



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2079

November 13, 2011

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

Website
Mail Call
Mail Call Archives
Roster (from 2008)

www.517prct.org
MailCall@517prct.org
www.517prct.org/archives
www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Armistice Day– November 11

WANNE - ARMISTICE DAY - november 11.11.11; ceremony at the 517th monument. Our thoughts were with you and we would like to send a warm greeting, to all the men of the 517th and families. We honor our dear friends veterans, we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Because of their sacrifices and their bravery, we are living free and we enjoy PEACE in our country.

With Love.
Arnold, Irma, Maria and members of CADUSA.
(US Airborne Reception Committee) Trois-Ponts...



LOGBIERME (Trois-Ponts) 517 th monument. With the help of Tourism Office and the Community of Trois-Ponts, we cleaned the monument, painted the Cross and the V, cut and trim the trees, They planted young trees and flowers for next year; During this season, we cannot see the result yet. We do hope this area will be nice in 2012.

Be sure, we'll never forget.

Irma and Co...





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Dear Bob: On behalf of the Dick Seitz "kids", thank you to all of the men of the 517th PRCT and every veteran who has served for your exemplary service to our nation and freedom around the world. Words cannot express how indebted we are to you. Without your commitment and sacrifices we would not have the precious freedoms that we have the privilege to enjoy today. You have left a legacy and an example that we must emulate as a tribute to your heroic response to the call to serve, always serving others before self. Thank you. Most sincerely,

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

HAPPY VETERANS DAY 517th ! - All the Best, **Paul Abbene**

MailCall News

I want to settle who is with our Zoot Suit gentleman named **Elbert Duran**. This time I am sure who is standing with him and she is (me), **Joyce Turco** now widow of Leo Turco, A Battery 460th 517 Airborne PRCT. Memories are fading as our ages are aging!
Best wishes to all.

Joyce Turco

[PS: She's kidding. I know that Joyce doesn't have a mustache. – BB]

Hi Bob,

I would like to respond to **Wade and Tom Copsey**. My dad, **Odas Sweet** was part of the occupying force in Germany after the war and he too was transferred to the 504th par company E. I can pass on to Wade something that my father experienced. A German said to him that it was the Russians that we should be fighting, not the Germans. If you look at the pictures that I sent to Ben, taken by my dad at the time, you will see the Russian line and other sights of bombed out Germany.

Rick Sweet

Happy Veterans Day to All.

Bob, I have made contact with **Johnny Privott** who is the Grandson of **Raymond Doane** from the 596, and he is sharing some of his grandfather's memorabilia from the war.

In advance of the other items I will send in, I wanted to forward the attached article that he sent in and was originally published in the Stars & Stripes that I am not sure I have seen published and refers to Dick Spencer and his platoon in action at Col de Braus. If I remember correctly one of the wounded referenced here was your dad.

This is a sampling of what OUR vets have done to ensure freedom. For that we are truly indebted.

-Steve- [Markle]



Parachute Combat Teams Have Never Lost A Hill

By HAL BOYLE

With the 517th Parachute Combat Team, Western Front (Delayed) (AP) "I still feel funny about that hill," says Lt. Dick Spencer. "We never lost a hill before—and we have never lost one since."

Dick will never forget "that hill" because he thought he had disgraced the paratroopers there. He ordered his platoon to pull back after 22 of its 28 men were killed or wounded trying to storm the slope and knock out 22 enemy pillboxes—a full-sized job for a regiment.

"They had us cold that day," said the slim little 24-year-old former University of Iowa journalist. "But we had been taught how to win, but nobody had taught us how to lose. We didn't know how because we never expect to—in the paratroops."

Dick was assistant platoon leader that day, weeks ago, when they attacked the double-sloped hill at Col de Braus, France, in the Maritime Alps.

"We thought those pillboxes were empty," said Dick. "I studied them for 15 minutes through a telescope and didn't see a sign of any movement. But just as we started up the hill I felt something was wrong."

Patrols found the first three pillboxes empty.

"THEN I HEARD a shout and looked up and the air was full of hand grenades and anti-tank grenades," Dick said.

One grenade burst at Dick's feet. His leg was numb and he was bleeding from his mouth and ears. Several men were killed or wounded, but Dick and three others managed to drag themselves to a pillbox where Dick set up an anti-air station.

Two men trying to bring up water were killed. Although realizing he was facing incredible odds, the young platoon leader—he had just come back from the hospital the night before—reorganized for a second attack.

"The Germans opened up again and the leader was killed at the start," Dick said.

Although the Nazis caught them with burp guns, machineguns, rifles and grenades, the paratroopers surged up the hill. Men fell every few steps. The Germans began dropping mortar shells behind them and flames spread in the grass and brush.

Finally they had to fall back to where Dick was caring for the wounded. One German was killed almost at the entrance of the pillbox. A paratrooper staggered back with a wounded man under each arm. A third wounded man clung

to Dick. The paratrooper himself was wounded in the face, arm and shoulder. He wears the Distinguished Service Cross now.

ONLY SIX men were unhurt. The only non-com on his feet was a sergeant with a bullet wound in his knee. He looked down at Dick and said:

"What'll we do, sir? We are being butchered. But we will try once more if you say so."

The lieutenant gave the order to pull back. They worked their way down the hill, with each man helping the wounded as best he could. Eight paratroopers on another hill opened fire and routed a column of 200 Germans trying to cut them off.

"All the way back I thought I would be thrown out of the paratroops for falling back without orders," Dick recalled.

Instead, he got pats on the back from the battalion commander, who had given orders, after the first attack, for the platoon to withdraw. But their radio was knocked out, the platoon never got the order—and made a second gallant try.

Two days later a battalion and two companies of paratroopers—more than 500 men this time—attacked and took the hill, capturing 18 Germans in the first pillbox

ne.



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Yes Bob I sent that picture. I thought it would be funny after all the problems about who was with him and who he was. Thanks for letting me know it didn't go through. My daughter sent it for me but we do not know why that happened. I will not try again as it is really not that important. You sure do a wonderful job carrying out the job your Dad did so many years. I know it has to be a very big undertaking.

I am in touch with **J. mickael Soldi**. I sent a lot of Leo's 460th papers and pictures in case they get the museum running again. J. mickael has asked me to do a history of Leo's life from the time he was born until his death. They want to know about his parents, other children in the family, schools he went to all the way through his life. Since we were married since I was just out of high school, I know most about his life. He said he will translate it to French and put it in their new Virtual Museum Web site. I will see what I can do before my memory is lost.

They had asked me if I heard anything from **Fran Incontro** over the years as Sal her husband told them he had a drop zone map. That had to be years ago as Sal has been gone longer than I can remember. I called Fran and we had a very nice talk but she said she donated Sal's things to a museum in the US but did not remember which one. I would suspect it was the one outside Ft. Bragg. We had exchanged Christmas cards for years but had not talked to each other. We had a great reunion by phone only as she lives in Long Island and I am in SC.

Thanks for letting me know about the Zoot Suit picture not coming through. I think I had just danced with him but not sure but the position of the picture was the same as the one in the Mail Call. Please give my best wishes to your family for all the work you do. Also, I was sorry to hear of the passing of your Mom but I knew she has not been in good health for years so we all know it is time to go when we can't carry on for ourselves. I am heading for age 87 but have been fairly lucky with my health. Slipping a little more now but still can totally take care of my personal needs and our cats, raccoons, squirrels and anything that needs our help. Our daughter Gail shares my house with me. She is turning 65 in May so we are oldies together.

Best wishes, **Joyce Turco**

Bob,

Thanks very much for the reply and adding me (and the material I sent) to the 'mail call.' It is a beautiful and touching edition this week.

I had written to mailcall@517prct.org back in September when doing some investigation of Dad's days in the European theater. You were kind enough to respond directly to me.

In addition to the pictures, I found a few other items that I'll scan and pass along when I can.

Thanks again & a blessed Veterans Day to you and all who serve.

Best regards,

Roger Sullivan



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Just sent you another email – we crossed in the ether ...

YES, please do continue to send the MailCall to this address – it's a lot easier than looking them up each week in the archives.

Roger S

This message is for Gen Seitz: Sir you don't know how proud we all were to serve under you. I would do it again tomorrow if I could.

S/sgt Ray R. Hess "F" Co

For Roger Sullivan:

The patch you see in the picture is the 17th AB. When we went through Toccoa we were in the 17th AB. As I recall we were in Camp Mackall when they pulled us out of the 17th and formed the 517 Parachute Regimental Combat Team. While we were in Mackall they sent us to Tennessee on Maneuvers. As they needed paratroopers in Europe we were pulled out of Tennessee, sent back to Camp Mackall to outfit us for combat duty and overseas shipment. We then went to Camp Patrick Henry in Virginia to board ships for Italy.

Darrell Egner

Can you add me to the mail call list? I signed the guest book Nov 8 2011. I'm Johnny Privott grandson of **Raymond Doane**, 596th, 1st platoon. **Steve Markle** emailed me today. I sent him a few things today i'm sure you will see the stuff too. I've got a lot of pictures i need to scan and will forward when i get them done.

Thanks again

Johnny Privott

Hi Bob,

I would like to respond to **Wade** and **Tom Copsey**. My dad, **Odas Sweet** was part of the occupying force in Germany after the war and he too was transferred to the 504th par company E. I can pass on to Wade something that my father experienced. A German said to him that it was the Russians that we should be fighting, not the Germans. If you look at the pictures that I sent to Ben, taken by my dad at the time, you will see the Russian line and other sights of bombed out Germany.

Rick Sweet



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From Merle McMorrow:

A6 Saturday, November 12, 2011 The Forum

METRO+STATE

Breckenridge welcomes vets home

2 WWII veterans honored before crowd of 1,500

By Marino Echter
mechter@forumcomm.com

BRECKENRIDGE, Minn. — When Merle McMorrow and the state champion Breckenridge High School basketball team returned to town victorious in 1940, they were greeted by 10,000 cheering fans at the train depot.

When McMorrow returned to the same depot early on Christmas Day in 1945 after serving as a paratrooper in Europe, there was no one there. He collected his duffel bag and trudged home in the snow.

On Friday, McMorrow got a considerably warmer welcome at his alma mater, where 1,500 people turned out for a Veterans Day program to honor servicemen past and present.

McMorrow was one of two World War II veterans from the high school to take the podium. He spoke about his childhood memories in town and his experiences in the service, particularly parachuting into France as the Allies fought to retake the country from Nazi Germany.

At times, his stories were lighthearted — getting his only “B” in high school, fishing in chilly Bavaria with grenades. At others, he offered a somber reminder to remember his fallen comrades.

“They were never afforded the luxury to pick up their lives after the conflict,” said McMorrow, who has written several books, including “From Breckenridge to Bastogne,” an account of his days as a paratrooper. “I only hope their sacrifice was not in vain.”

Lesley Aldrich, a 1940 Breckenridge graduate who served in the Pacific, also spoke. At one point in his campaign, he lost 60 pounds



Photos by Marino Echter / The Forum



Above left: Merle McMorrow, a member of Breckenridge High School's 1940 state championship basketball team who went on to serve as a paratrooper in France, speaks at the high school Veterans Day program.

Above right: Lesley Aldrich, a 1940 Breckenridge High graduate and World War II veteran who served in the Pacific, speaks with Police Chief Nate Harder, a former Marine.

— so much that his own brother didn't recognize him in the hospital.

Aldrich was joined by Breckenridge Police Chief Nate Harder, a former Marine himself. Harder prompted Aldrich through-

band and choir.

This was the second year in a row Breckenridge has held the program. Paul Whitney, a high school civics teacher who organized the event, said he hopes to make it an annual tradition.

Last year, a Pearl Harbor survivor from North Dakota spoke.

Whitney, who comes from a family of veterans, said it's important to recognize servicemen who are slow to take credit themselves.

“They won't draw attention to themselves, call themselves heroes or anything,” he said.

He also said it's important to recognize older veterans, who are becoming scarcer and scarcer, while they're still around.

Last year, he said, there were three parents in the audience who had lost sons at war.

“I think it provides a healing opportunity for a lot of families,” he said.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Marino Echter at (701) 241-5502



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Subject: B-24 Production-11/11

Would we be celebrating Veterans Day today without the support of those who supplied us with the means to win the war? Thanks to all those who stood behind the men who stood behind the guns!

Phil Mcpadden

Watch this clip and you will know how we won WWII.

Hitler may not have known, but Japanese Admiral Yamamoto knew. He was Harvard educated and traveled extensively in the US before the war. He knew and said that Japan could not win a protracted war against the US because of our industrial might. His only hope was to cripple our navy and that we would then make a deal for peace like England did with Germany. As you know, that deal fell apart after Hitler invaded Poland in 1939.

THINK ABOUT THE TIME IN HISTORY THAT THE US DID THIS----AMAZING PRODUCTION FEAT !!!!

NO ONE IN THE WORLD HAD A PRODUCTION LINE THAT COULD EQUAL THIS !!!!!!!!!!!

ONE MILLION, 2 HUNDRED THOUSAND PARTS PER ASSEMBLED UNIT !!!!!!!!!!! ALL PERFECT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ford Plant A HUGE OPERATION

Henry Ford was determined that he could mass produce bombers just as he had done with cars. He built the Willow Run assembly plant and proved it.. It was the world's largest building under one roof, even then FORD HAD A BETTER IDEA!

One B-24 every 55 minutes. ADOLF HITLER HAD NO IDEA THE U.S. WAS CAPABLE OF THIS KIND OF THING. There is no way he could have even guessed.

For those who live outside of Michigan, Willow Run is near Bellville, Canton and Ypsilanti, MI

It's amazing that one B-24 came off the assembly line every 55 minutes. Take a few minutes to watch this snapshot of history.

[B-24 Liberator Willow Run Assembly Plant](#)





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John Aloysious “Boom Boom” Alicki

Yesterday, I spent the afternoon cleaning out our study, including filing away most of the 517 paper records that I have. In the pile I found an envelope of pictures and notes sent from **Boom Boom Alicki** to **Ben Barrett**. I wish I had seen these before, since I never had many pictures to put on Boom Boom’s web page (http://517prct.org/bios/john_alicki.htm). Now I have a few more that I’ll be adding over time. Here are a couple of them. – Bob Barrett



Pvt. John Alicki 1937
Company A, 8th US Cavalry
1st Cavalry Division



Sgt. Alicki, 1940
Hawaiian Islands




Boom Boom with John Lissner
Fort Benning Reunion - What year?

And, of course, this one got my attention,
Bert Duran and Boom Boom:





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Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Paul Hamilton From: Texas E-mail: pdhh080892@sbcglobal.net	I am seeking to make contact with family members of Albert A. Delgado , KIA during the Battle of the Bulge. I am in possession of items I would like to return to his family. Please contact with any information. Thank you!
Added: November 13, 2011 	

Found on eBay:

excellent reproduction of a ww 2 us army 517th parachute infantry tab for the 2nd B'n. airborne infantry regt. the original was embroidered in italy, notice that the spelling of parachute is wrong. listing is for one (1) patch photo shows front and back.



http://www.ebay.com/itm/b0546-WW-2-US-Army-517th-Parachute-Infantry-2nd-Bn-tab-parachuta-/380382566107?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item58909156db

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

[Click here to download info and registration form](#)

For further information contact
Brenda Verbeck Mortensen, 813-335-8002
bverbeck@gmail.com



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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