



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2071

October 2, 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

MailCall News

Bob, I spoke with the movie producer and I can now say something about the movie that was made about the 517th and my Dad. The story line is frictional, but does represent the 517th. Attached please see the link below for the movie teaser. The movie is being called Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed. Ryan Little, the producer has had a number of other memorable movies, foremost is Saints and Soldiers, and Forever Strong. These are great movies and I would encourage everyone to see them on DVD. I am told the movie should be out this coming spring 2012.

Airborne All the Way!

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

Subject: NEW MOVIE ANNOUNCEMENT:; SAINTS AND SOLDIERS AIRBORNE CREED FIRST TEASER, NOW ON YOUTUBE-DIG IT

CHECK IT OUT; YOU'RE THE FIRST TO SEE IT!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSRIXYurtE8&feature=youtu.be>

[Note: There are a lot of other videos under the "Saints and Soldiers" title. But only the one above, "Saints and Soldiers – Airborne Creed" is based on Lory's story and the 517th.]



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Hi Bob,

Thanks for all your work with MailCall. A fitting tribute to your Mom to rest at Arlington with your Dad. Your parents were wonderful people. It was such an honor for me to be at the last reunion with all the troopers, families and decedents. I was so pleased to see pictures from Belgium with Irma and Arnold. I was a bit concerned about our friends in Trois Pont, and I'm glad to see they are fine. Great thanks to them for always remembering the 517th in such a special way. If I get to Europe this summer I will hope to visit them. The story about the Short Snorter is just too cool. When **Walter Smith** explained on MailCall about **Danny Fisher** it took on a new meaning because dad told his story, but I never had a name. The fact that dad signed that during the war makes it all the more special. I also now know why when I traveled up to Col de Braus the road was safe, thanks to the engineering efforts of **Allan Johnson**. Those were great pictures. Congrats to **Mike Wells** on accomplishing a marathon. Truly something when you're not 30 any more. And finally, cheers to my brother for getting a film made based upon his book and the 517th. (Of course you know my brother only cheers with ginger ale.) Can't wait until next Sunday's MailCall.

Tim Curtis son of **H.L. Bud Curtis** and Lory's brother!

Subject: Arlington - 45 years

I had a chuckle and a tear in my eye as I read your account of all your cousins, after 45 years, meeting to honor your Mom and Dad at Arlington. I totally agree that Ben would have had that "devilish smile" on his face as you referred to which parent was the higher rank. Too funny!

The #2069 Mail Call was also interesting because I learned about "Short Snort." What these guys didn't come up with...I tell ya!

Thanks for all of your and Joanne's efforts. They do NOT go unnoticed!!!

Kenton Floyd Immerfall
Nephew of Floyd A. Stott - "I" Co 517 PRCT

We are so grateful to **Irma and Arnold Targnion** for sharing the pictures of the 517th remembrance at Trois Ponts. The steadfast dedication they and Marie have made over these many years to promoting the remembrance of the 517th, preserving the history and places of engagement and saluting the valiant efforts and heroic sacrifices of the men of the 517th are noteworthy role models for us all. In addition, Alan, I and many other children and grandchildren of the 517th men have been extraordinarily blessed by their kindness and generosity when we had the privilege to walk our fathers' battle field in Belgium. We cannot begin to say thank you enough. May the Good Lord bless them in every way.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

PS To **Mike Wells** -- Congratulations on completing your marathon; what a feat -- you have done the men of the 517th proud.



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I'm with ya Mike (Wells).

All the Best,

Paul Abbene

Wounded Warrior Project - Soldier Ride -
Montauk /Hamptons 7/23/2011.



Dear friends,

On sept 22, the new grave adopters have received their official awards. This paper is not just a paper, it's for us grave adopters the same with a birth act. This year 400 personnes have received a heroes grave. They are; old, young, teenager, student, man, woman from Belgium, Holland, France and also one from Switzerland. By this act we want to tell to the USA "They are not forgotten and they will never".

God Bless America

Sgt Dominique Potier
Belgium Army



Grave adoption

2011 <----- [Click here to see all the pictures](#)

[VOIR LE DIAPORAMA](#)

[TOUJ
TÉLÉCHARGER](#)

[AJOUTER D'AUTRES PHOTOS](#)

Cet album en ligne comporte 18 photos et restera disponible sur SkyDrive jusqu'au 29/12/2011.





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Bob,

This is for **Walt Smith**: Thank you so much for your story about the combat jump. I remember my Dad telling me of a trooper who was told to climb up a power pole and cut the lines. Dad said he was electrocuted. I never knew who the man was. Now I do. As far as the other man being wounded or killed, I do not remember Dad ever telling me that story. Below is a letter my Dad wrote home to his Mom about his experience during the combat jump. Like you Walt he stated the fog looked like water. In fact he kept trying to release himself from his harness thinking he was going into the water. Thank goodness the harness was too tight, and he could not get it to release. If it would have who knows what my last name would be? Anyway here is the letter and thanks so much for writing into mailcall with your remembrance. All my best to you and your family for good health.

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

Letter to Mom from **Harland L. Curtis**

Combat Jump into Southern France

August 15, 1944 as recorded by Bud on August 22, 1944

Dear Mom,

We boarded C-47's (the twin engine plane that was used by paratroopers) in Italy (Chiteviccia) about 2:30 am and had a nice pleasant ride with no opposition at all. Most of us were asleep until almost time to jump. They woke us up and said we would be over the field in eight minutes. That was about 5:00 am. We stood up and hooked up. It seemed like years went by as those last minutes ticked off. I was number 13 man. The green light came on and guys began to disappear in front of me. Then there I was at the door. I had a hell of a body position. I went out of the door like I was throwing a flying block with my right shoulder at somebody. I was heading down nose first when "Wham" she opened and jerked me back up right. I looked up to make sure my chute was open and then I looked around. We must have jumped awfully high because I thought I was never going to come down. There was a low fog about a 100 feet off the ground and it looked just like water. I really thought my number was up for sure. I was cussing the Air Corps and all their ancestors for 17 generations back.

When I sank through the mist I was just beginning to figure it all out when "Thud" I hit the ground. I will never forget that morning. I was miles away from the jump field. Later I found out that it was a good thing I didn't land on the jump field as the Germans had it all ready for us with mines, machine guns, and flame throwers. All I could see was forms of trees through the fog. I cut myself out of my chute and when I stood up I seemed to have lost my sense of balance. I fell down and rolled down the side of a mountain a few yards. I stood up again, and did the same thing again. I stood up again and took a couple of steps and fell off a ledge about 10 feet high and about broke my neck. There was dry grass all over and every step I took you could hear it for a mile. I decided to lay still for a while and see if I could figure out where I was at. I didn't know which way to go. I heard somebody moving a little ways in front of me. I shouted the password at him hoping it was one of our guys, but instead of getting the right answer I got a couple of bullets just over my head. I took off for a big rock and figured I would have it out with the guy, but then I heard somebody behind me. Once again I made the mistake of hoping it was one of our guys and shouted the password to him and got my answer in hot lead. It was so foggy we couldn't see each other but we could hear every move each of us made.

There must have been a whale of a patrol around me and every step I took away from them I could hear them coming closer. I knew as long as it stayed foggy I could hold them off, but it began to get light and I decided the best thing to do was make a run for it and hope they would miss. I took off zig zagging and they opened up on me, but I was lucky and got to the other side of the hill and down in the valley and there I met some of our own guys.

We climbed over another hill and came to a road and met up with most of the company. Ever since then I haven't had much trouble. In fact the Germans are running to fast. I haven't seen one for days.

End of the letter



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The following information may be of some assistance to our 517th members and spouses. I have copied the article and enclosed the pdf file for your use.

[ASSISTEDLIVINGBENEFITARTICLE.pdf](#)

Respectfully

Frank Ramos

ASSISTED LIVING BENEFIT

Little-known Assisted Living Benefit

June 29, 2009

10meters.com

Little-known Benefit Can Help Vets, And Spouses, with Assisted Living

Here is some old but good news for veterans of modest means who were in service during wartime and need medical and nursing care.

On Dec. 19, 2006, then-Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson issued a press release "to inform wartime veterans and surviving spouses of deceased wartime veterans about an underused, special monthly pension benefit called 'Aid and Attendance.'"

The press release stated, "Although this is not a new program, not everyone is aware of his or her potential eligibility. The Aid and Attendance pension benefit may be available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing homes or assisted-living facilities." Eligible veterans need not have served overseas or in combat; they must have served during the period of a war: World War II, Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946; Korea, June 27, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955; Vietnam, Aug. 5, 1964-May 7, 1975; Persian Gulf War, Aug. 2, 1990 to a date not yet determined.

The press release got little notice, perhaps because Veterans Affairs wanted to save money. But it has surfaced among veterans and elder lawyers such as Frank L. Buquicchio of Islandia, who is accredited by the VA to give advice to and represent veterans. The head of his law firm, Vincent Russo, said that, other than the press release, the VA had chosen not to publicize this benefit. But, he added, "It can be a lifesaver for veterans and their spouses because the additional monthly payment from the VA can make assisted living more affordable."

As word of the benefit got around, elder law firms throughout the country became active in pursuing the benefit for clients. Buquicchio noted that, under federal law "no one, not even attorneys, can charge veterans for the pension application." Aid and Attendance, he told me, is meant "for the veteran or surviving spouse who have unreimbursed medical expenses. (The cost of health insurance is considered a nonreimbursed medical expense.) It is most ideally suited for someone who needs assistance at home and is paying for an aide or is in assisted living. Assisted-living charges are considered by the VA as a medical expense." Assisted living is not supported by Medicaid.

Buquicchio added that the eligible income and asset levels are similar to Medicaid, but not as restrictive. The person's home is exempt, and the VA will do an "age analysis" to determine if the veteran (or surviving spouse) has sufficient assets to pay for his or her own care. The basic requirement is that the veteran requires ongoing



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aid and attendance for the performance of activities of daily living.

This requirement is waived if the veteran is in a nursing home. The 2008 maximum benefit for a married person is \$1,842 a month and \$1,555 for a single person. The benefits are tax-free. And needy surviving spouses may get more generous benefits.

You may learn more by calling Veterans Affairs at 800-827-1000, or by visiting its Web site at va.gov. Click on "What are Aid and Attendance and Homebound benefits? How do I apply." You also may get help from a veterans' service organization.

Now for some not-so-good news. As I've mentioned previously, most Medicare beneficiaries will find no increase in their monthly Part B premiums (now \$96.40) because the law provides that Social Security benefits, which likely will be frozen for two years, cannot be reduced for current beneficiaries.

But under the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, new Social Security and Medicare enrollees and current beneficiaries with household incomes higher than \$85,000 this year will pay much more. Under the law, Part B premiums must account for 20 percent of all Part B costs in the Medicare budget; the rest comes from general revenues.

With Part B premiums frozen for 75 percent of Medicare beneficiaries, revenue from these Part B premiums won't reach 20 percent. The gap must be made up by new and more affluent enrollees. They will pay on a sliding scale, between \$134.90 and \$308.30 a month, depending on their income.

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ENEFITARTICLE.pdf

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
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