



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2097

March 10, 2012

*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

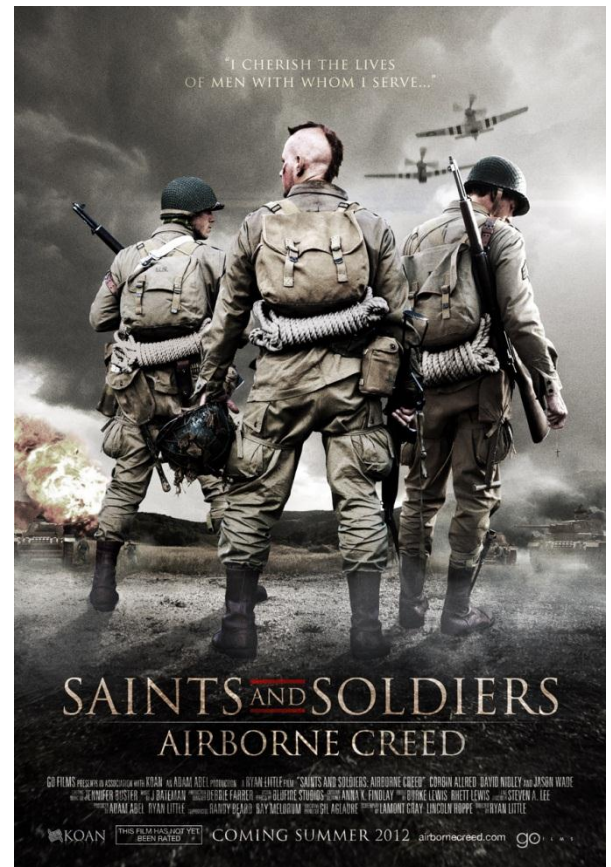
Saints and Soldiers - Airborne Creed

Thank you so much for putting out the call on email for troopers who live in the Salt Lake City area to come and be on this T.V. and movie spot. **Debi Coates** has enlisted her Dad (**Bob West**) to come 400+ miles north from the St George Utah area to the Salt Lake area to do an interview, he was in 2nd Battalion. Also coming is **Hoyt Kelley**. Hoyt lives North about 100+ miles and will be coming south to do the interview. Hoyt was in 1st Battalion, and he said he thought he remembered my Dad. It was great hearing this and speaking with him on the phone today about the interview and the 1st Battalion.

I am excited to have these great men come and speak about the 517th for our local TV station and for their interviews to be part of the movie special segment.

Now, start making plans to be in Kansas City this July, 12-16th. I will have a DVD of the movie about the 517th with me for a special sneak preview. The movie is not released to theaters until August so this will be fun being able to be the first audience to see it. See all of you in KC in July

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



See the official movie trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSRiXYurtE8>



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MailCall News

Hello Bob,

Wow , mail calls keep getting better and better with pictures, articles and stories that everyone is sending in. I thank you all for sharing and thank you Bob for your time and the professional way that you present everything.

Mike Wells, I am very sorry to hear that you lost your mother. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I know this must have been difficult for you. I also want to thank you for what you have done to improve the 517th records.

Tom McAvoy. I hope that you finally get satisfaction from the veterans administration and are recognized for the sacrifices that you made for our country during WWII. You sir, got a raw deal!

Howard Hensleigh. Thank you sir for your continued support and additions to mail call. I always am interested in what you have to say especially since my dad, **Odas Sweet** was in your unit and under your command. I also thank you for getting him back safely to the USA. I am proud to be the son of an 517 PRCT member.

Son Of a Buzzard

Rick Sweet

Dear Bob: another great Mail Call. We were saddened to read the news on **Mike Wells'** mother's death. He and his family are in our thoughts and prayers.

On a happier note, Happy Birthday to **Mrs. Boyle**. Hope she had a great day Saturday and what wonderful pictures.

Thank you also to **Howard Hensleigh**. We always enjoy reading his emails and what an awesome story about the return of the dog tags.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

From the editor: I'm just glad that a few people actually read the MailCall. I've said it before, but the "Wow!" goes out to everyone who continue to send in the news and stories. Sixty-eight years after the 517th was deactivated, and there is still so much energy from everyone! Keep those cards and letters coming in.

*I should point out that I borrowed the pictures of **Babbie Boyle** and the Boyle ladies from her Facebook page. Yes, I am proud to be her "friend" on Facebook. – Bob B.*

Thank you, **Frank Ramos**. Kevin Secor E-Mailed me yesterday and i answered him right back, He said he would look into my problem.

Tom McAvoy



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Hi Bob....for some reason I have been unable to download any of the data on the National Reunion.... my computer shows adown load of 745 of 746 but can't see or print it. Will the Thunderbolt becoming out soon with printed version?

phil mc spadden

Phil,

I have attached the reunion information to this email. Let me know if these work for you. If they don't send me your home address and I can mail them to you.

Bob Barrett

Bob, I don't care what your wife calls you, you are a PRINCE!!! Everything came thru just fine. ...Thanks a million.

phil mc spadden

Note: The Thunderbolt is still in production and hopefully will get out soon. Several people have asked about it, thinking that they are being delayed maybe because their dues weren't paid correctly. Please be patient, as the work on the Thunderbolt is a large and all-volunteer effort. – BB

Fw: WW II -- Where have these pics been hiding for the past 65 years?

<http://tinyurl.com/866lmjg>

Betty Travers

I now have a new email address. We are leaving Comcast and putting up rabbit ears --- I have come full circle since the 1950s --- I wonder if there will be a "test pattern" on our tv which we also used to have with Comcast

Fizzbombsmother .at. centurylink .dot. net

BJ (Spencer) McCauley
Daughter of **Dick Spencer**

[Fizzbombsmother at ebay](#)

BJ

PS – the one I sent you previously will not work for us.



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From: Georg Rieck
Sent: Mar 7, 2012 5:16 AM
To: **Howard Hensleigh**
Subject: Thank you from Germany

Dear Mr. Hensleigh,

thank you so much for the photographs of my Grandfather you gave to Jean-Loup Gassend. Today they were sent to me from the Citybureau of Ellwangen, where my Grandfather lived.

Last Year I found and visited his Grave in France. He is reburied on an Soldier-Graveyard near Dagneux, a little Village near Lyon.

I've also been in the mountains near Peira Cava, was searching for the Place he died. But I'm not sure if I found it.

My name is also Georg Rieck, I'm 38 Years old and I work as a Paramedic in Wuerzburg/Bavaria.

Again, thank you so much, Mr. Hensleigh

God bless you and your Family

Yours sincerely

Georg Rieck

I am sorry for my bad English
I will try to send two photos in a separate email.

Dear Georg:

I am happy that what Jean-Loup and I did resulted in finding a grandson. I have a good recollection of the territory around Pierra Cava and may be able to assist you in finding the location you are looking for when I have more information about the pictures.

We appreciate what you and your countrymen have done after the war to make Europe a safer and more united continent. From 1958 to 1960 I was the Legal Advisor of the US Mission to NATO and appreciated the support your country representatives gave us on our European production weapons projects.

Your English is fine, much better than my German.

Highest regards and God bless you and your family,

Howard Hensleigh



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RE: "Detailed WWII Plans to Invade Japan"

A few of you are old enough to remember WWII, and perhaps even recall the warning that there would be a tremendous loss of American and Japanese lives if we were to invade the Japanese homeland. For those of you who aren't of that vintage, the invasion was called off because President Truman gave the order to drop the A bomb. I have heard that his decision saved perhaps a million lives on both sides. But until I had a chance to read this detailed plan of the invasion, and how the Japanese were prepared to defend to their last soul, I now have a new understanding of what we were up against, and that estimate may have been too low. It's long, but well worth the time.

See attached.

I can't vouch for the truth in this, but it sounds reasonable. The 13th Abn Div is not mentioned, although the 11th Abn Div is, along with lots of other Army divisions. It was my scuttle butt opinion, all us 'low pointers' were assigned to the 13th and, after a leave in the US was to reform and sent to be a part of this invasion force. Thank God, it happened as it did.

Phil

It was interesting to look through the documents that Phil sent in. But it is too long to put the whole thing into MailCall. You can read it here: <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2097/JapanInvasionPlan.pdf>

There are plenty of other writings about the invasion plans: Here are a few notes from <http://www.afa.org/media/enolagay/sson3.asp> :

The Joint Chiefs envisioned that the two-stage invasion would involve some five million troops, most of them American.(17) The invasion was to be preceded by a massive aerial bombardment, reaching maximum intensity before troops went ashore on Honshu. One memorandum said that "more bombs will be dropped on Japan than were delivered against Germany during the entire European war."(18)

A June 18 estimate from the military chiefs said that casualties in the first thirty days of the Kyushu invasion could be 31,000. Adm. King estimated 41,000. Adm. Nimitz said 49,000. MacArthur's staff said 50,000. Casualty estimates for Olympic and Coronet combined ranged from 220,000 to 500,000+.(19)

"I asked General Marshall what it would cost in lives to land on the Tokio plain and other places in Japan," Truman said later. "It was his opinion that such an invasion would cost at minimum one quarter of a million casualties, and might cost as much as a million, on the American side alone, with an equal number of the enemy. The other military and naval men present agreed."(20)

The relevant fact here is that Truman believed that unless he used the atomic bomb, an invasion of Japan would be necessary and that the casualties would be enormous.

Bob B.



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Bob,

I don't know if you ever saw this but thought I would send it to you for Mail Call.

Dennis Sura

Hi Dennis,

Yes I have seen that. (a biography about cartoonist Bill Mauldin) I actually included about a year ago into MailCall #2020 (<http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2020.pdf>).

I rerun parts of it and other Mauldin cartoons occasionally. Ben left me a couple of Mauldin's books which I borrow from now and then. As you can imagine, it is a popular piece with the front-line soldiers, including the paratroopers.

Bob Barrett



*"It's best not to speak to paratroopers about saluting.
They always ask where you got your jump boots."*



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Hi Kenneth,

I don't know if you received any response directly to you regarding info about **Francis Bailey**.

(<http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2092.pdf>)

Here is one short note that I just received back. Does this story sound right?

Regards

Bob Barrett

Hello Bob! I am writing this in regards to **Francis Bailey**. Francis was in "F" CO. He was a member of the 3rd platoon. I remember Bailey as a quiet man, a down-to-business type of man. I only remember one story being told of Bailey, at a reunion, sometime later, that he made a million dollars raising lettuce one year, and losing it all the following year because of drought conditions in the state of California That's all I can that I can remember of Francis Bailey "F" CO.

Best regards

RAY R. HESS, "F" CO.

Well I know mom and dad lived in California before I was born and then moved back to Arkansas, never heard the story about the lettuce, I don't know dad and even his parents worked in the orchards in California. Thanks for the reply

Kenneth Bailey

Bob:

Since I now have a new computer (Windows 7) I have been unable to down load things on Mail Call such as reunion information and other highlighted material. Any suggestions?

Merle W. Mc Morrow

[Is anyone else having trouble opening the attachments in MailCalls? Let me know. – BB]



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Reunion Info

West Coast Mini-Reunion

Palm Springs, CA

May 14-18, 2012

[Information and registration instructions](#)

Annual National Reunion

Kansas City, MO

July 12-16, 2012

[Program](#)

[Registration Form](#)

[Hotel Registration Form](#)



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

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