



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2123**

**September 23, 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)

### *Major General John H. Neiler*



My father, **John H. Neiler**, passed away Sunday, September 16, 2012. I am his oldest daughter, Morgen N. Biehler. I 'cracked' his yahoo account about two weeks ago and discovered the wonderful MailCall emails. They are a link to my Dad's life that I knew almost nothing about. He rarely mentioned the war to his 3 children, so what we are discovering through the link is valuable to us.

Dad's obit is in The Oak Ridger (Oak Ridge, Tennessee) [www.oakridger.com](http://www.oakridger.com) today. I thought perhaps you would mention it in your next MailCall.

Please continue to keep his name on the subscriber list, as we will follow it.

Thanks,

Morgen N. Biehler



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Dr. John H. Neiler (Major General, retired), age 89, of Oak Ridge, died Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012, at his home.

He was born Dec. 21, 1922, in Mt. Oliver, Pa., the son of Clarence and Florence Kintz Neiler.

Dr. Neiler received his BS degree in Physics and Electrical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. He received his pre-commission training with the CMTC and Army Extension Courses during the period of 1937 to 1940. He was commissioned upon entering active duty in January 1943. After completion of several schools he was assigned to the 517th Parachute Infantry where a succession of duties included: Platoon Leader, Company Executive Office, Battalion S-2 and Regimental S-2. The latter duty was performed during campaigns in Southern France, the Rhineland and the Ardennes when the 517th was operating as an independent combat team. Following a tour of duty with the 505th P.I.R. 82nd Ban. Div., he was released from active duty in August 1946. He holds the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Cluster and the Order of the Purple Heart. Dr. Neiler's Reserve assignments included S-2, 396 Infantry Regiment; Instructor in Radiological Defense, 2201st Research and Development Training Unit; Instructor, C & GS Special Associate Course, 2nd Army; Instructor in Radiation Physics, 3161st Research and Development Unit; Instructor, C & GS, 3143 ARSU, Knoxville USAR School; (Mob Des) Physicist, OSWD, US CONARC; (Mob Des) Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Nuclear Defense Laboratory; Director, USAR Nuclear Science Seminar, 3252 Research and Development Unit and Commanding Officer, 304th Mob. Des. Det. (DA-OCRD) with mobilization designation as Deputy Director-Test Operations, Nuclear Effects Laboratory, Aberdeen Army Research.

He served as an instructor and graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh and received the MS and Ph.D. degrees, completing this work with the aid of an Atomic Energy Commission pre-doctoral fellowship.

Before joining ORTEC, which he helped found, Dr. Neiler was for nine years active in nuclear physics research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he was a group leader in the Physics Division. His principal fields of investigation have been in neutron physics, including studies of neutron total and capture cross sections in the keV energy range and the energy correlations of fragments from neutron induced fission. He has specialized in the application of scintillation counters, semiconductor counters and ultra-fast techniques for nuclear spectrometry. His publication includes 17 papers in nuclear physics measurements and techniques and chapters in two important books on nuclear techniques. During the last two years of his service at ORNL, he was a member of the group which organized and directed the early activities of Oak Ridge Technical Enterprises, (later ORTEC Incorporated, a subsidiary of EG&G.). In 1962, Dr. Neiler joined ORTEC, where, as Technical Director, he was responsible for the technical aspects of all operations of the corporation, which is engaged in the development, fabrication and marketing of research equipment, primarily for nuclear physics applications, but also for such diverse activities as X-ray spectrometry and Biochemistry research. Concurrently with his work at ORNL and ORTEC, he was a Lecturer in the University of Tennessee graduate program at Oak Ridge, teaching courses in nuclear physics and experimental atomic and nuclear physics.

Dr. Neiler was a member of the American Physical Society, American Association of Physics Teachers, Research Society of American and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Sigma Pi Sigma,



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and Sigma Xi. His civic activities have been concentrated on the problems of civil defense. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Eileen Morgan Neiler; son, Eric Neiler and wife, Alice; daughters, Morgen Biehler and husband, Arthur, and Lise Neiler and friend, Lance Dunaway; grandchildren, Otto Neiler, Keegan Pavlovic and wife, Alice, and Alicia Dittmer and husband, James; and great-grandchildren, Quincy Pavlovic and Rebecca Dittmer.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012, at Weatherford Mortuary.\

An on-line guest book can be signed at [www.weatherfordmortuary.com](http://www.weatherfordmortuary.com) .

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Morgen,

Thank you for the note. I am so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing, but it looks like he has had a very full life. I will include the news in the next MailCall.

If you go on the website, you can search for "John Neiler" and find a few stories about him: <http://517prct.org/search.htm>

Here is one that I found interesting, from **Tom McAvoy** from an old MailCall (<http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/546.html>):

... Were you able to get in touch with **John Neiler**? He was 3rd Btn. S-2 Officer in Italy, Then after the jump into France **Capt Dearing** (the regt. S-2 officer was injured and Neiler was moved up to Regt. S-2. Being in the reserve he made Major General before he retired. A little story if you want to add it O.K. We were on a maneuver in No. Carolina (the blue Army always out-numbers the red Army by 5-to 1) We were the red Army and was being run over by the Blue Army I was driving for Capt Dearing, we came to a long driveway leading up to a farm house Capt Dearing says lets go up that Driveway Tom, I said O.K. Capt. but I don't think we will be able to get out of there. Dearing says take it anyway, So I did At the end of the driveway Dearing jumps out of the Jeep and runs away from the enemy, leaving me stranded with the jeep. I found I had somehow lost the rear drive to the jeep and only had front wheel drive. The enemy captures me and place 3-4 other of our guys in the jeep and a sergeant from the blue army, and tells me we are taking you back to a prison of war camp. We go back out the long driveway and down the main road, And an umpire steps out of the side of the road. flags us down an ask where we are going. Here it is **Lt. John Neiler** with his umpire insignia on. He tells the sergeant to go back to his outfit and he will take us back to the prison of war camp, The sergeant jumps out salutes Neiler and goes back to his outfit, Neiler takes us down the road and turns us loose to rejoin our outfit. Then Dearing wants to know how I got out of that fix, I was afraid if I told him The Commander **Col. Walsh** was sitting there would get Neiler in trouble, so I said I would never tell. That might have been my swan song as for as Capt Dearing was concerned.

**Tom McAvoy**





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### MAJOR GENERAL JOHN HENRY NEILER



Greetings – Comrades of the 517th PCT!

I'm looking forward to the opportunity to see you all again, to thank each of you for the contribution our association in the 517th – 460th – 596th Parachute Combat Team made to my personal development. The lessons in leadership and organizational management which we all learned from General Walsh and Colonel Graves, and applied as team members, have been invaluable to me in both Army Reserve and business activities.

See you in August—

ASSIGNMENT: Mobilization Designation as Assistant to the Chief of Research and Development, Department of Army, Washington, D.C., 20310.

HOME ADDRESS: 853 West Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830.

BORN: Mount Oliver, Pa., 21 Dec 1922.

CIVILIAN EDUCATION: University of Pittsburgh, B.S., 1947, M.S., 1950, and Ph.D., 1953.

CIVILIAN OCCUPATION: Director of Technical Planning, EG&G, Inc., and Vice President, Oak Ridge Technical Enterprises Corp., Oak Ridge, Tenn.

#### MILITARY HISTORY

General Neiler was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Infantry, in 1943 through the Citizens Military Training Camp Program. During World War II, he served as Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Battalion and Regimental S2 with the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment in the United States and the European Theater of Operations; and Battalion and Regimental S2 with the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was released from active duty in May 1946.

In U.S. Army Reserve status, General Neiler has served as an Instructor in the 3143d U.S. Army Reserve School, and as a Mobilization Designee to the Office of Special Weapons, U.S. Continental Army Command; and to the Nuclear Defense Laboratory, Army Material Command. He entered his present assignment in December 1971, and his promotion to Brigadier General was effective 4 August 1972. He was promoted to Major General effective 12 February 1975.

#### MILITARY EDUCATION

Infantry School, Refresher, 1943, Parachute School, 1943; Radiological Training Officer Course, U.S. Navy Damage Control School, 1947; Command and General Staff College, Special Associate Course, 1952; Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Economics of National Security, 1964.

#### MILITARY DECORATIONS

Silver Star; Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device; Purple Heart Medal; Combat Infantryman's Badge; Parachute Badge.

Prior to 1962 – Physicist and Group Leader, Oak Ridge Nat'l Laboratory, involved in a variety of basic research studies in nuclear physics. Seven years involvement with civilians, including Eugene Wigner and Edward Teller, attempting to expand the U.S. awareness of the need for passive (fallout and blast shelter) Civil Defense as a necessary adjunct of our active and deterrent defense systems. Concurrently, Instructor in Physics, University of Tennessee.

General Neiler is one of the foremost authorities on nuclear physics and related areas and has published dozens of works in these fields.





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### MailCall News

I was saddened to hear of the passings of **Marvin Moles**, **Melvin L. Jarman**, **Donald Edwin Walker**, and **Baron Robert REIBER**. My deepest sympathies go out to their family members. Every day a few more are making their final jump, and its hard to let them go. I take solace in the fact that I had the privilege to have known some of the finest men American has ever had. I am grateful to have been at 517th Reunions where I have had the opportunity to rub shoulders and to get acquainted with them. Attached are two pictures I had taken with Marvin Moles and others. One picture is at the Officer's Club at Fort Benning and the other is at our banquet in Atlanta, GA 2011. You will see that some of the men in these pictures are no longer with us.



Next, **Pat Seitz** had asked if the movie *Saints and Soldiers, Airborne Creed* was going to be showing in the Miami area. My answer is I don't think so, but I really don't know for sure. In MailCall 2121, Bob listed the cities it was going to play in. The movie producer has told me that it will play at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning for a while. I am excited to hear of its success there. There is still a chance it may be shown in New York City. Recently, I was honored to



speak with a 517th trooper, **Marshall Baird** of Arizona. What an honor it was to get to know him a little better. I told him about the movie showing in Mesa, AZ and so he is planning on attending with his son and daughter on Sept 28th. My brother Tim should be there also, and may have more to say about Trooper Baird. I hope the news media will be there and talk with him about the 517th. Also, I have been told the DVD will be released for sale on November 12, 2012.

**Lory Curtis**, son of **Bud Curtis**, HQ, 1st BN



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This last Mail Call (#2122) was another "eye opener" for the 517th Family and this wonderful country that our "Greatest Generation" is leaving us sooner than later. I will miss visiting with Trooper **Marvin D. Moles** at Reunions because, like your Dad (Trooper **Benedict Barrett**), he told me exactly what war was like...and didn't pull any punches. I always felt I was closer to my Uncle **Floyd A. Stott** because of the conversations with other "I" Co. troopers. God Rest Marvin's soul as well as those of the other 517th Family members recently gone.

### **Kenton Floyd Immerfall**

Nephew of Floyd A. Stott

1st Lt. "I" Co, 3rd Bat, 517th PRCT

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Sometimes Mail Call is a mixed bag (good news/bad news), but this past week it was a real blow. To have lost **Donald Walker** (B Co.), **Melvin Jarmin** (G Co.) and **Marvin Moles** (I Co and a reunion regular) is hard.

Thank you for assembling such beautiful remembrances, Bob. It really brought home the losses and helped us remember the men and their families.

The hearts of the 517 go out to our families who have lost so much.

### **Claire Giblin**

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**From: Neil Blanton**

**Subject: challenge coins**

hi my name is neil blanton i would like to see about getting 4 sets of your challenge coins. i need to see how to go about that.

thank you neil

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I am just about out. They have sold very well. I think I can fill the order. As you know the coins are \$8 and \$5 for shipping. Have him send me \$45 to 15303 Indian Paint Circle, Bluffdale, UT 84065. Do you think I should order some more coins?

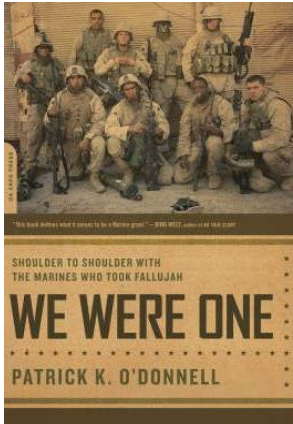
Lory

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As some of you may remember, I started a new job a few months ago for the City of Newton MA. One man that works for me has a son who is a 21-year old marine, who recently served in Fallujah, Afghanistan. This PFC is home briefly but is soon heading back to Afghanistan again for his second tour. I talked with his dad about his concerns about his son in a dangerous place, and the dangers of wartime, and the type of men who serve. This concerned father, of course, is very proud of his son, and feels that his boy has a calling to be a good soldier.



He then recommended that if I really want to read the most accurate and most horrific account of a modern-day battle, there is only one book that brings it home first-hand. I should read “*We Were One*”, the story of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment who first fought in Fallujah in 2004.

It took me a second before I realized: “Wait. You’re talking about **Patrick O’Donnell’s** book!” I explained to him that I know Patrick, and in fact, stories of the 517<sup>th</sup> helped Patrick get his start on his Dropzone web site and his first book, *Beyond Valor*. Many of you

may remember that Patrick gave the keynote speech at the 517<sup>th</sup> banquet in Washington DC in 2007 (until he was cut short by the arrival of VP Dick Cheney).

I then showed this proud dad a new update from Patrick’s Facebook page that I had just received – a photo of Patrick at the gravesite of Lance Corporal Michael Hanks, one of the brave marines and the main character from the book, who died in the 2004 Fallujah battle.

So now this dad and his son think I’m cool.

-- Bob Barrett



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Pat, you read my mind. I knew I remembered that the dedication of the school was coming up. Mail Call and all of the 517 family need a full report!

I know you said you were planning to behave this past weekend. No mischievous shenanigans? I will believe that when we receive corroboration!

**Claire Giblin**





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Bob,

There is some overlap in the recent Mailcall with the request for info from **James McFadden's** son and the requests for pictures from Draguignan.

These are also the guys that **Theresa Pugh** was talking and were part of her dad's platoon (3rd platoon, 596).



### Ernie Coffelt

In these 1st squad, 3rd platoon pictures there is **James McFadden** and **Ernie Coffelt** (with **Alan Johnson** and **Charlie Pugh**.)

[http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/1stSquad3rdPlatoon596\\_AP\\_0002.jpg.html](http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/1stSquad3rdPlatoon596_AP_0002.jpg.html)

[http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/1stSquad3rdPlatoon596\\_AP\\_0003.jpg.html](http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/1stSquad3rdPlatoon596_AP_0003.jpg.html)

Photo of **Howie Jaynes** (also KIA) and **Coffelt** taken in Rome in 1944.

<http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/Howie+Jaynes+KIA+and+Ernie+Coffelt+KIA+Rome+July+1944.jpg.html>

How he died (along with **Leonard Mathis** and **Howie Jaynes**)

<http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/menofhonor/Death+of+Howie+Jaynes+Ernie+Coffelt+and+Leonard+Mathis.jpg.html>

### Herbert McLamb

McLamb was a close friend of James Benson. There is a 1st hand letter home about his death here;

[http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/d/22149-1/Letter+home+about+Herbert+-Bruce+-McLamb+JB.pdf?q2\\_GALLERYSID=acb98bcf5155116dd6b52356db46b323](http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/d/22149-1/Letter+home+about+Herbert+-Bruce+-McLamb+JB.pdf?q2_GALLERYSID=acb98bcf5155116dd6b52356db46b323)

Unfortunately, I do not have an individual photo of him. He is likely in the collection listed as unidentified.

### Patrick Michaels

Picture of Patrick (from the Don Saunders collection)

<http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/patmichaels.jpg.html>

### Henry Wikins

Unfortunately, I do not have an individual photo of him. He is likely in the collection listed as unidentified.

### James McFadden

Other Pictures of James McFadden;

<http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/Don+ONeil+and+Jim+McFadden+AJ.JPG.html>





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[http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/Mcfadden +Ryznic +and+Stinel+in+Manhay+Belgium + HR .jpg.html](http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/Mcfadden+Ryznic+and+Stinel+in+Manhay+Belgium+HR.jpg.html)

In the group shot of the 596;

[http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/596large+ JM \\_001.jpg.html?g2\\_imageViewsIndex=2](http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/people/596large+JM_001.jpg.html?g2_imageViewsIndex=2)



Coffelt on Furlough  
McLamb Row 3, number 19  
Michaels Row 3, number 16  
Wikins Row 3, number 14  
Mcfadden Not listed

**-Steve Markle-**

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Bob,

I have uploaded the scans that I did for Theresa of the material that the Pugh family has kept. If you didn't know Charlie, he epitomized the best of the men of the 517. It was his efforts that "found" my dad after being lost after a life in the military in 1981. For that our family has a permanent debt with them.

Here is a short summary that Theresa provided as a backdrop to the files... and a photo attached.

Theresa Pugh, 2011, daughter of **Charley Pugh**. Better known as Slave laborer for WINGS-- photocopying, collating, stapling & addressing for most of the 20 years beginning when I was in middle school. Some WINGS deadlines were amazingly coincidental to trips home for holidays while in college, family parties, or my business trips as an adult. I grumbled about my assignments but I did read the issues and secretly found it sometimes fascinating since my dad rarely talked about the war. He never discussed Belgium except to say that he lost an eye at Battle of the Bulge. Nothing more.

The files can be downloaded from a single file here;

<http://www.markleweb.com/pugh.zip>

... about 200mb.

[Note – I actually have three more scans of Wings to complete. I have been stuck on a mental block with the issue that announced my dad's passing plus the one after.... and then the passing of Charley. These WILL get done soon.]

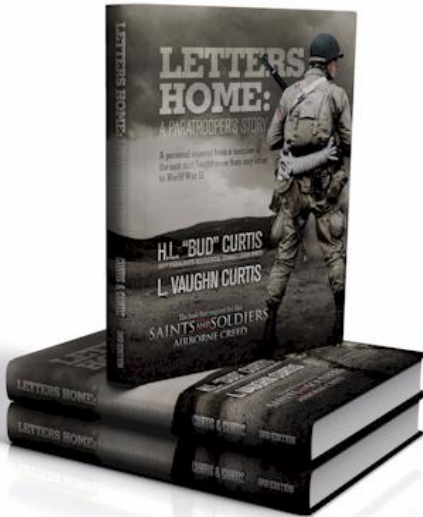


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I have broken the files down into the directories that match the directories that these were transferred to on my site. Please use what you want, crediting the Pugh family. All of the photos have been included in my site.

All of this material, plus the files that I have collected will be sent on disc(s) to Jean-Michael and Eric for the Museum efforts Via Theresa on her travels to France.

-Steve-



As most of you know the book I wrote about my Dad, *Letters Home a Paratrooper's Story* was used in the movie *Saints and Soldiers - Airborne Creed*. David Nibley redesigned the book cover so the book now resembles the movie poster more. This Friday September 21st, at 10:00 am MDT I will be on KTVX, ABC Channel 4, Good Things Utah <http://www.abc4.com/default.aspx> discussing the book and the movie. The next day on Saturday, Sept 21st, I will be at the Barnes and Noble Book Store in Sugarhouse, Utah 1104 East 2100 South, Salt Lake City from 3-5 pm signing books.

Lory

Greetings Bob, just catching up on the latest Mail-Calls today. It appears that the 517th P I R has the distinction of having had at least two formerly active members of the elite 'MENSA USA organization. Membership qualification for MENSA is reserved for individuals who have scored in the top 2% on accredited I Q tests in the United States. The first that we knew of was **Sgt Peter Sturgeon** of HQ, 1st Bn. He was a member of **Boom Boom Alicki's** Demolition Platoon. There is a photo of Sturgeon with his Demo Team buddies in MailCall # 2076. He is said to be one of the founding members of the MENSA USA Organization. Now according to the note I just read in MailCall # 2121'from Theresa Pugh, the daughter of **Dr Charles Pugh**, also of the 517th PIR, it appears that we now have two confirmed former members of this prestigious organization. This gives new meaning to the term "A Cut Above", which is already a label that has been bandied about in conversations concerning our guys of the 517th. Maybe we could change the previous moniker of 'Battling Buzzards' to something more appropriate like 'Brilliant Buzzards'.....L O L. Or maybe not. Just my feeble attempt at humor.

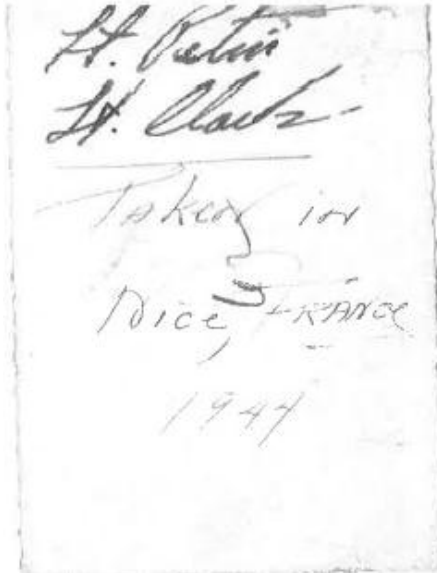
Here is a heads up to any of the extended 517th family in the North Texas Region of the state, there will be a showing of "Saints And Soldiers, Airborne Creed" on 9/28/12 in Plano Tx @ the Cine Mark West Plano 20+XD. Show times will be: 11:45am - 2:10pm -4:50pm - 7:25pm and 10:05pm. For information at the theater call: 972 473 2289. The theater is located at 3800 Dallas Pkwy. Hope to see some of you guys there.

**Jerry Wofford, 'NEPHEW OF A BUZZARD'**



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Bob, good morning. Still finding things that my father set aside. He attended the 517 reunion in Nashville, Tennessee. He had a few of his friends sign the invitation card. Also found a picture of my father Lt. **Thomas Fred Patin** and friend, not sure of name, may be Lt. Clark?



*Thanks for all you do!!!*

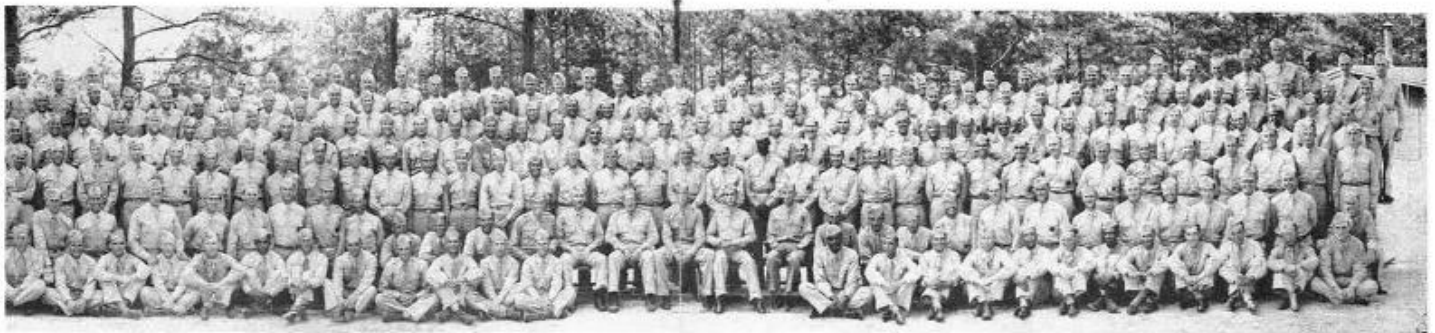
*Tony Patin*

Ardent Services  
Manager, Panel Manufacturing

122 Asset Avenue  
Scott, LA 70583  
Telephone: (337) 289-5202  
Fax: (337) 289-5204  
Mobile: (337) 316-2393  
Email: [tpatin@ardent.us](mailto:tpatin@ardent.us)

Bob, just a few other thing I ran across. In the picture, my father is from Rt. To Left., 3<sup>rd</sup> row up from bottom, seven men over, and the man standing above him is his good friend who is also from Breaux Bridge, La. Mr. Ray Trumps. I have a full size picture, framed at my house.

*Thanks,*  
*Tony Patin*



O. C. NO. 67

**EIGHTH COMPANY, SECOND BATTALION**

Second Student Training Regiment

June 16, 1942 . . . . September 11, 1942

Fort Benning, Georgia





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Hello Bob,

I was just on the phone with **Brenda Carlin** who is the curator at the Stephens County Camp Toccoa Museum. Many of us got a chance to meet her when we were at Camp Toccoa in 2011. Attached is a picture of our then President **Merle McMorrow** giving her a certificate from the 517th. She informs me that most visitors do not know about the 517th until they get there, but she makes sure the 517th is represented in the museum with our regimental flag on display, and 517th pins, coins, and pens for sale in her gift shop.

Anyway, she has asked me to contact all of you for help with preserving Camp Toccoa. They have organized a committee to rebuild certain buildings at Camp Toccoa. The attached link will show everyone their lofty project. <http://camptoccoaatcurrahee.org/>. They are trying to obtain monies to purchase land and buildings in Toccoa. First, I am asking if anyone can donate to their cause do so. Second, I am asking if anyone in our organization can serve on their committee to represent the 517th, and promote our regiment and the memory of the men who served in it. Living in Utah somewhat limits me from getting to their meetings, but someone living in the south hopefully can go and represent us.

Also, Brenda informs me that the 70th anniversary of the activation on the 517th occurred in March 1943. She is hoping that we are planning a trip to Toccoa to celebrate the 517th. I would like to hear on mail call if anyone would be interested in going to Toccoa, say the last weekend in March 2013, March 29, 30, and Easter Sunday 31st. If not then when could and would we want to go there to commemorate the activation of the 517th?

Airborne All the Way

**Lory Curtis**



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Hello Mr. Ben Barrett,

My name is Marcus Madarang. My grandfather, **Ernest Rutherford**, served in the 517th PIR, C-460. I have heard about this dvd, including individual interviews, made of the 517th. I have contacted Mr. **Wade Gilbert** ([517film@iavi.com](mailto:517film@iavi.com)) a few days ago, regarding purchasing this dvd. However, I haven't received any reply. I understand he must be very busy.

Would it be possible to get a copy of this dvd from you, or other members/subscribers of your website? I will be more than happy to make a donation to the 517th PRCT Association. Please let me know if this is possible. My family and I would love to have this as part of my late grandfather's legacy.

Thank you very much for your time! I appreciate it very much.

Warmest regards,

**Marcus Madarang**

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Hi Everyone,

If you go to this link you should be able to watch me on T.V. promoting my book Letters Home a Paratrooper's Story and the movie Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed. Jasen Wade who plays my father in the movie is on the show with me.

Enjoy <http://www.abc4.com/mediacenter/local.aspx?videoid=3765795&navCatId=20002>

Lory

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Hi Bob...Wrote you a note yesterday but I'm not sure it was sent. Anyway **McFadden** was in the third platoon of the 596..I would like to get intouch with his Grandson **John Doherty** who wrote to Mail Call.

Thank you.

.....**Lyle Madison**

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Hi John,

See note below from **Lyle Madison**, who would like to contact you. Lyle was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon of the 596<sup>th</sup> with McFadden.

**Bob Barrett**

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Hello Lyle

Very nice to meet you. Any information you can provide me would be great!

I am actually heading to Germany tomorrow!

**John Doherty**



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### *Tec 5 James Art Vesco*

Dear Ben,

**James 'Art' Vesco** was my grandfather and I regret to inform you that he passed on September 20th of this year. He never spoke much about his service and it was going through his things that we discovered more. I would love to hear any memories of grandpa that the members of his regiment might have and be willing to share. When I found this site it gave me the hope that maybe I could learn more about grandpa's service and the team he fought with. Anything you can share would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Thompson

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Colleen,

I am sorry to hear of your loss. I will inform the 517<sup>th</sup> family and friends in the next MailCall newsletter.

In a quick search, I see that **Art Vesco** was in HQ Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, which is **Col. Bill Boyle's** famous and much decorated outfit. If you do a search on the website for Vesco, (<http://517prct.org/search.htm>) you can find a few notes from and about Art. In a quick look I see his signature is on a recently found dollar bill souvenir. See: <http://517prct.org/mailcall/2069.pdf>

But if you research the history of the **Bill Boyle** and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 517<sup>th</sup>, you will see that they all distinguished themselves throughout the war. There are many stories about them. They fought in several critical battles especially in southern France and the Battle of the Bulge, and the entire 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was honored with the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

By the way, the Hq/1 Company was also the home of **Harland "Bud" Curtis**, whose son, Lory is active these days promoting a book of his Dad's letters home during the war, as well as a new movie based on some stories from that book.

Thank you for letting us know. You can be very proud of your grandfather.

Bob Barrett

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

### *Military Humor*

As Conversation overheard on the VHF Guard (emergency) frequency 121.5 MHz while flying from Europe to Dubai.



Iranian Air Defense Site: 'Unknown aircraft you are in Iranian airspace. Identify yourself.'

Aircraft: 'This is a United States aircraft. I am in Iraqi airspace.'

Air Defense Site: 'You are in Iranian airspace. If you do not depart our airspace we will launch interceptor aircraft!'

Aircraft: 'This is a United States Marine Corps FA-18 fighter. Send 'em up, I'll wait!'

Air Defense Site: (... Total silence)



Seen at Camp Toccoa museum



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

### *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

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This past August 15<sup>th</sup> was the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Dragoon. This is a good time of year to remember to pay your annual membership dues. Suggested donation: \$30

Enclosed is my annual dues contribution towards the 517 PRCT Association.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

517 PRCT Association, Inc.  
c/o Joanne Barrett  
70 Pleasant Street  
Cohasset, MA 02025