



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2099

March 24, 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

William Herbert "Herb" Ford, H Company

March 20th – I received a call from Kyle Ford the Son of **Herb Ford**, informing me of the passing of his Father. He had been in a nursing home for several years. Herb's service will be at the Patterson Funeral Home in Atlanta on Thursday March 22nd.

Herb was a member of 1st Platoon, 'H' Company, 3rd Bn. 517 P.I.R.
Herb will be greatly missed.

Morris McDowell



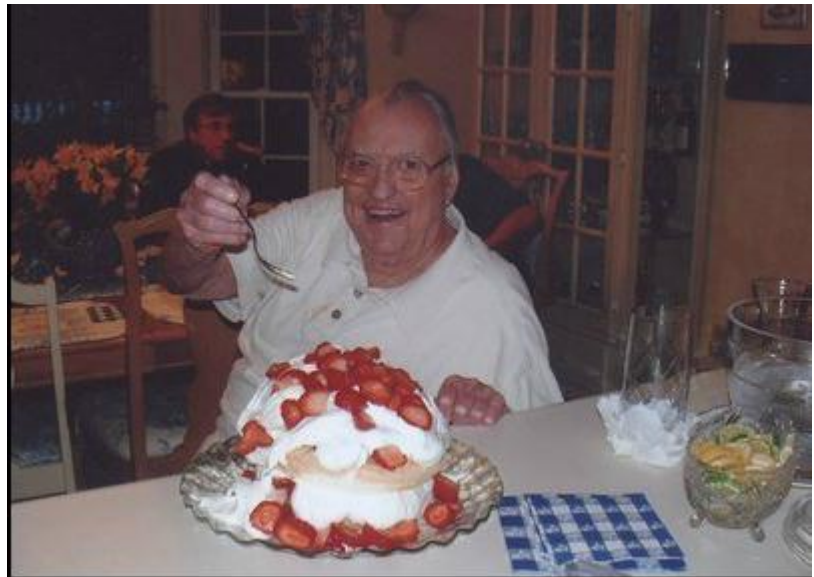
May 4, 1921 - March 20, 2012

William Herbert "Herb" Ford, 90, of Atlanta, died March 20, 2012. Mr. Ford was born in Athens, GA and moved to Atlanta where he attended Capital View Elementary School and Commercial High School. He then attended Wharton Law School and worked for Southern Railway. From 1943-45 during World War II Herb served with the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne. When he returned home he continued his career with Southern Railway and in 1947 married Colleen Hames. He continued to work for the railroad and retired from CSX in 1982 after 42 years of service.

Herb touched a lot of people and will be missed by his family and many dear friends. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Colleen H. Ford; daughter and son-in-law, Gayle and Rick Born; sons, Kyle Ford, Bryan Ford; and grandchildren, Kelley McLaughlin, Ashley Ford, Hunter Ford. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Campbell-Stone in Buckhead, 2911 Pharr Court South, Atlanta, GA 30305. Funeral services will be Friday, March 23, 2012 at 2 o'clock at Patterson's Arlington Chapel. Interment will follow at Arlington Memorial Park. The family will receive friends Thursday from 6 to 8 o'clock at H.M. Patterson and Son, Arlington Chapel, 173 Allen Rd, NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328.



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See: <http://tinyurl.com/72gqpty> for more photos and video of Herb Ford



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MailCall News

Dear Georg,

Your desire to keep in touch is fully shared. I will do my best to have my communications be helpful to you and your family, although I recognize how easy it would be to fail in that respect. After thinking about it I have decided to take the chance on giving you my thoughts on why your grandfather kept on fighting.

That day in October, 1944, there was an officer in charge of the German troops, but he escaped when he realized he was in danger of being captured. I have always thought he designated your grandfather to be in charge of continuing the fight. German officers were instructed to preserve the officer's corps. If so, this gave your grandfather a special responsibility he attempted to carry out by continuing to fire.

At that time no one knew who would win the war. Things had been going well for the allies, but there was always the threat of a super weapon being developed which would turn the tide. Germany developed the buzz bomb and the jet aircraft and their scientists were working on others, I think including a bomb such as the one that ended the war with Japan.

When I finished interrogating many prisoners I would throw in the question of when they thought the war would end. Many replied, when Germany wins!! In order to keep fighting as they did laying their lives on the line, they had to have some hope that they would be successful in the end. Even though today contemplating what the world would have been like if that had happened is not a happy thought, back then from the viewpoint of a German soldier the thought of losing must have been equally unhappy, if not more so. What happened after WWI was fresh in their minds--the harsh terms, reparations, the chaos, and devastating inflation. I am sure the propagand machines made the most of this.

After WWII the Americans had much more to say about the peace and the future than President Wilson did in 1918. In 1945 there were those who wanted to reduce Germany to an agrarian state with the destruction of the industrial capacity of the Rhur valley. Fortunately more level heads prevailed with the Marshall Plan, etc. resulting in a more harmonious Europe than existed after WWI.

I am not sure this is helpful in answering the questions in your mind, but it is how I believe your grandfather might have been thinking during this time period.

Again, my highest regards to you and your family and may God bless you,

Howard Hensleigh



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I am Edith Miller, wife of deceased (206) **Joe D. Miller** who was president of the 517th in 1991-1993. I have tried to print this edition of the Mail Call as the story of the German soldier was so tear jerking that I would like to have it printed in our Daily Astorian newspaper. I tried to print it but could not and there was no print symbol at the end of the Mail Call.

If this was a reprint of the newsletter that you do, could you please send me a copy so that I can cry again and try to have it printed for all Astorians to see and try to settle differences without such wars. I would be most, most appreciative. Thank you for keeping me on the MailCall list.

Most appreciatively,

Edith Miller,
1 3rd St., #101,
Astoria, Or 97103

The **Howard Hensleigh** story exchanging correspondence with the German Grandson is very, very compelling - this is something that would be public media worthy and merits further distribution!

Tom Copsey

Greetings Fellow Troopers,

Just a quick note to say how much we appreciate your newsletter both personally and as a chapter and kudos to the editor who does a fantastic job in putting together such a fine publication. Two thumbs up and wishing you all a very Happy St. Patrick's Day.

All the Way!

Bob Slivatz
VP/PAO/Columnist
James W. Etherton Detroit Chapter
82nd Abn Div Assn

This is the America I love and fought for....why don't we see more of this on TV and less of drug abuse by celebrities and mud-slinging politicians???

phil

Winning has nothing to do with the scoreboard:

[Click here: Great video The Home Run A True Story](#)



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Here is an interesting blog post on the site *Politics and Patriotism*. This entry is about **Pat O'Donnell's** latest book about the Korean War, and also about the author's thoughts about war and soldiers.

From: <http://politicsandpatriotism.blogspot.com/2012/03/episode-187-patrick-k-odonnell.html>

Episode #187: Patrick K. O'Donnell



Give Me Tomorrow, by Patrick K. O'Donnell (Da Capo Press, 2010), is a heartfelt compilation of first hand recollections of the Korean war, as told by the veteran members of George Company, 3rd Battalion of the 1st Marine Division.

This book reads like the author has 'been there' because he has actually seen combat, which is rare for a civilian historian. O'Donnell tells me about his experiences in Iraq (Fallujah) during our half hour interview because it's necessary knowledge if you want to know "how" *Give Me Tomorrow* came to be.

I, myself, am a believer in serendipity. The impetus to write many of my own books came about because of some thing or someone that I bumped in to purely by accident. O'Donnell found the old hands of George Company by accident, and decided to tell their story after he'd earned their trust.

I make no secret of my interest in military history. I come from a long line of soldiers and sailors that dates back to the Civil War. It's my unfortunate place in family history to break the chain. I'm happy to report that others of my bloodline have done well in military service. Even so, it's still a sore spot for me that I may never get used to.

I grew up in a military house as the son of a decorated officer who'd seen three tours in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. Like the author of this book, I became fascinated with martial history at an early age.

O'Donnell's motivation was only slightly different than my own. I soaked up World War Two because it provided explanations to me about what my father did for a living, and it clarified my political thinking in matters of international conflict.

Give Me Tomorrow is a look at the Korean War that's not politically correct, nor is it 'clean.' O'Donnell's reverence for what he does as a combat historian becomes obvious from the first chapter on, which may cause some critics to suffer a little heartburn.

War is an intensely personal business. The people most qualified to talk about it are the ones who've actually done it. O'Donnell brings together the firsthand accounts of men who fought a war that nobody wants to remember for reasons that nobody can quite put their finger on. This isn't just a history book. It's a testimony.

The vets of George Company don't want fortune or fame. The words they choose to tell their version of events that took place from 1950 to 1953 don't ring out with bravado. They convey triumph and tragedy with a unique humility that I've only ever seen come from war vets.

The men of 1950's America who went to the Korea peninsula did so with very little training and obsolete weapons. George Company was no different at the time of the Inchon Landings. It's clear to me that there was a lot of material to work through at this point in the story line, and I think the author struck the right balance.



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It's been said that soldiers *don't* fight for their governments. They *do* fight for each other. That may come off as rather touchy-feely in today's world, but it has been the ultimate truth of military life since time began. The accounts, as provided, and as interpreted, don't hold anything back when it comes to George Company's sense of fellowship...or...the inadequate state of their equipment.

These are not men who hold a grudge. Nor does the author try to instigate any trash talk. Everything said and done, taken at face value, was inspiring to me because it validates one of the central tenants of my own philosophy. Some say that heroes are great people who are capable doing great things. I think that heroes are ordinary folks who are called on to do extraordinary things.

Wars are more than just names and dates. They are *outcomes*. O'Donnell's book does more than give us the heroic details of men who beat the odds—which they surely did—He uncovers a surprising fact that any historian I know would love to claim as their own discovery.

First Sergeant Rocco Zullo, veteran of Peleliu and Guadalcanal, leads George Company until the latter days of the war. He's apparently killed, and that seems to be the end of him. The unit carries on, using everything he taught them. The fighting stops. Time passes...and...the revered First Sergeant turns up at a reunion thirty five years later.

This one discovery, by itself, makes this book worth reading. Eyewitness accounts of major events are always a bonanza for historians, but it's a rare thing to document a *resurrection*. I'm not being cheesy. Think about this for a moment. Suppose that you knew *for an absolute fact* that somebody close to you was dead...but...decades later...they "came back." That's a big deal.

There are a hundred reasons why Korea is called the Forgotten War. Military and political mistakes were made one right after the other. The fact that North Korea exists today is proof of those errors. *Give Me Tomorrow* does more than tell you what happened to a rifle company that went through Hell. It tells you *who* they were and *how* they prevailed.

There is just one more thing that makes me appreciate this book. The title is drawn from a line buried deep in the manuscript that, even when taken out of context, summarizes the will of the men in George company to survive. One soldier is asked what he wants most in the world on the eve of battle. He replies, "Give me tomorrow."

I've heard this phrase before from combat veterans who described life and death encounters on distant battlefields over a cold beer on a hot summer night. "All I wanted was to see just one more sunrise," or "all I could think of was making it to the next day." These, and other sentiments like them make this book's title quite appropriate.

My own father, who told me about flying Hueys in to the A Shaw Valley during Vietnam said, "I wanted to live just one more day so bad I could taste it." Readers who want to understand the experience of George Company may not be able to taste the mud and the blood, but they'll get a sense of what it was like to "hold the line" from the men who embraced and overcame those things.

Patrick K. O'Donnell is Combat Historian. He is the author of six books. He appears on a variety of *History Channel* and *Military Channel* documentaries as a subject matter expert. Find him online at <http://www.patrickodonnell.com/>, and on Facebook.

Posted by [Justin Oldham](#) at 12:21 PM



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Please watch this video... in the honoree's remarks he states that in his opinion all our leaders in Washington should have had some military experience'...and I totally agree with that.

phil

Subject: Veteran Honored - can you guess who he is?

Great tribute to a veteran. I did not know all this.

Many people may have forgotten about his time in the U.S. Army. He is the son of an Air Force General, and an accomplished Golden Gloves boxer, and he Graduated from Pomona College with a B.S. Degree, and then became a Rhodes Scholar from Oxford University .

He joined the U.S. Army at the prompting of his father. After graduating from Officer Candidate School he attended and graduated from both Army Airborne and Ranger training in the very top of each class. He was selected for U. S. Army Special Forces Training but refused so that he could attend pilot training where he earned his wings, and became an accomplished U.S. Army helicopter (gun ship) pilot, and achieved the rank of Captain. He was about to be promoted to the rank of Major, and appointed to teach at West Point when he resigned his commission from the Army to go into music and acting. You can tell in this video that his time in the military means a lot to him.

[Click here to be pleasantly surprised.](#)

Bob

I just got off the phone with Patty Solazzo who is the daughter of **John J. Hayes**. I looked on the roster and he is listed under "H" company. Come to think about it your Dad was in the same company. I forgot to tell her this. He may have been a replacement as was your Dad. He is still alive and she is looking to put together a Shadow Box and get some information on/about him.

Please put this in your next Mail Call to see if any one remembers him. From what she told me it sounds as if he was in the 517 from Dragoon to the end of the war. Patty's E-mail address is joseph.solazzo@comcast.net. If you would, please add her to your E-mail list.

Regards and thanks,

Darrell Egner



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Recent website additions:

[Silk Maps of Europe - 1944](#)

[Tony D'Addio, D Battery, 460th PFAB in Logbierme, Belgium](#)

[Danny Fisher, HQ/1 \(KIA\)](#)

[Papers and souvenirs from Odas Sweet](#)

[Raymond Bunce, F Company bio - enlistment through Italy](#)

[War Correspondent's Notebook: Red Cross Man Makes 8 Jumps With Paratroopers](#)

[242 photos of George A Sullivan and A Company](#)

[Commendation to 1st Battalion from the 3rd Armored Division](#)

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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