



## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2077**

**November 6, 2011**

*517th Parachute Infantry Regiment  
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

Website

[www.517prct.org](http://www.517prct.org)

Mail Call

[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)

Mail Call Archives

[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)

Roster (from 2008)

[www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)

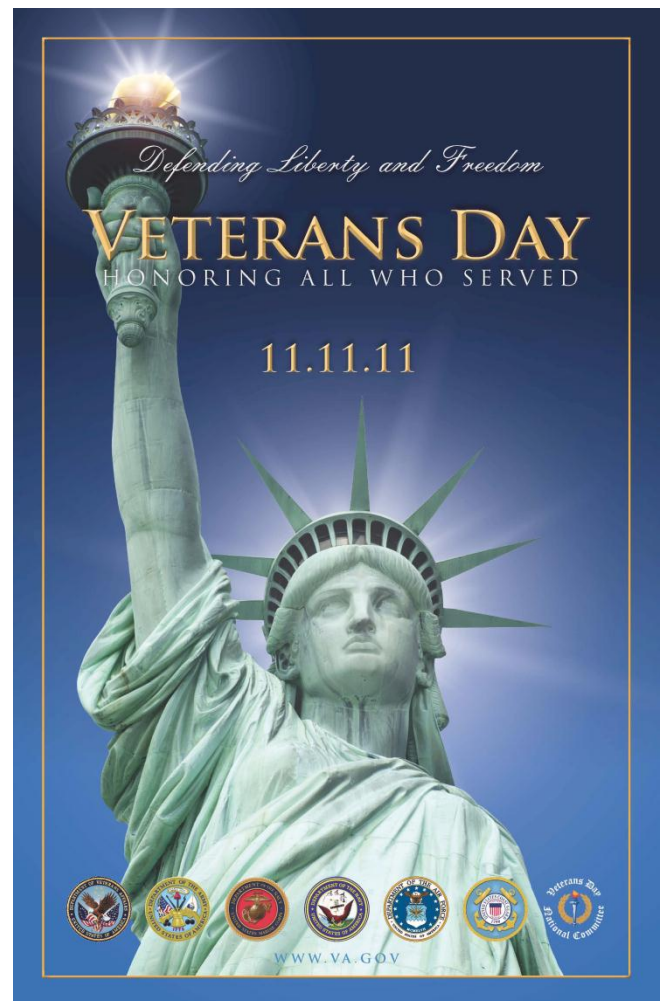
### *Veterans Day – November 11*

This Friday, November 11, 2011 is Veteran's Day! I want to take this opportunity to thank our 517th veterans, and all veteran men and women of this great nation for their sacrifice and dedicated service to our country. I have attached the 2011 veteran's day poster. Also, I received this email about the Tussing Elementary 3rd grade class singing a tribute to our service men and women. I have seen it before, and I wanted to show it at the Atlanta Reunion, but in all of the excitement of going to the reunion I forgot to bring it. If you will put it on Mail Call, I think everyone will really enjoy seeing it again or for the first time. May we never forget our veterans. I remember a saying that goes like this "If you can read this thank a teacher, if you can read it in English thank a Veteran." So Veterans. Thank you very much!

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

From the third graders of Tussing Elementary,  
Colonial Heights, Virginia.

Click your mouse here: [Tussing Elementary](#)





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**Veterans Day** is an annual United States holiday honoring military veterans. It is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It is also celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in other parts of the world and falls on November 11, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.)

The U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed an Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. In proclaiming the holiday, he said

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

Because it is a federal holiday, many American people have the day off from school or work for Veterans Day. Employers in Iowa are required by state law to provide a day off on Veterans Day to each employee who is a veteran if the employee would otherwise be required to work on that day, unless the employer would experience significant economic or operational disruption.

Non-essential federal government offices are closed. No mail is delivered. All federal employees are paid for the holiday; those who are required to work on the holiday sometimes receive wages for that day in addition to holiday pay.

The holiday is often celebrated by having a ravioli meal. This tradition dates back to the ending days of World War I when President Woodrow Wilson, aware that the returning soldiers would be longing for home cooked meals, invited 2,000 soldiers to the White House and helped his staff chefs cook them ravioli, which had just become a mainstay in mainstream American kitchens due to commercial canning. In his Armistice Day address to Congress, Wilson was sensitive to the psychological toll of the lean War years: "Hunger," he remarked, "breeds madness."

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To Our Distinguished 517th Veterans on Veterans Day November 11th: There are some national and local restaurants that offer select free meals to you. See the attached site for some of the participating restaurants:

### **Frank Ramos**

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#### **Discounts for Veterans**

Many businesses honor Veterans and Servicemembers by offering Veterans Day discounts on goods, services and dining. Most businesses require some proof of military service, which could be a VA Universal Access Card, Military I.D., DD-214 (Discharge Papers) or in some cases, a picture of the veteran in uniform will suffice. We apologize in advance if you are unable to take advantage of any of the discounts or freebies due to the lack of acceptable I.D., non-participation of your local establishment in their national chain's Veterans Day programs, etc. We have personally checked and verified the participation of the companies we have [listed here](#), but we still advise calling ahead in case a reservation is required.



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It is so true that nothing is too good for our military in times of need (Vietnam excepted) but when the conflict(s) are over, we are soon forgotten, and the cry is 'cut the military, we need the money elsewhere'.

**Phil McSpadden**

## THE FINAL INSPECTION - Author Unknown

The soldier stood and faced God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining,  
Just as brightly as his brass.

'Step forward now, you soldier,  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,  
'No, Lord, I guess I ain't.  
Because those of us who carry guns,  
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,  
And at times my talk was tough.  
And sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,  
That wasn't mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime,  
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God, forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around,  
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,  
Where the saints had often trod.  
As the soldier waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God.

'Step forward now, you soldier,  
You've borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in Hell.'

## MailCall News

### From the website Guestbook:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: <b>Michael L. Dorsett</b> From: Alabama E-mail: <a href="mailto:michaeldorfett@comcast.net">michaeldorfett@comcast.net</a>	My father was <b>Lester Dorsett</b> . He passed away 8 August 2008 in Enterprise, Alabama. Dad drove Colonel Graves staff car (or whatever they could steal) during one period of time. My picture as a tow headed curly headed tyke was published in one of the 517 papers. I still have the picture from the paper. Would love to hear from anyone who knew Dad.
	Added: October 29, 2011



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### **Berlin Occupation**

If anyone was in Berlin after the war during the US Occupation, could you please give us an idea of what it was like? Can you tell us about the city, disposition of the German civilians and German soldiers? What was the interaction like with Russian soldiers? What was life like for you and others? What was the black-market like for cigarettes, alcohol, watches and other items? Maybe some positive experiences from the war finally being over? My father was there till December 1945 but I never heard many stories of what they actually experienced. Also, where did the men stay between the time they last saw combat and finally went home.

Thank you for any info.

**Wade Gilbert, Son of Earnest Gilbert - F Company**

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Hi Bob,

Still one mistake on the guy in the Zoot suit. I don't think that he is standing with the Morris McDowell and good friend that I know.....

### **Rick Sweet**

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Rick,

You are correct. I received the picture from Morris, so I assumed it was him with Bert. I will correct this.

Thanks!

Bob Barrett

... and I do know what Morris looks like. I just wasn't paying attention.



**Mel Biddle (left) and Morris McDowell (right)**

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That's quite alright Bob. You are doing an outstanding job! We all know that your dad was a stickler for details....I miss being able to talk with him. Morris is recovering from a knee replacement and said that he is doing well. Beverly, Morris's wife, had surgery on her leg so pray that she will do well also. I am looking into having fusion on my low back. I've been putting up with the pain for 7-8 years. I hope that they can do something for me. I'm tired of taking morphine.... Thanks for the great job that you are doing for us all.

**Rick Sweet**



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### Congress honors Japanese-American soldiers



AP Associated Press

By KEVIN FREKING - Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of Japanese-Americans who fought in the fiercest battles of World War II and became some of the most decorated soldiers in the nation's history were given an overdue thank-you from their country Wednesday when Congress awarded them its highest civilian honor.

Nearly seven decades after the war's beginning, Congress awarded three units the Congressional Gold Medal. In all, about 19,000 Japanese-Americans served in the units

honored at a ceremony Wednesday: the 100th Infantry Battalion, the **442nd Regimental Combat Team** and the Military Intelligence Service.

"This has been a long journey, but a glorious one," said Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii., who lost his right arm fighting with the 442nd and was one of the honorees Wednesday.

About 1,250 people attended the award ceremony at the Capitol. About a quarter of those present were former soldiers, now in their 80s and 90s. Hiroshi Kaku, originally from Hawaii, served in the 442nd and his older brother, Haruo, served in the 100th. He said he volunteered for the Army because he had something to prove.

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Sakai served in the 442nd, which consisted of volunteers, about two-thirds from Hawaii and the rest from the mainland. **The 442nd experienced some of the most horrific fighting in Europe and became the most decorated unit in U.S. military history for its size and length of service. In just 10 months of combat, more than 700 were killed or listed as missing in action.**

Sakai, 88, was wounded four times and received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He said the years following the war were difficult and that he often drank to deal with his memories. Now, he said, he's able to take pride in his peers' accomplishments and the subsequent congressional recognition.

"We certainly deserved the record that we produced. It was done by shedding a lot of blood. As far as I know, we didn't give up an inch of ground. We were always attacking and the Germans were always on the higher ground," he said.

**The 442nd fought in eight major campaigns in Italy, France and Germany. One of the units attached to the 442nd was the 100th Infantry Battalion, which was comprised exclusively of Japanese-Americans from Hawaii who had been drafted prior to Pearl Harbor. They received the nickname the Purple Heart Battalion because of the tremendous number of casualties they endured.**

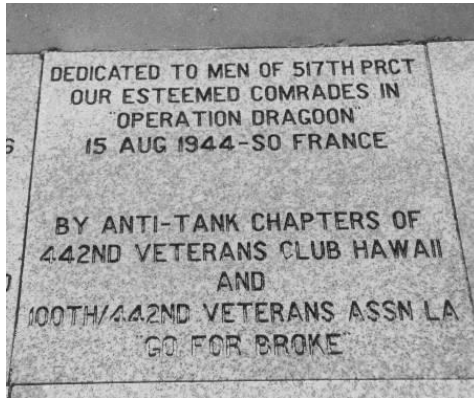
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"More importantly, I'm certain those who are resting in cemeteries are pleased with this day," he said.

[Read the full article here](#)



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This 442nd Memorial is at the  
Airborne & Special Operations Museum  
in Fayetteville, NC

### *More MailCall News*

Can't wait until the US starts using this system...will certainly cut down the long lines going thru security!

#### **Israel's new 'Cutting Edge' Airport Security**

TEL AVIV, Israel - The Israelis are developing an airport security device that eliminates the privacy concerns that come with full-body scanners. It's an armoured booth you step into that will not X-ray you, but will detonate any explosive device you may have on your person.

Israel sees this as a win-win situation for everyone, with none of this crap about racial profiling. It will also eliminate the costs of long and expensive trials.

You're in the airport terminal and you hear a muffled explosion. Shortly thereafter, an announcement: "Attention to all standby passengers, El Al is proud to announce a seat available on flight 670 to London. Shalom!"

BRILLIANT.

#### **phil [McSpadden]**

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Fascinating to look at so many DIFFERENT aircraft. Interesting presentation and well worth your time to watch...

Phil

Subject: The 10 top Air Forces in the World

Note, among other things, the disparity between the number of aircraft and the personnel involved.

This is a fantastic video of the 10 top Air Forces in the world. The presentation is in English, but the aircraft ID are in the Israeli language. It is a real comparison of the top ten AF of the world. Hope you enjoy.

Great photos presentation made by an Israeli group, and I suspect some of the rankings will surprise you. It did me.

Subject: [The 10 top Air Forces in the World](#)



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To the best of my dimming recollection, each of our troops were issued a packet containing this silk map and some currency prior to the jump in Southern France. The below information is news to me, but Thank God someone thought of it.

**Phil McSpadden**

### Get Out of Jail Free: Monopoly's Hidden Maps

From a USAAF B-25 pilot with many WWII missions. This is a great piece of hidden history from WWII. (You'll never look at the game the same way again!)



Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape...

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing

not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly





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set -- by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets.. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free card!

See: <http://www.snopes.com/military/monopoly.asp> (i.e. this is true)

### *517 PRCT Florida Mini-Reunion – January 2012*

**WHEN:** January 14 – 16 , 2012  
(Hospitality Room Opens Evening of January 13)

**WHERE:** Ramada Hotel & Inn Gateway  
7470 Hwy 192 West  
Kissimmee, FL 34741  
800-327-9170

**[The registration form is attached at the end of this MailCall.](#)**

For further information contact  
Brenda Verbeck Mortensen, 813-335-8002  
[bverbeck@gmail.com](mailto:bverbeck@gmail.com)

### *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](mailto: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



## **517 PRCT FLORIDA MINI-REUNION, January 2012**

### **WHERE:**

Ramada Hotel & Inn Gateway  
7470 Hwy 192 West  
Kissimmee, FL 34741

800-327-9170

**WHEN:** January 14 – 16

(Hospitality Room Opens Evening of January 13)

### **RATES:**

A double room is \$65.00,, Tower rooms \$75.00. They will provide these rates for the period +/- five days of the actual reunion to allow for early arrivals and stay-overs.

### **MAKING YOUR RESERVATION:**

**CALL 800-327-9170**

***Identify yourself as attending the 517 PRCT Reunion to get this special rate, WHICH INCLUDES BREAKFAST.***

### **SCHEDULE:**

The hospitality suite will be open 5pm to 10pm on Friday  
10 am to 10 pm on Saturday through Sunday  
10 am to 5pm and after dinner on Monday

Registration: Saturday morning

Rides to Services on Sunday can be arranged

Monday: Memorial Service 6:30 - 6:45 pm; Banquet 6:45 – 10pm

Hospitality suite open following the dinner

For further information contact

Brenda Verbeck Mortensen, 813-335-8002

bverbeck@gmail.com

517 PRCT Florida Mini Reunion 2012  
Ramada Hotel & Inn Gateway, Kissimmee, FL

Reunion Registration Form  
January 14 – 16

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse\_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home)\_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone\_\_\_\_\_

Unit\_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date\_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee - \$45.00  
(Includes Banquet Dinner and Hospitality Room)

Banquet Dinner: Roast Beef\_\_\_\_\_ (# of people)

Chicken Marsala\_\_\_\_\_ (# of people)

Fresh Catch of the Day\_\_\_\_\_ (# of people)

Please send this registration form with your **check made out to**  
**517 PRCT Reunion by December 15<sup>th</sup>** to:

Brenda Verbeck Mortensen  
13046 Race Track Road #220  
Tampa, FL 33626  
Phone: 813-335-8002  
Email: bverbeck@gmail.com