



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
Volume 35, Number 3 145 Issue (post WWII) Fall 2014



Presidents Message Fall 2014 With the summer coming to an end, it is time for our 17th Biennial Reunion. This year it will be a very special event! Our 117th Cavalry Association's history we will again join the Troopers of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment's *Spurs and Sabers* Dinner Dance. When we come together at the Grand Summit Hotel on October 3rd, our celebration will cross the generations of service. The lineage, honors and history of all New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor force is today carried on by Troopers of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment. Now is the time to make your reservation to attend the Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance. Join with your fellow troopers and help us celebrate over 124 years of service of New Jersey's Cavalry Troopers and Armor Crewmen to our state and nation (See the flyer included in The Spur for details).

Our 117th Cavalry Association will meet on September 13th Saturday night at 6PM. We will combine our meeting with a Stable Call for the Officers and Senior NCOs of the 1-102nd. It will start promptly at 6PM in the Heritage Room of the Westfield Cavalry Armory after the drill of the 1-102nd Cavalry. Our Special guest for this meeting will be noted WWII historian and author Mr. Harry Yeide. He is the author of *Steeds of Steel, A History of American Mechanized Cavalry In World War II*. His topic for the evening will be the role of the 102nd Cavalry Group and the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron's role in the liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny.

The September meeting will also give 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 22nd 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 is going to be a busy night, hope to see you all there.

We will also recognize the following individuals as *Distinguished Members of the 117th Cavalry Regiment*. 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 appointment as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment will help to perpetuate the history and traditions of the 117th Cavalry Regiment, thereby enhancing unit moral and esprit. This year selections include the following individuals: MAJ Noel Lyn-Kew, MAJ Joseph McNamara, CPT Ryan Bailey, CPT Vincent Tirri, CSM Edward Santiago, MSG John Rowe, SFC Sam Weiss and SSG Mitch Corrado. They will be honored at our joint meeting of the 117th Cavalry Association and Stable call of the 1-102nd Cavalry on September 13, 2014.

Seventy Years Ago: On 21-22 August 1944, the 102nd Cavalry Group commander COL Cyrus Dolph put the names of his six reconnaissance troop commanders in his hat and pulled out the name of CPT Charles Peterson' thus Troop B of the 102nd Squadron was given the mission to accompany the 2nd French Armored Division on their march to Paris. The remainder of the Group would screen the approach of the 4th Infantry Division. On August 25th, CPT Bill Buenzle Commander of Troop A of the 38th Squadron would lead the Group's advance. As to the claim of who was the first unit to enter Paris, one thing is for certain it was the 102nd Cavalry Group as to what troop both B-102nd and A-38th have laid claim to the honor but one thing is certain Paris was liberated on the 25th of August and the 38th had established its CP in a park off the Champs Elysees while the 102nd was headquartered at Le Bourget Airport. The rest is history.

Operation Dragoon, the allied invasion of Southern France August 15 1944, found the 117th in the lead. A recon troop from the 117th accompanied each of the spearhead divisions (3rd, 45th and the 36th) onto the beach. Throughout August of 1944, the 117th Cavalry would go on to be form the lead element of *Task Force Butler* in the liberation of Sothern France.

A special thank you to *Memories De L'Ain*. It is a French organization that studies the history, heritage and memories of the Department (County) of Ain, France. On behalf of our 117th Cavalry Association, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the members of Memories De L'Ain. Your re-enactment of the events of World War II helps to tell the story of those who served. In particular your re-enactment of historical events associated with the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Montrevel/Malafretaz on September 6th and 7th 2014 honors their service and brings to life all the memories of the sacrifices that were made by our veterans of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. Your actions have helped to honor their service and perpetuate their memories to all future generations to remember the sacrifices made by those who fought to liberate Europe from tyranny. Your special recognition of their service in liberation of France and in

particular of the commemoration of the Battle of Montrevel/Malafretaz on September 6th and 7th 2014 will help us all to honor and remember all who fought there and provides a constant reminder of the ties that draw the citizens of our two nations together. This special recognition of our veterans of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron has not gone unnoticed by the members of our 117th Cavalry Association, it continues to reinforce our bond with America's oldest ally, and for this, we wish to thank all the members of *Memories De L'Ain*.

The combination of the 2014 Biennial Reunion of the 117th Cavalry Association with the Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance promises to be a great event. What can you do to insure that is a success? Simple, come to it. Call a friend, who you served with and encourage him to come. Events like this are a time to renew friendships, tell stories and celebrate the collective heritage and traditions of those who serve and have served in New Jersey's Cavalry and Armor Force. Once there, I am sure you will see many others who you have served with. It is a time to remember those who have dedicated their service in defense of our nation, state and community and most importantly have a good time. See you there.

Please continue to show your support in your sponsorship of our 117th Cavalry Association newsletter "*The SPUR*." Many of you, especially *The SPUR Boosters* (page 10) 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!

Dennis





LTC Jeff Brownlee, SCO 1-102nd Cavalry Annual Training at Joint Base McGuire, Dix, Lakehurst was a success for the Squadron. Annual Training began with the Spur ride, this year we had 140 troopers start the Spur ride and 120 successfully completed the event and earned their Spurs. Once the Spur ride was complete, units began mounted and dismounted live fire on a variety of ranges. Our Mortar sections integrated fires with the 112th Field Artillery firing over 500 rounds. A Troop and B Troop successfully completed mounted live fire gunnery tables qualifying over 90 percent of their crews. C Troop conducted a squad level live fire assault on range 47. D Co 250th BSB (FSC) provided outstanding logistical support to the Squadron. During this AT, D Company Maintenance Platoon completed over 60 wheel vehicle services. This will greatly enhance the Squadrons ability to respond to future Domestic Missions, as it is hurricane season. The Squadron Staff conducted an exercise which incorporated a virtual mission with live artillery and mortar fire. As this was my first Annual Training with the Squadron, I was able to assess the training, logistics, and morale of the Squadron. I can honestly say that I am impressed with the level of professionalism and

dedication of all in the Squadron. With the assessment in hand, we now begin to plan and prepare for the training events in Training Year 2015. The Troops of the Squadron will begin preparation for two National Training Center (NTC) OPFOR rotations, D Co will prepare for two maintenance rotations at NTC, and the Squadron Staff will build on the exercise we completed.

I am proud to be the Commander of an outstanding organization and look forward to the challenges ahead.

"Show em' the Way"

LTC Jeff Brownlee, SCO
1-102nd Cavalry
50th IBCT NJARNG





From the Editor Phil Notestine (That's me during M48 tank crew training at Fort Knox, August 1958 - 56 years ago). We have many articles from leadership of the 1-102nd CAV, so my message must be very brief...and we must wait until the Winter SPUR 2014 edition to continue the article about the *Battle of Montrevel-Malafretaz*. That never-to-be-forgotten battle was 70 years ago!

"Class of '41" member Joe Pocaroba, a WWII Sergeant in Troop E, 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) has been made a *Chevalier, French Legion of Honor*. His decoration ceremony should be in November in NYC. Joe joined the 102nd Cavalry Regiment (Horse/Mecz) in 1940. SGT Pocaroba was decorated with the *Bronze Star (V)* for his actions during the Battle of Bitche, France during "*Operation Nordwind*" 1 January 1945. He lives in Bricktown, NJ. Call him at 732-458-2834. Contact me as you wish: 28 Oxton Circle, Pinehurst NC 28374; tel. 910-428-2968, email notie@msn.com

June 6th 2014 Meeting of the 117th Cavalry Association June 6, 2014 was a special meeting for our 117th Cavalry Association. As most know this year was the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Normandy, France and the beginning of the liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny. It was time to remember the sacrifices and the service of the members of the 102nd Cavalry Group who landed on Omaha Beach 70 years ago as well as their fellow troopers from the 117th CRS who had led the liberation of Rome earlier in the same week 70 years ago.

However, the June 6th meeting was also very special for those present that night especially for the former members of the 5-117th Cavalry who were there that night. It was the memories of fellow troopers; CPT Rick Apblett, CWO Robert Goebel, SP5 Charles Ward and SP5 Leonard Vellucci who died in a tragic training accident while at Annual Training at Ft. Drum NY, 36 years ago on May 24, 1978, that we had come to remember and memorialize, together with members of Cavalry and Aviation community along with members of the Apblett and Vellucci families we placed a plaque inscribed with their names outside the 117th Cavalry Heritage Room, for all who pass by to see and remember the sacrifices made by those members of the 5-117th Cavalry who gave their lives while in the service to their country.

There was a host of memories and stories about all of those told by Colonels Goldstein, Pearce and Harper, CSM Sergeant's Wetzel and 1SG Scannell, Master Sergeant Nier (Medical Platoon Sergeant) and MAJ Jim Scanlon (then a platoon Sergeant) along with CW5 Coymak (then a young trooper), each had special memories to share with us that evening. The formal portion of the meeting was concluded with the recognition of, Carol Pearce, Kerri Pearce Kerr, Robin Pearce Rosler and Leonard T. Vellucci Jr as Honorary Members of the 117th Cavalry Regiment. The over 50 plus troopers and families in attendance adjourned to the heritage room to socialize, remember and honor those who have served and those who continue to serve.

Class of "41" and Cavalry Friend's Luncheon, On June 3, 2014, We had 9 people – *Class of '41 members* Jim Coburn, and Joseph Pocaroba; also Donald Tracy, Claude Cook, Leon LaPoint, Henry & Grace Wetzel, John Grun, and Ken Mahan. Next Luncheon will be **September 9, 2014** at River Rock at 1600 R. 70, Brick, NJ 08724. Call Ken Mahan at (732) 548-7991.



Change of Responsibility Congratulations and thank you for a job well done to SGM Ron Ambrose as he departs Troop A 1-102 Cavalry to become the new Operations Sergeant Major for the 1-102nd Cavalry. Congratulations also to 1SG Mike Hughes as he receives the guidon from CPT Jim Giacchi A Troop Commander at the Change of Responsibility ceremony during the June Drill. Both troopers will continue to *Show 'em the Way!*





2014 1/102nd Cavalry Spur Ride The "Order of the Spur" is a Cavalry tradition within the United States Army. The Spur Ride is the only means of joining the Order of the Spur, aside from a wartime induction. The Spur Ride is a non-MOS specific event normally held over multiple days during which a Trooper must pass a series of physical and mental tests that evaluate leadership, technical and tactical proficiency, and the ability to operate as part of a team under high levels of stress and fatigue, under both day and night conditions. During the Spur Ride, candidates were required to recite from memory the traditional cavalry poem, *Fiddler's Green*.

This year it occurred over a 72 hour period 9 - 11 June 2014 at annual training. As can be seen in some of the photos on the 117th CAV Association Facebook page – this was a grueling and challenging event which helped bring the squadron closer together and exposed soldiers from all MOS to what the other members of the squadron do to complete the mission.

This is the 5th Spur Ride conducted by the NJARNG CAV. This was the second 1/102nd CAV Spur Ride; the first three were conducted by the 5/117th CAV, also at Fort Dix. The Spur Ride program was brought to the 5/117th CAV by then Captain Hoffstetter while the unit was deployed on the McGuire AFB mission. There are only 6 original 5/117th spur holders still serving in the CAV today. These spur holders include: SGM Ambrose, 1SG Charczenko, 1SG Turner, 1SG Hughes, SFC Burke and SSG Chavez. There are many more currently serving in other units throughout the brigade; LTC Coakley, LTC Hoffstetter, MAJ McNamara, CPT Bailey, 1LT Joe Quigley and SFC Sheila Zelaskowski (1st Female Spur Holder), to name a few.



Each troop from the squadron was responsible for conducting a station covering almost all the major MOSs within squadron. This year, Alpha Troop had station one with a primary focus on mortars and proper reporting; Bravo Troop had station two with a live 25 meter stress fire with assembly and disassembly of different weapons including M-4 and M-240; Charlie Troop had station three with a MOUT based room clearing; HHT had station four which included NBC gas mask full MOPP and COMMO erecting an OE254 antenna; and Delta Company had station five which covered maintenance, vehicle recovery and food service.

We started this event with 143 *Shave Tails*. Soldiers wishing to earn their Silver Spurs are referred to as "Shave Tails". Shave Tail is a reference to when new soldiers would need some time to get used to wielding a saber while riding a horse and units would shave the tail of the horse that the soldier was riding. This let all those riding around him know to stay clear, thus providing the new soldier with some extra space and earning him the nickname "Shave Tail". 118 troopers have completed the Spur Ride, earned their Silver Spurs and are now ready to carry on the Spur Program into the future. This was historic as it is the largest Spur Ride in the history of the NJ CAV and includes three new female spur holders from Delta Company bringing the total to 5.



I have had the privilege and honor to participate in or conduct all of the Spur Rides held here stateside. As some of you may know and understand, this is a major undertaking and does not occur every training year. Right now, we are hoping and planning to conduct the next Spur Ride at the 2016 annual training. The Order of the Spur program allows the CAV to keep its long and storied traditions alive and well.

Show 'em the Way!

Respectfully, SGM Ronald Ambrose
Operations Sergeant Major, 1/102nd CAV





Annual Training Troop A 1-102nd CAV As we wrap up the training year, we in Apache Troop can look back on some very memorable events that have occurred over the past several months. The Superbowl support mission gave us the opportunity to interface with the community and allowed us to demonstrate the relevance of Cavalry operations to support the local and national security needs. It also allowed all of the cavalymen of Troop A the chance to be part of hosting New Jersey's largest and most nationally recognized Sporting Event. While the Superbowl itself was rather disappointing, I know the mission that A Troop performed was most definitely one of the highlights of the year and we were able to secure over 7 miles of railway and ensure that over 28,000 passengers were able to transit to and from the Meadowlands.

In February we also said good-bye to our outgoing Squadron Commander LTC William Morris and welcome to our new SCO LTC Jeffrey Brownlee. March, April, and May drills were utilized to practice and train our skills at acquiring, identifying and engaging targets using our Mk19, M2A1, M240B, and 120mm Mortars.

Annual Training was early for us this year being at the end of June. Also a bit different for the A Troopers was that unlike in most years past, this year's AT was at our typical Drill Weekend location of Ft Dix. While the terrain was comfortable and well known, one very important event during this year's AT was designed to test each Soldier's faith and fortitude, the *Spur Ride*. I have to admit that until this year I myself had not yet had the privilege to complete one. I would like to congratulate each and every one of the 120 troopers who completed the grueling test, but especially those 26 troopers from Apache Troop. From a personal perspective, it was interesting to get down and dirty and be able to step away from the responsibilities of Command for the length of the ride and be "one of the Joes". While the Spur Ride was physically and mentally challenging, it reinforced the special esprit de corps that is unique to the Cavalry. While one day I will be forced to move on from the Cavalry, it is events like the Spur Ride that will ensure that I never forget and am always proud of the traditions and heritage that belongs to the 102nd!

CPT James Giacchi, AR
A/1-102nd Cavalry
Commanding



1-102d Cavalry Annual Training CPT Ryan Harty B Troop 1-102d Cavalry recently returned from another successful Annual Training iteration at Fort Dix, NJ. Annual Training this year was held from 06-21 JUNE 14. The Squadron is currently in its "Available" year in the five-year ARFORGEN cycle. The ARFORGEN cycle was created to provide some stability during a time of frequent and abrupt deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and various other nations. The five-year cycle for the National Guard culminates during the fifth year when the unit is in the deployment window for contingency operations worldwide. Our requirements for "Available" year were to maintain platoon and troop level proficiency along with various other tasks.

During Annual Training, B Troop focused on platoon maneuver. During reconnaissance operations, the platoons are the individual fighting units that are expected to conduct operations semi-independently, often times far from the Troop command post. In addition to platoon maneuver, we continued to hone our skill during gunnery operations. 100% of the B Troop crews successfully passed the stringent Gunnery Table VI qualification. Additionally the troop conducted Advanced Land Navigation training led by our two new platoon leaders, 2LT Dellafave and 2LT Cahill. While it may seem counter-intuitive to have two 2LTs conduct land navigation training, both of these new officers are recent graduates of the Army Reconnaissance Course at Fort Benning. This course conducts extensive training on advance land navigation techniques in addition to the intense and in-depth reconnaissance training that produces subject matter experts in a matter of four weeks.

One of the highlights of Annual Training for many of the Soldiers, to include myself, was the time-honored tradition of the Spur Ride. This three-day event tests in the intestinal fortitude, cavalry skills and combat readiness of cavalry troopers. The successful completion of the Spur Ride earns the troopers their induction into the Order of the Spur and a set of the coveted silver spurs. As always, weather was the primary enemy throughout the spur ride. Incessant rain and heat gave the Spur ride a significant "suck" factor. As the saying goes, "That which is bitter to endure, is sweet to remember". Those B Troopers that went through the rigors and hardships of the Spur Ride will remember it for years to come. This being my last Annual Training exercise with B Troop, I could not have asked for a better way to end my command. It was a great experience to share in the brotherhood of misery with the young Troopers.

As always, the men of B Troop proved their skill and reputation as a combat ready unit, ready to take on challenges anywhere they are needed. As we look to next training year, the Troop stands ready to get back to the

grindstone and prepare for an uncertain world full of challenges and changes. It was an honor to be part of B Troop for the last two years and I have no doubt of their success in the future.

BLACKFOOT READY!
CPT Ryan M. Harty
Commander, B Troop

AT-2014 marked an interesting year for HHT 1-102nd Cavalry. Much in the fashion of HHT, the training for the troop during the 15-day operation consisted of an extremely broad span of exercises ranging from tasks such as individual weapons qualification, The Spur Ride, Fire Support and a squadron Staff-Ex. The myriad of exercises were challenging at many levels, however HHT met these challenges, and in the true spirit of the Cavalry, adapted and excelled.

The Spur Ride marked the first major milestone for 28 troopers from the Headquarters Troop. The spur ride was a three-day exercise where troopers conducted tactical road marches to a variety of stations to include: CBRN and Communications, Stress Shoot and Weapons Assembly, Call for Fire, Support Operations, and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT). For HHT troopers, these stations brought them out of their comfort zones and pushed their limits! Many HHT Troopers became familiarized with Cavalry tasks outside their typical scope of work, which certainly increased overall appreciation for many elements within 1-102nd CAV. In addition, the fact that each of the 15 Spur Ride Teams consisted of personnel from different Troops within 1-102nd CAV, camaraderie and esprit-de-corps was enhanced squadron wide. Finally, the Spur Ride provided the HHT medical section an opportunity to test their skills on numerous injuries ranging from simple blisters to dehydration. Having seen and experienced it first-hand, it was clear that the members of the HHT Medical section are truly masters of their craft, and throughout the Spur Ride and AT-14; medical support for the squadron was truly top-notch!

The HHT fire support section had the opportunity during AT-14 to conduct live fire training with 3-112th FA, and this opportunity was proven highly successful for our Fire Support section. The section completed countless Fire Missions both day and night over a period of 6 days. During this block of training the HHT, Fire support section was able to conduct the first digital fire mission within the 50th IBCT, which is certainly a tribute to their ability and skill! Sadly, our Fire support section will be re-assigned to the 3-112th FA due to an MTOE change in the fall of this year. Best of luck to them on their new assignment!

Finally, The HHT Staff truly tested their abilities during the 1-102nd Cavalry Staff Exercise. The Staff Exercise was a 48-hour operation that allowed each staff section to create and test their systems for efficient and effective battle tracking over the spectrum of each staff function (Personnel Administration, Intelligence, Operations, Logistics and Communications). Collectively, the staff sections all performed extremely well during the exercise, and identified that many of their systems were both effective and operationally sound. The efficiency of the 1-102nd Staff is truly incredible and the type that would provide the 50th Brigade with an operational reconnaissance asset in a forward deployed environment.

Once Again, AT-14 marked an interesting year for HHT, but one that met with great success in a vast range of events. Much in the spirit of the Cavalry, HHT demonstrated once again that while HHT Troopers maintain specialized scopes of work within the squadron, their ability to "Move Out" and "Draw Fire" is certainly in keeping with the finest traditions of our Cavalry heritage!

CPT Joseph Bolcar
HHT 1-102d CAV



Delta Company 1-102nd CAV Forward Support Company Annual Training 2014 Fort Dix, NJ Delta Company performed superbly during this year's annual training. Its missions included but were not limited to maintenance functions for all elements of the CAV, ammunition functions, recovery and/or field maintenance of broken down vehicles, refuel operations, and joint field feeding operations. All missions were completed professionally and to standards. All Soldiers of D Company were deployed and redeployed with zero safety incidents.

The production rate of the maintenance control section was outstanding. Over 50 squadron vehicles were serviced during the annual training period, improving overall Squadron readiness. The recovery section performed over 10 successful recoveries during which most vehicles were brought online and returned to the Maintenance Control Point during their own power for further evaluation. D Company command was successful in establishing a Maintenance Control Point at the COL along with a Full Maintenance Control section at the CLTF, which mimicked combat operations.

The Delta Company Ammunition section successfully accounted for and distributed over 145,000 rounds, aiding in range operations. Ammunitions operations were successfully established and carefully managed in order to prevent cross load of live and blanks. All dunnage and deliverables were successfully returned to the ASP. Fueling operations went smoothly including the use of a BDAR (Battle Damage Assessment and Repair Kit) to seal a fuel tank and stop a potential discharge.

The field feeding section prepared and served over 13,000 meals during its critical AT mission. The meals fed over 650 personnel twice daily and were an integral part of the positive morale of the CAV troopers. The operation was conducted jointly with cooks and KPs from the 112th FA. The CKT (Containerized Kitchen) was used to prepare all meals. The cooks received invaluable training on their equipment and were able to maximize cooking times along with ration control. Meals were served on premises along with assets that delivered the meals to LRP's (Logistics Release Points).

Delta Company command was able to identify future training objectives coupled with capabilities of the unit. I am very proud of what Delta Company has accomplished in my first 9 months as Company Commander. The leadership in Delta Company will continue to work hard in order to deliver timely and accurate field services to the 102nd Cavalry.

"The best never rest!"

CPT Gus Tascon, Commanding

HAPPENINGS AT THE WESTFIELD ARMORY by Danielle Bracco In January 2014 *Bonds of Courage* moved to the Westfield armory. *Bonds of Courage* was established in 2004. What do we do? **Provide a network of support** to ensure no troop, veteran or family member is ever alone. Our ability to intervene and solve emerging problems makes a substantial difference in the lives of service members. Veterans and those that are still serving, many times, need help being connected to existing programs that are not as simple to access as they should be. **Provide a personalized Career Fitness and Mentoring program** allowing participants a professional assessment, review of career options, job search and networking. We recently expanded this successful program to allow participants to work with a career-appropriate mentor. **Provide care packages and letters creating a connection** with our active duty troops. Due to the growing needs of our veterans, we have expanded this program to provide items to organizations that serve homeless veterans and residents of our local veteran's memorial home.

On Sunday, May 18, 2014 Students, soldiers and others gathered at the Westfield National Guard Armory on Sunday to pack basic items for servicemen and women overseas as part of the Union County "Support 4 Soldiers" campaign. Bonds of Courage, which partnered with the Freeholder board to co-sponsor the event also celebrated its 10-year anniversary at the event. Support 4 Soldiers was created by high school students who have been rallying their classmates, friends, and neighbors to collect toiletries and other basic items for active duty military members overseas. The students were brought together by the countywide UC STEP (Union County Student Training and Enrichment Program) Summit last December. More than two dozen distinctive "Support 4 Soldiers" collection boxes were placed at public buildings throughout the county. On Sunday, May 18, 2014 over 200 care packages were packed by community members and students.

Executive Director Bonds of Courage & FRG Volunteer Danielle Bracco

UPCOMING EVENTS Spurs and Sabers Dinner - Friday, October 3, 2014 This will be our 4th Spurs and Sabers dinner at the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit, New Jersey. Please join us for a great night of conversation, food, and dancing. Please purchase tickets through the 117th Cavalry Association website <http://www.117th-cav.org>

Support Our Troops Casino Night On Saturday, November 22, 2014 the 117th Cavalry Association and Bonds of Courage will be hosting our 5th Support Our Troops Casino Night at the Westfield armory. The event will benefit Bonds of Courage and the Family Readiness Groups of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment, 50th Brigade Combat Team of the New Jersey National Guard. Last year our event had over 400 attendees. It is a great night for the community and members of the 1-102nd Cavalry to come together and celebrate. **For more information, please contact Danielle Bracco - danielle@bondsofcourage.org - Tel. 908.273.4122**





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 15

**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, Associate dues \$15.00 and enlisted E5-E1 \$10.00 are due in September.** Make checks Payable to **117th Cavalry Association.** **Pay Pal** can be used as well – link is on our web site www.117th-cav.org

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 Members** Lou Drastal, (Betty), was in HHT 5/117 CAV (Vineland) Retired 1995; Louis N. Schwartz, (wife) Deborah, was in B Troop Westfield 1974-1976. On September 20, I had the privilege to go to Sea Girt, I saw some of 1-150th Assault Helicopter Bn. They are being Deployed to Kosovo Force (KFOR) 19. I was able to see people that I have not seen for years. We wish them a Safe trip and Return. One of our members SFC Sheila Kelaskowski is a 1-150th AHB “Full Timer” and being deployed to Kosovo. **Next meeting is Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 1730 hrs. Stable Call with Squadron leadership.**

TAPS

Charles Johnson Jr. Rensselaer, NY born on February 16, 1924 to Charles and Jenny Van Der Wal Johnson in Castleton, died on May 5, 2014. He graduated from Castleton High School in 1942 and entered military service with the U.S. Army's 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Troop E, HQ Platoon, T4 radio tech, serving in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and the liberation of Rome, the invasion of Southern France and fought in “*Operation Nordwind*”, Germany's last offensive. He continued his military career with the 27th Armored Division, New York National Guard, retiring as a first lieutenant. He attended Albany Business College after the war and started a 20-year career with the Citgo Oil and Shell Oil companies in the Port of Albany. He then went on to work several years for the East Greenbush School District in the transportation department. He was one of the founding assistant Scoutmasters for Troop 41, B.S.A., in East Greenbush. He was predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Dorothy Gould Johnson. He is survived by his son, Owen (Theresa) Castleton; grandchildren, Jaime Richardson of Munson, Mass., Kurt (Kate) Johnson of Castleton, Keith (Amy) of Castleton, and great-grandchildren, Tyler and Brandon Richardson, Kayleigh Reynolds-Flynn and Abby Johnson.



Herbert Huber, age 91 of Minot formerly Westhope, died August 30, 2013 at a Minot hospital. Herb was born October 9, 1921 to Chauncey and Greeta Huber on the family farm north of Maxbass, North Dakota. He was the second oldest of twelve children. He received his education at a country school in Bentinck Township and later went on to receive a high school diploma. Herb began his military service with the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron, Troop E (Assault Guns), in North Africa in 1942. He was security alert for SHAEF Headquarters and went into combat in Italy, France, Austria and Germany as a T5 driver, M7105MM HMC. He was honorably discharged from the Army in Frankfort, Germany in 1946 and went to work in Federal service maintenance and as a repair supervisor of General Eisenhower and officers of SHAEF vehicles. He returned to North Dakota and married Edith Downs September 20, 1946 at Sydney, Montana. They made their home in Westhope where they raised their five children. He worked in the oil field as a heavy equipment operator and in the construction industry near Westhope. They then moved to Colorado where he worked at Coors Brewery.

He and Edith later managed a motel for several years before returning to Westhope. Herb was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Westhope. He was an avid gardener and liked to share the harvest. He enjoyed preserving and was an excellent cook. He enjoyed fishing and took several trips with family and friends. Herb had a passion for gaining knowledge. He enjoyed reading classics and biographies. He loved spending time with his family. Herb is survived by his four children, Connie (Ron) Kirk of Minot, Larry Huber of Westhope, Perry (Brenda) Huber of Wichita, KS. and Debra (Dwayne) Kirk of Westhope; 8 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; 5 great-great grandchildren; 2 sisters, Shirlemae Beverly and Charlotte Coleman; and 2 brothers, Chauncey “Mick” Huber and Curtis Huber. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Edith; son, Terry Huber; one great granddaughter, Deandria; six brothers and one sister.



Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance

Friday October 3, 2014

The Grand Summit Hotel

570 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

Field Grade Officers/E 9	\$75 per person	Char-Grilled Rib Eye Steak	_____
Company Grade Officers/E 7 & 8:	\$70 per person	Seared Chicken topped w/prosciutto	_____
E 6 and below:	\$60 per person	Vegetarian	_____
Retirees and Civilians:	\$65 per person		

Reservations

Money and reservations **by September 29, 2014**, Make check payable to:

117th Cavalry Association and mail to: COL (Ret.) Dennis J. Dougherty

615 Raymond Street

Westfield, NJ 07090

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
 WI-26 CHARLES ANGELLO
 SU-15 NANCY ASHFORD & JEANNIE BROWN (sisters)
 (mem. father) SSG WM. T. TITTER
 WWII B TROOP 117th CAV
 SP-26 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
 SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR)
 5-117th CAV
 SP-17 BILL BENNERT
 FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
 FA-15 SGM (Ret) RICHARD T. BURKE
 FA-24 JUDGE SANTI CARNEVALI, WWII 102nd & 117th CAVALRY
 FA-15 DON CARSON (mem. of) MSG GARY G. HADDICAN
 SP-15 LTC (Ret) CLAUDE and HELEN COOK
 WI-14 STEVE CUP WWII TROOP A, 102nd CAVALRY
 SU-15 LTC (Ret) PETER D'ELIA
 FA-16 ROBERT A. DENNIN JR. - A FRIEND
 FA-15 SGM (Ret) JIM DOOLEY
 WI-18 1SG (Ret) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop mem. wife BETTY
 WI-14 ROBERT ELLERT
 WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
 WI-14 LTC (Ret) ALAN R. FISHER
 WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem. of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
 FA-14 CAROL & WILLIAM FISHER JR.
 WI-15 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
 WI-14 PATRICK FRANK
 WI- 42 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117th CAV
 SU-16 BILL GRUSS & LINDA
 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 mem. HANK EGBERT & BILL CRONE bros.-in-arms
 FA-14 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO.
 WWII 117th CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*
 WI-19 ANNE MARIE & GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO
 FA-15 CHARLES JOHNSON WWII 117th Cavalry Recon
 WI -24 ESTELLE, ANDREW & JAY LASNER in mem. Arnold
 Lasner - husband, father - proud veteran Troop B 117th CAV
 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.
 SU-19 1LT (Ret) EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41*, PSG B Troop
 117th CAV, Montrevel POW French *Legion of Honor*
 WI-18 C. J. MacNICHOLS
 WI-14 SSG (Ret) THOMAS J. LINDSEY & MARY
 SU-16 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
 WI-14 CSM (Ret) A. A. MAGGS
 WI-17 BRIAN & BRUCE (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
 WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL MALONEY SR. and
 My brother TIM MALONEY
 WI-33 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
 SU-16 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father)
 T4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102nd CAV WWII
 FA-16 WAYNE McCANN
 SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE

SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK,
Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW
 FA-14 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET
 WI-16 1SG (Ret) Troop D (AIR) RONNIE & CONNIE NIER in mem.
 MSG ROCCO SPANO HHT 5/117th CAV
 SP-17 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON
 Troops C & E, *Class of '41*; 602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
 FA-27 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN,
Class of '41, 102nd & 117th CAV - B & C Troops WWII
 SP-16 DR. FOTINOS PANAGAKOS & JUDITH
 FA-15 FRANK PATRICK
 FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of)
 RICK APBLETT
 SP-16 TOM PETTY
 WI-14 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN mem. MSG ROCCO SPANO
 WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
 FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
 SU-19 ANTON and MARILYN PLONNER
 SU-15 LTC (Ret) KEN QUAAS (mem) DOROTHEA
 FA-15 ROBERT RICHARDSON
 WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
 SP-33 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
 SP-18 BILL SEDLAK
 SP-15 LTC (Ret) ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB, WWII 38th CAV
 SU-15 CPT VINCENT SOLOMENO (mem.) LTC (Ret) JAMES A.
 BRODERICK & 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.
 FA-16 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
 FA-16 CHARLES A VIVIANO - 50th CAV RCN SQDN
 WI-18 LTC (Ret.) FRANK WISWALL, USAF *Class of '41*
 B Troop, 102nd CAV '41- '42 Fr. *Legion of Honor*
 WI-27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG - A Troop, 3rd Platoon
 117th CAV WWII
 SP-18 MARTHA ZOLLER, FRANK MITCHELL JR. & PAM GUNTER
 (mem. of) FRANK & JUANITA MITCHELL
 SU- 3013 FRG HHT 1-102nd CAVALRY

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



1LT Daniel W. Lee was decorated with the Congressional Medal of Honor...for his actions while serving as A Troop HQ Platoon Leader, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). During the raging, hours-long pitched battle, Lee organized a small patrol to knock out mortars, which were inflicting heavy casualties. He led the small group to the edge of town, sweeping enemy positions and finding seven Germans operating two large mortars near an enemy half-track. LT Lee armed himself with a rifle and grenades, leaving his men on high ground. He crawled to within 30 yards of the mortars, was discovered and drew heavy fire. His right thigh was shattered. Bleeding and suffering intense pain, he continued the attack, killing 5 enemy

before the remaining fled. Fired upon by an armored car, he took cover by the half-track and found a Panzerfaust, which he used to attack the armored car, which withdrew. Having cleared the area of enemy, he crawled back to his men and collapsed from loss of blood and pain. After the Germans took Montrevel, they left the seriously wounded, 12 in all. Lee was found 2 days later, evacuated and hospitalized. LT Daniel W. Lee returned to the Squadron on 16 January 1945, assigned to Troop C. Lee was leading patrols in February 1944. He was promoted to 1LT on 1 March 1945. (The CMH award ceremony was held at the White House, and presented by President Harry Truman on 23 January 1946). Captain Lee was recalled during the Korean Conflict, stationed at Fort Knox, KY. He and his wife Sallie raised Dan Jr., James and "Beth". He died in January 1985, 65 years old. They were active in the Medal of Honor Society. The CMH Certificate of Daniel Lee is displayed in the Heritage Room, Westfield NJ Armory.

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



COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty
President
LTC (Ret) Ken Quaas
Editor Emeritus
Philip S. Notestine
Editor

DUES DUE ↓

1ST New Jersey Cavalry



MISSION STATEMENT: It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the Spirit of the 117th Cavalry Association, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country. **NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS –Saturday 13 September 2014 (Joint meeting Squadron Stable Call). Regular Meetings - Fridays 1930 hours: November 14, 2014; February 13, 2015; April 10, 2015; June 12, 2015; September 11, 2015; November 13, 2015.**