



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2018

October 24, 2010

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

Website
Mail Call
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www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

MailCall News

From: Gilles Guignard
Sent: Oct 16, 2010 9:10 AM
To: "H. Hensleigh 517th"
Subject: Forest Paxton

Dear Howard,

I am in touch with the Grandson of Forest Paxton 3/517.

Just to let you know that I gave him your email address - he has questions about his Grandfather in the 517th so he might contact you in the following days.

The 141st did not attack nor take Fayence, they were called back just after the Callian incident.

Kind regards, your friend, Gilles

Dear Gilles,

I will be happy to respond to Paxton's grandson as I was a member of his staff from the time he became 3rd Bn. CO, shortly after the August 15 jump, until he left the unit with points while we were in Joigny after all the fighting. He was well prepared for a tactical combat role as he was regimental S-3, plans, training and operations, from the time the regiment was formed until he joined us. He took his risks along with the rest of us and was always on top of the tactical situation. His forward CP location at Col de Braus is an example. The large incoming enemy



mortar blasts leveled everything else in that small village but the shack he and Frank Longo occupied as the forward CP. Some of them shook the soot out of the chimney onto the stuff Longo was cooking for the colonel.

I am glad to learn that the 141st did not take Feyance as it did not jibe with my memory that the 517th took it. They were a good outfit and I got a lot of cooperation from their regimental commander in getting our jump casualties out of Monteroux (sp?). I think we took over from them around Callian and they headed on north toward Paris with the rest of the seaborne troops.

Highest regards, Howard Hensleigh

Bob: May I impose on you to let Wade Gilbert know how saddened Alan and I were to read of his Dad's passing. Words are inadequate to express our sympathy. We hope he and his sister know they are very much in our thoughts and prayers. We feel so very privileged to have had the opportunity to meet his Dad, an extraordinary individual. His Dad has left an outstanding legacy in Wade. We are so very grateful for all the things Wade has done to capture and preserve the history of the 517th for us, the children and grandchildren of these great men.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

Please add us back on the email list.
Thank you for all that you do for the 517th.

Charles and Bernice Cook

email: Bernice_Cook@att.net

As I've said before, I try not to put anything too political or controversial into MailCall. But I was recently emailed this article that says a lot in a few words. Anyway, I found it funny.

– Bob Barrett

A Condensed Version of History, by John Ruskin

For those who don't know much about history.....here is a condensed version.

Humans originally existed as members of small bands of nomadic hunters/gatherers. They lived on deer in the mountains during the summer and would go to the coast and live on fish and lobster in the winter.

The two most important events in all of history were:

1. The invention of beer, and
2. The invention of the wheel (invented to get man to the beer)



These were the foundation of modern civilization and together were the catalyst for the splitting of humanity into two distinct subgroups:

1. Liberals
2. Conservatives

Once beer was discovered, it required grain and that was the beginning of agriculture. Neither the glass bottle nor aluminum can were invented yet, so while our early humans were sitting around waiting for them to be invented, they just stayed close to the brewery. That's how villages were formed.

Some men spent their days tracking and killing animals to B-B-Q at night while they were drinking beer. This was the beginning of what came to be known as the Conservative movement.

Other men who were weaker and less skilled at hunting learned to live off the conservatives by showing up for the nightly B-B-Q's and doing the sewing, fetching, and hair dressing. This was the beginning of what came to be known as the Liberal movement.

Some of these liberal men eventually evolved into women. The rest became known as girly-men.

Some noteworthy liberal achievements include the domestication of cats, the invention of group therapy, group hugs, and the concept of Democratic voting to decide how to divide the meat and beer that conservatives provided.

Over the years Conservatives came to be symbolized by the largest, most powerful land animal on earth, the elephant. Liberals are symbolized by the jackass.

Modern liberals like imported beer (with lime added), but most prefer white wine or imported bottled water. They eat raw fish, but like their beef well done. Sushi, tofu, and French food are standard liberal fare. Another interesting evolutionary side note: most of their women have higher testosterone levels than their men. Most social workers, personal injury attorneys, journalists, dreamers in Hollywood and group therapists are liberals. Liberals invented the designated hitter rule because it wasn't fair to make the pitcher also bat.

Conservatives drink domestic beer. They eat red meat and still provide for their women. Conservatives are big-game hunters, rodeo cowboys, lumberjacks, construction workers, firemen, medical doctors, police officers, corporate executives, athletes, Marines, and generally anyone who works productively. Conservatives who own companies hire other conservatives who want to work for a living.

Liberals produce little or nothing. They like to govern the producers and decide what to do with the production. Liberals believe Europeans are more enlightened than Americans. That is why most of the liberals remained in Europe when conservatives were coming to America. The liberals crept in after the Wild West was tamed and created a business of trying to get more for nothing.

Here ends today's lesson in world history.....

It should be noted that a Liberal may have a momentary urge to angrily respond to the above before forwarding it.

A Conservative will simply laugh and be so convinced of the absolute truth of this history that it will be forwarded immediately to other true believers and to more liberals just to anger them....



Class B Pass

Bob:

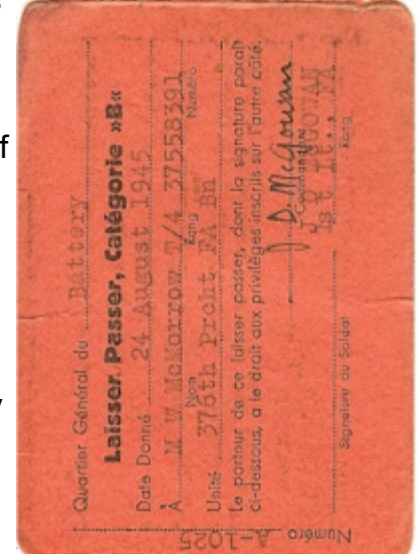
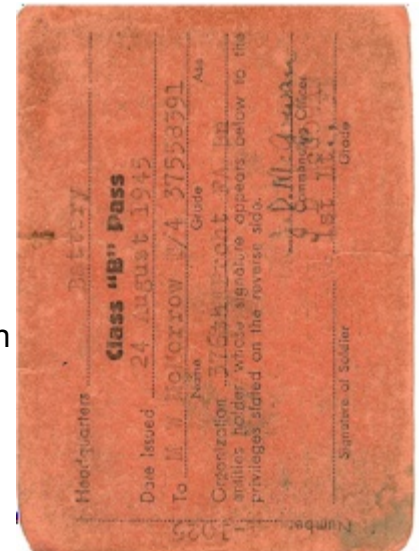
After conclusion of hostilities the airborne units were broken up and placed in four categories. Men placed in Category I would remain as occupation forces. Category II would be men deployed to the Pacific. Category III would consist of men to be used for occupation duty or sent to the Pacific and Category IV made of men having 85 points or more. Points were earned by months in service, combat awards, martial status and number of children, etc.

I opt for Category I as did many others in the 517th. We were transferred to the 82nd Airborne Division and were sent to Berlin as occupation troops.

Berlin was divided into four occupation zones and was located wholly within the designated Soviet Area of occupation. Because of its symbolic importance as the nation's capitol and seat of the former Nazi government, it was jointly occupied by the four Allied powers. Berlin was not considered to be a part of the Soviet Zone.

We were all issued a Class "B" in four languages (French, English, German and Russian). It permitted us to visit any geographic part of Berlin except during hours of 0100 and 0600. Attached is a copy of that Class "B" pass.

Merle





Meet The Troopers

This story comes from the "517th P I R website under "Meet The Troopers". This is but one of many episodes submitted by the late **Sgt. Randolph Coleman**. It centers around he and his group of buddies from "F" Company while training at Camp Mackall in 1944. It was the week-end and the guys had a pass so they ventured into Rockingham which was very close by. There was a carnival in town that weekend with all sorts of fun stuff going on like the Ferris Wheel, and bumper cars etc.

There was a stand where you throw a baseball at the stack of milk bottles and if you knock them all down you win a prize. It was a challenge that a cocky group of paratroopers just couldn't pass up. They asked "how many bottles to win that new radio there on display". The carnival guy told him how many and the guys got their heads together and formed a battle plan. The delegated thrower was "F" company's own **Hal Jeffcoat**, who had left his minor league pro baseball team to join the war effort. After the war Jeffcoat would return to play several years in the majors for the Chicago Cubs. He was a pitcher. He had a cannon for an arm and the velocity behind his pitches all but singed the paint off those jugs as the ball exploded into them. The pitching skills and ball speed amazed the carnival people. After knocking down the required number of jugs, the booth operator handed the troopers a box with "radio" printed on it. As they were walking away the box was opened and found to be empty. There was an angry confrontation between the troopers and the carny guy. Heated words were exchanged and the carnival guy panicked and shouted for them to get away or the M.P.'s would be called. The group reluctantly left the carnival and returned to their company area in a huff minus the radio.

Lt Murray was pulling Executive duty that night and asked why they were back so quick. Trooper Coleman told the Lt. the whole story and Murray asked, " what did you do about it"? The trooper said we don't know what we can do about it, if anything. At this point in the conversation Murray said to Trooper Coleman, "I am not going to tell you anything, but when I come back with something I don't want you to ask any questions, just take it and handle it very carefully and use your imagination." The Lt. excused himself and left for a few minutes and returned with a couple of small blocks of something and sat it carefully on the counter in the office. Our Trooper picked it up and left the office without saying a word. He began putting two and two together and remembered that this officer was their demolitions expert and he had just been given an unknown substance that needed to be "handled very carefully". "Holy Cow", he was holding a hand full of explosives. He went to his barracks and gingerly put the item in his footlocker. The "F" company guys re-organized after mulling the situation over and headed back to the carnival grounds later that night. It was pay-back time for the 517th. Some how during night that carnival tent was blown sky high, and a brief fire resulted. Luckily no one was hurt. Investigators determined that the mystery blast was caused by a "Compound-C" charge. FBI agents showed up the following week and were nosing around Mackall and asking questions. Of course our guys in "F" company knew nothing about the incident. 66 years have passed since and the "statute of limitations" has been invoked. The moral of the story is "don't tease the bull or you may get the horn."

AIRBORNE!

NephewOfABuzzard

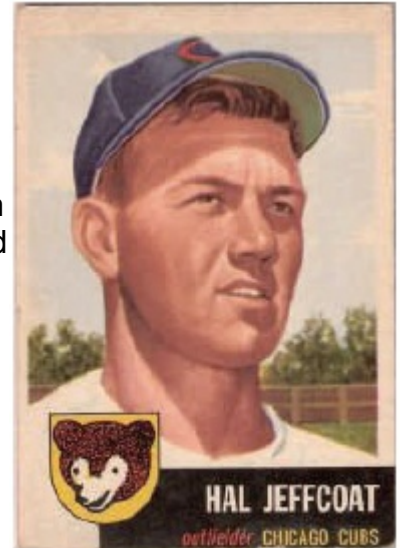


Meet The Troopers

Hal Jeffcoat

September 6, 1924 to August 30, 2007

Jeffcoat served with the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team in WWII. His pro career began in the Tri-State League in 1946. He batted .346 with 15 home runs and 118 RBIs for Nashville in the Southern Association in 1947, and joined the Cubs in 1948. In 1954, Jeffcoat converted from the outfield to pitcher. He had his best season on the mound in 1957 with the Reds when he was 12-13. He ended his professional career with Seattle in the Pacific Coast League in 1960.



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.
- 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.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to our treasurer:
Leo Dean
14 Stonehenge Lane
Albany, NY 12203

Save the date!

Annual 517th Reunion (probably the last one)

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

with visits to Camp Toccoa and Fort Benning