



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2100

April 1, 2012

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

Website
Mail Call
Mail Call Archives
Roster (from 2008)

www.517prct.org
MailCall@517prct.org
www.517prct.org/archives
www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Lt. Charles M. Bonaventura photos with the 596th

Hello,

I have recently run across a whole bunch of WWII photos from the 596th. My Aunt doesn't remember much and I thought I would reach out to you to see if you could assist me with the search and naming.

And hopefully you can use this photo.

Please share with the community and I can provide more photos.

You can share my email address

Neil Peek
npeek@me.com



Far Left: **Lt. Charles M. Bonaventura**



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Hi Neil,

We'd love to have any and all photos that you have of the 596th. There are still a few troopers left who might be able to help identify some people or places.

But the photo that you attached came across way to small. Can you attach a full-size version? (I can accept any size and format that you have.)

On a quick search, I know that **Lt. Bonaventura** passed away around 1988. Are you related to him?

Bob Barrett

Bob,

Thank you.

Yes, he was my Uncle. **Nova [Bonaventura]** his wife just moved in with me, so that is why all the pics, metals, uniform, stories, papers have come to my attention. She kept all his War "stuff". He told me hours upon hours of stories that have been with me for 30+ years. I have done a great deal of research, looked at a lot of pictures, etc...

Neil Peek

MailCall News

Bob

I have sent in my registration for the KC reunion and will be joined by **Jess Ross**, son of **George Ross**, of F Company. We will drive together and hope to see many other troopers at the gathering. We signed up for all the tours ...

Mel Dahlberg



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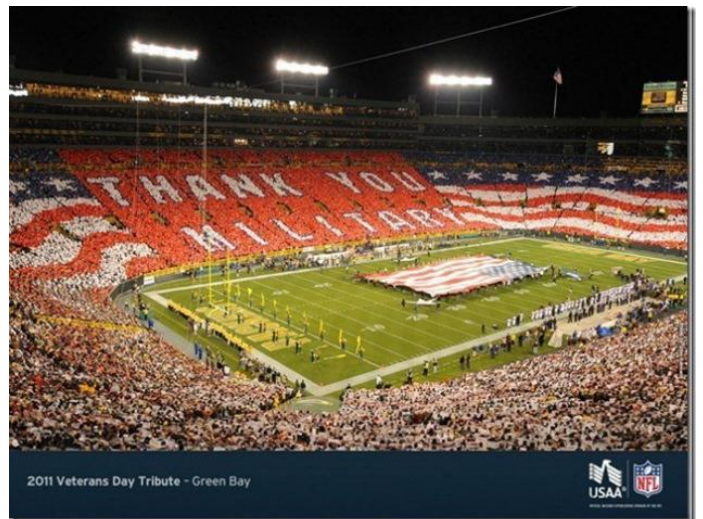
From Katherine Kramer:

I don't know if ESPN showed this or not ... worth seeing ... enjoy

Those who attended the game said it was extremely emotional to see the entire bowl of the stadium turn red, white and blue. It took 90 workers two weeks to get all of the colored pages mounted under each seat. Each piece of card board had eye slits in them so the fans could hold up the colored sheet and watch the game through the eye slits.

Monday night 11/14/2011 - Lambeau Field

This is what ESPN failed to show you Monday night, 11/14/2011. Apparently, they thought their commercials were more important than showing this scene for about 5 seconds.





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Getting Records and Medals for John J. Hayes, H Company and W. Raymond Doane, 596th

Bob

I was contacted by **Patricia Solazzo** (copied here). Her father, **John J. Hayes** (DOB 3-25-17) just turned 95 today. She is seeking assistance in getting his medals for his service in the 517 (and he was also in the 82nd and other units). Time is of the essence; she says he is at the end of his life, and she feels he'd really appreciate it to receive them while he's still alive.

I suggested - although others have navigated this successfully, it does take time - that her fastest option could be to contact her congressional representative and ask for help from his/her constituent services personnel.

Do you know anyone who could help her with a shortcut or two?

She says he was in H Company. He's not on the Christmas roster (but neither was my dad) and there's just not much kicking right out on the website in a rudimentary search. Thoughts? Her phone number is 708 345 3747.

Thanks, Bob -

Claire

Hi Patricia,

Here are some ideas about getting the medals for your Dad. I only know this from hearing from others.

First, Claire is correct. **John J. Hayes** is not listed on the 517 Christmas roster (meaning only that he was not with the unit at that time), and I cannot find any other mentions in the records we have. I did search the morning casualty reports for H Company, and he is not in there. Most likely, he joined the 517 sometime after mid-December 1944.

Do you have his discharge papers or any records showing what units he was with? That will be the first thing you need to do, to get something that proves where he served and what medals he is owed. The official process is here: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>, but that might take a while and as many people have found out, some of the WW2 records were destroyed in a fire many years ago. Do you have some records, like his discharge papers or SN#? His DD-214 discharge is supposed to list the official medals, I think, but you might want to check for other awards – Victory in Europe, etc.

Here is another site that might have information. I don't know how official they are: <http://veteranmedals.army.mil/>



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Here is a note from one of the troopers from back in 2002:

Subj: **Medals 517**

Date: 8/12/2002 9:52:47 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: [JBJB93](#)

To: [RCooper663](#), [Ben517](#)

Hello Mr. Cooper,

If you wish to obtain medals from gov't, call your local VA and get the appropriate form - something like DA 1577. You must send that form to Dept of Army Personnel in St. Louis along with Army Serial # & SS# or perhaps copy of your discharge papers. A few weeks later you will receive a letter verifying all medals due you. However it will state that the medals will be forwarded to you with in the year. If you don't want to wait - after you receive the verification letter, go to www.medalsofAmerica.com and you can purchase them. That is what I did for my father and father in law.

Good luck,

John Bramswig

son in law of **Ed Marconi** Co A

He does offer one short term suggestion: If you know what medals are owed to your Dad, and you are in a hurry, you could always purchase the medals yourself for the shadow box, at least something that can be nicely framed. There are plenty of stores that sell replica medals.

As Claire says, **the quickest way is probably to contact your local state senator or congressman**. That's what my Dad did, and he got them fairly quickly, including a ceremony where Ted Kennedy personally handed him his medals. As Ben pointed out, the congressmen have entire staffs ready to help on this, rather than trying to do it yourself.

Hope this helps a little.

Bob Barrett

To Claire, Darrell and Bob:

I certainly appreciate your assistance in researching and locating my father's service record, especially his service with the 517th. To aid in this endeavor, I would like to inform you on his military profile, as I know it. **John J. Hayes** was in the 517th, H company, 3rd Battalion.

Army serial no. - 20 624 342

Date of birth - 3/25/1917

Name - John J. Hayes

3/6/1940 - joined the Ill. Nat. Guard, 202nd Coast Artillery



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9/16/1940 - Ill Nat. Guard inducted into regular army - Ft. Bliss
12/12/1941 - sent to Bremerton, Wa. to protect naval yards from Japanese air attack.
?/?/1943 - 202nd split up into Automatic weapons unit.
Sent to Camp Haan, CA
Transferred to Ft. Benning, GA for parachute training school.
10/27/1944 - graduated parachute training school
1/?/1945 or 2/1945 - sent to Europe on QE1
1/?/1945 - joined 517th Parachute Inf. Reg. Combat Team

Army Separation Qualification Record states:

J. J. Hayes was a scout and observer for the 517 Parachute Battalion. He made regular patrols to scout terrain for enemy activity. He operated from a command post and reported all info to them. Could read maps and overlays. Was familiar with all weapons of all kinds.

Honorable Discharge states:

Book40287 Page 312
Grade - Pfc
Organization - Co H 517th Parachute Infantry
Component - NG
Induction Date - 16 Sept 40
Military Occupational Specialty - Scout - 761
Military Qualification - Sharpshooter with Rifle
Battles and campaigns - Central Europe
Decorations and Citations: I-service stripe, I-overseas service bar, Amer. Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Euro-African-Mid. Eastern Theater Ribbon w/l bronze battle star
Service outside the continental US - departure - 31 Jan 45, arrival ETO 5 Feb 45
Highest grade - Tech 5

My goal of securing a 517 patch has been realized as Claire is sending me a patch.

My goal of getting on the path to obtaining my Dad's Bronze Star Medal is in the works as I have contacted my congressional constituent services office and am waiting for a call back.

I still don't know how to approach my goal of securing a Sgt. classification for my Dad, after the fact. My father performed in Sgt. capacity and performed Sgt. duties while in Europe. He was told that it would be made official when the fighting died down. Somehow it never came through.

I'm still coming up empty on finding info & detail about my Dad during his service in the 517th. I am grateful for your assistance to-date and hope you can help me with the rest of my stated goals.

Thank you so much, Claire, Darrell and Bob,

Sincerely,

Patty Solazzo {daughter of **John J. Hayes**}.



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Patty,

That is good. You have the basic info. If you don't have it already, here is his enlistment record, which I found from his ASN:

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=1&cat=WR26&tf=F&q=20624342&bc=,sl,sd&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=2009536>

FYI: Here is a summary of the action in Germany during January and February 1945:

<http://www.517prct.org/documents/chronicle/chronicle.htm>

I believe they were all in Germany in early February, and ended up in Joigny, France starting on 22-Feb-1945.

And **John Hayes** is listed on the manifest of the Madawaska Victory ship, which left Le Havre, France on August 12 and arrived in New York in August 20 1945:

http://www.517prct.org/documents/madawaska_victory_manifest

He is on page 15 of the manifest: [Madawakasa Victory manifest \(7.77mb\)](#)

His MOS at the time was 7745, meaning paratrooper rifleman. In your discharge papers it has his MOS as 761, which is Scout.

Keep us posted.

Bob Barrett

| PASSENGER LIST | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----|------------------|----------------|----------|
| Vessel | | Sailed From | | Destination | | |
| 10860 E | | SOUTH PACIFIC INT REGT | | Unit Designation | | |
| Unit Shipment Number | | COMPANY "H" | | | | |
| List Number | Name | Grade or Rank | ASN | ASN | ASN or Service | MOS |
| 75. | GABORIKO, MICHAEL | (6) Pfc | 18 | 35845630 | Inf | 7745 |
| 76. | GALBRAITH, TAYLOR | (14) Pfc | 27 | 39051189 | Inf | 7745 228 |
| 77. | GALLAGHER, JAMES P. | (21) Pfc | 62 | 33579808 | Inf | 7803 |
| 78. | GATES, ROY B. | (20) Pfc | 19 | 39590733 | Inf | 7604 |
| 79. | GETZ, JOHN J. | (3) Pfc | 62 | 35392894 | Inf | 7761 |
| 80. | GOEPPERT, HOWARD G. | (14) Pfc | 26 | 39052739 | Inf | 7745 |
| 81. | GOTTIER, LEO B. | (17) Pfc | 54 | 37460641 | Inf | 7761 |
| 82. | GRAHAM, DONALD A. | (18) Pfc | 56 | 38398793 | Inf | 7745 |
| 83. | GRAVELL, WARMAN S. | (14) Pfc | 44 | 39415710 | Inf | 7745 |
| 84. | GRAY, JAMES A. | (7) Pfc | 33 | 36654996 | Inf | 7604 |
| 85. | GREASER, CLARENCE JR. | (9) Pfc | 18 | 37643334 | Inf | 7745 |
| 86. | GROSS, JAMES L. | (19) Pfc | 10 | 34080627 | Inf | 7745 |
| 87. | HAYES, JOHN J. | (7) Pfc | 64 | 20624342 | Inf | 7745 |
| 88. | HERBST, CHARLES A. | (7) Pfc | 26 | 16175448 | Inf | 7745 |
| 89. | HEWMAN, ROBERT L. | (7) Pfc | 20 | 36978698 | Inf | 7745 |
| 90. | HIXENBAUGH, THOMAS R. | (21) Pfc | 29 | 33947026 | Inf | 7745 |
| 91. | HOLDEN, JR., NEEDHAM G. | (3) Pfc | 38 | 14189925 | Inf | 7745 |
| 92. | HOLMAN, CLARENCE W. | (17) Pfc | 43 | 37737254 | Inf | 7745 |
| 93. | HOOVER, WILLIAM R. | (14) Pfc | 10 | 38569852 | Inf | 7761 |
| 94. | HOSNER, HORACE W. | (7) Pfc | 18 | 36469730 | Inf | 7745 |



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Hi Bob

I lost a red cord or lanyard playing army in the woods about 1970. My Granddad, **Raymond Doane, 596th** 1st PLT, said he got it overseas. He told me the story but being only 8 at the time i have forgot it. I do remember Charlie Pugh sent him the info to get the French Fourragere in the mid 80's but i don't think he ever sent for one.



So i would like everyone's help with the story of the Belgian Fourragere and how he (596th) ended up with it. From what i have read you have to be mentioned Twice. I can only find one mention on the 517th website. I have his ribbon bar with what looks like the Belgian ribbon in the middle which i will forward. The only other thing i can think of is that when he got stuck in the 82nd, they gave it to him to wear in a parade or something to that effect. I finally got a DD214 and separation papers I'll email you a copy too. Bob thanks again for your work on the GREATEST WW2 WEBSITE EVER!

Take care

Johnny Privott

| 36 | | ENLISTEL RECORD AND REPORT OF PARATION | | | | 3183-13 | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| HONORABLE DISCHARGE | | | | | | | |
| 1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL DOANE WILLIAM R | | 2. DD FORM SERIAL NO. 33 642 215 | | 3. GRADE TEC 5 | | 4. AREA OF SERVICE CE | |
| 5. ORGANIZATION 596TH AIRBORNE ENGR CO | | 6. DATE OF ASSUMPTION 21 DEC 45 | | 7. PLACE OF SEPARATION CENTER FT GEORGE G MEADE MD | | 8. REASON FOR SEPARATION NO | |
| 9. PRESENTED ADDRESS FOR BILLING PURPOSES 1327 21ST ST S NORFOLK VA | | | | 10. DATE OF BIRTH 6 JAN 25 | | 11. PLACE OF BIRTH NORFOLK VA | |
| 12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH DEPLOYMENT WILL BE REPORT SEE 9 | | | | 13. HAIR COLOR BLUE | | 14. EYES BROWN | |
| 15. SEX M | | 16. MARITAL STATUS X | | 17. U.S. CITIZEN X | | 18. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. 7-97,040 | |
| 19. HIGHEST GRADE X | | 20. HIGHEST GRADE X | | 21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. SHEET METAL WORKER APPRENTICE | | | |
| MILITARY HISTORY | | | | | | | |
| 22. DATE OF INDUCTION 26 JUN 43 | | 23. DATE OF EXPIREMENT 10 JUL 43 | | 24. DATE OF REENTRY INTO SERVICE 10 JUL 43 | | 25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE RICHMOND VA | |
| 26. ELEMENTARY SERVICE X | | 27. ADDRESS 1 | | 28. COUNTY NORFOLK VA | | 29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE SEE 9 | |
| 30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. PARACHUTE PACKER 7620 | | | | 31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND NO. MM MI RIFLE | | | |
| 32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS 0033045 HOME ARNO SOUTHERN FRANCE ARDENNES RHINELAND CENTRAL EUROPE | | | | | | | |
| 33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL PURPLE HEART MEDAL EUROPEAN AFRICAN MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER RIBBON WORLD WAR II VICTORY RIBBON | | | | | | | |
| 34. AWARDS RECEIVED IN ACTION FRANCE 29 OCT 44 | | | | | | | |
| 35. LATENT FINGERPRINTS DATES | | | | 36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND PRISON | | | |
| 37. MAILING ADDRESS NOV 45 | | 38. RETURN ADDRESS OCT 45 | | 39. DATE OF DEPARTURE FEB NOV 45 | | 40. DATE OF ARRIVAL 17 MAY 44 | |
| 41. CONTINENTAL SERVICE 0 | | 42. SERVICE IN THEATER 10 12 | | 43. HIGHEST GRADE APPLIED TEC 5 | | 44. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND PRISON 3 DEC 45 UNITED STATES | |
| 45. PRISON SERVICE NONE | | 46. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15 DEC 44 | | 47. DESTINATION ITALY | | 48. DATE OF ARRIVAL 31 MAY 44 | |
| 49. CONVENIENCE OF THE GOV'T RR 1-1 (DEMobilIZATION) AR 615-365 | | | | | | | |
| 50. NIGHT SCHOOL FORT BENNING GA | | | | | | | |
| 51. PAY DATA | | | | | | | |
| 52. GRADE TEC 5 | | 53. PAY RATE 300.00 | | 54. PAY RATE 100.00 | | 55. PAY RATE 10.90 | |
| 56. INSURANCE NOTICE | | | | | | | |
| 57. KIND OF INSURANCE X | | | | | | | |
| 58. HOW PAID X | | 59. EXPIRATION DATE OF POLICY 31 DEC 45 | | 60. DATE OF NEXT PREMIUM DUE 31 JAN 46 | | 61. PREMIUM PAID 8.50 | |
| 62. REMARKS (This space for completion of above data if entry in other field omitted in 57, 58, 59, 60, 61) LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED NO DAYS LOST UNDER AM107 ASR SCORE 72 | | | | | | | |
| 63. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING REPORTED <i>William R Doane</i> | | | | 64. SIGNATURE OF REPORTING OFFICER CASPER T LAURICE | | | |
| 65. GRADE OF PERSON BEING REPORTED 1ST LT | | | | 66. GRADE OF REPORTING OFFICER WAC | | | |

For what it's worth, I see **William Raymond Doane** on the Xmas Roster, and he is also on a morning report with a NBC on 15-Jul-1944: http://517prct.org/records/jun_jul_aug44_596.jpg -- BB



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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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Cohasset, MA 02025