



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2063

August 7, 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

From: "Stephens County Historical Society Currahee Military Museum"

<toccoahistory@windstream.net>

Sent: Monday, August 1, 2011 10:04:19 AM

Subject: RE: paratroopers odyssey/ brenda carlan

Good morning, Paratrooper Egner,

You have no idea how excited we are that your association chose to visit Toccoa for the day, it was an honor to have you, fellow paratroopers and families visit. I have been on vacation for the last week, just checked the mail and the book has arrived. Thank you for the book and to you and the entire 517th PRCT for all you have done for each of us here in our great USA!!! We will hope each of you will return again for more of our Toccoa hospitably.

Respectfully, Brenda

Keep in mind; Tomorrow, today will be history.

Brenda J. Carlan
Executive Director
Currahee Military Museum
Stephens County Historical Society, Inc.
160 North Alexander Street
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517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

-----Original Message-----

From: bigdegner@comcast.net [mailto:bigdegner@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 5:24 PM

To: toccoahistory@windstream.net

Subject: paratroopers odyssey/ brenda carlan

Hi Brenda

All of us from the 517 really enjoyed our visit. You and your helpers really put together a fine Museum. I arrived in Toccoa in March 1943. I looked out the train window and saw the red clay so I told my buddy they are killing people right off the train. He talked me into joining the Paratrooper's but he didn't make the cut. By the way we don't have red clay in Minnesota.

As promised I mailed Paratroopers Odyssey today for your Library. Please let me know when you receive it. This book was written by one of our guys Clark Archer. It was first published in 1985 and the one I am sending is like the one you have displayed in the 517 PRCT room only updated.

You will note inside the front cover General Seitz and I signed the this book. When we were at Toccoa the General was a Major. I signed as President but finished my 2 year term about 3 years ago. This is the only book I had so you will just have to put up with an old Paratrooper.

Keep up the good work, us old guys really appreciate the tremendous amount of work you do.

Darrell Egner

Hello Bob and 517th friends and family,

Attached are pictures from the Atlanta reunion. I regret that I had to leave on Saturday morning. Time went by in a flash and I missed out on meeting and talking with so many people. Also my pain and disabilities caught up with me and I spent too much time laying down in my room. I did have a great time with all of you and the pictures are a testament to that. It was great seeing Myrle and Betty Travers again and Lory and Tim Curtis and Morris McDowell and his wife Beverly also. I enjoyed talking with Claire Giblin too and I got to meet Dennis Sura for the first time and others.... For me, two days were not enough! You are all like an extended family and very special to me. The next reunion I will try harder to stay for the entire time. On the trip to Ft Benning we were all treated like royalty and it was such a treat to see the paratroopers get their wings. The food at the officers club was very good.....hmmmmmm. I wonder if it is the same for the enlisted men? Anyway, it was great seeing all of you and meeting people that I haven't had the opportunity to talk with yet. Thanks to all of you that helped put this thing together. I am so happy that they have decided on having a next last reunion!!! Airborne all the way!

S.O.B.

Rick Sweet



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Pictures from the Atlanta reunion

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This online album has 22 photos and will be available on SkyDrive until 11/01/2011.



See:

<https://skydrive.live.com/?cid=61a12edb4be1ec65&sc=photos&Bsrc=Photomail&Bpub=SDX.Photo&id=61A12EDB4BE1EC65%211013&sff=1>

Bob



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I know this is late in reply, but I must say to Lory and all of his helpers a huge thank you for a great reunion in Atlanta. The committees involved are to be commended for all their input. I look forward to future reunions. Alan Johnson, can we somehow meet somewhere in the middle of the country? Myrle Traver was to have ear surgery after the reunion. I pray all went well, and hope to hear of successful surgery from Betty.

kindest regards,
Mel Dahlberg

Bob,

First of all: Bob, Kudos to you for the effort that you give for the 517th. My hat is off to many people who made the reunion so great, Lory, Tim, Helen, Brenda, Heather, Joe, Justin, General, Merle, (hope I did not miss anyone) and all of the wonderful Veterans that came when they did not feel like coming. It was great to see so many of the Veterans I have met at past reunions, and appreciate them so much, It was like a family reunion, and meeting new friends, Dennis & Cathy Sura, Mike & Rhonda Wells, Joseph Calder Hq 'H' co. George and Mark Hanson, it was fantastic to see Benning again, I enjoyed it so much I went back the following Monday and watched helicopter jumps. I even toured the parachute loft and watched chutes being packed. Here are a couple of pictures I hope you will enjoy. do I want another? Yes!

Morris McDowell



Just a note to some of the others who gave me photos and materials to print at the Atlanta reunion: I haven't lost it yet. I have a pile of other things to post on the web site and in the MailCall. It may take me a few weeks to get to it all. I have to find some free time. Not to mention that it looks like PC is about ready to quit on me. Ouch. It may take me a while to rebuild a new one and move everything over. Thanks for your patience. -- Bob Barrett



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Mail Call News

Dick Seitz at Kansas State University presents a copy of Paratroopers Odyssey to Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Admiral Mullen's uncle Chuck Boyer served with the 517th during WWII. Chuck was in the 3rd Battalion. 2009



[Pat Seitz gave me this photo back in 2009. I misplaced it, but now it is found. Sorry to take so long. – BB]

A fellow called me to see if anyone was at the reunion that possibly knew his uncle that never made it to Italy. We had two men die on the ship on the way over. He was a nephew to one of them and would like to contact someone that might have known Frankie Sopo in the 460th. He was a T/4 radio operator.

His name is Paul Hoylen at 221 West Pine, Deming, NM 88030 (575-546-9559) He was born in 1952.

Merle

TIME AGAIN FOR MY DUES, ARE THEY STILL \$30.00 PER YEAR?? TOM McAVOY, THANKYOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR REPLY

[I'll have to check with our new Treasurer (Joanne B.) on this. But as you point out, it is getting near August 14th, the anniversary of Operation Dragoon. That's a great time to remember to renew your membership and pay your dues. – BB]



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Good morning, Bob –

Dad (Allan Johnson, 596) and I traveled to Washington, DC yesterday to see Dick Seitz receive the Legion of Honor from the French government yesterday. This was the annual Operation Dragoon event, coordinated by Captain Monika Stoy (Ret) of the 3rd Infantry Division. The other three recipients were from the 3rd ID, I believe.

Also present were Gene Frice and Jeanne Davis, Tom Copsey and the entire Seitz family. It might have qualified as a mini-mini reunion - such a treat to see far-flung friends twice in a summer!

Dad and I arrived at Arlington's Memorial Amphitheater early - about an hour before the ceremony. I was able to walk around to the adjacent Tomb of the Unknowns and view a really special sight: the lone Tomb guard, standing watch all alone. There were no TourMobile hoards, no other workers or spectators in sight: just the Tomb guard, doing his duty, observed by only me.

Guests and hosts started arriving at the Amphitheater, and the ceremony began as the clock struck 9 exactly. The US Army Brass Quintet provided wonderful music, the Fort Belvoir Color Guard did a great job, and former Miss DC, dubbed Miss Dragoon, Jennifer Corey sang the national anthem beautifully. Mr. Frederic Dore, introduced as the Charge d'Affairs from the French Embassy, provided heartfelt remarks and thanks to the veterans of WWII - at least 14 were present yesterday.

Jordan Seitz, Rick's daughter, participated in the moving Missing in Action Ceremony, remembering those missing and their families.

LTG Richard Zahner provided the keynote address, giving a fantastic history lesson on the importance of Dragoon.

I am still stunned by the highest profile guest in attendance: soon-to-be CIA chief General David Petraeus. As she started the ceremony, Captain Monika Stoy asked if General Petraeus wouldn't prefer to sit in the front. Sitting at least three rows back, he hooked his good friend into an affectionate elbow hug and replied that he was sitting with his buddy here (a gentleman named Yeater, I believe). Stoy replied that that was what airborne buddies were all about, but that she'd never seen a 4-star general sit behind so many people.

One of the photos I attached is of Petraeus greeting our own Dick Seitz, captured right after their greeting hug; he also posed with the recipients and French representatives after the ceremony.

A wreath was then laid at the Tomb of the Unknowns. By now, there were hundreds of spectators at the site.

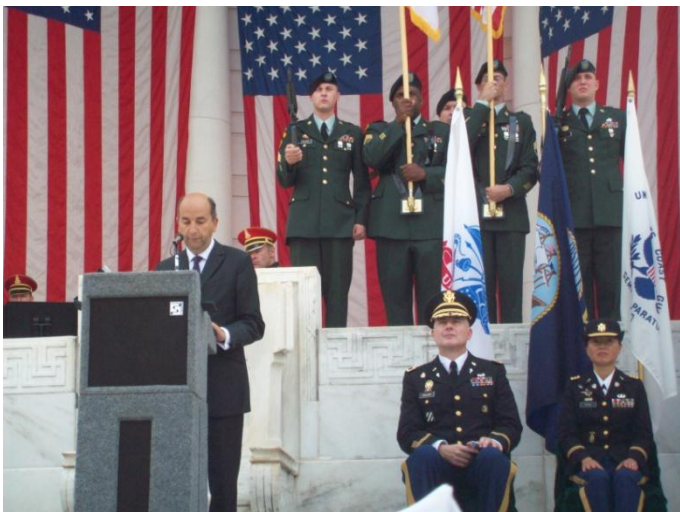
It was just a fantastic morning. There had been events the day before and a banquet was scheduled for last night; I hope that others can report on those experiences.

Congratulations to the 517's own Dick Seitz on receiving the Legion of Honor! Airborne all the way!

Claire Giblin



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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: Please make all checks payable to the

517 PRCT Association, Inc.
c/o Joanne Barrett
70 Pleasant Street
Cohasset, MA 02025