



117th Cavalry Association

www.117th-cav.org

102d CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102d CAVALRY
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President's Message Fall 2016 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.

The "friendships and camaraderie" bind us together, through our service and devotion to our country. This is epitomized in the first two milestones I feel compelled to share, one signifying the beginning of great things to come, and the other, the end of an era.

On July 22, 2016, the current Squadron Commanding Officer (SCO) LTC Time Coakley, and past SCO, LTC Bill Morris, planted their respective sabers in the ground of the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, when they were honored as graduates of the highest level of

U.S. Army schooling. LTG Timothy J. Kadavy, director of the Army National Guard congratulated their class upon completing a challenging two year curriculum and joining the ranks of many great military leaders. We all know that Squadron Commanders are bold, audacious, innovative, forward thinkers, but we'd like to share with others in the military community. The graduating class of 2016 includes 47 Army, 134 Army National Guard, 146 Army Reserve, 1 Navy, 14 Marine, and 5 Air Force officers, as well as 15 senior civilians from a broad range of federal service agencies along with 3 international fellows from Kosovo, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

The other milestone, the end of an era of a great military persona, and also former SCO, I recently learned that LTC Howard Pitt had died November 15, 2014, at the New York State Veterans Home in Montrose, New York. A member of the Class of 1966 at Harvard College, he then completed Fordham Law School, from which he took a leave of absence prior to graduation because he was worried that he would miss his chance at leading Soldiers in combat, and served in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam in 1969, including the May 10-19, 1969, Battle for Hamburger Hill. As an infantry platoon leader, 2LT Pitt was awarded the Silver Star, Air Medal, and Purple Heart. To those of us who knew him, and had the honor to serve with him remember another bold, audacious, innovative and forward thinker. His military acumen was the result of his selfless devotion to being one of the best read leaders of his time. LTC Pitt was the Executive Officer initially, during the Army's implementation of Division 86, and organized and executed the logistics plan to support the Squadron's Mobilization Exercise (MOBEX) to Fort Hood, Texas, during June, 1986. Subsequently, as the SCO, LTC Pitt would be instrumental in leading the Squadron in two Annual Training periods, including Fort Pickett, Virginia. The Squadron experience allowed it to operate independently, both operationally and logistically, which would serve it well in its later deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

I am happy to report that we are continuing making progress in several joint projects with the 1-102nd Cavalry. As Heritage Room Committee co-chairs LTC Bill Morris and CW5 (Ret.) Frank Mnych briefed our members at the last meeting on June 10, 2016, that now all the material will be catalogued, assessed and categorized. The goal is to keep a balance between the different eras of the Squadron. CW5 (Ret.) Frank Minch's motion, carried without opposition, to rename the Association the New Jersey Cavalry Association will be carried two more meetings, and published in *The SPUR*, to allow member feedback, at which time it will be voted on. We welcome any member that wants to help in categorizing or organizing our historic material.

The Squadron leadership is now selecting the five couples our members approved the Association sponsoring for the Spurs and Sabers Dance at the Grand Summit Hotel on October 14, 2016. It was amazing to see a span of over 70 years between the youngest and oldest Trooper in attendance at the last Spurs and Sabers Dance when the cake was cut with the ceremonial saber.

I had a unique opportunity on July 7, 2016, when two past presidents, COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty, and LTC (Ret.) Chris Sands, along with former SCO LTC Bill Morris (and presumptive Vice President of the Association), and CPT Ryan Harty, hosted Jean-Marie Gillet, and his wife at our Heritage Room. Jean-Marie is a member of Mémoires de l'Ain 1939-1945 a group of French WWII re-enactors who have helped tell the story of the 117th Cavalry's role in the Liberation of Southern France during WWII. They had hosted CPT Harty during the 70th Normandy Invasion commemoration two years ago. We would to thank them for helping preserve the history New Jersey's Cavalry Troopers and their role in the defeat of Nazi Germany and the liberation of France. They were given a tour of the Heritage



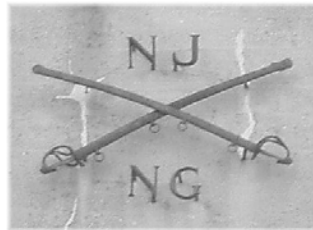
Room; they scanned and photographed quite a bit of our material, and were presented with an Honorary Regimental membership, and current First New Jersey cap.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention several Troopers that we will meet again at Fiddler's Green. LTC (Ret.) Walter McCann, Jr., 79, on June 8, 2016. In his 30 years of service, which included the 50th Reconnaissance Squadron, he served as president of the New Jersey National Guard Association. LTC (Ret.) Ken Quaas, 92, on July 21, 2016. Ken served in World War II in the 106th General Hospital, and later, in 1947, enlisted as a private in A Troop, 50th Reconnaissance Squadron, progressing to Sergeant Major, then Warrant Officer, then receiving a commission as a Second Lieutenant in Armor. He was a founding member of the 117th Cavalry Association and served as editor of *The Spur* for 27 years, finally passing the baton to our current editor, Phil Notestine. Ken relinquished *The Spur* during my first presidency, mostly because of his relocation to Plainfield, Illinois, to be with his family. MSG (Ret.) Donald F. Carlson, 68, on June 26, 2016. A 1966 Vietnam Veteran, I first served with then SFC Carlson when he was my Maintenance Chief in A Troop, 5 Squadron 117th Cavalry, later becoming First Sergeant of B Troop, and being called to duty after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, 1SG Carlson was sent to Newark International Airport to be in charge of one of the Security shifts of the three terminals for eight months then onto the bridges and tunnels of New York for two weeks, followed by Salem Hope, New Jersey, Nuclear Power Plant for five months, retiring with over 30 years of service on May 5, 2005.

This is who we are, where we came from, we served together at some point and met many great Troopers, and this camaraderie is who we have become. May we always stay in touch, and be remembered as having served in the NJARNG Armor and Cavalry.

Show 'em the Way!

Michael P. Hrycak LTC, USA, Retired
(michaelhrycak@yahoo.com)





Message from the SCO LTC Tim Coakley Another annual training fades into history like dust on the trail. The Squadron completed a challenging training period for two weeks in June as the capstone to a year of squad level readiness. Alpha and Bravo Troops executed scout section validation lanes in which the Troopers were evaluated on zone, area, and route recon tasks along with the ability to establish local security with a platoon screen. Our well planned gunnery portion for AT went up in smoke (literally) with almost four days of the largest range fires in recent Fort Dix history. The Soldiers will make up that training in October as another stepping stone towards unit readiness. C Troop fully integrated into the mounted unit validation training and led the way on the individual weapon qualification ranges. Delta Company kept the Squadron operational while also conducting their own validation training. Great strides in maintenance, field feeding, and marksmanship set the conditions for Delta's never ending mission to keep the Squadron combat effective.

On a personal note, LTC Morris (SCO: Nov 11 to Feb 14) and I both graduated the U.S. Army War College in July. Looking forward to seeing several of our junior officers attend this rigorous course in the future. I will close with an open invitation to the *Spurs and Sabers dinner-dance* on 14 October. Come out and join the Squadron at an event that is making its mark on our Squadron heritage.

Show 'em the Way!

Timothy Coakley
LTC, AR, NJARNG
Commander, 1ST Squadron 102d Cavalry
Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel G-1





Editor's Message – Phil Notestine Sad to have posted so many obituaries of our brothers who have moved up to *Fiddler's Green*. Please do them the honor of carefully reading the few words about each of them, and contemplating on the lives they lived, their contributions and people they touched.

LTC Ken Quaas was a WWII veteran and past editor of *The SPUR*. I first met Ken at a 117th Cavalry Association meeting in 1981. Ten years ago, Ken passed on the reins to me as Editor of *The SPUR*. He remained a faithful and willing aid in reviewing each edition, finding my errors in spelling, syntax and grammar. He was a friend.

LTC Barry Maloney was one of the Maloney Boys, sons of 1SG Bill Maloney. Like me, many who served with 1SG Bill Maloney loved his good nature and Irish wit. Readers will remember that it was Bill Maloney who I interviewed for the series about the 102d Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) during WWII. Following the series, 1SG Bill Maloney was lauded during an Association meeting. His sons and grandson

surrounded Bill with love and devotion. At the last meeting the very weak 1SG Bill Maloney attended, we embraced...and he gave me a kiss on the cheek. An old Warrior's fond farewell. *Erin go Bragh!* I remember Barry Maloney as a devoted son. I believe that it was Barry that believed his father deserved a Silver Star instead of the Bronze Star he was decorated with for Valor, and tried to make it happen.

I am continuing my appeal for a good Trooper to take over as Editor of *The SPUR*. As I have stated in previous issues, it is time for a more current member who can attend meetings in Westfield to volunteer. I will provide templates, advice and assistance to get you on the right path. You need MS Word and Adobe Acrobat. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat, the Association will cover the cost. Call me to discuss. My contact info: 910-420-2968, email notie@msn.com I can't use an assistant or helper. It is a one man job! Step up, and take up the very honorable and interesting task!



117th Cavalry Association Meeting June 10, 2016 After our Pledge of Allegiance, and Moment of Silence, members were advised that SGM (Ret.) Ken Mahan was in the hospital after a fall, and we wish him a speedy recovery. Next, Treasurer- SFC (Ret.) Bill Gruss reported, that since the last meeting, the Association Collected-\$677.00 (\$657 and a \$20 booster), and recited payments, leaving a balance of \$5,995.40. Next, COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty, our defacto Quartermaster, reminded the membership that we are selling hats for \$20, and Association crests for \$25, which were currently with the Squadron elements conducting Annual Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Additionally, the Association has funded mounted unit pictures, two each, for B and C Troops.

This was followed by the Heritage Room Reorganization Committee Co-Chairmen CW5 (Ret.) Frank Mnich; LTC Bill Morris explaining that now all the material will be catalogued, assessed and categorized. The goal being, to keep a balance between the different eras of the Squadron. CW5 (Ret.) Frank Mnich proposed a motion, carried without opposition, to rename the Association the New Jersey Cavalry Association. It was also decided this proposal will be carried two more meetings, and published in *The Spur*, to allow member feedback, at which time it will be voted on.

Everyone was reminded of the 1-102nd Cavalry Spurs and Sabers Dance- Grand Summit Hotel, Summit, New Jersey, 14 October 2016 - and that the 117th Cavalry Association will sponsor 5 couples at cost (see new business below), and expect at least one table of members in attendance. CPT Stephen J. Pruser (new HHT commander, congratulations!) reported that PayPal is setup on the Association website, to allow registration and payment, and the flyer is being sent out.

Then, we moved onto new business. One of our members, SFC (Ret.) Kevin Murphy has organized (for the third year in a row) a Golf Outing on 20 July 2016, at the Black Bear Golf Club, Hamburg, New Jersey. Through a generous donation by some sponsors, 10 veterans will play golf for free at our upcoming outing. Golfer(s) must be a veteran. Open to active duty, guard and/or reserve, retired, or past service members. First 10 golfers to contact SFC Murphy directly at 908-377-5727, will get the spots. If any more sponsors volunteer their support, he will let you know. They must contact him and not call the number on the flyer.

This was followed by two member biographies: 1. LTC Bill Morris – enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1984, and subsequently, in September, enlisted into the New Jersey Army National Guard by LTC Romanick, completed AIT and later shot a perfect day score during tank gunnery under the leadership of SSG Lester Keller. Next, after being promoted to sergeant, completed Officer Candidate School at Sea Girt, New Jersey, commissioned as Armor Officer, served as Platoon Leader, S1, Armor Company Commander, deployed and served in JTF Guantanamo Bay, where he worked with various agencies under command of SOUTHCOM. Worked in S3 Plans, during deployment of 50th IBCT to Iraq, including planning visits by President Bush and Candidate Obama. Initially assigned to Squadron as XO, and became Commander in 2011, serving through 2014 (relinquished command to LTC Jeff Brownlee). LTC Morris has served as the 50th IBCT XO since 2014, and will be graduating the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, in July, 2016, along with

the current Squadron Commander, LTC Timothy Coakley. 2. CPT Stephen J. Pruser – took the ASVAB in his junior year in high school, and because he obtained a high score he attended Basic Training, followed by 19K AIT, graduating in 2004, serving as a tanker, then, after completing Sussex County Community College, he graduated from The College of New Jersey, and was commissioned in December, 2009, subsequently completing Signal Officer Basic Course at Fort Gordon, Georgia, in 2010, graduated Rutgers Law School-Newark, in 2014, and was assigned to the Squadron as the S6 in 2014, and assumed command of HHT in January, 2016, and currently continues serving in that capacity.

Next, the members discussed how the Association would pick the 5 couples to sponsor for the Spurs and Sabers dance on 14 October 2016. It was decided that LTC Coakley and CSM Mechkowski would decide which couples are sponsored by the Association. We shared a birthday cake to commemorate the 241st birthday of the U.S. Army on 14 June 2016, which was cut by the oldest and youngest members present, CPL Frank Patrick and CPT Stephen J. Pruser. Michael Hrycak won the 50/50, and donated the proceeds to augment his membership dues. It was moved to Conclude Meeting-2053 hrs.

Next meeting Friday, 9 September 2016 at 2000 hrs., where the election of LTC Bill Morris as Vice President, and CPT Stephen J. Pruser as Treasurer will be decided.

Attendance: *Jerry Infantino, Ann Marie Infantino, Tim Coakley, Kevin Murphy, Frank Mnich, James Anglim, Jim Pressman, Dennis J. Dougherty, Dan Mahon, Jennifer Silva, , Don Kondroski, Danielle Bracco, Bill Morris, Bill Gruss, Michael Hrycak, Frank Patrick, Stephen Pruser, John Wincz, Dave Mormak.*

Of note: MSG (Ret.) Thomas Bullock finally found his former gunner, SSG Ed Rosky (1976-93), diagnosed with terminal cancer, if anyone would like to send an encouraging word or greeting: Edward T. Rosky, 151 Morris Ave. #404, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 (908) 290-8329, also keep LTC (Ret.) Barry Maloney in your prayers to help their health improve. On the day after our meeting SGM (Ret.) Ken Mahan called to find out how the meeting went, aside from some staples, and is ready to go.



50th Armor Regiment traces its origins to the 157th Field Artillery. It was organized and federally recognized 16 June 1937 as 3d Battalion, as an element of the 44th Infantry Division and served throughout World War II with the Division. At the completion of World War II, it was Inactivated in November 1945 at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, and relieved from assignment to 44th Infantry Division. In November of 1946 it was converted and redesignated as the 114th Tank Battalion, New Jersey National Guard with its Headquarters, at Vineland. In March 1959 the 114th Tank Battalion was consolidated with the 644th 113th and 215th Tank Battalions and the 50th Reconnaissance Battalion; with new unit designated the 50th Armor, a parent regiment in the Combat Arms Regimental System, consisting of the 1st 2d, 3d, and 4th Medium Tank Battalions, 50th Armor and the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron, 50th Armor Regiment (less 5th Squadron). It was reorganized again in January 1963 to consist of 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 6th Medium Tank BNs, 50th Armor with the 5th Squadron withdrawn and reorganized as 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry Regiment (separate lineage).

DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA

COAT OF ARMS

Distinctive Unit Insignia. Description: A Gold color metal and enamel device 1 5/32 inches (2.94 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Gules, a Gatling gun Or, in base a giant cactus and shoulder sleeve insignia 29th Division Proper, on a canton Argent a saltire Azure. Attached above the shield from a wreath Or and Gules, a lion's head Or collared four fusils Gules. Attached below the shield a Gold scroll inscribed "IN VIA" in Black letters.

Symbolism: The shield is red for Artillery. The Gatlin gun alludes to the service of the former Gatling Gun Company, and shows that the 157th Field Artillery is an outgrowth of the 112th Field Artillery. The giant cactus represents service on the Mexican Border, and the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 29th Division represents World War I overseas service. The canton represents the Civil War service of Battery B as the Camden Light Artillery Company. The motto translates to "On the Way."

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 157th Field Artillery Regiment on 27 July 1939. It was redesignated for the 157th Field Artillery Battalion on 22 August 1942. It was redesignated for the 114th Medium Tank Battalion on 17 November 1953. The insignia was redesignated for the 50th Armor Regiment on 2 June 1961. It was rescinded on 11 March 1977.

Coat of Arms.

Blazon:

Shield: Gules, a Gatling gun Or, in base a giant cactus and shoulder sleeve insignia 29th Division Proper, on a canton Argent a saltire Azure.

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

Motto: IN VIA (*On the Way*).

Symbolism:

Shield: The shield is red for Artillery. The Gatlin gun alludes to the service of the former Gatling Gun Company, and shows that the 157th Field Artillery is an outgrowth of the 112th Field Artillery. The giant cactus represents service on the Mexican Border, and the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 29th Division represents World War I overseas service. The canton represents the Civil War service of Battery B as the Camden Light Artillery Company.

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

Background: The coat of arms was originally approved for the 157th Field Artillery Regiment on 1 August 1939. It was redesignated for the 157th Field Artillery Battalion on 29 September 1942. It was redesignated for the 114th Medium Tank Battalion on 17 November 1953. The insignia was redesignated for the 50th Armor Regiment on 2 June 1961. It was rescinded on 11 March 1977.

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War I Meuse-Argonne Alsace 1918

World War II Normandy Northern France Rhineland Ardennes-Alsace Central Europe

Battalions of the 50th Armor Regiment were headquartered in Vineland, Red Bank, Dover, Phillipsburg and Westfield. It's heritage lineage and honors are today carried on by the 1-102d Cavalry of the New Jersey Army National Guard headquartered in Westfield, NJ.

Larry's War – SGT Larry Haskett's WWII Diary - continued from Spring 2016 issue of The SPUR:

We were not among the first troops to go ashore in Italy. The September invasion started at Saloon, and it was a very bloody time. We were landed much later near Naples. From there, we fought our way up the boot of Italy, through Castrate, Form, Terracing and into Velletri. This was the first real "bleeding of the Squadron as a whole, where we really learned what war was all about, and it wasn't pretty.

*Anti-Tank guns are what we hate
And all else that tempts our fate.
There's just one thing that we don't mind
It's PBS, they're way behind.*

All through my notes I talk about PBS. I can't, for the life of me remember what those letters stood for. They were not combat troops, however, and they were far enough back from the line so that no one shot at them.

*We're Combat Soldiers, rough and ready,
It's not our fault our hands ain't steady.
We'll all go back and fight the war,
But a PBS job won't make us sore.*

The towns along our way were completely demolished, nothing left of them but for the most part, piles of rubble. But on we went, slowly, slowly- the Nazi beach head was established and the Army was held up for some time at Monte Casino, both places very bloody and taking a great toll in lives, but eventually we were on the move again, and the Squadron was among those troops that met up with the soldiers at Nazi.

Then it was on to Rome...

I was one of the first American soldiers to enter Rome, on June 4th and my first view of the Coliseum was at night. (I shot a chunk off of it, but more of that story later.) The people were glad to see us, and many of them invited us up to spend the night, but the business at hand was rather urgent, and we couldn't accept. We had a couple of Colonels from General Mark Clark's Staff with us. Supposedly, they were looking for a place for the General's forward command post, once Rome was taken. They were in charge, not us. "Us" consisted of one armored car, one machine gun jeep and a motorcycle. I also think that they were a little shocked to suddenly find themselves smack-dab in the middle of the shooting part of the war.) The *Canadian Club*, which was the name of my M8 armored car, was the first to enter the Villa Savoy, (the palace grounds of the then King of Italy) and we were treated to the usual sound of gunfire. We ducked. Rome was supposed to have been declared an open city, but there were scattered pockets of German Soldiers who, I guess, had not been informed of this fact.

That night we had attached ourselves to a group of medium tanks that were just as lost as we were, because we felt rather lonely wandering around the City all by ourselves in the dark. In the morning, however, we took off again, and found our way back to the Coliseum.

While parked there, figuring out what our next move would be, a crowd gathered, and Anna Maria, a pretty young girl about seventeen years old climbed up into the turret of the armored car with me just to say hello. The trouble was, she also stepped on the trigger of the 37MM cannon! There was an explosion, and a shell went shooting down the street, hitting and knocking off several chips off of the Coliseum. The crowd disappeared, and so did Anna Maria, and I never saw her again. Thus ended my very short lived Italian Romance. We took off, and coming back out of the City on June 5th we met our own American Infantry Soldiers coming in to liberate and occupy those areas where we had just spent the previous night.

At one point, when we stopped to orient ourselves, a woman came dashing madly up and asked, "Are you British?" I answered, "No, American." Her reply was, "Oh, you darlings. Thank God you've come at last. We've been waiting for such a long time for you!" I was glad to have all that armor plating around me at that moment, because she was so carried away with her enthusiasm and joy at having us take over the City, that I think she might have embarrassed me with her thanks. As it was, the men in the bantam behind us were scared out of their wits by her most affectionate caresses. As I'm sure that you know, all us American Soldiers were very Modest and Pure young men.

The following day, June 6th, we learned that the Allied Armies were in the process of invading the Fortress Europe at Normandy, France, wherever that was.

When we left Rome, we continued on up the "Boot" into Civitavecchia and on through Grotto, Flourence and Piombino until we reached Leghorn (Livorno). Somewhere along here, a Lieutenant told us that there was a Tiger Tank about a thousand yards up the road and he wanted us to take our armored car up there and knock it out. We respectfully told him that due to the fact that the tiger had an 88MM cannon and we only had our little pea-shooter 37MM gun, that we would have to decline. We did radio back for some artillery fire though, which seemed to satisfy him.

Our last action in Italy was at a river somewhere at a blown bridge, with German soldiers on the other side. George used our 37 gun for sharp-shooting here. But Leghorn was the end of the Italian Campaign for the 117th Cavalry. We were pulled back to Naples to get ready for the invasion of Southern France. This was at the end of June We spent a couple of weeks there replacing worn equipment, waterproofing our vehicles, getting maps, ammunition and all the various and sundry other things needed for such an operation. Now there was some Troop reorganization, with George Bond moving to the first section of the platoon, and Rod Grassman replacing him in our car as gunner.

It was also at this time that E Troop (Assault Guns) little M8 "Scott" 75MM HMC (howitzer motor carriage) were replaced with new, larger M7 "Priest" 105MM HMC. We all liked that, because as I said earlier, our Squadron was a self-contained unit which was usually well out in front of the rest of the Army, and when we fought, we usually fought alone.

Then it was time to go, and we were loaded up into LSTs. (Landing Ship, Tank) These were great, ocean going garages, with doors that opened up in the front, and a ramp behind those great doors. These ships could be sailed almost up onto the beach, the doors opened and the ramp let down, and out would come tanks, self-propelled guns, armored cars, and jeeps, all set to do whatever such stuff is supposed to do.

When the time came for us to lift anchor and be on our way, looking down into the harbor we saw a motor launch moving in and out among all the ships, with a rather stout man standing in the stern, holding a big cigar and waving, "Goodbye and Good Luck!" It was Winston Churchill!

So off we went on an LST heading for Southern France, and on the 15th of August, 1944, after the battleships and cruisers had shelled the beach, and the dive bombers had dive bombed everything in sight, our ship moved in to the beach, those big doors opened up, the ramp came down, and we drove ashore at St. Tropez in what was the beginning of the invasion of Southern France.

But then - the *Task Force Butler*, which had been decided on back in Italy during the planning stages of this invasion, was now formed, with the mission to cut off the retreat of the German 19th Army, which was coming up from the south through the Rhone Valley. Our Squadron was the reconnaissance part of this Task Force, and we took off, starting from Le Muy, driving up through Draguignon, where, early in the morning on the eighteenth, three days after the start of the invasion, we had a small battle, where a German general was headquartered in a cave. After we fired a few rounds of high explosive shells, a white flag was waved by the Germans, and we drove on up to the mouth of the cave, where the General tendered his pistol to Lt. Joe Syms, our second platoon leader. The General and his staff were taken back to the POW camp in the rear, and we went on with the war.

But on with the war. From Draguignon, we went on through Valensole, Grignon and caught up with the main body of the enemy troops at Montelimar. Our main adversary here was the 11th Panzer Division, with whom we became well acquainted throughout the entire campaign.

There were a few skirmishes along the way, but nothing really rough. Being reconnaissance, we were the first liberating troops to meet the French people, and as we entered each town our vehicles were covered with bouquets of flowers, and we were given bottles and bottles of wine. We (the French and us) toasted each other with "Liberty" and then, as we moved on, a few miles out of town we would brush off all the flowers to make room for more at the next town's

celebration. (We kept the wine.) Somewhere along the way, I remember one old French farmer with tears in his eyes, taking a few of us into his courtyard where, taking a spade, he dug up a bottle of fine old cognac. He had buried it there when the "Boche" had come, to be dug up and shared with the liberating forces that "were sure to come, some day." That was us.

To be continued....



Membership Update – SGM (Ret.) Ken Mahan Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2015 or later, you are behind in your dues. Your Subscription to *THE SPUR* is going to run out, due to non-payment. A sample of label:

SEPT 17

**KENNETH L. MAHAN
12 W. WALNUT ST.
METUCHEN NJ 08840-2616**

To Members behind in their dues, you will have date circled in RED! This is the only notice you will receive. Send information and/or dues to me at the Metuchen address shown above. **Annual regular dues of \$20.00 and Associate dues \$15.00 are due in September.** Make checks Payable to **117th CAV Association.** If you pay booster money, that is for Widow's list 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 Kennethmahan2@gmail.com. We are compiling an email list of members and we want to include you. **Association web site:** www.117th-cav.org/ Read past issues of *The SPUR*, look up the WWII histories of the 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). All WWII Veterans will no longer pay dues, you will see WWII over your name.

New Member: LTC (Ret) Mitchell Cohen was in B Troop then went to Flight School. We are looking for help on mailing *The SPUR* for about a 1½ hours during the day at the Armory. Let me know if you can help. (732) 548-7991

The last luncheon of "Class of '41" & Friends of the CAV. Those that where there Joseph Pcoroba, Joe Chiravello, Claude Cook, Leon LaPoint, Kenneth Mahan, John & Barbara Grun, Barbara's father was SSG William Philpot of the WWII 102nd Cavalry, C Troop. John and Barbara where able to find out about her father's WWII experiences through books that I loaned them.

TAPS



LTC William "Barry" Maloney, 68, of Franklin Township, NJ passed away peacefully on August 12, 2016 in Allentown, PA. Born on March 24, 1948 in Elizabeth, NJ to the late William Sr. and Janet Maloney. Barry was a graduate of Rahway High School class of 1966. Shortly after graduation, he met and married the love of his life Barbara whom he celebrated 44 years of marriage. Barry proudly served his country in the New Jersey National Guard for 41 years. Retiring in 2005 from the NJ Army National Guard as a Lieutenant Colonel. Barry devoted his life to his family, his country and his community. Volunteering for many organizations dear to his heart, such as MOAA, the Boy Scouts and the Sea Girt NJ National Guard Youth Camp. He was an avid hunter, particularly pheasant hunting. He was a member of the Echo Farms Hunting Club. Barry also enjoyed fishing. Above all, he adored his family and treasured every moment spent with them. Barry is survived by his devoted wife of 44 years Barbara, his loving daughters, Megan Moreo and her husband Cayle, Shannon Maloney and Devan Maloney. 2 brothers, Bruce Maloney and his wife Betty, Kevin Maloney and his wife Gale and his treasured grandson Cayle Jr. In addition to his parents he is preceded in death by a brother Timothy Maloney.

COL David N. Loveless, 70, of Hamilton, NJ, died Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016, at home of respiratory complications due to ALS. Born in Trenton, NJ, Dave was raised in Lawrence Twp. and had been a long time resident of Hamilton. He was employed by the Hamilton Twp. School District for over 30 years as a teacher of biological sciences at Hamilton West and later as curriculum consultant for educational technology for the district. Dave was a retired colonel in the NJ Army National Guard, serving over 25 years, a past commander of the 2-102d Armor. All who knew Dave were influenced by his infectious passion for nature and many boating activities, with fishing being his priority. Dave was the son of the late Harry J. Loveless and uncle to the late Vincent Palombi. He is survived by his mother, Marie (Bregenzer) Loveless; his beloved wife of 37 years, RuthAnn (Palombi) Loveless; his sister, Helene Botos; his brother, Richard and wife, Dee Loveless, and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Remo and Jacqueline Palombi. Also cherishing his memory are his nieces, Sherry Botos, Kimberly (Botos) Walser and husband, Stacy Walser, and Adrienne Palombi, along with many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



LTC Kenneth L. Quaas, age 92, of Plainfield, IL. Passed on July 17, 2016. A WWII veteran and retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Army Reserve. Ken served in WWII - Army Medical Service as a Sergeant in the 106th General Hospital in England. In 1947 he joined Troop A, 50th Reconnaissance Battalion NJARNG in Westfield as a Private. Quaas rose to Sergeant Major, then Warrant Officer, Personnel. He was commissioned 2LT of Armor. After a series of assignments in the 50th Armored Division, Quaas retired as a LTC in the USAR. A Rutgers University graduate, he had a long career with Exxon in Linden, NJ.

Ken was the editor of *The SPUR* for 27 years, passing the quill in 2006. He was a founding member of the 117th Cavalry Association. He was a devout Christian, serving in many Presbyterian Church organizations and choirs, as well as many community service groups. Beloved husband of the late Dorothea Lahr; loving father of Ken (Isabelle) and beloved grandfather of Julianne, Matthew and John Quaas; treasured uncle and caring friend, always with a sense of humor, to many.



COL Howard C. "Hod" House, 98 of Hackettstown, NJ passed away on Saturday, July 16, 2016 at St. Clare's Hospital in Dover, NJ surrounded by his loving family. Born March 27, 1918 in Phillipsburg, NJ, Howard was the son of the late Edgar R. & Myrtle Gardner House.

Hod proudly served his country in the United States Army. A career veteran, Col. House served in the Army for almost 39 years beginning in 1939. Of his many accomplishments in the service, he was most proud to have served in General Patton's third army and having fought in the Battle of the Bulge and Utah Beach during the Normandy invasion. In addition, Hod was issued a rare "Battlefield Commission" in Krefeld, Germany to the rank of Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery Division. His NJARNG service included 695 Armored FA BN, 1-112th Field Artillery, 112th FA Regiment' 112th FA Group, 113th Tank Battalion, 50th DISCOM and 50th Armored Division HQ. He was also the recipient of *Purple Heart* and *Bronze Star for Valor*. In all, he was the recipient of over 25 Medals and Military Decorations during his most impressive career from which he retired in 1978.

Colonel House remained very active in his community and was a proud member of Musconetcong Lodge #42 F. & A.M in Budd Lake, NJ having served as Past Master of the former Independence Lodge # 42, Hackettstown, NJ, Past Grand Chaplain, State of NJ, Past Grand Tall Cedar of the Warren County Chapter 14, Past District Deputy of the Tall Cedars and the Past President of the National Sojourners Association. He was also a member of the American Legion Blueridge Post #164 and the V.F.W. of Hackettstown, NJ.

Hod is survived by two children, a son Pat House and his wife Sharon of Macungie, PA and a daughter Lynda Statler and her husband Fred of Hackettstown, NJ. Five loving grandchildren, Jason, Jessica, Brett, Doug & Alicia as well as six great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Marion McNamara House and a sister, Doris "Pinky" Wydner.



Master Sergeant Donald F. Carlson, 68, of Newton, passed away Sunday, June 26, 2016, at Morristown Medical Center after battling cancer.

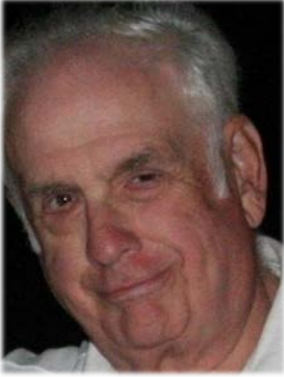
Born and raised in The Bronx, New York, Don was drafted into the United States Army in November 1966. Trained as a combat engineer, Don served for one tour of duty in South Vietnam and was promoted to Specialist 5th Class in demolitions. His next move was to Ft. Hood, Texas, where he spent the last six months of his time in Army. While serving in the Army, Don was the recipient of the *Purple Heart* medal.

Don then worked in various jobs in the private sector for several years, married on March 27, 1971, and moved to Newton in May of 1973. He later joined the New Jersey Army National Guard, serving in the 5th Battalion of the 102d Armored Division in Dover. After two years, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant then with more training and years, he progressed to the rank of First Sergeant of B Troop 5/117th Cavalry in West Orange. During 911, Don was sent to Newark International Airport to be in charge of one of the Security shifts of the three terminals for eight months then onto the bridges and tunnels of New York for two weeks, followed by Salem Hope, New Jersey, Nuclear Power Plant for five months. Master Sergeant Donald F. Carlson was retired on May 5, 2005, after serving for 30 years in the United States Army & National Guard.

While serving in the National Guard, Don also worked in heating and air conditioning at Picatinny Arsenal for ten years. Both Don and his wife, Anne, had been active in the Town of Newton for forty years. They were Newton High School Band parents for sixteen years. A life member of V.F.W. Memorial Post 5360 in Newton, Mr. Carlson was also a Master Mason in Harmony Lodge #8 F&AM in Andover Township, a member of the American Legion in Andover Township, a member of the Purple Heart Organization, and a member of the NRA.

The son of the late Francis and Marion (nee Kane) Carlson, Don is survived by his wife of 45 years, Anne (nee Gibbons) Carlson; two sons, Donald Carlson and wife, Jean, and Sean Carlson; his daughter, Erin Carlson; his brother,

Richard Carlson and wife, Ellen; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Wayne and Edna Chase and Tom and Lynn Gibbons; and many other loving family members and friends.

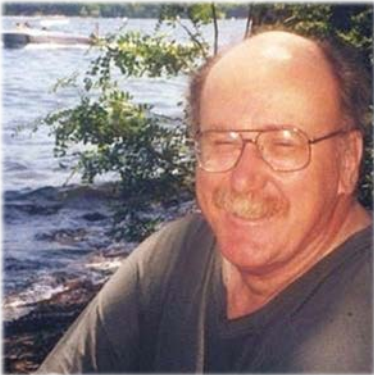


LTC Walter S. McCann, Jr. (June 25, 1936 - June 8, 2016) Walter Scott McCann Jr. passed peacefully on June 8, 2016 in the company of his loving family, rejoining Joy, his wife of 53 years, who had predeceased him only one short year ago. Scott was born on June 25, 1936 in Washington D.C, growing up in Bloomfield, NJ and Summit, NJ. He was a graduate of Summit High School and received his Bachelor's degree from Lafayette College in Easton, PA, where he was a member of Theta Xi Fraternity. Scott lived in Neptune, New Jersey for several years before settling in Ridgewood, NJ in 1974 with his family.

Scott was predeceased by his parents, Walter Scott McCann and Helen Clark McCann. A loving husband, proud father and grandfather, Scott is survived by his son Walter Scott McCann III and his wife, Julie and step-granddaughter, Danielle, of Torrance, CA; his son David Keyler McCann and his wife, Paige and grandsons, Connor Keyler McCann and Ryan Patrick McCann, of Fair Haven, NJ. He was especially proud of his grandchildren, often traveling up and down the Garden State Parkway or to California to support them in their

various athletic endeavors.

Scott was employed over the years as an industrial design and construction administrator at Parsons - Jurden Corporation and Burns & Roe, retiring from the latter after almost 20 years. In addition, Scott spent over 30 years in the 50th Reconnaissance Squadron, 50th Armored Division and other units in the New Jersey Army National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Scott served as President of the NJ National Guard Association. Scott spent many years volunteering his time and energy to various civic and charitable organizations, as well as playing countless rounds of golf with his buddies from Hobbyists Unlimited.



LTC Howard Pitt, born in February of 1945, in Brooklyn, NY, died November 18, 2014 in Montrose, NY.

He will be missed dearly by his daughter and son, but they will remember him through all of the gifts he left them, including his ever-present sense of humor, his absolute love of books and reading, his high regard for education and achievement, his ability to talk intelligently and at length on almost any subject (especially military history and Arthurian legend), and his ability to come up with a truly awful pun to inject into any conversation. He had a deep love and pride for his children, and balanced encouraging them to aim high with being truly proud of whatever they achieved.

He is survived by his daughter and his son and their respective spouses. He leaves behind one granddaughter whom he loved to spoil with gifts of legos, cozy bathrobes, and a whole collection of animatronic singing bears. She will miss his affable personality, his generous spirit, and his resemblance to Santa.

Howard grew up in the village of Greenwood Lake, NY and deeply loved the lake. It was there that he taught his children to swim, jump off his shoulders, canoe, skull, and how to start a cookout with all manner of materials. He enjoyed hiking in the Appalachian trails that ran by the ridge near the lake and bringing his children to the Renaissance Festival in Sterling Forest. He was valedictorian of his high school and won a scholarship to Harvard College, which he attended from 1962-66.

Inspired by the example of his uncle who parachuted into Normandy on D-Day, Howard was eager to serve his country and took a leave from Fordham Law School to volunteer for Vietnam. He served in action in 1969 and was awarded a Purple Heart and a Silver Star. The military continued to be a core part of his life, as he joined the National Guard when he was released from active duty and served there for the next 20 years, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served in the 3-104th Cavalry, 113th Infantry and was the CO of the 5-117th Cavalry.

Howard's military career was accompanied by his legal one, in which he worked for NY State providing legal representation to individuals with mental disabilities and later for Pathways to Housing in New York City working on behalf of the homeless.

Howard chose to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, as he always felt at home among others who had served. He lived the last 7 years of his life at the New York State Veterans Home in Montrose, NY and truly enjoyed his life there, surrounded by people who had dedicated their professional lives to serving veterans in exchange for their service. He loved the cooking club he attended and he was elected President of the Residents Council shortly before his passing.



BE A BOOSTER OF THE SPUR



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

FA-20 EMIL ALLGIERE
 WI-26 CHARLES ANGELLO
 SP-26 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
 SU-18 JAMIE AYALA
 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
 SP-17 MSG TOM BULLOCK TROOP A 5-117th CAVALRY
 FA- 24 JUDGE SANTI CARNEVALI, WWII 102nd & 117th CAVALRY
 FA-16 1SG (Ret) DONALD M. CHAMBERLIN
 WI-16 LTC (Ret) CLAUDE COOK mem. MSG ROCCO SPANO & wife JOAN
 WI- 20 STEVE CUP WWII 102d CAVALRY
 FA-16 ROBERT A. DENNIN JR. - A FRIEND
 WI-18 1SG (Ret) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop mem. wife BETTY
 FA-17 JACKIE ELLIS (mem) MSG DAVID JAMES ELLIS 5-117 CAV
 WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
 SU-19 CPT (Ret) GERALD D. FISCHBEIN
 WI-16 LTC (Ret) ALAN R. FISHER
 WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem.of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
 FA-19 BOB FOLEY (HHT Ret)
 WI-17 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
 WI- 62 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117th CAV
 FA-16 FRIEND OF 117th CAV.
 FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
 SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117th CAVALRY SGT Troop C
 WI-18 LTC (Ret) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117th CAV '43-'44 mem. HANK EGBERT & BILL CRONE bros.-in-arms
 WI-18 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
 SP-17 DONALD KONDROSKI
 WI- 20 LTC (Ret) WILLIAM KALE mem. NJ CAV SOLDIERS
 WI -24 ESTELLE, ANDREW & JAY LASNER in mem. Arnold Lasner – husband, father – proud veteran Troop B 117th CAV
 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-16 SSG (Ret) THOMAS J. LINDSEY & MARY
 WI-18 C. J. MacNICHOLS
 SP-18 CSM (Ret) A. A. MAGGS
 FA-16 BARRY MALONEY (mem) WM B., TIMOTHY MALONEY, ROBERT KLING
 WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL MALONEY SR. and My brother TIM MALONEY
 WI-33 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
 SP-17 PEDRO MARTINEZ
 FA-16 WAYNE McCANN
 FA-19 LTC (Ret) W. SCOTT McCANN
 SP-29 CSM SCOTT MECHOWSKI 1-102nd CAVALRY
 SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE

FA-20 RON NIER
 WI-16 ROMAN MILANOWICZ and BEVERLY
 WI-16 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET
 SP-17 DENNIS & GARY MONAHAN (mem. father) PVT MILLARD D. MONAHAN TRP B 117th CAV – POW MONTREVEL
 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-37 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN, *Class of '41*, 102nd & 117th CAV - B & C Troops WWII
 FA- 19 FOTINOS S. PANAGAKOS
 WI-16 FRANK PATRICK
 WI- 16 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN mem. 1SG ED MURPHY
 WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
 SU-19 ANTON and MARILYN PLONNER
 SP-17 mem. ARTHUR REINBOLD
 WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
 WI-38 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
 SP-18 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of brother) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
 SP-17 JAMES SCANLON
 FA-19 BILL SEDLAK
 WI- 20 DONNA STINNER mem. SKIP STINNER
 FA-17 JOHN & MARGARET SUITER
 FA-21 GEORGE L. THOMAS
 WI-20 mem. SSG WILLIAM T. TITTER WWII TRP B 117th CAV
 SP-19 JOE & SABRINA TOOMEY (mem. of) BROTHER SGM ANTHONY FRED A JR.
 WI-17 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
 FA-16 CHARLES A VIVIANO – 50th CAV RCN SQDN
 SU-17 GRACE & CSM (Ret) HENRY WETZEL (mem) 1SG GEORGE W. EMERY
 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: -----



Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance

Friday October 14, 2016

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/E9:	\$75 per person	Char-Grilled Rib Eye Steak	_____
Company Grade Officers/E7 & E8:	\$70 per person	Seared Chicken Topped w/Prosciutto	_____
E6 and below:	\$60 per person	Vegetarian	_____
Retirees and Civilians:	\$65 per person		
Sponsor a Trooper (E4 & below)	\$50 donation		

Reservations

Money and reservations **by October 7, 2016**, Make check payable to:

117th Cavalry Association and mail to: CPT Ryan Harty

211 Midway Ave

Fanwood, NJ 07023

Or sign up at the **117th Cavalry Association Web Page @ Spurs and Sabers**

<http://www.117th-cav.org/Spurs%20and%20Sabers.htm>

Name: _____ Guest: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____



The SPUR
c/o SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan
12 W. Walnut St.
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LTC (Ret) Michael Hrycak
President
COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty
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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 - Fridays 1930 hours: September 9, 2016; November 11, 2016**