



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2140**

**January 6, 2013**

*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)  
2012 Roster (updated!) [www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)

### *MailCall News*

Hi Ben ~

Has there been any word on the Palm Springs reunion? When? Which hotel?

Thanks – **Scott, Deana and Dorothy Ross J**

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Hi Bob....Went thru the roster best as I could and didn't find my name....so here it is:

**McSpadden, Phillip P**  
Hq Btry, 460th Prcht FA Bn  
Tech Sgt (Personnel Sgt)  
17292 SE 93rd Heyward Ave  
The Villages, FL 32162  
(352) 450-3301  
[fairwayphil@thevillages.net](mailto:fairwayphil@thevillages.net)

Looking forward to seeing you soon in Kissimmee. phil

PS: I do receive the Mail Call and look forward to all of them, although most of them were in the 517 and I never got to know them, and I didn't get involved with the Assn until a few years ago. Still nice to read about the exploits of all our comrades.

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Hello Bob,

First of all let me wish you and yours a very happy New Year and thank you for the time and effort that you put into the 517th organization.. You and your father Ben, have made a huge difference in my life and what I know about my father, who passed away when I was only 4 years old in 1959. I was



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thrilled when I found the 517th web site in 2006. I only wish I had found it sooner and could've met more of the members before they passed. I did meet your father in Washington D.C. in 2007 and was very impressed by him and others. I felt somewhat awkward at first not knowing anyone but soon felt right at home. I have since formed important friendships and gotten to know many of the 517th p.r.c.t. members. Many have led very impressive lives since after the war. My main reason for contacting you is to have you add my phone number to the roster. I'm not expecting a flood of phone calls but someone may want to call me some time for what ever reason...My number is 513-777-4740. If you do call always leave a message because I screen my calls because of so many telemarketers. I will call you back! For right now I do prefer the paper version of the Thunderbolt. Then I can share it and read it at my leisure. If I need to pay more please let me know and I will do so. Thank you to everyone involved in the magazine. I know it must be hard work and we do appreciate your efforts. You are doing a great job!!!

SOB  
Rick Sweet

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Dear friends,

I'm thinking of you very often and despite the distance, I want to thank you for your friendship which is one of the most beautiful thing in my life.

New Year's Eve is also my 41st birthday, A special thank to all my veteran friends who give me the opportunity to be a free man since my birth. Freedom is not free.

So THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart to the 82ers (504ers, ,505ers, 508ers, 517ers, 551ers.....)106ers 75ers 30ers 28ers, 7ers,(armored div) 526ers, TO all the men who have fought for a better world and are still fighting. I'll always do my best to perpetuate the memory of your accomplishment.



Sophie and Maverick, my son Lenny and myself join in wishing you a very HAPPY NEW YEAR! May 2013 bring you JOY, HAPPINESS, HEALTH and all the best for you and yours.

I'm looking forward to meeting you this coming year,

With my warmest wishes,

**Eddy & Sophie**

**Lenny and Maverick**

- **Eddy Lamberty** Avenue Joseph Lejeune 45 B-4980 Trois-Ponts



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I would LOVE to get a copy of the whole documentary. Both if possible. Thank you!

Jodi

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Wade,

I didn't want to make any promises, but here is a note from Jodi Holt. She is a friend of **Thomas Leon Rea Jr.**, who is the son of **Lt. Thomas Leon Rea**, a member of the 517<sup>th</sup> who was KIA Feb 9, 1945. She contacted me looking for info, but there is not much. She recently ran across some of the documentary videos, as posted on vimeo. She asked if there is any way to get a copy of "A Cut Above" and of **Gen Seitz's** interview. Do you have any copies left?

Bob Barrett

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It's been all taken care of and yes we still have copies.

Happy New Year!  
Best Regards, **Wade Gilbert**

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Bob, I look forward to your Mail Calls....something that is the glue that holds us together. I'm surprised to see so memories told in various stories and so many photos.....if my aging memory is still with me, I remember being cautioned not keep diaries or notes, and no photos, the object being that if one were ever captured, these notes and photos could be used to the detriment of everyone else in the unit. I didn't own a camera, so I have no photos of that time.

I vividly remember all our outgoing letters had to be submitted for censorship. My boss, **WOJG Paul C Duey** took great delight in this job, and usually added a few 'postscripts' to letters to all the young ladies I was corresponding with. When I got their letters in return, it soon became routine for them to add a note to Mr.Duey. I did get even with him, however, as he decided to go to jump school, and get some of that 'easy money'. He broke his leg on the first jump and went into a hospital in Rome. Naturally, I had to go into Rome every day to go over things with him and get his signatures. When we were getting ready for the jump, anyone not physically with our units were transferred out to their various locations...hospital, stockade, etc.

Well, with no one to do all this official signing, I became Mr. Duey's double....I signed his name to morning reports, special orders, payrolls, etc, etc., and he wasn't even a member of the unit at that time!!! When he finally did get back to us and compared his signatures to the ones I had been signing for him, he made one request of me....please notify him if I ever got to DC (his home) after the war, so he could close out his bank accounts!! I know this was illegal, but it got the job done, and if they send me to the pokey after all this time, I'd write to you to put into the Mail Call my need for 'care packages'!!!

**phil mc spadden**

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My Dad, **Ben Barrett**, said the same thing, "We were told no cameras. How did these other guys get so many photos?"



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Bob, Let me say HAPPY NEW YEAR! to everyone. I didn't get time to write anything before Christmas so belated Christmas wishes also. Hope everyone had a wonder Christmas and New Years. I hope by now those of you on the mailing list got your Thunderbolt.

I am writing today, the last day of the year, December 31st, and know you will get this sometime in January. I was wondering what the 517<sup>th</sup> was doing on New Years Day, 1945, so I went to my Dad's book, Letters Home A Paratrooper's Story to see what he wrote his family. Sure enough there was a letter written to his father on January 2, 1945. Thought all of you may be interested in reading what a Private in Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion was thinking on this day. Here it is.

### **Lory Curtis**

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Early on New Year's Day 1945, the Germans launched the Ardennes counterattack. The 517th was quickly attached to the 82nd Airborne Division, Bud and the First Battalion began marching from Harre, Belgium toward Trois Points (translated meaning three points). In Bud's January 2, 1945 letter he explained to his Dad how he marched for more than seven hours. Bud also told his Dad he had lost the wristwatch that was sent to him in a care package from his mother when he was in Soissons, France. As you read you will see what happed to his watch.

### **Letter to Dad from Harland L. Curtis:**

Belgium Tuesday January 2, 1945

Dear Dad,

I've got so many things to write about I hardly know where to begin. First off, I'll tell you I got another swell letter from you and you have all kinds of news in it. I hope you have gotten all the money orders I've sent home, and also I hope by now that check that I sent you has gotten there too. Let me know if they have it or not. I can trace the money order through the receipts but there isn't anything I can do about the check.

Now I have some good news and then some bad news and then some good news again to tell you. Well to start with it was yesterday, New Years day and I was just walking along the road with the rest of the boys headed up to the front lines. Well anyway there I was slogging through the snow when someone right behind me says "Hey Curtis", and I turned around and dog gone you could imagine the look on my face to be looking at Dean Hildreath (a boyhood friend from home). Boy what a thrill to see someone you know. He walked down the road with me for about 2 miles and we talked as we walked about a million and one things of where we'd been. I sure wish I could have stopped. For two days I was in a small town just only about a half mile away from him. He is in the 504th PCT now in service company taking life easy. He looked plenty good and healthy enough. It was just a coincidence how we happened to meet. He was staying in a house that we were passing by and he asked one of the guys what outfit it was passing and they told him and then he asked if any of them knew me and it happened that I was only about half a block up the road. I don't know when I'll see him again, but I told him to look up Willard Hill if he got the chance (Willard Hill was the Sunday School teacher in 1942 who was a paratrooper who gave Bud the idea of joining the Airborne).

Well Dean had a turkey dinner waiting for him and he was walking farther away all the time, and I told him he had better start hitch hiking back so the last time I saw him he was heading back for that turkey. We kept on walking for 7 more hours after Dean left and boy you should have seen those slippery roads we were walking





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on. I liked to broke my neck a hundred times until I finally got here where I am now. Anyway the most roughest part of the way was just about two miles from here and somewhere along the way on one of the times I slipped and hit the ground. I lost that swell watch you sent me. Boy, I sure felt bad about it and I figured that some truck or jeep had buried it into the ground if someone hadn't picked it up, so I gave up hope of ever seeing it again, and dreaded having to tell you I lost it. Well that's the bad news but I have some good news again. I was checking a line down that same road I came up last night and a fellow I know came by in a jeep and asked me if I knew anybody who lost a wristwatch? Oh boy, I could hardly believe my ears. There the watch had laid all night and he just happened to spot it along side the road. The pin holding the strap had broken and now I've got it tucked way down in the pocket of the first pair of pants I have on so I'm not going to loose it again. It was practically a miracle I got it back and I'm sure happy I did. It keeps perfect time and really is a swell watch.

Now I'll tell you something where I'm at. Just picture yourself in a house something like Ma had in Utah, only here things are even more convenient. You just step out of one of the doors like as if you would be stepping into a garage from your house, but instead of having a car we got a big barn built right into the side of our house and 6 cows, 2 calves, 2 dogs, and a cat and some chickens, so I have been having milk, eggs and homemade butter and we killed 4 rabbits and really had a swell dinner. There is only one catch to it, I'm afraid I won't be here long, but I'm sure enjoying it while I can. I even have a big soft bed up stairs to sleep in and is it ever nice. We can't move around much in the day time as we are under enemy observation so we do most of our work at night.

I feel just like a civilian the way I've been living today, but by the time you get this letter I'll be someplace else.

I just came back to finish this letter. I ran off without saying anything and had a swell supper of milk, potatoes, crackers, and homemade butter. I could drink milk and eat this butter all night long. It is really delicious. We take the cream from the milk and shake it in a jar, and the next thing it is creamy butter white like ice cream. I guess I'm not telling an old farm hand like you anything new though am I? I don't know how I'd like to always be a farmer but I'm sure having the time of my life now. I haven't advanced far enough at this game to try milking a cow all by myself. I leave that up to some of these guys who use to live on a farm. I crawled up in the hay loft and pitched them down some hay to eat and gave them water, and even went as far as to scratch one cow's head. I don't know if it's head itched or not, but it seemed like a friendly thing to do for a cow after it gave so much milk. I'm not sure but I think it appreciated me scratching it's head cause it let out a nice loud moo and smiled. I guess I'm just a city boy at heart though.

I hope I get some mail soon telling me what you did on Christmas and New Years and I hope that Jill likes that charm bracelet.

I'll write again as soon as I can. Tell everyone hello for me. It snowed today, but has been warmer if this kind of weather could even be warm. Well I think I'll take advantage of that nice bed while I have it so I'll close shop for tonight. Write soon.

Love Bud

Bud described in August 2006, "It was a forced march to Trois Point that was grueling and never ending. We marched all night in the cold snowy weather arriving just before daybreak. As my letter to my father said I slipped and fell down. I got back up and continued marching not noticing my watch was gone. Then as I said in the letter a friend of mine found the watch and gave it back to me. I couldn't believe getting it back. Once the war was over I let my older brother Bert borrow the watch as he was traveling east on a bus. My brother opened the bus window somewhere crossing Arizona because it



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was hot, and the wristwatch fell off of his arm never to be seen again. When my brother returned to California he told me he had lost the watch, but he gave me another watch to replace it. I still have and treasure that watch today." In Bud's letter of January 2, 1945, he described having potatoes, milk eggs, homemade butter and cooked rabbit. Ever since Bud was a young boy, he loved to drink milk. Since arriving in Europe, and while in combat he had very few opportunities to drink milk. Other men in the unit enjoyed milk as much as Bud, and also found it difficult to find the opportunity to get a glass of milk. **Howard Hensleigh**, then a Lieutenant in Headquarters Company, Third Battalion of the 517th described what it was like to finally get a chance to drink milk while in combat. In an email message on the 517th email site in November 2005, he recounted his experiences during the Battle of the Bulge and milk:

"During our attack south of Stavelot, Belgium we had the high ground to take. On the second day of the advance, we came upon a farm family that had been able to stay put. The farmer had gathered the neighbor's cattle into his barn where he fed and milked the cows. At that time, we had not been able to get our hands on fresh milk for what seemed like an eternity. Our milk and eggs in Europe were dried. Although the cooks, when we were out of combat, did their best, it is impossible to make dried stuff taste like the real thing. In combat, the cooks served as litter bearers, while we ate K rations when we could get them. As we went by in the attack, the farmer's daughter, a pretty ten (or so) year old, poured fresh milk into our canteen cups. To my dying day, I will always remember the thoughtfulness of that family and that pretty young Belgian girl. One of the neighborhood cattle did not make it due to an incoming mortar round. **Lt. Col. Paxton** shot the animal in the head with his forty-five as we ran by in the attack. I am told that only a skeleton was left by the time the battalion had passed. An order against fires did not prevent the troops from devouring steak that afternoon."

### **Howard Hensleigh**

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With respect to the questions of David Clark about his uncle **Corwin C. Clark**, the only information I can add to the good job you have done is that It is January 1, 2013 and I am still alive. We lowans did stick together and tried to keep track of each other in this most confusing of times where men were killed and wounded in artillery bombardments, attacks and patrols, while we were deployed piecemeal to stop the SS from reaching Antwerp. Sometimes during that day it was hard to figure out what was going on within your field of vision, let alone out of it. Ben and I had some discussions about it but we didn't get to the bottom of everything.

I have to register one complaint that **Tom Reber** will appreciate. The 20 some channels we have here at the VA do not include the one on which his beloved Wisconsin players are contesting in the Rose Bowl with my next door neighbors of Stanford. Wisconsin had some good luck this year when Ohio State (tatoos) and Penn State (Sandusky) destroyed themselves with self-inflicted wounds.

I wish all Buzzards and their families A HAPPY AND PROSEROUS 2013.

### **Howard Hensleigh**

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Bob:

Hope Christmas was great and that the new year will be a GREAT one for you and your family.

On MailCall No 2139 I read the requests for information on

**CORWIN CLARK** and **RICHARD LYNAM** of H Co; both KIA

I don't know if you had previously responded, to those making the inquiries, with the Morning Report information. If not, here it is if you want to send it along.

Also, I will be retiring from West Valley City; last day of work with them is January 15, 2013. Almost 35 years in law enforcement and it's time to make a change; I'll be working on a couple of businesses we own and would like to see grow.

I also expect that I'll have more time to devote to the Morning Report project. I'd like to get them "finished" in the next 6 months. This would include getting the pdf's of the documents renamed so that they fit the format you like. Once that is done then folks can assist by reviewing the Excel spreadsheet with the pdf documents and report on any errors. I would hope the information can be locked down on the web site so no changes could be made by just anybody; they could just report the errors.

Anyway, just want to get back into the swing of things. The last year has been very hectic at work and the last three months the most hectic of all. I don't know how you stay on top of MailCall, but I'm glad you do!

**Mike Wells**

## MORNING REPORTS H COMPANY

### *Lynam, Richard L.*

H	Lynam	Richard	L	PVT	13-Oct-44		36625596	7745	Peira Cava, France	Dy to abs sk LWA to trfd t det of Pat 7th Army as of 12 Oct 44	
H	Lynam	Richard	L	PVT	21-Nov-44	B	35625596	7745	La Colle, France 431786	reasgd to & jd Co fr Det of Patients 7th Army LWA as of 20 Nov 44	
H	KIA	Lynam	Richard	L	PVT	8-Jan-45	MI	35628596	7745	Bergeval, Belgium 581.968	fr duty to KIA as of 5 Jan 45
H	Lynam	Richard	L	PVT	4-Oct-44	A	36625596	7745	Peira Cava, France	asgd & jd co fr 1st ABTF as of 1 Oct 44	

### *Clark, Corwin C.*

H	LWA	Clark	Corwin	C	PVT	13-Sep-44	A	20743622	745	1/2 mile SW Col de Braus, France	reasgn & jd Co fr Det of Patients 7th Army LWA
H		Clark	Corwin	C	PVT	29-Nov-44	7745	20743622		La Colle, France 431786	apt PFC as of 27 Nov 44
H	KIA	Clark	Corwin	C	PFC	8-Jan-45	MI	30743622	7745	Bergeval, Belgium 581.968	fr duty to KIA as of 5 Jan 45

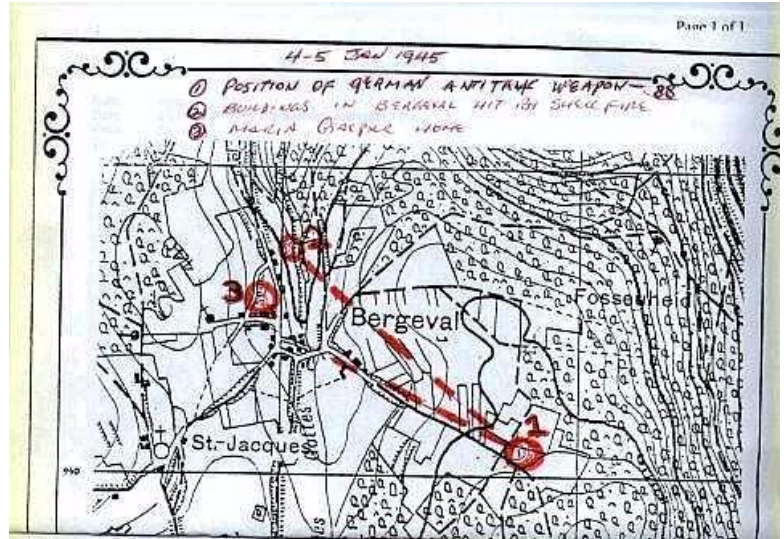




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Bob,

In response to the story of **Corwin Clark's** death. Corwin was killed by an 88 mm round and my Cousin **Layton Pippin** died from the same round. There were 16 other men wounded in the incident, and **Ben Barrett** was included. These men were from 'H' co. 1st platoon not second. Ben told me that a patrol was sent out the 6th of Jan and killed the men on the gun that had hit 1st plt. and destroyed the gun the day after Corwin and Layton were killed. Ben sent a map to me showing the location of the attack, about one eighth mile from **Marie Gaspar's** home. Fred and Ben told me this story in great detail several years ago.



Thanks, **Morris McDowell**

Sylvain,

I forgot that my Dad, Ben Barrett, had a copy of a map of the attack in which he was also wounded. I think Howard Hensleigh figured out the locations once. I have attached a copy of that map. There are better copies somewhere in his files, but I cannot find them right now.

Also attached is the Morning report for January 5 1945 listing Corwin Clark, Layton Pippin and Ben Barrett.

Bob Barrett

**COMPANY MORNING REPORT**

STATION: Bergeval, Belgium 691,988  
 ORGANIZATION: Co H 517th Para Inf Regt

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
6862636	Lynn, Richard L.	7745	Pvt M
6473247	Picard, Layton W.	7745	Pvt M
6074885	Clark, Corwin C.	7745	PFC M
6894604	Rayne, Milton M.	7745	Pvt M
1378447	Rayne, Roy L.	7745	Pvt M
3917432	Dewing, Lewis R.	7745	Pvt M
3317165	Tamm, Benjamin	7745	Pvt M
6842422	Helmer, Frederick G.	7745	PFC M
6845212	Malone, William W.	7745	Pvt M
6840239	Carpenter, Paul M.	7745	Cpl M
6414720	Garton, James G.	7745	Pvt M
6424910	Wittler, Willard R.	7745	PFC M
6847662	Wheeler, Stephen W.	7745	Pvt M
6845244	Malick, John	7312	S/Mgt M
6841142	Yillavire, James H.	7745	PFC M
6840344	Lubic, Anthony P.	7504	PFC M
13701263	Barrett, Benedict J.	7745	Cpl M
1370260	Chapin, James H.	7812	Cpl M
1370373	Spilner, Alan G.	7621	S/Mgt M

ABOVE LISTED BY CO TO BE KEPT IN Hqs. LIA (M) basic status changed to need to attend a course

OFFICER	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT
ASSIGNED									
UNASSIGNED									

REPORTING OFFICER: [Signature]

**COMPANY MORNING REPORT**

STATION: Bergeval, Belgium 691,988  
 ORGANIZATION: Co H 517th Para Inf Regt

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
6878956	Miller, George	7745	Cpl M
6878957	Ellis, Kenneth D.	7740	T/6 M
6878958	Smith, Charles E.	7745	Pvt M
6878959	Winnick, Wallace S. Jr.	7745	Pvt M
6878960	Holinger, Glen W.	7745	Pvt M
6878961	Ballinger, Neal E.	7745	Pvt M
6878962	Malick, Charles H.	7745	Pvt M
6878963	Wilson, Harold W.	7745	Pvt M
6878964	Stanhope, Jack L.	7745	Pvt M
6878965	Simpson, Charles G.	7745	Pvt M
6878966	Malick, James G.	7745	Pvt M
6878967	Malick, James G.	7745	Pvt M
6878968	Malick, James G.	7745	Pvt M
6878969	Malick, James G.	7745	Pvt M
6878970	Malick, James G.	7745	Pvt M

ABOVE LISTED BY CO TO BE KEPT IN Hqs. LIA (M) basic status changed to need to attend a course

OFFICER	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT	PLT
ASSIGNED									
UNASSIGNED									

REPORTING OFFICER: [Signature]





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Please add me to mail call

### Donna Hilliard

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Bob,  
I wanted to let everyone know that **Ed Athey** is in an assisted home in CA. and I am sure he would appreciate a card from anyone from the 517th his address is: Meadow Lark Memory Care 351 Bruce St. Box 169 Yreka, CA. 96097. Ed was an assistant Plt. leader of 'H' co.

### Morris McDowell

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**Sgt. Joe Lobit**, a 13th Airborne Paratrooper and veteran of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment with his collection of German knives that he had acquired while serving in Germany during the final months of the war. The photo was taken in August 1945 at Camp Pittsburg, an embarkation camp in France prior to the Soldier's departure for home.

### Gilles Guignard

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Bob: I deleted **Bill Ford's** son email address. His name is Kyle Ford and he sent a note advising you of his father's passing.

I am trying to get a picture of Bill and my brother that Bill showed when I visited him in Atlanta and was going to make a copy.

Thank you.

### Frank Ramos

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i have a 517 th shoulder patch that my son got through e bay . It looks like an original. I think they were made in England and designed by **dick spencer** the 3 rd. its not as bright as the ones we have now. anyway I thought you would like to know about it.

### Melvin Trenary



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Hi Bob...got the Thunderbolt yesterday, and read everything with interest....Saw the article on the ceremonies at Camp Toccoa, and for a moment....just a moment....thought I might drive up to participate.

Then, I remembered it, not with fondness, but more like "Hell Week"!! Camp Toccoa was opened on March 29, 1943...I was inducted on March 29, 1943, my 19th birthday. (Had tried to enlist in the Marines in June '41, turned down because I was color blind...tried the Navy in June '42 to go in with a brother, same story). I volunteered for the Paratroops one day after I was sworn in, waited for about a week for a group to gather (every day was KP from 5:30 AM until 9 PM!!!). Finally got to Toccoa, and what I remember is running...and I do mean running!...up Currahee every morning before breakfast, doing some 'exercises' at the top of the hill, and running back down to shower, change clothes and get to the Mess Hall before it closed.

I remember going to the dental clinic, having my mouth examined, given several shots and told to go in the hallway and wait my turn. When my turn came, out came three teeth, no fillings (no time for practically everyone in the entire Army), which were not replaced with a partial until a mobile unit passed by during the Bulge. I remember a Capt Green....he always wrote everything in green ink!!!.....wanting me to volunteer for OCS...which I turned down as I remembered several 17 year old 2nd Lts, strutting their uniforms, and challenging everyone to salute in Camp Grant where I was inducted, and I thought, no way am I going to be like that.

I remember marching someplace for a physical, wearing only our shoes and a raincoat! I wasn't at Toccoa for much more than a week, before we became the first group of 'recruits' to report to the 460th Parachute Field Artillery at Camp Mackall, getting off the train in Hoffman, arriving late at night, tired, hungry and ready for bed. Then in came the First Sergeant and we soon learned who was going to be boss in that Battery!!!

Toccoa, to me, is a memory of rain, red clay, runs, runs, runs, giving us no chance to form anything like a 'buddy system' during our stay. I don't think a trip would change my memories!!! Now, the 517th, 460th and 596th stir up lots of good memories, some shaky spots, but a unit anyone would be proud to say "I was a member of that Team".

See you in Kissimmee!

**phil mc spadden**

Hey Phil,

If I look up Camp Toccoa on the internet now, it doesn't look that bad today:

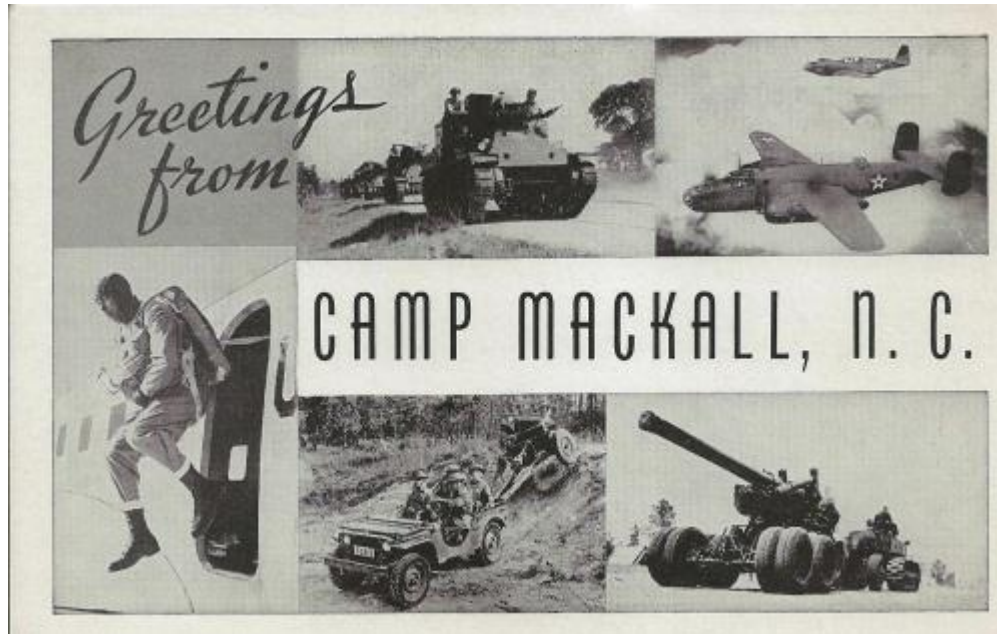
<http://www.camptoccoa.org/>

Camp Toccoa

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overnight Camp</li> <li>Day Camp</li> <li>User Groups</li> <li>Staff &amp; Employment</li> <li>News &amp; Events</li> <li>Donate</li> <li>About Us &amp; Contact</li> <li>Candy Sale</li> <li>Home</li> </ul>	
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From: [17th-airborne-in-the-bulge.eclublog.com/camp-mackall-17th-a-b-p196421](http://17th-airborne-in-the-bulge.eclublog.com/camp-mackall-17th-a-b-p196421)

Not sure if this is the correct URL but I found this Camp MacKall site this morning while looking for something else. Enjoyed reading about how the Camp got its name and this site also had a VERY informative link to the 517th...possibly information gained from you and your Dad's efforts.

Trying to contact Univ. of Virginia to learn if I can make digital copies of my Uncle Floyd's Trooper group photo. It's probably Co. "I" and on the back is a reference to "W. R. Thompson & Co." of Richmond, VA which apparently was a photography company in that area. Trying to learn if there is still copyright restrictions on these WW II photos.

Want to make copies to send to Co. "I" 517th Family members I've met at Reunions.

### Kent Immerall



This nice Parachute Badge with oval belonged to an unknown soldier of the 517th PIR (laundry B-4022) who served with the Regiment from its activation in 1943 to the end of the war in 1945. The badge has been made by DUROCHARM and includes a battle star for one combat jump (in this case for the operation Anvill - Dragoon in August 15, 1944) (TFH collection).





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

### *517/460/596 Roster Review*

**Help us update the roster!** Check your address and contact info on the new roster at [www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf). Send any corrections to [MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org).

Note that only people marked with a green **Y** will receive the Thunderbolt newsletter in a paper version. But if you receive weekly MailCalls, you don't need to receive the paper copy since we will be posting all future Thunderbolts on the website and in future MailCalls.

### *Last Chance – January Mini Reunion*

Sign up ASAP, and let Brenda know. Registration forms attached.



#### **Florida Mini-Reunion**

January 18-21, 2013

[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 Donations, In Memory of... etc.) and make all checks payable to:

**517 PRCT Association, Inc.**

c/o Joanne Barrett  
70 Pleasant Street  
Cohasset, MA 02025

**Paratroopers**  
Good to the last drop

517 PRCT Florida Mini Reunion 2013  
Ramada Hotel & Inn Gateway, Kissimmee, FL

Reunion Registration Form  
January 18 – 21

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse\_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home)\_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone\_\_\_\_\_

Unit\_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date\_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee - \$45.00  
(Includes Banquet Dinner and Hospitality Room)

Banquet Dinner: Roast Beef\_\_\_\_\_ (# of people)

Chicken Marsala \_\_\_\_\_ (# of people)

Fresh Catch of the Day\_\_\_\_\_ (# of people)

Please send this registration form with your **check made out to**  
**517 PRCT Reunion by December 15<sup>th</sup>** to:

Brenda Verbeck Mortensen  
13046 Race Track Road #220  
Tampa, FL 33626  
Phone: 813-335-8002  
Email: bverbeck@gmail.com

## **517 PRCT FLORIDA MINI REUNION, January 2013**

### **WHERE:**

Ramada Hotel & Inn Gateway  
7470 Hwy 192 West  
Kissimmee, FL 34741

800-327-9170

**WHEN:** January 18 – 21

(Hospitality Room Opens Evening of January 18)

### **RATES:**

A double room is \$65.00,, Tower rooms \$75.00. They will provide these rates for the period +/- five days of the actual reunion to allow for early arrivals and stay-overs.

### **MAKING YOUR RESERVATION:**

**CALL 800-327-9170**

***Identify yourself as attending the 517 PRCT Reunion to get this special rate, WHICH INCLUDES BREAKFAST.***

### **SCHEDULE:**

The hospitality suite will be open 5pm to 10pm on Friday  
10 am to 10 pm on Saturday through Sunday  
10 am to 5pm and after dinner on Monday

Registration: Saturday morning

Rides to Services on Sunday can be arranged

Monday: Memorial Service 6:30 - 6:45 pm; Banquet 6:45 – 10pm

Hospitality suite open following the dinner

For further information contact

Brenda Verbeck Mortensen, 813-335-8002

bverbeck@gmail.com