



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2091**

**January 28, 2012**

*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)

### *Kissimmee Report*

Our Kissimmee reunion was smaller than usual, but was none the less very enjoyable. Six veterans attended. Family and friends brought the banquet total to twenty-three.

Darrell Egner arrived with a good supply of adult beverages. His son, Chris, and Chris's business partner contributed five hundred dollars to our celebration. Many thanks to both. They stayed and seemed to enjoy themselves. We certainly enjoyed their company.

Several food shopping expeditions resulted in a table well-supplied with sandwich makings. As far as I could see everyone had lunch in the hospitality room. Many thanks to the MacDonald ladies, Emmie and daughter Keith, and to Leila Webb for trips and preparation.

All who have been to Kissimmee will remember the gazebo and separate table in front of the hospitality suite. As usual, many of us sat in (or at) one or the other discussing politics, the state of nation and world. We also fought World War Two over again. Those of you read this will be happy to know that we won again.

Several regulars were missing because of serious situations at home. Most of these have been mentioned in mailcall and we all look forward to seeing them next year, or sooner.

For those of you who can make it, Palm Springs is in April and the national reunion will be in Kansas City in July. Shortly after that **Darrell Egner** will be awarded the rank of Chevalier in The French Legion of Honor in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, Darrell!

Regards to all,  
**Allan Johnson**



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Bob: what a remarkable Mail Call. Fabulous on so many levels (and so much news and interesting interconnections). Thank you so much. Dad is still raving about the wonderful time he had at the mini-reunion in Kissimmee. Brenda did a magnificent job of organization and everyone else then helped execute the plan. Hope Jim is doing better.

**Pat Seitz and Alan Greer**

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Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012

I received a note from Brenda telling me **Jim Mortenson** 460-HQ has been moved to Bailey Family Center - a hospice on the campus of Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine on January 25th. Jim has been in the Hospital for quite some time and Brenda has been by his side night and day. She told me it was time to stop torturing him and honor his end of life wishes. Please pray for her as she goes thru this rough time.

Brenda did a super job planning the Florida Mini this year. She was unable to leave Jim so I picked up her records on the way to the Mini. **Emme McDonald, Keith Barry, Leilia Webb and Claire Giblin** took over and did a wonderful job. Frankly it was one of the best Mini reunions ever.

I will be going to St. Augustine tomorrow to turn over a re-cap of the reunion and her records.

**Darrell Egner**

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**From:** mark landreth

**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2012 7:52 PM

**Subject:** RE: 517 PRCT - MailCall No. 2090 - January 21, 2012 (3)

Bob - Saw your comment regarding needing a professional videographer in order to get a copy of the 35 MM film from the archives. Do you have any idea what it would cost? Is there a way we can find out? I'd be willing to pony up some/part/all depending on the cost. Then, maybe, you could post it to the website? Let me know when you have time. Be well, mark

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Hi Mark,

Here is the only information I can find:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/broadcast-quality-film-dc.html>

I'm guessing it'll be a couple of hundred bucks. If you call one of the companies listed as approved for this, I'm sure they could tell you what the procedure is. Are you in that area?

Just be aware that we don't know if the 517<sup>th</sup> part of the film is 15 minutes or 15 seconds.

Bob B.



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Bob,

I am pleased to report that I have completed the scanning and editing process of the 100 plus pictures that were provided by **Johnny Privotte** and the **William Raymond Doane** (596, 1st platoon) Family to help further capture online the images of the men of the 596th PRCT and the places that they travelled to during WWII.

I have just completed the merge of these pictures to my photo gallery for the 596 engineers (<http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/> ).

I have also placed a 100mb zip file of all of the edited images for your discretion in adding to the 517 site here;

[http://markleweb.com/RaymondDoane\\_596.zip](http://markleweb.com/RaymondDoane_596.zip)

...let me know if you have any issues with the download of this file. I can send out a CD if needed.

**-Steve Markle**

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As we have our reunions, and wonder how many of us will be at the next one, this piece of history should give us all something to think about....Imagine, former foes, each ingrained with their own cultural philosophy, shaking hands across the stone fence! These old timers seem to take as much pride in their appearance, medals and memories as we paratroopers do.

### **Phil McSpadden**

Priceless Video. Everyone should see this. A piece of History that we should never forget.

Appears to be edited and uploaded by a Jr. High School.

Stirring footage of Civil War vets reunion @ Gettysburg .

Civil war veteran soldier footage, captured for 50th and 75th Reunions In 1913 and 1938

Interesting factoid: The number killed in the Civil War roughly equals the number of WWI + WWII + Korean Conflict + Vietnam War added together. (About 625,000)



<http://www.schooltube.com/video/a088eb35599e46dd5552/Civil-war-veteran-soldier-footage-captured-between-1913-and-1938>

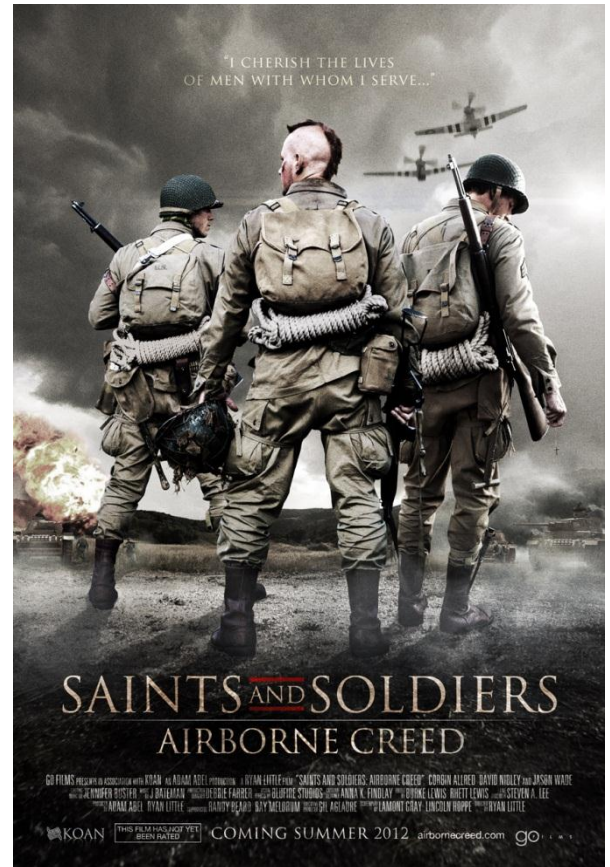


## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Bob,  
 I want to thank you, **Gilles, Morris, President Johnson**, and other who came to my aide quickly in determining what aircraft markings were on the C-47's the night of the 517th PRCT jump into Southern France. For those who do not know, a movie producer read my book, *Letters Home a Paratrooper's Story* (about my Dad's letters home to his mother during the time he was in the 517th) and wanted to use parts of it for his World War II movie entitled "Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed" (you can see a movie trailer by going to youtube.com and typing in Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LV7wza7aJ1E&ob=av3e>

Anyway, he called me a few weeks back asking if I knew what the aircraft marking were on the c-47 planes. I had no idea what they were, but with the help of the above people we were able to find out. The movie producer wanted to make sure the marking were accurate for the 517th, and I thanked him for his attention to detail. The movie is frictional, but revolves around three 517th paratroopers making the jump into Southern France, and then getting cut off behind German lines. Although I don't know the entire story of the movie, the 3 troopers link up with the French Resistance and somehow fight their way back to America lines. Even though the story is frictional, I think this is a great tribute to the legacy of the 517th PRCT. Please see 2 photos I have attached, the first is the movie poster that will be placed in theaters. The second is me with the 3 movie stars playing the parts of the 517th troopers. I did get to be an extra in the movie. You will notice I am wearing my Dad's paratrooper wings from 1943 in honor of him. The movie comes out in May, and I hope to be able to show it at the Kansas City Reunion in July.



Which reminds me, please start making plans to attend our **National Reunion, at the Airport Hilton Hotel, Kansas City, MO, July 12-15, 2012**. In the next few weeks I will have all of the forms and registration materials for you on mailcall and will have Helen and Claire put the information in the Thunderbolt.

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





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Hi Bob,

Do you think anyone would be interested in the above web site about the Band of Brothers? I found it on facebook and thought I would pass it along.....

Rick Sweet

<http://www.beyondbandofbrothers.com/>

RE: **George Sullivan** photos:

[http://517prct.org/photos/george\\_sullivan/george\\_sullivan.htm](http://517prct.org/photos/george_sullivan/george_sullivan.htm)

I was going through **Hoyt Kelley's** journal and found the same picture as I scanned as "53-D" "Le Pont." "55-A" is the same bridge taken from a different angle – I misidentified this as Paris. "54-B" is the same church and building taken from across the river (the bridge is just visible in the lower right corner). The church is Eglise St. Jean. (St. John Church)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Joigny\\_-\\_Eglise\\_Saint-Jean\\_01.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Joigny_-_Eglise_Saint-Jean_01.jpg)



Kelley identifies this city on page # 57 as Joigny – I'm guessing that Dad must have picked this collection of photos up during their time in reserve after the Bulge. Kelley's photo of the bridge is in color, taken from the same spot as Dad's B&W version.

"54-D" – Cote St Jaques is also in Joigny with the church of St. Thibault in the foreground.

Cheers  
Roger Sullivan



Here's another photo I found in a separate box – would have been at Ft Barbonnet Sospel between Nov 4<sup>th</sup> when 1<sup>st</sup> BN went into reserves and & Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 1944 when orders for Belgium came in (thanks, Gilles for location ID). Coincidentally, Dad – who is standing 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right – turned 20 on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

There's a 'today' shot enclosed that I found taken at almost the identical spot where they were standing 67 years ago.

Roger

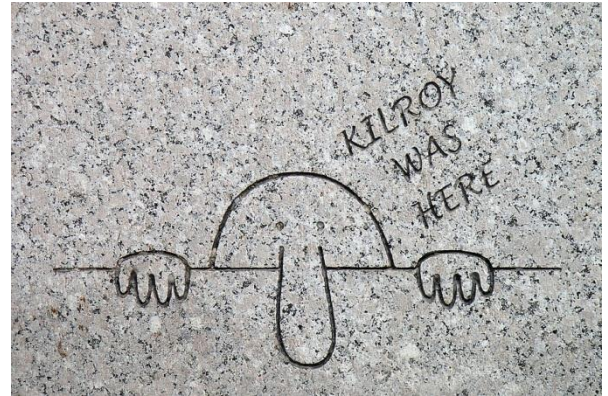




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From **Phil McSpadden**:

I had never seen this story before, but for those of us in WWII, it has a special meaning, as the little guy with the long nose peering over the fence was found everywhere, and everyone was wondering just how he got there before they did!! It is, indeed, a part of the WWII Memorial, but you have to know where to find it....I have a photo of it someplace, and if I can locate it will forward....it is in the entrance to the underground service area....look for it! Phil



KILROY WAS HERE! WHO THE HECK WAS KILROY?

In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the REAL Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article. Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts, had evidence of his identity. He was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war who worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet. Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark. Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then he realized what had been going on. The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his checkmark on each job he inspected, but added 'KILROY WAS HERE' in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message. Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks.

Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long hauls to Berlin and Tokyo.

To the troops outbound in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that some jerk named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, U.S. servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived. Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of I Arc De Triomphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon).

As the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for coming invasions by U.S. troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo!

In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. It's first occupant was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?"



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To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy front yard in Halifax, Massachusetts.

If you check the WWII memorial in Washington DC, you will see Kilroy peeking over a wall.

So, now you know the rest of the story!

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From **Bill Morris, son of Robert Morris, E Company;**

Here is a Newsworthy item. My father served with 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Team, Second Battalion, Co"E", 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad from "Italy to the Battle of the Bulge . On Jan 26th, 2012 (A day before my Birthday) I received an Email from a, Jean-Louis Seel, who lives in Belgium saying that in 1988 near the town of Manhay, Belgium he found, my what he believed, to be father's Dog Tags. He sent me a photo, which I have attached to this email, of the tags and I confirmed the serial # from my Dads Army records. During the Battle of the Bulge, Company "E" had spent a 3 days in this area late December, 1944, before going into battle again. My Father was wounded outside Trois-Ponts, Belgium a few days later on January 3rd 1945.

This is the Web site that I dedicated to my Dad from which Jean-Louis was able to connect the dots. <http://billmorris.freesevers.com/>

This is Jean-Louis' Facebook page address: <https://www.facebook.com/99digger>. Jean-Louis also has been instrumental in recovering WW2 ,MIA's for the 99th Inf Div.

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From **Jean-Louis' Facebook page:**



[Jean-Louis Seel](#) After nearly 24 years, I was finally able to locate the family of **Robert L. Morris**. I own this set of dog tags for years. They were dug out by a friend in 1987 near the village of Manhay. Over the years, I tried to identify his unit, now it's done thanks to the tribute page that his son Bill put on the web! PFC Morris was a pathfinder in Co. E 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He got two Bronze Stars and was wounded in action near Trois-Ponts on Jan. 3, 1945. Mr. Morris passed away in 1975. Both tags will be shipped this week to his son. A Happy end!





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

**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 7:39:12 AM

Dears friends,

We are sad to inform you of the death of **Jean-Pierre DOMEREGO**, owner of **Hôtel des Étrangers** at Sospel where some of you stayed in 2009 and where we had the lunch with the mayor.

During the mass of funeral, his coffin was covered with the American flag as he was an ambassador of the French cooking in New York.

Included a pic during the speech of Jean-Mario Lorenzi mayor of Sospel and Jean-pierre Domérego (at right) in 2009.



**Patricia and Roland Orengo**  
Sospel, France

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Oh, Patou -

I am so sorry to hear of Jean-Pierre's death. My father still speaks of the decaf espresso at the Hotel, which I believe Jean Pierre made for him. He made our time in Sospel very special.

It is right that his service to America (both in cuisine and in his life) was recognized.

I am very sorry to hear of your loss.

**Claire Giblin**

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From humorist Will Rogers (1879 – 1935):

### ABOUT GROWING OLDER...

First ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Fifth ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Sixth ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Eighth ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Ninth ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Tenth ~ Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

And finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

## *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  
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