



The Essex Troop

Volume 116 Issue 1

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The Essex Troop Association – 1315 Pleasant Valley Way – West Orange, NJ - 07052



President's Message

I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year. As I reach the sunset of my four-year tour of duty as your president, I wish to thank you all for allowing me this privilege to serve you. I am required by our by-laws to step down after two consecutive two-year terms. I have carried out the duties of this office to the best of my ability. It certainly has been an enlightening experience. We have accomplished much, but much is left to be accomplished. A review of the previous Newsletters will help to enunciate many of these accomplishments without my going into detail in this column. On certain issues I look back with some trepidation. There have been, and will continue to be, major issues that are crucial to the very survival of our association and its gallant history. We must diligently follow the planning going into the "transformation" of the New Jersey National Guard to insure that the heritage and history of the 102D Cavalry "Essex Troop" is perpetuated by the new 102D Reconnaissance – Surveillance – and Target Acquisition (RSTA) Unit. Currently, we are working on getting the 102D RSTA HHC re-stationed at the West Orange Armory. I wish to personally thank Major General Glenn Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, and his staff for allowing us a role in this difficult and complicated force restructuring. I'm sure that an email to him at Glenn.Rieth@NJ.NGB.ARMY.Mil showing your support for this move would carry a lot of weight in convincing him this is the proper station for this Headquarters. Whatever his final decision, he knows he can count on us for our continued support.

By carefully researching our lineage we have found, as was suspected for many years, that there have been obvious distortions that have caused the Essex Troop history to be misrepresented and convoluted for strictly spurious reasons. Apparently, a number of our military leaders from the distant past submitted altered and misrepresented documents that were accepted as true historical facts, endorsed, and forwarded as such to NGB. The correction of these errors is a continuing process that is ongoing with the historical committee and the Center for Military History. It is so intense that it will be an extended process. I must pass this on to my

President's Message Cont'd

successor for completion, but will be available to assist if asked.

I am truly proud of all our soldiers who served during the conflicts over the past four years. However, I am particularly proud of the Essex troopers who served at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during a one-year tour of active duty. I would also like to commend the families of those soldiers who put up with the hardships associated with their deployment. The missed birthdays, holidays and special events, and everyday management of a family surely placed stress upon them. My compliments also to the volunteers of the Family Readiness Groups who authored many programs in support of the families and troops. Our association participated in and provided economic support for a number of these events.

I presented a plaque on behalf of the association representing that service at GTMO to the 2/102D Armor Battalion Commander LTC Kenneth Schechter and CSM William Kryscnski at the 115th Anniversary/Christmas Party held December 17, 2005 at the West Orange Armory. The plaque lists the name of each and every soldier that served during this activation in support of "The Global War on Terrorism". A duplicate copy of the plaque will be mounted at the West Orange Armory, home of the Essex Troop Association, for all to see. Well done, all!

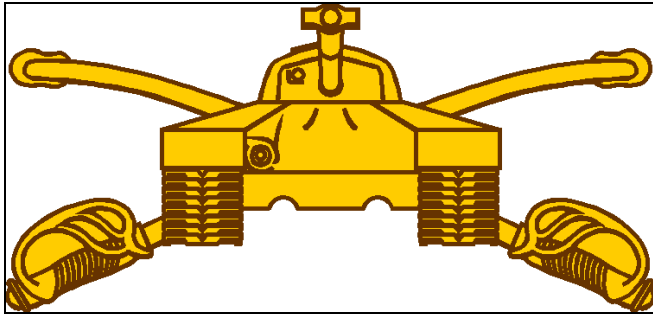
It would be an enormous task to properly thank all the members and others who have contributed materially to the success of the association. All the members, all the Officers and Trustees who participated in the many activities and especially those who worked diligently behind the scenes. I miss the "Class of '41" members who are unable to attend our activities due to a variety of age related problems. I wish to thank them for all the many years they did participate in the perpetuation of the ideals and goals of our association. A/Governor Richard Codey, Assemblyman/Mayor John McKeon, NJ Director of Veterans Affairs Gary Englert, Mr. Donald Horn (Mayfair Farms), Dr. Michael Festa (Our Chaplain) are just a few of the people who were there when we needed them. To the ladies and families of the members who participated on committees, thank you. To my wife, Betty, I thank you for your patience, participation, and support in our many activities.

As a last note, I intend to continue serving the association in some meaningful position in the future and will work with the new president in accomplishing the goals of The Essex Troop.

Ron Fahey

Meetings, Etc.

EVENT / MEETING	DATE
Annual Business Meeting	TBA
Annual Muster Get Together	TBA
Annual Picnic	TBA
Army Football	TBA
Christmas Party	XX Dec 06



We need your input. Please send in news and articles of interest that can be published in the newsletter. Help spread the news.

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OFFICERS

PresidentRon Fahey
1st Vice President.....Dean Spenzos
2nd Vice President Paul Tavarone
SecretaryWalter Gill
Treasure Dave VanBenschoten
Sergeant at ArmsVernon Pedersen
Past President Bob Theall
Chaplain.....Michael Festa

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Walter Hill – Stanley Krenkowitz - Frank Dulfer
Myles Rahill - William Marshall III – Michael Renahan

Dues Notice

Annual dues are due January 1 of each year. If you have not yet sent in your dues, please renew your membership as soon as possible. Send in your \$15.00 to the attention of the Membership Committee.

From The Turret

A message from the
Commander, 2nd Battalion, 102nd Armor

Since the last newsletter, there have been numerous things happening in the Battalion. In the beginning of October, the Battalion sent 62 soldiers down to Louisiana, as part of Task Force New Jersey, to assist local, state and federal agencies with the recovery efforts of Operation Katrina. The soldiers were organized into two 31 man rifle platoons and conducted security and relief operations, as part of the Task Force, till the end of October. This was another historic event for this organization and all the soldiers were recognized with Humanitarian Service Medals for their efforts. In November, the Battalion began to shift its focus away from Tank Gunnery and more towards the missions of a reconnaissance squadron. The change of focus and training plans was precipitated by the pending transformation of the Battalion. As a result, we restructured our training plan to include area reconnaissance and convoy operations. This will better prepare the Battalion for a smooth transition to the RSTA. In December, we began briefing our soldiers on the transformation process and their opportunities in the new organization. In mid-December, members of the Battalion participated in the Essex Troops 115th Anniversary and Holiday Dinner. I have to say that all had a great time.

Annual Training this year will focus on getting our tankers and other members of the Battalion, qualified in a new Military Occupational Skill (MOS) related to the new organization that they will belong to. Many of our tankers will be changing their MOS from 19K (Armor Crewman) to 19D (Cavalry Scout), the predominant MOS in the RSTA. There are three Troops in the RSTA. There are two Mounted Recon Troops which will be located in Dover and West Orange and one Dismounted Recon Troop, which will be located in Hackettstown. The two Mounted Troops are primarily comprised of 19D Scouts and the Dismounted Troop is comprised of 11B Scouts. The soldiers are looking forward to this transformation, and although we will no longer have tanks, there are still many exciting opportunities in the new organization.

This upcoming quarter the Battalion will be conducting classroom instruction and some practical exercises on area reconnaissance. We will be assisted by an Active Duty Training Support Battalion from Ft Bragg. We will also start taking additional steps in the transformation of the Battalion, as we will begin to move personnel around and formulate units that closely resemble the RSTA Troops. At the end of this quarter, the Battalion will be holding its Annual Hail and Farewell as we will be honoring those that departed the organization, in good standing, and recognizing those that are now a part of the "Armored Knights" (2-102 AR).

Lastly, I just want to thank the Essex Troop for your continued support and look forward to additional opportunities to work together.

LTC Kenneth S. Schechter
"Armored Knights"

115th Reunion Anniversary/ Christmas Party

The 115th Reunion Anniversary of the founding of The Essex Troop was combined with the Christmas Party for 2005. We had approximately one hundred thirty eight members and guests in attendance. We started off with a cocktail party at 6:30 PM on the upper level anteroom where there was an open bar and hors 'd ovres. This served as an icebreaker and gave our guests a chance to mingle and meet each other. The armory had been decorated with both Christmas and Anniversary decorations that were fitting for the occasion. Association President Ron Fahey welcomed everyone to the affair and thanked them for taking the time to celebrate the 115th Anniversary of this historic organization. He then led the assemblage in the pledge of allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. He then called Bob Lutz, Joe Minitti and Paul Raffa, the senior members of the association present, to join him at a special table set up in front of the room. On this special table was a bottle of cognac, three glasses and a single candle. The candle was lighted, the three glasses filled with a portion of cognac and a special tribute read by President Fahey honoring those members who have gone on before us. The liquid was consumed by the senior troopers, the bottle corked only to be opened for a similar tribute. The glasses used are retired, never to be used again.

The Essex Troop Association was formed as a private troop of cavalry in 1890 at Newark, New Jersey to participate in ceremonies and parades. It was inducted into the New Jersey National Guard in 1893 and was the First Troop of Cavalry, later to be named the 102D Cavalry Regiment "Essex Troop". Called to active duty for action in the Mexican Border Campaign against Poncho Villa, World War 1, World War II, and The Global War on Terrorism at Guantanamo Bay, the troop has many battle streamers.

The catered sit down meal of prime rib of beef, turkey, or stuffed flounder was disappointing in that many of the meals were barely luke warm when served. We got past that and went on to make a number of award presentations. The "Colonel James E. Fleming Award" was presented to Assemblyman/Mayor John F. McKeon, William Lake (class of '41), Colonel (Ret) Victor Arzoomanian, Major Dean Spenzos, Captain Walter Gill, and ILT Christopher Carbone (he is recovering from wounds suffered earlier this year while serving in Iraq). Assemblyman McKeon, Brigadier General (Ret) Bill Marshall, LTC (Ret) Stan Krenkowitz, and President MAJ (Ret) Ron Fahey were the presenters for the association. President Ron Fahey then presented a plaque from the association to the 2/102D Armor Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Schechter and Command Sergeant Major William Kryscnski, which honored the active duty service of the unit at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba from April 2004 – April 2005. It lists each name of the

Anniversary Cont'd

personnel who served there and will be displayed in a prominent place at Headquarters in Port Murray, NJ. A duplicate copy of the plaque will be displayed at the West Orange Armory.

After five door prizes were given away, the evening continued with dance music and an open bar. Besides our guest of honor, Assemblyman/Mayor of West Orange John McKeon and his lovely wife Ann, the special guests included our legal advisor and Essex County Surrogate Joseph Brennan and his lovely wife Eileen, New Jersey Director of Veterans Affairs Gary Englert and his lovely guest Lisa Coppola, and 1LT Christopher Carbone and his younger brother Cadet Eric Carbone. Eric is in his sophomore year at The United States Military Academy at West Point.

A special vote of thanks must go to our Association President Maj (Ret) Ron Fahey who orchestrated and coordinated all the activities. To our event chairman and Master of Ceremonies for the evening LTC (Ret) Stan Krenkowitz. To all the committee members and family members who gave of their time and effort in preparing and decorating the armory for this gala event. To Julio Del Valle and the custodial staff for their assistance. To Lisa Coppola for honoring us with her beautiful rendition of "Wind Beneath My Wings". And last but not least, to our DJ Toby Torrito who kept the music at a reasonable decibel level all evening.

CONGRATULATIONS !

MAJ (P) Dean Spenzos, 1st Vice President of the Essex Troop, has been selected to take command of the 102nd RSTA Battalion effective 15 Mar 06. MAJ Spenzos served many years in the 102nd Armor in positions from platoon leader to battalion executive officer. He current serves as the Regimental S3 of the 254th Regiment (CA) at Sea Girt. We extend our best wishes to Dean for a successful command. We also thank his family, wife Tina and children Catherine, Dean and Michael for their support and encouragement to Dean and the Army National Guard.

OLDEST LIVING MEMBER ?

Oscar Merber celebrated his 96th Birthday on January 1, 2006. We believe he may be the oldest living member of the Essex Troop Association. Does anyone out there know of an older Troop member. Of course, we will need some sort of official documentation such as a birth certificate (did they have them back then?), family bible entry, church document, etc. Please let us know.

A LITTLE HUMOR

LIFE AFTER DEATH:

"DO YOU BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER DEATH?" THE BOSS ASKED ONE OF HIS EMPLOYEES.

"YES, SIR," THE NEW EMPLOYEE REPLIED.

"WELL, THEN, THAT MAKES EVERYTHING JUST FINE," THE BOSS WENT ON. "AFTER YOU LEFT EARLY YESTERDAY TO GO TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S FUNERAL, SHE STOPPED IN TO SEE YOU!"

PALM SUNDAY:

IT WAS PALM SUNDAY AND, BECAUSE OF A SORE THROAT, FIVE-YEAR-OLD JOHNNY STAYED HOME FROM CHURCH WITH A SITTER. WHEN THE FAMILY RETURNED HOME, THEY WERE CARRYING SEVERAL PALM BRANCHES. THE BOY ASKED WHAT THEY WERE FOR. "PEOPLE HELD THEM OVER JESUS' HEAD AS HE WALKED BY."

"WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT," THE BOY FUMED, "THE ONE SUNDAY I DON'T GO, HE SHOWS UP!"

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

ONE EASTER SUNDAY MORNING AS THE MINISTER WAS PREACHING THE CHILDREN'S SERMON, HE REACHED INTO HIS BAG OF PROPS AND PULLED OUT AN EGG. HE POINTED AT THE EGG AND ASKED THE CHILDREN, "WHAT'S IN HERE?" "I KNOW!" A LITTLE BOY EXCLAIMED. "PANTYHOSE!"

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

April 29, 2006 at the West Orange Armory, the meeting will be called to order at 1200 hours. In accordance with the By-Laws elections will be held. A lunch will follow immediately after the meeting.

The Following Offices are up this election;

President - 2 years term

1st Vice-president - 2 year term

2nd Vice-president- 2 year term

Secretary - 2 year term

Treasurer - 2 year term

Sgt-At-Arms - 2 year term

2 Trustee offices - 3 year term

Specific qualification specifications are in the by-laws. Trustees must be life members. All interested Parties for President, Vice-president, Secretary or Treasurer need to submit a letter of intent, no later than March 31, 2006 to the attention of Mike Renahan, Chair Nomination Committee.

LEWIS AND CLARK NGB ESSAY CONTEST

Ten high school juniors and seniors from New Jersey will get a chance re-live history and experience what the Lewis and Clark Expedition faced 200 years ago. To earn one of the 540 slots for the all-expense paid trip to North Dakota in August 2006, New Jersey students need to write a Lewis and Clark-focused essay.

The Lewis and Clark Youth Rendezvous essay needs to address the following question: 'In your opinion, what military value most describes the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery journey and why?'

The military values to be included in the essay are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Descriptions of the military values are available on the www.lcyouthrendezvous.com website.

The National Guard has emphasized the educational applications of this extraordinary American adventure during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration. The selected essay writers will be totally immersed in history, walking in the footsteps of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The hands-on activities and events will take place throughout western North Dakota. The adventure will showcase daily activities of the original Lewis and Clark expedition that will create a unique educational opportunity along the trail blazed by a pair of Army engineers 200 years ago.

High school students who are juniors or seniors for the 2006-2007 school year can submit an essay either online or by mail. The essays must be a minimum of 1,000 words, but not more than 1,500 words and must be received by National Guard Bureau before midnight Feb. 28, 2006.

Judges will look at clarity of expression; historical accuracy; original thought and perspective; clear thesis and organized supporting paragraphs; proper use of grammar, spelling and sentence structure and if sources are referenced, use of appropriate annotation.

To submit an essay or learn more about planned events, activities and essay contest rules, go to www.lcyouthrendezvous.com.

Fiddler's Green

Trenton Times dated 6 Dec 05: Titusville Arthur K Kling Jr, 82, died 17 Nov 05 at the University Medical Center at Princeton NJ. Memorial service was held at the Titusville United Methodist Church on 10 Dec 05.

As some of you may know Art's wife Juel pass away on 29 Aug 05 in South Carolina...

Essex Troop Post Exchange

PRICE LIST

	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u> <u>ORDERED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>PRICE</u>
NEW	Essex Troop Blanket	\$35.00	_____	_____
	Golf Shirt w/Crest	\$25.00	_____	_____
	ET History DVD or VHS	\$10.00	_____	_____
	Ft. Jackson Marker Video	\$12.00	_____	_____
	Blazer Crest	\$15.00	_____	_____
	Epaulet Crest	\$ 3.00	_____	_____
	Decals	\$ 1.00	_____	_____
	Old Fashion Glasses	\$ 7.00	_____	_____
	Pilsner Glasses	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
	Brandy Sniffers	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
	Key Chain	\$ 3.00	_____	_____
	Lithograph (19" x 25")	\$20.00	_____	_____
	Mugs with 1st NJ Crest	\$ 7.50	_____	_____
	Mugs with 102d Crest	\$15.00	_____	_____
	Tie with 1st NJ Crest	\$14.00	_____	_____
	Tie with 102d Crest	\$14.00	(Temporarily Out Of stock)	_____
	ET US Uniform Poster	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
NEW	Guantanamo Bay T Shirt	\$10.00	_____	_____
	ET Baseball Hat	\$15.00	_____	_____
	Tie Tack 102d Crest	\$ 3.00	_____	_____
	Watch 102d Crest	\$30.00	_____	_____
	Coin Tray	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
	Gallop Ho! William Walsh	\$20.00	_____	_____
	Reprint Dash to Paris	\$ 2.50	_____	_____
	March Song Sheet Music	\$ 2.50	_____	_____
			Total	_____

Shipping & Handling : add the following to the merchandise total
 \$1.00 to \$5.00 add \$2.50
 \$5.01 to \$20.00 add \$3.50
 \$20.00 and over add \$5.50

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Including Area Code _____

Please enclose your check made payable to "The Essex Troop"

Email: etroop@bellatlantic.net

NOTE: A limited number of items are available at the Port Murray Armory. See CPT Gill for assistance.