



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2008

August 6, 2010

*517th Parachute Infantry Regiment
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

Website
Mail Call
Mail Call Archives
Roster

www.517prct.org
MailCall@517prct.org
www.517prct.org/archives
www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

News from Le Muy, France - Musée de la Liberation





News from Le Muy, France - Musée de la Liberation

Dear Friends,

let's us apologize for the long delay without news, i am sure that you understand in that situation all the things and way we have to do and go, and try to have under control, independently of our work. I promise that i will write you longer soon, here the situation is going better, but it will take long long time to rebuilt. All the artifacts we found, saved and treasure since 25 years have to be saved from the mud soon. Of course some of those have been destroyed for ever, some always have the stigma of the flood, the water also carried petroleum, oil... many pics were enlargement copy, but some given by veteran that unfortunately we have no time to save before the disaster and make copy in archives. **Including are : Merle Mc Morrow WWII portrait and standing with parachute, John Krumm "E.co" photo portrait, HQ 2nd battalion rolled picture on Toccoa, Don Fraser portrait, Colonel Graves portrait, Leo Dean picture Standing with parachute, and Colonel Dalrymple but also little personal equipment, (WWII match box, cigarette package (camel, Lucky, Philip Morris... , menu ration box, playing cards, many little souvenirs from Veterans we treasured in the glass cases.**

We will keep you informed of the evolution, we have no answers from the insurance, the museum cleaning will start the 9th by a special professional team, resulting of dangerous products carried by the mud, and after they will install big machine for humidity drying and dehydration.

here is pics of the US T5 parachute we find 20 years ago in Le Muy cleaning and washing. Sorry for my english we still very tired but thinking of you and thank you so much for all the warm email you are sending to support us.

Warmest regards to you all

Mickael and Eric, Le Muy France

important note : temporary regular mail have be sent to :
J.Mikael SOLDI and Eric RENOUX,
chez IRIS83,
19 Route de la Bourgade
83490 LE MUY. France
anvil-dragon@hotmail.com and Cabrian9@aol.com



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



From: Chris Compton w [mailto:cmc@cce-int.co.uk]
Sent: 29 July 2010 20:28
To: anvil-dragon@hotmail.com; Eric Renoux; 'Folkard, Sue'; alanf@alsinscom.plus.com
Subject: Proposed response to American friends

Dear Claire,

Thanks for your quick and positive response.

In truth I did see those e-mails offering assistance with replacing lost items, but I know that Jean-Michel and Eric have been in a frenzy of activity just salvaging as much as they can and working every hour they can spare from reconstructing their daily life so they have not been able to stand back and evaluate what they need or even respond properly to all the kind well-wishers.

We are hoping to get the time to sit down with them to discuss exactly what their short term needs are, what needs replacing - some of our veterans are sending replacement documents and photos aw well which is fantastic - but also their longer term vision, which we are happy to share with you.

Your point about where funds will go is a good one which I would like to clarify:

The collection itself belongs to the *Association du 15 Aout 1944*, which Jean-Michel and Eric formed when the town hall approached them some years ago with the offer of a location for a permanent display.

The items have all been collected by or donated to Jean-Michel and Eric / the Association and the display is inspired by their personal connections made over the last couple of decades with veterans from Britain and the USA.

Their aim is that the display should forever tell the story of the individuals who took part in Operation Dragoon, not just the historical events, for the veterans themselves and for their families.

We here in the UK have experience of many excellent museums where unfortunately the individuals are forgotten and their personal memorabilia on display become of academic interest only and so part of our goal is to support the boys in that aim.

If that is one you share, we'd love to work together on it, otherwise any help you can give our friends will I am sure be much appreciated in whatever form it takes.

All the best,

Chris



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



From: "Alan Folkard" <alanf@alsinscom.plus.com>
Subject: Liberation Museum

Hi Claire

Glad your on the case over the pond, I'm sure any donations made from your side will be gratefully received. So far over here we've raised around £3500, £2000 of which was a donation from the Parachute Regiment. Any of you guys in contact with the US Army?

We will be in France again this month for the celebrations, Sue has been canvassing our government since last year to allow the award of the Legion D'Honneur to 8 British Vets. The French wanted to award this last year alongside the 8 US vets who were awarded. Finally, with a change of Government here and lots of pressure from various sources, our 8 vets are getting the medal. 3 have already been awarded in June (see photo includes Sue, Peter, Jim Knox and Colonel of the Parachute Regiment) and the other 5 will be awarded in Le Muy.



Chris and I have been helping Jean Mi and Eric with their plans going forward and as part of this we will be building a website to help perpetuate the memory of Operation Dragoon for the veterans and their families, As Chris said in his mail below we would welcome help from your side in this and just as soon as we get back from France later in the month we will document our discussions with JeanMi and Eric and share them with you. The website will not be a British only website and the overall aim is promote what was in fact the second largest invasion of WW2 and to provide revenue going forward for the museum. It would be good to have input from someone in the States who shares the vision to act a reference point, source and collect appropriate content from an American perspective etc etc.

Any thoughts at this stage? Be in touch again when I get back from France.

Regards from Alan, Sue and Peter.



Subject: Re: Liberation Museum

Hello, Alan -

Congratulations on your fund-raising! I fear we are a bit behind your efforts, but I have reached out to the presidents of both the Association and the Auxiliary, and am asking if I can put something in our email list as well.

How are you making the donations? Does the museum have its own dedicated account? It's my understanding that they had started to take some assistance from the town in the last year or two, and we want to know the best way to ensure that any donations go specifically to the museum.

I am thrilled that more of your vets are receiving the Legion d'Honneur. I remember our first visit, in 2004, when about 5 or so of the British vets received the honor, and my dad was swept away by that. I am sorry we won't be there again this year; it is just such a big and expensive trip from the States. However, I do think that this is our last year that we won't attend.

We are happy to hear that the museum is looking at a website, both for documenting and for providing future revenue. We think that Ben Barrett helped build one of the best WWII websites around, www.517prct.org, and it's one of the reasons that the 517 is still so active. I would defer that inquiry to our webmaster, Bob Barrett, who helped all along and took over formally when Ben died earlier this year. I am copying him so he has some idea of the plans.

My best to you all, and especially warm regards to Sue and Peter.

Claire

Chris,

I am so glad we are on the same page and I thank you. We did not know about the specific organizational underpinnings at the musee, though obviously, Eric and Mickael are much loved and highly regarded by vets and their families alike.

I am currently awaiting permission to start a formal drive for donations.

Cannot wait to hear about your travels, but we will be in touch before then I am sure.

My best to you and your incredible vets -

Claire



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Wed 8/4/2010 8:15 AM

Subject: long hours work result

HERE IS SOMES PICS OF THE LONG HOURS WORK TO RENOVATE A LITTLE GLIDER COCKPIT LAMP AND THE GERMAN TELEPHONE THEN AND NOW ! very HAPPY OF THE RESULT ...

KIND REGARDS

MICKAEL AND ERIC







Website Guestbook Entry

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: David Lang From: New Smyrna Beach Florida E-mail: dslangjr@gmail.com	T/Sgt David Lang is now 91 and living in New Smyrna Beach, FL. If anyone served with him or would like to speak with him, please contact me by email. Now would be the time.
	Added: July 30, 2010

66th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon – Washington, D.C.

Subject: "The 66th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon Celebration, 8-10 Aug 2010" sent you a message on Facebook...

[Joe Muccia](#) sent a message to the members of [The 66th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon Celebration, 8-10 Aug 2010](#).



Joe Muccia August 2, 2010 at 7:49pm

Subject: Info for This Year's Dragoon Event - 8-10 Aug 2010

Folks,
I've updated the group site with new info for this year's event courtesy Dave Navarre and Monika Stoy. If you can make it, I'd highly recommend it.

When:
8 August 2010, 1800-2100 Historical Symposium
9 August 2010; 0900-1200, 1400-1800 Historical Seminars
10 August 2010, 0900 to 1500 Memorial Ceremony

Where: Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater & Hyatt Hotel, Arlington, VA

See the event page for a full, detailed listing.
Regards,
Joe

facebook



MailCall News

Hey Bob

Do you have any new address for Oscar Kneer Regt Hdq Co. S -2 last address I had was in Tenn, but now my mail to him I see from the envelope that it was forwarded to a address in Michigan, It was also a bad address so please let me have any new address you may have for sending out mail call Thank-You

Tom McAvoy at 4acesanda3@comcast.net

Tom,

I don't have any current info on Oscar Knerr. He does not show up in any of the rosters or the current MailCall email addresses.

However, I did find this email from August 2009 in MailCall #1848.

Oscar Knerr

Hi Ben, Missed you. I moved and just finally got settled. Please put me back on your list. I'm at oknerr@comcast.net. Hope you all had a good time at the reunion.
Oscar Knerr

Note that the spelling is Knerr, not Kneer.

I can only find one entry for an Oscar Knerr in the whitepages. Not telling if this is him or a relative.

Oscar Knerr results for TN			
intelius.com			
First Name	Last Name (req'd)	City/Town	State
Oscar	Knerr		TN
			<input type="button" value="Go"/>
Oscar Knerr	WOODS DR MONTEREY, TN 38574	931-277-5774	

Hope this helps.

Bob Barrett



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Dear Bob and 517th Adopted Uncles and Friends...

It has been a long time since I have sent any "news" your way but I have kept up with all that you folks have been sending to Bob Barrett and he has lovingly placed in Mail Calls.

First, I must join with the others in saying that the PDF version and quality of Mail Call is an A+++ job! For those of you who are having difficulty with the format, call a local library or school and ask them to send a young whipper snapper kid over to explain the details. While that "kid" is helping you, HELP him to understand what you did so that he has the freedoms to come and go as he pleases.

I've made a note of the "planned" Atlanta Annual (July 13-18, 2011) and it is on my To Do List...or Bucket List...whichever comes first.

I want to thank you, Bob, for mentioning Leroy R. Johnson to a fellow 517th soldier, 91-year old David S. Lang. As soon as I saw that David lived in New Smyrna Beach I was going to do the same thing you did. You were way ahead of me. I sent a 517th book to Leroy after I met him at the Florida Reunion. I hope he gets a chance to share it with David.

I am very interested in sending a donation to help with the clean-up of the museum that was flooded. This is in response to the message from Chris Compton. I have been "taken" twice for ID theft so I am a little leery of just sending funds willy nilly. I don't care to make more work for Leo, but is there a way a bank drop could be set up, through the 517th, and our offerings sent there?

I have some questions about items I found this past weekend, that probably belonged to my uncle, and then I am copying a couple of correspondences I also found. Use the correspondences as you see fit.

I never forget that the uncle I am named after died in a foreign land, fighting for the rights and privileges I benefit from today. In all of the Mail Calls I have read over the years, I do not recall one with this Western Union message.

In the bottom of my Mom's jewelry box (which she wasn't using for jewelry but had chuck-full of papers and memories) I found a baggie with the following items. Can anyone in the 517th tell me where they would have been worn and any other significance? Thank you!

There were 5 metal bars, each about 1" x 3/8". Four were copper-colored and one is silver-colored. Three of the copper-colored bars (and the silver one) have a back clasp that rotates up to close the pin. The other is just a pinch clasp. On the back of two bars are the words, "Acid Test." On the back of one of the copper-colored bars is, "A E CO Utica NY 1/20 - 10 KG Sterling Findings. Well???"

There is also a round (1" diameter) metal "pin" with a round nut that screws towards the "U.S." facing and tightens against two pointed pieces of metal.



Lastly, and most important to me, is a ring that "might" have been worn by my Uncle Floyd. The words, "United States Paratrooper" and "ARMY" surround an opened parachute. To the left and right of this central facing are eagles, facing to the left, with a 5-pointed star under the talons. Would Floyd have had this made or was this a piece of jewelry the Army issued? The size is rather small and I can't even get it over the large knuckle on my pinkie. Floyd either had small fingers or this is something he sent to his sister, my Mom, to wear.

Next is a writing Floyd did while at Camp Claiborne, LA. I did not correct any of the spellings, word choices, or sentence structures. Through research, I have learned that he was with this outfit before he joined the paratroopers. Hopefully, some of the 517th Band of Brothers will enjoy the ramblings of one-of-their-own as he recalls time spent in (and out of) "Camp." By the way...I like beer. Guess I don't take after my Uncle in that regard. And, at the end of his writing, Floyd seemed to have an eerie premonition.

Oh, the insurance money? It went to Floyd's little brother. I'd say the money was well-used. Floyd's brother graduated from college and worked his way up to be president and CEO of a gas company. NO! Not BP!

The last entry is the ACTUAL telegram my grandpa received about Floyd's death. I have never seen this document before and didn't realize my Mom had it spirited away all these years. So many questions I have for her and she is no longer with us. Darn!

My Best to you, Bob, Joann, and the entire 517th Family!

Kenton Floyd Immerfall
Nephew of 517th Member, Floyd A. Stott
Kfihome46@aol.com

FLOYD STOTT TELLS OF LIFE IN ARMY CAMP

Likes Camp Fine, and Has Been Made a Tent Leader

Here is a letter received by B. W. Brooke from Floyd Stott who is in Company G, 133rd Infantry, 34th Division, Camp Claiborne, La.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Another kid and I just got back from the show “Kit Carson.” Our show is a good one with wooden seats and backs. It has a canvas covering and seats 3200. Ordinarily it costs 20c, but tonight I bought a coupon book for \$1.60 – good for ten shows. I don’t go very often. Just the best ones.

I had a pleasant surprise while there. After the first show, I moved up, and after sitting there for a few minutes, I recognized the familiar face of Claire Wolf. I was certainly surprised and pleased to see him. I didn’t know he was down here yet. Got down here Wednesday. I didn’t get much of a chance to talk. Winkie and I are going over to see him tomorrow night.

In case you are wondering what the smears are, I’ll tell you. They come from a combination ham and cheese sandwich I am eating – along with a canteen of water. All three of my boys are drunk tonight, but they are in bed, so I know they are O.K. Last Monday the Lieutenant told me he was making me a tent leader of this certain tent to see if I could improve on its condition – with a hint of possible promotion if I do the job. For inspection Saturday, we had shelves, hat, and clothes racks, towel hangers, table and bench built, and the floor scrubbed. Consequently, the inspecting Colonel complimented me. I’ve had my chest out. One of the fellows moved out, so they’re four of us. (five usually)

They’re not bad guys – just enjoy a little frolic. I’ll tell you some interesting things about them if I can remember until I get home.

I’m still getting \$21 per month until May 22 when it automatically raises to \$30 for four months since enlistment. However, I’m quite certain of \$36 instead of \$30, by then, but there is many a slip twixt the cup and the lip.

I imagine Grandma and Uncle Dutch’s got home today. I owe her a letter. Winkie and I walked over to the carnival outside the gate this p.m. They told the fellows in our company there would be trouble if any got drunk in town. So some did it here last night and nothing was said.

No fooling! I’ve been a good kid! That’s why they made me a tent leader last week. I don’t like beer, and hard liquor is too high priced to buy.

The Lieutenant Commander arranged with the YWCA to bring a hundred girls out next Sunday for our companionship. We are starting out by going to church in the morning. I don’t know what is planned after that. The girls are to be respectable ones and chaperoned.

(Note. An enclosed newspaper clipping states that three members from Congress, all from Iowa visited members of the Iowa National Guard at Camp Claiborne last week. They were Representatives Gwynne, Gilchrist, and Cunningham).

I wanted to ask L. B. Cunningham if he knew George Patterson (I know he does of course) but couldn’t break ranks, being a private. They gave us a little speech at noon. The old hat that Senator Gilchrist wore sure tickled the fellows.

I really like it. Dust on your stuff sometimes, but we got footlockers yesterday. Insurance takes quite a bite of check, but maybe I’ll get killed – who knows.

The Bugeler is tooting on his tooter. It is now eleven o’clock. Just took bed check. Good night.

FLOYD STOTT



WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

A. N. Williams, President

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at the point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

WJ2 32 GOVT=WASHINGTON DC 1141P JAN 14 1945

WYOT L STOTT =

RURAL FREE DELIVERY LEBANON MO =

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON FIRST LIEUTENANT FLOYD A STOTT WAS KILLED IN ACTION ON TWENTY SEVEN DECEMBER IN BELGIUM CONFIRMING LETTER FOLLOWS=

DUNLOP ACTING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

857A.

The company will appreciate suggestions from its patrons concerning its service



MailCall News

Bob

I won't put you on the spot again with my political views but thank you for printing it, at least this one time. As most of you know when I was the President of the 517 I made many decisions, some good and some not so good but in my opinion good for the 517 and yes, good for my ego too. I enlisted your Dad as both the Judge and Jury for many of my decisions more times than most people know and believe me most of the time he proved to be correct. Ben and I were very close and both of us were opinionated so we made a good team. Needless to say I miss Ben very much as you and the family do.

I am so impressed with your new Mail Call format. It's 100 percent better to read and I don't have to use the scroll bars as I did in the old format. Bob your a computer wise!

Last subject is the flooding of the Airborne Museum in Le Muy. What a job the people must have to restore as much of the items that were damaged. I would like to suggest to Merle, as President, that he give Leo Dean permission to cut a check in the amount of \$1,000 from the 517 Treasury to help with this restoration. The last financial statement I received when my term as President was over showed that we had a very good cash reserve. What better way to use it then by honoring the French people that are working so hard to make sure the 517 will always be there for future generations.

Darrell Egner

This is short, but must listen. Say a prayer for our troops.

Subject: 10 Tenors from Australia ... Here's to our Heroes !!!

Great Tribute to Our Troops from the Aussies...

Don't know if you have heard of this group -- The Ten Tenors -- from Australia , but they have been traveling the world singing and offer this wonderful tribute to the United States of America men and women in uniform.

Wonderful singing and beautiful images. Click on the link and go full screen.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LL-0mdEg0U4&feature=related>

Phil McSpadden



MailCall News

Claire,

I want to send you additional information that might refresh the memory of anyone who knew my cousin, Richard Bednarz.

Richard B. Bednarz (Service Number 18104461) entered the Army from DeWitt County, TX probably from the City of Cuero. My older cousins remember him being stationed in Georgia, so he probably trained at Camp Toccoa with the 517th. While in the Army he married a woman named Margaret on 3 Oct 1943 and probably adopted her daughter named Charlene. His father, August Bednarz, worked at numerous locations for the Southern Pacific Railroad, and after being divorced his mother probably worked in Cuero, TX. Richard had a brother named Robert or Morris who was too young to enter the military during WWII. I don't remember Richard, but my older cousins tell me "you never dared Richard to do anything because he would do it." He had ideal paratrooper traits.

Richard was a member of the Regimental Headquarters Company of the 517th. He was killed in action on 21 Sep 1944 and is buried at the Rhone American Cemetery in Draguignan, France.

According to 517th regimental histories, the 2nd and 3rd battalions secured Col de Braus, a small town in the Maritime Alps on 18 Sep 1944, with a successful attack on Mount Teta da la Lavina. About the same time, the 1st Battalion captured the town of Peira Cava. After capturing Col de Braus and Peira Cava, the 517th was mostly in defensive positions for the next four weeks. Richard is listed as killed in action on 21 Sep 1944 so he probably died in the area around one of these two towns. The regimental histories provide the location of the rifle companies many times, but essentially no information is provided about the regimental headquarters company.

Information like this might allow someone who knew Richard Bednarz to remember him today.

Also, I am still planning my trip to the Rhone American Cemetery next week and would appreciate the e-mail address of the Superintendent, Scott des Jardins, if you have it.

Thanks for your help.

Arland Schneider
Adscheid@aol.com



MailCall News


Hello, Arland -

I am copying our webmaster for Mail Call to see if anyone has any information.

as far as the email address for Superintendent Des Jardins goes, I was not able to find that last summer. Perhaps go through the graves/monuments department that he's with? I will think about that.

Did you get my other email with the scanned attachment, or did it not go thru due to size?

Claire



DIMANCHE 15 AOÛT



MEMORIAL DU DEBARQUEMENT—RN7

- ★ **09H45** Rassemblement du Conseil Municipal, des Vétérans, des Associations Patriotiques, des Autorités civiles et militaires, des Invités et de la Population.
- ★ **10H00** Hommage à nos Libérateurs, à la Résistance et à nos armées.
Remise de Légions d'Honneur.

ROND POINT DU GENERAL FREDERICK

- ★ **10H45** Dépôt de gerbe en l'honneur du Général FREDERICK, Commandant en Chef de l'Opération RUGBY.
- ★ **11H00** Dépôt de Gerbe au Pont du 4^{ème} Bataillon Parachutiste Britannique.

RUE CLAUDE JACQUEMET

- ★ **11H30** Dépôt de Gerbe en souvenir de Claude Jacquemet, Muyois parachuté dans le secteur pour la Libération du Muy.
- ★ **12H00** Réception conviviale des invités et de la Population, Cour de l'Ecole Élémentaire Robert Aymard.

PARVIS DE L'ESPACE CULTUREL

- ★ **21H00** Concert de l'Harmonie l'Indépendante des Arcs.



LUNDI 16 AOÛT



09H00—CIMETIERE AMERICAIN

- ★ Dépôt de gerbe au cimetière Américain de Draguignan.
- ★ *Deposit of sheaf in the American cemetery of Draguignan.*

11H30—DEFILE EN VILLE

- ★ Parade de véhicules Militaires et Soldats en uniformes d'époque, accompagnée par un groupe de cornemusiers et la présence de nombreux vétérans.
- ★ *Parade of Military vehicles and Soldiers in uniforms of time, accompanied by a group of cornemusiers and the presence of numerous veterans.*

12H30—PARKING DU ROUCAS

- ★ Exposition de véhicules militaires d'époque.
- ★ *Exhibition of Military vehicles.*

22H00 et 22H30

- ★ Grand Feux d'artifice pyro-Méلودie suivi du Grand bal avec « Kontrast Orchestra »
- ★ *Big fireworks Pyro melody followed by the Big ball with « Kontrast Orchestra »*



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.
- Send any news, stories, or feedback to: 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.

Save the date!

Annual 517th Reunion (probably the last one)

**July 13-18, 2011
Atlanta, GA**

with visits to Camp Toccoa and Fort Benning

