



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2062

July 31th, 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

Still More from the Atlanta Reunion

Here are a few pictures. The first one is with General Seitz and post commander of Fort Benning, Major General Brown, who met us at the museum at Fort Benning. Next, the men of the 517th at the base of Currahee Mountain standing at the Parachute Memorial Park by the 517th Monument. **Lory Curtis**





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Hey, Bob -

Wow, wow, wow! What a fabulous time we all just had in Atlanta at the reunion! Lory Curtis did an outstanding, phenomenal job, and so did Morris McDowell, Brenda Mortenson, Helen Beddow, Mike Wells and so many others. It was an unbelievably special time.

This was my first trip to Benning, my first to Toccoa, and it was better than I'd hoped! Unbelievable to see where our favorite vets were, see them pin wings on new troopers, and be treated like visiting royalty at both Benning and Toccoa. Lory did a phenomenal job making all the arrangements with all the right people. The concert Thursday night was excellent, as was the singer at Benning and the cocktail hour music for the banquet. It was wonderful.

It is an honor to be part of this great association. These guys are the best, and as we watched them enjoy themselves at the reunion, and all the people who came because these guys are such an attraction, just made us want to do it again. Robin Frice Homeydeu (sp?) said it best: as long as these guys can get together, there is NOTHING like a national reunion.

Plus it gets all the rest of us together too! We make new friends at every reunion, and at the next reunion, they are the old friends.

We were happy to see so many first-time attendees this year, and hope to see them next year in Kissimmee, Palm Springs, and the To Be Announced site. Keep it up!

Airborne all the way -

Claire Giblin

Dear Bob:

It was wonderful being with you and Joanne, thank you for all your family does for the 517th. Please let Lory, Helen, Brenda and the many others who helped know how much we appreciate the outstanding reunion of the 517th they gave us all. Alan and I have savored each reunion we have attended and each has been unique and so very special. The same goes doubly for this reunion. The opportunity to spend time with the men and their wonderful families was beyond description -- thank you.

We are so very grateful to Col. Cummings and his outstanding folks for their arrangements at Ft. Benning (love the picture of the men in the Officers' Club's dining room and the stories that came out about the balcony in that room). The folks at Toccoa were equally wonderful and the 1943 photos of the camp plus seeing the mount now vividly illustrate all the stories that the men have shared.

Also, please let Vanessa know how infectious her energy and spirit are and how much we appreciate the pictures she has shared. I am sending Joanne a check for dues for this year and Alan will be working with Howard Hensleigh on the legal issues raised at the meeting.

We have been so inspired by this reunion we will be going to the August 6th ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery as part of the remembrance to honor the southern invasion force.

Most sincerely,
Pat Seitz and Alan Greer



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Here are a few more pictures, the first one is Sid Kaminsky, Vice President of Leisure Travel & Convention Sales, Columbus, GA Convention & Visitors Bureau, briefing our group at the Fort Benning Museum, then Alan Johnson, Leo Dean, Hal Beddow, Gene Frice, and Al Sperry. The 517th troopers after our banquet.

Lory Curtis



It was a great reunion and it's hard to think it is over now. I am already missing everyone. Thank you Darrell for your kind words. I did find this reunion much easier, and you are correct, it was because I had so much help and support. I especially want to thank the following people for helping me put this reunion on. First of all General Seitz who without his leadership I am sure I would have faltered. He assisted me greatly with coordinating our trip to Fort Benning and arranging for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be our guest speaker. Unfortunately, world situations required the Admiral to be elsewhere. Yesterday, I did receive a hard copy of his letter that I read from my email at the banquet. I will send a copy to Bob to be put on mailcall so everyone can see it. Next, I am so indebted to Helen Beddow, and Brenda Mortensen. As has been mentioned they kept the hospitality room alive and clicking which in my opinion was the best part of our reunion. Thank you so much, I couldn't have done it without you. My many thanks to my brother Tim, Mike Wells, Claire Giblin, Joe, Heather, and Justin Riley who helped me tremendously getting things ready for the reunion and then making sure everything went off without a hitch. Finally, to our Past President, Merle McMorrow, without his guidance and leadership the reunion would not have been as successful as it was. Also, my many thanks to the folks who helped at our reunion table helping us sell 517th memorabilia to raise money for our association.

Now, I had so much fun at this reunion I want to do it again. Our President, Alan Johnson has put out the call for interest in another reunion. I feel it is the midwest's turn to host a reunion, and Kansas City, Missouri seems to be a great place to assemble. The National World War I museum is there, the Truman Library and museum (which is a great place to visit), the Vaile Mansion in Independence, and many more fun things to do, especially just visiting in the hospitality room. Put your comments on mailcall. Once again a great time was had by all in Atlanta.

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



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Bob,

I knew I would forget to mention someone who helped so much at the reunion. That was Morris McDowell. Morris arranged for the Band concert and the music at our banquet. Morris drove us all over Atlanta making sure we had ice, and posters. You name it, Morris did it. Morris, I am so sorry I forgot mention you. Don't get old it's hard to remember. Thank you again for all the hard work you did, and thanks for the harder work you will be doing as one of our new vice presidents of the 517th PRCT Association.

Lory Curtis

Bob, Claire, and Helen,

Attached is the Letter from Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the 517th men. Please post this on mailcall, and the Thunderbolt.

Lory Curtis

[See Next page]

Mail Call News

Dear Webmaster,

my name is Flavio Laina, I work in Belgium and since five years I spend my holidays in Follonica. I discovered last year that the 517 PRCT liberated the area and went on Monte Peloso (where I plan to go again in the coming days).

It seems to me that the fight for Follonica is less documented. My project for this summer would be to find the combat location of this "high ground" north of Follonica that was seized and defended by 2nd Battalion. I would be grateful if you could send me any detailed account you might have. I'll send you pictures of the locations I might be able to identify.

Pls let me know whether you would like to receive pictures of the various battle locations as they stand now. I am not sure I can go down til Grosseto but I'll see what I can do.

Kind regards.

Flavio Laina

fb213422@skynet.be



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9998

TO THE VETERANS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE 517TH PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

It is with deep regret my wife Deborah and I are unable to join you in person this evening in Atlanta. On behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I wish to extend our greetings and best wishes to everyone gathered for this very special reunion.

It is difficult to pinpoint what made a unit like the 517th so uncommonly successful in battle and so distinctive in character. Some point to your intensive and isolated training in the hinterlands of northeastern Georgia. Others, like Joe Miller, said that from the bottom looking up, "It was leadership."

Some believe it was the 517th's spirit of family and that you couldn't bear to let your brothers down. Tom Cross simply offered, "You had the feeling that the 517th would always be home for you."

Whatever it was that made the 517th a first-class fighting force with esprit and élan second to none, perhaps only those who fought under its banner can truly understand why the bonds between its own have endured so long after the guns fell silent.

I remember that strength in my own Uncle Charlie, known to many of you as First Sergeant Chuck Boyer in Headquarters 3rd Battalion. His sense of duty, accountability and loyalty that has characterized so many from your generation has stayed with me and guided many of the decisions I have made during my own time in uniform.

On behalf of the 2.2 million men and women serving in the Armed Forces today, thank you for your extraordinary example of service and leadership and for your unflinching determination and grit. You and your families are truly an inspiration to us all. Good evening and God Bless!

Sincerely,

M. G. MULLEN
Admiral, U.S. Navy



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Bob,

A friend email this to me, may be something to put on mailcall.

Lory Curtis

Subject: Fwd: FW: Fw: Taken at the National Cemetery in Minneapolis

What a "gift" for all those guys! I hope this photo circles the globe.

Inspiring...

It speaks for itself...

A Picture from the Mpls. Star/Tribune taken on a June morning at the Minneapolis National Cemetery.



photo by Frank Glick-MSP



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Subject: Information on Lt. Aaron Shore

Hi Ben,

I found my grandfather's name (Lt. Aaron Shore) on your mailing list and was wondering if you had any memories or stories you might share of him, we have been searching and searching and finally ran into some posts. Do you know anyone in his company or platoon who we can contact? I believe he served as lieutenant in G company. I believe his name is listed in a monument in Normandy do you know where this might be? We are in Caen for the day, anything you think we should visit? I'm sorry I didn't see this until today, if there is any information I can share with you, please let me know, I can ask my grandmother.

I'd also like to subscribe to the mailing list.

Thank you for your help and time,

Daniel

Daniel Fernández de Córdoba Shore [mailto: ddshore@gmail.com]

Daniel,

I will include your question in the next weekly MailCall. I will let you know if I hear any answers.

I did find a couple of references in old MailCalls: #425, 433, and 443, which you can find on <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/>

I'm not sure if he was in Co. G/ 517th or part of the 509th. Both were assigned to General Ridgway.

Bob Barrett
MailCall@517prct.org

OK I am working on the thunderbolt and have waded my way through and up to July.

Who the heck was the 8th general to come out of the 517?

The suspense is killing me.

Claire

[Me too. I thought I had a list of 8 a few years ago, but I can't find it. Can anyone help? – BB]



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Guestbook Entries

Submitted by

Name: **Jim Miller**
From: Citrus Heights CA,
E-mail:
coachmiller2028@yahoo.com

Comments:

I was unable to make the reunion, how was it?

Added: July 29, 2011

Submitted by

Name: **Carol Monkhouse**
From: born in ft benning 47 I
E-mail:
oldmom_59@hotmail.com

Comments:

Hi ev 1 This is a note to say hello Ben and all I have been working very hard on dads family tree I feel his presents with me and all my relatives who are gone.I miss him so you think after 37 yrs it gets easier.his bday was july 4 his 85 bday.
All My Love Carol Monkhouse

Added: July 24, 2011

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