



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2150

March 17, 2013

*517th Parachute Infantry Regiment
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

Website

www.517prct.org

Send Mail Call news to

MailCall@517prct.org

Mail Call Archives

www.517prct.org/archives

2013 Roster (updated!)

www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Thunderbolt (Winter 2013)

www.517prct.org/archives

5.1-Magnitude Earthquake Shakes Palm Springs Area

Palm Springs Report #1

I am not there but Dad reports that he felt the earthquake today. I think they probably *caused* the earthquake, but I am sure this is simply a question of semantics.

Team Frice has swung into high gear and I hope the photos are being sent to you.

All the best and more bulletins as they occur -

Claire

Palm Springs Report Day #2

Please remember I am not IN Palm Springs but simply fielding reports.

Leo Dean did Skydive #156 today! Dad (**Allan Johnson** 596) and **Wayne** (**Gene Frice's** son-in-law, married to Karen) accompanied him to the airport for moral support but did not jump with him.

Leo's jumpmaster has more than 8000 jumps to his credit, and they have jumped together before. Wayne kindly drove them, so I am guessing they didn't see too much unnecessary scenery.

Congratulations to Leo, and thanks to Wayne and Allan for moral and transportation support!

Claire



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MailCall News

Darrell (Egner) wanted me to tell everyone that he fell at home getting out of bed at 4:00 am a couple of weeks ago.

He was in the hospital. He has bad pains in his back. They are doing rehab and right now and he is using a walker. They are doing physical and occupational therapy.

Darrell is at
Cypress Village
Jacksonville. FL

I have his phone number and address if anyone would like it.

Chris Lindner

Re: Darrell Egner, past Association President

I saw in Mail Call the reference to Darrell having fallen, so I reached out to his good friend **Chris Lindner** (Chris's father, **Nate Rubenstein**, served with Darrell). She told me he'd been hospitalized due to the fall (now 10 days ago) and is now in a rehab facility.

I spoke with him briefly today and he is cranky and wants to avoid surgery and go home - all good signs.

We only talked for literally 3.5 minutes - his nurse was there and of course, demanding his attention. "She's pretty, isn't she," I asked, knowing I didn't stand a chance at a longer phone call. "Well, you're pretty, too," he told me, "but you're in New Jersey and she's right here."

Troopers. They do not change.

I am sure Chris will continue to keep us posted.

Claire Giblin

Loved the Boom Boom story and want to commend Lory for letting everyone know about the 70th anniversary at Toccoa. Am so glad they will be showing the "Saints and Soldiers" movie. Another wonderful MailCall. Thank you.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer



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Hi Bob and Joanne,

I just read your list of people who receive the paper version of News Letter and it seems I am in the green area where it would be sent to me. I want to tell you that I do not need the paper sent to me as I am getting all the news letters on line. It is not necessary for me to receive the paper and I know it costs you to send them.

I am in constant touch with our French Friends. I have mailed Leo's history to them and now they have a page in their Museum. I have copies that I would like to go in the records of the 517th. Do I E-mail them to you?

I will need help from my daughter who shares my home with me since Leo passed away. I how to do simple things on the computer but at 88 yrs old it is not as easy. Lucky to have children to help me.

Best wishes to all of you. Wish I could go to the reunions but I would need someone to travel with.

Joyce Turco, widow of Leo Turco 460th.

Hi Joyce,

Nice to hear from you again. Yes, I would love to have Leo's info for the website. If you could send anything you want via email, I can be sure to get it on the webpage. I have been encouraging everyone to get me short biographies which I put on <http://517prct.org/bios.htm>

Email is the best way to get things to me. I can take any format or size. If you have any trouble scanning the document(s), let me know and we can figure something out.

Thanks!

Bob Barrett

Hi Bob,

My daughter tried to mail a history with picture for Leo but it said it was too large. So I have mailed it to you. If that is not possible to use then I would try again as I see you like to work from the e-mail.

I wish I was a little better using the computer but at least I have learned e-mail and other sites to go on. Just the complicated things I do not know. Just turned 88 so guess I am lucky to be able to keep up with most things. Sure miss Leo and all the wonderful reunions we attended including 3 in Europe.

We really miss your Dad but is so nice that your family stayed involved. I want to personally thank you.

Best wishes to all. Joyce



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Bob, Can you tell me what's wrong with the last two Mail calls that we have received?? I don't know enough about this darn computer to do anything. The contents are unreadable, like it has been typed over. Miss reading it to Walt and he misses hearing from his "brothers". Any help would be appreciated.

Thanks, **Peanie and Walt Smith**

Hi Peanie,

It is possible there is an issue with the last couple because I did have to use a new program to combine some files. You are the first to report it, so thanks for letting me know. Before I try too many changes, can you see if you can open this version: [MailCall #2149x](#)

Could you let me know either way?

Bob Barrett

Did anyone else have trouble opening or reading the last couple of MailCalls? Let me know.

Bob Barrett MailCall@517prct.org

Re: **Joe BROUDY**

Dear Bruce,

I did not know your father well. He was in 1st Bn. and I in the 3rd. I did know some B Co. officers through my longtime friend, **Russ Miller. Whitey Hillsdale** of B Company and I for some reason became friends and kept up the relationship long after the War. I often wondered about the relationship between the Co. C commander, **Charles La Chaussee**, who later became 1st Bn. S-3, and the other company commanders in the 1st Bn. If your father had any comments about La Chaussee, we would be happy if you would pass them on. La Chaussee and **Bill Lewis** had a tussle on who would hold the copyrights on Paratroopers' Odyssey. La Chaussee claimed them, but Bill Lewis prevailed to have them held by the Association, which gave us the right to have them reprinted. Some might still be available for purchase.

We appreciate your interest in your father's role in the 517th and hope someone reading this will provide you with more detail.

Highest airborne regards,

Howard Hensleigh



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Found on the Marion Military Institute website:

Monday, October 5, 2009



It's Only a Paper Moon, Addie Pray!

The Wednesday, September 9th edition of *The Marion Times-Standard* ran this image and caption of a gentleman from Surrey, England, who was visiting briefly in Marion and the area. Enthralled by the 1973 Hollywood movie, *Paper Moon*, directed by Peter Bogdanovich, and starring the father-daughter team of Ryan and Tatum O'Neil, Madeline Kahn, and Randy Quaid, this Englishman was traveling the country visiting sites depicted in the movie, including Marion!

From *The Marion Times-Standard*, Wednesday, September 9, 2009.



DVD cover for *Paper Moon*, originally released by Paramount Pictures in 1973.

Now, like many of you, I saw *Paper Moon* (filmed in black and white) when it first came out and I loved it. But, the movie was set on the Great Plains of Kansas and western Missouri, not in Alabama!

Turns out, the movie was adapted from the novel *Addie Pray* by Joe David Brown of Birmingham, Alabama. The novel is initially set in Alabama, but expands – via the main character’s travels – into Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana. Alabama towns reportedly mentioned in this area include Selma, Hamburg, Marion, Brent, and Centreville. Supposedly, a scam scene at a Marion bank is included.

Addie Pray was first published in 1971, was adapted for the movie *Paper Moon* in 1973, and was reprinted in 2002 as *Paper Moon: A Novel*.

Narrated by 11 year-old con-artist Addie Pray, an orphan, who travels with scam/confidence man “Long Boy” Moses (he is one of three possible fathers of Addie), the pair strike out across the Deep South during the Depression-era 1930s trying their “luck” in every town, nook and cranny.



“Long Boy” Moses and Addie Pray (Ryan and Tatum O’Neil). (Credit: Paramount Pictures)

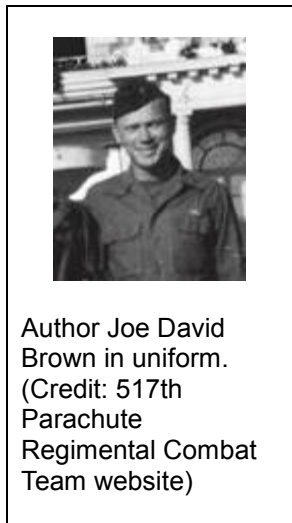
Tatum O’Neil (actually, only 9 years-old when she played the part of Addie Pray) won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in 1974, and she remains the youngest person ever to win a competitive Academy Award. Her father, veteran actor Ryan O’Neil, played the part of “Long Boy” Moses. Miss Trixie Delight was played by Madeline Kahn, and Randy Quaid played Leroy.



Ten years-old in 1974, Tatum O’Neil remains the youngest person to win a competitive Academy Award. (Credit: Wikipedia)

The author, Joe David Brown, who died in 1976, was born in Birmingham, Alabama. He worked initially for *The Birmingham Post*, later the *New York Daily News*, and finally for *Time* and *Life* magazines, being stationed in New Delhi, Paris, London, and Moscow. Two of his other books, *Stars in My Crown* (1947) and *Kings Go Forth* (1956), were also made into movies.

During World War II, Brown served in the Army Air Corps, and as a member of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team, was one of the first Americans to parachute into Normandy, France, on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He received a battlefield commission to second lieutenant, and was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the French Croix de Guerre with palm.



Author Joe David Brown in uniform. (Credit: 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team website)

So, the next time we watch *Paper Moon*, a classic movie, we’ll know the story behind the story. And, like the song says, “It’s Only a Paper Moon.”



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Camp Toccoa 70th Anniversary



This Month marks the 70th anniversary of the activation of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Camp Toccoa, GA.

I have made arrangements with Brenda Carlin, the director of the Camp Toccoa/Corrahee Museum to have a **517th Get-Together on Friday, May 31, and Saturday June 1st**. Everyone is invited to come. There is no registration, (because this is not a reunion), but please come and celebrate the activation of the 517th. I know our President, **Allan Johnson** is planning on attending along with many others I have spoken with.

As you know there is no National Reunion this year and our organization is having two great mini-reunions, one in Florida that was held in January, and the Palm Springs California Reunion this month Mar 11-15th. Thanks to all who are putting these reunions on, I know what that is like.

On the weekend of June 1, 2013, the Camp Toccoa/Churrahee Museum will be hosting a D-Day fun run up and down Mount Currahee on Saturday morning. (see http://www.toccoahistory.com/2013_D_Day_Run_form.pdf) I'm not sure how much fun that will be, but I and Brenda are planning some fun activities for the 517th while we are there. Brenda has recommended that we stay at the Country Hearth Inn, 302 W Savannah St Toccoa, GA 30577 (706) 297-7799, or the Toccoa Inn and Suites, 106 Stephen Cir Toccoa, GA 30577, (706) 886-1048 <http://www.toccoainn.com/Home.html>

Brenda is expecting a large group to these events so I recommend making your motel reservations soon. I am excited to return to Camp Toccoa to see where our fathers trained. I hope to see you there Airborne All the Way!

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



517th 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. Send any corrections to 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. See: [Winter 2013](#)

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

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