Bricks, Pavers, and Rhino Cutter Replica Honor Legacy of 102nd Cavalry

Unit's Accomplishments in World War II Memorialized at Museum



The 102nd Cavalry Regiment Association purchased 13 bricks and eight pavers at the Museum to honor the 102nd Cavalry's legacy.

ounded in 1890 as the Essex Troop, the 102nd Cavalry Regiment has operated out of the New Jersey Army National Guard Armory in West Orange, New Jersey, since 1938.

With many activations and deployments, beginning with the 1916 Mexican Border Campaign, the unit was deployed as the 102nd Cavalry Group (Mechanized), composed of the 102nd and 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (CRS), and entered Normandy, France, as part of the D-Day landings. The unit had many noteworthy accomplishments in World War II: the 102nd CRS were the first US troops to enter Paris, and the 38th CRS was the first US combat unit to enter Paris. The 102nd also holds distinctions as the unit stationed farthest east (Pilsen, Czechoslovakia) in the European Theater and as the cavalry unit with most days in combat in Europe.

Today, the 102nd Cavalry Regiment Association, led by President Walter Hill, is dedicated to telling the story of the 102nd Cavalry in World War II and solidifying the legacy of the unit and of the US Army cavalry in general.

When Association Senior Trustee Alex Jeyschune learned about the Museum's Road to Victory brick and paver program, he thought it was a

perfect way to preserve the 102nd Cavalry's legacy. Jeyschune's passion for the project inspired Association members to fund 13 bricks and eight pavers. The Association also led a "Lunchbox Lecture" and later funded the development of a replica Rhino Cutter (sometimes known as a Culin Cutter among the 102nd Cavalry) to be installed on the Museum's M4 Sherman tank, which will return to US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center.



Capt. Jim Depew, Sgt. Curtis G. Culin, and Capt. Stephen Litton were members of the 102nd team that developed the Culin Hedge Cutter, which enabled tanks to break through the hedgerows in Normandy. Image courtesy of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment.

This device was developed by a team from the 102nd in Normandy in July 1944 and was successfully used to penetrate the dense Norman hedgerows, enabling the Allied breakout from the Normandy beachhead.

To honor your hero's legacy through our Road to Victory brick and paver program, visit honoryourhero.org or email bricks@nationalww2museum.org. Order by December 31, 2022, to ensure your hero's brick or paver is included in our next order period.

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