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[Pvt. Jesse Ellington, A Company](#)  
[Don Fraser's CP near Col de Braus then and now](#)  
[Warbird Magazine article](#) about the 2008 St. Louis Reunion

## *MailCall News*

**From:** Jesse Ellington [mailto:[jellingtons@yahoo.com](mailto:jellingtons@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 09, 2010 9:58 PM  
**To:** 517th contact  
**Subject:** Pvt. Jesse Ellington

Ben, I just found an article in a Sept. 43 THUNDERBOLT that Com. Walsh wrote about my Dad. The Man with Half a Heart. He said, "medically, this wasn't readily detectable." What a tribute he gave him.

When I owned the Shoney's Restaurant in Toccoa, the 517th was having a convention there and at the time I didn't know he was in the 517th. Later on I found out from someone that Co. A's group picture was in the Trooper Museum there and he said my Dad was the 4th from the left. I know there aren't many guys left, but someone in Co. A might still be around, God Bless them All.

Sincerely,  
Jesse Ellington

Subject: Pvt. Jesse Ellington, "The Man with Half a Heart."

Date: Saturday, July 10, 2010, 3:49 AM

Many of you have heard the story of my Dad, who was in the 517th Paratroopers, and I didn't really know what happened to him while he was in the Service. He died when I was 4 and all I remember is going to the funeral at Highland Cemetery in Ft. Mitchell, Ky. Right across the river from Cincinnati. After many hours of researching I finally found an article in the Official newspaper of the 517th that someone had taken a picture of and sent it to the 517th web site.

The Man with Half a Heart.

by Col. Louis A. Walsh. Jr. 517th Commander 1943

Not many of us got to know Pvt. Jesse Ellington intimately.

We know he joined us at Toccoa and that he was ever robust, cheerful and uncomplaining. We know he made every march and run, that he never fell out or legged off. We know he qualified with all the weapons. We know he took Jump School in his stride and we know too, the place he held in the hearts of the men in his company. We know he was a little older than most and that he had a little daughter and two sons. What we didn't know that physically, he had but half a heart.

Medically, this wasn't readily detectable. But Ellington knew. Why else the pain with each running step? Why the shortness of breath? Yes, Ellington knew. He knew that and more. He knew why we were in this War and what we were fighting for. The only thing he didn't know was how to quit!

Let's do justice to this man who won't get a chance to fight with us on the battlefield. His fight is already won. He had given all that anyone can give. Let him live forever and be an inspiration to us.

The Regiment is assembled now--complete--a Parachute Regiment. You have won the right to wear your wings. Do it proudly and let each of you be the sort of man you'd want the man next to you to be. When the going is rough, as it is bound to be, and you think it is not worth it all, remember Ellington, the Man with Half a Heart, but a fighting one!

Faithfully, Col. L.A Walsh

This is the Final Piece to my Dad's Puzzle and I wanted to share it with my friends.

His records were some that were in the fire in St. Louis so I've been lucky that I came upon that issue of the THUNDERBOLT.

Sincerely,  
Jess

See [Thunderbolt Sept 1943, Page Seven for a tribute to Jesse Ellington from Col. Walsh](#)

Bob, thank you for adding the article I found in the Thunderbolt I was hoping to get to the reunion, but my wife broke her hip and she comes home Wed. Again Thanks.

Jesse Ellington Jr

Does anyone recognize any of the other men in Jesse Ellington's photos?



From: [Pvt. Jesse Ellington, A Company](#)

Hi,

I am aware that unfortunately Ben Barrett has passed by am just sending an enquiry to see if this E-mail address is still active and if indeed the mail call is still active. I have been a member of the mail call for a number of years but no longer receive E-mails. Also I have a 2008 dated list of contact details and have tried to contact members of the regiment for information relating to a book im writing but 95% of the E-mails have been returned and wondered if I could obtain a more up to date list.

Regards, Adam [Berry]

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On 18/07/2010 01:31, 517 Mail Call wrote:

Adam,

When I took over the MailCall list from Ben a few moths ago, I lost a few people along the way. I have now added you back into the mailing list.

I don't have any complete list newer than the "official" 2008 roster. But I do keep track in my MailCall list of people who have been added or dropped from emails which is probably more accurate than that roster. I don't have any phone or snail Mail addresses, but the emails are probably accurate. Most 517th troopers who have emails probably receive the MailCall. So send me any messages you want to communicate, and I can just post it in the MailCall.

Bob Barrett  
[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)

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Your reply is very much appreciated. I had sincerely hoped that since Ben's passing the Mail Call hadn't been left unattended.

If you could pass a message onto the MailCall for me, that would be appreciated. I'm basically looking for any veterans willing to answer some questions via E-mail relating the Battle of the bulge. I understand that there will be some very reluctant to rekindle any memories of this traumatic period so would much prefer just to supply my E-mail ([aberry@initsys.co.uk](mailto:aberry@initsys.co.uk)) in sit in wait for any replies. I just hope to ask some questions to cover some details of the battle and learn more about the part that the 460th and 596th played in particular.

Regards, Adam

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Bob: great Mail Call, with the exceptional touch of Lory Curtis' copy of Col. Graves' August 11 jump instructions juxtaposed to Bud Curtis' letter to his mother about the jump. We are also concerned about the damage to the Le Muy museum. Please let us know how we can help. Thanks also for the article and photos about Audie Murphy's widow Pam. You do such a great job for all of us.

Thank you.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

FYI, Dad will be keynote speaker at Ft. Bragg, N.C., on August 14 to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the beginning of U.S. Paratroopers

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Dear friends,

We were very surprised because some of you know that the Tour de France was in Trois-Ponts on monday july 5th. It was a great day, a real festival, children and grand-children came for this event. The village was decorated with belgian and french flags everywhere. The tour climbed the road to Wanne - big fair at the cross road (near the monument) music, BBQ, exhibitions... after Stavelot, the race came in Trois-Ponts a second time to take the road to Coo - La Gleize... arrival in Spa. In the center of Basse-Bodeux arrounded with many, many french flags, people put a big (9 m) bicycle ! we wish you could attend this famous manifestation. We often think of you, yesterday, we had a ceremony with Douglas DILLARD (551st) in Rochelival. Joe CICCHINELLI attended also the ceremony, he is in Belgium for 3 months ! our love to all of you. God bless you.

Irma and Arnold TARGNION

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Subject: For: Morris McDowell

I saw your e-mail to Dan Robins where you had placed the pictures in the church at Bergeval, Belgium for three of the men that were killed in the Bulge. I met you when we were at the reunion in Washington, D.C. and gave you a picture of Richard. At that time, you said your cousin was killed on January 5, 1945 in the Bulge the same day my brother, Richard Lee Lynam, was killed. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and want to thank you for taking the time to do this.

Bob Lynam  
Boblyn7980@aol.com

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**OPERATION DRAGOON COMMEMORATION IN WASHINGTON, DC**

Bob I would appreciate you putting this in Mail Call. For your information this is a historical event honoring all the units that were involved in Operation Dragoon. Last year the following 517 members attended. Your Dad, Leo Dean, Allen Johnson, Dick Seitz, Hal Beddow and myself.

It starts on August 8, 2010 and ends on August 10. For those that are interest in attending please contact Monika Stoy. Her E-mail address is [monikastoy@yahoo.com](mailto:monikastoy@yahoo.com) and she will send you the complete schedule.

This is a very well planned event and very meaningful. I'm looking forward to attending again this year.

Darrell Egner

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Can Someone Please Put a Name With These Faces From the 1948 Honshu Japan Re-union?

Jerry Wofford



## *Name that Trooper*

The following action describes a group of American heroes who just happened to be assigned to the 3rd Bn of the 517th. On or about the 6th day of Feb. 1945 somewhere east of Bergstein Germany during an engagement with enemy forces, our lead platoon's attack was stalled due to heavy small arms and mortar fire from enemy positions. They were pinned down and taking casualties. Our mystery trooper was a junior grade officer with 3rd Bn. He took charge and moved up to the position of the pinned down unit where he directed counter fire on enemy emplacements and the fighting became very fierce. Our trooper rallied the men and encouraged them onward under heavy barrage. Under his guidance they were able to move forward as a group and managed to gain about 400 yards of footing. Once again they became pinned down as enemy opposition stiffened. Several riflemen of the 3rd Bn were hit and fell in an open field in full view of the enemy. It was at this time that our mystery trooper discovered that he and his men were in the middle of a mine field and were now being fired upon by five enemy machine gun emplacements. Their predicament did not offer a great deal of promise for survival for the guys of the Five-Seventeen. An old saying came into play at this particular time and it was, "when the going gets tough..... the tough get going". and that they did with our trooper rallying his men once more by crawling back through the mined field to cut the barbed wire and cleared a path so that the wounded could be evacuated. He returned to the front to be with his men as the fighting intensified. It was at this time that he received the news that over half of the original force had been either killed or wounded. They were facing a terrible defeat unless the tides take a turn in their favor. Our mystery trooper saw his friend and "Forward Observer" [artillery liaison] officer killed nearby. He took the dead officers radio and began directing artillery fire on enemy positions immediately. He did this for the next 11 hours and according to reports from his superior officers, remained in his position when death or capture seemed imminent. The 517th's "never quit" mentality just plain outlasted the enemy in this seemingly un-ending "hell on earth" battle that raged on and on.

For his heroic efforts our mystery trooper was awarded the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to go with his previous Bronze Star Medal. The award stated that our trooper's steadfastness in the face of overwhelming odds saved many of the lives of his men as well as inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Can you name this mystery trooper. For the answer to this quiz see the next issue of "517th Mail Call."

Nephew of a Buzzard

### *Administrivia:*

- If you miss any MailCalls, they are all available online at <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/>
- At any time, if you want to be added or removed from the MailCall list, just let me know.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to our treasurer Leo Dean at 14 Stonehenge Lane, Albany NY 12203.
- New address for MailCall: [MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)
- If you send me email that you do not want included in MailCall, just label it as FYEO.
- I now understand how Ben could get confused about what he already posted and what he didn't. If I miss something, please just send it again.



"Th' hell this ain't th' most important hole in the world. I'm in it."