



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2061

July 24th, 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

(Possibly Not) The Last Annual Reunion of the 517th PRCT - Atlanta





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Thank you Lory Curtis and your many helpers for putting on a great reunion. Lory told me that this reunion was easier to put on than Salt Lake City his home. Frankly I think it was because so many people pitched in to help. We had 148 people at the Banquet and about 30 plus veterans in attendance.

About a week before the reunion our key note speaker had to cancel. Without missing a beat he asked General Seitz to speak. As Dick speaks from his heart he doesn't need notes. I think most of you will agree I could listen to him for hours.

Thank you to the couple that gave most of us a letter (21) pages from a Belgium lady that was written in 1972. If you haven't read yours yet please do. It gives you a whole new incite to the WWII. Most of us veterans had no idea what the foreign people and our Mothers went through.

Last I would remind you that the Florida Mini will take place in January. Brenda Mortenson will host this event.

Then in April in Palm Springs the Frice clan will host another fun Reunion in California.

Please try to attend one or both. Details will be in the Thunderbolt and Mail Call.

Darrell Egner

Attached are the news articles that were printed about the 517th PRCT's visit to Fort Benning, GA, July 15, 2011. I am sure everyone on mailcall will want to read them. It was a great reunion with now a lot of fond memories.

Airborne All the Way!

Lory Curtis

Mr. Curtis.

Hello sir. Here are some of the articles that have been done based on the 517th PIR trip to Columbus/Fort Benning, Georgia. We were honored to have you all here. Sid and I look forward to the opportunity to see you again.

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2011/07/16/1657873/wwii-veterans-return-to-post.html>

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2011/07/15/1658417/world-war-ii-paratroopers-return.html>

<http://www.gadailynews.com/news/columbus/70074-wwii-paratrooper-veterans-return-to-fort-benning.html>

Ashley Woitena

VP Convention & Travel Manager

Columbus, GA Convention & Visitors Bureau



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hello everyone,

I just want to say what a pleasure it was to see you all again and to meet Dennis Sura and others for the first time. I apologize that I was not there after Saturday morning. We had other reservations at Myrtle Beach and my family and I needed the time together. I did go down to the lobby to say goodbye but did not make it in time, the buses were already boarded. I am at our rented condo now and will write more and send in pictures from the reunion when we return home. My thoughts are with you.

Rick Sweet

To all 517th Troopers, Family and Friends of the 517th Organization:

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the wonderful Annual Reunion this past week and weekend! A tip-o-the-hat to all who had a hand in planning and pulling-off the events surrounding this 517th Reunion.

Trooper McMorrow alluded to this fact at the banquet but I believe we, many times, overlook the mention of those who stand-in-the-wings, continuing to support the 517th Mission. I would like to thank every spouse, child, grand child, and other relation who attended the Atlanta Reunion. I witnessed so many touching moments of caring and love shown not only to our 517th Troopers but to their memories.

And, I continue to be impressed with the number of 517th Troopers who attend these events and tell us about their departed spouse and others who meant so much to their lives. These stories, mostly from after 1945, need to be told and enjoyed, as are the exploits and the brave deeds accomplished in Europe prior to the return of these soldiers.

I had a lot of time to think about the past week and what took place while driving the 950 miles back to Green Bay. Tears still well-up in my eyes, and I get a lump in my throat, as I remember the 517th Troopers being called out of the audience at the graduation of the young men and women at Ft. Benning. The youngsters should be required to learn about the 517th and about the brave men who "touched" them Friday, 15Aug2011.

Sincerely,

Kenton Floyd Immerfall

Nephew of 1st Lt., CO "I", **Floyd A. Stott**

Hi Bob,

I just want to thank all of the fellows that helped me with Myrle and the wheelchair. What a glorious reunion. I know that everyone enjoyed the trips to Fort Benning (even if we did get soaking wet) and Camp Toccoa Memorial and museum. Myrle said that it sure brought back a lot of memories. We rested up Tues. and then had to be at the hospital Wed. morning for Myrle's ear surgery (cancer). We won't get the pathology report for a week a two so I will let you know the results. Thanks to all who worked on this reunion, It was grrrrreat!

Betty Traver



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Greetings my dear friends;

I am wishing you all a wonderful time at the Atlanta reunion. I am sorry I am not able to attend. I am looking forward to read about your visit with one another. I wish I could have attended.

Respectfully,

Teresa Messina (Seattle Flight Attendant)

You are invited to view vanessa armand's photo album: [July 22, 2011](#)



July 22, 2011
by vanessa armand

[View Album](#)

[Play slideshow](#)

Message from vanessa armand:

Thank you to the members of the Greatest Generation (and their families), specifically veterans of the 517th PRCT, for making this past reunion one of the best! Atlanta, Fort Benning, Camp Toccoa....

AIRBORNE! ALL THE WAY! Whoooahhhhh!

If you are having problems viewing this email, copy and paste the following into your browser:

https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreDIR?uname=114950432742668010088&target=ALBUM&id=5632238936892434209&authkey=Gv1sRgCLnU5_e4472xmQE&invite=CJbZ45AE&feat=email

To share your photos or receive notification when your friends share photos, [get your own free Picasa Web Albums account](#).



A few samples from Vanessa Armand's photo album:





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From our Newly Elected Association President

Good afternoon, Bob

It was a great honor to be elected president of our Association at our recent reunion.

There were so many reunion highlights. Despite heavy rain, I enjoyed greatly being at Fort Benning for jump school graduation and the privilege of putting wings on a new paratrooper, as well as chatting with his family afterwards. I am always surprised at the great respect they pay to us, even though I shouldn't be.

I also enjoyed seeing Toccoa again. My greatest memory there is of cleaning latrines on Easter Sunday, 1943. As you know, the 596 passed through Toccoa pretty quickly, doing our basic at MacKall. This year's visit was much better.

The reunion was a huge success. Lory Curtis and his team did an incredible job. A great part of the success of the reunion was the appearance of many extended families, including in-laws and children. Even the toddlers seemed to be enjoying themselves. We had about 29 veterans there, and the total attendance was about 150 at the banquet.

As a group, the veterans appreciated everything that so many people did to make this reunion a success. The Hospitality Room buzzed with more activity than usual, thanks to all the hard-working people who made it such a great place to visit. Helen Beddow and Brenda Mortensen worked tirelessly and, I understand, made more than a few provisioning runs to keep us supplied.

When I asked whether the group would like to have another national reunion, the response was an enthusiastic YES! from the majority there. I therefore asked Lory to start investigating places for next year's reunion, and found that he was way ahead of me. He's apparently been to every state in the union and knows every major city.

Attendees seemed to want to concentrate on airline hub cities in the middle of the country. If you have suggestions, let's hear them in Mail Call.

If you'd like to contact me, please use any of the following:

Home phone: 908 852 1424

Snail mail: 215 Mission Road, Hackettstown, NJ 07840

email: kaj596@hotmail.com

Note: email will be spotty until my newly purchased computer is installed.

Your association needs you now more than ever. Please let me know if you can contribute your time and your talent.

Thank you. AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY!

K. Allan Johnson



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Mail Call News

Hello Dear Friends and Family;

I have opened a new account with gmail. I plan to use this as my primary account.

flygirldc9@gmail.com

Please let me know if you experience any glitches. I will keep my AOL account until I know everything has followed through smoothly.

Love,

Teresa [Messina]

Hi BB and Bob

this was sent to me by a friend and I thought it was really good.

Chris [Lindner]

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Fwd: Fw: Honolulu - 1945

A dear high school friend sent this to me and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

JUST THINK HOW THIS YOUNG LADY FELT WHEN SHE DISCOVERED THE VIDEO HER FATHER SHOT

Great video of a Spontaneous Victory Parade in Honolulu in 1945.

Take a look at this video-absolutely fabulous! Notice the cars and jeeps, youth. The guys in khaki or gray shirts and black ties are Navy officers or chiefs. The rest are Army or Marine. How young they all were to do what they did.

This guy really captured a moment in history! (You can listen to Jimmy Durante singing "I'll be Seeing You" in the background, too) This is a super video of a time past - we need to remember and be THANKFUL.

Check out the color fidelity. It's not bad for 1945. Nothing will ever compare with Kodachrome film.

Click here for the video: <http://vimeo.com/5645171>



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Guestbook Entry

Submitted by

Name: **John Caylor**
From: Tennessee
E-mail:
my66stang@yahoo.com

Comments:

Hello, I am the grandson of John Dewey Caylor. I was on the internet and looking up my grandfather. I have always been proud to carry my grandfather's name, and thanks to some of the stories I found on you website it made me even more proud. He never really talked much about the war, and I have always wanted to know as much as I can about these men and the great contribution they gave to this country. I noticed my father wrote to a couple people several years back, and I will tell him he needs to get on here. If any of you guys have a story involving my grandfather I would really appreciate it if you could email me at my66stang@yahoo.com I loved my grandfather greatly and I have read his old books on the war with his writings in them and I would love to know the whole story behind his writings and not have to try to guess and figure it all out. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE VETRANS.
THANKS and GOD BLESS.

Added: July 21, 2011

In The News

Medal of Honor Recipient

Saluting a Hero



President Obama awarded the Medal of Honor today to Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Arthur Petry, an Army Ranger who lost his right hand while throwing away a live grenade that would have killed him and two of his Ranger brothers. President Obama said that Petry exhibited "a singular act of gallantry" in Afghanistan on May 26, 2008. "What leads a person to risk everything so that others may live?" Obama asked while describing the incident in which Petry "lunged forward" to grab the grenade "just as it exploded." Calling the award "such a tremendous honor," Petry thanked his family, the medical team who has worked on him, his fellow Rangers and the fallen. He also thanked his comrades and said, "to be singled out is very humbling." Petry urged Americans to support the troops who "sacrifice every day and deserve your support," and simply shake the hands of those they encounter. He stated that the best reward is "just a simple thank you"



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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 new Association Treasurer:

Joanne Barrett
70 Pleasant Street
Cohasset, MA 02025