



STORY RELEASE



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2 CR, Czech Republic honor fallen heroes

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ROSE BARRACKS, Germany – Two 2d Cavalry Regiment Troopers gave their lives 68 years ago for the liberation of a town: Bela nad Radbuzou, Czech Republic, during World War II. Every year Troopers and leaders with 2 CR gather in this town, with the local community, to honor these fallen heroes and continue to remember the sacrifice they have made.

Troopers with 2 CR, community leaders, historians and members of the local community came together to honor Pfc. Raymond E. Manz and Technician 5th Grade Owen W. Sutton during a memorial ceremony April 30, 2013 at Bela nad Radbuzou.

In the year 1945, Manz, Sutton and other Soldiers with, what was then named, 42nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, 2 CR, commenced Operation Cowboy. Under the command of Col. Charles H. Reed, the small task force seized the town of Hostau, Czechoslovakia. The mission was successful in liberating more than 150 allied prisoners and protected more than 1,200 horses to include the treasured Lipizzaner bred horses stolen from the Spanish Riding School in Austria and relocated to Hostau.

The three-part ceremony to honor these fallen warriors started with a speech from the town's mayor, Mayor Libor Picka, and the laying of wreaths near a commemorative plaque in honor of the two Soldiers. The ceremony then moved to the location where the two had lost their lives defending allied prisoners and civilians within the local community. The location holds the remains of a stonewall foundation of an old farmhouse. Amongst the rubble is an engraved metal plate with the names of the fallen heroes. Arrangements of flowers were placed near the plate after the commander of Eagle Troop (in 1945 known as Dog Company), 2nd Squadron, 2 CR, spoke on the Troopers behalf. The ceremony ended in the town of Hostau where wreaths were placed near a monument constructed to honor the fallen heroes.

The commander of the Regiment had an opportunity to speak during the ceremony about the value of remembering such an important event in history and what benefits remembering Manz and Sutton's sacrifices bring to the region.

“Today we remember the brave sacrifice of two American Soldiers who died 68 years ago, said Col. D.A. Sims, commander of 2 CR. “By remembering their sacrifices together, we honor our nations’ history and continuing partnership to preserve peace and continue freedom.”

Capt. Julian Parsons, commander of Eagle Troop and native of Charleston, N.C., explains why it’s a tremendous experience to be the commander of the troop and part of a unit with such rich history.

“Its always very good to be apart of a unit that has a lot of history and background, its even better to know that at the troop level that history is there as well,” said Parsons. “It’s a big honor because not only is my troop the one that did the Lipizzaner raid and freed the prisoners, but also did the Battle of 73 Easting. To be the commander of that unit is just honoring and humbling.”

During his speech, Sims talked to the local community about the importance of the annual ceremony to the Regiment and the people of Czech Republic

“It is a terrific honor for me to share this moment of commemoration with all of you,” said Sims. “There are no better people with whom I would rather celebrate than our partners and friends of the Czech Republic. We always enjoy celebrating this event with you and look forward each year to sharing in the festivities.”