



117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association



102<sup>nd</sup> CAV (Mecz) 38<sup>th</sup> CAV (Mecz) 117<sup>th</sup> CAV (Mecz) 50<sup>th</sup> RECON 5<sup>TH</sup> RECON 5/117<sup>th</sup> CAV 1/102<sup>nd</sup> CAVALRY  
Volume 29, Number 4 121<sup>st</sup> Issue (post WWII) Winter 2008



**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty** Those of you who have been reading my President’s messages realize that there is a common theme to them. Service to our communities, state and nation resonate throughout all of my communications. It has been almost five months since the soldiers of the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Squadron were mobilized for service in Iraq with the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Today as I write this message to you, they have been deployed for almost three months and will be there for an additional seven months before they return home to their friends and families. We as current and former members of the New Jersey Army National Guard are proud of their service and sacrifice in the defense of our nation during the ongoing Global War on Terror and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their dedication and accomplishments in helping to bring democracy to Iraq must be remembered.

I am renewing my call for all of us to continue to help in any way we can through our support of one of the many Family Readiness Groups that have been established at every armory throughout the state where soldiers are deployed from and in particular the armories where the 1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry are stationed (Westfield, West Orange, Dover and Hackettstown).

We as members of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association cannot forget the sacrifices of all those currently serving in our state’s largest deployment of the Army National Guard since World War II. They are a “New Greatest Generation”, all volunteers, all serving our nation in an ongoing conflict that is now our nation’s third longest war, many of them on a second deployment.

All of these mobilized units have excellent Family Readiness Groups. They can use your help. How can you help? It is very simple. You can volunteer your time to support a family to support a Family Readiness group. You can show your support by attending one of the ongoing activities, like a packing day. There you can pack and wrap a package to send to a deployed guardsmen. These activities are held on an ongoing schedule throughout our state.

Again, if you are interested in sending a package to a deployed soldier, I am attaching a flyer for one of my favorite grassroots program here in New Jersey. It is called the “Coffee Express”. It includes the addresses of eight organizations that account for over 800 mobilized New Jersey Army National Guardsmen now serving in Iraq. Take the time to show your support. Now more than ever we can all do our part in continuing to help a mobilized guardsman.

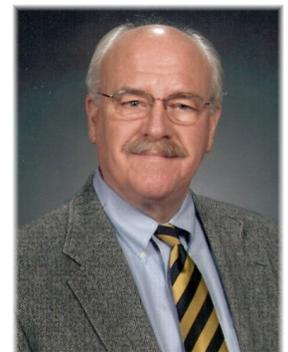
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**From the Editor - Phil Notestine** In this issue, we continue the series of the *WWII History of the 38<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz), 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Group* with the help of Class of ’41 member 1SG (Ret.) James A. “Jimmy” Kane. Jim was transferred from the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) to the 38<sup>th</sup> CAV, as a 1SG under CPT Bob Meyer, a fellow Essex Trooper

As you will read in the Class of ’41 luncheon report, the first of the series in the last issue and other articles have generated phone calls between fellow troopers of days gone by. This is the stuff of which *The Spur* is all about – keeping connections between us all; honoring and remembering those who stepped forward in answer to the call.

COL Dougherty has been receiving reports from the 1/102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry leadership as they moved into theatre, including some pictures.

I had intended to include some of these, edited for brevity, but soon realized that the main article, the second in series of the WWII 38<sup>th</sup> CAV, would be too brief, lengthening the series well into the end of 2009. Therefore, I’ll wait for reports and pictures from Iraq, which are more reflective of a maturity in mission.



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(The September meeting was deferred to the October 17<sup>th</sup>. No data is available at this writing)

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**Class of '41 Luncheon, 8 October 2008, Gibbs Hall Fort Monmouth NJ** Normally organized by Association Historian and Class of '41 member Bob Lutz, this task was taken up and well done by Jimmy Kane, Joe Pocaroba and other Class of '41 members. Our dear brother Bob has been recovering from illness and has been unable to do much, when it requires being away from the house. The Band of Brothers were quick to pick up the Guidon. While we missed Bob, the luncheon was well attended and very much enjoyed by all.

COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty, 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association president spoke about the successful deployment of the 1/102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry to Iraq and the Association efforts to gather, package and mail such "comfort" items as coffee, granola bars, bubble gum and personal hygiene products. The initial shipments of 20 lbs boxes to each of 6 bases were supported by the *1SG Bill Maloney Fund*.

SGM (Ret.) Ken Mahan, Association Membership chairman spoke of the Iraq deployment process and positive reports from Troop Commanders. He also told about the history of a WWII era German National Socialist flag remnant, mostly the *hakencruz*, or *swastika* part. It seems that the man who most likely brought it back from Europe, one Rollin Reuter, a carpenter in Ballston Spa, New York State had the flag hanging in his barn, and would cut a piece of the red field when he needed it for various purposes. Eventually, the red fields were used up, and only the white circle with swastika remained. The good carpenter gave it to our donor, a boy of 9 years, way back in 1950. His name is Michael Armstrong. The flag was taken by troopers of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) in Southern France during Operation Anvil/Dragon, August 1944. Many troopers signed it and then it was given to the Squadron Commander, LTC Hodge. How the good carpenter got it is a story that one of you may someday relate to me for publication in *The Spur*.

Jim Kane told us about the long and enjoyable phone call that he received from LTC (Ret.) Bill Lake. Colonel Lake was an enlisted man with Jim before accepting a commission while an Essex Trooper at Ft. Jackson. The call was prompted by the last issue of *The Spur*.

Irv Partelow was surprised and happy to hear from his old platoon leader Paul Seidel of Kansas. They were tankers in F Company (tanks) of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) and in their 20's when fighting together in WWII. They parted company when Irv was commissioned into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. Paul is now 93 and still farming, way out on the plains of America. Irv told the gathering about the great experience of training Free French troops on the .50 machine gun, while in Northern Africa (The U. S. Army equipped and trained Free French while in North Africa, as they organized, trained and readied to fight with the Allies). He also introduced a guest, Grace Lilley, widow of Ed Lilley, one of the more famous Class of '41 men.

In attendance were Manny Ferri, Jack Coogan, Jack Ferguson, Frank Prettyman, Jim Kane, Irv Partelow, Grace Lilley, Bill and Charlotte Merring, Don Tracy, Ken Mahan, Dennis Dougherty and Phil Notestine.

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#### News from Iraq:

**Gentlemen,**

**SITREP: The command group of the newly designated 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment (50th IBCT) flew into southern Iraq via two Blackhawk helicopters and touched down at 1415 hours 04 September 2008. We were the first battalion level headquarters and first elements of the 50th IBCT in Iraq.**

**I am not writing this email to brag about our accomplishments. I want all of the veterans who served in the 117th Cavalry and 102nd Armor to take pride in the accomplishments of today's warriors.**

**Please pass the word through both associations.**

**Thanks**

**LTC Dean Spenzos, Commander  
1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Regiment, 50th IBCT**



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**CONTINUED ...THE 102<sup>ND</sup> CAVALRY GROUP MOVES OUT OF FORT JACKSON SC 15 SEPTEMBER 1942, ONE YEAR AND EIGHT MONTHS AFTER LEAVING FROM NEW JERSEY ARMORIES...TO FORT DIX, NJ.**

As the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment fully assembled and readied to embark on the Dutch Motor Ship S. S. *Dempo*, the unit strength was 80 officers, 4 WO and 1,551 enlisted men, a significant increase from the 950 officers and men on 6 January 1941. The regiment disembarks from the *Dempo* at Liverpool, England in the evening of 6 October 1942. The harbor and city have suffered bombing by the Germans. Seeing the damage, heeding the blackout, hearing the strange speech and appearance of the few locals, the Essex Troopers had the impression that they were already in the war zone! The troops were marched to a nearby, roofless railway station, where they boarded dimly lit cars and moved off to unknown destinations by separate rail sections to arrive in the early AM on 7 October. American Army trucks took them to billets in several villages in Berkshire and Gloucestershire. Quarters in old, worn Manor Homes and Quonset huts, personal sanitation required good old American creativeness, like so many situations and such, for the many months to come.



**< M5-A1 Light tank** Only *personal* equipment and weapons were shipped to England. Old and obsolete fighting vehicles were left behind and new equipment, including the M5A1 light tank, M8 SP 75MM howitzer Assault Gun, M8 Armored Car, M3 Half-Track, quarter ton truck (Jeep) and more. All fighting vehicles, including recon troop Jeeps had radios. The officers and men began to learn and train to make excellent use of these fighting tools. Tanks and armored cars mounted the 37MM cannon, an already obsolete weapon. However, the crews developed

skills in highly accurate and rapid fire. This and the confidence gained from training and teamwork was to result in frequent defeat of enemy armor that should have survived a 37MM shot. The same for their .50 and .30 machine guns, and the 75MM self-propelled howitzer... **M8 Assault Gun.....shown here with LTs Bill Lake and Ray Wilbert >>>>>>>**



**M8 "Greyhound" Armored Car**

75MM AG crews became superb at both direct and indirect fires. Company grade line officers were cross-trained in all fighting vehicles. **SGTs Ed Garthwaite and William A. "Bill" Walsh cleaning the 75MM >>>>>**



**Somewhere in England, on the howitzer range, the guys have a few laughs.... <<< LT Mal Freret, SGT Jimmy Kane, 1SG Wilbert and LT Bill Lake.**



**The M3 Half-track carrier was a versatile workhorse that was used in recon troops and other elements of the squadron. When Army Rangers were attached, they were grateful to ride when possible >>>>>>>**





< **James A. "Jimmy" Kane**, picture taken and sent home from England, early 1943. During our interview, Jim related many stories about training in England, the English people and villages. The squadrons were always moving about, going to ranges for firing practice, maneuvers and such. He remembered the narrow country lanes and the difficulty of moving tanks and assault guns through villages. Too often, buildings were struck and damaged. The troopers regretted this and tried to their best not to damage the old structures. Jim was proud that the officers and men of the 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV worked and developed to such a high degree of proficiency and *Esprit de Corps*. He attributed this to the many months of training and the trust that bound the Essex Troopers.

When the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron was sent to North Africa to provide combat security for the Allied Headquarters, the 38<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, which was sent from America to become the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, replaced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron and kept the 38<sup>th</sup> CAV designation, as part of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Group. The Group commander and his leadership team decided to move some 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV company grade officers and senior NCOs into the 38<sup>th</sup> CAV, and bring some 38<sup>th</sup> officers and NCOs into the 102<sup>nd</sup>. Among those sent to the 38<sup>th</sup>, CPT Bill Buenzle became A Troop CO and SGT Frank Harty was made 1SG. CPT Bob Meyer took E Troop (AG) and SGT Jim Kane became 1SG. Way back when, in Westfield NJ, the troopers had enjoyed riding in Gymkhanas, quaffing beers and ribbing their buddies of the Essex Troop. The men were together their NJ Armories, at Ft. Jackson, in England and now, they would fight a war together.

The Group continued intense training, including amphibious assault – staging, concentrating, embarkation onto landing ship and beach landings. In the Spring of 1944, the Group learned that they would be part of an assault force of the great invasion of continental Europe.

Jim remembers the preparations, including waterproofing of all vehicles. The 38<sup>th</sup> was to follow the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) onto Omaha Beach, a few days later. When the 38<sup>th</sup> landed, the beach had been secured and they rolled off easily, without getting "their feet wet". Very soon after assembly, they went into action.

He recalls that his favorite side arm, the US Govt. Model 1911 .45 cal. Pistol <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M1911> was replaced with the M1 Carbine [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M1\\_carbine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M1_carbine)



The .30 caliber carbine had a larger magazine capacity and longer, more accurate range than the M1911, but much less stopping power in close quarter. The pistol was always "on" you, in a holster, while the carbine had to be picked up and carried. He doesn't recall the time and place when his men brought him to a canister that had been air-dropped. It was for the Maquis, the FFI. The troopers opened it, and 1SG Kane had the "goodies" distributed to the men, and kept a M1911 .45 pistol for himself. Now he had his old and trusted sidearm, as well as the M1 Carbine. Some time later, at a place called Monschau, they would be heavily used. More about this as we go into the unit history, as follows.

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***Here begins the WWII History of the 38<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz), as written by Maj. Charles E. Rousek, Exec. Officer of the 38<sup>th</sup> CAV, with reference to Col. Harold J. Samsel's Book, "Operational History of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment Essex Troop World War II".***

On 15 November 1942 at Fort Bliss, Texas, by authority contained in letter AGF 322.12/I (1st Cav. Div.) (R) GNGGT September 12, 1942, the 3rd Reconnaissance Squadron was activated with a cadre of 400 men from the 113th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, 2nd Armored Division and the Cavalry Replacement Training Center. The designation was later changed to the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), the spirited little outfit, which was destined to perform so gallantly and brilliantly in the five campaigns in Europe.

On the 25th of April 1943, the Squadron moved to Camp Maxay, Texas where it trained for six months. On 7 November 1943, the Squadron arrived at Camp Shanks, New York for shipment overseas, and one week later on the 14th of November, it boarded the Queen Mary in New York Harbor.

On the 20th November, the Squadron disembarked at Firth of Clyde, entrained from Greenock, Scotland and the following day arrived at Exeter, Devon, England, where it joined the 102nd Cavalry Group, replacing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, which had been sent to North Africa and reflagged as the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz), a separate unit.

Another half year passed while the men of the 38th trained on English moors, played darts in English pubs, chilled in English fogs and talked of the invasion of Europe. Then one day in the early spring, the Squadron officers learned that the 102nd Cavalry Group with its two Squadrons was to be in the build-up of the assault of the fortress Europe as part of the V Corps, First Army. Intensified Training and preparations and planning to load out occupied every minute of every day until the first days of June.

When the assault was made on the Normandy Coast on 6 June, the Squadron remained at its camp at Exeter for two days before marching to the marshalling area. On 10 June, the bulk of the Squadron sailed from Weymouth on LST 504 in a tremendous convoy of build-up troops. On the 12th of June at 2120, which was still broad daylight, the Squadron debarked on Omaha Beach and rolled ashore dry-shod to assembly areas inland, and prepared to take its place in the V Corps line of battle.

**NORMANDY** The Squadron was attached to the 1st U.S. Infantry Division, which had driven a salient toward Caumont. Troop "A", the first troop to land, received the mission of pushing reconnaissance on the three main roads out of Caumont in the center of the Division's sector, while Troop "C" took up the mission of protecting the right flank of the Division. The Squadron Command Post remained at Balleroy.

Having found that the main enemy line faced the 1st Division linking in with the 7th British Armored Division at Le Briquebard, Troop "E" took up battery position and commenced firing missions under Division Artillery control. The Squadron was relieved of the left flank mission and one troop was employed to fill the gap between the 16th and 18th Regimental Combat Teams, while another linked the 1st and 2nd Divisions. Troops rotated in these missions combat training with Company "F" until well into July.

Remaining in position near Caumont, the Squadron continued its mission of filling the gap initially between the 18th and 16th Regimental Combat Teams, and later between the 1st and 2nd Divisions. The Command Post remained at Balleroy. On 18 July 1944, the Squadron less Troop "B", moved to Couvain in assembly and was attached to the 2nd Division, which had relieved the 1st. After spending several days in specialized training, the Squadron moved to a forward assembly area along the St. Lo-Berigny road on the 25th in preparation for an attack. This attack was part of the V Corps holding attack, which was launched simultaneously with the 7th Corps breakthrough attack west of St. Lo. Early on the 26th of July, a heavy artillery barrage pounded the enemy's hedgerow positions; this was followed by tank sorties by Company "F", sparked by Lt. Cullinan, and then the Squadron with Troop "A" on the right and Troop "C" on the left attacked across the St. Lo road. The Squadron mission was to secure the right flank of the 38th Infantry by attacking with it and then swinging right to take St. Pierre le Semilly. Lt. Col. John Lee, the Squadron Commander, was wounded by small arms fire in the first thirty minutes of the action and Major Charles E. Rousek Jr., the S-3 was placed in command by the Group Commander. After a quick successful start, the first hedgerow was taken, but the enemy called upon heavy artillery and mortar fire, which began to slow the advance of the Squadron. With the initial objective almost in our hands, the Germans hurled a severe counterattack supported by self-propelled guns. Having suffered many casualties, our weakened troops were driven back and all the fiercely won ground was lost. Late in the afternoon, having been reinforced by Troop "A" of the 102nd Cavalry Squadron, another attack was made and this time the ground was retaken, and held. The Squadron suffered 108 casualties as a result of the day's action, and the Tank Company was reduced from seventeen to a force of four effective tanks by enemy action and by tanks being stuck on hedgerows. The night was spent in strengthening the new position as the Luftwaffe bombed and strafed. The next day saw St. Pierre le Semilly fall to the 102nd Cavalry, which passed through in pursuit of the withdrawing enemy. Although Troop "B" was not with the Squadron, it played a similar role as it made a dismounted attack on the 25th with the 5th Infantry Division. Its objective was the town of Vidouville, held by a determined enemy, and after a hard fight, they took the town. The last days of the month were spent in refitting and reorganization in preparation for the drive across France. Although its part was small, the Squadron contributed its share in breaking out of the bridgehead.

At this time, V Corps, on the American left flank was pushing a holding attack while the remainder of the 1st Army and the new 3rd Army, were breaking through the German line west of St. Lo. On the night of 31, July, the Squadron moved to

the vicinity of Torigni-sur-Vire to be in position for the attack on Vire. A rapidly changing situation caused the Squadron to continue its forward movement through Campeaux where it was caught in a heavy shelling as the 102nd Cavalry Squadron was stopped on the south bank of the Souleuvre River. During the night of the 2nd, contact was lost and the Squadron received a mission to pass through the 102nd Cavalry Squadron and make a pursuit attack astride the Campeaux-Vire highway. Early on the morning of the 3rd, The Squadron, with Troop "B" and Company "F" leading, rushed forward and quickly established contact as a determined enemy, dug in at Optive, opened heavy direct fire with artillery and small arms on the leading troops as well as the Command Post, which was well forward. The leading troop, supported by an assault gun platoon under S/Sgt (later Lieutenant) Moak, immediately deployed to meet this fire as Troop "C" commenced an encircling movement to attack the enemy's rear. Having located the main enemy force, the Squadron was ordered to assemble as elements of the 2nd Division supported by medium tanks passed through to attack Optive.

After the fight at Optive, the Squadron was held until the 11th when it undertook the mission of maintaining contact between the British Second Army and the United States First Army as both armies pushed their attack against the withdrawing Germans who were trying desperately to hold their north flank secure while they withdrew their forces in the west to escape encirclement.

The contact mission was accomplished with two platoons pushing aggressively to keep abreast or ahead of the adjacent units until the 14th, when it was necessary, to employ all three reconnaissance troops. "A" Troop at Truttemer le Grand came under heavy shellfire as it passed through the burning town, and moved to positions southeast of the town for the night. The remainder of the Squadron remained in the vicinity of Boursigny with "B" Troop on the line just to the right of the highway leading to Tinchebray. The new Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Robert E. O'Brien, who had assumed command on 8 August, made plans to drive to Tinchebray which was the Corps objective and which lay squarely between the British and Americans. It was also the British objective.

On August 15th, when organized resistance collapsed to the immediate front of the 2nd division on the right, the Group Commander ordered the 38th to seize the city of Tinchebray, still five miles away. Orders were furnished to the troops to implement the previously made plans. "A" Troop advanced over the road running south to the St. Pois-Tinchebray Road and then turned east to race straight down the road to town. "B" Troop and "F" Company advanced across country, using hedgerow cutting tanks to make a road, one mile of which had already been cut in anticipation of the maneuver. "C" and "E" Troops drove straight down the road, which bounded the British and American Armies. They were accompanied by a troop of British reconnaissance followed by a Battalion of Cold Stream Guards in Churchill tanks, which had been preparing to attack toward the same town on the same route. The "A" and "B" Troop columns on the road raced recklessly ahead with no regard for ambushes, traveling too fast to be hurt by the artillery fire laid on them. These two columns reached Tinchebray ahead of all other troops and pushed reconnaissance to the east and southeast where contact was reestablished with the enemy about a mile out of town. "C" Troops 1st Platoon driving south after having a bridge blown from under Sgt. McTague in the point bantam, attacked dismounted across the river to rout the enemy from his delaying position. However, before the pursuit attack could be pushed further, the Squadron was recalled to its assembly area Maisoncelles-le-Jourdan. The Tinchebray assault had done a lot for the morale, because the city had been the objective of V Corps, its capture by the Squadron earned praise from the Group Commander, and all other witnesses of the dash made for the town. The exceptionally good fortune which attended the chances taken moving so fast on reconnaissance gave rise to a tradition which was always to mark the Squadron effort.... that of sure good luck. More and more, the Squadron was going to be called "The Lucky 38th".

**TO BE CONTINUED....**



### Membership Update – SMG (ret) Ken Mahan



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

**SEPT 09**

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

**To Members behind in their dues, you will have date circled in RED!** This is the only notice you will receive. Send information and/or dues to me at the Metuchen address shown above. **Annual dues are due in September**; regular dues are \$15 annually. Make checks payable to **117<sup>th</sup> CAV Assn.** **Note:** If you have an e-mail address, please send to me at [kmahan@aol.com](mailto:kmahan@aol.com) We are in the process of compiling an e-mail list of members and we want to include you. **Association web site:** [www.117<sup>th</sup>-cav.org/](http://www.117th-cav.org/)

### New Member

Mrs. Nancy LaCorte ( Husband Bob) Associate Member. She is The "Family Readiness Group" Leader for HHT, 1/102 Cavalry Squadron at Westfield. Nancy and Bob have two sons in the Squadron.

**Remember:** The Soldiers of 50<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team and 1/102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Squadron and their Support Units as they adjust to their Mission in Iraq. The teams are in many different areas, which it makes it hard for the Squadron Commander and Staff. **14 Members of the 117<sup>th</sup> CAV Assn. are serving in Iraq.**

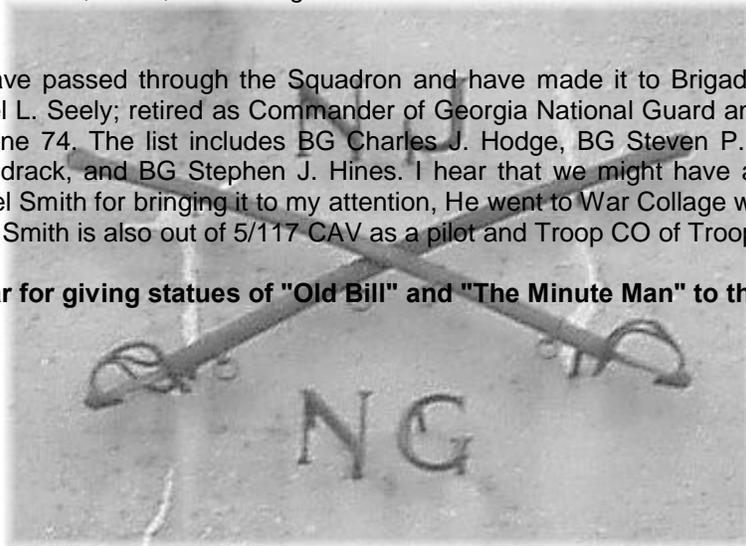
**Update: Belt Buckles of the Last Ride are in.** Cost is \$39.00 plus \$2.50 shipping. When ordering, use my above address.

**We're sorry if you missed our Reunion** We are planning to have a good time - I am writing this article before the Reunion. We are hoping to have a good turnout at the meeting and get together in the Heritage Room at Westfield on Friday Oct 17. We are hoping for a larger turnout at Ft. Monmouth, Gibbs Hall. As of this writing, there are about 60 coming.

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

**Brigadier Generals** that have passed through the Squadron and have made it to Brigadier General: I have come across another - BG Michael L. Seely; retired as Commander of Georgia National Guard and was in 5/117, Westfield as OPNS/XO May 70 to June 74. The list includes BG Charles J. Hodge, BG Steven P. Solomon, BG Michael L. Seely, BG Kenneth F. Wondrack, and BG Stephen J. Hines. I hear that we might have another one in the future. Thanks to Col. (Ret.) Michael Smith for bringing it to my attention, He went to War Collage with BG Michal L. Seely. In addition, Col. (Ret.) Michael Smith is also out of 5/117 CAV as a pilot and Troop CO of Troop D-Air.

**Thank You to Robert Apgar for giving statues of "Old Bill" and "The Minute Man" to the Heritage Room.**





# “Coffee Express”

Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry are now deployed as part of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the New Jersey Army National Guard in Iraq. This is the single largest deployment of New Jersey Troops since World War II. We all know that an army travels on it's stomach and the fuel that keeps the troops moving is coffee.

You can help by joining the “Coffee Express.” How do you become a member of the “Coffee Express”? Simple, just go down to your local grocery store and buy a pound or two of coffee and send it to one of the below addresses or to the soldier of your choice at either unit.

CPT Adam Kama  
HHT/1-102 Cavalry  
Camp Bucca, Iraq  
APO AE 09375

CPT Mike Tarricone  
A Troop 1-102 Cavalry  
Camp Bucca, Iraq  
APO AE 09375

CPT Noel Lyn-Kew  
519<sup>th</sup> MP BN  
B Troop 1-102 Cavalry  
Camp Ashraf, Iraq  
APO AE 09391

CPT Joe McNamara  
C Troop 1-102 CAV  
Box 5  
APO AE 09391

CPT Paul Sergio  
519<sup>th</sup> MP BN  
CO D 250<sup>th</sup> BSB  
Camp Ashraf, Iraq  
APO AE 09391

CPT Thomas Fischer  
50<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company  
Camp Bucca, Iraq  
APO 09375

CPT David Rios  
328<sup>th</sup> MP Company  
Camp Cropper, Iraq  
APO AE 09342

CPT James Eagan  
CO F 250<sup>th</sup> BSB  
Camp Bucca, Iraq  
APO AE 09375

What will it cost you?

Two pounds of coffee \$12  
Postage \$5  
Feeling when you put the package in the mail PRICELESS!

Don't hesitate, send that coffee now and become a member of “Coffee Express”!  
Thanks for your Support!

COL (RET) Bill Rooney &  
COL (RET) Dennis Dougherty

117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY ASSOCIATION  
And the  
The DISCOM ALUMNI of NEW JERSEY



# Would like to send more than coffee?

Nothing says “thank you” to a deployed soldier quite as much as a package from home. During those times when you are riding in a convoy, or standing at a checkpoint, or sitting in your hooch far from the mess hall there is nothing quite as good as having something other than MRE’s to munch on.

A typical 20 pound box contains about 100 snack bars, fruit snacks, Pop-tarts, sleeves of Oreo cookies, Life-Savers, Chex-Mix, mixed hard candies, beef jerky, Tootsie Rolls, and granola bars. Chocolate bars should be left out because of the high heat encountered in shipping containers in the desert sun. Do not send canned goods, liquids, or pesticides/bug repellent in our packages.

Most boxes are sent to unit leaders, knowing the boxes would be equitably shared and many soldiers would benefit from a single package. Packages **MUST BE** addressed to a specific soldier – boxes labeled “Any Soldier” will not be delivered anywhere.

A typical box is 12 x 12 x 12 inches. This is a good-sized box that does not push you into a higher mailing category. You should ship **PARCEL POST**. (Not Priority Mail) All boxes for Iraq and Afghanistan go through the APO (Army Post Office) in New York. Once a box reaches the APO, the government transports it to its destination – regardless of postage it all moves at the same speed. A 20-pound box costs about \$9.50 to send from New Jersey to an APO address by Parcel Post and it generally gets there the same day as Priority Mail. You must fill out a customs declaration form for every box (Form 2976-A) listing the contents and value.

**NOTE:** The USPS offers free Priority Mailing boxes and supplies to send a box – regardless of weight – for \$10.50. Good deal, huh? No! The box offered holds less than 1/3 by volume of a 12 x 12 and generally costs about a dollar more to ship priority mail. Save your money!

Prohibited items: Alcoholic beverages, pornography or magazines that show too much skin, aerosols (shaving cream, silly string, deodorant...), weapons, ammunition, illegal substances or drugs, hazardous materials (disposable lighters, fireworks...). Fragile items or things that will melt in the heat are not good ideas.

Requested other items: Movie DVD’s, Music CD’s, AA batteries, AAA batteries, Splenda and Equal sweeteners, hot cocoa mix, & handi-wipes.

Thanks for supporting our troops!



**50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM**

## TAPS

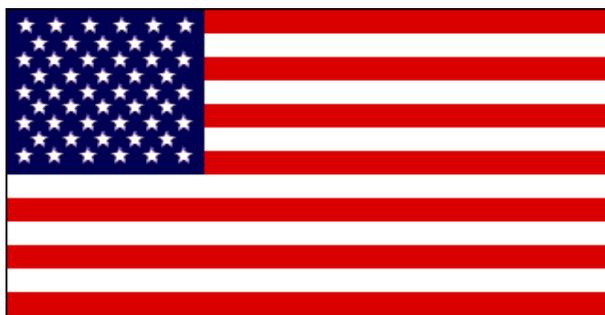
Ral ph Bockino, 89 Passed away on 15 June 2008. St. James, NY. WWII veteran inducted 21 April 1941. Joined the 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry and was with the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz) from Africa through VE Day, SGT Bockino was honorably discharged 30 September 1945. Survived by his wife Catherine and sons. Member of the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association.

Hil da "Terry" Gol dfaden, 83 Passed away 6 June 2008. Wife of the late Major Fred Goldfaden, a pilot with 5/117 CAV D-Air.

Warren J. Garoni, 88 Passed away 27 August 2008. Chester, VT. Class of '41 member, 102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry, sent to North Africa with 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, original member 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz). Tech 4 Garoni was wounded on 29 December 1944 in action near Bitche, France. He received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Soldier's Medal. Travelled to Europe for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII, visiting cemeteries and concentration camps. Member of American Legion Post 67, Chester VT. A member of the Essex Troop and the 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Associations. Garoni grew up in Montclair and raised his family there. He was with Prudential Insurance for 31 years. Survived by a son Leigh of NY, a daughter Christine Petrizzo of Florida, 4 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Also two sisters, Eleanor and Geraldine.

Gordon Grenvil le Smith, 71 died as a result of injuries sustained while fox hunting, 21 September 2008. Casanova, VA. Was Commander of Troop A, 5/117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Westfield NJ, 1970. Member of 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association. Graduate of Michigan State University with a BS degree in Agriculture and received an MBA from The University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business in 1971. His career began with Johnson & Johnson as Group Product Director; he then went on to successfully develop the Somerset Medical Office Park in Somerville, NJ. Consulted to physicians in business management. Gordon was a passionate foxhunter, loved books and loved his family. He is survived by his son Gordon G. Smith Jr. of Bloomfield, MI, a daughter Elizabeth Alden Smith of Orlean, VA, his sister Linda Stedman Montague of St. Michaels, MD. Also surviving are his fiancé Judy Allen of Casanova, VA and three grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on October 17, 2008 at 3 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in The Plains, VA. Memorial contributions may be made to the Christopher Reeve Foundation, 636 Morris Turnpike, Suite 3A, Short Hills, NJ 07078

*"Close ranks and ride on"*



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**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:** 7 NOVEMBER 2008; 6 FEBRUARY 2009; 3 APRIL 2009; 5 JUNE 2009