



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2082

November 27, 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

In Memoriam – Lt. Ludlow Gibbons, 3rd Bn.

Marty and the 517th family,

So sorry to hear about Lud. It has been my honor to get to know such a wonderful, and gracious 517th hero over the last few years. Lud was always ready to share of himself, with such a can do attitude even when health did not make it easy. I will always have fond memories of his stories, and his smile will live on in my heart.

Tim Curtis

May Lud rest in peace, he has earned it and set a great example for us all in doing so. At this time of remembering our many blessings and saying thanks, thank you to the men of the 517th whom we never had the chance to meet but to whom we are so indebted and a special personal thank you to those wonderful men whom we have had the privilege to meet and have them touch our lives in such indelible ways.

God bless you and your families. Happy Thanksgiving.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

Truly saddened by the news regarding Lud. One can't help but feel fortunate to have met him and to have been inspired by his kindness. –

Paul Abbene



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Marty, my heartfelt sympathy over the loss of Lud. Our 517th has lost a great comrade, a man who without hesitation gave his all in peace and war, a brave leader, highly respected and admired by all who knew him. Lud contributed so much to the 517th and will be missed by all of us.

Dick Seitz

Dear Marty,

We recently received the news of Ludlow's passing and would like to extend our most sincere condolences to you and others who were close to him. We will miss him dearly. His smile would always light up the room, bringing happiness to those around him, and we know the gatherings of the 517th PRCT will never be the same without his presence. We are so thankful to have had the chance to see you both in France two years ago, and we will forever hold dear the memories we have of our time with you both.

In our deepest sympathy,

Patricia and Roland Orengo
Sospel, France





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Here is another typical encounter with Lud:



In the last MailCall, I forgot to give credit to **Giles Giugnard** who composed this great video of Lud:



See the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4yJHgRj9Hk>



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H Company at Camp Mackall. Officers in the Front row (L-R):
Mel Zais (Bn. CO, later 4 star General), Pencak, Neiler, Calder, Morris, Bennett, **Lud Gibbons**

Other MailCall News

Leo Dean, one of our most serious skydivers, has taken a tumble right here on terra firma. He fell on Thursday night at his apartment; by Friday morning he was at Albany Hospital, where he stayed for the weekend. I got a call from his good friend Renee on Monday when they moved him to a local rehab facility, where he will be for a couple of weeks, he figures.

He has several pelvic fractures, a fractured wrist, a fractured hand, and he's generally banged up. He sounds great on the phone (he has his cell phone with him and can take calls when he's not in therapy at 518 421 0351), and Renee tells me that he's all dressed and sits in the chair as long as possible (instead of lying in bed). He's also trying to walk as much as possible.

He told me that he never got hurt like this skydiving, and he's quite indignant about that.

If anyone would like to send good wishes, please use his home address (14 Stonehenge Lane, Albany NY 12203), and I'm sure it will get to him. I think he's generally done with therapy after 4, so calls are also great.

I'll follow up with any updates I get. All the best at this Thanksgiving to all our Airborne friends -

Claire Giblin



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I enjoyed and was surprised to see the video on the return home of the Oneida Victory from France. I was on board and can verify the rough ride back to the USA that lasted 7 days. Almost everyone was sea sick.

We were, supposedly, on our way to Japan with a delay in route in the USA. We were fortunate that the war with Japan ended while we were in route to the USA and we had an extended 45 day leave.

Joe Clark

From Fox News:



Almost 60 and Still a Soldier

Nov 22, 2011 1:51 PM EST

Most men at the age of 59 are planning for retirement, but Staff Sgt. Don Nicholas is no ordinary man. He wants to re-enlist in the U.S. Army and stay a soldier as long as he can.

A Vietnam veteran, Nicholas is the oldest soldier serving on the front lines in Afghanistan. After the Sept. 11 attacks, Sgt. Nic, as he is affectingly called by younger soldiers, re-enlisted in the military. "It was the right thing to do," he says. "It's as simple as that. I just didn't want everyone else out there doing things I should be doing."

A former Marine rifleman with two tours under his belt in Vietnam, including one at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon as enemy troops moved into the capital city, Nicholas thought he could faithfully rejoin their ranks.

But the Marines rejected his application. So he turned to the only other unit that offered him a chance to see combat - the U.S. Army.

In 2005 he was sent to Afghanistan as part of an Army Reserves psychological-operations unit in the violent and dangerous Korengal Valley. After a brief break at home in Ohio, he then was sent to Iraq for 11 months. And then Afghanistan again in 2011.

Nicholas insists he isn't fascinated or even in love with war, but instead is drawn to the military by its camaraderie.

"Combat has a way of welding people together," he says, "that noncombat doesn't."

During his 16 years of service, Nicholas says the average infantryman hasn't changed much.

"The soldiers of today tell the same stories that Marines told 40 years ago." But Nicholas adds, most of the stories aren't suitable to be repeated.

After three wars, and 65 months in combat zones, Pentagon regulations require Nicholas to retire next July when he turns 60. Despite missing his wife Dagmar and his two adult children, retirement from the military appears to scare Nicholas far more than combat.

"If I have my chance to stay in and complete my 20 years. I absolutely would," he says.

"Probably would stay in a few more years after that if I could."

As a trained podiatrist, Nicholas is hoping to receive a commission in the Army medical branch which would allow him a chance to stay in the Army and even possibly complete another tour in Afghanistan.

Although Nicholas has spent a career following orders and saluting, he doesn't like to be told he can't do something because of his age.



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I found this story in an old 596th Wings newsletter from 1985 -- BB

While we were in Italy, one of our regimental physicians examined an Italian civilian who was ill and seeking help. He diagnosed the illness but wasn't sure he had the facilities to treat it so he sent a message by Jeep back to the nearest field hospital commander. The message was, "Have a case of Beriberi. What shall I do?"

A prankster at the hospital sent back this message: "Give it to the paratroopers. They'll drink anything."

Hi I was looking up some info on my 2nd cousin, and found where you had a letter from him to his parents on your site. His name is **Verlin R. Glenn** from Russell, KY. I would like to know if there would be any information on the whereabouts of this letter or how I could find out more info on him. My family has some pictures of him and I would like to get involved in this thank you!

Michael T. Hughes

Michael,

Unfortunately, I did not save the source info about where that V-Card image came from. But I'm pretty sure that those pictures might have been just copied from pictures of items that were once for sale on eBay.

If you do a search on the 517th website for Verlin Glenn, there are a couple of hits. His name, of course, shows up in the 596th roster from Christmas 1944. And there is a wartime photo reproduced in the 596th 1995 reunion booklet, page 15:



VERLIN GLENN--1944

He is also mentioned in a couple of the 596th "Wings" newsletters, including this note in 1982:

Verlin Glenn was out of the service a few years directly after the war but went back in and retired with 30 years service in 1977. He spent 21 years in Special Forces. He spent 5 years in law enforcement after retirement from the military. He and wife Eva have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

That's about all we have on our site. But I will include your note in the next group email that I send out weekly. If I hear anything back from anyone who knew him, I will let you know. If you have any wartime pictures of Verlin, I would be glad to post them on our website.

PS: I'm assuming that this picture I found on the internet is the same Verlin Glenn:

<http://www.sfer-deoppressoliber.com/dgsc.html>

Bob Barrett



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Received via snailmail from George Jones (HQ/1):

Hey Bob,

The enclosure from the local newspaper may bring back memories. I hear from **Danny Coleman** and **Curtis Williams**. The old outfit is going fast. Hard to believe.

Maurine and I remain in good health. Both erouding [?] ninety. We are so fortunate.

Keep up the good work.

George Jones

2066 County Road 4114
Pittsburg, TX 75686-4208

Note: *Curtis Williams and Danny Coleman both signed the "short snorter" from [MailCall #2069](#)*

From: **Lee Hekkala** (widow of **Barney Hekkala Co A**)

An A Company widow, **Mary Globocar**, wants to order the medals that her husband, Ed, was awarded during his service, and also information on Ed's Army Records for her grandchildren...Where would she make the initial contact, etc., etc. Thanks for your help...

Hi Lee,

I will post your question onto the next MailCall and see if anyone knows more details about getting medals. I know that the simple answer is to file a request with the National Archives in St. Louis:

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>

Unfortunately, I know that many records from the Army were destroyed in a fire sometime in the past, so the records are incomplete. And I remember that Ben had some luck in appealing to our local state senator (Ted Kennedy at the time), who managed to get through some of the red tape. In the end, Ben actually had a ceremony where he was awarded his overdue medals in a ceremony with Sen. Kennedy. Ben's case might have been special because he was wounded in 1945 and sent to a hospital in England, therefore lost touch with the 517 and never awarded any medals – not even a purple heart – during the war.

Bob Barrett

Letter to the Editor

Startled awake

Friend Tribune,

Coupl'a items – in article in today's *Tribune* on the Commendation of the 100th Battalion of the 442nd Infantry. These people (Japanese-Americans) were a "Can Do" outfit and deserve any amount of praise. They did give me a surprise awakening one early morning in Italy.

We were on line; I had spent the night in a slit trench. About dawn I sensed troop movement outside my hole and I sat up to better see. "My God" my sleep numbed brain said, "Those people are Japanese."

I slid out of my hole, looked up the platoon leader who laughingly said, "Yeah, they are the 442nd. We are being relieved."

The enclosed photo (I am front row, second from right) was made 8-16-44 on the company's objective. The drop was made in the wee hours of the 15th. We are awaiting the relief troops from the amphibious landings of Southern France the 442nd being a part of same.

Sincerely,
George H. Jones



Courtesy Photo



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

*I recently found among documents from Boom Boom Alicki, some additional pages of a commendation from the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment and the 3^d Armored Division to the 1st Battalion, for actions occurring on Dec 28 during the Battle of the Bulge. The letter is forwarded from **Maj. Gen. J. Lawton Collins** and **Maj. Gen. M.B. Ridgway**, with an intro by **Col. Graves**. – BB*

“It is with pleasure that I transmit this tribute to the superb fighting qualities of 1st Battalion, 517th Parachute Regiment and their commanders, **Lieutenant Colonel W. J. Boyle** and **Major D. W. Fraser**.”

http://517prct.org/documents/1945_1st_bn_commendation/ridgway_dec_28_1944.htm

517 PRCT Florida Mini-Reunion – January 14-16 2012

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

For further information contact
Brenda Verbeck Mortensen, 813-335-8002 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
- 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