



# 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association

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

102d CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117<sup>th</sup> CAV (Mecz) 50<sup>th</sup> CAV RCN SQDN 50<sup>th</sup> RCN 5<sup>th</sup> RCN 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV 1-102d CAVALRY  
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**President's Message June 2012** This year's 2012 Biennial Reunion of our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association promises to be a special event. For the first time we will join the Troopers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment for our first joint social event, *The Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance* it will take place on Friday, 28 September 2012 at the Grand Summit Hotel, 50 Springfield Avenue, Summit NJ. (See the attached flyer for details) It promises to be a special event, a time for fellowship and camaraderie, and chance to recognize the service of our members who have served in our nation's conflicts from WWII to the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will be a time to come together to remember those who have served and those who continue to serve. Today the Cavalry Troopers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment carry on this collective heritage of Armor and Cavalry in New Jersey. I would like to personally thank LTC Bill Morris the Squadron Commander for his invitation to join with his Cavalry Troopers and encourage all our members to attend *The Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance* on September 28, 2012.

On February 9, 2012, the Westfield Foundation, a community foundation, awarded the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association a grant dedicated to telling the story of all those Cavalry Troopers who have served and who now serve in today's 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment. It will be called the Share our Story Grant. We have a substantial collection of cataloged items many of which are already on display throughout the armory. They tell the story of over 90 years of military history in both Westfield and where the troops stationed there have served. This grant will help our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association continue to tell their story. It is dedicated to the preservation of historical artifacts, pictures and the collection and display of new photographs that depict the service of those currently serving in the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry. At present we have produced a series of photographs that depict the service of Troop C 5-117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in Iraq from 2006-07 as well as the deployment of the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry and Company D 250<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Company, to Iraq from 2008-09 with the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team. These photographs will be displayed throughout the Westfield Cavalry Armory. The estimated time for this project will be 18 months.

I would also like to thank Shea Fitzpatrick a sophomore at Westfield High School, for producing a YouTube video entitled "Words from the National Guard" [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP\\_xTu72jFs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP_xTu72jFs) Shea produced it as part of a service project for her US History Class. It focuses on the personal experiences and lessons learned from selected individuals who have served in the New Jersey Army National Guard. Thank you Shea, for taking the time and walking across the street to the Armory to hear the story of those who have served and telling it to a whole new generation of students.

We all have friends who we have served in the units whose lineage flow through 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry and are not members of our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association. I encourage everyone to call one of these people and invite them to come to our next meeting on Friday June 1<sup>st</sup> and make it a busy night for Ken Mahan our membership chair! Also, let them know you are planning to attend The Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance on September 28<sup>th</sup> and you would like to share a table and many memories with them.

I would be remiss if I didn't offer a special thanks to all our members who have made contributions to help defray the cost of the publication of "The SPUR." Please continue to show your support in your sponsorship of our 117<sup>th</sup> 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 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry.

Show 'em the Way!

*Dennis*

COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty





**Commander's Message** Greetings Fellow Cavalrymen, Spring is upon us and with it, a transition of a different kind continues. Though change is always a constant, we are not in a never-ending state of flux. The Squadron's transformation is in the past and what we see now is a normal cycle of training. We continue to refine training goals and methods and anticipate equipment fieldings. This quarter we have moved into collective training in the line troops with a focus on Area Recon and Screening. The Forward Support Company is conducting drivers training, qualifying with crew served weapons, and completing Army Warrior Tasks while the HHT shares some of those tasks it is also preparing to field the new Command Post.

The HHT's Command Post fielding in particular represents, to me, the single biggest change in the "art of command and science of control" since I joined. The equipment joins a host of other capabilities that we've fielded and culminates this summer with training and exercises that establish everything from the physical set up of the shelter, power generation,

heating and air conditioning (yes air conditioning!) to connectivity of computer systems and their use in building the picture for the commanders and staff members. It is literally an historic event in the Cavalry.

In a recent exercise with the 50<sup>th</sup> IBCT headquarters, we learned what our higher command and its two Infantry Battalions want most from their Cavalry Squadron: *Area Recon and Screening* of their movement. And that's just what our Troops are conducting. Each in their individual role the mounted Troops, A and B and the dismounted Troop C are conducting collective training at the platoon level to support those missions. I am continually impressed by their dedication and expertise in these areas. Their attitude, sense of humor and adaptability are second to none.

Likewise, the Headquarters Troop and Forward Support Company respond and anticipate support requirements of those line troops and one another without issue. To see the FSC respond to broken down vehicles or continue to distribute materials, chow, etc. in the field while still conducting training makes one realize just how hard their mission is - they have to train and do their mission every single day. There are always opportunities to see them in action - during this last IDT their Soldiers and NCOs were found doing just that, recovering a vehicle and training members of a line troop in how to safely prepare that vehicle for towing.

There is a lot of talk right now about an austere financial environment. First, we have been here before. There will be some inconveniences, we know. However, we will find that we train and improve and continue to build our heritage as we always have, little affected by the changes in budget. The constant factor in achieving success in spite of those challenges: *the dedication and ingenuity of our Soldiers.*

*Show 'em The Way!*

*Bill*

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



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**Command Sergeant Major Jeffrey Pels** CSM Pels is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Command Sergeant Major of the "new" 1st Squadron, 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment. As we all know, the "new" outfit was formed from the merging of the 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV and the 2-102<sup>nd</sup> ARMOR in 2009. The CSM had previously served in both the 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV and the 2-102<sup>nd</sup> ARMOR. He joined the 2-102<sup>nd</sup> ARMOR in 1994 after being discharged from the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC.

The CSM has had an awesome Army career! He joined in July 1987, enjoying some fun in Infantry Basic Training, Fort Benning, GA. He was posted to 1<sup>st</sup> BN, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry, rising to Team/Squad Leader, B-1-29<sup>th</sup> INF. Pels completed the Army Airborne School in 1988. He took the SOF Assessment and Selection Course, and began learning a new "trade" at the JFK Special Warfare Center, Fort Bragg. Earning the coveted SPECIAL FORCES tab, SGT Pels began advancing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group. His final assignment was serving as Senior SF Commo SGT/Junior Weapons SGT/Team Sniper in C/3/3 SFG (A) ODA 391.

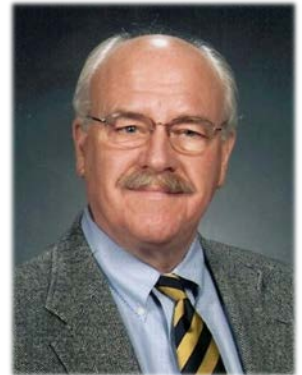
Upon being discharged from active duty in September 1994, he immediately joined the 2-102<sup>nd</sup> ARMOR, NJARNG. He was a "full-timer", serving under Title 13 (Counter Drug Program) from September 1994 through October 1998 in various positions, incl. Scout Section SGT HHC 1-102<sup>nd</sup> ARMOR, FBI/Intel Analyst and Scout Platoon Sergeant C-5/117<sup>th</sup> CAV. As a senior NCO in 1-102<sup>nd</sup> ARMOR, he rose to First Sergeant, OTRS HQ. In February 2010, Pels was promoted to Sergeant Major - Brigade Operations. 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, NJARNG. He remains the Brigade Operations Sergeant Major, even as he serves as CSM , 1-102<sup>nd</sup> CAV.

Decorations include: *Army Commendation Medal (4), Army Achievement Medal (6), National Defense Service Medal, NCO's Professional Development Ribbon (3), Special Forces Tab, Parachute Badge, Air Assault Badge, Army Service Ribbon, Army Excellent in Competition (Bronze) Pistol.*

CSM Jeffrey Pels was born in Phillipsburg, NJ and lives with his wife and children in Washington, NJ.

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**From the Editor – Phil Notestine** My wife Ginny and I recently moved from our home of 35 years in Mountain Lakes, Morris County NJ to the Pinewild CC in Pinehurst, NC. We took possession of our new home in April. Pinehurst is situated in the "Sand Hills", and is one of the USA's great golf and horse areas. We are about 40 minutes from Fort Bragg. Here in beautiful Pinewild, we overlook a lake in the "Holly", a tough (for me) 18 hole course with many traps and water hazards. Our neighbors have been most welcoming! Most are retired, including military. We have already joined a church, one that we have been worshiping at for years, as we would come down several times a year to visit Ginny's parents. If you find yourself down this way, call!



I was behind schedule in getting The SPUR to our faithful printers of many years, *Watson Graphics* of Kearny, NJ and hope that you all got your copy before the June meeting.

Sadly, I will not be able to attend many *Association* meetings, or *Class of '41* luncheons. I will sorely miss the company of our WWII veterans and my cavalry colleagues of many years.

Our new address: 28 Oxton Circle, Pinehurst, NC 28374-8880. Phone is 910-420-2968. Same email address: [notie@msn.com](mailto:notie@msn.com)

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**117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association Meeting, April 13, 2012** The meeting was called to order by the Association President led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. There was then a moment of silence for COL Rudy Saulter former First Brigade Commander of the 50<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and SGT Mike Handley of Troop B.



The Association was awarded a grant from the Westfield Foundation. It will be called the "Share our Story" Grant and will tell the story of the Cavalry units that have been stationed in the Westfield Armory through the preservation of historical artifacts, flags and pictures with a special emphasis being placed on the 2008-2009 mobilization of the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Five distinctive pieces have already been completed. Two flags donated by COL Tom Bryant in memory of his father - COL (Ret) Larry Bryant. A complete troop picture (each platoon separate) of Troop A of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron at the end of WWII and two 20x30 inch posters of numerous pictures of the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry at FOB Bucca. Shea Fitzpatrick (pictured, left), a sophomore student from Westfield HS, also spoke about an oral history project that she is working on as part of a history service project for her US History Class. She will write a short article for *The SPUR* explaining the project.

Association member Ed Barry, Vietnam veteran and helicopter pilot, made a presentation of a plaque with a copy of the Fort Drum Sentinel (newspaper). The article described the training the 5-117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was doing during the annual training period in 1981. Of particular note was the picture and description of the helicopter repelling and extraction techniques of the Scout Platoon of Troop D (Air). This plaque will be placed in an appropriate place in our *Heritage Room*.

September 28, 2012, will be the date for our 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Reunion of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association. We will be combining our reunion with the Annual Spurs and Sabers Ball of the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry. A flyer with the details is included in this issue of the *The Spur*.

Danielle Bracco, President of the Family Readiness Group of the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, spoke about the plans for the upcoming Casio Night scheduled for 7PM November 3, 2012 at the Westfield Armory.



There was a discussion about the move of the Armor and Cavalry schools to Ft Benning and the movement of the entire Armor Collection from Fort Knox to Fort Benning and the construction of a National Armor and Cavalry Museum. The museum will be a core component of the Maneuver Center of Excellence as both an educational resource and center for study of the history of the Mounted Force. The museum will take a central role in supporting unit, organization and

Soldier history and heritage. It will also provide the public with a window to the Army, and in particular, it's mounted warriors, their history, and their role in national development. The museum will be selling pavers to help defray the cost of building the new facility. There was discussion by our membership to honor LT Daniel Lee with a paver. LT Lee joined the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry at Ft Jackson, SC after mobilization and served with the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in Southern France where he received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of Montrevel, 3 September 1944 during the liberation of Southern France. He was the only Cavalryman in WWII to be so honored.

The following attended the meeting: Joe Manto, Don Emery, Ed Barry, Walt Lawrence, Rick Luciano, Jim Anglim, Bob Apgar, Ken Mahan, Danielle Bracco, Shea Fitzpatrick, Ann Marie Infantino, Jerry Infantino, Bill Morris, Jennifer Silva, Henry Wetzel, Art Maggs, Don Tracy, Henry Forstenhausler, Marry O' Donnell, Tom Picket, Clement Curry, Walter Radwanski, Rochus E. Lawrence, Don Kondroski, Frank Mnich, Chris Sands, Dennis Dougherty, John Craddock.

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**Class of '41 Luncheon 8 March 2012** Held at the River Rock, Brick, NJ. It was another beautiful day during the winter that wasn't. The WWII veterans sat together to aid in communications; they had a great time sharing memories and telling tales of Fort Jackson and remembering friends who had gone on to *Fiddler's Green*. In attendance: Jim Coburn, Jack Ferguson, Jim Kane, Joe Pocaroba of the *Class of '41*; Ken Mahan, Sam Cunninghame, Don Tracy, Bob Apgar, Jim Kane Jr., Charlotte & Bill Merring and Phil Notestine. Ed Leonard, Frank Wiswall, *Class of '41* and Arnold Lasner were on sick leave.

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**Class of '41 Luncheon 3 May 2012** at the River Rock Restaurant in Brick Township on the banks of the Manasquan River. It was a great meeting with lots of lively talk by all those in attendance. The highlight of the day was the discussion about Joe Pocaroba's 1942 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment Yearbook. Many stories were swapped about the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry's Mobilization at Ft Jackson, SC. Dennis Dougherty also brought posters showing the mobilization of Troop C 5-117th Cavalry's Mobilization at Camp Shelby MS in 2005-06 and their deployment to Iraq in 2006-07. In addition, a poster of Troop B 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry and Company D 250<sup>th</sup> BSB was also shown. (Pictured are Pocaroba, Coburn and Kane) The pictures had many of the same poses just decades apart! All the troopers in attendance compared the pictures from the 1942 Yearbook with the posters of today's Cavalry Troopers of the 5-117<sup>th</sup> and 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry. Our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association



is currently in the process of completing a series of posters that document the service of all of New Jersey's Cavalrymen in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This was made possible by a generous grant from the Westfield Foundation. We look forward to continue to tell the story of all of New Jersey's Cavalry Troopers at our *Class of '41* luncheons, thru *The Spur*, our Association newsletter and at our upcoming meetings of our 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association. Our next *Class of '41* lunch is Thursday, 3 August 2012. Make it a point to put it on your calendar to have lunch with your fellow Cavalrymen. Hope to see you there for some great food and great company and always great stories! In Attendance: *Class of '41* members Jim Kane, Jim Coburn and Joe Pocaroba; and Don Tracy, Ken Mahan, Bill and Charlotte Merring, Dennis Dougherty and Jim Kane, Jr. Ed Leonard, Frank Wiswall, *Class of '41* and Arnold Lasner remain on sick leave.

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**RECOLLECTIONS by LTC (Ret) Ken Quaas** Circa 1947 - Colonel James G. Depew was the original 50<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Recon Battalion commander (*Battalion Colors shown*) He had the rare ability, as a commander, to have both tactical and administrative abilities. As you probably know, he was awarded the *Legion of Merit* for his contributions to the hedgerow cutter invention in World War II.

I helped Bill Maloney by revamping all of the items in the supply room of Troop A. Colonel Depew inspected the supply room and was impressed with the neatness and arrangement of items with one exception. He said that the caps on the canteens should be left hanging on the chains that attach them to the canteens so there is no chance that any water would be left in the canteens. My arrangement was to have the caps screwed on. It seems that in this case the Colonel was not aware that the manual covering the storage of

canteens called for the caps being screwed on to prevent the corks in the caps from drying out.

Colonel Depew had a nickname. He was called the "Walking Ghost" due to the sallow nature of his complexion. He was a great commander to serve under. I served as his sergeant major, and one of his full-time administrative assistants

and attended his farewell dinner, which was also the night of the explosion in Perth Amboy, New Jersey--an event that led to the federalization for a few days of certain personnel in the 50<sup>th</sup> Recon.

**Circa 1948:** SGT Lewis Oakley was the full-time motor vehicle sergeant for Troop D. A shuffling, amiable guy, he had some trouble with the English language which made others laugh and he would laugh along as well. He would do anything for you. I recall him helping me put a replacement starter engine in my 1938 Plymouth sedan. It was tight quarters and a long, special wrench was required. At the end of the job, some of his knuckles were bleeding but he shook it off. I think he may have had some digits missing on one or more of his hands, and it was speculated by others that he was trying to board a Chinese vessel and someone on board with a sword tried to thwart his entry into the boat thereby leaving his hands short of the usual finger structure. (Pictured is 2LT Quaas, BN Medical Officer & staff)



Getting back to his English, he once misused the term "livelihood" by saying "livinghood". This resulted in some fun involving his coworkers. I think he lived in Avenel. Someone in the Westfield Armory encountered him trying to subdue a rat on the drill floor inside the cab of a 6X6 truck with a .45 caliber pistol as the weapon of his choice. Oakley's wife developed leukemia and in her dying days, volunteers gave blood transfusions for her to extend her life somewhat. I was one who gave a pint.

One of our Regular Army NCO advisors of the 50<sup>th</sup> Recon was MSG Lewis Selover, known as "The Fox." He was in the Cavalry before WWII. His picture is in the 1942 Yearbook of the 102<sup>nd</sup> US Cavalry as a Tech SGT in Service Troop. He was quite a character. He used to play pool with the full-time mechanics and administrative assistants during lunch hours and breaks. He used "body English" when he made shots. He liked to tease Bill Maloney about his son's name. He would use "Bruce", a name he substituted for Barry just to get Bill riled up. "No, his name is Barry not Bruce." "The Fox" kept this up so much that when Bill had his second son, he named him Bruce. "The Fox" was the consummate soldier. Capable, alert, shrewd - no wonder he was called "The Fox."



There was a time in the history of the 50<sup>th</sup> Recon when we had a Regular Army Advisor by the name of Captain Staszak. He had an unusually large sized head. His mother must have had quite a time passing his cranium during his birth. Anyway, there was a meeting of units at 50<sup>th</sup> Armored Division headquarters, and some officer introduced Captain Staszak as, "You all know Captain Staszak by sight." To which the Captain replied, "And the 50<sup>th</sup> Armored Division by reputation." Captain S was able, through the local division of motor vehicles to obtain the license plate U W 50 R, which designated "U" as Union County, and "W" as Westfield, and the Captain chose 50 R for our organization. For my auto, I settled for U W 50 H. When the Captain left his assignment with us, I asked for the 50 R dedicated plate and he agreed. To this day, I still have those two plates in my garage, along with six others, one of which is a National Guard plate

K3. I wanted a Q plate, but Colonel Ed Lilley, who was in charge of assigning the car tags told me they were not using Q at all in that series of plates. Captain Staszak was a West Point graduate and was proud of it. He heard many off-color jokes while up on the Hudson River. One he told was about a young bull and an old bull. They were on top of a hill and there was a herd of cows below in the valley. The young bull said to the old bull "Why don't we run down and each hump one of the cows?" The old bull replied, "Let's walk down and hump them all."

(Pictured is 2LT Quaas on an M24 "Chaffee" during a demo for townspeople of Westfield)



Quaas served in WWII from 1943-46, including 14 months service in the ETO in England as a sergeant in the 106<sup>th</sup> General Hospital. "We had our biggest influx of patients after the *Battle of the Bulge*. I had the experience of issuing an *eighth* Purple Heart to one of our patients. My WWII decorations consisted of *Good Conduct Medal, European Theater, American Theater, and American Defense Medal*. In 1947, I joined A Troop of the 50<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mechanized) Westfield, NJ when the troop consisted of 13 enlisted men. I started as a private and became Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer, Personnel, 2LT (Armor), 1LT (Medical Service Corps) assigned to the Medical Detachment. In 1960 transferred

to the Division Surgeon's section of 50<sup>th</sup> Armored Division HQ, promoted to CPT, then transferred to the Division Adjutant General's Section, became a Major and in 1970 became an LTC in the USAR. NJARNG decorations included the NJ Medal of Honor, the NJ Medal of Merit. As a member of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association was named *Member of the Year*, *Distinguished Member of the Regiment*, and named *Distinguished Knight of the Order of St George*, US Armor & Cavalry Association. I Was Editor of THE SPUR for 27 years. Attended Army Service Schools: 1956, Medical Service School, Ft Sam Houston, TX Adjutant General Corps Career Course, 1961, Ft Benjamin Harrison, Indiana." (Pictured on the previous page at a cavalry ball are Charlotte and CW4 (Ret) Bill Merring, Dottie and LTC (Ret) Ken Quaas)

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**My friend 1SG Ed Murphy** by SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan. On August 9, 1956 I joined the 50<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion (NJARNG) thanks to Frank Moyer and William F. "Bill or Willie" Leitz. We were friends from BSA Explorer Post 72, Nixon, NJ. They brought me to Westfield Armory, and showed me around. Then we went upstairs to the club and had a few drinks, then from under the bar, 1SG Donald Tracy presented enlistment papers, which I signed. We then went back downstairs, where I was sworn into the NJ Army National Guard. I got to know 1SG Donald Tracy who was running the club that night. I found out later that also 1SG Edward Murphy ran it on Thursday, In the coming months I got to know 1SG Edward Murphy. About a year later I got a job where I had work rotating shift work, we would drill one night a week, HHC would drill on Monday and "C" Company was on Tuesday and "D" Company would drill Thursday evening. I would have to make up every other week with "C" Company, which Edward Murphy was the 1SG. As a result, I got to know "Murph" even better. (Pictured are Murphy, Mahan and CSM (Ret) Al Phelan).

You knew when "Murph" was around he had a tendency to yell a lot. I saw "Murph's" kind gentler side at Christmas Parties for the Kids where Santa would come in on a tank, or an Easter egg hunt for the kids. "Murph" was instrumental in starting a social time for the adults. Later, when we established an NCO Club we would have a Christmas party in February. We would have appetizers, dinner, open bar, and a band for music and dancing, and the cost was \$5.00 each. The rest was picked up by the NCO Club. He organized beach parties at Sea Girt where we would have corn on the cob, clams, and hamburger's and beer and birch beer, where the club would pick up most of the cost.

There were other times "Murph" would have a picnics at his house. Alternatively, we would have picnics at the Armory. We would always meet at the club on Wednesday's, between working upstairs and get a lot more done at the club. We would have Retirement Parties for people that had 20 years, most of the time they had more than 20. That was the way it was in those days.

By the way, a year after I enlisted, Phil Notestine joined too. He and several others from the same Explorer Post 72 joined as they became old enough, including his brother Bob Notestine, Charlie Bauerdorf and Bruce Krog. We remain friends to this day.

(Editor's note: WWII combat veteran Edward J. Murphy was a "Class of '41" trooper in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment. A veteran of the Normandy Invasion, he served in Troop B, 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz). Promoted and broken with some regularity, he was decorated with the *Purple Heart* with *Oak Leaf Cluster* and *Bronze Service Arrowhead*. Murphy joined the 50<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Recon BN at Westfield in 1947.)



**50<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion, 50<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, NJARNG**



**50<sup>th</sup> IBCT (Jersey Blues), NJARNG**





**Membership Update – SMG (Ret.) Ken Mahan Trooper!** Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2012 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 2012**

**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 Association.** We cannot continue to mail *The SPUR* to lapsed members. Stick with us, we want you as a member, but you must pay your own "freight"! **Email:** Please send your email address to me at [kmahan117@aol.com](mailto:kmahan117@aol.com). We are compiling an email list of members and we want to include you. **Association web site:** [www.117th-cav.org/](http://www.117th-cav.org/) Read past issues of *The SPUR*, look up the WWII histories of the 38<sup>th</sup>, 102<sup>d</sup> and 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). **Don't forget the Reunion Friday, September 28, 2012**

### **TAPS**



**Manuel G. Ferri**, of North Plainfield, NJ, passed away on September 13<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the age of 90 with his three daughters by his side. He was born in New York City on New Year's Day, 1921 to Italian immigrants Cosimo and Genoveffa Ferri of 21 Bedford Street. He later moved to New Jersey and became a lifelong resident. Over the years, Manny held a variety of meaningful titles: Husband, Father, Pop-Pop, B-17 Navigator, Sergeant, amazing cook, first generation American, Engineer, guitarist, and friend. Growing up, Manny attended North Plainfield High School and moonlighted as an usher at the Paramount Theater. He joined the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, NJ National Guard before the official outbreak of WWII in early 1941, initially serving on horseback with the Cavalry. In striking contrast, however, he would be riding the Boeing B-17 *Flying Fortress* into battle by the War's outbreak. Manny served his country with distinction during the war years flying the fabled Burma Hump as a navigator and aerial radio operator from India to China over the treacherous

Himalayan Mountains on critical supply missions. Returning from the War, he met his future wife, Shirley Blume, one night at a YMCA dance. The result of this seemingly chance encounter was a 59-year marriage and three daughters: Marcia, Dana, and Lesley. While working as a draftsman after his discharge from the Army Air Corps, he went to Newark College of Engineering ultimately graduating as a Professional Engineer. He would begin a career at Union Carbide in 1951 that would last for 33 years and he continued to consult into his 70s. His later years brought on a variety of interests including a lifelong love of music, travel, and enjoying his family.

Manny leaves behind his wife Shirley and daughters Marcia (Russ) Clarke of Flemington, Dana (Angus) Miller of Bedminster, Lesley (Peter) Lauer of Los Angeles. He was the dear brother of Nancy Ferri of Berkeley Heights, NJ, Susan McGrath of Berkeley Heights, NJ, Raymond Ferri of Princeton, NJ and Romolo Ferri of NYC and the beloved grandfather of Douglas, Ali, Simon, Lucy and Finn.

**Maj. Gen. (Ret) Wilfred C. Menard Jr.** TRENTON - died on Feb. 20 at the age of 93. Born in Trenton, NJ, General Menard was a lifelong resident of the area and a graduate of Cathedral High School and Rider College. Son of the late Wilfred C. Menard and Bridget (Della) Dewan, General Menard is survived by his wife, Beatrice E. Murday Menard; daughters, Marilee Menard and Barbara Wolpoff; son-in-law, Stan Wolpoff; grandsons, Charles Harvey, Benjamin Wolpoff and David Wolpoff; a niece, Michele Lukens, and cousins, Sister Marie LaSalle Mullen and Mary McCormick Garruba. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary E. (Betty) Wagner Menard, and his son, Wilfred III. General Menard entered the Armed Forces in 1941, was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1942 and separated in 1945 with the rank of captain. He joined the New Jersey National Guard in 1946 and commanded at the Battalion, Group and Division Artillery levels. He was recalled to active duty in 1961 for one year with the 112th Artillery Group in the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was promoted to colonel in 1962, brigadier general of the line in 1969, and major general in 1974. General Menard joined the Military Department of New Jersey in 1954. In 1967, he was appointed assistant chief of staff of the department and in 1974, Governor Brendan T. Byrne named him chief of staff, a cabinet position, in the rank of major general to serve as adjutant general and commander of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. He retired in 1982. General Menard's military recognitions include the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Guard Bureau Order of the Eagle, the New Jersey Medal of Honor, the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and the New Jersey Medal of Merit. He was recognized by resolutions of both the New Jersey Senate and Assembly for his outstanding military and civilian service to New Jersey. In 1987, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame. General

Menard was named recipient of the Boy Scouts of America's Good Guy Award and Rider University named him a graduate of the year. He served for a number of years on the board of trustees of Helene Fuld Medical Center. In lieu of other remembrances, it is requested that donations be given to the Sisters of Mercy Retirement Community at Mount St. Mary, Highway 22, Watchung, NJ 07069, or the New Jersey National Guard Militia Museum, 151 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

**Michael Anthony Handley, 70** passed away on Sunday, April 8, 2012 at Bon Secours Hospital in Port Jervis, NY. Born in Newark, NJ on July 1, 1941 to the late Vince and Josephine Handley, Mike was raised in East Orange, NJ and Hummelstown, PA. He lived in Piscataway for 30 years and South Plainfield for the last 10 years.

He served in the U. S. Army receiving an Honorable Discharge as Sergeant, E5 and also served in the Recon Platoon, Troop D - Air and in Troop A in the 5-117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, NJ Army National Guard. Mike worked as a truck driver for H.W. Taynton Freight Company of South Plainfield, Eastern Steel Barrel of South Plainfield, USF Red Star in Newark, and was co-owner of M & T Messenger Service of Piscataway. After his retirement from USF Red Star, he worked part time as a bus driver for the Piscataway Township Board of Education and was 2nd Vice President of Transportation. Mike was a member of the American Legion Post 265 in Hummelstown, PA, the Edison Moose Lodge and served as PER of the Middlesex B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge #2301 and was also a member of the 117th Cavalry Association. Mike was an avid fan of Elvis Presley and had a huge collection of Elvis memorabilia. He was very patriotic and devoted to helping all Veterans and enjoyed collecting anything military related.

He is survived by his devoted and beloved fiancé Diane Wargo, with whom he lived, his caring cousin Jan Fantasia of Las Vegas, his Aunt Rose Fruzynski of Holmdel, his friends Norma Mansfield of Somerset and Tom & Vicky Kiczula of South Plainfield a host of other friends and his beloved dog Jay Jay- who is lost without him.



**Colonel (Ret) Rudy J Saulter, age 81**, of Quakertown, PA died at Emmaus Village Senior Care Center in Emmaus, PA on 7 April 2012 after a short valiant battle with brain cancer. Born January 3, 1931 in New York City, Rudy was one of Abram and Marie Rauch Saulter's two children. He grew up in Flatbrookville, Sussex County, NJ and graduated from Newton High School in 1947 and married the late Nancy Bisogno Saulter in 1951. He was a resident of Edison, NJ for 40 years. A true patriot and beloved leader, Rudy served honorably in the New Jersey Army National Guard for over 34 years culminating as 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Commander, 50<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. He continued to serve his beloved country through his involvement with the Sea Girt, NJ National Guard Museum, the Essex Troop 102d Cavalry Regiment, and the Fort Dix Retiree Council. He also worked for the NJ National Guard Youth Challenge Academy and Homeland Security through the NJ State Police. Rudy was a wholesaler for Arnold Bread Bakery and business owner in Paramus, NJ for over 40 years.

Rudy loved old time country music, taking long rides on his Honda Goldwing Trike, and spoiling the many pets he shared his lifetime with. Rudy loved most of all spending time with his family, especially his grandkids in his later years.

Rudy is survived by his children, Thom Saulter of Red Hill, PA, Greg Saulter of Edison, NJ, Carol Wilson and husband, Ross, of Coopersburg, PA, and Lori Thomas and husband, Scott Lycett, of Hamburg, NY; his grandchildren, Nick and Sammi Thomas, Ross Wilson Jr. and Erin Egleston and their families including 5 great-grandsons. Also his brother, Robert Saulter and wife, Bobbi, of Corpus Christi, TX, and many beloved cousins, nieces and nephews who were a precious part of his life. Rudy was predeceased by his half-sister, Riva Schwartz, and half-brother, Leon Saulter.







***Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance***

***Friday September 28, 2012***

***The Grand Summit Hotel***

***50 Springfield Avenue, Summit NJ***

***Please join the Troopers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment and the 117<sup>th</sup> 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 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association.

**Ticket Information**

**Dinner Choice**

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

**Reservations**

Money and reservations **by September 24, 2012**, Make check payable to:

**117<sup>th</sup> 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

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- SP-15 EMIL & MARGARET ALLGEIER
- SP-13 BILL ANTONUCCI (mem. of) CPT WM. ANTONUCCI JR.
- SU-15 NANCY ASHFORD & JEANNIE BROWN (sisters)  
(mem. father) SSG WM. T. TITTER  
WWII B TROOP 117<sup>th</sup> CAV
- FA-12 BILL ANTONUCCI (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY SR.
- SU-25 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
- SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR)  
5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV
- SU-13 CRAIG BEACHER
- FA-12 ROSE MARIE BENNERT (mem. of) BILL BENNERT
- WI-19 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
- WI-12 MSG TOM BULLOCK A Troop
- FA-12 SANTI CARNEVALI *Class of '41, 117<sup>th</sup> CAV WWII*
- SP-14 DON CARSON (mem. of) MSG GARY G. HADDICAN
- SU-14 DOROTHY CASPAR (mem. of) RICHARD J. CASPAR
- SP-14 GEORGE "JIM" COBURN, *Class of '41 USAAF 395<sup>th</sup>*  
*FIGHTER SQUADRON, 368<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER GROUP (Europe)*
- SU-12 STEVE CUP, SCOUT A TROOP 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV WWII
- SP-13 SSG (Ret.) CLEMENT & JEAN CURRY
- WI-12 LTC (Ret.) PETER D'ELIA
- SP-13 SGM (Ret) JIM DOOLEY
- WI-13 COL (Ret.) DENNIS DOUGHERTY
- WI-13 1SG (Ret.) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop
- FA-13 LTC PATRICK du TERTRE (ARMY OF FRANCE)
- SP-14 1SG (Ret.) DAVE ELLIS, D Troop
- WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
- WI-13 LTC (Ret.) ALAN R. FISHER
- WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem. of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
- WI-32 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop
- WI-12 ROBERT GREEN
- SP-14 BILL GRUSS (mem. of) SFC FRANCIS SKINNER
- SP-13 LOIS HAASIS (mem. of) CW4 WALTER HAASIS
- FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
- SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY SGT Troop C
- SP-14 HERB HUBER, WWII 117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY T5 Troop E  
(Assault Guns)
- SU-15 LTC (Ret.) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
'43-'44
- FA-14 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO.  
WWII 117<sup>th</sup> CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*
- SU-13 GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO
- FA-15 CHARLES JOHNSON WWII 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Recon
- SP-14 COL (Ret.) KEN KLEIN in loving mem. of wife JOANN
- WI-12 ANDREW LASNER in Honor of his Father, Arnold Lasner
- FA-13 JAY LASNER in Honor of his Dad, Arnold Lasner
- SP-13 RON La VERDE (mem. of uncle) T-5 THOMAS G.  
HENNESSY, A Troop, 117<sup>th</sup> CAV KIA 5 JUNE '44 ROME
- SP-15 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE
- WI-13 EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41, PSG B Troop*  
*117<sup>th</sup> CAV, Montrevel POW French Legion of Honor*
- SU-12 CSM(Ret.) ARTHUR MAGGS (mem.)  
CSM (Ret.) JAMES E. KIERNAN
- SP-14 C. J. MacNICHOLS
- WI-13 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
- SU-14 KEN MAHAN for FRG SUPPORT TEAM
- SU-12 KEVIN MALONEY (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
- WI-17 BRIAN & BRUCE (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
- FA-20 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
- SU-16 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father)  
T4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV WWII
- SU-13 PAMELA THONACK MILLER (mem. of father)  
HERBERT A. THONACK, *Class of '41, 117<sup>th</sup> CAV*
- SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK,  
*Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117<sup>th</sup> CAV, Montrevel POW*
- SP-13 CW5 (Ret.) FRANK MNICH & JANET
- SP-13 LTC WILLIAM MORRIS
- FA-13 RONNIE NIER
- SU-14 HENRY NIESE 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV TRP A 1943-1945 (Stateside)
- WI-12 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON  
Troops C & E, *Class of '41;*  
602<sup>nd</sup> Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
- FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of)  
RICK APBLETT
- WI-12 CSM (Ret.) AL PHELAN Jr. (mem. of) MSG FRED MATTOX
- WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
- FA-12 (mem. of) MAJ CHARLES B. PIERCE, WWII 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV
- WI-12 TOM PETTY
- FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
- SP-13 DOT & LTC (Ret.) KEN QUAAS
- SU-12 MSG (Ret.) ART & RUTH REINBOLD (mem. of)  
"POP" CHRISTOPHER
- WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
- WI-24 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN  
F Company (tanks) 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV WWII
- SP-13 DONALD SAMSEL (mem. of Father) COL (Ret.) HAROLD  
SAMSEL, *Class of '41, 117<sup>th</sup> CAV WWII FR. Legion of Honor*
- SP-15 SALCIDO FAMILY (in mem. of) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO  
(Ft Jackson '42) 117<sup>th</sup> CAV. F CO. KIA Italy June 1944
- SP-18 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of brother) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
- SP-17 JAMES SCANLON
- WI-12 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem. of husb) WILLIE SCHNARR
- SU-14 BILL & MARY SEDLAK
- WI-12 ROBERT J. SMITH
- WI-12 CPT MIKE TARRICONE
- WI-15 1SG GEORGE THOMAS
- SU-13 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
- FA-16 CHARLES A VIVIANO (50<sup>th</sup> CAV RCN SQDN)
- SP-15 LTC (Ret.) FRANK WISWALL, USAF *Class of '41*  
B Troop, 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV '41- '42 Fr. *Legion of Honor*
- WI-27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG A Troop, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon  
117<sup>th</sup> CAV WWII
- SP-18 MARTHA ZOLLER, FRANK MITCHELL JR. & PAM GUNTER  
(mem. of) FRANK & JUANITA MITCHELL
- SP-13 FRG HHT 1-102<sup>nd</sup> CAVALRY

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**1944 - Somewhere in France**

Many troopers of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment were transferred and promoted into the Army Air Forces. *Class of '41* member George "Jim" Coburn, Jr. of Milburn was one of them. 1LT Coburn was an armament officer of the 395<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 368<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group. They flew the mighty Republic P-47D "Thunderbolt". The picture is somewhere in France, soon after the Normandy Invasion; this model is a "Razorback", later a bubble canopy was the norm. 368<sup>th</sup> Fighter Groups usually operated out of hastily constructed or repaired airfields, following the Army's advances into Germany. Initially an escort fighter for our bomber formations, the "Jug" was superseded by the fabulous North American P-51 "Mustang". The "Jug" was reconfigured for ground attack mission, and was highly effective, carrying eight .50 caliber machine guns in the wings, bombs and rockets. Her enormous Pratt & Whitney R2800 double-row 18 cylinder 2,500 HP radial engine was very reliable, could take punishment and keep going. As you can imagine, flying low was dangerous, as the German anti-aircraft fire was thick and the shrapnel from exploding targets was always a concern. Many a "Jug" limped home to become salvage, and many a young pilot was wounded or killed. The Germans were terrified of the fighter-bombers!

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DUES DUE ↓

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



**MISSION STATEMENT:** It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the Spirit of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country. **NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS - Friday evenings @ 1930 hours: 1 June, 7 September, 2 November 2012, 1 February 2013,**