



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2118

August 12, 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

Operation Dragoon - August 15, 1944

top right

Troopers of 517th Parachute Infantry in Operation DRAGOON, southern France, August 1944. XVIII Airborne Corps Historian from National Archives.



center right

American paratroopers standing and hooked up to jump over southern France in the airborne assault of Operation DRAGOON. August 15, 1944. U.S. Air Force.

bottom right

American airborne team in southern France. Heavily armed, this dirt-covered American airborne infantry team heads for a command post immediately after landing in southern France on D-Day. August 15, 1944.



those trailing went astray by miles. None of the 517th Parachute Infantry landed on their DZs.



A Company in preparation in Italy August 14, 1944



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Saints and Soldiers - Airborne Creed Premiere



The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center is proud to sponsor in part with [WLTZ 38](#) to host the world premiere of [Saints and Soldiers: Airborne Creed](#) at Patriot Park IMAX.

Saints and Soldiers: Airborne Creed

Wednesday, August 15 @ 7 p.m.

National Infantry Museum, 1775 Legacy Way

Saints and Soldiers: Airborne Creed takes moviegoers back 68 years ago to August 15, 1944 when the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team (PRCT) jumped over South France. The film, written and directed by Richard Little, relives the history of the Soldiers who risked their lives in an effort to hold true to the Airborne Creed.

Prior to the 7p.m. premiere, Little as well as World War II Paratrooper, LTC Hal Beddow will hold an informal Q&A session. After the screening, Little and Beddow will be available on the mezzanine (upstairs in the museum) for a meet-and-greet to answer additional questions.

Admission to the screening is **FREE** and open to the public.

Please join us in this once in a lifetime event!

MailCall News

Hey Bob, hope all is well and your summer is passing slowly. Regarding the recent mail call photo of young Dorothy hugging Allen Johnson, the role of the Scarecrow is actually being played by **Mel Dahlberg** not **Allen Johnson**. Although I'm sure Allen got a hug too.

Also I was wondering if you had Virginia Jorgen's address. I would like to send a thankyou note to her for giving me copies of her wonderful books.

All the best,

Paul Abbene





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi Paul,

Mel was my second guess, The thick white hair should have been the giveaway. I just didn't recognize him by the legs.

Virginia Jorgen is at: dinnylee7@gmail.com

It was nice to meet a few more of the Boyle clan in KC.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

I think we have the answer to the picture of the mystery vet in Kansas City in the last 2 Mail Calls, Bob.

Dorothy is hugging...**Mel Dahlberg!** Dorothy has always been excited to see Mel.

Scott Ross

Attached is the picture of our new 517th PRCT coin. I have many of these from our National Reunion in Kansas City. If people would like to have a coin they can contact me at drlvc@comcast.net to order one or more. The cost of the coin is \$8.00 plus shipping, which is about \$2.00 per coin.

Lory Curtis





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hope all is well. I've uploaded **Lory Curtis'** Salt Lake City Reunion video to Vimeo. Please share it in your next newsletter and if possible maybe a permanent link on the 517 website to all the videos we have on Vimeo.

517 Main Page

<http://vimeo.com/the517th>

SLC Reunion

<http://vimeo.com/the517th/517-2009-national-reunion-part-1>

<http://vimeo.com/the517th/517-2009-national-reunion-part-2>

Best Regards,
Wade Gilbert

I have a little info on **Fr. Guenette**, the Catholic chaplain of the 517th. He stayed at our house when he was 73 years old and was then a priest in South America and headed home. He and my husband, **William B. Houston** (460-C----parachute field artillery) continued to write each other after the end of the war.

I also have a copy of Bill's book on life during the war, taken from letters that he wrote home to his folks. Most of this called, Army Life, was published in the Thunderbolt when Meryl McMorrow was president and Fr. Guenette is mentioned.

If you need a copy for archives, tell me where to send one. (Don't ask to have me cut and paste to send online or it may be 2090 before it arrives---I have limited computer skills.) :)

Pat Houston

Dear Bob

Thank you for your kindness and your time. It is so nice to have positive answers from you.

I am going on holiday tomorrow. I will let you know which pictures I'd like to use in Septembre.

Thanks to you I got in contact with veteran **Howard Hensleigh** who gave me many little anecdotes which are quite precious to me.

Thanks again for that and your website. I would not have been able to be in contact with Howard otherwise

Best wishes

Gilles



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Dear Howard,

thank you so much for both your mails and all the wonderful anecdotes that you gave me. All of them bring history to life for me and all the details you gave me will be valuable for my book as anecdotes give the feeling of what it was to be there. Which makes me think that I hope you have recorded your story in the war for posterity as some of you fellow GI's have (I read some accounts on the 517th Prct website)?

May I ask you just a few things ?

1/ Which state do you live in in the USA ?

2/ Was it really hot when you where in Southern France

3/ How were you welcomed in Grasse ?

4/ Could it be possible for me to have a portrait of you in Uniform or a picture of you in combat gear, and your permission to reproduce it in my book ?

I saw some of your pictures on the web site, but I am not sure if I saw one of you.

Thank once again Howard for you kindness in sharing all that with me

All the best wishes

Dear Gilles,

I will answer keyed to your questions:

1. I now live at a veteran's administration community living center in Menlo Park, California. However I still consider myself a country boy from Iowa where I spent most of my time growing up and attended the University of Iowa for undergraduate and law school degrees. As a lawyer I practiced in Iowa; after attending Columbia University for graduate law study, I served the Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon as an international lawyer, including 2 years in Paris as legal advisor to the US Mission to NATO and then served as assistant general counsel for Raytheon Company for 25 years which included many trips to Paris to work on the legal framework for the European production of the HAWK missile system. I am now handicapped with a complete severance spinal cord injury and an amputated right leg, so my traveling days are over in a very good spot for a person of my age and disability.

2. I found the weather in Southern France to be delightful as well as the territory is scenic. An infantryman must endure all types of weather day and night. A hot day is usually followed by a cool night so it is best to be prepared for both as usually you sleep on the ground. I parachuted into France near Callian (about 20 miles from the intended drop zone) wearing an undershirt, a long sleeved undershirt, a wool shirt and a field jacket. During the daytime most of this came off and was tucked under my ammunition belt, then at night it all came in handy. Whether we considered Southern France



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

hot or not depended on where we came from in the States. Since I worked in the fields of Iowa in the summertime where it is both hot and humid, I found the climate where we fought from the drop zone near le Muy to the Italian border to be quite agreeable.

3. Having endured Nazi occupation, the freedom loving people of Southern France greeted us along with their liberation with open arms. The man who put the alcohol, which was undoubtedly scarce, in our gas tank didn't even hesitate. On my visit to Grasse when we were out of the lines the people of Grasse were friendly, very gracious in demonstrating how perfume was made, and in general showed us a good time. When members of the 517th and their families have returned to towns and villages we liberated it has been a cause for celebration. That still goes on today, as **Allan Johnson**, president of the 517th Association, is there today with his daughter.

4. Although I use the computer all the time, I am not up to sending you a picture. However there are many on the website and possibly Bob Barrett could assist you in this. You have my permission to use anything I have said or done in your book as the purpose of our 517th Association is to elucidate future generations on what the 517th did in hopes that such death and destructions never occurs again.

Highest regards,

Howard Hensleigh

Thanks ! I just emailed Lory that this seems like a great story but Evening News is only a 22 minute broadcast and with all the news going on with the drought and upcoming conventions etc...i just don't think it will get on the air and I'd hate to have it sit on the shelf (with tons of other pieces)!! Please keep me posted in the future if anything else is happening

Thanks again

Alison Schwartz Dorfman

The CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley

W: 212 975-7093 C: 917 453-5979

schwartza@cbsnews.com

Gilles Guignard posted a few pictures onto Facebook of Allan Johnson, Claire Giblin, and Leo Dean, starting off their 2012 invasion of Europe.

Here's one from Switzerland, I think. -- BB





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

We sent propaganda to German troops by artillery in an attempt to demoralize them and they did the same to us. I will send sample attachments.

Merle Mc Morrow

Samples:

“What Does it Look Like Over There?”



WIE SIEHT ES DRÜBEN AUS?

6. Briefverkehr mit der Heimat. Jeder Kriegsgefangene hat das Recht, 4 Briefe und 4 Karten per Monat nach Hause zu schreiben.

(The poster also includes two forms for correspondence, one in German and one in English, and a small caption at the bottom: 'Nicht eingerechnet wird die Rote-Kreuz-Karte, die bereits im ersten Durchgangslager ausgefüllt wird (Siehe Nr. 5) und in zwei Ausfertigungen abgesandt wird: Eine ans Rote Kreuz in Genf (zur Verständigung der deutschen Behörden), die andere direkt an die Angehörigen des Kriegsgefangenen. Über die Umstände der Gefangennahme steht auf der Karte nichts.')

ZG 113

FÜR JEDEN DEUTSCHEN SOLDATEN der jetzt noch im Westen kämpft, befindet sich heute mindestens ein Landser "drüben" - in alliierter Kriegsgefangenschaft. Diese Kameraden haben nicht weniger tapfer gekämpft, aber sie mussten in hoffnungsloser Lage erkennen, dass mit Weiterkämpfen nicht mehr gedient war. Als Kriegsgefangene unterstehen sie dem Schutz der Genfer Konvention von 1929, derzufolge sie nach Kriegsende so bald wie möglich nach Hause zurückgeschickt werden. Die folgende Bildserie beschreibt nüchtern und sachlich wie es kriegsgefangenen Landsern während der ersten Tage nach der Gefangennahme ergeht.



- 1. Das kann jedem passieren.** In hoffnungsloser Lage und angesichts der Übermacht ergibt sich ein Zug den Anglo-Amerikanern.
- 2. Die erste Mahlzeit der Kriegsgefangenschaft** besteht meistens aus Büchsenfleisch (C-Ration) mit einer Dose Keks und Konfekt.
- 3. Erste Hilfe für Verwundete** wird sofort am Verbandplatz geleistet. Schwerverwundete gehen gleich per Sani-Kw. zum Lazarett.
- 4. Abtransport ins Durchgangslager.** Gemäss der Genfer Konvention werden die Gefangenen sofort aus der Gefahrenzone gebracht.
- 5. Personalien-Aufnahme** erfolgt durch andere Landser. Wo immer möglich, herrscht unter den Kriegsgefangenen Selbstverwaltung.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi Merle,

Good stuff. I have a full newsletter that I am trying to get out today. But I'll get this on the website and the MailCall soon.

I am curious about the technology – Exactly how does one deliver propaganda materials by artillery?

Bob Barrett

The Americans used the 105 and the 155 artillery for this purpose. The smoke cartridge was removed and replaced with 300 to 400 leaflets. Smoke shells were used primarily in registering on a target prior to firing for effect. With the smoke cartridge removed the empty volume was filled with leaflets. A time fuse caused the explosive charge to expel the leaflets over the enemy area. These are in fairly good condition. Many times the leaflets are partially burned due to the expelling charge.

This was usually short range and limited coverage propaganda. The bombers dropped huge quantities of leaflets over cities on their bombing runs in an attempt to demoralizing the general population.

Merle McMorrow

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