



117th Cavalry Association

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102d CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102d CAVALRY
Volume 33, Number 1 135th Issue (post WWII) Special Edition 2012



President’s Message February 2012 This special edition of “*The Spur*” highlights the December 3, 2011 change of command ceremony of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment, between LTC Ed Chrystal and LTC Bill Morris. A change of Command Ceremony is a special event for a military unit. It is a renewal of trust and commitment between the outgoing and incoming commanders to the unit in which they share a common bond. The 1-102nd Cavalry represents the collective heritage of Cavalry and Armor in today’s New Jersey Army National Guard. The troopers of 1-102nd Cavalry carry on today as in years past the unit’s lifeblood, its heritage, traditions, and history, as they stood in formation before those assembled to view the day’s activities. They reminded us the members of our 117th Cavalry Association and the Essex Troop both of their dedication and resilience. There is a common bond between our “*Class of 41*” members, our WWII veterans of the 117th 102nd and 38th Cavalry; the Greatest Generation, (8 of who were in attendance that day) and our new Greatest Generation the Troopers of the 102nd Cavalry, veterans Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terror. They stood together that day on the drill floor of the Westfield Cavalry Armory at the change of command ceremony and were forever joined together by their common DNA of, service to our state and nation.

I would like to thank LT Anthony Mapp, Commander of D-250th Brigade Support Battalion and MSG (Ret.) John Barr for their submission of articles to the Spur and encourage other members of our 117th Cavalry Association to submit their stories for publication. We had our last Biennial Reunion at Ft Monmouth in 2010 celebrating 30 years as the 117th Cavalry Association. Planning is now underway for our next reunion in the Fall of 2012, so put a reminder on your calendar. More information will follow in the next edition of the Spur.

Welcome home from Afghanistan to LTC Walter Nall, CSM John H. Humphries and the troops of the 119th Combat Service Sustainment Battalion and thank you all for your service and sacrifices you made on a daily basis in defense of our nation.

After 8 years, the War in Iraq is over. We all know someone who served there and many of us knew a service member who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. 142 of them with ties to New Jersey have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are forever grateful for their service.

Please continue to show your support in your sponsorship of our 117th Cavalry Association Newsletter “*The Spur*”. Many of you have made and continue to make donations to help pay the cost of publication and its mailing. Thanks to all of you for your generosity in support of our associations many initiatives in support of our membership and the 1-102nd Cavalry.

“Show ‘em the Way”

Dennis

COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty



Westfield Armory – 500 Rahway Avenue. HQ 1-102nd Cavalry, NJARNG





Outgoing Commander LTC Ed Chrystal's Speech Brigadier General Grant, Colonel (P) Ferrari, Colonel (P) Dinapoli, Colonel Schechter, Command Sergeant Major Jenkins, distinguished guests, friends, family, and most importantly: troopers of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment: Good Afternoon and thank you for your attendance here today!

It is hard to believe that two years have passed already since I stood here as the incoming commander of this great organization. And yet, the lessons we have learned, the strides we have made, and all we have experienced together in the last two years certainly makes it seem a lot longer.

General Grant, Colonel Ferrari, Colonel Schechter: Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for having the confidence in me and entrusting me with the Command of the Squadron. There is no finer group of warriors within the National Guard today.

Whether the squadron was conducting Annual Training at Camp Smith, New York or Fort AP Hill, Virginia; participating in community events like the Union County St Patrick's Day Parade, organizing social events like the Spurs and Troopers you see before you today committed themselves wholly, conducted themselves professionally, and ensured mission success.

My command was facilitated by a great staff and awesome leadership. The junior officers and NCO's standing here in formation are truly the future leaders of the NJ National Guard. Moreover, the future looks good!

CSM Sheridan, you have continued to set the example as the senior enlisted trooper in the Squadron. I thank you for your guidance and your friendship. The high quality of our NCO leadership is a testament to your dedication and professionalism.

I thank the full time support staff for all of your professionalism and your efforts. Captain Joe McNamara, you ran a tight ship, kept me focused, and always had positive input. You are a true asset to the cavalry, the full time force and the Army Guard.

Throughout my tenure as commander, the support we received was overwhelming. COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty and the 117th Cavalry Association, Brigadier General (Ret) Frank Dulfer and the Essex Troop, our Family Readiness Groups, and the communities of Westfield, Dover, Hackettstown and Scotch Plains. All of you supported me, you supported the troopers, and you enhanced the morale and the overall effectiveness of the Squadron. I thank you all for all you have done and continue to do.

Included in that group and my biggest personal supporters are my wife, Georgette, and our kids, Madeline, Eddie and Theresa. Thanks for all you have done and all that you have put up with over the last two, very busy, years.

Bill and Heidi: Welcome back to the Cavalry family. I wish you both well in Command. I have to tell you, Bill, that being transferred out of command is a lot easier knowing a quality officer and leader such as yourself is taking the helm.

I am honored to have served with you all. I know you will do well with LTC Morris in Command, as I know he will do well to learn from the Squadron. I wish you all Godspeed and good luck in your future endeavors and I thank you for your service.

Show 'em the Way!

LTC Ed Chrystal



Incoming Commander LTC William Morris' Speech Good afternoon Major General Dyer, Brigadier General Grant, General Officers, Brigade Command Team, Joint Force Headquarters Staff, Past Commanders of the 102nd and 117th, 117th and 102nd members past and present--Dearest Family and Friends. I am grateful that you have come out to see the Cavalry showcased today and to share with Heidi and myself, and Ed and Georgette this special occasion. It means everything to us that you have traveled from everywhere from down the street to Georgia or Massachusetts. Depending on your route, the folks from down the street might have had a longer commute. I want to acknowledge my wife Heidi, my strength and inspiration, my...all that inspires me to strive, starts and ends with you...and our girls. Again, I am grateful for so many family and friends that have taken your time to be here.

Ed, thank you for welcoming me to the Cavalry. You have made the transition seamless; you are a gentleman and it's been both my pleasure to serve under you and take the flag from you. Thank you for your hospitality and setting me up for success.

Thank you to the State and Brigade Command Teams for your confidence. General Grant, Colonel Schechter, thank you for the opportunity, I am very grateful for the chance you have given me. I know full well that command is a privilege. I will always look on it so. To you men and women of the Squadron,

it humbles me to know that each one of you raised your right arm and took an oath to defend our nation. In addition, I believe that inside each of you, no matter how little we think on it, inside each of you is a picture, an idea of the thing for which you consented to place yourself in harm's way.

I know from here we fight for a nation, for the things a flag *represents*...but every inch we draw closer to a combat theater of operation I know we pull away from these things that newsmen and leaders speak of...and move toward fighting for the one thing that is paramount: One another....to the Trooper to our left and right. For him and her do we fight hardest, our friends who we love and would never want to let down.

This is ever present in my mind. I will relate a story that I hesitated to share. That a young Lieutenant Brian Brennan in a coma at Walter Reed after losing both his legs, who would not stir even to the words of his mother...no, even for her he lay silent...a year. General Petraeus visited 1LT Brennan and turned as he was leaving and shouted the battalion motto, "Currahee!" Brian stirred then yelled in reply "Currahee!!!" Rising from his coma to that word alone...what is so different, this bond we Soldiers share? I do not know precisely...but I respect it more deeply than I can express.

So, seek to bring out the best on one another, seek out the people that inspire you to strive. There are noble things in all of us; we are not noble all the time. Life is much of the routine, and here most we need to be constant and apply ourselves to excellence.

I am keenly aware that in two short years I will leave you. However, you can rest assured that for as long as I live that you will never leave me.

Show 'em the Way!

LTC Bill Morris, Commander
1-102nd Cavalry



CSM Chris Sheridan presents the Squadron...



LTC Ed Crystal receives a memento from the Squadron.



Associations Leadership
SFC Walter Hill, COL Dennis Dougherty, LTC Morris, BG Marshall and BG Wondrack.

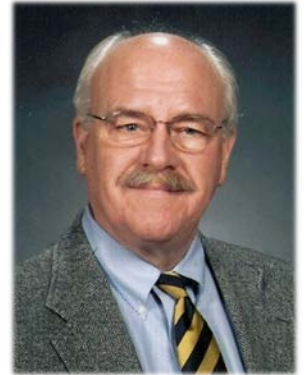
WWII veterans of the 38th, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Recon Squadrons (Mecz) were honored guests of the 1-102nd Cavalry Change of Command ceremonies. Pictured are (forefront) 1LT Ed Leonard (wearing a Stetson), LTC (USAF) Frank Wiswall, PFC Arnold Lasner



and 1LT (USAAF) George "Jim" Coburn. Standing are SGT Joe Pcoroba, 1LT Irv Partelow, 1SG Jim Kane, 1LT Jack Ferguson and their "escort", SPUR Editor Phil Notestine.

From the Editor – Phil Notestine We are publishing a Special Edition of *The SPUR* to cover the Change of Command. In addition to the many official participants, family members, 117th Cavalry and Essex Troop Associations members, eight of our WWII veterans were present. I believe that I can say that the squadron formation and ceremonies were very sharp and in the finest traditions of the U. S. Army. Several WWII veterans remarked that the young troopers, NCOs and officers were quite professional and impressive. A fine buffet was provided and new acquaintances made. The Heritage Room bar was lively and full of proud cavalymen and guests. As you will read, two more of our WWII cavalymen were to receive the French Legion of Honor, and for the first time to my knowledge, the French officials invited the active squadron commander. Read about this later.

We continue to be "found" and "liked" in the Facebook page of the 117th Cavalry Association. Often it is a relative of a WWII veteran of the 117th CAV and we are able to make further contact and help them to learn more about his unit and the WWII history.





1LT Anthony Mapp, CO - Company D 250th Brigade Support Battalion During Annual Training, a Soldier was asked what he thought Delta Company's role within the Squadron **was**. This Soldier replied that, "Delta Company is the backbone of the 1-102nd Cavalry". I opened with this anecdote to lay the foundation for this article. This statement is not intended to be interpreted in a condescending manner, but rather what is meant by this response is that without the support and sustainment from a Forward Support Company ("FSC"), the Cavalry would not be able to execute its mission. Delta Company's mission is to ensure that the Cavalry has all the logistical elements needed to complete the training plan outlined by the Squadron Commander. Delta Company is a multiple facet organization consisting of over 20 individual MOS's. For simplicity sake, the Company is divided into three sections: the distribution section, the

maintenance section and the field feeding section. The individual role of each section can more easily be illustrated by outlining the Company's role during this year's Annual Training at AP Hill Virginia.

Perhaps the busiest section in the FSC at this annual training was the distribution platoon, whose trucks and personnel were the first on the ground. A large percentage of the advance party ("ADVON") consisted of soldiers from the distribution platoon who were moving ammunition and MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) in preparation for annual training. The use of the Light Medium Tactical Vehicle ("LMTV") fleet was an everyday operation in order to complete the missions assigned to the platoon. Preventative maintenance checks and services ("PMCS") and knowledge of truck operations proved to be critical when the unit arrived at AP Hill.

The distribution platoon had the mission of transporting subsistence items which included MREs, water, blocked ice and medical supplies from cantonment and pushing those materials out to the Troops who were located at various locations within AP Hill. The distribution platoon was also tasked with providing fuel support for the Squadron. The distribution platoon on average had 3,000 gallons of fuel on hand and never let it fall below 2,000 gallons. In addition to these missions, the distribution platoon was also responsible for transporting ammunition from the Ammo Supply Point

("ASP") to the numerous ranges, which were being run. The distribution platoon managed the storage and distribution of more than 104,261 rounds of various types of ammunition during this year's annual training.

To accomplish these tasks the distribution platoon began its day at 0400 to pick up meals from the DFAC. At 0600, Delta Company ran a daily logistics package ("LOGPAC") to push fuel, food, water, and maintenance assistance out to the Troops. At 0700, the distribution platoon was needed at the ASP to draw ammunition. After drawing the ammunition, the platoon would drive out to the ranges occupied by the Cavalry on that particular day to drop off the ammunition and the water buffalos. At 1400, the platoon would go to the ASP to break down ammunition in preparation for the following days training. Also at 1400, a portion of the platoon conducted driver training for the Squadron for the LMTV, high mobility multipurpose vehicle ("HMMWV") and Medium Tactical Vehicle ("MTV"). At 1700, the platoon would draw the evening meal and transport it out the Troops. In addition to conducting all of these missions, the platoon also transported Troops to their training and conducted its own mandatory training such as weapons qualification, the IED reactions course and CLS training.

While the distribution platoon may have the most hectic schedule, the maintenance platoon provides critical support to avoid potential disasters. It was imperative to keep all of the vehicles that came to annual training with the Squadron mission capable. The PMCS performed by unit mechanics were critical to maintaining stable combat power. The mechanics conducted PMCS on every vehicle within the Cavalry prior to the vehicle leaving the armory. Due to these checks, the mechanics were able to address potential issues, which would have led to vehicles breaking down during the convoy to AP Hill. As everyone knows though, things do not always go according to plan and vehicles did break down on our way to AP Hill. The maintenance platoon was instrumental in safely recovering four vehicles and providing roadside assistance.

The maintenance platoon was limited in the amount of parts it was able to bring to annual training. The maintenance platoon sergeant and platoon leader had the challenge of choosing which parts would be most needed for this type of annual training. The maintenance section focused on brake fluid, oil, glow plugs, transmission fluid, seals, gaskets, air filters, and other service parts. When a truck became non-mission capable and the section did not have the repair parts needed to fix it, the maintenance personnel worked with other maintenance sections within the Brigade Combat Team ("BCT") to look for parts. The maintenance section maintained an average turnaround time of two days during annual training, which was the quickest turnaround time among all of the FSCs. Due to the hard work and dedication of the maintenance section, the Squadron was one of two battalions within the BCT not to have to conduct an emergency evacuation of non-mission capable vehicles before the movement back from AP Hill.

The field feeding section is one of the hardest working sections in the Company and may be the most underappreciated section within the Squadron. The average soldier does not truly comprehend the effort that is put into preparing food for over 2,000 soldiers. The field feeding section came on the ADVON to set up multiple mobile kitchen trailers ("MKT") and containerized kitchens ("CK") to be able to perform field-cooking operations. In addition to preparing the MKTs and CKs, the field serving section also sanitized the DFAC so that it was safe to serve and eat food inside.

The soldiers in the field feeding section maintained a grueling duty hour schedule during annual training, working a shift from 0300 to 1000 and another shift from 1400 to 2100 each day. The soldiers consistently maintained this physically and mentally draining schedule for fourteen days, working 7 hours on and 5 hours off rotation to support the Squadron's annual training mission. The field feeding section performed more than 180 hours of feeding operations during the course of their mission. The soldiers supported the preparation of over 16,000 pounds of food and were responsible for the preparation of over 20,000 meals during annual training. The efforts provided by the field feeding section ensured that all soldiers had the sustenance needed to complete their training.

As the anecdote in the beginning of the article stated, Delta Company is the backbone of the Cavalry because we provide the internal support needed for the Troops to conduct their missions. Delta Company, as the FSC for the 102 Cavalry, has the obligation to work with the different shops in order to ensure that the Squadron has the necessary elements needed to plan, synchronize, and control logistical operations so that the Cavalry can be self-sufficient. This year's annual training was a perfect illustration of this concept because Delta Company provided all the maintenance support, food, water, and transportation the Squadron needed to be self-sufficient and for the Troops to successfully accomplish their mission.



1LT Anthony Mapp, CO
D Company (FSC)
250th Brigade Support Battalion
"Judgment, Initiative and Force"

117th Cavalry Association Meeting 11 November 2011 COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty opened the meeting at 2000 hrs. with the *Pledge of Allegiance* and a moment of silence for fellow cavalymen who await us at *Fiddler's Green*, including Domenic "Danny" Melso, Rocco Spano, Robert Lutz, Francis Prettyman, Louis Di Belardino, Charles Blondell Pierce, Raymond J. Leone, Theodore Osorio. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived. 29 members attended. SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan reported that we have 204 active members and 24 of our *Class of '41* and other WWII veteran members are no longer required to pay dues, as well as 20 honorary members. Bill Gruss presented the treasurer's report confirming that the current balance is \$4,989.26. COL (Ret) Dougherty went on to old business. He recounted the activities of the Family Readiness Group, which had been recently recognized by Raymond L. Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Next, COL (Ret) Dougherty went on to new business. LTC (Army of France) Patrick du Tertre recounted the newest recipient of the French Legion of Honor, at a ceremony at the French Consul in New York City recently where 42 Legions of Honor were awarded. Additionally, he was honored in being able to meet and speak to other recipients, of which one had landed on Omaha Beach as part of the first wave and another recipient had jumped by parachute during the invasion of Normandy, France. Additionally, LTC du Tertre proposed that we send care packages to the French Army Brigade currently serving as part of the NATO force in Afghanistan, as 42 French Soldiers have been Killed in Action in the last three months. COL (Ret.) Dougherty recognized the FRG planning an activity on 4 December 2011, as well as the Change of Command of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry at 1330 hrs. on 3 December 2011. Relinquishing command is LTC Ed Chrystal and assuming command of the Squadron is LTC Bill Morris. The meeting ended on motion at 2023 hrs. after COL Dougherty recognized that the meeting was held on Veterans' Day.

The following members attended the 11 November 2011 meeting at the Westfield Armory: *Dennis Dougherty, Ken Mahan, Robert Apgar, Frank Patrick, Frank Mnich, James Anglim, Don Tracy, Patrick du Tertre, , Don Kondroski, Michael Hrycak, Chris Sands, Clement M. Curry Sr., Jay Lainer, Dave Eillen, Jim (?), Amy Lovato, Chris Bradley, Henry Wetzal, Guy Haddix, Jerry Infantino, Donald Emery, Ron Nier, Ray Zawacki, James Pressman, Ed Barry, Richard Burke, Art Maggs and Bill Morris,*

Class of '41 Luncheon 5 January 2012 At the River Rock on the Manasquan River, Brick Township, and a bright, cheery day! Most gathered early to enjoy good comradeship before a fine lunch. Many had attended the Change of Command at the Westfield Armory in December. That we are all very proud of the "new" squadron is an understatement. Several had been able to visit the Heritage Room for the first time, only to have cause for even more pride in "*The First New Jersey*". Phil Notestine spoke of a contact with another WWII veteran of the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz), Trooper Herb Huber joined the squadron in Algeria as a tank driver, before the squadron was reflagged from the 2nd Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment to the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz), making him an original member. Huber was in E Troop (Assault Guns) and remembered SGT Joe Pcoroba. They had a "reunion" via teleconference and shared some good memories. Trooper Huber sent a brief remembrance of his wartime experience and some pictures, which will be included in a future edition of The SPUR. Notestine told of the French Legion of Honor ceremonies in NYC on 11 November, during which our own Irv Partelow was decorated as *Cavalier*. A picture of this and other newly acquired WWII pictures were passed around. Don Tracy and Bill Merring, both retired Warrant Officers (CW4) spoke of joining the newly formed 50th Reconnaissance Cavalry Squadron, Westfield Armory circa 1947. Many WWII veterans had formed the new outfit, like COL James Depew, Leo Hmara, Tom Piddington, Charles Pierce, Norm Koed, Vince Rettino, Bill Maloney, Ed Murphy, Ken Quaas, Larry Bryant, Richard Pryztula, Wilbur Dunbar, George "Fred" Kimble, "Hap" Harrigan and more. Next meeting is 13 June 2012, same place.

Present were *Class of '41* members Jim Kane, Joe Pcoroba, Jim Coburn, Frank Wiswall, Jack Ferguson and WWII 117th CAV veteran Arnold Lasner; Charlotte and Bill Merring, Don Tracy, Ken Mahan, Sam Cunningham, Jim Kane Jr. and Phil Notestine. Sick Call – Ed Leonard; on leave - (Florida) Vince Rettino.



William Ahrens Lake, Sr. The Consul General of France in Miami and Ms. Nicole Hirsh, vice president of the American Society of the *Legion of Honour*, bestowed the highest distinction of the French Republic on twelve Florida World War II veterans to honor their military merits. LTC Bill Lake was specifically recognized for his efforts in Normandy and throughout the liberation of France, and the "*Battle of the Bulge*". "The *Legion of Honor* is the highest award you can give a person in France" said French Consul General Gael de Maisonneuve. The veteran soldiers proudly received their white enameled double-cornered star insignias of "*Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur*" (Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honor). Congressman C.W. Bill Young also accompanied the veterans that were a part of the ceremony.

Bill Lake was a "Class of '41" member who was commissioned at Fort Knox and commanded E Troop (assault guns), 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) during the Normandy Invasion and *Operation Cobra*. In September 1944, he was reassigned to command A Troop, which was savaged at St. Lo, end of July 1944. CPT Lake "rebuilt" and energized A Troop, leading the troopers to outstanding accomplishments and recognition. Troop A, 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz), 102nd Cavalry Group was awarded the *Belgian Fourragere*. Post war, Lake stayed in the NJARNG rising to LTC, commanding the 215th Tank Battalion, Dumont NJ. His obituary was in *The SPUR* Winter 2011. Pictured with him is his Grandson, William A. Lake III. LTC Lake received the *Silver Star* in WWII.



Irving K. Partelow On 11 November 2011 in New York City in the Lycée Français, the Ambassador of France François Delattre and the French Consul-General Philippe Lalliot decorated 42 WWII U. S. veterans with the French Legion of Honor "*Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur*". Pictured with Irv is LTC Bill Morris, CO of the 1-102nd Cavalry and LTC Patrick du Tertre, Army of France. The ceremonies were very moving – imagine! 42 WWII veterans decorated individually on a stage, watched by hundreds of friends and families, and sung to by high school students. Irv Partelow, a kid from Millburn NJ joined the 102nd Cavalry Regiment as a horse cavalryman. When the horses were retired in 1942, he became a motorcycle scout. In time, he became a tanker, and on to Europe. While in Algeria, CPL Partelow was among those 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron troopers who helped train the Free French in American weapons.

SGT Partelow of F Company (Tanks) fought in Italy in the M5A1 "Stuart" light tank. He was in the invasion of Southern France "Operation Dragoon". Partelow lost several tanks in combat, but survived to receive a commission after the Battle of Montrevel and was reassigned to the 3rd Infantry Division. During November 1944, 2LT Partelow was leading a patrol in the Vosges Mountains when he was badly wounded. Saved by company medics, he recuperated in England and later sent to France to help manage assignment of replacement officers. Partelow holds the *Bronze Star –Valor* and *Purple Hearts*.

To our knowledge, 9 of our WWII veterans of the 102nd and 117th Cavalry Squadrons have been received into the French *Legion of Honor*. They include SGT Bob Lutz, CPT Doctor William T. Haley, DSC, COL Harold Samsel, SSG Frank Prettyman, LTC Frank Wiswall, 1LT Ed Leonard, PFC Arnold Lasner, LTC Bill Lake and 1LT Irving Partelow.

Ed: This is from a note and my telephone interview with WWII veteran Herb Huber. I have inserted information gained from the call:

"I am Herbert "Herb" Huber Sr. now 90 years old. I joined the 117th Cavalry in North Africa. We were combat security for Allied Expeditionary Forces Headquarters – General Eisenhower. One outstanding experience was travelling about 940 miles across unchartered desert from Algiers to Marrakech, to guard Churchill and his daughter Sarah. Churchill was recovering from an illness.

I went into combat in Italy (I was at first a driver in an M5A1 light tank, destroyed by enemy fire) in Troop E (Assault Guns. We had the M8 75MM HMC, until we refitted in Naples with the M7 105MM HMC). Then we prepared for the invasion of southern France (Operation Dragoon).

(We) fought through Italy, France, Germany and Austria, almost continuous combat until the war's end. It was a horrific, horrible and taxing time, but during the era, it seemed to be the place to be, defeating the Axis was something that had to be done.

After a furlough home, I returned to Germany. I was discharged from the Army in Frankfurt. I went to work in Federal Service maintenance and repair as supervisor (of the vehicles for GEN Eisenhower and the officers of SHEAF). At the end of contract, I returned to North Dakota, got married and had 5 children. I spent my working years in the oil fields and construction industries.

My combat brothers will never be forgotten!"

God Bless

Herbert S. Huber
430 2nd St. East
P. O. Box 116
Westhope, ND 58793
Phone 1-701-245-6515



Herb's son Larry served in Vietnam in the 196th Infantry Brigade, 23 Infantry (*Americal Division*) November 1971-1972.



MILITARY GUIDE-ON BEARER By MSG (Ret) John Barr It was like any other day, my family had just finished dinner and my father looked me in the eye and made a statement that changed my life.

"John, go upstairs and put a good pair of pants on, a clean shirt and your best shoes. "Your cousin Larry Bryant will be picking you up at 7 PM to take you to join the National Guard," he said.

To say I was shocked was an understatement as I left the table and headed upstairs. Before I hit the first step, I was crying and entered my bedroom, wondering what had just happened. I was only 15-1/2 years old and my friends would mock me out. My mother came upstairs to help me find my good clothes. I was sitting on my bed with my face in my hand crying my heart out.

"John, you have to listen to your father as he knows best," she said.

I realized that my objecting to joining the National Guard was futile, as you never questioned my father. What he said was the law in my house. I dressed and headed to the front porch to wait for my cousin. Tears were rolling down my cheeks as my cousin arrived.

"Larry I don't want to join the Guard, I'm not the right age," I said.

Larry gave the same answer as my mother. I quickly realized that he was the one who convinced my dad that I should join. It took us about 35 minutes to get to the Westfield Armory in New Jersey. During the trip, Larry told me the advantages of joining the National Guard. I stopped crying as I approached the Armory.

"John," he said, "Since you are not 17 years old you have to put down on the induction form that you were born in 1935 instead of 1937 which will make you 17."

I went into the Armory, a very unhappy young man, and was assigned to a room where I was handed a form to fill out. There was a young man sitting opposite me, I later found out his name was Donald Jacobi, and he asked me what he should put down if he was only 16?

"I had to subtract two years from my birthday so I guess you have to subtract one year from yours," I said.

A clerk reviewed our forms and with a few corrections, we headed to take our physical. It took about one hour for both of us to complete the entire physical. Don Jacobi passed but Johnny Barr failed. Boy was I happy! I did not have to join the Guard. The reason given to me was that I was immature. Of course, I was I was only 15 years old. Then my smile quickly went away and I learned a lesson in life: it is whom you know and not what you know!

My cousin, who held the rank of Major, poked his head in the door and said, "Dr. Nevins, how did the Barr kid do?" The Doc said, "He failed." My cousin quickly said, "He passed!" The Doctor quickly said, "He passed!"

I passed and within minutes, both Don and I were sworn in. I was now a member of Troop D, 50th Reconnaissance Battalion, 50th Armored Division, New Jersey National Guard. Both Don and I were assigned as riflemen in the first platoon. When the 1st Sgt. saw me he knew right away that I would make a great company guide-on-bearer. I must have reminded him of the pole that held the guide-on. I was 6 ft. 3 inches tall and weighed a whopping 140 pounds soaking wet. The Guide-On looked like my twin brother. He gave me a manual and told me to learn to be a Guide-On Bearer. Boy, I read and read and knew everything about the job.

My basic training was one night a week, two hours a night for 13 weeks. What can you learn on that schedule - very little! You never left the armory, never fired a weapon, but you looked good with your boots highly polished and your uniform heavily starched. I passed all the tests mainly due to the questions Major Bryant asked me when he drove me to drill. I usually got 100 per cent. Remember, I was too young to drive. Once basic was over I was back to being a rifleman and Company Guide-On-Bearer.

The word spread quickly through the ranks. In two months, the Inspector General would be inspecting our unit. The entire company was brought into the upstairs classroom where our commander and 1st Sgt. told us what was expected of us relative to the inspection. We were all given several sheets, which contained information that we had better know for the inspection. I was on top of it and spent a great deal of time learning everything.

The day of inspection arrived and I had memorized from those sheets. I could recite my 10 general orders backwards and forwards, I knew everything about my rifle. I was ready. Platoon Sgt. Joe Williams brought us all together for a quick review. As he asked the questions, I was quick with the answers. I knew my stuff.

"Barr, let someone else answer the questions," said Williams. "In all my years the Inspecting General never inspects the Guide-On Bearer. That was a relief to me when I walked to the front of Troop D about seven steps to the left side of my commander. I was proud to be there in front, waiting for the arrival of the IG. I was looking forward when I heard my commander say, "Sir, Troop D, 5th Recon ready for inspection. After some small talk, the IG made the following statement. "Captain, I usually don't inspect the Guide-On but I'm going to start with him," said the IG. Come on IG I am ready as military answers raced through my brain...

Within seconds, the IG was standing before me eyeing me up and down. He asked the following question. "Young man, how tall are you?" Where did that question come from it was not on the papers I studied. I stood there with my mouth open and my brain not functioning, as that answer was nowhere to be found. It was filled with all kinds of military facts. After, which seemed an eternity, which probably was only seconds he addressed my commander.

"Captain, before I leave today I want this soldier to see me and let me know his height," said the IG.

The inspection went very well for the rest of the company and all of the men from the officers to the enlisted were proud of the job they had done getting ready and passing the inspection. But, what about the person that didn't know his height? The 1st Sgt. approached me and told me that the commander wanted to see me in his office. I was a little nervous as I knocked on his door, was signaled to enter, saluted and waited for him to speak.

"Pvt. Barr, don't you know how tall you are?" he said with a puzzled look on his face.

"Sir, I know that I'm 6'3" tall but I had so much military information going through my head I had no room for that kind of information," I answered,

He shook his head still with the puzzled look and told me to go immediately and find the IG and tell him my height. He told me to remember to salute him when I approached him.

I quickly found him and approached with a snappy salute.

"Sir, Pvt. Barr, I am 6'3", I said. He answered, "I knew you knew how tall you were," he said. He continued by saying, "Young man have a great career, our paths will cross again."

MSG (Ret.) John C. Barr went into NJARNG OCS and was commissioned 2LT in the 5th Recon Squadron, 117th Cavalry. He was a platoon leader in A Troop, Elizabeth Armory. Later he was in the S4 section. After moving to Bricktown, NJ, Barr was transferred to 2nd Tank BN, Red Bank. Upon moving to Waterbury, CT, he had to resign his commission, but joined the CTARNG Military Academy as a SSG. After returning to NJ, he joined the 444th PAD and retired in 1997 after 25 years as an MSG, accumulating 34 years of "good" service. He was with Clayton Block Company in Lakewood, NJ, retiring after 24 years as Division Supervisor. John and Francoise live in Bridgeville, Delaware. John has four grown children from a previous marriage and two adopted Korean children. They are very busy with 10 grandchildren! Reach John at jsboise@aol.com





Membership Update – SMG (Ret.) Ken Mahan Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2010 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 . 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, 102^d and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz).

New Members_Thomas J. Houde, Wife Janet S. He was with F- Troop when Air Troops were in North Kingstown, RI. Hector Fernandez, Was in D-Air Rifle Plt. & as a Platoon SGT at Picatinny NJ. Henry Niese was in the wartime stateside 102nd Cavalry (men who were not able to go overseas). **Donation to Heritage Room** Robert Grzeszczak, models of military vehicles of WWII and Cold War era that the Squadron used. They are in showcase in foyer of Westfield Armory. LTC Chris Sands' father gave books to Heritage Room. Pedro Martinez gave books to Heritage Room. John "Jack" Ferguson gave a lighter that he got during WWII in Austria

TAPS

Irvin Zorn, 92 passed away 10 January 2012 in hospice, in the State of Iowa. He was a proud WWII veteran of Company F (Tanks), 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz), an M24 "Chaffe" light tank crewmember. He was a widower. His son Rick was an Army SP5 Vietnam veteran, 1970-1971. Irvin Zorn was buried with Military Honors on 16 January 2012.



Pedro J. Pericas, 57, of Howell, N.J., passed away on 3 January, 2012, at home. Born in Cuba, Mr. Pericas came to the U.S. and Elizabeth, N.J., in 1959 and resided in Howell. He was a NJ Army National Guard veteran, serving in Troop B, 5-117th Cavalry, becoming a captain in 1988. He was a member of the PBA Local 4. Mr. Pericas was an Elizabeth City Police officer for 22 years. Predeceased by his parents, Andrew and Esther Pericas, he was the beloved husband for nine years of Francine (McRae) Pericas; devoted father of Peter Pericas of Elizabeth, Priscilla Hathaway and her husband, Michael, of Howell, Christopher Pericas and his wife, Crystal, of Brick, N.J.; loving brother of Tito Pericas of Elizabeth and Doris Gonzalez of Florida; dear son-in-law of Edward McRae. He is also survived by many cherished nieces and nephews.

John Frederick Everett "Sarge", age 79, of Union Hall died Thursday, December 15th 2011. He was born Oct. 1st 1932 in Orange, NJ to Katherine Horman and John Lester Everett. Moving to Toms River, NJ to raise his family and retiring to his beloved Smith Mountain Lake, Va. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Charlotte; his 3 daughters and their spouses, Charlotte and Tony Roselli, Katherine and Tom Barrella, Jennifer and Tim Applegate; his son and spouse, John Jay and Susan Fike Everett; 11 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren. John was employed 10 years at NJ Bell Telephone Company and 30 years as a Dover Township Police Officer, Toms River NJ. He served in the *Junior Essex Troop* during his high school years rising to the rank of Lieutenant and in the NJ Army National Guard for 25 years. He enjoyed singing Barbershop with the "Oceanaires", Ocean County, NJ and in retirement with the Smith Mountain Lake "Harmeneers", serving as Youth Outreach Chairman. Known for his sense of humor, John was an avid photographer, enjoyed woodworking, reading, travel, and his Hawaiian vacations. John graduated from Ocean County College in 1972. He was a firearms instructor for both the Dover Twp. Police and the National Guard. Always helping others, John was a volunteer Toms River First Aider, and served on the board of Big Brother/Big Sister Toms River chapter. John was very proud of his family, his best days were spent with them on their many camping/canoe trips and in his retirement enjoying their visits on the lake. Memorials can be made to the "Harmeneers" High School Scholarship Fund, c/o Rod Sayles, Treasurer, P.O. Box 701, Hardy, Virginia 24101 or to your favorite organization.

Glenville Osterloh of Hooper, Nebraska died in February 2011. He was a proud WWII veteran of the 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz). At war's end, T4 Osterloh was a mechanic in Headquarters Troop, Squadron Motor Maintenance.



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Shown at the left of each name is the last issue and year in which your entry will be published.

SP = Spring, SU = Summer, FA = Fall, WI = Winter



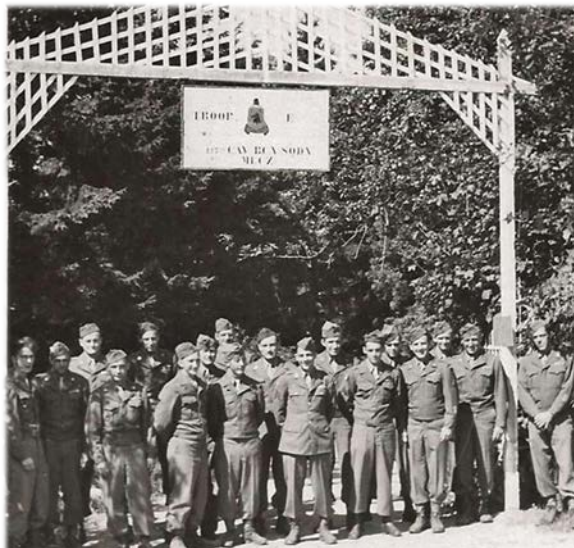
- SP-15 EMIL & MARGARET ALLGEIER
- SP-13 BILL ANTONUCCI (mem. of) CPT WM. ANTONUCCI JR.
- SU-15 NANCY ASHFORD & JEANNIE BROWN (sisters)
(mem. father) SSG WM. T. TITTER
WWII B TROOP 117th CAV
- FA-12 BILL ANTONUCCI (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY SR.
- SU-25 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
- SU-13 CRAIG BEACHER
- FA-12 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, 117th CAV WWII*
- SP-14 DON CARSON (mem. of) MSG GARY G. HADDICAN
- SP-14 GEORGE "JIM" COBURN, *Class of '41 USAAF 395th FIGHTER SQUADRON, 368TH FIGHTER GROUP (Europe)*
- SU-12 STEVE CUP, SCOUT A TROOP 102nd 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
- SP-12 WILLIAM FISHER JR.
- 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 - 117th CAVALRY SGT Troop C
- SP-14 HERB HUBER, WWII 117th CAVALRY T5 Troop E
(Assault Guns)
- SU-15 LTC (Ret.) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117th CAV
'43-'44
- FA-14 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO.
WWII 117TH CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*
- FA-15 CHARLES JOHNSON WWII 117th 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
- SP-12 ESTELLE & ARNOLD LASNER, WWII 117th CAV
French Legion of Honor
- 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, 117th CAV KIA 5 JUNE '44 ROME
- SP-15 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE
- WI-13 EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41, PSG B Troop*
117TH CAV, Montrevel POW *French Legion of Honor*
- SP-12 BOB LUTZ *Class of '41, C Troop 117th CAV WWII*
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-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 102nd CAV WWII
- SU-13 PAMELA THONACK MILLER (mem. of father)
HERBERT A. THONACK, *Class of '41, 117th CAV*
- SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK,
Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW
- SP-13 CW5 (Ret.) FRANK MNICH & JANET
- SP-13 LTC WILLIAM MORRIS
- SP-12 ZACK MOUSHEGIAN (mem.) JAMES A MOUSHEGIAN
- FA-13 RONNIE NIER
- WI-12 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON
Troops C & E, *Class of '41;*
602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
- SP-12 JOYCE & HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN, *Class of '41,*
117th CAV WWII
- FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of)
RICK APBLET
- FA-12 (mem. of) MAJ CHARLES B. PIERCE, WWII 102nd CAV
- WI-12 TOM PETTY
- WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
- FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
- WI-12 CSM (Ret.) AL PHELAN Jr. (mem. of) MSG FRED MATTOX
- 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) 102nd CAV WWII
- SP-13 DONALD SAMSEL (mem. of Father) COL (Ret.) HAROLD
SAMSEL, *Class of '41, 117th CAV WWII FR. Legion of Honor*
- SP-15 SALCIDO FAMILY (in mem. of) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
(Ft Jackson '42) 117TH CAV. F CO. KIA Italy June 1944
- SP-18 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of brother) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
- SP-17 JAMES SCANLON
- WI-12 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem. of husb) WILLIE SCHNARR
- SU-14 BILL & MARY SEDLAK
- WI-12 ROBERT J. SMITH
- SP-12 JOHN SUITER
- WI-12 CPT MIKE TARRICONE
- WI-15 1SG GEORGE THOMAS
- SU-13 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
- FA-16 CHARLES A VIVIANO (50TH CAV RCN SQDN)
- SP-12 CSM (Ret.) HENRY WETZEL & GRACE, (mem. of)
GEORGE "RED" EMERY
- SP-15 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
- SP-13 FRG HHT 1-102nd CAVALRY

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LT Ed Lilley, CO E Troop 117th CAV



NCOs of E Troop (Assault Guns)



Bilski and Huber, E Troopers

Ed Lilley, a "Class of '41" man, had been 1SG of E Troop before receiving his commission. He rose to LTC and commanded the post WWII 102nd Cavalry Regiment. (wartime 117th Cavalrymen considered themselves to be Essex Troopers)



PFC Neidhardt, 117th CAV Dec. 1944
Christmas package!



SGT James Edward Kirkley, F Company, 38th CAV - 1945



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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 - Friday evenings @ 1930 hours: 3 February 2012, 13 April, 1 June, 7 September and 2 November 2012.**