



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2102**

**April 15, 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)

### *National Reunion – Sign up soon*

In response to my question about the camouflage uniforms, much to my surprise I received a wonderful phone call from **Al Sperry** of the 517th. It was so good to talk to him and to hear about what he remembered. He told me he also didn't remember camouflage uniforms, so both of us are still waiting to hear from anyone who remembers wearing them.

Al told me he is coming to the reunion, but he didn't know how to access the registration and hotel forms. I think some of our members do not understand that all they have to do is go to the last page on MailCall, and double click (with the computer mouse) on the underlined words that say: [Program](#), [Registration Form](#), [Hotel Registration Form](#). When they do that the forms will pop up and all they have to do is fill them out, and mail the registration form to Armed Forces reunion. The hotel form is mailed to the hotel at: Hilton Kansas City Airport, 8801 NW 112th Street, Kansas City, MO 64153 Attn: Reservations Or visit [www.hiltonkci.com](http://www.hiltonkci.com) (Group/Convention Code is PRC).

Many people are asking me about the registration forms in the Thunderbolt. They are asking me when the Thunderbolt is coming out? Helen and Claire, what is the projected mailing date for the Thunderbolt? Maybe it has already gone out. Thanks for all of your hard work on putting the Thunderbolt together.

**Lory Curtis**



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### *In Memorium*

RE: Loss of another original member

It is with a great deal of sorrow that I report that **Martin Mertz**, 1st Sgt. of Battery C, 460th PFA Bn died on March 14, 2012. He was the first person I met when I reported for duty at Camp Mackall in March 1943. He was truly a soldier to be admired.

**Merle W. Mc Morrow**

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**From:** Larry Greene [mailto:lkg498@msn.com]

**Subject:** My Dad, **Matthew Bernard Greene**

My Dad was in the 517 unit. He died March 12, 2012, and his birthday was 11-24-21. He received several medals including the Silver Star. I have done quite a bit of research online, but have not been able to come up with a list of personnel that served in the 517. Is that available? I would appreciate any help you can provide. In the late 80's Dad was contacted by someone who was writing a book about the 517, and that man interviewed and corresponded with my Dad for information to include in the book. Dad was supposed to get a copy of the book for his help, but did not get one. My Mom does not remember that author's name. If you have any knowledge of this book or if it was completed please send me his name.

Thank you, Larry Greene 702-614-5960 e-mail [lkg498@msn.com](mailto:lkg498@msn.com)

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Larry,

Thank you for your note. I will include it in the next MailCall newsletter.

I did take a quick look through the obvious records that I have, including the December 1944 roster. Matt Greene is listed with Company G: <http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>

I do know that my Dad, Ben Barrett, did trade numerous emails with your Dad over the years, and it seems that he did attend a reunion or two. You can find those emails using the search function at <http://517prct.org/search.htm> and search for "Matt Greene".

There were a couple of books written about the 517<sup>th</sup>. The Paratroopers' Odyssey was written in 1985 and is on the website, but I don't see any mention of Matt Greene in that.

There was another book published by Turner Publishing in the 90's, where his name is listed, but no more info. [http://www.amazon.com/517th-Parachute-Regimental-Combat-Team/dp/1563114089/ref=sr\\_1\\_7?ie=UTF8&qid=1334538169&sr=8-7#](http://www.amazon.com/517th-Parachute-Regimental-Combat-Team/dp/1563114089/ref=sr_1_7?ie=UTF8&qid=1334538169&sr=8-7#)

There is one more book, "Battling Buzzards", but I don't see him in that either.

I am sorry for the loss of your dad. He was a member of a very elite fighting unit.

Bob Barrett



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### MailCall News

Someone has signed the Guestbook:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: <b>Leslie Weed</b> From: Portland Or E-mail: <a href="mailto:yayaweed@yahoo.com">yayaweed@yahoo.com</a>	My father was <b>Leroy C Kelly</b> and was in the 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion. He died in 1967 at the age of 42. He never talked about the war, his jumps into France or his Bronze star. If you have any information would love to hear from you. Thank you so much
	Added: April 11, 2012

Bob: Somehow I missed the 10/30/11 Mail Call ([#2076](#)) and did not see **Howard Hensleigh's** letter until today. I apologize for not getting back to Howard and hope you can pass this note on to him.

I do remember **Lt. Emmons** and am glad to hear about his partial recovery. I had almost the same experience with **Col. Bill Boyle** who I was constantly with until he was shot in Belgium. We often played chess together, even at forward O.P.'s I last saw him when Sgt. Steele brought him in and he was shot through both arms and his chest. The building we were using as an O.P. was blown up at that time, and I left with others partially wounded. I assumed Wild Bill Boyle (who we all would have gone through hell for) was dead, and believed so until I got some news from the 517 in recent years. I also had the opportunity to correspond with Col. Boyle, and tell him of my respect for him.

We also discussed Bill Young, who Col. Boyle said was one of those mistakes you make in selecting people you need to trust. (I'm not sure of his exact words). I told Col. Boyle that I had the privilege to serve with the finest officer in the Paratroops (Col. Boyle) and the worst (Bill Young). Col. Boyle often said we were part of the Irish Mafia, Boyle, Dugan, Brodie, Kelley, etc. etc.

Best regards,  
**Hoyt Kelley**

Dear Bob, Questions have been raised about the camouflage uniforms. These questions arise because now most Soldiers wear a permanent type. When we jumped into S. France the entire combat team members had whatever they were to wear on the jump spray painted with camouflage paint. I still have my old field jacket jumped into S. France, but the paint has faded some during the intervening years. So, the pictures you see are spray painted uniforms. We also had our faces grease painted the same way. It wore off in a few days.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL,

**Howard Hensleigh**



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Saturday, March 31, 2012, at 4:30 pm local time here in Salt Lake City, our local T.V. station showed a 30 minute segment on the up-coming movie ***Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed***. As I mentioned before I was interviewed about my Dad for the T.V. spot and our own **Hoyt Kelley** of the 517th was also interviewed. Hoyt served in the S-2 section of First Battalion.

In the interview he talked about the first day when all of you troopers were taken to the "jump Towers" that were part of an airplane fuselage. Hoyt said when it was your turn to jump a Sergeant would hit you on the leg as your signal to jump. He said one day as he was standing in line waiting to jump out on to the cable some soldier next in line was hit on the leg before he hooked up to the cable and jumped out. The soldier broke both his legs. Hoyt said the Sergeant stated, "Don't worry men. That only happens two or three times a day."



Anyway, I think everyone would have been very proud to have seen the segment about the 517th. The actors talked and talked about what a great unit the 517th was and how honored they were to portray men of this historic outfit. Again, I will have a DVD of the movie to show at the reunion. The movie doesn't open up in theaters until August 3, 2012. Also, I am told by the movie producers that someone from the movie project will be at our reunion. This should be another great reunion. Talk to everyone you know about coming to Kansas City.

**Lory Curtis, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st Bn.**



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From **Merle McMorrow**

RE: World War II in Photos - After the War



To see all the pictures and read the descriptions: Go to:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2011/10/world-war-ii-after-the-war/100180/#>

In last week's MailCall, we had a clipping from "The Villages" in Florida about Phil McSpadden. I didn't realize how big The Villages is until someone sent me this video about all the golf carts at The Villages:

<http://www.youtube.com/v/Qrpq5A-KAoA>

-Bob B.





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From Patricia and Roland Orengo

Subject: Normandie, Avant... Maintenant (Then and Now)



See more photos at: [http://acidcow.com/pics/3772-normandy\\_1944\\_then\\_and\\_now\\_204\\_pics.html/](http://acidcow.com/pics/3772-normandy_1944_then_and_now_204_pics.html/)



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### *Just for Laughs*

I disapprove of  
what you say, but  
I will defend to  
the death your  
right to say it.



Voltaire

These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor:  
She said, "If you were my husband I'd poison your tea."  
He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."  
"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

"He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." - Clarence Darrow

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." - William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend.... if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response.

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." - Samuel Johnson

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." - Paul Keating



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"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." - Charles, Count Talleyrand

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." - Forrest Tucker

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - Oscar Wilde

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx

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Speaking of camouflage uniforms:



"I work in an office."





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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](#)

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### **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](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

70 Pleasant Street

Cohasset, MA 02025