



PRESS RELEASE

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The Old Tiger Roars Once More

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2CR Public Affairs

VILSECK, Germany – The 2nd Cavalry Regiment received a visit from a man who could be considered a living piece of Regimental history on Wednesday, Sept. 21. Herwarth Metzel, a retired Bundeswehr reserve captain, has a unique relationship with the Regiment that began more than 60 years ago.

Herwarth Metzel's ties to the Regiment began in the final days of World War II. In 1945, Metzel was a 15-year-old soldier in the German Wehrmacht captured by 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment units as they advanced through Czechoslovakia. Metzel was held by American forces for three months in Bad Kreuznach and released.

After his release, Metzel returned to his home in Thuringen. U.S. Forces left the town three days later in accordance with the Allied agreement reached at Yalta. This allowed Russian forces to move in and subsequently arrest Metzel. As a result, he spent six months in a KGB prison, seven months in a concentration camp and several years in Siberia.

“They accused me of bombing a bridge,” Metzel said “but when the incident occurred I was still being detained by the Americans.”

Metzel was released from Siberia in 1950. He went on to earn an engineering degree in ceramics and became the technical director for a china factory in Arzberg. Metzel’s connection with the Regiment resumed in 1978 when he was commissioned as a captain in the Bundeswehr reserves and it was during this time that his partnership with 2ACR and 1st Squadron began.

Between 1982 and 1989 Metzel participated in many exercises with the Regiment to include Capstone IV Bravo Maneuver and Reforgers acting as Liaison Officer to 1st Squadron and 2nd ACR Headquarters. Over the years Metzel, nicknamed the “Old Tiger” by his American counterparts, said he has developed a great deal of respect and admiration for his American brothers.

“Soldiers always understand each other,” he said. “I have the best relationships of any kind with the American Soldiers and Officers.”

He also developed many programs and events while working with the Regiment that helped strengthen the German-American partnership bonds. Some of these events included Volksmarches, German-American seminars and finding German families to host 2ACR Soldiers for Christmas. For his efforts, he has received many honors from the Regiment to include being made an honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the 1st Squadron of Dragoons and inducted into the Order of the Spur.

The Old Tiger’s visit culminated with a trip to the Reed Museum and the new home of the 2CR historical collection. While at the museum, Metzel recorded a video diary of his experiences with 2CR that will forever be preserved within the Regimental archives. He also

presented the Regiment with books he had written chronicling his military adventures as well as several plates created by his factory commemorating significant moments in the history of 2CR.

To conclude his visit, Metzel was presented with a Stetson bearing his honorary rank, a set of spurs and was made the honorary commander of his beloved 1st Squadron.

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Always Ready: The 76th Colonel of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment Col. Keith Barclay presents Herwarth Metzel with the traditional cavalry Stetson during his visit to the Reed Museum on Rose Barracks Wednesday, Sept 21.



Herwarth Metzel points out the site where he was captured as a 15-year old German Soldier by the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in WWII.