



117th Cavalry Association

www.117th-cav.org

102d CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102d CAVALRY
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Presidents Message Summer 2014 June is always a busy time for membership and for the Troopers of the 1-102nd Cavalry. We will have a full agenda. The highlight of our June 6, 2014 meeting will be the dedication of a plaque memorializing the service of four members of the 5-117th Cavalry; CPT Rick Applett, CWO Robert Goebel, SP5 Charles Ward and SP5 Leonard Vellucci died in a tragic training accident while at Annual Training at Ft. Drum, NY on May 24, 1978. (See the photo of the plaque in this issue of the Spur). This plaque will be placed in a prominent place on the wall outside the Heritage Room of our 117th Cavalry Association in a place where today's troopers will be reminded of the service and sacrifices of those who have gone before them. It is never too late to remember those who gave their lives in the service of our country.

The 1-102nd Cavalry starts its 2014 Annual Training Period at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on June 7th. LTC Jeff Brownlee, the Squadron Commander will update our membership on their AT-14 Training Program. The troopers of the 1-102nd Cavalry will be conducting a full spectrum-training plan that includes individual and collective gunnery and maneuver skills. One of the highlights of AT-14, will be a *Spur Ride*. Those troopers who satisfactorily complete this grueling test of military skills and physical challenges will be awarded their Spurs at the completion of the Spur Ride.

This year's 2014 *Biennial Reunion* of our 117th Cavalry Association promises to be a special event. We will again join with the Troopers of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment for what has become an annual social event, *The Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance*. 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 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment carry on this collective heritage of Armor and Cavalry in New Jersey. I would like to personally thank SCO LTC Jeff Brownlee for his invitation to join with his Cavalry Troopers and encourage all our members and all those who have served all of our states Armor and Cavalry units to attend, *The Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance*. It will take place on October 3, 2014 at the Grand Summit Hotel, 570 Springfield Avenue, Summit NJ. (See the attached flyer for details)

Seventy Years Ago - June 1944: This highlight is from the memoirs of COL Harold Samsel. He was the operations officer of the 117th Cavalry at this time. On June 1, 1944, the 117th Cavalry was attached to the First Special Service Force. Their mission was to seize the town of Collaferro and cut off a sizeable number of German forces. Many were captured. On 2 June 1944, the Squadron was approaching the outskirts of Rome from the southwest. The last town before the Eternal City was Valmontone. The battle lasted for 3 days before crashing into what was left of this town of 10,000 Italians. On the morning of June 5th advanced from the northeast and entered the heart of Rome at around 5PM in the afternoon. The scenes were unbelievable as millions of Italians completely swarmed throughout Rome, climbed into our tanks and armored cars. It was our first great experience as true liberators of an oppressed population. On 6 June, many Americans attended mass in St. Peters Basilica celebrated by the Pope. Speaking in English, he expressed the heartfelt thanks of the Italian people to the brave Allied Army that had freed their great city from the Nazis.

June 5th found the 102nd Cavalry Group and 102nd Cavalry Squadron on LSTs (Landing Ship Tank) sailing from Cornwall England across the English Channel as part of the greatest armada ever launched against a hostile shore. They arrived off Omaha Beach on D-Day June 6, 1944. They witnessed the 29th Infantry Division's assault on the beach that history would call Bloody Omaha. On June 8th LST #16 carrying Troop C debarked on Omaha Easy Red Beach between St. Laurent-Sur-Mere and Isigny. The 102nd had completed its debarkation and moved into assembly area by the early hours of June 9th. They received their first combat mission on June 10th. Thus would begin the long march that would lead the 102nd Cavalry Group through the boscages of Normandy, into Paris, through the Siegfried Line, across the Rhine and to a historic meeting with the Russians on the Elbe River.

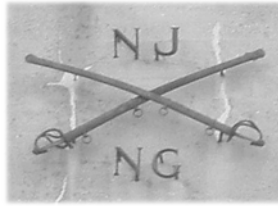
I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting of our 117th Cavalry Association, Friday evening June 6, 2014 at 7:30 PM in the Heritage Room of the Westfield Cavalry Armory. Special thanks to all our members who have contributed to help defray the cost of the publication of *The Spur* Please 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 association and it's many initiatives in support of our membership and the 1-102nd Cavalry

Show 'em the Way!

Dennis

COL Dennis Dougherty, USA Retired



SCO Message (Unavailable in time for printers)

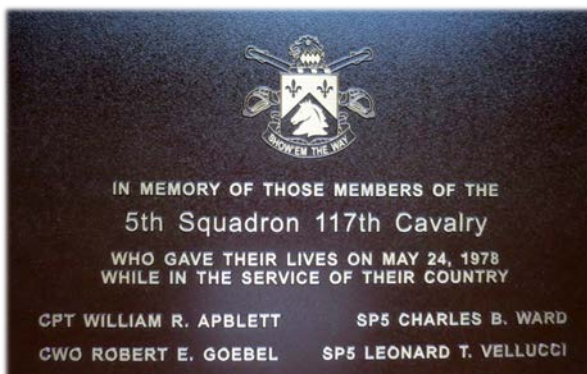


Editor's Message Phil Notestine Squadron recruiting has been going well, so I'm told, as "*time marches on*" ... and we lose some excellent men. Surely they are greeted enthusiastically by their predecessors, passing the canteen on "*Fiddler's Green*". See the Membership and TAPS pages.

You have been reading about the downsizing of our Armed Forces because of the "Sequester" and Defense budget reductions. These are, in my opinion, harmful to our Nation's readiness and ability to deter, react, defend and defeat a growing and emboldened array of adversaries. Why can't our politicians remember the early disasters and losses of WWII and Korea, like "Task Force Smith" which were a direct result of peacetime cuts to the bone and loss of young leadership?

I learned of one particular set of force reductions during an AUSA - Braxton Bragg Chapter meeting at Fort Bragg in April. COL David J. Woods, CO of the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, parent of the 1-38th Cavalry Regiment, spoke of the soon to happen *Casing of the Colors* of some 525th BfSB units and melding into other XVIII Airborne Corps units. I believe this will happen to the other two BfSB at Fort Hood and Joint Base Lewis-McCord, where the 2-38th CAV and 3-38th CAV Regiments are respectively based. And so, again the legacy of the WWII 38th Cavalry is recorded and archived. Even during their brief reactivation beginning in 2006 and foreign missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo, these cavalry units, officers and enlisted troopers did themselves and the Army proud. We can be sure that their experience and *Esprit d 'Corps* will contribute to ARMY STRONG!

11 April 2014 117th Cavalry Association Meeting Call to order by COL Dennis Dougherty, who then led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dennis called us to a moment of silence for those who had passed since our last meeting. Membership – SGM Ken Mahan encouraged us to pay our dues and reminded us that if your newsletter label says *Sept 13* you are overdue. He also stressed the \$10 new digital membership for SGTs and below. Share our Story: Dennis encouraged us to ensure we embrace the current organization as well as remembering our history, for history is being made with every passing month. Nominations for HMOR/DMOR: Dennis encouraged us to develop lists for this prestigious award by looking within our own ranks and those we know. Westfield Foundation: Dennis discussed the generosity of the Westfield Foundation and pointed out the variety of pictures we have now thanks to them. Troop Pictures: Dennis highlighted Delta Company's picture since Anthony Mapp, the former commander was here at the meeting.



Plaque Dedication: Trooper's plaque - Background Information: Dennis highlighted that he was the HHT commander and COL Goldstein, who is with us tonight was the SCO....during the running of an aircraft gunnery range a UH1 piloted by CWO Robert Goebel crashed killing all four troopers aboard. Delta Commander, 1SG (Ret) John Scannell is with us tonight. The plaque commemorating the death of CPT Rick Apblett, CWO Robert Goebel, SP5 Charles Ward and SP5 Len Vellucci will be dedicated at the June 6 meeting. COL (Ret) Sandy Goldstein past commander of the 5-117th Cavalry outlined the circumstances surrounding the accident. The membership of the Association are encouraged to attend the June 6th meeting to help remember the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives while in the service of their country on May 24, 1978.

September Drill / Stable Call: Harry Yeide, author of *Steeds of Steel*, will be speaking about the contributions of New Jersey Cavalry formations (117th, 102nd and 38th Cavalry Squadrons) during WWII.

Spurs and Sabers/ Biennial Reunion: Has been set for October 3, 2014. See the attached flyer for details. The menu is amazing, the surroundings beautiful and the price the same as the last three years. It's a great opportunity for troopers old and new to have a great time! Fund Raising We are also going to sell as many of these possible, CPT Cruz is selling kick ass belt buckles, they are \$25 apiece and well worth it. The 3D engraving encompasses the units and capabilities of the squadron with a color unit insignia. COL Dougherty introduced the new SCO, LTC Brownlee who spoke to us about his experiences and tied himself to the current organization as his 3rd return to the Cavalry. His enthusiasm for the job was apparent as he engaged the members of the meeting. Also introduced us to MAJ Combs, the new XO who talked us about his experience and long time in Armor as a crewman, commander, and staff officer in the IBCT.

In attendance: *Jerry Infantino, John Wincz, John Scannell, Sandy Goldstein, Bill Morris, Dan Mahon, Don Kondrowski, Tim Aquino, Anthony Mapp, Richard Burke, Art Maggs, Robert J. Richardson, Rodolfo Ptasnik, Andrew Wyatt, Louis DiBilanchino, Jim Pressman, Ron Nier, Dutch Gauthier, Walt Lawrence, William A. Sedlak, Frank Mnich, Phil Dunns, Robert Appgar, Jeff Brownlee, Bill Gruss, James Anglin, Frank Pelaez and Dennis Dougherty.*

CLASS "41" & CAVALRY LUNCHEON Attending were *Class of '41* members Jim Coburn and Joseph Pcoroba. Guests were John Grun, Leon LaPoint, Donald Tracy, Charlotte & William Merring, Kenneth Mahan. Jim Coburn, Joseph Pcoroba, & John Grun were sharing stories about horses. All three are very familiar with horses. Jim and Joe are WWII veterans of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment "*Essex Troop*" in 1941 and John raises horses. John's father-in-law was in the *Essex Troop*. SGM Mahan loaned John some of his books so he could learn more about his father's service. Bill Philpot, Leon LaPoint, Donald Tracy, Charlotte & William Merring and Ken Mahan spoke of the days of 1946 to 1960, and who was in the unit at that time. Many of the people remembered were in WWII and rejoined the cavalry in the (then) newly formed 50th Reconnaissance BN in Westfield. People like Wilbur "Whiz" Dunbar, 1SG Red Emery, 1SG William B. Maloney Sr., CWO Thomas "Pop" Christopher, 1SG Edward J. Murphy, LTC Norman Koed, 1SG Frank J. Harty, CWO Leon LaPoint, COL. Thomas C. Piddington, COL. Harold J. Samsel, Robert C. Lutz, Plus many more.

THE 11TH PANZER-DIVISION IN COMBAT

The Battle of Montrevel/Malafretaz

September 3, 1944 By: Frédéric Deprun

(Continued from the Spring 2014 issue of THE SPUR)

The Reaction of the 11th Panzer-Division

The bad news about the capture of the village of Montrevel quickly gets to the Post Command of von Wietersheim at Bourg. A column of the division from the train stopped at some few kilometers south of the village could hear gunfire around 0600, and saw three vehicles falling back into the lines and one was riddled with bullet holes.



The Americans are immediately put under surveillance by two motorcyclists from the 11th Panzer-Aufkl. Abt. (reconnaissance unit) beginning at the top of the hill south of Montrevel at l'Homont, north of Malafretaz starting at 0700., while the first armored vehicles and two *Schwimm-wagen* (amphibian vehicles), full of officers establish a Command Post and a First-Aid Station on the (National) highway at "Paradis" at 0800.

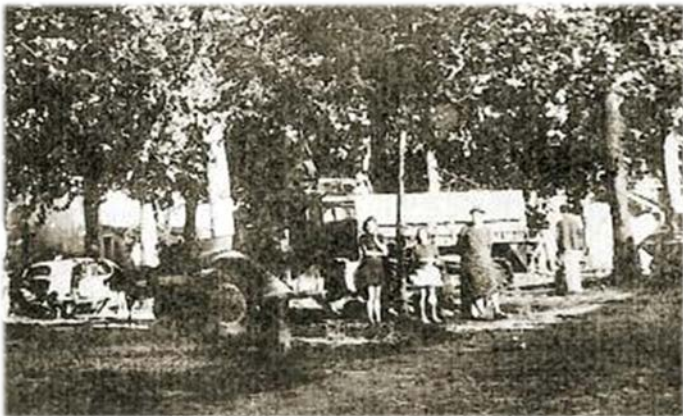
A resident describes the scene of soldiers from the 11th Panzer-Division in the village Malafretaz and the village is put on alert: "Following the first gunfire, the Germans stretched out on the floors of our buildings got up with unbelievable speed. Some of them wearing their only pair of pants, machineguns on hand, assembled in two rows. The officer who had set his Command Post in a room on the first floor gave brief orders and they scattered in all directions. Periodically, they would come back, presented themselves saluting the officer with a Nazi salute, giving their report, then left again. The tanks started only at 0800. Other Germans speaking French frenetically asked: "Who is attacking us, Maquis? Americans?"



Town Hall Square with a jeep and an M8 from the 117th Cavalry destroyed in

the back of the picture. Under the sycamores, a dozen of German vehicles, which had burned up during the combat, can be seen. The bark stripped from the tree trunk demonstrates the violence of the explosions during the afternoon combat. (Ass. Mémoire de l'Ain.)

Road to Etrez at the entrance of Montrevel which is the spot where the half-tracks and the trucks of the "117" parked. These vehicles were burned up during the day by gunfire from mortars and direct German gunfire coming from the heights of Malafretaz on the left of the picture. After the combat of the village liberation, the burned up wrecks attracted the curiosity of the residents from the surrounding areas who came all during the month of September to visit the rest of "the War at Montrevel." (Ass. Mémoire de l'Ain.)



Pictures of the battle of Montrevel are of low quality but constitute irreplaceable documents. Visible is a command half-track from Troop "A" destroyed in the midst of German vehicles burned up on the Town Hall Square. (Ass. Mémoire de l'Ain.)

An order is given from the Command Post of the 11th Panzer-Division located in Bourg to rapidly put into motion a group of troopers to go dislodge the critical roadblock north of the main retreat axis of the Panzer-Division. The units assigned for this commando action available (on hand at present) in Bourg are as follows:

4th and 5th Kompanie (Komp. Harthan) of the 11th Panzeraufklärungs-Abteilung, (Reconnaissance Battalion), a dozen of Sd.Kfz 251, some Sd. Kfz 250 and light vehicles.

3./Pionier-Kompanie 209 (engineers) located at Malafretaz reinforced with an Ersatz-Kompanie and of the 10th (Pio) Kompanie of the 111th Panzer- Grenadier-Regiment (armored) 1 Marder and 2 Panzer III tanks for the attack and control of Montrevel and Malafretaz.

6 Panther V tanks from the 15th Panzer-Regiment

1 artillery battery 10.5 from the 6./119th Panzer-Artillery-Regiment

The village of Malafretaz is separated from Montrevel by a ridge of a few houses before arriving in Montrevel. Behind these houses, the German apparatus is deployed on pivot with the units positioned on the right combat line on the highway, which enters in the locality. The area of "Paradis" is quickly captured at 500 meters from the main intersection by Pionere combat engineers and the Aufklärer (reconnaissance). These units have received orders as a mission to circumvent the village and to attack to the north and north-west and to block the roads around Montrevel . The attack units will deploy starting at 0900.

L'unteroffizier (noncommissioned officer) Möner of the 111th / 10.(Pio).Panzergrenadier-Regiment (armored regiment) gives this witnessing account of the preparation of the troops for the attack:

"The Ersatz (artillery unit) had arrived from Dijon the night before at Bourg, roughly 100 men transported in trucks and half-tracks. The soldiers were very young except a group of rehabilitated men recovered from tuberculosis, who had been discharged on the East Front and reintegrated after leaving the sanatorium of the region of Hötzing. There were some from all origins, different regions such as Hunsrück, of Fulda or of Rhénanie. As in the Rhône Valley, the need for men was felt so strongly that the wounded, once healed, were immediately sent willingly or against their will to the motorized kompanien. The combat group was regrouped in the city of Bourg, September 2, with an Oast-Kompanie of Cosaques progressing north the same day. The Ersatz was maneuvering on a square in parade formation before going back north for the combat in Montrevel. The first combat for some was the return to war and for others, notably for a section of a battalion of "frozen and cold meats" from Ukraine. Artillery tractors remained on the "Nationale" highway during the first

hours of the battle, the officers of the Aufklärer Battalion (reconnaissance) had assured our Hauptmann (Captain) that the village capture would take place in the course of the morning hours.”

Combat in the streets of Montrevel Between 0700 and 0800, the control operations continue in Montrevel for the Americans, the infantry attempts to enlarge its sector by capturing the perpendicular streets and alleys. Confusing gunfire is exchanged in the streets forcing the residents to hide in cellars or leave the area to hide in the countryside. The following account was given by a resident who witnessed that the two camps were fighting for a very small territory in the midst of civilians.

“An American is shot and lies dying in front of a bakery. The baker’s son crosses the street under gunfire to go get him. When the GI tells him to bend down, the young man drags him to the shop. Wounded in the neck and thigh, the GI loses a lot of blood. The village doctor arrives near the wounded and asks for someone to boil some water to disinfect his syringe, but an American ambulance arrives to retrieve the soldier. Hardly time enough to clean the floor, that the Germans enter in force into the bakery, devouring many pastries and ice creams prepared for the town festival planned for the next day. They break the door down and the cash register and keep the three bakers as hostages for three long hours before returning to combat.”

Pressure on American positions continues gradually and the weak armored apparatus of the Task Force is constrained to patrol the alleys in column formation to keep the Germans from crossing la Grande Rue (main street) that separates the two camps.

The *Pionieres* and *Aufklärers* (combat engineers and reconnaissance) infiltrate themselves through the north and south. The crew in an M8 kills many Germans on their way to launch an assault on the sidewalks located on an angle of la Rue du Château using a maneuvering game behind the buildings. A resident witnesses the scene of the destruction by a *Panzer-Grenadier*.

“A German soldier, certainly not a novice, was able to take on this tank all alone, which was ravaging la Grande Rue (main street) and which prohibited passage to the German foot soldiers. On Rue Tortipieds, he hangs his helmet on the end of his gun to entice the Americans to open gunfire on him, and when he had located exactly the vehicle position, he climbed on the roof tops to launch his grenade on top of the submachine gun and destroyed the tank that way.”

The American M8 Armored Car captured and used as a decoy >>

During the morning hours, an episode, which remains confusing to this day, is that of the use of an M8 Armored Car around 0800 by the *Pioniere* of the 11th *Panzer-Division* which attempts to penetrate the American defense located on the Town Hall Square. The account given by a resident, Monsieur René Germain describes the following scene:

“Coming from the west through the Market Square, appears an American automatic submachine gun with a tricolor flag much to the surprise of mistrusting residents who were observing but well hidden. Welcome precaution because it was a German soldier who came out of the turret. The trap failed! Not one civilian or GI showed himself.”



The capture and use of American vehicles by the 11th *Panzer-Division* had already been observed toward Montelimar or at Meximieux. An M8 is seen being captured by three Germans on the Montrevel Church Square while the American personnel were busy inside a building and had left the motor temporarily running. Another M8 painted with large German crosses had been photographed abandoned amongst other German wrecks



after the combat at Malafretaz. Did it have to do with the vehicle in the role of the famous Trojan Horse in progression to the center of town? We do not know anything about it, but the “Germanized” M8 Greyhound had certainly been captured prior to the beginning of the battle because the Germans certainly had not had the time to paint one of the “117th” in the morning. The tricky attempt had failed. The M8 was rained on by well-reinforced gunfire before rejoining the 11th *Panzer-Division* at Malafretaz. It would have been seen later near the German First Aid Post on the road to Bourg and would have received gunfire coming from both camps. Another captured M8 is seen at Malafretaz opening gunfire with a machine gun in a tentative GI exit from Montrevel on the south side.

Location of German vehicles from the 11th Panzer-Division at Malafretaz, in the evening of September 3.



The sign says "Here took place the Battle of Malafretaz, September 3, 1944". Simple Sign in Malafretaz indicating where combat took place, very precious information for anyone passing by face-to-face with an unknown battle.

M5A1 "Stuart" light tank from Company "F" from the "117th" during the liberation of Besançon. The troopers from the Reconnaissance Cavalry Unit will cross over again the pass of the 11th Panzer-Division three days after the battle of Montrevel/Malafretaz on the shores of the Doubs River. (Mémoire de l'Ain.) >>



Panzergranadier from the 111th Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment /10/(Pio) during the attack on Montrevel. This soldier seems to be in surveillance south of the locality at proximity of the railroad. Even though the combat had been violent on the village, the German accounts indicate that the long columns of the 11th Panzer-Division were calmly waiting for several kilometers to be able to progress north once Montrevel had been captured. (11Pz-Div.Kameradschaft.)



The Oberleutnant Frank Danowski of the 111th Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment/10(Pio) will lead the frontal attack on the Homont neighborhood in direction of the Town Hall and on the road to Etrez with his men. A specialist of "coup de force," he will receive the "Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes " or Knight's

Cross grade of the Iron Cross., October 18 1944 posthumously, for his actions at Montrevel and at Château-Salins. He will be mortally wounded October 10, and will die the same day in the Emergency Post at Saint-Reinecke. He will be promoted to Hauptman posthumously. (11th Pz-Div. Kameradschaft.) >>



GERMAN POSITIONS (Les Positions Allemandes)



Main intersection in Montrevel crossed from left to right by the highway leading from Bourg to Châlon-sur-Saône. It is at this intersection that gunfire exchanges will take place between an M8 from the "117th" and a Marder self-propelled cannon accompanied by a Panzer III. The alleys will be a theater scene of outburst gunfire from building to building. The Panzer-Grenadier will deploy machine guns and mortars in force in the afternoon that will not give any opportunity to the troops of the "117th". (Coll. F. Deprun.)

Photograph of an M8 on the defensive parked in a street in Montrevel. One of the two machine guns destroyed in the center of Bourg moved back and forth between the alleys shooting at German soldiers trying to infiltrate. A Panzer-Grenadier (armored infantryman) will destroy one of them with a grenade launched from a rooftop. (Montage F. Lebrun.)





<< Jeep destroyed at the edge of the main intersection in Montrevel, one of the first losses in vehicles from the "117th" in the morning of September 3, this one blown up by gunfire launched by a Panzerfaust (Anti-tank). (Ass. Mémoire de l'Ain)

...to be continued...



Membership Update – SMG (Ret) Ken Mahan Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2013 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 14

**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, Associate dues \$15.00 and enlisted E5-E1 \$10.00 are due in September.** Make checks Payable to **117th Cavalry Association. Pay Pal** can be used as

well – link is on our web site www.117th-cav.org **Boosters** help pay for SPUR mailings to WWII veterans and their widows, *not* for your dues! We cannot continue to mail *The SPUR* to lapsed members. Stick with us, we want you as a member, but you must pay your own "freight". **Email:** Please send your email address to me at 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, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). All WWII Veterans will no longer pay dues, you will see WWII over your name. On 9-10 JUNE 14 the Squadron will conduct a SPUR RIDE at Ft. Dix to check and test their CAVALRY skills.

TAPS



Colonel (Ret) John E. Chavanne, 76, of Tega Cay, S.C., formerly of River Edge, N.J., passed away on Saturday, April 12, 2014. He grew-up in Saddle Brook, N.J., the son of Mildred and John Chavanne. He graduated from Newark College of Engineering with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He served his country in the Army Reserves/N.J. National Guard where he retired as a Colonel. He retired as a director from Allied Signal (formerly Bendix Aerospace). Following his retirement, John built upon his lifelong passion for construction and ventured into a successful career in home remodeling and rental property ownership. He was an active and beloved member of Lakeshore Christian Fellowship, where he lovingly served in many ministries. He also enjoyed running and completed the Marine Corps Marathon. He was the proud grandfather of 18 grandchildren and will be remembered for his special pancake breakfasts. His parents; his brother,

Paul; and his beloved pets, Max, Pretzel, Pippin, Bailey, Copper, Riley Cat and Riley Dog, precede John in death. Survivors include his wife, Denise; his children, Laura Grzanka and husband, Rich, Dan Chavanne and wife, Afroditi, Jill Augustine and husband, Mike, Tanya Sheehan and husband, Kevin, Keith Manz and wife, Sarah and Matthew Manz and wife, Jill; grandchildren, Andrew, Josh, Stephanie, Michelle, Michael, Grace, Hanna, Matthew, Ryan, Craig, Mark, Ashley, Austin, Bradley, Kaitlyn, Kara, Kayla and Colin. and his sister, Marie Roeland and husband, Ed.



Robert Joseph Brownlee of Country Lakes in Browns Mills, NJ passed away Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Samaritan Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mount Holly of Natural Causes. He was 70. Born in Hammonton, New Jersey, Mr. Brownlee was the son of the late Clarence and Alice Brownlee. He was a retired Army Aviator and Vietnam Veteran. During his honorable service to our country, he was awarded the *Silver Star*, *Distinguished Flying Cross*, the *Bronze Star*, the *Purple Heart* and Air Medal. Mr. Brownlee was also retired from the State of New Jersey Department of Health. He enjoyed fishing and vacations with his wife. He is survived by his wife Lynn Brownlee of Country Lakes; son LTC Jeff Brownlee of Shamong, NJ; daughter and son-in-law Donna & Larry Heron of

Hainesport; 5 grandchildren: Shelby Brownlee of Hainesport, NJ, Eric & Evan Brownlee of Cape Cod, MA; Kayla & Kelsey Heron of Hainesport, NJ. He is also survived by five siblings: Clarence (Skippy) Brownlee of WV; James Brownlee of West Trenton, NJ; Ralph Brownlee of Mays Landing, NJ; Cheryl Brownlee of Cape May, NJ, and Ronald Brownlee of Vineland, NJ.



Dave Ellis passed away at the Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains, N.J., on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, at the age of 81. Dave is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jacquelin; his son, Peter (Linda); daughter, Suzanne Buontempo (Mark); daughter-in-law, Lisa Ellis, and family friend, Willy Smith. He was predeceased by his oldest son, James David Ellis, in 2012. He is also survived by grandchildren, Pete Ellis, Mark David Buontempo, Michelle and Ron Zach, Jaclyn Ellis, and Jamie and Rob Schardien, and his great-granddaughter, Reagan Zach. Dave was employed by Rekemeier's Flower Shops up until April of 2013. He retired from the Shade Tree Commission of Union County. He owned and operated Ellis Tree Service for 60 years. He was a retired Master Sergeant of the 5th Squadron, 117th Cavalry Regiment, NJ Army National Guard and was a member *117th Cavalry Association* and the Cranford First Aid Squad for 20 years, serving as captain for many of those years. Dave and Jacky also volunteered their time with many parks around Cranford and at the gardens at the Methodist Church, cleaning, planting, and watering. The

Ellis family would like to thank all the nurses that cared for Dave this past month at the Center for Hope Hospice as well as all the friends whose prayers and support have helped us along this journey.



Frank A. Wiswall, 94, of Boonton, NJ, passed away at home on Monday, May 5, 2014 surrounded by his family. Frank was born in Brooklyn, NY and lived in Mountain Lakes, NJ before moving to Boonton, where he has resided for most of his life. It was in 1940 when living in Mountain Lakes, NJ 18 year old Frank enlisted in the 102nd Cavalry Regiment, NJ Army National Guard. The Regiment was called into Federal Service in January 1941. Private Wiswall was a horse cavalryman in B Troop where he made many lasting friends. When the horses were to be retired and the squadrons fully mechanized, Wiswall volunteered for the US Army Air Corps. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and became a bombardier in the 8th Air Force, flying 25 combat missions from England in the famous Boeing Flying Fortress - B-17E, F & G models. Most missions were over France and Germany; some were vital to the Normandy Invasion - Operation Overlord. Captain Wiswall returned to America to develop advanced bombing procedures and training, which enabled more precision, saving lives and reducing destruction. He was decorated with the *Distinguished Flying Cross*, *Air Medal with Clusters* and

the *Legion of Merit*. Lieutenant Colonel Wiswall, USAF retired after over 38 years, which included the Korean War in B-29's. On November 11, 2009 in a ceremony at the French Consulate in New York, he was made a *Chevalier* and decorated with the *French Legion of Honor*. He was a proud member of the *117th Cavalry Association*, *The Essex Troop Association* and *8th Air Force Association*. After his career in the Air Force, Frank worked at Royal Netherlands / Nedlloyd Shipping Company in NY, NY for many years as a comptroller. Mr. Wiswall was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Boonton and of Mountain Lakes St. John's Lodge # 1 F & AM. Surviving are his beloved wife of 60 years, Mae (nee Beiermeister), devoted children, Lynn Lloyd with her husband, Bill and Jeffery Wiswall; also 7 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and 1 great great granddaughter. He was predeceased by his children Dianne Bertarelli, Frank, Jr. and Thomas Wiswall.





Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance

Friday October 3, 2014

The Grand Summit Hotel

570 Springfield Avenue, Summit NJ

**Please join the Troopers of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment and the 117th Cavalry Association for The
Spurs and Sabers Dinner Dance Cocktails at 6PM, Dinner at 7PM. Cash Bar.**

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Grand Summit Hotel (908)273-3000.

Rates for overnight accommodations are \$129 Single, \$139 Double and include a full breakfast.

Rooms are blocked under the 117th Cavalry Association.

Ticket Information

Dinner Choice

Field Grade Officers/E 9	\$75 per person	Char-Grilled Rib Eye Steak	_____
Company Grade Officers/E 7 & 8:	\$70 per person	Seared Chicken topped w/prosciutto	_____
E 6 and below:	\$60 per person	Vegetarian	_____
Retirees and Civilians:	\$65 per person		

Reservations: Money and reservations **by September 29, 2014**, Make check payable to:

117th Cavalry Association and mail to: COL (Ret.) Dennis J. Dougherty

615 Raymond Street

Westfield, NJ 07090

Name: _____ Guest: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____





BE A BOOSTER OF THE SPUR

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

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



SP-15 EMIL & MARGARET ALLGEIER
 WI-26 CHARLES ANGELLO
 SU-15 NANCY ASHFORD & JEANNIE BROWN (sisters)
 (mem. father) SSG WM. T. TITTER
 WWII B TROOP 117th CAV
 SP-26 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
 SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR)
 5-117th CAV
 SP-17 BILL BENNERT
 FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
 SU-14 THOMAS BULLOCK
 WI-14 SGM (Ret) RICHARD T. BURKE
 FA- 24 JUDGE SANTI CARNEVALI, WWII 102nd & 117th CAVALRY
 FA-15 DON CARSON (mem. of) MSG GARY G. HADDICAN
 SU-14 DOROTHY CASPAR (mem. of) RICHARD J. CASPAR
 SP-15 LTC (Ret) CLAUDE and HELEN COOK
 WI-14 STEVE CUP WWII TROOP A, 102nd CAVALRY
 SU-15 LTC (Ret) PETER D'ELIA
 SP-15 ROBERT A. DENNIN JR. - A FRIEND
 WI-14 SGM (Ret) JIM DOOLEY
 WI-18 1SG (Ret) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop mem. wife BETTY
 WI-14 ROBERT ELLERT
 WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
 WI-14 LTC (Ret) ALAN R. FISHER
 WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem. of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
 FA-14 CAROL & WILLIAM FISHER JR.
 WI-15 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
 WI-14 PATRICK FRANK
 WI- 42 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117th CAV
 SU-16 BILL GRUSS & LINDA
 FA-14 LTC ANDREW HAGUE
 FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
 SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117th CAVALRY SGT Troop C
 SP-15 HERB HUBER, WWII 117th CAVALRY T5 Troop E
 (Assault Guns)
 WI-18 LTC (Ret) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117th CAV
 '43-'44 mem. HANK EGBERT & BILL CRONE bros.-in-arms
 FA-14 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO.
 WWII 117th CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*
 WI-19 ANNE MARIE & GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO
 FA-15 CHARLES JOHNSON WWII 117th Cavalry Recon
 WI -24 ESTELLE, ANDREW & JAY LASNER in mem. Arnold
 Lasner – husband, father – proud veteran Troop B 117th CAV
 SP-15 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE
 WI-16 Dr. DANIEL W. "TREY" LEE III, (mem. of) CPT DANIEL W.
 LEE, **CMH**, WWII Troop A, 117th CAVALRY RECON SQ.
 SU-19 1LT (Ret) EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41*, PSG B Troop
 117th CAV, Montrevel POW French *Legion of Honor*
 WI-18 C. J. MacNICHOLS
 WI-14 SSG (Ret) THOMAS J. LINDSEY & MARY
 SU-16 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
 SU-14 KEN MAHAN for FRG SUPPORT TEAM
 WI-14 CSM (Ret) A. A. MAGGS
 WI-17 BRIAN & BRUCE (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
 SU-14 BRUCE MALONEY
 WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL MALONEY SR. and
 My brother TIM MALONEY
 WI-33 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
 SU-16 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father)
 T4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102nd CAV WWII
 SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE

SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK,
Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW
 FA-14 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET
 WI-16 1SG (Ret) Troop D (AIR) RONNIE & CONNIE NIER in mem.
 MSG ROCCO SPANO HHT 5/117th CAV
 SU-14 HENRY NIESE 102nd CAV TRP A 1943-1945 (Stateside)
 SP-17 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON
 Troops C & E, *Class of '41*; 602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
 SU-14 LTC (Ret) TOM O'BRIEN, USAF (mem) my Father
 SGT JAMES H. O'BRIEN TROOP B (Montrevel POW)
 FA-27 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN,
Class of '41, 102nd & 117th CAV - B & C Troops WWII
 SP-16 DR. FOTINOS PANAGAKOS & JUDITH
 FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of)
 RICK APBLET
 SU-14 STEVE PETROSKY
 SP-16 TOM PETTY
 WI-14 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN mem. MSG ROCCO SPANO
 WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
 FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
 SU-19 ANTON and MARILYN PLONNER
 SU-15 LTC (Ret) KEN QUAAS (mem) DOROTHEA
 WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
 SP-33 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN
 F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
 SU-15 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
 SU-14 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem) my husband WILLY
 SP-18 BILL SEDLAK
 SP-15 LTC (Ret) ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB, WWII 38th CAV
 SU-14 ROBERT SMITH
 SU-15 CPT VINCENT SOLOMENO (mem.) LTC (Ret) JAMES A.
 BRODERICK & COL RUDY SAULTER
 FA-17 JOHN & MARGARET SUITER
 WI-15 1SG GEORGE THOMAS
 SP-15 JOE & SABRINA TOOMEY (mem. of) BROTHER
 SGM ANTHONY FREDA JR.
 SP-15 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
 FA-16 CHARLES A VIVIANO – 50th CAV RCN SQDN
 WI-18 LTC (Ret.) FRANK WISWALL, USAF *Class of '41*
 B Troop, 102nd CAV '41- '42 Fr. *Legion of Honor*
 WI-27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG - A Troop, 3rd Platoon
 117th CAV WWII
 SP-18 MARTHA ZOLLER, FRANK MITCHELL JR. & PAM GUNTER
 (mem. of) FRANK & JUANITA MITCHELL
 SU- 3013 FRG HHT 1-102nd CAVALRY

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To become a Booster of *The Spur*, please send \$10.00 for a year of inclusion as a Booster in four issues of *The Spur*. Make check payable to the **117th Cavalry Association** - \$10.00 for each year of support. Mail to **Bill Gruss, Treasurer, 117th Cavalry Association, 21 Blake Drive, Clark NJ 07066-1645**. Indicate how you wish to be listed:

Armor of the NJ Cavalry and Tankers, from WWII until we gave ‘em up.



M3 Half-Track



M8 75MM HMC Assault Gun



M7 105MM HMC Assault Gun



M8 "Greyhound" AC



M5A1 "Stuart" light tank



M24 "Chaffee" light tank

Post WWII



M59 APC



M113 APC



M4 "Sherman"



M47 "Patton"



M41 "Walker Bulldog"



M48A5 "Patton"



M1A1 "Abrams"

We loved ‘em, and were angry about giving them up!

The SPUR
c/o SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan
12 W. Walnut St.
Metuchen, NJ 08840-2616



COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty
President
LTC (Ret) Ken Quaas
Editor Emeritus
Philip S. Notestine
Editor

DUES DUE ↓

1ST New Jersey Cavalry



MISSION STATEMENT: It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the Spirit of the 117th Cavalry Association, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country. **NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS – Regular Meetings - Fridays 1930 hours: 6 June 2014 and Saturday 13 September 2014 (Joint meeting Squadron Stable Call).**