



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2087**

**December 31, 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)

### *Manhay 1944 Remembered*

It was sixty-seven years ago today (27Dec1944), early that morning, that many Troopers of Company "I", 3rd Battalion, gave their full-measure to friendly fire, in the successful taking of Manhay, Belgium. My uncle, **Floyd A. Stott**, was a 1st Lt. leading his men when fate stepped in. Other troopers, including **Ben Barrett**, and our recent loss **Lud Gibbons**, as well as **Robert Vaught** and **Marvin Moles** have been able to give me details of that morning, and the rest of the day, that I never knew from my own family members.



As I sit here typing, I am glancing at the 1994 photo of Floyd's cross in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial. Standing on either side of the cross are Ben and Lud. I also look to the side and there is the 2009 photo of Ben, Lud and Gene Frice taken around Floyd's cross. Thank you to all 517th Troopers for honoring your Brothers. Not a day passes that I don't think of you.

And let us not forget that today, American troops were victorious at the Siege of Bastogne.

I sent a personal note to Marty Donahoo, but I need to let the 517th Family know how sad I was to learn of Lud's passing. I have so many great memories of this man, especially when he'd comment about Uncle Floyd, "He was a hell-of-a guy!" That was Lud's way of saying he really liked a person. I have so many fine memories of Lud, with his dapper-look, the wide-brimmed hat, and his tall and easy manner of movement. An ever-present smile and cheerful character, unless he was relating an episode from WW II, are all parts I will carry with me throughout life.

**Kenton Floyd Immerfall** - Nephew of Floyd A. Stott



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### *MailCall News*

Jim is still in the hospital, no longer needing kidney dialysis but requiring assistance to clear his lungs after the pneumonia. They did a bronchoscopy yesterday and he is currently intubated, but he is also doing some of the breathing on his own and his vitals are good. The doctors are very optimistic that the tube will be removed in a day or two. They are keeping him in the ICU so he can be closely monitored. He is getting excellent care.

Best,

**Brenda [Verbeck Mortensen]**

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As I write, it's New year's Eve. At this time in 1944, the Battle of the Bulge was raging and the 517 was there. Guys have told me they've never been warm since.

We are happy to close out this year as a functioning and intact unit. The 517 made a solid decision this year at Atlanta to change our organization to fold the Auxilliary into the Association. The Pearl Harbor veterans, who vastly outnumbered the 517, shut their doors today. We have the utmost respect for them and all other units that have had to close down without current serving members (as in the 82nd Airborne or 101st Airborne) to support them and their historic contributions.

Helen and I have had some stumbling blocks with the Thunderbolt. Hang in there. There will probably not be pictures in the next one, but we will get caught up.

We look forward to three reunion opportunities in 2012: Kissimmee next month for the long weekend, Palm Springs in April, and Kansas City in July.

At year's end, we are sorry to have said goodbye to so many, and grateful for the continuing good health that others enjoy. Please, attend a reunion if you're able to read this. Come make new friends and catch up with old ones. We always have fun.

Happy New Year!

**Claire Giblin**

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I'm sorry to inform all that **Hal Eddy** of the Second Platoon, **596th Parachute Engineers** (517th) died on December 8, 2011 while undergoing open-heart surgery. Hal was with the engineers from Toccoa to Berlin. I last saw him and his wife Pauline (deceased) at the Bismarck reunion. They lived at 1737 Briton Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021

**Bill Hudson**

Vet of 596th Para Engrs

144 FrederickSt

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

813427-1454

[HUDSONWG@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:HUDSONWG@SBCGLOBAL.NET)



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Hello all,

I would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year from across the Atlantic. During the holiday season I especially think of the families in the US who lost a loved one in Europe during WWII. Yesterday, I visited Ardennes, Henri-Chapelle and Margraten war cemeteries accompanied by two friends to remember the soldiers who we adopted and their brothers in arms.

<http://www.battleatbest.com/eventschristmasvisit2011.html>

Please know that the men and women who are responsible for our freedom in the Netherlands and the rest of Europe, will never be forgotten. Lest we forget!

I hope you feel happiness and joy spending the holiday season with your family and friends. Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Warm regards,

**Tom Peeters**

Best, the Netherlands

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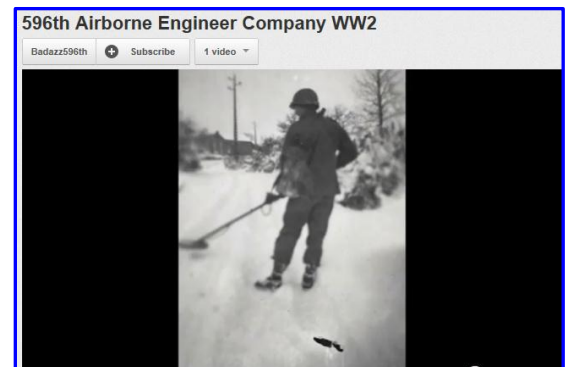
I hope everyone had a great Christmas! It had to be better than the Xmas 1944.

Anyway. I put together a little YouTube video and I hope everyone enjoys it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6uMoh4P7i8>

**Johnny Privott**

Grandson of **Raymond Doane 596th**



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Happy belated holidays to all the troopers and their families.

I am attaching two articles from today's (Christmas) paper. The Christmas Spirit article opens with Bing Crosby entertaining a "paratrooper outfit in France" in the later stages of WWII. Just wondering if the 517th or any of the troopers in subsequent outfits saw Bing in France.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/christmas-spirit/2011/12/23/gIQAzja9FP\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/christmas-spirit/2011/12/23/gIQAzja9FP_story.html)

Second article by David Ignatius (I'm a great fan of his style and content) reports on today's troops observing the holidays overseas. Both articles illustrate the challenges of being away from home during the holidays experienced by our guys years ago and our guys and gals today.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/joy-to-the-troops/2011/12/22/gIQAibmTEP\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/joy-to-the-troops/2011/12/22/gIQAibmTEP_story.html)

God bless to all!

**Tom Copsey**

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Send news to MailCall@517prct.org

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To: **Gilles Guignard**

**Lory Curtis** is trying to get some additional information for the producer of the movie that they are making from Lory's writings of the 517<sup>th</sup>. Specifically, they are looking for information about the markings that were on the aircraft for Operation Dragoon. Lory has a couple of photos that are in the Michel De Trez book, *First Airborne Task Force*, but he is looking for more photos or better information about the markings. I looked into all the books I have for photos of the Dragoon planes, but I could not find more.

I know that you have made some short videos with film and photos of the 517 getting ready in Italy, with a glimpse of the planes, similar to De Trez' pictures.  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN0GMPPkLnU>). I figure that if anyone knows about the plane markings or has access to photos, it is probably you or someone that you know. Do you know where we might find better information?

Bob Barrett

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Merry Christmas from Southern France to all our friends of the 517th. Thank you Bob for posting the link of the Reenactors group 44memory just arriving from the Bulge celebration. And happy birthday Bob ! thanks for all you are doing for our heroes!!

**J. Mickael & Eric,**  
Le Muy, "15 Aout 1944 Airborne association.  
PO box 79  
83490 Le MUY

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Dear friends,

Here is CADUSA story. We could add the next ceremonies of 2012 jan. 7. With warm regards and respect.

**Irma [Targnion]**

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### **CADUSA**

**(Comité d'accueil des U.S. Airborne – U.S. Airborne Reception Committee – Battle of the Bulge)**

Its history.

At the end of the 60-ies, some veterans began to come back to the Ardennes for revisiting the scenes of the terrible 44/45 winter battles. One of the first in our area was Cpt. Charles E. La Chaussée (517<sup>th</sup>) and he was received by Mr. and Mrs. Georges Caspar of Bergeval.

Then, in 1971, Joseph Winand, Jules Gillard and Leopold Carlier founded CADUSA. From then on, the visiting veterans were received in family homes, were guided to the places they wished to visit, friendships blossomed and correspondence



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started between Ardennes and US families.

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ardennes Battle, 1984 saw the first real wave of veterans and their families. With appropriate ceremony, several monuments were inaugurated.

In September, a monument to the men of the 505<sup>th</sup> and the 517<sup>th</sup> was inaugurated on the field near the Church in St.Jacques.

Another one, made by the inhabitants of Logiermé was inaugurated in memory of the 5 soldiers of the 517<sup>th</sup>, who lost their life there.

During such ceremony days, all veterans with their families were received and lodged in Ardennes family homes, most of them members of CADUSA. Visits multiplied and every time members of CADUSA or friends of the Welcoming Committee were happy hosts.

In 1989, at the initiative of CADUSA, a monument was made in remembrance of the 700 men of the 551<sup>st</sup> PIR who lost their life in the final combat of January 7, 1945. The inauguration ceremonies were held on August 20 in presence of Col. Jorg's children, of Col. Dillard and many veterans of the 551<sup>st</sup>. That same year, CADUSA, at the request of 517<sup>th</sup>, erected a monument in Wanne in thanks to the Ardennes people for their hospitality and gratitude. It was inaugurated on October 7<sup>th</sup> in the presence of the President of the 517<sup>th</sup> PIR Association and many Americans.

In 1992, the Welcoming Committee undertook the necessary administrative work, choice of stones, contacts and construction of a monument at the crossroads of Soy-Hotton, following the wishes of combatants of 517<sup>th</sup>, who had lost so many friends at this particular crossing. A large group of veterans was present at the inauguration on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and a bus was provided for them to visit the different places that they remembered. That monument was unveiled by Major Fraser and the daughter of Col. Boyle.

For the 50<sup>iet</sup>h anniversary in 1994, the Committee still wonders how it was possible to receive the 350 person "Static Line" group, lodge them in families and then guide them to the different ceremonies. It is true that neighbouring villages came to our rescue with great sympathy. Obviously, this is always done in the families for free. All through the year we received many visits, often unannounced but always with great warmth. During the ensuing years, many organised veteran group visited, were assisted and were feasted. O.B.Hill (508<sup>th</sup>), Doug Dillard (551<sup>st</sup>), Don Lassen (Static Line) came with veterans of all regiments as well as other GI's and their families.

On the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, June 2, 2004, and after many contacts and preparations with Don Lassen, nearly 350 visitors, that is 80 veterans and their families, received a really memorable welcome. The communities of Ferrières, Lierneux, Vielsalm and Manhay each received and feasted more or less 40 persons, while Trois Ponts and Stoumont received 140 Americans for a remembrance day that ended with a joyous and happy banquet.

CADUSA participates in regional patriotic ceremonies, like the yearly first Saturday in January with homage and flowers remembering 505, 517 and 551 P.I.R.. Mass is held in the St. Jacques church in memory of the US soldiers fallen for our freedom.

Saturday January 9, 2010 was special for this 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with mass at 10 am.

And so, as long as US veterans continue coming, although probably in decreasing numbers, the CADUSA will continue its respectful duty of welcome and remembrance.





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### Submitted by

Name: Jessica Egelhof  
From: Currently Clovis, NM  
E-mail: [jessica.egelhof@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.egelhof@gmail.com)

### Comments:

Hi,  
still looking for any info on my grandpa **Joseph Egelhof**, who was in D Co. and was friends with **Sam Emmons, Jr.** also D Co. Grandpa died before I was born so I would just like to know as much as I can about him. Thanks!

Added: December 27, 2011



From **Bruce and Liz Broudy** via **Eric Renoux**

Rhone American Cemetery, Draguignan, France, August 16, 2011



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eYw\\_BJ1cLE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eYw_BJ1cLE)

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*I just ran across this article on **Bob Rust, of A Company**. It was published on May 27, 2011 for Memorial Day. (See next page)*

*Make sure you check out the video, where he talks about the sacrifices in the Battle of the Bulge. -- BB*



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### Elite WWII Paratrooper is VGF Resident

by [Kathy Johans](#)



Bob Rust, an 86-year-old resident at [The Village at Gleannloch Farms](#) in Spring, Texas, was only 18 when the young World War II soldier joined one of the US Army's most elite fighting units—the [517th Regimental Parachute Team](#). The men of the 517<sup>th</sup> were some of America's best, called on to fight their way from the south of France through Italy, Belgium, and finally into Hitler's Germany. This unit is officially connected to five campaigns, but one event especially stands out in Bob's memory: an onslaught in the winter of 1944 that became the crucial focus of the war—later known as the [Battle of the Bulge](#).

Ultimately, the 517th was credited with stopping the forward advance of the "bulge" in its tracks, sealing the demise of the Third Reich. Bob's battalion was honored with the French Croix de Guerre, the Belgian Croix de Guerre, and a special Unit Citation, given only by direct authority of the President of the United States.

[View Full Album](#)



"They were very brave men, any of whom would have died for each other without hesitation. They moved forward with dedication and unflinching courage. I was very fortunate to serve with them," said Rust.

Wounded twice during the Second World War—steel shrapnel from a German artillery shell is still lodged in his back—Bob is now considered technically disabled. A year ago, he came to live at The Village at Gleannloch Farms and "gets around" without any assistance in the independent living part of the community.

Today, Bob's medals adorn the wall of his apartment: A Bronze Star and Purple Heart with Oak Clusters, among others. He enjoys talking to other veterans at his new home, where he says, "we're all like one big family."

Celebrating Memorial Day is a timely opportunity to remember the sacrifices made by Bob Rust, the men of the 517<sup>th</sup>, and other veterans who fought for our freedom.



Source: <http://helphealinghope.wordpress.com/2011/05/27/elite-wwii-paratrooper-is-vgf-resident/>

[UPDATE: [Click here](#) to see KHOU Houston interview with Bob Rust]





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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](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

