



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2055

June 12, 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

Mail Call News

May 30, 2011

Dear Bob,

I was one of the original men of the 517th Hdq. 1st Battalion and I presume was one of the last to leave the 517th at Camp Shanks, NY. I served as the S-2, S-3 Staff Sgt., and was with Bill Boyle throughout the war until he got shot in Bergstrom. I didn't think anybody, even **Wild Bill Boyle**, could survive the wounds he suffered, and thought he was dead until I read about him in one of the Thunderbolts. I was able to contact him and receive a letter from him. I received three purple hearts, but was always patched up and sent back in.

At the request of a granddaughter I made out a journal that I would like to send to you for the record, but I wonder if you would prefer I send it by e-mail, rather than as it is as it is lengthy. Could you email me at hojkelly@gmail.com or hojt@pocolocosw.com and advise me as to how to proceed.

I also have some pictures to send for the record.

Thanks for what you do for the 517th.

Best regards,

Hoyt Kelley



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Hoyt,

I received your recent letter. Yes, we would love to get both your bio/journal and any wartime photos, memories, and info you might have. I prefer to get any items in electronic format rather than paper, if possible, but I will take whatever is easiest for you. You can try to send it via email, as I can take any format and some pretty big files. Some email systems, yours or mine, may have limits on the size of each message, usually to about 10 MB. Try that, and if it doesn't go through, we can try something else. A can also take files on a CD or DVD if you want. You can send anything to my home at:

Bob Barrett
27 Fuller Meadow Road
North Andover, MA 01845

Best regards,

PS: You're not on the MailCall roster. Do you want receive the weekly 517th MailCall newsletter? Let me know.

Bob:

Your Dad making a presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to **J. Michael Soldi**. The pain on his face is very evident and that trip was very demanding.

Merle



Thanks, Merle. Yes, it was a difficult trip for him at times. I remember that day was in the mid-90's. There were many long hot days like that. But he never complained and you know he wouldn't have missed it. None of us will forget that trip with Ben, you and the rest of the 517th. Thanks for the great memories.

See you in Atlanta.

Bob Barrett



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Bob,

A while ago **Merle McMorrow** sent to me a package of information on the 517 PRCT from his collection for me to scan. After many attempts at getting this project done, it was finally finished this week. There are 2 major items in this collection. They are large and HUGE;

Historical documents drafted by Clark Archer along with some notes between him and Merle. This is a good addition to what is already out there (think Chronicle expanded).

<http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/documents/517+PRCT+Documented+by+Clark+Archer+and+Merle+McMorrow.pdf.html>
(283mb)

... as a side not to this collection, it appears that there is complete details of the 1st Battalion (starting at page 38) but not the same for the 2nd or 3rd Battalion's. If anybody has these, they would be a great addition to this.

The 1975 517 Fort Bragg Reunion Booklet. Includes stories about several of the unit's brass and VIP's. I found this captivating reading;

<http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/documents/1975+Reunion+-+517+PRCT+.pdf.html>
(71.2mb)

As you can see, both of these are rather large, but provide reasonable copies on reprints. Not sure if you have tools to compress these down further but they should available for all to see.

Steve Markle

Hal Eddy (1737 Brinton Ave., Dixon IL 61021) of the Engineer Company's Second Platoon lost his wife, Polly, on May 18, 2011. They attended several reunions over the years, but their most un forgettable (unfortunately) was at Columbus, GA. They took their motorhome, which was broken into and they had to leave to get it repaired, and missed the latter part of the reunion

Bill Hudson

Hi 517th,

I would like to be added to your e-mail list. My uncle, **David Hines**, was in your group, and his sister, my mother, Mildred (Hines) Mauldin, would appreciate hearing anything about him, and about the soldiers from his unit.

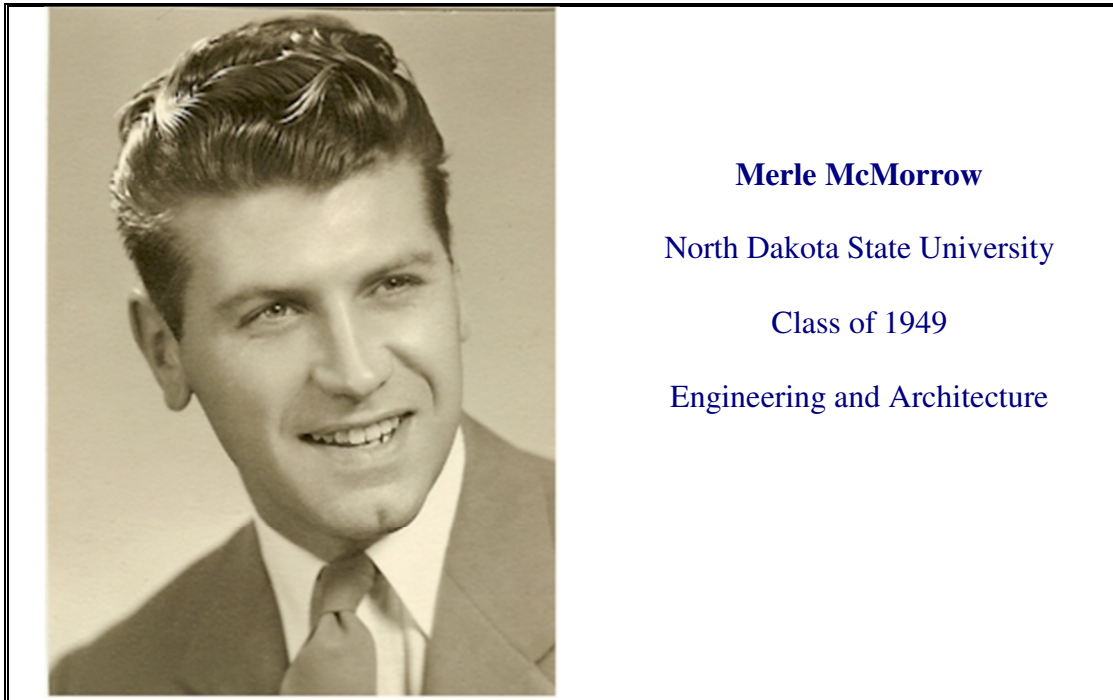
Many thanks.

Denise Mauldin
dmauld@aol.com



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Bob: You kept asking for a better picture for my Bio. This is the best I can do. Age 26



Merle McMorrow

North Dakota State University

Class of 1949

Engineering and Architecture

See Merle's bio at: <http://517prct.org/bios.htm>

Read it, then send in your own. -- BB

Hi Bob....my computer has crashed, and I've lost a lot of Mail Calls and contacts from the 517th. One in particular I received just before it crashed was a notation from someone stating there was a WAGO 40 awarding the Combat Infantry Badge to members of the 517, 460 and 596 for their participation in the invasion of Southern France. I was Personnel Sergeant of the 460th and I don't remember such an award to anyone not assigned to an Infantry unit. If such a GO was issued for the 460th I'm sure it would have landed on my desk and appropriate action taken. If it was issued, how do I go about correcting all these records to insure the men of my unit received all the awards to which they were entitled? I do remember something ...Stars and Stripes, Army Times or something also stating any one issued the CIB in WWII was also entitled to the award of the Bronze Star. Can anyone help me on this?

I've lost all my contact list, so if anyone was sending me e-mails, send me an e-mail so I can get you back on my list. My e-mail address is fairwayphil@thevillages.net. Thanks, Bob.

phil mc spadden



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Phil,

I'm afraid that I don't remember any info about a WGDO 40. The best info I have is from the Clark Archer records, which has the following:

CAMPAIGN CREDITS 517 Parachute Combat Team	Rone-Arno Southern France Aachenhead RhineLand Ardennes-Alsace Central Europe	WDGC 99, 1945 WDGO 87, 1945 WDGO 70, 1945 WDGO 118, 1945 DAGO 63, 1948 WDGC 116, 1945
AWARDS 517 Parachute Infantry Regiment	French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, world war II, Streamer embroidered BRASQUIGNAN	DAGO 81, 1948
517 PIR First Battalion	Presidential Unit Citation (Army) Streamer embroidered SOY-NORTON French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, world war II, Streamer embroidered BRASQUIGNAN Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army For action in the Ardennes	DAGO 10, 1948 DAGO 81, 1948 DAGO 81, 1948
517 PIR Second Battalion	French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, world war II, Streamer embroidered BRASQUIGNAN Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army For action in the Ardennes	DAGO 81, 1948 DAGO 81, 1948
517 PIR Third Battalion	French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, world war II, Streamer embroidered BRASQUIGNAN	DAGO 81, 1948
517 Parachute Field Artillery Bn.	French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, world war II, Streamer embroidered BRASQUIGNAN	DAGO 81, 1948
596 Parachute Combat Engineer Co.	French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, world war II, Streamer embroidered BRASQUIGNAN	DAGO 81, 1948

Sorry that this copy is not the clearest. You can see the entire booklet (and zoom in larger) at: <http://517prct.org/documents/chronicle/chronicle2.pdf>

Bob Barrett

My brother, **Paul Creighton Thompson**, shipped out with the 517th and was with the unit until the winter of 44/45 (he is listed in the 'Christmas Card'). Sometime that winter he was invalided out (he was wounded 3 times and suffered all the rest of his life from frostbitten feet) of the line. Upon recovery he was assigned to the 513th and finished the war fighting with them. When he climbed on the boat he was a sergeant but by Christmas he was a private. I know he and his buddies were 'gifted' at stealing jeeps in Italy and he hit a stone building when landing in France ending up coming-to after daybreak with no weapon, boots, tags, nada and being upbraided by an officer. I'm really looking for a mentor to help guide me through the very fragmentary records that seem to exist to sort out for his descendants his WWII story including why he lost his stripes. Can you help me?

Many thanks: Pete Thompson
E) petet123@earthlink.net



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Bob,

Please add Kyle Ford to Mail call, Kyle is the son of **Herb Ford, 'H' company first Pltn.** his e-mail is kfsrep1@yahoo.com. Thank you very much, I really miss your Dad, he was a GREAT GUY.

Morris McDowell

Hi Bob,

Myrle wants to know how much walking there will be at Ft. Benning. Distance will make a difference as to whether he will need a wheelchair, walker or cane. If you don't know maybe someone else out there will know. Myrle is getting along much better but he is still using his walker in the house. He won't be able to drive for another couple of weeks. We are looking forward to the reunion.

Betty Traver

Betty,

I don't know how much walking there will be, but will post the question to the MailCall. However, we did get a note from the Commander of the Airborne School at Ft. Benning that we should all be prepared for very hot weather. Probably over 100 degrees. So I suggest you make sure Myrle has a wheelchair. Don't worry -- We'll find plenty of people who can help get Myrle around.

Bob Barrett

Atlanta Reunion

hey, Bob -

Just got Mail Call, as usual, on Sunday evening. Thank you so much for making this happen every week - we really appreciate it.

Good to see registrations coming in fast and furious. We are looking forward to gathering in Hotlanta, and visiting all of the places the 517 made famous.

We always have so much fun at these reunions, and we do them in the summer so grandchildren and great grandchildren can join us and meet the men who made the history.

Can you work this into this summer's travel plans? Register today! The hotel is beautiful and accessible for all. Let us know your needs and we will make it happen.



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And besides - it's not the last reunion. We are already planning on Kissimmee in January 2012, and Palm Springs in April 2012. And who knows what summer of '12 or '13 will bring...

Make your plans - call a buddy - reach out to a family member. Do it today.

Claire Giblin
daughter, **Allan Johnson, 596**

Bob,

Please get this message out to everyone who is attending our final National Reunion. Lieutenant Colonel Cummings, Commander of the Airborne School, Fort Benning, GA, sent me this email today, June 7, 2011. He said:

"Be sure to reinforce to those coming to Fort Benning that it will be very hot and humid here during your visit. Today we have a heat index at 105 degrees and that started at 10:00 a.m. and its only June."

Everyone, please make sure on our trip down to Fort Benning that each of us is drinking lots of water and remain hydrated. The Mayo clinic has this to say about heat exhaustion.

"Heat exhaustion is one of the heat-related syndromes, which range in severity from mild heat cramps to heat exhaustion to potentially life-threatening heatstroke.

Signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion often begin suddenly, sometimes after excessive exercise, heavy perspiration, and inadequate fluid or salt intake. Signs and symptoms resemble those of shock and may include:

- Feeling faint or dizzy
- Nausea
- Heavy sweating
- Rapid, weak heartbeat
- Low blood pressure
- Cool, moist, pale skin
- Low-grade fever
- Heat cramps
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Dark-colored urine

If you suspect heat exhaustion:

- Get the person out of the sun and into a shady or air-conditioned location.



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- Lay the person down and elevate the legs and feet slightly.
- Loosen or remove the person's clothing.
- Have the person drink cool water or other nonalcoholic beverage without caffeine.
- Cool the person by spraying or sponging him or her with cool water and fanning.
- Monitor the person carefully. Heat exhaustion can quickly become heatstroke.
- If fever greater than 102 F (38.9 C), fainting, confusion or seizures occur, call 911 or emergency medical help."

Lory Curtis, son of **Bud Curtis**, HQ, 1st Bn

Bob, I didn't see your name on the list [*for the Atlanta Reunion*], you are coming right??

Lory

Lory

Yes, I do plan to be there. I'm just trying to get Paula to arrange her schedule to come with me. I think that at least 2 of my brothers are also coming but have not registered yet either. And I know that Joanne is coming.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Bob B.

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