



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

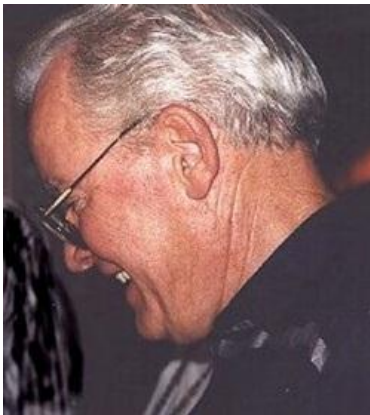
**MailCall No. 2093**

**February 12, 2012**

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

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### *Jim Mortensen*



Dear Bob:

Dad called tonight to tell me the sad and most surprising news about **Jim Mortensen's** passing (hadn't opened Mail Call #2092 yet). What a wonderful, fabulous human being and such a very special treasure to my Dad who is especially touched by this loss. Our hearts go out to Brenda and all of Jim's family. We feel so privileged to have known him and been able to spend time with him and Brenda. I hope Brenda and the family know they are very much in our thoughts and prayers. May the Good Lord encircle Brenda and Jim's kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews in the comfort of His Love and may they have all the grace they need to help counterbalance their sorrow. Brenda's message in Mail Call was beautiful and an inspiration. We are very grateful for all that she did to help the 517th. If there is anything that Alan and I can do for Brenda and Jim's family, we hope that she will just ask.

As I was speaking with Dad tonight about Jim, I realized how very hard it is to lose such a close comrade-in-arms -- Jim was the second man in Dad's stick on the August 15th jump into France. As they were loading up, Jim arrived at the plane with some equipment about the size of a washing machine. Dad told him he wasn't bringing that "thing" on his plane. Jim calmly told him that if Dad wanted to communicate with anyone, he'd better have that "thing." Where upon Dad quickly helped him get it aboard and helped shove it out of the plane when they began the drop. Dad was always impressed with Jim and his many successes and contributions to making this a better place for all. A very special man has returned Home -- what a shining, positive light he was while he was with us. He is an example of a race superbly run by a very good and faithful servant. May we follow his example.

**Pat Seitz and Alan Greer**



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I am very saddened to hear of the passing of **Jim Mortensen**. I see you have posted the pictures I had of Jim and Brenda from the Atlanta reunion this past July. You can see by the smiles on their faces they were having a good time. I am so glad I was able to sit and talk with Jim and work with Brenda as she and Helen took charge of the hospitality room keeping it very well stocked. Jim was a true American hero, like the other men of the 517th, he put his country first, by volunteering for paratroop duty. No one was ordered to be a paratrooper. Like my Dad it came from their heart, and desire to be the BEST of the BEST! Jim will be sorely missed, but I take comfort knowing he is on the other side of the veil of life, and perhaps meeting with my Dad and others from the 517th. May God bless Brenda and all of their families.

Airborne all the way!

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

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My heartfelt sympathy to Brenda and the **Mortensen** family over the passing of Jim. The 517th Combat has loss a great comrade. Jim was a dedicated leader, artillery man and paratrooper. He gave without hesitation loyalty, leadership and great service to the combat team. Jim was the 460th liaison to the 2nd Battalion and was in my plane in the jump into Southern France. Jim was a great trooper and will be missed by us all. God Bless Jim and his family

**Dick Seitz**

### *MailCall News*

**RE: Betsy Peacock is looking for her birth father, a WWII paratrooper.**

Betsy, Do you have a name?

Bob Barrett

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Thanks for your e-mail! YES, wouldn't it be nice if I had a name....but I DO believe it is a small world.

I just need to find a WWII paratrooper born in NY, raised in SC who had 2 brothers and a sister, who was born in 1924 or late 1923, who had brown hair and gray eyes, who was 5'10", who had one year of college, and worked as a bookkeeper at a Miami Beach Hotel in 1953. Small task!!!

I'm very surprised that at Ancestry.com you can put in born in NY, lived in SC, ,and that there are VERY few soldiers matching these entries. It IS a small world, and I know that one day I will discover who my bio dad was and if I have 1/2 siblings out there!!!

(-:

Please feel free to share this info with as many old paratroopers as you can!!

Betsy Peacock

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Hi Betsy,

If you only have a few names from the Ancestry.com lookup, send me those and I can do a quick check.

It might be time consuming, but you can also search the National Archives enlistment records.

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=WR26>

If you have a few possible names, you could try those first.

Or, and I know this is a long-shot, you could try a few search combinations. For example I tried this:

You searched for: RESIDENCE: STATE = 47; YEAR OF BIRTH contains all values 23;  
EDUCATION = 5; MARITAL STATUS = 2, 3

You found **17 partial records** out of 8,706,394 total records in this file.

That's only 17 records for people born in 1923. If I do 1924, I only get 8 more. Of course that is with specifying 1 year of college and married, which might be way too restrictive (Did he go to college before enlistment? Did he correctly record this as only one year?) And who knows if the marital status was recorded correctly.

Sorry I can't help more. Good luck to you.

Bob Barrett

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I am **Thomas McAvoy** of the 517 all the way through from Toccoa to the jump into France, Broke my back in 5 places on the jump onto France, My buddies had to leave me to walk the 30 miles to where they were supposed to have landed, The French underground stepped right in and took care of me for the next 6 days until they could steal a German dump truck and get 4-5 others injured on the same drop, back to the American lines and hospital. Was discharged May 31 1945. I applied for a disability through the V.A. 2 weeks later at Indianapolis Ind. The V.A. very curtly told me my injuries never happened even though I *spent 4 months in a body cast right here at Indianapolis Indiana Billings Army hospital. Sorry we had a fire at St Louis Mo. and all our records were destroyed and we do not know anything about anyone???? I was 51 years before I was able to get disability compensation. GRRRR. What about the back pay???? On top of that they found The V.A. right here in Indy were stealing up to 20 percent of a man's disability ratings if necessary to keep from having to pay for a wife and children. We had 5 kids, Tons of money right there??*

**Thomas McAvoy** new E-Mail address [Garfield517@comcast.net](mailto:Garfield517@comcast.net)



### Where is the Thunderbolt? Did I miss it?

Yes, we know the Thunderbolt is late. There have been several delays in the production for all good reasons, so please bear with the team. It's an all-volunteer project, done by a very busy and unpaid team, performing a labor of love. Good things come to those who wait.

-- BB



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Bob,

Harold Eddy was an early member of the 596. I saw him last at the Bismarck reunion.

Alan Johnson

PS: I think there is an error. I don't think Harold was ever in th 101<sup>st</sup>. As far as I know he did all of his time with the 596. But we know that newspapers often make mistakes.

Allan,

Just wanted to drop you a line to let you know that we lost Dad during his surgery. The surgery itself went well but he had a heart attack afterwards. You may already know I did call Bill shortly after. I am sending to all those that sent Christmas cards and I sent a copy to Static Line so hopefully they will put it in there.

At least he and Mom are together again. He was so miserable without her.

Thank you for the friendship to them

Take care,

Kevin




Harold Eddy



Eddy, Warner, Gaudie, Holbrook

## Harold L. Eddy

 DIXON - Harold Lee Eddy, 88, son of Dixon, died Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011, at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. He was a foreman and union steward for Northern Illinois Gas for 31 years, retiring in 1977.



(David) Barnes of Florissant, Mo., Alanna Forari of Moline, Alethea Summer of St. Louis and Debra (Rick) Good of Naples; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Harold was born Feb. 9, 1923, in Harmon, the son of Delbert G. and Bertha B. (Herald) Eddy. He served in the Army as a member of the 101st Airborne Division. He married Pauline Heckman on Dec. 5, 1964, in Princeton. She preceded him in death earlier this year on May 18, 2011. They had 47 happy years together, and they accomplished much by working side by side. Harold was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dixon, American Legion Post 12, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 540 and Dixon Elks Lodge BPOE 779.

You will be forever in our hearts, and our faith confirms that we will meet again.

Survivors include three sons, Scott (Mary) Eddy of Fairview Heights, Steven Wilson of Naples, Fla., and Kenneth Wilson of Ann Arbor, Mich.; four daughters, Toby

Visitation will be from 2 to 8 p.m., with the family present from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m., Sunday at Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon. The funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dixon, with the Rev. Frank Langholf, pastor, officiating. Burial, with full military graveside honors provided by the combined veterans organizations, will be at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon.

Memorials have been established to Immanuel Lutheran Church and Granny Rose Animal Shelter in Dixon.

Visit [www.preston-schillingfuneralhome.com](http://www.preston-schillingfuneralhome.com) to send condolences.





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### *Lt. Robert Morgan's Manhay '44 Manuscript*

[Kim is the oldest child of Lt. Bob Morgan, Rgt HQ and G Co.. She has a 64-page, pencil-written copy of Bob Morgan's recollections of Manhay, Christmas 1944]

Good morning, Bob! I've been out of town for a few days and am just now seeing your note. I can't believe I'm "talking" to someone who's actually BEEN to Manhay!

I was really just shooting in the dark the other night when I sent that e-mail....literally couldn't sleep, had this on my mind, and just decided to get up and see if I could find out anything on-line. I never dreamt I'd hear back from someone who really knew what I was asking.

For years I've felt like my brothers and sister and I needed to try to make contact with someone who knew Daddy Bob. Then, in moving across the yard, from house to house, my copy of Daddy Bob's memoir was misplaced....for 14 years! The other day, in looking for some family info, I found it....in a place that I'm sure I didn't put it. Go figure...

The manuscript is the 1st, pencil draft, written front and back on 32 sheets of a legal pad, in a very small script. It's really hard to read so I'm in the process of transcribing it. And, I feel like I need to talk to my brothers and sister before sending it anywhere. I think they will be glad to share it.

Daddy Bob felt that the story of what happened at Manhay in the 17 hours spanning Dec. 25 and 26, 1944 had never been accurately told. Even when I read the very short mention of Manhay on the 517th website, the story it told didn't fit with the story Daddy Bob tells.

After all this time, I'm afraid most of the men who knew him are gone. I feel a real urgency to not waste any more time trying to make contacts. I am excited, beyond belief, to get in touch with Howard Hensleigh....a real answer to my prayers.

I want, very much, to visit more with you about your dad's recollections and your trip to Belgium. Is that alright?

What about the reunions? Are you still having any? Seems like there was something about one this summer.

Thank you, so much, for responding to me and for any further time we have together, Bob. I'm almost giddy with excitement for all of this!

Kim Harris 575-396-5658



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Note to Kim Harris, oldest child of **Bob Morgan**. I knew Bob well, first when he was a sergeant in **Albin Dearing's** 517th Regimental S-2 (Intelligence) section. He had been at Westpoint before he joined us. He received a battlefield promotion to 2nd Lt. in Southern France and was promoted to 1st Lt. before we broke up. The last time I saw him was at a reunion when he was working in the oil industry and lived in Lubbock, TX (Sp?)

I was chosen by **Mel Zais** to be 3rd Bn. S-2 for Tennessee maneuvers (replacing **Johnie Neiler** who pulled umpire detail) and worked with Bob, **Grazaffi**, **Dearing** and the rest of the Regimental S-2 section in Tennessee. Bob came to G Company in Southern France and was with it until the end of the War.

Before that in Southern France the Regimental 2 section came through our area on a patrol with **Dearing** in the lead. I joined them with **Col. Paxton's** permission to see how Regiment did it. We went forward on a narrow road around the jut of a mountain right for the German lines. In my patrols I always stayed off the roads and trails, but we proceeded with great confidence. Soon we heard the sound of German tank motors but we kept right on going. When we were well around the bend we saw German pill boxes and soon the tank let loose 88's in our direction. At this point we had accomplished our mission--to learn where the enemy was--so we headed up over the mountain as fast as we could go with **Capt. Dearing** in the lead. Fortunately there was a deep crevasse in the mountain about 7 feet deep right up to the top. The 88's landed all around us but none hit the crevasse. As we all passed Dearing he said, aren't you going to wait for the old man? No one answered and we just kept going. All of us made it to the top without a scratch, mission accomplished. I decided to keep on patrolling my own way--off the roads and trails.

After Bob joined us **Col. Paxton** decided to take his control group and a few other officers on a tactical walk towards enemy lines in territory we patrolled two or three times a week. To my horror, **Paxton** headed right up a big trail used by tourists in peaceful times for mountain hiking. **Capt. Woodhull** of the 460th and I who often patrolled together decided to bring up the rear of the column as we expected trouble. Your father, **Bob Morgan**, was at Paxton's side and at a critical point told the Col. to hold up and let the two enlisted scouts go forward to check things out. These two men went down in bursts of machine gun fire and the rest of the officers beat a hasty retreat. In that one instance, your father saved the 3rd Bn. from a disaster. All of the leading officers of the Bn. could have been mowed down at close range. Woodhull and I hit the dirt observed for a while and decided there was nothing we could do at that time. That afternoon Woody and I returned with **Tex Fuller's** platoon, got behind the Germans and killed or captured all of them, but that is another story.

I thought a lot of your father. He was an excellent intelligence man and a leader as an officer. I always looked for him at reunions, but he died at an early age to my thinking.

My highest airborne regards to you and the rest of Bob's family,

**Howard Hensleigh**



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Good morning, Howard!

I'm almost wild with excitement over your response to my note to Bob Barrett!

You may be getting the things I'm sending him, so I'll try not to repeat everything. I just want you to know that I feel such an urgency in contacting any of you guys who knew Daddy Bob.

I would say that we've wasted enough time, but, the 14 years that my copy of this memoir were "missing", I knew that it was NOT missing. There were some things going on in our immediate family that correlated somewhat with the circumstances of Daddy Bob's death, and I felt like the Lord just wanted me to put those memories up for a time. I knew that, when the time was right, I'd find my copy....probably right under my nose. That is, in fact, what happened. So, in the last week or so that I've had it back in my hands, I've started transcribing it. I think that the story of that episode in Manhay should be told and don't know exactly how the Lord wants that done, yet.

Daddy Bob's been gone since 1981 and all my brothers, sister and I have left of his military years is this memoir that our oldest brother, Richard, asked him to write down. We are so grateful that he did that for us. As I was reading it the other day, there were other events that he mentioned but didn't give any details. I'm hoping that there are men "out there", such as you, Howard, who can fill in some of those gaps for us.

I can't wait to hear from you again. I'd love to visit over the phone and will send my #, but I love having these stories written down in this e-mail that I can copy and keep for re-reading. I'm going to send all of this correspondence to my sister and brothers and know they will be as excited as I am.

Until I hear from you again....thank you, so much!

Kim Harris  
PO Box 757  
Lovington, NM 88260  
575-396-5658

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Thanks, Bob! I'll use Howard's e-mail address so you don't have to be the go-between. I talked to my sister, Cindy Hoffmann, and she has already transcribed Daddy Bob's memoir....yay! That'll speed things up a lot.

We're going to get w/ our brothers and see if we can get to the reunion in Palm Springs in May. Any info or suggestions you have about that would be welcome.

Thanks, again!  
Kim



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Kim,

A couple more notes:

I really look forward to your Dad's account of the Manhay attack. Take your time, but keep me posted. I did visit Manhay with my Dad in 2009, but I won't be able to tell you much about the battle myself. But I'm sure the 517<sup>th</sup> and friends, including some in Belgium, would love to exchange info. I think I sent this to you before, but we did get some oral histories of the battle. It is raw and unedited, and done in 2003, 64 years after the battle.

<http://517prct.org/audiovideo/ManhayDiscussion060403.wma>

Unfortunately, a couple of those men, including **Lud Gibbons** and my Dad, have passed away since, but I think there are still a few Manhay survivors who keep in touch with the 517.

We also have an account from **Eddy Monfort's** book, *L'Offensive Des Ardennes*. Here is an English translation [Thanks, Dieter!] of the chapter about Manhay:

<http://517prct.org/documents/The%20battle%20of%20the%20crossroads%20--%20Dieter%20Laes.pdf>

If you haven't seen it, you should see the film done about the 517<sup>th</sup>. It has been posted onto YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guJE71bIP10>

And yes there are still small 517<sup>th</sup> reunions. There are 2 small reunions, one in Florida in January, and a west coast reunion in Palm Springs, CA in May. Those are smaller, with a few troopers accompanied by their families and friends. Then there is still a somewhat larger Annual 517<sup>th</sup> Reunion, to be held this year in Kansas City in July. More info to be posted soon about these on the website: [http://517prct.org/table\\_of\\_contents.htm](http://517prct.org/table_of_contents.htm)

I don't think Howard is able to make it to reunions anymore, but he probably knew your Dad more than others (they were both S2 officers), so be sure to write to him. Copy me if you can.

With your permission, I will keep posting your questions to the weekly email Newsletter. Here is the last one, to which Howard Hensleigh responded. [MailCall #2092](#)

Regards,  
Bob Barrett

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Hi, again,

I can't wait to read/listen to these things you've sent.

Here's a little teaser for you:

The interesting thing about the deal at Manhay is that it wasn't really a battle. Instead, it was more of a "holding" of the position, preventing any of the German forces from passing thru that little crossroads village. They didn't go into Manhay and "take it". Under a **Capt. Pcyzienski**, CO, "G" Co., 3rd Bn., Daddy Bob and his men went into the village, secured it and held it for 17 hours over the afternoon, evening, night of Dec. 25 and the next morning, when they withdrew. They were shelled constantly thru the night but had no casualties. The only other casualties were German. The men had been approached, without incident, by a few groups who claimed to be American stragglers, who, when ordered to





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do so, turned around. Later in the evening, there were some more "visitors"...an officer claiming to be a "Major Thomas" with the 9th Armored, wanting to pass thru Manhay. Daddy Bob was sure that they were Germans and eventually sent them on their way. Then, around 1:00 a.m. a 1/2 track approached. Daddy Bob told his men to take it out at the curve, and they did. There were no more "visitors" after that.

The man who Daddy Bob talked about most was a Sr. Sgt. Brown, who he said was a little older than the other men and stood by him valiantly thru-out the ordeal.

More later when Cindy gets the manuscript to me.....

Kim

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This is very interesting. I am looking forward to the transcript. My limited understanding is that, yes, the purpose of all this was to (re)take control of the crossroads in Manhay, which was a very strategic intersection.

The story of Manhay is in the Paratrooper's Odyssey ([http://www.517prct.org/documents/odyssey/paratroopers\\_odyssey.htm#manhay](http://www.517prct.org/documents/odyssey/paratroopers_odyssey.htm#manhay)), but it's a bit unclear to me on the details before Dec 27. It appears that Manhay went back and forth for a few days around Christmas, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion attacked and re-took Manhay on the 27<sup>th</sup>. So it sounds like your Dad's story is actually some of the detail just before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion was ordered to retake Manhay and "Hold it at all costs". (There is actually a poem called "Hold at all Costs" about the retaking of Manhay.) I also heard someone claim that Manhay might be the first town recaptured from the Germans after their initial thrust into the Bulge.

Again, I'll have to defer to Howard, who has an amazing memory of the details.

It's a shame that my Dad (**Ben Barrett**) and **Lud Gibbons** both passed away in the past year. They both fought in Manhay and would have loved to share these stories.

Here is a picture of Manhay from Christmas 1944:





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One important other piece of information. You mention **Staff Sgt. Brown**, who was with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Btn HQ Company with your Dad. (It sounds like he said good things about Sgt. Brown.) **Silas Brown's daughter, Donna Hilliard**, is one of our friends who has attended many of the reunions. However, she lives in Florida, so she probably won't be in Palm Springs. I don't have an email for her, but I will make sure that she gets your Dad's info.

Bob Barrett

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Hi, Bob,

Thank you for posting this great picture of Manhay. It looks like it was taken after all the shelling on Christmas night, '44. The picture shows several destroyed vehicles and I think Daddy Bob said they only lost one truck.

I'm very interested to see if **Donna Hilliard's** dad is the **Sgt. Brown** my dad talked about. He had the highest praise for him and knew that the outcome of the mission was due, largely in part, to Sgt. Brown and the other men there.

I'm so anxious to hear more from **Howard H.** I'm still trying to get in touch with my brothers, but my sister, Cindy, and I are already talking reunion.

Did I tell you that we have a very detailed, hand-drawn map of Manhay? I can't wait for you to see it!

More later.....

### *More MailCall News*

My father's discharge papers states he was with the "**Company H 517th Parachute Infantry**" and discharged from the Army in April 1946.

I have attached a picture I found, don't know if it is the 517th soldiers, but would love to hear from anyone who recognizes someone in the picture.

My father has passed and I didn't find out much about his career. I tried to get his records from St. Louis, but was told a fire there destroyed most of the records from the years he served.

I would love to hear stories about his time in the Army.

His info I've found:

**Howard M. Daniel, Sr.**

Service in the U.S. Army was from July 1944 – April 1946

Parachute School @ Ft. Benning, GA

His rank was S Sgt.

England from Feb 1945 to August 1945



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*Can anyone identify this photo, with Howard Daniel of H Co? When, where, who?*

Hi Howard/Donna,

Thanks for the info and the photo. I will post it in the next weekly newsletter and see if anyone recognizes him or can provide more info.

As you can imagine, wartime records, especially for a front-line unit like the 517, are very incomplete. So I haven't found his name yet in any of the records I have. The Dec 1944 Christmas roster is the most complete listing I have, and your Dad is not on that, but that roster only includes soldiers who were in the unit in mid-December of 1944. Soldiers who were wounded or reassigned earlier, or who joined after that (and plenty more did arrive in 1945) would not be on that roster.

A paratrooper from Fort Benning and the months you note could make sense and could be part of the 517. My Dad was in H Company, but he joined the 517<sup>th</sup> in France in Aug/Sept 1944, but was wounded in Jan 1945 and sent to England. In Feb 1945, the 517 was reassigned into the 13<sup>th</sup> Airborne. Later in 1945, most of the soldiers either went in to occupy Germany, or shipped home with the intention of joining the war in the Pacific. What I'm not sure about is the part about your Dad in England. Most of the soldiers I know that spent time in England went there because they were wounded and sent to English hospitals. Do you know why he was in England, or if he was wounded? He could also have been in a different unit at that time. I would think that what is on the discharge papers would name the unit he was with when he was formally discharged.



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The photo is titled "Le Muy", and the 517<sup>th</sup> went through Le Muy in August 1944. But they would not have their dress uniforms on at the time, so I don't know if it was taken at Le Muy or when.

As I said, I will post it in the newsletter, and I'm sure I will hear if anyone can tell us any more info from your notes or about the photo.

Thanks!

Bob Barrett

[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)

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One more thing. For what it is worth, you can look up enlistment records from the NARA. Is this your Dad's info?

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=4&tf=F&q=howard+m+daniel&bc=,sl,fd&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=4306979&rlst=7070224,3640451,4306979,7321443>

Bob Barrett [A: Yes, it is her father's enlistment record. He enlisted in Richmond, Virginia, and was a plumber/pipe fitter with 4 years of high school.]

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Donna,

Not sure how much more there is. The NARA enlistment records are interesting, but is just a note as of their enlistment day, and tells where they came from. Unfortunately, it doesn't say where they went or what unit they went into. Your discharge papers tell something – any more clues there? – and the photo should tell us something, but I don't recognize it from other 517 info that I have.

As I said, I will post your question and photo into the next 517 MailCall newsletter that I will send out this weekend. Maybe someone will recognize the people or location. However, being in dress, not combat uniforms, tells me that it was probably taken later, after the action quieted down. By the end, many 517 troopers were reassigned to other units. Actually, it could also be earlier, as I don't see too many signs of combat medals or paratrooper wings [or boots] in the group. If those are 517 soldiers, I'm sure someone will recognize the photo. My guess is that Howard joined the 517 later, probably in 1945, since I don't see him on the Christmas Roster.

I have heard of a few people who kept chasing down family records to get the medals for their trooper, and were told that the records were destroyed in St. Louis, but then eventually did get something. Have you tried recently? <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/> Also, sometimes asking for help from your local congressman or senator helps. They have people who help with that.

Good luck. I will let you know if I get any response from the MailCall.

Bob Barrett



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Bob, Helen, and Claire,

Please see the 3 attached forms for the Kansas City reunion, July 12-15, 2012. Bob, will you put these forms on Mailcall. Helen and Claire please put these forms in our next Thunderbolt. The forms are: The registration form, program of activities, and Hilton Hotel registration. I look forward to seeing everyone again this summer. Please mark these dates on your calendar to attend.

Airborne All the Way!  
**Lory Curtis**

[July Annual 517<sup>th</sup> Reunion info to be posted soon](#)

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My name is Jodi Longo Jennings, my grandpa was **Frank Longo** who served in the **517th D company**. I would love some information and stories on my grandpa. He passed away in 2003. He told me stories and I have his reunion books, pictures, and stripes on his uniform. He loved being a paratrooper! I met **General Seitz** in Junction City, KS in 1988 and he knew my grandpa. Please if anybody knows anything let me know.

Thank you

Jodi Longo Jennings

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Hi Jodi,

I will post your note on the next MailCall e-newsletter that I send out weekly. If you could share any of the photos or stories, we'd love to have them for the website.

I am certain that a few of the troopers still around remember Frank. He has been mentioned in a few of the stories we have collected, which you can search on the web site:

<http://www.google.com/search?q=frank+longo&sitesearch=517PRCT.org>

Bob Barrett

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Please excuse my interruption, my name is Alicia and I am a middle school social studies teacher. I am starting to prepare for my next unit on World War II and I just happened to come across your page <http://www.517prct.org/wwii.htm> while I was looking for some resources and information on the war and the enigma machine.

I just wanted to take a second and write you thank you note for helping me with my lesson plans. I am very grateful for all the resources and information you took the time to post.

I thought I could share another resource I found while searching. This page <http://www.createqr.net/enigma-machines-code.html> has a lot of great information about the enigma machine and its role in the war and I thought you might want to add it as another resource.

Thanks again for your help, I really appreciate it.

Have a great weekend,  
Alicia Miller



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

Re: **Raymond Bunce, Company F** - Injured in the Battle of the Bulge June 24 1944

First,

Great thanks to whomever is responsible for this website!!! I have requested my father's information through the US gov. only to be told today that his records were lost in a fire. I do have his discharge papers which led me to this site. I have some photos from his time in the war that I am willing to contribute if wanted. I also have his words describing training. Unfortunately, he was not able to finish. He passed away in 1996 and did not talk about his war experiences until shortly before that. I am trying to gather as much info as possible to pass along to his grandsons. Any assistance is greatly appreciated. I will read and check everything on the website!

Thank you!!

Christine Bunce Ph.D, Pennsylvania Distinguished Educator  
Education Consultant  
Learning First LLC  
115 Pinnacle Point Drive  
Lancaster PA 17601  
717-898-3193  
[cbunce88@comcast.net](mailto:cbunce88@comcast.net)

Christine,

Great to hear from you. My Dad, who passed away almost 2 years ago, started the website and the MailCall newsletters. I am continuing them, with lots of help from the 517<sup>th</sup> troopers, families, and friends.

We would love to have copies of the pictures or any other records for the web site. If you've used the search button on the website, you'll see that we know that **Ray Bunce** received a Bronze Star, and also that he is identified in one photo: [http://www.517prct.org/photos/f\\_co\\_2nd\\_platoon.htm](http://www.517prct.org/photos/f_co_2nd_platoon.htm)

Note: To clarify your info. Yes, he was wounded on June 1944, but that was in Italy, long before the Bulge. [http://517prct.org/records/jun44\\_f.jpg](http://517prct.org/records/jun44_f.jpg)  
Our incomplete casualty records do not say when he returned to duty. But from the photo, we know he was back with F Company, and jumped into France on August 14. From the 1944 Christmas Roster, he is still listed with F Company then. <http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>



Let me know if you can send me photos, etc.

Bob Barrett  
[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)



## **Plan your dates for the Palm Springs Reunion!!**

**May 14 - 18, 2012**

New Hotel!

Riviera Palm Springs  
1600 North Indian Canyon Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92264  
<http://www.psriviera.com/>

Rate \$109 + Tax

**Please call [866 588 8311](tel:8665888311) for  
reservations, before April 14, 2012  
Mention the 517 Group for this rate.**



Registration fee \$90.00 Includes Bar-b-que buffet, Farewell banquet dinner and Hospitality suite. If this is a hardship please contact me, we will see what we can do to assist.

Please mail registration fee before **April 14** to:

Karen Wallace  
66295 Hwy 20  
Bend, OR 97701

Questions?  
Karen Wallace  
[541 948 2486](tel:5419482486)

## Schedule of Events

**May 14** - Official Registration

Hospitality Suite open 10 am - 10pm daily

**May 15** - Bar-b-que Buffet for troopers and families. Ice cream social 8:30 PM

**May 16** - Visit to Air Museum?, Follies?, Tram Ride?, dinner at the Elks Club.

**May 17** - Men's business meeting, Women's Spa Day 10:00-11:30

Canyon Country Club 7 pm-10:00 pm

Farewell Banquet, dinner and dancing

**May 18** - Checkout, travel home safely.



Trip to the Air Museum



Women's Day Spa





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

## 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 or let just me know.
- 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

