



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2116

August 1, 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

More from the Kansas City Reunion



Greetings, all -

The Kansas City reunion, which was held over last weekend at the KC Airport Hilton, was smaller than previous gatherings but nonetheless very enjoyable for all in attendance.

I must first reiterate with regret that our dear friend **Al Sperry** died en route to the reunion. A regular national reunion attendee, we missed him terribly. We send condolences and prayers to his family, and



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we are touched by the fact that his final jump was made while on his way to see fellow troopers. Talk about airborne all way.

This reunion was truly well done, and many thanks to all who made it happen. **Lory Curtis**, unbelievably, has now hosted the last three reunions for the 517 - all after the death of his father, **Bud Curtis**. **Mike and Rhonda Wells**, as well as **Tim Curtis**, also contributed tons of time and effort. Armed Forces Reunions came through as always.

The KC Airport Hilton is a gorgeous facility, and staffed with constantly helpful people. The shuttle bus driver even made an exception and drove us to Walmart to stock the Hospitality Suite. I may be the last to know that barbecue is a Kansas City specialty, and the Hilton restaurant has posted the competition results for the last several years. They are always among competition leaders. Their barbecue is indeed very good. The food at the banquet was absolutely the best we've ever had.

Notable highlights from the business meeting include the fact that **Dick Miller, Howard Hensleigh** and **Joanne Barrett** are attempting to reinstate our tax-exempt status. As such, we've been unable to move forward on last year's decision to combine the Auxiliary and the Association.

Among the trips available was the trip to the National WWI Museum. Those who went said it was well worth seeing. The Truman Library and Museum presented a history of the period we lived through: the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, his decision to drop the bomb - are all recorded. Also represented are the many disagreements over dropping the bomb. One display showed the profiles of General MacArthur and President Truman facing each other. When I remarked, "THERE was a battle (meaning Truman and MacArthur)," **Brenda Mortensen** said, unforgettably, "Sort of like Godzilla and King Kong." That still makes me chuckle - and it's so true.

Our speaker at the banquet was **Lt. General William Troy**, a top-ranking Pentagon official. Among his many other accomplishments, he is a master parachutist. He spoke to an audience rapt in attention about the Army's past history and future. Particularly endearing to us was his assurance that we, as veterans of WWII, are still part of the greater Army family. As the evening closed, he presented his personal challenge coin to each veteran.

The next reunion dates are MLK weekend in Kissimmee, and springtime in Palm Springs. Although the veterans in attendance were split on whether to have another national reunion, the next generation, now friends in their own right, may investigate whether it's feasible to meet next summer. If they do, I am assured we can probably score an invitation.

Reunions are the best. We gather to remember and honor those not present, and treasure the bonds forged over decades. It was great to see everyone who could make it.

All the best -

Allan Johnson

Well, it has been just about a week since our National Reunion in Kansas City, and I am going through withdrawals from missing everyone. It surely was a FANTASTIC reunion, and it hurts my heart to think it just might be the very last National Reunion for the 517th. I know some of us want to see them



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continue so who knows. Thank goodness we can still plan on the two mini reunions. Some highlights of this National reunion for me was our first trip to Walmart to pick up supplies for the hospitality room. I think most heard the story that Walmart would not take my check for the amount purchased, then they wouldn't take my credit card, so **Mike Wells** stepped up and used his credit card. They wouldn't take his either. Just then the manager came over to find out what was going on and wanted their food back. Which would have been difficult because Claire had most of it on the shuttle bus that was there to pick us up. Thank goodness **Nancy Fraser Armand** came to our rescue and used her credit card. Walmart took it much to our surprise. Nancy said people don't mess with us from Chicago, we know people. Well, we had some great food and drinks in the room, and many thanks go out to **General Seitz** for paying for the alcohol and pop for the hospitality room.

I was speaking with the General after the reunion, and I told him even after their is a change of command ceremony and the commander is relieved of the duties, sometimes being the commander never stops, and I told him I felt that was the case with his battalion command of 2nd Battalion, 517th. I told him the men of the 517th loved him to this very day, and if asked they would fall back in ready to go to war under his leadership. The General's response was -"I have served in every Airborne Unit the Army has, and there has never been finer men to put on a pair of Jump Boots than the men of the 517th, and I mean every word." The general made those same comments at the banquet, and I was so impressed with his remarks. I was also impressed to think the highest echelons of the Army in times of our current wars and conflicts would take time to come to Kansas City to honor the 517th. I was taken back to think the Chief of Staff of the Army knows about the 517th and sent one of his most senior general, **LT General William Troy**, a master parachutist to pay tribute to the men of the 517th. Now that is class. It truly is a brotherhood of soldiers and after all of these many years, the Army still recognizes the contributions and sacrifices the men of the 517th made.



HOOAH!! Airborne All the Way!

Lory V. Curtis, a proud son of **Bud Curtis**, HQ 1st BN

I was just talking with **Morris McDowell** on the phone about what a great reunion we had. Morris drove up from Tennessee, and he commented on how much effort it took to come to the reunion, and how much more challenging it must have been for our 517th paratroopers to get there. So I want to take the opportunity to thank each of them for making such a great effort to be at the Nation Reunion in Kansas City. They are **Bob Vaught, John Strojan, Hoyt Kelley, John Jonientz, Mel Dahlberg** (first person to register for the reunion), **Allan Johnson** (President 517th PRCT Association), **General Dick Seitz, Leo Dean, George Kennedy, Gene Frice, Darrell Egner** (just came out of surgery to be at the reunion), **Roger Goodsell, Hal Beddow, Richard Hammel, and Al Sperry** who died on the road coming to the reunion. Also a special thanks to **Babbie Boyle** who came and represented her husband **Colonel Bill Boyle**. Babbie brought the largest group of Boyle family members. Thank you so much for your support of the 517th and the National Reunion, I truly appreciate all of you who came.



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I also want to thank the following for all of their help at the reunion - **Mimsey Boyle**, her sisters, and other family members for putting up all of the pictures and posters in the hospitality room. Many thanks to **Helen Beddow, Allan Johnson, Dick Seitz, Claire Giblin, Mike and Rhonda Wells, Morris McDowell, Nancy Fraser Armand, Wade Gilbert, Joanne Barrett, Bob Barrett**, and to all the others who I have forgotten to mention. You all are just the best!

Lory Curtis, Kansas City National Reunion chairman

Well, as you know, the reunion in Kansas City was fantastic. Yes - numbers were down from Atlanta in 2011, but we had such a good time getting together!

From arrival on Wednesday through departure on Monday, it was a blast. The food was great, the hospitality suite rocking as usual, and it is always excellent to see my favorite veterans.

There were pictures in Mail Call last week - and I hope to send more for next week, especially of the banquet. Lt. General Troy came to honor the veterans, flying out from the Pentagon. His remarks were fantastic as he honored the veterans of the 517 and told us of the good work today's military is doing. He was really what they call in the media industry quite a "get" - a really surprisingly impressive achievement to "get" this speaker for our reunion. Good job, Lory!

And now we look to Kissimmee in January and Palm Springs in springtime. Make your plans now!

Claire

A few pictures from KC:





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Re: Great to meet you in KC!

Hi, Bob -

You remember me - I'm Claire - we met on the street in Kansas City.

Though I wasn't there that night when you were there, I hear that there were photos taken of the cake cutting ceremony. I am copying Bob Barrett, our webmaster, who could forward a picture or a copy of Mail Call if one of the pictures made it into our regular email newsletter.

Sorry we were only texting back and forth - but you got to meet the guys, and that was really what it was all about. If you don't have it yet, though, you need to make it your business to get a copy of the picture of you with Lt. General Seitz. The man is a legend.

All the best -

Claire

Claire,

It was amazing being part of such a historic and special reunion. I am sorry I wasn't back from Dallas to attend the dinner Sunday.

I was speechless and blown away to hear the stories of the 517th on the battlefield. I will check out the website and look for the picture.

I'll be heading back to Fort Bragg very soon. I have spent a lot of time at Camp MacKall and look forward to going back where the foundations of the barracks where the 517th lived still remain. My house in Southern Pines, NC is ten miles from Camp MacKall.

Thank you again so much for inviting me to the ceremony Sat night. I will never forget it and will for the rest of my years try to be half as good of a paratrooper as every single man of the 517th is.

Sincerely,

Bobby Bradford

St. Jude Medical Sales Representative

Kansas City Area

My nephew David and I would like to express our appreciation for all the work that went into making the reunion a truly memorable experience. As someone who has organized events, I understand all the time, energy and commitment required. We want to express our great appreciation for all the members of the 517 who shared their funny, touching and sometime sad stories and memories with us. We have a much deeper and more profound understanding of Ray Bunce after hearing your stories about him and your own stories. I have taken many trips to some beautiful places but this was a trip with heart and soul much more beautiful than any landscape. If there is anyone who would like to keep in touch with us, please feel free to e-mail me at cbunce88@comcast.net.

Ray Bunce's proud daughter Chris and his grandson David.



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From **Paul Abbene**:

" I think I'll miss you most of all "



Allan Johnson and Dorothy Ross

Note from the editor: Yes, some of you noticed that there was no MailCall last week, July 22. I sent out #2115 on July 15 while I was still at the reunion knowing that I'd have little time when I returned home. I started a new job on July 9 (Chief Information Officer for the City of Newton, MA) and have been very busy during the week. Then my weekends were swallowed up in helping my two girls move to their new apartment. So, here is MailCall #2116 about a week and a half late. Bear with me. Thanks for all the news! – Bob B.



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Operation Dragoon

Enclosed are a few photos from the recent Operation Dragoon seminar that was held in Arlington Virginia. I was finally able to meet folks from the 517th in person, including **Col. Gene Frice, Marty Donahoo, Darrell Egner, and General Seitz**. You'll see them in the enclosed pictures. It was an honor and a thrill to talk to these folks!

The seminar was well attended, with representatives from many of the units who participated in Operation Dragoon. Gene Frice, Darrell Egner, and General Seitz all gave short talks on the 517th participation, making the 517th the best represented of all. Military historians gave detailed presentations on each unit's preparation, invasion, and progress after D-Day.

In addition, the contributions of our European colleagues (in particular, **Jean-Loup Gassend, Jean Mickael SOLDI, and Gilles Guignard**) were highlighted and fondly remembered by several of us.

The photo of **General Seitz** shows him listening to a WWII 45th ID veteran and an active duty member of the 3rd ID. The lunch photo shows: **Gene Frice, Marty Donahoo, and Darrell Egner** (l to r)

Also present were retired Generals Jack Singlaub and Lloyd Ramsey. We were in very distinguished company indeed!

Best regards,

Roger Sullivan

– son of **George A. Sullivan**, 517th 1st BN Company A



Pat,

If you weren't aware of it, **Darryl Egner** was presented the French Legion of Honor. Sounds like you had a good trip to San Francisco. Have fun.

Rick Seitz

Rick: Thanks. Am copying Bob Barrett with this for Mail Call. While San Francisco was great, wish we could have been there in person to beam with pride and gratitude for Darryl. So glad you and Dad were there.

Pat



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American Forces Press Service

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World War II Veterans Honored for Their Part in Operation Dragoon

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 22, 2012 – A group of World War II veterans was recognized yesterday in a ceremony held here for their gallantry during a 1944 combat operation in southern France.



U.S. Army World War II veterans of Operation Dragoon and Members of the Military District of Washington's Sgt. Audie L. Murphy Club, the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, and the military attaché to the French Embassy pose following a remembrance ceremony honoring the success of Operation "Dragoon" held Arlington, Va., July 21, 2012. DOD photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

(Click photo for screen-resolution image) [high resolution image](#) available.

Operation Dragoon lasted from Aug. 15 until Sept. 14, 1944. It was the second largest amphibious invasion of World War II, with over 1,000 ships delivering three divisions of troops to the beaches of France. Additionally, an airborne division parachuted into the country to help secure beach heads along with Greek, Polish and Dutch forces, according to retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Timothy Stoy, historian for the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division.

The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division hosted the ceremony honoring veterans who fought during the operation. French Army Col. Brice Houdet, military attaché from the French Embassy, presented the French Legion of Honor during the ceremony to retired U.S. soldiers John Singlaub, Paul Donlon, Darryl Egner, Elias Hernandez, Michael Halik and the son of Stanley Siemruch.

Before presenting the French awards, Houdet thanked the group of veterans on behalf of the people of France.

"I would like to salute all of the American allied veterans who took part in that momentous operation 68 years ago," he said. "We are deeply honored to have some of you with us today."

"I will have the distinct honor to present six of these highly deserving former service members with the Legion of Honor, France's highest national honor and distinction, for their outstanding services during World War II," Houdet said.

The six award recipients were all accompanied by members of the Military District of Washington's Sgt. Audie L. Murphy Club, representing the connection to Murphy and the 3rd Infantry Division in which he served.

During the ceremony, U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Edd Watson, currently the command sergeant major of the 3rd Infantry Division, narrated a Missing in Action presentation, and explained the items on a table displayed to honor fallen soldiers.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Randy E. Manner, Joint Staff director for the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said Operation Dragoon may not be as well known as some other World War II operations, but it should be remembered for its strategic importance.

"Sometimes, the voice of history does not speak as loudly about some events such as Operation Dragoon," Manner said.

"So that's our job today ... to be that voice and to speak loudly about those great successes all those many years ago," he said. "Those gathered here ... know the strategic value of Operation Dragoon."

Manner, whose father served under Singlaub, a retired Army major general, noted Operation Dragoon was critical because it opened a much-needed supply line into France for the allies to "continue to smash the Nazis."

"History records that over 90,000 soldiers and over 11,000 vehicles were on the beach, on the ground, within days," he said. "The bottom line is the operation significantly contributed to the shortening of the war in Europe, which meant, of course, the shortening and the lessening of the number of lives that were lost and the number of the families that were affected."



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U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal, director of operations, readiness and mobilization for the Department of the Army, thanked all of the veterans present for their sacrifice and “tremendous” service to the country.

“Although not as well known as Operation Overlord, Operation Dragoon was a highlight of the second World War for many in our military,” he said. “[It was] one of the most successful combined joint operations in the European theater.

“Today, we take fighting as a joint team, alongside our sister services, for granted, just as we’ve come to count on our multi-national allies to be there in operations around the world today,” Vandal said. “But on Aug. 15, 1944, in the early days of the liberation of Europe, such a level of cooperation was far from commonplace.”

Vandal called the allied forces a “vanguard” of history who forged a path “for all of us to follow.”

“Some historians have mistakenly called Operation Dragoon the ‘forgotten D-Day,’ particularly in comparison to the larger and more famous invasions of Normandy,” he said. “In fact, some have even gone so far as to imply that the operation was easy – merely a cakewalk.

“Sgt. Audie Murphy, from the 3rd Infantry Division, might disagree with this characterization,” Vandal said. “Given that he earned a Distinguished Service Cross during Operation Dragoon, I think it speaks for itself [and what troops] did.”

Vandal noted allied forces of Operation Dragoon advanced more than 500 miles in less than a month and took more than 100,000 Germans prisoner.

“Overlooked by history or not, Operation Dragoon was a pivotal moment in the history of France, a fact well understood by all of you veterans sitting here today,” he said.

Vandal, a former member of 3rd Infantry Division himself, expressed his appreciate for all World War II veterans.

“All of our veterans are a national treasure, and we are all fortunate to be in their presence,” he said. “They have left a legacy for our Army and our nation to follow.”

Biographies:

[Maj. Gen. Randy E. Manner](#)

Related Sites:

[3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart, Ga.](#)

[Society of the 3rd Infantry Division](#)





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Hi, Bob -

I haven't offloaded my camera yet, but I hope **Tom Copsey** sent you pictures.

Dad and I, along with my husband Jim, traveled to Washington DC yesterday for the ceremony wherein **Darrell Egner**, past president of the Association, received the Legion of Honor from France. We just went down for the day, but also in attendance for the weekend were Darrell's family, our own Lt. General **Dick Seitz**, his son Rick, **Tom Copsey**, **Gene Frice** and **Marty Donohoo**. Although the events are primarily 3rd Infantry Division, the 517 was well-represented.

We went directly to Arlington National Cemetery, not realizing that the ceremony had been moved indoors due to weather. Though it meant that we still had to get to the hotel, it did give us the opportunity to get a private viewing of the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown, adjacent to the ceremony site. It is stirring to watch the guard doing his duty even when no one is watching, and to observe the ceremony when there is hardly anyone there.

As always, the ceremony observes the "Forgotten D-Day" that is Operation Dragoon. I believe that six men were honored yesterday, including a Canadian veteran and the family of a veteran who'd died recently.

It was wonderful to be there to see Darrell recognized by the French ambassador's representative, and **it was also wonderful to hear that the French people are still appreciative of the service and sacrifice of so many.**

Congratulations, Darrell!



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MailCall News

Dear Bob, I enjoyed the pics from the KC Reunion. I noted that there were 13 troopers able to "STAND UP AND HOOKUP". We had nine at P Springs and 4 were 596ers! Have you received any pic from our mini at P Springs? Maybe I missed them.

A/B **Bob Dalrymple**

Bob, haven't had Mail Call for some time now and wonder if you have our correct address?? It was changed a few weeks ago. Miss hearing from you. Received this from my cousin and thought you might find it interesting to put on Mail Call.

I am the wife of **Walter W. Smith**, Hqs. 1st Btn. Walt has been in rehab for almost a year now from a torn tendon on his right leg from the quad muscle. He has given up the walker and uses the cane.

Not knowing too much about computers I seem to have lost your address with the 517th. so I hope you receive this. Thanks for all you do to keep us informed.

Sincerely, **Peanie Smith**

Dear Bob,

As you previously reported, **Lory Curtis** and his son paid me a visit a few weeks ago before the KC reunion. They left me several gifts one of which is the book, "*Letters Home, A Paratrooper's Story*", which Lory authored with the central theme told by his father's (**Harland "Bud" Curtis**) letters to his father and mother. The central theme was the life of a 517th paratrooper from the induction center (where he almost joined the Navy) through Toccoa, jump school, Tennessee maneuvers, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany and back to the States with enough points to get out into civilian life. There are many accounts of these events, but this one is unique in that it was written contemporaneously with the tragedies and triumphs of each day as we went through them. The letters home give the reader the anticipation of events before some that do happen and some that don't. Bud Curtis was a prolific letter writer who wanted his family, particularly his mother, to know what he was going through at each stage of his service life. Although he did not skimp on the details, he always told the family not to worry about him that he would make it home if his luck held out. He wanted his girlfriend Jill to be given gifts on birthdays and holidays so her letters would keep on coming to boost his morale and his family to keep on sending those care packages to supplement what frequently was a scanty batch of K rations.

If anyone really wants to know what it was like, read this book.

Highest airborne regards,

Howard Hensleigh



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Hi everyone,

I am so sorry that I wasn't able to attend the Kansas city reunion. I have always had a great time just being with the 517th family and I've got some good memories and pictures. I'm sorry to hear that **Al Sperry** passed away. He was on his way to be with his unit in Kansas. That is remarkable and just like a 517th soldier. Loyal until the end. **And Mryle and Betty Traver** are in my prayers.. I will always be your friend, Mryle and Betty! The 517th people are strong and such good people. I am glad that I got to meet you and be with you. We had good conversations. I sat with Al Sperry and his wife at the dinner table at the Washington D.C. reunion while Dick Cheney spoke. **Lory and Tim Curtis** and their father, **Bud Curtis** were also at our table along with my wife Carolyn and daughter Jenna. I will always be grateful for the time spent with the 517th. I've made some good friends that will be my friends forever. My dad **Odas Sweet**, passed away in 1959 and never got to attend the reunions but I know he would have enjoyed being with his friends from H company and the rest of you! Lory, I am envious that you got to meet **Howard Hensleigh**. If I ever get to go out west, meeting Mr Hensleigh would be on my to do list. It's always great to hear from my dad's Lt. His stories are my dad's stories that I never got to hear. Please stay in touch with me and each other...

Son of a Buzzard,
Rick Sweet

I'M BAAACK!!!

Returned home after a 29 day trip to a Family Reunion, which was fantastic!!! Held in 107 degree weather, but we had over 80 family members there! Then spent some time with my youngest brother who is undergoing chemo... not sure I helped anything, but, hopefully didn't do any damage!!! Have 157 e-mails to go thru, so if you are expecting a prompt reply, bear with me!

Keep those farmers in America's breadbasket in your prayers. They need rain, but it may already be too late.

Phil McSpadden

Dear Bob,

Can you help me with the English word "Padre" the Webster's definition says it can either be "a Christian Clergyman, particularly a priest" which could refer to the catholic chaplain of the 517th but also as a second definition "military chaplain" which could refer to the protestant chaplain. Would you confirm that the word "padre" used by the English lady in Grasse (see below) may refer to both chaplains of the 517th stationed in Grasse on 24 August 1944 and the following days? of course this does not help me to trace the "padre" who did the service in the English Church in Grasse....

Any news on your side ?

Best wishes

Gilles Teulié



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Hello Gilles,

I'm afraid I cannot add much to the dictionary definitions. I was raised in a small town, north of Boston, which was mostly 2nd and 3rd generation Irish and Italian families. I don't think we ever used the word "padre". I only know the word as a Mexican/Spanish word for priest, as used in western movies and TV shows (e.g. Zorro). I was not aware that it could also mean a military chaplain, but I was never in the military. Maybe I'm too young. I'll post your question in the MailCall and maybe some of the troopers will know better.

- Bob B.

I would like to change the mailing address for **John A. Harte, 460th Parachute B Battery** (previously at 2524 San Clemente Ave. Alhambra CA 91803)

Current Address:
2611 Calle Martos
Duarte CA 91010

Thank you,
Suzanne Sokol

KSL television and radio did an interview with Jasen Wade, who plays my Dad **Harland Bud Curtis** in the new movie **Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed**, about the 517th PRCT. Jasen is a fire fighter and actor. The movie producers used my book **Letters Home A Paratrooper's Story** for parts of the movie. **The movie will have a premier on August 15th at the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia**, home of Airborne, and here in Sandy, Utah at the Jordan Commons theaters. The movie comes out in Utah on Friday August 17th. Not sure about the rest of the nation.

Lory

See: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=21402825> for the article about Jason Wade.

Congratulation Major!

I am sure you are very proud of your accomplishment and your dad. I would like to thank you for writing "Letters Home: A paratrooper's Story" it brings the story of the 517TH to life. I mentioned to my Aunt a movie was made about the 517TH she stood quiet, I could tell emotions went through her mind. My uncle seldom mentioned what the 517th went through my aunt said it was bad. Unfortunately, my uncle is not alive to see his unit come to the big screen but, the legacy will live on.

Alex Mendoza AIRBORNE!

Greeting Steve:

We are in the process of moving to another location and in doing so it involves considerable downsizing. I have run across some large topography maps that contain the location of drop zones for the various units of the 1st Airborne Task Force. If you are interested in having them please furnish a mailing address.

I am letting others know of their existence.

Merle Mc Morrow



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I would be interested in being able to do a scan on something like this. Just how big are the maps? After that I would be willing to pass on these to whoever might want them....

Steve Markle

Hi I'm a producer at CBS and wanted to talk to someone about the 517th Parachute Regiment. Please call me..thanks!

Alison Schwartz Dorfman
The CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley
W: 212 975-7093 C: 917 453-5979
schwartz@cbnews.com

Lory and Pat,

I just got off the phone with Alison Dorman, who is a producer for The CBS Evening News with Scott Pelly. See note below.

Somehow, she heard about the movie, by which I assume she means the "Saints and Soldiers – Airborne Creed". She then found the website and contacted me.

I told her a little about the 517th, and the fact that they were an elite but independent unit, etc. I told her that parts of the movie were based on the 517th experiences and the stories of **Bud Curtis**. I also mentioned that the official premier of the movie will be at Fort Benning on August 15. She is thinking this might make a good human interest story. (No guarantees, of course.) And she was wondering who might be at this premier – are there going to be some 517th veterans there?

Lory, I gave her your phone number 801-232-0009, and she might be calling you this morning.

Pat, I also said she might want to talk to some of the vets, especially our favorite General **Dick Seitz**. But I don't have a phone number or even an email for Dick. Would it be OK to give her Dick's contact info, and if so, how should she reach him?

Lory, I will be sending her a little more info about the unit and will copy you on those emails. Keep me posted.

Bob Barrett

Wow, sounds great. Yes **Hal Beddow** is going down with his son, and I have been told that someone from the production of the movie is going. I forgot the name. Ryan or Adam can you provide any information for CBS??

Lory



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Attached is a press release about the premier of Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed at Fort Benning. If you access the link http://youtu.be/G_dpyZnvN98 it will tell people how they can get free tickets to the showing.

Lory

Here is the info that I have about the screening in Georgia on August 15th.

- Movie is set to show at 7pm on August 15 at the IMAX.
- 100 Airborne trainees will be bused in to see the screening
- LTC Hal Beddow will be on hand as a special guest and we'll do Q&A with Corbin Allred (lead Actor) and Ryan Little (Director) right before the screening and do a meet and greet with everyone afterwards. We will also have Beddow as a guests live at 3pm show plus do a news story on him to air that night.



MILLER ROBSON
PROMOTIONS/MARKETING DIRECTOR
COLUMBUS, GA
706 507 7159 (PHONE)
706 221 3889 (FAX)



Here is a link to a local TV commercial that has been airing since last week.

http://youtu.be/G_DpyZnvN98

Ryan Little | [GO FILMS](#)





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My name is John Doherty. I was hoping you could help me.

I have recently come across documentation about my Grandfather - **James M McFadden**, who served in WWII. He died at the young age of 66 - and I never had the chance to know him. This is the beginning of my journey.

What i have been able to discover is that he was a member of the 596th Parachute Engineer Company of the 517 Parachute Infantry Regiment. He is on the Christmas list that was published on your site (page 7)

I have also attached 2 pictures of him as well. I have correspondences sent to my mother - Joanne (McFadden) Doherty from a **Charles Pugh** of Ft Worth Texas, and a **Captain George B Eldridge**.

I did scan your website and was able to see his image in one of the unidentified photographs. I would like to know anything i can about him - locations, friends, accounts - anything that can give me a picture of who he was - what we did.

I know this might be a difficult research as the generation is sadly passing by - but I want to share with his grand children the story of his courage and honor. Can you help me?

I can be reached at this email address or by cell phone if need be. Please tell me which you would prefer

I just received this documentation and am thrilled to embark on this journey!

Thank you

John Doherty





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Hello Mr Barret

My Father, **Melvin Jarman**, was in the 3rd battalion [G Company] and we would love to hear about members of the 517th.

He is still living in Delaware and will be 90 years old in October 26th.

He is presently in a nursing home but this is temporary and he will come home again in several weeks.

Mel has 7 children and is a widower. Children are all living.

Also 16 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren

I will update as I can

Thank you much

Stephen L Jarman

Gentlemen,

My grandfather recently passed away on 28 July. He was a glider rider with the 325th in the 82nd ABN. This is not an experience he spoke much about. As I myself later became a paratrooper with the 505th 82nd ABN, he opened up a little more about his experiences. The history of what paratroopers like my grandfather, great uncle, their brothers, and you did is vitally important.

My grandfather had a twin brother, **Calvin James "Jim" Marohn**, whom through the amazing job you've done with this site, and through things found in grandfather's possessions, I've come to learn served in Company C, 517th, and was wounded by a tree burst on 5 January, 1945 on the high ground surrounding Bergeval. I found the information on page 34 of the Company C history.

Among the items we found going through my grandfather's possessions were a medal awarded in Nice, France, to the 517th, his Purple Heart, as well as various awards etc. I've already began compiling information to request his DD214. While WIA and returned home, he eventually needed to have his leg amputated, and he died as a result of the wounds he suffered in I believe 1947 or 1948.

Would you like any pictures of these items? Is there anyone from C Co I could reach out to to see if he knew my Great Uncle?

Thank you so much for your time and the hard work you've put into this amazing site.

Sincerely, Airborne All The Way,

Matthew Marohn



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Clare Erber From: Platte Woods, MO E-mail: cerber@sbcglobal.net	Hi there, The first week after July 2012 reunion I was savoring it all, filing away all the names, faces memories, laughs and pride in the generation of Great Men and their families. This second week after, I have found myself missing you all. I want to Thank You for keeping this family going for me until I could share. I would like to ask for everyone to email me any pictures you had taken at the reunion, no matter what they are, so I can share with my family Aug 4, 2012. All the Best, Clare Mitacek Erber , daughter of Richard J. Mitacek , H Company, 3 BN. <hr/> Added: July 26, 2012
Name: Robert From: Columbus Ohio E-mail: aalock@wowway.com	I am doing some family history and would like to hear from anyone who knew or served with SGT Homer Beaver from the 517. He died on Nov. 4, 1944 and is buried at Rhone. Any info about our uncle would be greatly appreciated. <hr/> Added: July 25, 2012

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
70 Pleasant Street
Cohasset, MA 02025