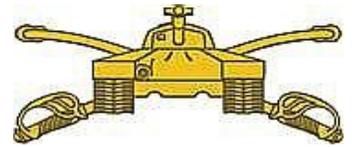




117th Cavalry Association



102nd CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th RECON 5TH RECON 5/117th CAV 1/102nd CAVALRY
Volume 30, Number 2 123rd Issue (post WWII) Summer 2009



From the President COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty Take this opportunity to welcome home all the members of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and in particular the Cavalry Troopers of the 1-102nd Cavalry as they return from their deployment in Iraq.

When we meet on June 5th in the Heritage Room of the 117th Cavalry Association at the Westfield, New Jersey Armory our nation will be preparing to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of *D-Day*, the Invasion of Normandy on 6 June 1944 and subsequent Invasion of Southern France in August of 1944. Take a minute and look at the walls of the Heritage Room. They are covered with pieces of our collective history, guidons, sabers, unit insignia, maps, but most important pictures of those who have served. Sixty-five years ago, the 102nd Cavalry Group composed of the 102nd and the 38th Cavalry Squadrons were about to take part in *Operation Overlord*, hours away from the largest amphibious invasion in history. The 117th Cavalry had just taken part in the liberation of Rome. These units would go on to make significant contributions in the defeat of Nazi Germany.

We need to recognize the contributions that current New Jersey Army National Guardsmen continue to make as part of the ongoing global War on Terror. The 1-102nd Cavalry, many of them members of our 117th Cavalry Association have just returned from the largest mobilization of New Jersey Army National Guardsmen since the 1941 mobilization in preparation for World War II.

Before you leave the Heritage Room tonight, glance again at those pictures and then think about those new veterans of the 1-102nd Cavalry who have just returned. Both groups of Cavalry Troopers share a common heritage. They are bound together by many of the same traits that all soldiers share regardless of when we serve. Words like destiny, heritage, tradition, loyalty seem to transcend generations. When you put on a uniform, you soon come to realize that soldiers are the people who least like war because they pay the highest price but they have taken an oath to serve and defend our nation from its enemies and this global war on terror is just the latest challenge to a new generation of soldiers.

Thank them for their service and welcome our newest veterans home. Even as the 1-102nd Cavalry arrives home the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion has deployed to Iraq. There are members of our association currently serving in this organization. Our thoughts and prayers go with them.

Show' em the Way!

Dennis

DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA FOR 102ND CAVALRY REGIMENT APPROVED

(Edited version of Official Memorandum follows)

AAHS-IHS (840-10a)

MEMORANDUM THRU Chief, National Guard Bureau, 1411 Jefferson Davis Highway, ATTN: NGB-PAH (Mr. Derek Nestell), Arlington, V r, HHT, 1st Squadron, 102d Cavalry Regiment, 500 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090-3335A 22202-3231

FOR Commander HHT, 1st Squadron, 102d Cavalry Regiment, 500 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090-3335

SUBJECT: Heraldic Items for the 102d Cavalry Regiment, New Jersey Army National Guard

1. As a result of the redesignation of the 117th Cavalry Regiment to 102d Cavalry Regiment, forwarded for your organizational records are the authorization letters for the coat of arms (COA) (encl 1) and distinctive unit insignia (DUI) (encl 2).

(This is the Enclosure)



DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA



COAT OF ARMS

Distinctive Unit Insignia. Description: A Gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in height overall blazoned: SHIELD: Per chevron enhanced Azure an Or, on the first two fleurs-de-lis of the second, in base a horse's head erased of the first. CREST: On a wreath of the colors Or and Azure, a lion's head Or collared four fusils Gules. Attached below and to the sides of the shield a Gold scroll inscribed "SHOW 'EM THE WAY" in Red.

Symbolism: SHIELD: The division of the shield per chevron alludes to the assault on the Normandy Beach. The two fleurs-de-lis represent service in Europe during World Wars I and II. The horse's head is from the historic crest of the Essex Troop. CREST: The crest is that of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 117th Cavalry Regiment on 20 November 1964. It was amended to revise the symbolism on 23 February 1972. The insignia was redesignated effective 1 September 2008, for the 102d Cavalry Regiment with the description updated.

Coat of Arms.

Blazon:

Shield: Per chevron enhanced Azure and Or, on the first two fleurs-de-lis of the second, in base a horse's head erased of the first.

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

Motto: SHOW 'EM THE WAY.

Symbolism:

Shield: The division of the shield per chevron alludes to the assault on the Normandy Beach. The two fleurs-de-lis represent service in Europe during World Wars I and II. The horse's head is from the historic crest of the Essex Troop.

Crest: The crest is that of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

Background: The coat of arms was originally approved for the 117th Cavalry Regiment on 20 November 1964. It was amended to revise the symbolism on 23 February 1972. The insignia was redesignated effective 1 September 2008, for the 102d Cavalry Regiment.

(End of edited Memorandum and Enclosure)

New GI Bill The first GI Bill was created after World War II in 1944 to provide educational benefits to the millions of young veterans re-entering civilian life. As of May 1, 2009, the Veterans Administration will begin to accept applications from service members and veterans who have served since Sept. 11, 2001. Benefits will start to be paid beginning in August 2009.

The new bill also provides enhanced benefits for Guardsmen and reservists. They will now have 15 years to use their benefits, and will be able to accumulate time spent on active duty on multiple tours toward the cumulative total of active duty. Time spent on active duty determines the amount of coverage of the bill.

The most important part of the new bill increases the amount of money offered for tuition and expenses. For public colleges and universities, it will cover in-state tuition in full, plus a monthly housing stipend and up to \$1,000 per year for books. Guardsmen who spent 12 months on active duty could receive a 60 percent subsidy of a year of tuition, books, and housing while studying at a state university.

The current GI bill, the Montgomery GI Bill, will still be available for service members who served before 9/11 and provide a fixed amount for tuition payments and no stipend for other expenses. It is the only bill that covers technical education and licensing and certification programs, according to the Veterans Administration.

Key Benefits:

Tuition: Capped at the in-state tuition cost of the most expensive state College. Will be paid to the School at the beginning of the term.

Books and Supplies:

\$1,000 per year will be paid to the service member and divided by academic term

Housing: will be paid to the service member according to DOD base allowance for housing rate at the location of the school for E-5 pay grade with dependent.

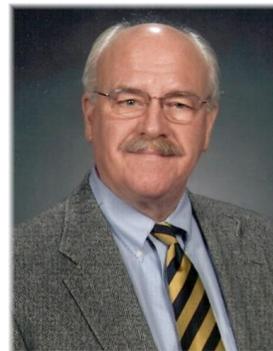
Time to use benefit: 15 Years

Time in school covered: 36 Months

From the Editor Phil Notestine We continue the WWII history of the “Lucky Little 38th” as she came to be known. Between the last issue and now, I have made contact with another WWII veteran of the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) of the 102nd Cavalry Group. He is LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab, US Army (Ret.) who made the Army a career. More on this later. LTC Shehab shares a bit about his experience as a recon platoon leader with the 38th CAV at Monschau, the “*Battle of the Bulge*” in an edition of *World War II Chronicles* on page 26. Go here and scroll to page 26:

http://www.americanveteranscenter.org/Publications/Issue_XXVII-Winter2004.pdf

As you will see, our communications and collaboration with the Salcido family continues. We welcome all inquiries, especially from family members of our WWII veterans who gave it their all during WWII. Also, we will start a **Letters to the Editor** section. Please write!



CONFERENCE CALL TO HONOR 1LT MANUEL SALOME SALCIDO

Synopsis – With reference to the last edition of *The Spur*, we received an email inquiry in late December 2008 about an officer who died of wounds (DOW) received in combat near Follonica, Italy in June 1944. The message was from the nephew of 1LT Manuel Salome Salcido (pictured), who had joined the 102nd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Jackson in February 1942. El Paso Police Sergeant Pete Salcido had never met his uncle and had begun a 3 year search for information to develop the history of his military service. It was 1LT Salcido’s brother Robert Salcido Sr., also a WWII combat veteran who encouraged his son Pete to begin this quest.

After exhaustive work with the DOD, Pete came upon our 117th Cavalry Association’s web site www.117th-cav.org and could read that his uncle was listed in the *Role of Honor* and WWII unit history of the 117th Cavalry and *The Spur*, Special Edition 2007 which chronicles the squadron as it evolved and developed from a peacetime, spirited horse cavalry outfit to a smashing, highly effective and proud mechanized cavalry squadron, one with few peers.



This contact began an effort to find out as much as we could about 1LT Manuel Salcimo Salcido. It was determined that he was an F Company (Tanks) platoon leader when he was gravely wounded, and DOW two days later, 26 June 1944 near Follonica, Italy. From that point, we researched our documents and called many of the 102nd and 117th Cavalry veterans who may have remembered him, from Fort Jackson, SC through Follonica, Italy. Many did, and I asked them if they would speak with members of the Salcido family.

It was on 9 April 2009 that we conducted a conference call between Robert Salcido Sr. 85, COL (Ret.) Harold Samsel, 98, Irv Partelow, 89 and Paul Seidel, 93. We were in Florida, NJ, Kansas and Texas! It was very difficult for each to hear well. Often, statements were repeated for everyone to understand. However, the call was successful – Mr. Salcido was to hear that his beloved brother was well remembered and held in high regard.

COL Samsel was the squadron S-3 (Operations) and a Major at the time. Samsel said that he remembered 1LT Salcido as an outstanding young officer and “the Bravest of the Brave”. He said that Salcido was the first F Company officer to die in combat. Samsel eventually was promoted to LTC and was the final commander of the wartime 117th Cavalry.

Paul Seidel was an F Company officer and served with Salcido beginning in Algeria, when Seidel joined the 117th as a replacement officer. He said that he used to call Salcido by the nickname “Sal”, and found him to be a good man. Seidel replaced Salcido as platoon leader after he DOW. Seidel became the CO of F Company, a Captain.

Irv Partelow was also in F Company, a SGT and tank commander. He remembered Salcido as a likeable but firm leader, quietly so, and a good officer. Partelow was to receive a battlefield commission and became an infantry platoon leader with the 3rd ID. He was later badly wounded in combat.

Robert Salcido Sr. told us that he was a reconnaissance crewman (scout) with the 746th Tank Battalion (Separate) and landed on D-Day, 6 June 1944 at Normandy (Prior research had revealed that the 746th Tank had fought in many of the same battles with the 102nd Cavalry Group, including the 38th at Monschau). Robert Salcido wanted to be in the mechanized cavalry, like his brother Manuel. So, he resisted joining the 36th ID of the Texas NG. Many men from El Paso, TX had joined the 36th ID. It came to be that the 117th Cavalry fought alongside 36th ID throughout the war.

Salcido was much moved to hear about his beloved brother from some of the men that were his brothers of the 117th Cavalry, these 65 years following his death while leading other young Americans against the German foe. So much so, that he and his eldest son Robert Jr. will travel to New Jersey to attend the “Class of ‘41” luncheon on 6 May 2009 at Fort Monmouth, NJ. So, the brother will meet his brother’s WWII brothers, and it will truly be a *Gathering of Brothers*.

3 May 2009 - All was ready for the trip, when Mr. Salcido took a bad fall. It was diagnosed that he had broken his hip, *as a result of an earlier fall*, but he had been masking the pain – he was determined to “complete the mission” to NJ! This was not to be, for now. He had surgery on 5 May 5, 2009 and will plan on attending the August or October 2009 *Class of ‘41* luncheon and meeting.

April 2009 Meeting of the Association COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Remembrance of those recently passed away. A treasurer’s report was given by CW4 (Ret.) Don Tracy. SGM (Ret.) Ken Mahan spoke about membership, now at 220, and the dues increase to \$20.00 for regular members. This was the third time that a dues increase was reviewed and approved.

Dennis spoke of the return from Iraq of the 1/102nd Cavalry in May, and release from Federal Service in June 2009. He also told about the continuing “Coffee Express” efforts, which have resulted in many hundreds of pounds of coffee and snack food being sent to and enjoyed by our troopers and other units in Iraq. He told of other organizations and individuals doing the same. We anticipate a safe return and a fine, well deserved Recognition Ceremony.

[Ed. Note: Although we hear little about the mission and accomplishments in Iraq, we do know that things have not been dull! Many a Bronze Star and other awards have been earned and received.]

Dougherty plans to make contact with the recently re-activated 38th Cavalry and offer to meet and present the WWII US Flag that was the WWII 38th's. Phil Notestine has some contacts for him.

In attendance: Don Tracy; Bill Gruss; Dennis Dougherty; Mike Handley; Joe Callier; Walter Radwanski; Francis J. J. Stinner (Skip); Clement M. Curry Sr.; Sandy Goldstein; Dave Ellis; James Anglim; Frank Mnich; Lou DiBelardino; Bill Merring; Henry Forstenhausler; Louis Ramm (guest); Frank Patrick; Robert Apgar; Ken Mahan; Phil Notestine; Frank Wiswall; Dan Melso & guest Joseph Perre; Arnold Lasner and Donald Kondrowski.

May 6 2009 Class of '41 Luncheon Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth. After a fine buffet lunch with good comrades and guests, including SGT Pablo Chavez and CPL Jeff Heine of the 1/102nd CAV and Douglas Hutton of the Star Ledger, we made for the Great Room for the formal part of the meeting. It was an excellent setting – a roaring fireplace, comfortable chairs and divans. SGM (Ret.) Ken Mahan offered a prayer for the deceased and the safe return of the squadron in Iraq. SGT Chavez and CPL Heine spoke about their support duties at home station Westfield Armory. Both troopers saw duty in Iraq in 2006 as members of C Troop, 5/117th CAV. The WWII Veterans showed interest in the Combat Action Badge (CAB) and the non-102nd CAV unit insignia worn on the left sleeve. Chavez and Heine explained that these are of the unit served “under” in overseas combat zones.



COL Dougherty informed us that two of the *Class of '41* have been notified by French Authorities that they will receive the *Legion of Honor* in the near future. They are COL Harold Samsel and Arnold Lasner. He reiterated how members can assemble certain documents and present their records for consideration. Dougherty introduced Mr. Hutton of the Star Ledger who told of the soon to be published book “*A Tribute to New Jersey Veterans: A Pictorial History of NJ's storied military history*”. The 120+ page, hard cover “coffee table” book has been done in collaboration with the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey. Photos go back over 150 years! The regular price will be \$39.95. Order now at www.starledger.com/njmilitary .

Phil Notestine told of the upcoming edition of *The Spur*, Summer 2009 and his contact with WWII Veteran of the 38th Cavalry, LTC (Ret.) Alfred H. M. Shehab, who joined the 38th in September 1944 as a 2LT and led a recon platoon at Monschau, “*The Battle of the Bulge*”. As the saga of the “Lucky Little 38th” continues, we hope to have a contribution from Colonel Shehab.

In attendance: *Class of '41* - Joe Pocaroba, Irv Partelow, Frank

Prettyman, Jack Ferguson and Jimmy Kane; Joyce Owen, widow of Harold “Smokie” Owen; WWII 117th CAV veteran Arnold Lasner; Jack Coogan, Ken Mahan, Dennis Dougherty, Don Tracy, Bill Merring, Charlotte Merring, Bob Apgar, Douglas Hutton, Phil Notestine; SGT Pablo Chavez, CPL Jeff Heine. On Sick Call: Bob Lutz, *Class of '41*.



CONTINUED - The WWII History of the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) of the 102nd Cavalry Group; from "A Short History of the 38th.....written by Major Charles Rousek, XO of the 38th eff. 8 August 1944"

PURSUIT THROUGH BELGIUM The pleasant interlude in Paris ended on **1 September** when the Squadron reverted to attachment to the 102nd Cavalry Group and marched to Villeneuve. On the 2nd and the 3rd, the Squadron continued its march until it reached Suzy at 2200 on the 3rd. Here the mission was received to reconnoiter and secure the bridges across the Meuse between Vireux and Fumay. Troop "A", moving very fast, found the bridge at Vireux was destroyed. "B" Troop found the bridge at Fumay destroyed and commenced operations to cross the river, first taking under fire a group of enemy defenders on the east bank at Fumay. Under cover of the fire, the 1st platoon crossed the river in assault boats, drove the enemy from the town, and secured the east bank. "B" Troop's 2nd platoon located a ford one mile north of Haybes and crossed the river, followed by the 2nd platoon of "A" Troop. It was an almost incredible feat to ford the formidable Meuse River with vehicles, yet these two platoons executed that difficult crossing in well over three feet of water. The current was so swift and the river so deep, it was necessary for the armored cars to tow the ¼ tons over. Captain Buenzel came up and took the rest of "A" Troop over the ford. With the "B" Troop platoon (the 2nd under Lt. Yontz) attached, "A" Troop proceeded north on the east bank to a point opposite Vireux. "A" Troop then advanced on Hargnies to the southeast with Lt. Yontz's platoon leading. This platoon was stopped one mile short of Hargnies by a roadblock defended by a tank and infantry. Meanwhile, dismounted men of Lt. McAloon's platoon had crossed the river in boats north of Fumay and placed themselves in a position across the only road leading east out of town. When Lt. Parr's 1st platoon cleaned out Fumay in an attack through the town, they drove the defenders into the 3rd platoon who captured 30 of them. The rest of "B" Troop then crossed the river at Haybes on a ferry barge and proceeded to Hargnies on the direct road to the east. The 1st platoon leading, ran into a heavily defended roadblock one mile east of the town and attempted to reduce it but without success. "B" Troop remained in security positions covering the road to Fumay and Haybes while the 4th Division Engineers constructed a pontoon bridge over the river. At 2345, the balance of the Squadron crossed the Meuse and prepared to attack Hargnies on the next day.

On the 5th, "B" Troop determined that the roadblock on the road to their front had been abandoned. The Troop reconnoitered toward the infantry.

As "B" Troop deployed to attack further, it became apparent that the force of German infantry troops was supported by at least 4 tanks and some self-propelled guns. Troop "C" deployed dismounted with two platoons abreast, to the right of Troop "B" and closed on the town from the south.

Approximately 300 Germans, forced from the town by Troop "E" bombardment, broke from the eastern edge of the town, coming into full view of the supporting elements of the attacking troops at a range of about 2,500 yards.

Intense artillery and .50 caliber machine gun fire was brought to bear on these enemy troops, causing a complete rout and inflicting innumerable casualties.

Following this debacle, the enemy was reinforced by SS troops, accompanied by 4 tanks and self-propelled artillery, to defend the town actively and thus cover the retreat of the others. The tank fire delivered by this covering force inflicted some casualties.

The enemy action was halted through the efforts of Captain Rice commanding Troop "E" who, by personally observing and directing the fire of his assault guns, forced the enemy tanks to withdraw. Tanks of Company "F" were brought up at this time and together with elements of Troops "B" and "C", they broke up the counter-attack and a tank patrol broke into the town itself, finding it clear. Simultaneously, Troop "A", whose attack from the north had been suspended during the artillery bombardment of the town, was ordered to close on the objective. The town, which had been set on fire by the Germans before their retreat, was secured and the Command Post brought forward.

Troop "A" was assigned the mission of regaining contact with the enemy, and pushed on to the east in spite of approaching darkness. Within fifteen minutes of receiving this order, the first platoon, commanded by S/Sgt. Briglio, had made contact with a tank outpost in a thick wood two miles east of the town and was engaged with dismounted enemy on either side of the tank. After a firefight with machine guns and hand grenades, 82 prisoners were taken, including two officers.

At daylight 6 September, the Squadron set out to screen ahead of the 12th Infantry, 4th Division by moving in two columns. The north column, commanded by Captain Robert E. Meyer, consisting of Troop "C" reinforced by a platoon of light tanks and a platoon of assault guns, proceeded by way of the south column's ford at the Belgium border to Boursegnes and Bois Champay, with one light skirmish which resulted in the capture of 11 prisoners. The south column, composed of Troop "A" plus a platoon each of Troop "B" and Company "F", made contact with the enemy at Willerzie, where a Tiger tank knocked out an armored car. The tank withdrew when the troop started to maneuver. Troop "A", following up the enemy force, reached Rienne, where it was pinned down by tank fire from the woods to the east. Again, the enemy delaying force moved back when TD fire was laid on them and a platoon of "A" Troop started maneuvering to the south.

On the 7th, Troop "A" continued to push its screen to the east toward Haut Fays, advancing on three roads. The only enemy contact occurred when the first platoon encountered a defended roadblock one mile east of Cedinne. The platoon of "A" Troop and a platoon of infantry then attacked and found the delaying force had withdrawn, leaving a self-destroyed Mark IV tank. When the Infantry (2nd BN, 12th Inf.) stopped at Transinne, the troop moved on to outpost Smudf to cover them, driving off the defenders of a roadblock enroute.

Meanwhile, to the north, "C" Troop reinforced, did a great job of screening the 1st BN, 12th Infantry to Wavreille. The Troop Commander's armored car destroyed a half-track and a personnel carrier at Voneche, while the 2nd platoon drew artillery fire from Wellin. The threat of maneuver caused the enemy to withdraw. When the Troop reached Wellin, Lt. O'Brien's platoon took the road to Wavreille and Lt. Hopkin's 2nd platoon continued its reconnaissance to the east towards Bure.

Lt. O'Brien's platoon drove out the defenders of a roadblock 3km southwest of Wavreille by a dismounted attack led by S/Sgt. Martin and Sgt. T. I. Clark under cover of a barrage from the platoon's 60mm mortars. Lt. Hopkin's platoon drove out a defending force at Bure with assault gun and armored car fire and a dismounted attack by a scout section.

On 8 September, the two platoons pushed out again. Troop "A" in conjunction with the infantry maneuvered the enemy out of St. Hubert and patrolled to Navets. Troop "C" was again pushing very aggressively as it advanced on a three-platoon front to the line Harsin-Nassogne.

During their advance, S/Sgt. Engel's platoon drove off the personnel constructing a roadblock, while the first platoon ambushed and destroyed a German staff car.

Lt O'Brien's platoon raced through the night to reduce a roadblock at a crossroad in front of "A" Troop.

On 9 September, the Squadron continued its screening mission with "B" Troop passing through "A" Troop which was getting somewhat tired. When "B" Troop developed a strong enemy force in La Roche, Captain Lewis, commanding "F" Company led one of his platoons across a ford over the L'ourth River and cleaned out the town by overrunning all resistance. This daring attack netted 8 prisoners and 15 enemy dead. To the south, just east of Vecmont, Lt. Yontz' 2nd platoon attacked the forces defending the bridge over L'ourthe, inflicting several casualties but not preventing the bridge from being destroyed. 1st Lt. Yontz and Sgts. Oxenham and Phipps were the leaders of this action. While this action was taking place, an enemy force was discovered to be pocketed in the vicinity of Baal, to the rear of "B" Troop, and the attached platoon from Troop "A" with a platoon of tanks in support was dispatched to clean up this resistance. The enemy force turned out to be vastly superior, including an undetermined number of heavy tanks and self-propelled guns, and one of the Company "F" tanks was lost to the action of a 75mm gun as contact was made. The reconnaissance platoon called for artillery support from Troop "E" in battery position at Champion, which effectively broke up the concentration of enemy armor and destroyed several soft-skinned vehicles. Meanwhile, to the north, Troop "C's" first platoon under Lt. O'Brien, engaged enemy delaying forces in almost company strength at the crossroad one mile from Champion. Fire from assault guns, armored cars and the maneuvering force caused the enemy to withdraw. The Troop moved out to ford the L'ourthe and establish a bridgehead by outposting Marcourt and Marcouray the following day.

On the 11th September, Troop "B" first platoon drove out an enemy outpost of two machine guns west of Vielsalm with machine gun and mortar fire. Enemy resistance estimated to be two companies of infantry supported by an unknown number of tanks was encountered at Vielsalm and all bridges were found destroyed. Unable to make a crossing and engage this superior force, the first platoon of Troop B set up a base of fire on the high ground west of the river and succeeded in harassing the enemy and maintaining contact while the 12th Infantry forced a crossing. The second platoon attacked to occupy Salmchateau and with the assistance of attached tank destroyers, knocked out an anti-tank gun in the cemetery.

Armored car 37mm guns and mortars of the platoon covered the opposite bank with fire as the 12th Infantry attacked the town late in the afternoon. The Troop forded the river with some difficulty and outposted the crossing that night.

On the 12th, Troops "A" and "C" spent the day constructing and guarding roadblocks to protect the Corps' extremely exposed left flank. "B" Troop of the 102nd Squadron was attached to this Squadron and with "B" Troop of the 38th continued to drive to the east while the 4th Division started to come up on the Squadron's right flank.

The first platoon of "B" Troop plus two M-10 Tank Destroyers and a platoon of "F" Company light tanks were combined into a task force under Captain Meyer. When this force reached Manderfeld, it was met by small arms fire. 1st Lt. Farmer led the force in a wild charging attack on the town from two directions, with tanks, armored cars and dismounted men, which netted many prisoners. **TO BE CONTINUED...**

Membership Update – SMG (ret) Ken Mahan



Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not Sept. 09 or later, you are behind in your dues. Your subscription to *THE SPUR* is going to run out because of non-payment of dues. A sample of label:

SEPT 09

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

To Members behind in their dues, you will have date circled in RED! This is the only notice you will receive. Send information and/or dues to me at the Metuchen address shown above. **Annual regular dues of \$20.00 are due in September.** Make checks payable to **117th CAV Assn.**

NOTE As of the February meeting it was voted to **increase** dues to \$20.00, starting September 2009.

Note: If you have an e-mail address, please send it to me at KMAHAN117@AOL.COM We are compiling an email list of members we want and to include you. **Association web site:** www.117th-cav.org/ If you have a computer, try going to the web site. You can look up the WWII histories of the 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz).

New Member - Lou Ramm (Wife JoAule) Was in D-Air 1969-1979

The **1/150 Helicopter Assault Battalion** are next to going to the Sand Box, by the time you read this they will be in Iraq. There many of their personnel have come from 5/117th CAV. 3 Members of the 117th CAV Assn. are in 1/150 Aviation Bn.

Soon after the **1/150 Helicopter Assault BN** goes in to Iraq, The **1/102n Cavalry Squadron** will be coming home with the **50th Brigade Combat Team**, and all Supporting Units, from Iraq. **"Well Done"!**

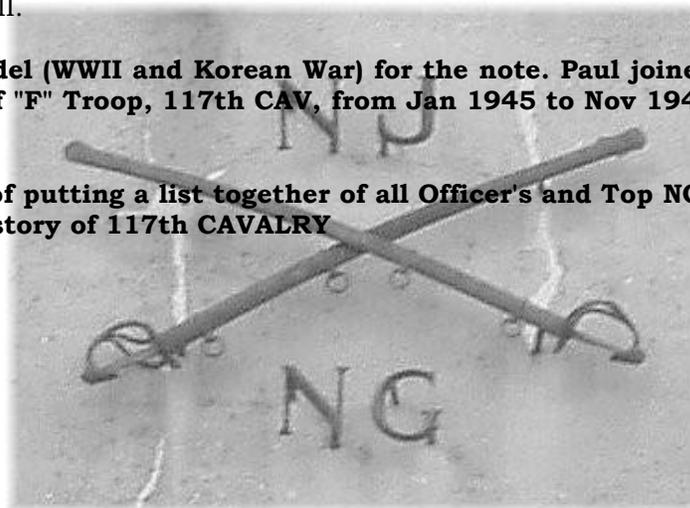
Update: Belt Buckles of the Last Ride. Are in, Cost is \$39.00 plus \$2.50 shipping. When ordering, use my above address.

Something to think about: Would you be interested in, once a month, gathering to refurbish and maintain the Westfield Armory Heritage Room? We could also plan to meet over coffee, lunch, or evening over a beer or soda. This would be a good time for retirees to spend time together.

Thanks to the following People that have given items to 117th CAV Assn. CPT Peter Zibita gave a bayonet, that he liberated from Afghanistan when he was deployed there. Bill Gerity gave a bayonet that was his uncle's, pre-WWII.

Thank You to Paul Seidel (WWII and Korean War) for the note. Paul joined the 117th CAV in Algeria, and later became CO of "F" Troop, 117th CAV, from Jan 1945 to Nov 1945. PS: On 6 Sept. '09, Paul will be 93 years young.

We are in the process of putting a list together of all Officer's and Top NCO's that have served in the CAV. This is for the History of 117th CAVALRY



TAPS

HENRY V. BERNARDSKI Died Tuesday, 3 March 2009 at Bayonne Medical Center. He was 89. A lifelong resident of Bayonne, he served in the US Army during WWII; a combat veteran with the 117th Cavalry Squadron. He was a proud *Class of '41* member of the *Essex Troop* and *117th Cavalry Associations*, and a supporter of the *National Guard Militia Museum of NJ*. He was a machinist with Singer Manufacturing in Elizabeth, for 37 years. He was preceded in death by his wife Tina, a daughter Donna; siblings Mary Lewchuck, Vincent, Rudy and Bruno Bednarski. Survivors include a daughter, Mary Lou Bernardski and many loving nieces and nephews.

DOROTHY (WILCOX) REPKE Died on Wednesday, 15 April 2009 at her home in Concordia, Monroe Twsp. NJ. She was 86 years old. Mrs. Repke was born in Halifax, Canada and settled in Newark, NJ. She became a US Citizen in 1950, and moved to Scotch Plains NJ, where she lived for many years before moving to Monroe Twsp. She was a bookkeeper with Loreal Co. in Clark, retiring in 1977, and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Cranbury. She was predeceased by her husband William O. Repke, a WWII combat veteran of the 117th Cavalry Squadron, who died in 2007. She is survived by three daughters, Gail R. Foust and husband David L. of Macedonia, OH; Donna L. Repke of Lawrenceville, GA; Lisa R. Curtin and husband Tom of North Brunswick and five grandchildren.

JOANN I. KLEIN Passed away on Monday, 20 April 2009 at her home in West Chester, PA. She was born in Jamaica, NY; Joann was the daughter of the late Joseph and Nellie Ruth Whipple Infanger. She met her lifelong love and husband Kenneth in the Roselle Park High School. They were married 51 years. They lived in Cranford for 30 years before moving to West Chester, PA. After raising her four children, she attended Kean University and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in early childhood handicap education. Joann taught for 22 years in the Cranford school system. She enjoyed traveling in the USA and Western Europe. She is survived by her loving husband Colonel Kenneth C. Klein, retired from the New Jersey Army National Guard and the Exxon Corporation. Colonel Klein is a past commander of the 5/117th Cavalry; also children Jennifer Kearns, Linda Klein, Kenneth C. Klein and Katherine Klein; a brother Joseph Infanger and seven grandchildren.

MAURO FIERRO Died on Thursday, 30 April 2009 at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Elizabeth NJ. Mr. Fierro was born in Salerno, Italy and immigrated to Elizabeth, NJ at the age of 15, where he lived in the Peterstown section. He was a resident of Clark for the past 20 years. A Vietnam Veteran (1967-1970) serving in the US Navy, he joined the 5/117th Cavalry at the Westfield Armory, serving for almost 17 years, retiring as a Staff Sergeant in 1995. He was a member of the American Legion Post 328 and the VFW Post 7363, Clark NJ. He retired from the Union County Correctional Facility as a Lieutenant after 20 years. He was a member of PBA Chapter 199. Survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Mrs. Barbara (Bucci) Fierro; devoted father of Ms. Christina Fierro, Mrs. Theresa Koursaris and husband Stelios; Mrs. Adrianna Fierro; granddaughter Elaina Koursaris.





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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

WI-10 EMIL & MARGARET ALLGEIER
 SU-25 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
 FA-09 ROSE MARIE BENNERT (mem. of) BILL BENNERT
 SU-10 RALPH BOKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
 WI-11 MSG TOM BULLOCK A Troop
 SP-10 LTC (Ret.) CLAUDE COOK & HELEN
 FA-09 STEVE S. CUP Scout, A Troop 102nd CAV WWII
 FA-09 LTC (Ret.) PETER D'ELIA
 WI-09 1SG (Ret.) DON CHAMBERLAIN (mem. of)
 1SG PHIL CURRAN
 WI-09 CLEMENT & JEAN CURRY
 WI-10 MARIE DARBY (mem. of husband) CPT JOHN DARBY
 FA-09 SGM (Ret.) JIM DOOLEY & JUDY
 WI-13 COL (Ret.) DENNIS DOUGHERTY
 WI-10 PHILIP DUNN, 1SG (Ret.) A Troop
 WI-09 DAVE ELLIS, 1SG (Ret.) D Troop
 WI-17 MAUNUEL G. FERRI
 SP-10 MAURO FIERRO
 FA-10 LTC (Ret.) ALAN R. FISHER
 WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER, (mem. of husband)
 WILLIAM E. FISHER
 SP-12 WILLIAM FISHER, Jr.
 FA-11 BOB FOLEY, HHT (Ret.)
 WI-09 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
 WI-31 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop
 WI-09 ROBERT GREEN
 SP-11 BILL HETTRICK, CHIEF ARMORER (Ret.)
 FA-10 LTC (Ret.) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop,
 117th CAV '43-44
 FA-11 CHARLES JOHNSON
 SU-10 GEORGE F. (FRED) KIMBLE
 SU-09 JOANN & COL (Ret.) KEN KLEIN
 SU-10 DONALD KONDROSKI
 SP-13 RON La VERDE (mem. of uncle)
 T-5 THOMAS G. HENNESSY, A Troop, 117th CAV
 KIA 5 JUNE 1944 ROME
 WI-11 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE
 WI-09 WALTER & NANCY LAWRENCE
 WI-11 EDWARD J. LEONARD
 FA-09 GRACE LILLEY (mem. of husband) EDWARD
 WI-13 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
 FA-09 (mem. of) TIM MALONEY
 WI-09 OSCAR MERBER
 FA-11 CHARLOTTE & BILL MERRING

SU-13 PAMELA THONACK MILLER (mem. of father)
 HERBERT A. THONACK, CLASS OF '41 117th CAV
 WI-09 CW5 (Ret.) FRANK MNICH & JANET
 FA-10 JAUNITA MITCHELL (wife of FRANK)
 WI-11 RONNIE NIER
 WI-12 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON
 Troops C & E 102nd CAV CLASS OF '41,
 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion '43-'45
 SP-12 JOYCE & HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN, CLASS OF '41,
 117th CAV WWII
 WI-11 FONTINOS PANAGAKOS
 WI-10 FRANK & BETTY PATRICK
 SP-11 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of) RICK APBLET
 SP-10 TOM PETTY
 WI-16 COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON (mem. of)
 SU-12 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
 FA 09 CSM (Ret.) AL PHELAN, Jr.
 WI-10 LTC (Ret.) TONY PLONNER
 SP -10 DOT & LTC (Ret.) KEN QUAAS
 SP-10 ART REINBOLD (mem of) ED SUTTON
 SP-10 PAUL RIOS
 WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS (mem. of ROBBIE)
 WI-09 HELENA ROBERTS, HHT 5/117th CAV
 WI-14 FRED RODMAN (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN
 F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
 SU-11 COL (Ret.) HAROLD SAMSEL, CLASS OF '41,
 117th CAV WWII
 SP-17 JAMES SCANLON
 WI-09 ROBERT J. SMITH
 SP-10 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem of husband) WILLY SCHNAAR
 WI-09 MSG (Ret.) ROCCO SPANO
 WI-09 ELMER K. SQUIER, B Troop 117th CAV
 SP-12 JOHN SUITER
 WI-10 SFC JOS. W. TOOMEY, B Troop 102nd CAV (Iraq) & SABINA
 WI-10 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
 FA-11 CHARLES A. VIVIANO (50th RECON BTN)
 SP-12 CSM (Ret.) HENRY WETZEL & GRACE, (mem. of)
 GEORGE "RED" EMERY
 WI-09 LTC (Ret.) FRANK WISWALL, USAF. CLASS OF '41"
 B Troop, 102nd CAV '41 - July '42
 SP-10 MRS. EDWARD J. WITOS, Jr. (loving mem. husband)
 EDWARD J. WITOS, Sr.
 FA-25 FRANK A. WOODS, SSG A Troop, 3rd Platoon

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DUES DUE ↓

1st New Jersey Cavalry



MISSION STATEMENT: It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the spirit of the 117th Cavalry Association, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country.

NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS: 5 JUNE 2009; 11 SEPTEMBER 2009; 6 NOVEMBER 2009