November 11, 2012 in West Long Branch. He was born in Long Branch and lived in Eatontown before moving to Asbury Park 30 years ago. He was a communicant of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church, Asbury Park, graduated from Monmouth Regional High School in Tinton Falls and Seton Hall University in South Orange. He was a member of Italian American Association of the Township of Ocean. He was a financial planner at Oppenheimer and Company in Red Bank for the past 5 years and prior to that for Dominick & Dominick in Oakhurst. He also retired as a major from the NJ National Guard in 1998. His parents, Keith and Gloria Labriola Memmola, predeceased him. Surviving is his brother, Richard Memmola of West Long Branch.





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 SU-15 NANCY ASHFORD & JEANNIE BROWN (sisters)  
 (mem. father) SSG WM. T. TITTER  
 WWII B TROOP 117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 SU-25 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR  
 SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR)  
 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 SU-13 CRAIG BEACHER  
 FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE  
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 WI-13 LTC (Ret) PETER D'ELIA  
 SP-15 ROBERT A. DENNIN JR. - A FRIEND  
 SP-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  
 WI-13 HENRY FORSTENHAUSLER  
 WI- 42 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 WI-12 ROBERT GREEN  
 SP-14 BILL GRUSS (mem. of) SFC FRANCIS SKINNER  
 WI-13 1SG (Ret) BOB GRZESZCZAK  
 SP-13 LOIS HAASIS (mem. of) CW4 WALTER HAASIS  
 FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN  
 SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY SGT Troop C  
 SP-15 HERB HUBER, WWII 117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY T5 Troop E  
 (Assault Guns)  
 WI-18 LTC (Ret) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 '43-'44  
 FA-14 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO.  
 WWII 117<sup>th</sup> CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*  
 WI-16 ANNE MARIE & GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO  
 FA-15 CHARLES JOHNSON WWII 117<sup>th</sup> 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-13 RON La VERDE (mem. of uncle) T-5 THOMAS G.  
 HENNESSY, A Troop, 117<sup>th</sup> CAV KIA 5 JUNE '44 ROME  
 SP-15 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE  
 WI-16 Dr. DANIEL W. "TREY" LEE III, (mem. of) CPT DANIEL W.  
 LEE, **CMH**, WWII Troop A, 117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY RECON SQ.  
 WI-13 EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41*, PSG B Troop  
 117<sup>th</sup> CAV, Montrevel POW French *Legion of Honor*  
 SP-14 C. J. MacNICHOLS  
 WI-13 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN  
 SU-14 KEN MAHAN for FRG SUPPORT TEAM  
 WI-17 BRIAN & BRUCE (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY  
 WI-30 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ  
 SU-16 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father)  
 T4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV WWII  
 SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE

SU-13 PAMELA THONACK MILLER (mem. of father)  
 HERBERT A. THONACK, *Class of '41*, 117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK,  
*Class of '41*, PSG B Troop 117<sup>th</sup> CAV, Montrevel POW  
 SP-13 CW5 (Ret.) FRANK MNICH & JANET  
 SP-13 LTC WILLIAM MORRIS  
 FA-13 RONNIE NIER  
 SU-14 HENRY NIESE 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV TRP A 1943-1945 (Stateside)  
 SP-17 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON  
 Troops C & E, *Class of '41*; 602<sup>nd</sup> Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45  
 FA-22 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN,  
*Class of '41*, 102<sup>nd</sup> & 117<sup>th</sup> CAV - B & C Troops WWII  
 SP-16 DR. FOTINOS PANAGAKOS & JUDITH  
 SP-14 FRANK PATRICK  
 FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of)  
 RICK APBLETT  
 WI-13 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN & wife PATRICIA ANN  
 WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*  
 FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**  
 SP-14 LTC (Ret.) KEN QUAAAS & DOROTHEA  
 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) 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV WWII  
 SP-13 DONALD SAMSEL (mem. of Father) COL (Ret.) HAROLD  
 SAMSEL, *Class of '41*, 117<sup>th</sup> CAV WWII FR. *Legion of Honor*  
 SP-15 SALCIDO FAMILY (in mem. of) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO  
 (Ft Jackson '42) 117<sup>th</sup> CAV. F CO. KIA Italy June 1944  
 SP-18 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of brother) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO  
 SP-17 JAMES SCANLON  
 SU-14 BILL & MARY SEDLAK  
 SP-15 LTC (Ret) ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB, WWII 38<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 FA-13 1LT VINCENT SOLOMENO (in mem.) COL RUDY SAULTER  
 FA-17 JOHN & MARGARET SUITER  
 WI-15 1SG GEORGE THOMAS  
 SP-15 JOE & SABRINA TOOMEY (mem. of) BROTHER  
 SGM ANTHONY FRED A JR.  
 SP-15 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE  
 FA-16 CHARLES A VIVIANO - 50<sup>th</sup> CAV RCN SQDN  
 SP-14 CSM (Ret) HENRY M. WETZEL & GRACE (mem. of)  
 1SG GEORGE "RED" EMERY  
 WI-17 LTC (Ret.) FRANK WISWALL, USAF *Class of '41*  
 B Troop, 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV '41- '42 Fr. *Legion of Honor*  
 WI-13 ED WITOS (mem. of) ED WITOS Jr.  
 WI-27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG - A Troop, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon  
 117<sup>th</sup> CAV WWII  
 SP-18 MARTHA ZOLLER, FRANK MITCHELL JR. & PAM GUNTER  
 (mem. of) FRANK & JUANITA MITCHELL  
 WI-13 SSG SHEILA ZELASKOWSKI  
 SP-13 FRG HHT 1-102<sup>nd</sup> CAVALRY

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DUES DUE ↓

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



**MISSION STATEMENT:** It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the Spirit of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country. **NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS – Fridays, 1930 hours:**  
1 February 2013, 5 April, 7 June 2013