



## *517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team*



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2058**

**July 4th, 2011**

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

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

### *Atlanta Reunion*

**(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](#)

It has come to my attention the buses to Fort Benning on Friday, July 15th are full. Some folks have asked me, or Armed Forces Reunion what they are to do. Armed Forces Reunion informed me that they cannot guarantee a person can get their vehicles on to Fort Benning, or that they will be able to sit with our group. After reading the message from Fort Benning, my recommendation is, if you are driving you should be at the Fort Benning gate by 8:00 am (it is at least a 2 hour drive from Atlanta, make sure you MapQuest it or use Google maps). I emailed the Airborne school today and this is their reply to people who now will have to drive their own vehicles or a rental car.

Lory Curtis, reunion chairman

"Getting onto post isn't a huge issue unless the gates are crowded, which on a Friday morning is a distinct possibility, that being said 0800 (8:00 am) is a good timeline for them. Yes, they will have to stop at the visitor center by the gate with driver's license, proof or insurance and registration and they'll receive a pass...as long as there's no line it's quick, but that morning it could take a little while. As far as the reunion, while they're with us they can sit anywhere they like and parking is not an issue...there are several places to park around Eubanks Field. The museum tour shouldn't be an issue either, but I can't speak for your lunch at the Officer's Club."



## *517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team*

As of today, June 28, 2011, we have 141 people with 29 veterans who have signed up for the final 517th National Reunion.

**Lory Curtis**, reunion chairman

---

Needless to say I am 100% in favor of melding the two organizations together. This is probably one, if not the most important, votes we ever had at a National Reunion. For those that cannot attend the reunion, please convey your thoughts to Helen Beddow on who you think should be the first President. This person will have the task of keeping all of us together as we were in the past. In the past the President of both groups made the majority of the decisions with little or no help from the Board of Directors, yes I am guilty. I would suggest that the person we elect to serve as President should appoint his/her own board. I'm talking about a board that will take an active part in the planning of our new creation.

*[I am editing out Darrell's specific nomination and statement of qualifications for president removed for now. My apologies to Darrell. Let's discuss at the reunion -- BB]*

Please convey your thoughts to Helen Beddow on your selections.

Darrell Egner

---

*As MailCall editor, I have received a couple of suggestions for candidates to be the President of the newly merged Association, including one great suggestion from Darrell in his note above. But I am not prepared to be editor and moderator and censor. Rather than hold a political campaign in the MailCalls, I will suggest that everyone think hard about who you think would be willing and able to best serve the Association. Be prepared to nominate, discuss, and vote at the Atlanta Reunion. As Darrell says, this will be a very important process for the future of the 517<sup>th</sup> Association. -- BB*

### *Mail Call News*

Hi,

I am looking for veteran testimony on the battle that took place between Soy and Hotton in December 1944 and notably the battle of the Eastern side of Hotton. Witnesses to Melvin Biddle heading out on his Medal Of Honor winning patrols and the 1st Battalion actions to take over the attack from the 75th Infantry Division South of the Hotton-Soy highway.

Would ideally love to be put into contact with veterans of the 1st Battalion who are happy to speak to me about these battles and answer a couple of questions.

Regards, Adam  
Adam Berry <[aberry@initsys.co.uk](mailto:aberry@initsys.co.uk)>

---



## *517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team*

Hello,

I have switched my email address from bobkath19@msn.com to kathbob19@q.com. Please be sure to update your Address Book and use my new email address from now on.

Thank You!

**Bob Hart**, D Company

---

I am looking for **Marvin Tetrick** who was in the 517th during the Battle of the Bulge and saw my Uncle Derv [**Dervyn Muth**, HQ Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., Machine Gun platoon]] get killed. I even have the letter that Marv wrote to my grandparents about Derv's death. I was just wondering if he is still alive. I have a picture of my Uncle Derv and Marv in their uniforms. I found Marv's picture from the 2008 Palm Springs reunion.

I am in the process of finishing a WWII scrapbook about my Uncle Derv and my father **Floyd Muth**, who was also in the Army, but he survived. He passed away 16 years ago.

My grandmother made scrapbooks with all kinds of pictures, mementos, etc. and did incredible journaling. Because of her I feel like I really knew my uncle. I was almost 2 years old when he died. I have a picture of the only time he ever held me when he was home on leave.

I just wondered if Marv is still living. I hope so. God Bless him and all of our military!

Sharon Ferdon  
<sharonferdon@comcast.net>

### *Fourth of July*

Looking forward to seeing a lot of troopers at Atlanta...  
Airborne always,

**Mel Dahlberg**... "F" Co.

---

Happy 4th of July!....

Let's get this started now,  
So it will be out there on the Fourth!

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA , AND  
TO THE REPUBLIC, FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD,  
INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!

God Bless all our Military, where ever they may be, for protecting our Country and our



## *517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team*

Freedom.

Thanks to them and their sacrifices, we can celebrate the 4th of July.

We must never forget who gets the credit for the freedoms we have, to them we should be eternally grateful.

\*\*\*\*\*

I watched the flag pass by one day.  
It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it,  
And then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform;  
so young, so tall, so proud.  
With hair cut square and eyes alert,  
he'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him  
had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil;  
how many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?  
No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,  
when everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play  
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times  
That Taps had meant 'Amen.'  
When a flag had draped  
a coffin of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,  
of the mothers and the wives,  
of fathers, sons and husbands  
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard  
At the bottom of the sea.  
Of unmarked graves in Arlington .  
No, freedom isn't free.



## *517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team*

Enjoy Your Freedom and God Bless Our Troops.

When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our servicemen and women.

Of all the gifts you could give a U.S. Soldier, prayer is the very best one.

---

As we celebrate the 235th anniversary of our nation's independence, let's remember that it's not just about fireworks and picnics, but rather our good fortune to live in the greatest country in the world. Thousands of people leave their homelands every day, to come to the land of the free and home of the brave, in search of the American Dream and a better life. In America, we live amongst everyday heroes, the brave men and women who serve or have served in the armed forces, our first responders, our healthcare professionals, and ordinary people who do extraordinary deeds. Let us honor and thank them each and every day. Have a safe and happy 4th of July.

Sincerely,

Debbie Gregory, CEO  
MilitaryConnection.com

### *In Memorium*

Info below forwarded from Robert Winkler, 82nd AbnDiv.

#### **Gene Frice**

---

Trooper **John Peters** 517PIR passed away Dec 2010 while living in Florida. His body was cremated and our Chapter Honor Guard, Weakland, Black, Heisler, Brick, Weaver, Anderson, Loftus and Winkler preformed the Airborne Service of Prayer, 21 Gun Salute, presentation of the Flag, and Taps at Weastern Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, Ohio on Friday 24 June 11. Jonh was a WWII Vet and served in Italy. Few of us knew him because he was ill and lived Florida for several months.

---

Kennard B. Hays 187RCT served in Korea where he had two combat jumps, received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was recognized as a distinguished member of the 187 at Fort Campbell in 2001. He was a member of the 187 Combat Team, the 187 Parachute Regiment, the 11 Abn Div Assoc and the 82nd Abn Div Assoc, Akron Chapter. Kennard was a quiet but highly respected and friendly person. We will miss him.



## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

### Martha Raye

From Katherine Kramer:

Subject: Fwd: Martha Raye - Most Interesting! Who knew?

Martha Raye,

Most of the old time entertainers were made out of a lot sterner stuff than today's crop of activists and whiners. The following is from an old Army Aviator who takes trip down memory lane:

It was just before Thanksgiving '67 and we were ferrying dead and wounded from a large GRF west of Pleiku, Vietnam. We had run out of body bags by noon, so the Hook (CH-47 CHINOOK) was pretty rough in the back. All of a sudden, we heard a 'take-charge' woman's voice in the rear.

There was the singer and actress, Martha Raye, with a Special Forces beret and jungle fatigues, with subdued markings, helping the wounded into the Chinook, and carrying the dead aboard. 'Maggie' had been visiting her Special Forces 'heroes'.



We took off, short of fuel, and headed to the USAF hospital pad at Pleiku. As we all started unloading our sad pax's, a 'Smart-Ass' USAF Captain said to Martha.... Ms. Ray, with all these dead and wounded to process, there won't be time for your show!

To all of our surprise, she pulled on her right collar and said.....Captain, see this eagle? I am a full 'Bird' Colonel in the US Army Reserve and on this is a 'Caduceus' which means I am a Nurse, with a surgical specialty. Now take me to your wounded.

He said, yes ma'am.... Follow me.

Several times at the Army Field Hospital in Pleiku, she would cover a surgical shift, giving a nurse a well-deserved break.

Martha is the only woman buried in the Special Forces cemetery at Ft. Bragg, NC.

Hand Salute!



## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

### Trivia Question -- Generals of the 517th

I have printed on the web site that eight (8) members of the 517<sup>th</sup> from WWII have gone on to become Generals. But I no longer can find the list of those men.

Can you name all the soldiers who were promoted to the rank of General?

-- BB

### 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](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.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to:

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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM