



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2069

September 19, 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

“Letters Home, A Paratrooper’s Story” – the Movie!

Bob,

Wanted to let everyone know that a portion of the book I wrote about my Dad, *Letters Home, A Paratrooper's Story* is being made into a low budget movie. See the attached picture with me and the 3 main stars of the film. The soldier standing to my left, Jason Wade is playing my Dad. I was invited to be on the movie set this past Friday and got to watch how a movie is made. Boy there is a lot that goes into it. This coming Saturday I get to be an extra in the movie. The movie will revolve around 3 517th paratroopers who are separated from their unit during operation Dragoon. The story is mainly fictional but the paratroopers are 517th men all the way. The movie will be completed by December, and I don't know yet when it will be out. I will keep you informed.

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





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Mary Fran Barrett Ceremony at Arlington National

This past weekend, the Barrett family got together in Arlington VA for the funeral ceremony for Lt. Mary Fran (Lawlor) Barrett. She was honored with a formal ceremony at Arlington National, including a bugler and a 21-gun salute. Fran was buried next to Ben Barrett's grave. This was the first time in 45 years that all 11 first cousins (Fran's 6 children and her brother Bill's 5 children) had been together in one place. Also attending were the grandchildren and many family friends. Tom Copsey, son of John Copsey of I Company, who lives in the area also attended. We got to know Tom well during our travels to France with Ben in 2009, and we thank him for attending the ceremony and representing our connection to the 517th family.



One unusual thing was pointed out to us. Ben served in WWII as a Staff Sergeant with the 515th, but he volunteered to take a demotion to a Corporal rank only so that he could get shipped to Europe and join the fighting with the 517th. Since his loyalties are to the 517th, we listed Ben as a Corporal on his headstone. Either way, it turns out that since Fran was an Army nurse Lieutenant, she outranks Ben and was offered a significantly larger ceremony at ANC. I only point this out only because I know that Ben would have gotten a good laugh out of it.



While we were at ANC, we took some time to tour the cemetery, including the Women in Military Service Memorial where Fran is listed, the Kennedy family graves, the Battle of the Bulge monument (left) and the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (below left). In the building right behind the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, we found a plaque from the 517th.



The plaque (right) reads:

*In Memory of
The World War II Unknown Soldier
And The Members of the
517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team
Who Fell on the Battlefields of Europe*



Don't forget to look for this tribute next time you visit Arlington.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

"short snorter" signed by 44 members of HQ Co, 1st Battalion

Bob,

I have an item in my possession that I would like to share with you and the veterans at the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team website. I have included in this message a link to a militaria collecting website where you can preview it. If interested, I can provide high-res scans for posting to your website. I am particularly anxious to hear from any surviving vets who signed or their family members who frequent the site.

Regards.

--- Mike Allard

Clinton, MS

Yes, Mike, with you permission, I would like to post it on the website and also send out your note and the pictures with the next MailCall newsletter, which I send out almost weekly. I can just take the images right from your posting, if you're OK with that.

That's a great story. I was unfamiliar with the "short snorter" tradition. I'm sure it will bring back some memories for the troopers. I don't know if any of those signers are still around, but I'm sure that I'll hear from anyone who was. Some of the names are familiar to me, including Harlan (Bud) Curtis, whose sons are both active with the 517th reunions.

Thanks!

Bob Barrett

Bob---

I have attached larger scans of the front and back of the "short snorter." You can resize them as needed. Hopefully, the posting will draw comments from the vets or family members who receive the newsletter or visit the website. Let me know that you have received them okay.

---Mike

"Fantastic "short snorter" signed by 44 members of HQ Company of the 1st Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment. As part of the 517th PRCT, the unit saw fighting in Italy, parachuted into Southern France ("Operation Dragoon"), and was part of the force rushed to stop the German breakthrough in the Ardennes ("Battle of the Bulge"). Much info on the men and their service can be found on the "517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team" website."

[See next page]



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



"Jack J. Larson"--Jack J. Larson
 "Don Rufener"--Donald K. Rufener
 "Carl Larsen"--Carl G. Larsen
 "Danny Fisher"--Daniel A. Fisher (KIA-15 AUG 44)
 "Lloyd R. H."--Lloyd R. Hilsabeck
 "William Sanford"--William J. Sanford
 "Dale E. Booth"--Dale E. Booth
 "Ray Johnson"--Raymond ? Johnson
 "Joe Sumpter"--Joseph Sumpter
 "Joseph C. Morton"--Joseph C. Morton
 "Pat Petrulo"--Patsy M. Petrulo

"R. M. Jones"--Robert M. Jones
 "A. F. Beam (Barney)"--Alvin F. Beam
 "Orville Downey"--Orville E. Downey
 "John Forrest"--John W. Forrest
 "Ed Jolly"--Edward M. Jolly
"H. L. Curtis"--Harland L. Curtis
 "Ed Easterly"--Edward Y. Easterly
 "Bob Tillery"--Robert L. Tillery
 "Bob Lynch"--Robert ? Lynch
 "Frank Stegert"--Francis X. Stegert
 "Ramon Mendoza Jr."--Ramon Mendoza Jr.



"Walter Duzinski"--Walter S. Duzinski
"Marvin D. Tetrick"--Marvin D. Tetrick
 "R. K. Clink"--Ralph K. Clink
 "'Spike' Alspaugh"--Clarence E. Alspaugh
"John Russell"--John D./J. Russell
 "Ray Woods"--Raymond H. Woods
 "Bill Beckstrom"--Wilbur R. Beckstrom
 "L. Dombos"--Lowell Dombos
 "Richard M. Hellon"--Richard M. Hellon
 "Bob Webber"--Robert B. Webber
 "L.A. Holly"--Lawrence A. Holly

"Bob Fidler"--Bobby Fidler (KIA-23 DEC 44)
 "Joe Sliakis"--Joseph P. Sliakis
 "Ted Pierce"--Teddy P. Pierce
 "Gordon Lippman"--Gordon Lippman
 "John Kallen"--John Kallen
"J. A. 'Wahoo Reno' Vesco"--James A. Vesco
 "Tamerlano"--William P. Tamerlano
 "K. S. Glore"--Kenneth S. Glore
 "Clifford Williams"--Clifford L. Williams
 "Pvt John T. Marsinko"--John T. Marsinko
 "Sgt D. C. J. Coleman"--Daniel C. J. Coleman



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From <http://www.shortsnorter.org/> :

A short snorter is a banknote which was signed by various persons traveling together or meeting up at different events and records who was met. The tradition was started by bush pilots in Alaska in the 1920's and subsequently spread through the growth of military and commercial aviation. If you signed a short snorter and that person could not produce it upon request, they owed you a dollar or a drink (a "short snort", aviation and alcohol do not mix!).

MailCall News

Bob: You really do have a flair for putting Mail Calls together. The pictures of the before, during and after the Col de Braus repairs of President Allan Johnson and those pictures of him and Claire during their visit this summer were outstanding. Through the pictures and your display bring the story and bravery vividly to life. Thank you.

Pat and Alan

[Pat, as I've said before, I'm just the scribe. The pictures were all from Gilles Guignard. – BB]

I saw the pictures of me in sandals and shorts. They were borrowed from our host, Roland, and were far more comfortable than anything I had worn before on the trip. I've often wondered how our British comrades seem to look untroubled by the heat in their blazers which look heavier than ours.

As to the location, I finally got a chance to see it again. I should explain that I had nothing to do with the repair, but I was there for a short time before my group was called away for something else. I've often thought in later years that our **Captain Dalrymple** must have a difficult time just keeping track of his company. After the jump we were rarely together: one platoon here, one squad there, and another somewhere else. However, he got the jobs done.

But back to my brief involvement. Two events I remember. A path, perhaps two or three feet wide was being cleared so that at least a person could walk across the space that had been blown out. One of our group slid and was a few feet down on the loose rock. A few feet more and he would be over. Two or three of us with outstretched arms reached him and carefully got him back. I remember him saying as we were reaching, "Now be careful boys." We were.

The other involved carrying wounded across same stretch. One soldier, in a stretcher, seemed apprehensive when he looked out and saw only open space. In an attempt to reassure him I said, "Don't sweat. If you go over we're going with you."

Fortunately, that part ended well.

Regards to all,

Allan Johnson



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Roger Sullivan asked for information on his father, **George A. Sullivan, A Company**. Here's what I have from A Company Morning Reports.

Mike Wells

Company	A	A
Name	Sullivan George A	Sullivan George A
Rank	PFC	PFC
Date of Morning Report	20-Sep-1944	18-Oct-1944
Army Serial Number	36652972	36652972
MOS	745	7745
Location (City and Country, or number)	Tet de Lavina, France	Touet de L'Escarene, France
Activity notation	Fy to abs sk to trfd to Det of Patients 7th Army LD NBC.	reasgd & jd fr Det of Patients 7th Army LD NBC
Signing Authority	E. H. Schofield, CWO, USA	E. H. Schofield, CWO, USA

To: webmaster@517prct.org

I'm not sure who I'm addressing but I do custom artwork designs for shirts/posters and I have a few 517th posters that I would be willing to donate as giveaways or whatever at your next event or reunion. Let me know if you're interested. Here's the link to some:

<http://www.infidelsincorporated.com/ii/posters/91-517th-parachute-regimental-combat-team-poster.html>
<http://www.infidelsincorporated.com/ii/posters/89-517th-airborne-poster.html>

All the way!

Kelly --

Kelly S. Hyde

Airborne Ranger Designs | Infidels Incorporated

tele: (704) 951-RNGR

site: <http://www.airbomranger.com>

store: <http://www.infidelsincorporated.com>

twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/airbomranger>

fbook: <http://www.facebook.com/airbomranger>



Emails bouncing:

For the last few MailCall's sent out, they have been rejected (bounced) for the following people:

- Ray Hess
- Virginia Wells
- Bernard McKeon

I believe that Bernard McKeon passed away, but I'm pretty sure that Ray Hess is still around since we met with him at the Atlanta reunion. If anyone has his email, let me or him know. -- BB



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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: Identify the purpose of any donation (Annual Dues, etc.) and make all checks payable to:

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



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