



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2050

May 8, 2011

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

Website www.517prct.org
Mail Call MailCall@517prct.org
Mail Call Archives www.517prct.org/archives
Roster (from 2008) www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Annual 517th Reunion

Just want to let everyone know I finally sent my registration in last Saturday and made my airline reservations for the National Reunion in Atlanta, July 14 -18th. In speaking with **General Seitz** about the reunion he has concerns, like I do that not very many people have registered yet. He has asked us to do the following: "I suggest that we all email everyone on our address file this information about the National Reunion in Atlanta, GA, and encourage them to get registrations in now."

So, like General Seitz, I am encouraging all to send in their registrations now so we know exactly how many to plan for. Call your family, friends and associates and invite them to the reunion. All of the links for registration are on Mailcall. The General is hoping over 200 troopers will be in attendance with their families. I sure hope everyone will make this a priority. It is going to be a great reunion, I am sure one that will live in everyone memories for a long long time.
Airborne!

Lory Curtis, Reunion Chairman

(Probably the Last) Annual 517th Reunion
July 13-18, 2011
Atlanta, GA with visits to Camp Toccoa and Fort Benning
[Program](#)
[Registration Form](#)
[Hotel Info](#)



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This email is to encourage folks with FACEBOOK accounts to include the National Reunion information on their page; even if they will not be attending the Reunion. This can go a LONG way in getting the Reunion advertised. It would be great to have a good attendance for this Reunion; considering that we will visit the places where the 517th began their march, and jumps, into history! Looking forward to this event!!!

RHONDA and MIKE WELLS

Hello Friends,

I received the below email message from General Seitz, and so I am forwarding it on to you with the request you email everyone you know about our National Reunion in Atlanta, July 14-18th. You can access the registration forms on the 517th email site: <http://517prct.org/reunions/reunion.htm> See you in ATLANTA !!

Lory

"I suggest that we all e mail every one on our address file this info and encourage them to get registrations in . I think that is the fastest way to get the word to a great number of people. All the members who have email take it upon themselves to send an email to everyone in their address file.

I am real concerned about getting a good turnout We ought to have 200 or so trooper to make it a good reunion. Airborne, Dick"

Mail Call News

Bob,

I realized that I had a typo in the last mail call.... the DC reunion [with VP Dick Cheney] was 07 (not 97).

This was mainly informative to update your link on the 517 site.....

Sorry if there was any confusion.

- **Steve Markle** -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1pzAamw9mQ>



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To Jean Michel Soldi and Eric Renoux

Dear Jean Michel,

We have wanted to contact you to find out what the position is of the musee de liberation in le muy. Do you remember you interviewed my dad (Roy Hybart) – one of the veterans - last August. He was very disturbed to have a letter from the mayor of le muy and feels he needs to contact you to find out the truth regarding the museum and you. Perhaps you could contact us on e.mail addresses – royhybart172@btinternet.com or lr.lawford@talktalk.net.

Many thanks and our kind wishes,

Liz Lawford and Roy Hybart

Bob,

I received this email and thought you might want to put it on Mailcall.

Lory Curtis

Prayer of thanks

Now I lay me down to sleep...one less terrorist this world does keep...with all my heart I give my thanks...to those in uniform regardless of ranks...you serve our country and serve it well...with humble hearts your stories tell...so as I rest my weary eyes...while freedom rings our flag still flies...you give your all, do what you must...with God we live and God we trust....Amen

Please forward my sincere sympathies and sadness to the MacRae family at the passing of their father **William MacRae**. It was my privilege to get to know him and his family at the many reunions they attended. Especially the last one in Salt Lake City. I know there were times during past reunions he, my Dad, and others sat at the table and talked of old times in the 517th. It was an honor to sit and listen to their stories. I can't help but think of the many troopers now on the outside of the veil of life who are perhaps at one of those tables again talking about old times in the 517th. I am sure it is a glorious reunion there. He will be truly missed.

Sincerely,

Lory Curtis and Family, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st Bn.

I am saddened to read of Mr. **William MacRae's** passing. I read his obituary listed on Mailcalls Archives by his son Bill. Only just a year ago I discovered that my father too was a 517th paratrooper HQ Co. 2nd Bn. I was 3 years old when he died I a VA hospital in Indianapolis of a Staphylococcal Meningitis contracted at that hospital following back surgery for service connected wounds received in Belgium January 7th and 14th while serving with the 517th. I knew very little



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about my father and when I attempted to retrieve his service record in 1979 I was told that his records had been destroyed in the St. Louis fire in 1973. Last March 2010, after 50 years of a vague notion of my father being a WW II veteran we found a copy of his service record WD AGO 53-55 at the Indiana State Archives where he had to produce it for a \$300 post discharge bonus and the coveted free Indiana hunting and fishing stamp. Since then I have researched everything that I can get my hands on regarding his service. Fortunately I was to discover the web-site www.517prct.org where I found a document labeled AGO # 22 awarding men from the 517th, 460th and 596th the Combat Infantryman Badge for the period including the August 15th 1944 Airborne Assault known as Operation Dragoon into Southern France. My father is also listed on the Christmas Roster.

I have missed all of the opportunities over the past half century to fellowship with the men of my father's unit and just recently began exploring plans to attend the remaining reunions. I missed the January reunion in Miami and the one in Palm Springs because travel and accommodations to California and Florida would have been too costly. Now, again, I am finding it too difficult to spare the funds for the upcoming reunion in Atlanta GA in July. I also read Mr. MacRae's offer to pass on his father's tickets for the events included during the reunion at Ft. Benning and Curahee. I would be extremely grateful and honored to be considered for use of those tickets to the events at the reunion. If necessary I am going to borrow the funds needed for the travel and hotel expenses in Atlanta and I have already made my reservations and plan to drive there. I am very grateful for Mr. Benjamin Barrett and his son Bob and all that have labored to make the 517th web-site what it is and the steadfast determination to continue the 517th Association and I desperately want to be a part of the Auxiliary effort to continue this legacy to the great men of the 517th PCRT and continue to memorialize their efforts and losses for generations to come! I understand the importance of the possible transfer of some of the duties of the 517th Association to the members of the Auxiliary and I very much want to be a part of the process at the Atlanta Reunion!

Respectfully and gratefully submitted by a son of a 517th paratrooper!
Sgt. Dannie Perry (US Army Ret), son of **Cpl. Floyd Russell Perry**,
HQ Co. 2nd Bn 517th PRCT

508 Voorhees Street
Rockville Indiana
47872

Home # 765-569-6014
dannieperry@att.net

Hello Bob, I don't have the information Dannie is looking for to email Bill McRae. Can you help him with the email address?

He attempted to contact you with a bad address, forgetting to put 'prct' with 517.org.

Thanks,
Don Gentry



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From: dannieperry@att.net
To: DGentry509@aol.com
Subj: Help with Atlanta Reunion

Don, I am needing to get an e-mail address to contact Mr. William MacRae's son Bill MacRae. In the May 1 mailcall he offered to pass along the 2 tickets for the events at the Atlanta Reunion that he and his father had purchased. My brother and I would very much like to attend but are having financial difficulties. I sent a copy of the message listed below to mailcall@517.org, and would like to make a personal appeal to Mr. Bill MacRae but he did not include contact info. If you could, please forward this message to him for me!? P.S.; I am very interested in getting involved in activities like Mailcall, Archives, and other administrative duties of the Auxiliary and 517th Association. I am proficient in all MS Office applications.

Bill, It looks like you have taken on the Atlanta tickets. Thanks so much for the offer.

Bob Barrett

Bob:

I got your response in another email, and realized I had addressed it to your Dad, my apologies for that, I wasn't thinking straight!

I am contacting Armed Forces Reunion to work it out with them. I'll contact Dan Perry with the details.

Best Regards,
Bill MacRae

I am seeking contact that anyone who served with my late uncle, **Hu M Webb**. He was with the 517th, **Company C**. He served in France and received the Bronze Star for his service during a battle around Bergeval, Belgium January 4th, 1945.

Thank you,
Respectfully, Hu Partin hpartin22@charter.net

Mr. Bob,

I was looking through some pictures from my father's belongings, and found the pictures that was used in the article I sent you of my father, **First Lt. Thomas Fred Patin**, with names of the people who were in these pictures.. The other service man was **Lt. Mapes**, not sure if he was in the 517 or not?

[see http://www.517prct.org/documents/Lt_patin_gets_silver_star_1945.pdf]

Thanks and have a great day!!!
Tony Patin



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Mc
Mrs. Masetti
Marie Rose ("Myro")
Lt. Mapes -



Lt. R.
Lt. Mapes
Marie Rose ("Myro")
Mrs. Masetti
Mc



FRENCH RIVIERA
Mc
Marie Rose ("Myro")
Lt. Mapes
Mr. Masetti

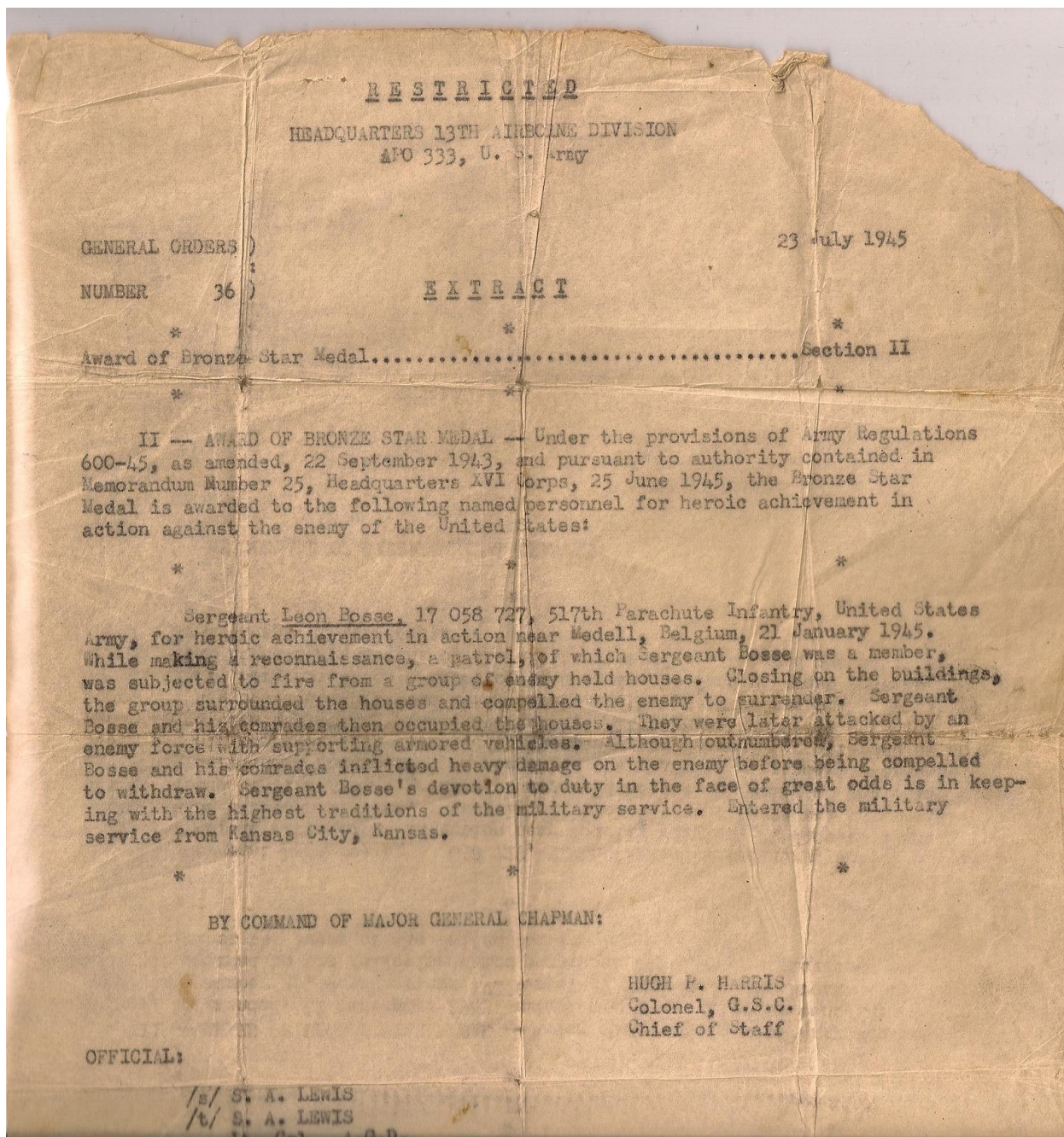
Nice,
FRANCE



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Came across this. Don't know if the scan is of sufficient quality. It is for **Sgt. Leon Bosse, Co. D.**
Thanks.

Jon Bosse





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To My 517th family,

Many of you know I wrote a book about my Dad's experiences in the 517th. It is called *Letters Home, A Paratrooper's Story*. During our 2009 reunion in Salt Lake City, I became acquainted with Ryan Little, a movie Producer and Director. He has made many films, and the two that have been the most popular were "Saints and Soldiers, a great WWII movie centered around the battle of the bulge, and "Forever Strong", another great movie about Rugby. Some of you may remember when Ryan came out and filmed us at the Tank Museum. He really enjoyed visiting with our group, and doing the film. He gave me the video and we put it on a DVD, and sent them out to many of you who requested them.

At that time I gave Ryan a copy of my Dad's book and he has been reading it. He wants to make parts of the book into a movie. Yesterday I met with him to discuss the project. Ryan told me he would like to do a full length movie, but right now does not have investors to fund a full length movie. So with the funds he does have he wants to do so short stories that can be compiled for the History and Military T.V. channels.

This is what Ryan wants you to know, he said:

"Lory, Thanks for your time yesterday. I really enjoyed the visit and the stories. I look forward to reading the rest of the book. In respect to seeing if any other members of the 517th have stories that they might want to share, I think we tell them we are doing a short film based on a handful of interesting experiences that took place during the combat phase that we spoke about yesterday. Like in Italy, the combat jump in August into France, Battle of the Bulge, and combat experiences until the end of the European theater. I am sure there is a treasure trove of great small stories out there.

Please emphasize to the 517th members, this is not big Hollywood film (aka Band of Brothers) but rather a small project with no money behind it. We are going to shoot this on a video format and use actors who are going to volunteer their time to be involved. We can't really pay people to let us use their stories but we can certainly give them a copy of the finished product. It is a way to immortalize the 517th. Something that people can show their grand kids.

Of course if someone in the 517th gets the bug to see if we can make it bigger, who has the money to fund a larger film project, then we can cross that bridge when we come to it, and figure out a way to compensate those that provide the bases of the stories with some kind of financial compensation. But as for the current approach and the tiny budget. It really has to be stories that people just want to see get made and not for financial gain."

Ryan Little

So if you have some combat related stories that could be used in this short film, please put them on mailcall or email them to me at lcurtis@utah.gov or drlvc@comcast.net . I will forward them to Ryan. It sure would be great if a full length movie could be made of the 517th PRCT. Wouldn't that be great!

Lory Curtis, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st BN



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Order of Battle

Mark,

Ok - I found the original (almost) of the OoB, as well as a photo (camera) copy. The photo cy is 15 pages and is much easier to handle, however in some portions not as legible as the original. So, I will send you the photo cy and if one needs I can refer to the main cy. Send me your mail address. I also have several related 517/Dragoon items to enclose.

Gene

Hi Col. Frice –

The package arrived today. Wow! I am so thankful, words won't express it. The material included really fills in a lot of holes in the narrative I've been working on. I hope to begin adding the material in the near future. Right now, the narrative is 80+ pages of 8.5 x 14 sized paper. I have to think this will push it over 100. I think I have enough for an Master's thesis...

Thanks! mark [Landreth]

Dear Friends of the 517th,

I wanted to thank Gene and Steve Markle for publishing the 517th order of battle in Pdf.

It's very interesting and I had never seen this document. Thank you very much.

Kind regards,

Gilles

dogface44@gmail.com

The entire report, written by Clark Archer, is now on the website at:

[517th Order of Battle by Clark Archer \(18.4 Mb\)](#)

Note that it is a very large pdf file (18+Mb). The original was an 11" x 17" document, but it looks readable if printed on letter-size paper.

Jump or be Pushed by Herb Loken

Third Excerpt – next 3 pages



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INTRODUCTION TO A 'TIGER' TANK

Once the advance of the Germans was stalled at the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium in January of 1944 our responsibility was to clear any enemy pockets still existing as we traveled East on our final target which was Berlin. It was cold and miserable with plenty of snow as we trudged along the road clearing each little hamlet or town of any enemy resistance. For the most part, the enemy had departed and was trying to regroup to protect their rear flank as they retreated from the assault of the American and English troops.

Our platoon had slowly cleared this one particular group of buildings, possibly a family farm at one time, and was moving on to clear a building 50 or 60 yards up the road when we encountered enemy rifle fire. The final building turned out to be their last defense and they had some of their riflemen, with snow uniforms, laying out in the fields behind cows that had been shot but still breathing...so you couldn't pick up the breathing of the German riflemen which made it almost impossible to realize they were there. Once we left the protection of the buildings of this little hamlet and advanced to the open roadway heading toward this remaining building...the enemy opened fire on the targets we provided. Our advance scout, Hubie Ford, from Chicago, was shot in the head and laid out there on the road crying for help while the rest of the platoon went for cover. It was only then that we realized where the rifle fire was coming from and we were unable to go to the aid of our lead scout. We did return heavy fire at the enemy and they finally retreated to the protection of their stronghold. In the mean-time we finally reached Hubie but it was too late. I might just mention at this point that Hubie and I were quite close...why...because while in training back in Georgia we both enjoy the big band sound and its vocalists...so when the Hit Parade came on with Frank Sinatra...we were the only two who would stay in the barracks to listen, in spite of the squealing of the teen agers...the rest of the platoon would vacate the barracks.



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At this point with resistance still forthcoming from the building up the road we withdrew to the hamlet that we had just cleared and settled in for the night. We were assigned to different stations and told to keep on the alert for any further attack by the enemy. A big barn presented shelter for many of us, some in the hay loft, others on the main floor and I ended up alone in the harness room on the second floor with a view of one flank that I was to pay heed to for any further enemy action. Night came on and many of us fell asleep...and then it happened. What looked like a giant tank, which it was...a "TIGER TANK"...top of the line in the way of German armor quietly rolled its way over a hill to our front and opened fire on the barn. Talk about an alarm waking one from his beauty sleep...it blew about half of the barn away and sent most of us scampering for a way out..All this brought most of us to the center courtyard of this little hamlet and our first reaction was to take off as fast as we could run away from the shelter we had been in. It just so happened that the two officers with us had already retreated to safety to some rear position and we never saw them again. We had one non-com, a mortar sgt., Pete Lockhart by name, who stopped us all and said, "I'll shoot the first who leaves the shelter of these building.... our safety is here, hiding in the buildings and attacking the tank if it dares to come into our midst. Once we leave the protection we have and enter the open fields, we're like shooting ducks!" We did stay and by doing so we discouraged the tank commander from entering what would have been our trap and the tank withdrew and we were safe. Sgt. Lockhart, once the story was told, was given a battle field commission and became our platoon commander.

Upon entering another village further up the road we were quartered in another barn and two of us were sent back for more ammunition..As the two of us approached the side entrance to this barn another enemy sniper laying out in the snow in his white uniform opened fire on us. My buddy was closest to the door of the barn and should have been the poorest target while I was more in the open for all to see...but as fate would have it...he was shot in the stomach as he turned to enter the barn. We helped him in and for the moment he appeared to be just slightly wounded until we laid him down. The bullet had entered from the front of his abdominal section but when we turned him over we saw the gaping hole in his back...and within minutes he was gone. That was the closest I came to leaving this earth and made me realize how lucky a person could be..



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Luckily the enemy at this time had "shot their wad" so to speak and without adequate food, ammo and replacements we just followed them for the most part as they retreated to their fatherland and their final defeat along the Elbe River, and our entrance into Berlin. The political decision to allow the Russians into Berlin first is something we still don't understand...we were there and ready to advance when this decision came down. It should never have happened and caused a great deal of conflict while the joint occupational troops patrolled Berlin. The Russians were not a disciplined group and with all their back pay in their hands that they had to spend in Berlin....they were there to have a good time and their utter disrespect for any authority brought about many confrontations with the Allied troops and many shootings were a direct result. The Black Market was very evident...American cigarettes sold for \$25 a pack and any wristwatch with an illumious dial would sell for hundreds of dollars ...in Allied currency. Of course, by the same token a bottle of vodka cost \$200 so you can see this paper money was very, very cheap. But once you left the European theatre of operations the money was no good ...so easy come....easy go!

This is just another story of 50 years ago...hard to believe it ever happened and that I'm still around to tell of it. As a matter of fact, I still have no use for cigarettes or vodka....I guess I missed my chance to be a millionaire back in 1944-45! But then again, to this day, my lungs and kidneys are still functioning properly...so I guess my taste buds came to my rescue at that early age.

Just another memory of World War II....the "Biggie!"

To be continued



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Recent website additions:

[517th Order of Battle by Clark Archer \(18.4 Mb\)](#)

[Fred Marron, B Battery, 460th PFAB](#)

[Charles William Young, C Company](#)

[2nd Battalion - Communications, Mortar and Machine Gunnery](#)

1943 May 10 - [Letter to parents of new recruits from Lt. McKinley](#)

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:

Brenda Verbeck Mortensen
13046 Race Track Road #220
Tampa, FL 33626

