



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2084

December 11, 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

Pearl Harbor Day – December 7

It is Pearl Harbor Day. See the NY Times article below:

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/07/us/fewer-veterans-to-remember-pearl-harbor-day.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&mc=tha23

The Pearl Harbor Survivors Association is disbanding at the end of the month.

All of the men of the 517 remember Pearl Harbor Day vividly. It was a day that changed everything.

I hope you all talk to someone this week about your memories of the day.

With great respect and admiration to my favorite vets -

Claire Giblin

Pearl Harbor Still a Day for the Ages, but a Memory Almost Gone



Emerie Aresenaul, front, with other Pearl Harbor survivors.

HONOLULU — For more than half a century, members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association gathered here every Dec. 7 to commemorate the attack by the Japanese that drew the United States into World War II. Others stayed closer to home for more intimate regional chapter ceremonies, sharing memories of a day they still remember in searing detail.

But no more. The 70th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack will be the last one marked by the survivors' association. With a concession to the reality of time — of age, of deteriorating health and death — the association will disband on Dec. 31. ([Read the full story here](#))



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MailCall News

Dec. 5, 2011

Bob if you could pass this along, my Father would like his friends to know that **Bette** passed away this morning. Bette's passing occurred with the same grace and dignity with which she lived her whole life. Dad was at her side. Dad does not currently have internet access but I would be happy to pass along to him any expressions of condolence and support.

Thanks,

Wayne Cross

Just read mailcall 2083 and was surprised to hear **Leo Dean** had taken a fall and broken a couple of bones. Thank goodness Claire had listed his phone number so I called him just now, around 8 am my time in Utah, and 10 his time in New York on Monday Dec 5th. Anyway, he was right in the middle of his physical therapy and sound very good on the phone. He told me he had just made a sky dive jump about a week before his accident in Florida and had been scheduled to do another one, but because of his fall had to cancel it. He told me with all the jumps he has made he has never gotten hurt and now this. Anyway, he sounds like he is on the road to recovery and is making plans to attend the mini reunion in Kissimmee. It was so good to talk with him and know he is okay. Speedy recovery Leo, you are truly one rough tough airborne trooper!

On another note, someone commented on my posting of the soldiers from the old guard who walk the tomb of the unknown soldier. They asked me if I knew if the soldiers carried live ammunition while walking their tours. To my knowledge they do not, but as you and I know orders can change at any time. The rifles they carry are M-14's that weight 9.1 lbs. I know because I carried one in the Marine Corps. This weapon requires a magazine to load the ammunition. So it would be very difficult to carry the rifle at shoulder arms with a magazine loaded. I believe your answer about security all over the place to handle any threat situation is correct. Thanks for asking.

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

Hey Bob - no problem on my end.

Happy Holidays to you, Joanne and the whole Barrett family and to the special 'friends" on this email.

Claire - how long will Leo be at the phone number you gave? Will give the wounded warrior a call. My best to Pops

Helen - tell Hal I said hi and to behave himself.

Lory - keep up the good work and adult supervision for all of us!

Ciao

Tom Copsey



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Hey Tom -

That number is Leo's cell. It'll be his as long as he's around. So call away!

Hugs to all -

Claire

My thanks to Merle and also **Joyce Turco** for giving me the contacts as to where **Mary Globocar** can receive the Service Medals of her late husband, Ed, Company A.

Bob, you do a fantastic job on editing the Mail Call for all of us.

Lee Hekkala

Bob,

I want to add my condolences to Marty at the passing of Lud. Lud started out with 'H' company and sometime before the Manhay attack be transferred to 'I' company. He was a super guy and always made you feel comfortable when you were around him. I will miss his smiling face greatly. I have a few pictures I want to share, and hope they bring several smiles to Marty. Marty has never seen these pictures before. The one at the fort, and the one at the table were at the Savanna reunion, the other two were St. Louis.

God bless men like Lud.

Morris McDowell, Cousin of Layton Pippin 'H' Company





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Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year filled with Love, Health and Prosperity.

Phil McSpadden

Christmas Operations Order: 12-02-11

Subject: Christmas

1. An official visit by General Santa (NMI) Claus is expected at this headquarters 25 December 2011. The following instructions will be in effect and govern the activities of all personnel during the visit.
 - a. Not a creature will stir without official permission. This will include indigenous mice. Special stirring permits for necessary administrative actions will be obtained through normal channels. Mice stirring permits will be obtained through the Office of the Surgeon General, Veterinary Services.
 - b. Personnel will settle their brains for a long winter nap prior to 2200 hours, 24 December 2011. Uniform for the nap will be: Pajamas, cotton, light, drowsing, with kerchief, general purpose, camouflage; and Cap, camouflage w/ear flaps. Equipment will be drawn from CIF prior to 1900 hours, 24 December 2011.
 - c. Personnel will utilize standard field ration sugar plums for visions to dance through their heads. Artificially sweetened plums are authorized for those in their unit weight control program. Specifications for this item will be provided by the servicing dining facility.
 - d. Stockings, wool, cushion sole, will be hung by the chimney with care. Necessary safety precautions will be taken to avoid fire hazards caused by carelessly hung stockings. Unit Safety Officers will submit stocking hanging plans to this headquarters prior to 0800 hours, 20 December 2011, ATTN: G4, for approval.
 - e. At the first sign of clatter from the lawn, all troops will spring from their beds to evaluate noise and cause. Immediate action will be taken to tear open the shutters and throw open the window sashes. G4 Plan (Saint Nick), Reference LO No. 3, paragraph 6c, this headquarters, 2 February 2009, will be in effect to facilitate



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shutter tearing and sash throwing. Division chiefs will familiarize all personnel with procedures and are responsible for ensuring that no shutters are torn open or window sashes thrown open prior to start of official clatter.

- f. Prior to 2400 hrs, 24 December 2011, all personnel will be assigned "Wondering Eye" stations. After shutters are thrown open and sashes are torn, these stations will be manned. Military Police will be on site to provide traffic control if needed.
 - g. The G4 will assign one each Sleigh, miniature, M-66, and eight (8) deer, rein, tiny, for use of General Claus' driver who, IAW current directives and other applicable regulations, must have a valid SF 56 properly annotated by Driver Testing; be authorized rooftop parking and be able to shout "On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer and Vixen, up Comet, up Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen".
2. General Claus will enter quarters through standard chimneys. All units without chimneys will draw Chimney Simulator, M-6, for use during ceremonies. Chimney simulator units will be requested on Engineer Job Order Request Form submitted to the Furniture Warehouse prior to 19 December 2011, and issued on DA Form 3161, Request for Issue or Turn-in.
 3. Personnel will be rehearsed on shouting "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night." This shout will be given on termination of General Claus' visit. Uniformity of shouting is the responsibility of division chiefs.
 4. Scout Platoon will be providing flank security and gate security at all phase lines on General Claus's route. Check points Alpha Tango 12 through Delta Charlie 16 will man radios during the visit. All GPS tracking will be coordinated with the S3 Operations Sergeant.
 5. Air Defense Section will stand down five minutes prior to General Claus' arrival and will remain in that status until five minutes after the Generals' departure. During the stand down, eight (8) Blackhawk helicopters will provide air security and escort security the General. We have air superiority during this time. All A-10's from the 162nd Fighter Wing will be on full alert during the General's visit. See the chain of command listing for scramble authority.
 6. All naughty and nice personnel will be under the control of the S-1 and S-2 NCOIC accordingly.
 7. Medical Section will be fully staffed along with two (2) Evac choppers in the event they are needed.
 8. After actions reports are to be submitted and on my desk NLT 0900 26 December.

CHRISTOPHER K. RINGLE
Command Sergeant Major, USA
NCOIC, Special Services

Subject: Harold T. Ross, 460th PFAB Battery D

I am looking for information on Pfc. Harold T. Ross of the 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, Battery D formerly of St. Paul, Minnesota including anyone that may remember him, recollections and especially photographs.

Thank you. Greg Glunz



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Hi Greg,

I confirmed that Harold Ross was in D Battery, as he is listed in the '44 Christmas roster: http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_battery_d.jpg

But unfortunately, that's all I can find right now on the website records. But I will post your request in the next weekly newsletter, and see if anyone else remembers him.

Can I ask what your relationship to Pvt. Ross is? Are you a relative?

Bob Barrett

He is my fiancé's father. I've determined that he was with the 460th from the beginning and transferred to the 376th PFAB, Battery A while in Joigny, finishing his service with the 82nd in Berlin. I had discovered his name in the '44 Christmas roster previously but unfortunately little exists in the way of photos, stories, specific battery history, etc. for Battery D. I'd be very interested in where he landed during the southern France invasion and any other battery specific information that could help in locating some of his locations when his daughter and I visit Europe next September.

Thank you very much for your help.

Greg Glunz

gregory.glunz@stantec.com

Greg,

You are right that there are not a lot of details documented. We have tried to collect what we can find, but most of what is on the website was not collected until 2001 until now, 60 years later. And as the 517th troopers always remind me – “It was war, we didn't send a lot of time on paperwork.”

There are a few documents that have general information about some of the troop movements of the 460th:

Chronicle: <http://517prct.org/documents/chronicle/chronicle.htm>

Operation Dragoon After Action reports:

http://517prct.org/documents/after_action_reports/record_of_events.pdf (460th is on pages 19-21)

And of course, your best info is in the official written histories:

[Paratrooper's Odyssey - A History of the 517th Parachute Combat Team](#)

Battling Buzzards: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0440236932/qid=1003876461/sr=2-1/ref=sr_2_11_1/102-3974506-0754549#

I will be sending out another newsletter this weekend, and I'll let you know if anyone responds with more info about Harold Ross or D Battery.

Bob Barrett



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Eddie's been gone a while. I'd like him to know that we miss him still. We're well and happy. Appreciate your efforts.

George Jones

Thunderbolt

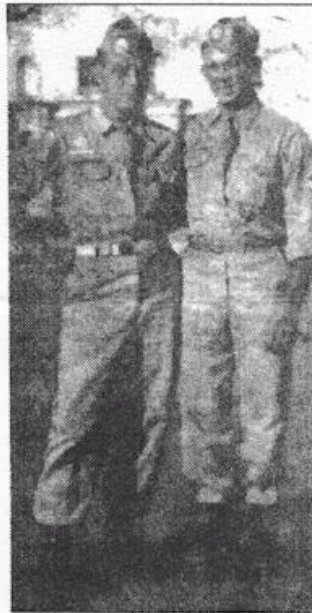
1st Quarter 1999

George Jones, Headquarters 1st ran across this photo recently and it brought back a flood of memories. Hence the following:

"Ode to a Top Hand"

Sergeant Eddie E. Ellington

He usually responded "guilty". We met for the first time at the Induction Center in Dallas and from there we loaded on buses for a trip to Camp Wolters. Eddie stood out. In preparation for "boot camp" he had his head shaved. Upon arrival everyone got a haircut including bald Eddie. They even deducted two-bits for the haircut from his first month's pay. He was a long time living that down.



At Camp Wolters we received the Airborne pitch and decided to join. The train trip to Toccoa was a mess, Basic training was worse. Then on to "Jump School" Camp Mackall and overseas.

I saw the medics bring him down a hill in Italy. The back of his field jacket was a bloody mess. We were sure we've seen the last of Eddie. He was back before the dust settled.

In the "Bulge" he asked, "Where is the fire coming from?" "Out of the window above your head", was the response.

Eddie backed up so fast, he said, "I bet the imprint of my butt is still on that brick wall".

After the war was over we went to Fort Sam Houston for discharge. In the pay line a hitch developed. No jump pay! The Pay Master said, "Why not sign and worry about your jump pay later."

We refused and hung around San Antonio for a week or ten days until they worked it out. Not having been paid, money became scarce. Most

of us being Airborne, we spent our time at better things such as Church, Teas, Libraries etc.

I wound up in Dallas and had a job waiting in Corsicana. I knew Eddie was in Chatfield and went to visit him. I flagged him down on his mail route and we went over the ten years since we last met.

I did see him at a couple of mini reunions and we also kept in touch by phone.

After I found out he had cancer I wanted to take him on a fishing trip. It was too late.

And to the people who run the outfit up there let me say this; wherever you put him, Eddie will make a good hand. In the parlance of the range country, "He'll do".

In Admiration of Paratroopers

By Charley Pugh

Over the past 56 years, I have been a paratrooper for three years and a keen observer associated with paratroopers for 53 years. Paratroopers have a distinctive presence that is best expressed by the French word Panache. I think the closest equivalent English word is Aura. It is a special look, air, and manner of carrying and conducting oneself.

Paratroopers have always been an impressive genre. Make plans to be a part of our May 2 - 7, 1999, reunion in Columbus, Georgia and you will see exactly what I mean as you enjoy visiting with veteran paratroopers as well as those of more recent vintage.

Don and Marge Fraser

Headquarters 1st

Sold the farm in Florida and moved back to Illinois. New address is 11148 S. Lawler, Alsip, IL. Will see you in Palm Springs in February and Fort Benning in May. Don't know about Melbourne yet. Carl said wife, Agnes, fell and broke her hip. But Carl said she is doing OK,

Good Health and Happy New Year to all.

Overheard in Laurinburg, NC in 1941 as 517th paratrooper comes to the door and knocks. Father answers: "Cheryl, something here to see you?". "Does he have wings? If he does he's my angel".

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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



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