



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2155

April 21, 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

A Report from Boston



I'm hesitant to write this report, since it isn't about the 517th or the typical MailCall subjects. And it's a second-hand account, as I wasn't directly in the line of fire. But my family was close enough that I feel lucky about how close we were to being affected. I received many messages of "Are you OK?" from my friends in the 517th family, so I thought I might share this story with you. I thank you all for your concerns. I'm not much of a writer, so forgive this if it's just a factual account.

On April 15th I was invited by a friend to attend the Red Sox game. His company has a suite rented for some corporate clients, and he was nice enough to invite me. The annual Patriots Day game is a big

event in Boston. It's a local holiday for all businesses in Boston, celebrating the first battles of the American Revolution. It's also Marathon Monday, with 27,000 runners plus friends and family arriving in Boston for the weekend. The Red Sox game starts early at 11:05 AM on this day – the only morning game played in major league baseball. This tradition, started in 1903, was done so that the game would be ending in time for the entire crowd to head back to Kenmore Square to see the early runners heading towards the finish line. In those days, there were often Boston-based runners like John Kelley and Bill Rodgers among the favorites. These days the race starts a little earlier, but still ends in time to see plenty of runners through Kenmore. From our seats high above first base, we could even get a brief view of the early runners in Kenmore Square over the Green Monster wall.

It was a good game to watch – the Sox won in the bottom of the ninth – and it started as a great day. I left right at the end of the game and headed back to my car, which I had managed to park in a legal meter space on Bay State Road, on the other side of Kenmore Square. Unfortunately, I had forgotten that the entire length of Commonwealth Ave would now be fenced off for the race. Having lived in Kenmore during my college days, I know my way around, so I headed for the subway tunnel



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underneath Comm Ave. Of course, everyone else was also heading to the subway, so it took me close to an hour in a tightly-packed mob shuffling my way down into the tunnel. I have to say that the thought did cross my mind that if there was any kind of panic, that none of us would get out easily, and many would be crushed. Despite the claustrophobia setting in, I stayed calm, and eventually made it back to my car and headed home. Just as I started driving, turning the corner near BU, a half-dozen motorcycle cops raced by, heading into town, followed soon by a couple of cruisers and ambulances. OK, they seemed to be moving a bit fast, but there are plenty of crowd-control and medical needs at the marathon, so I didn't think too much about it.

The traffic was light, and I was quickly headed up 93. Then I turned on the radio, and heard something about a bomb going off near the marathon. Not much details, and again I didn't think much about it. In Boston, we've had several recent big electrical fires and manhole cover explosions – it's an old city and infrastructure, so I didn't think it was anything too important. Just then I received a phone call from my daughter, Brianne. She was crying, almost hysterical, saying that she was OK, but had to get out of the city. Then the phone cut out. After a couple of attempts and disconnects, I managed to reach her again. Her office on Boylston Street was having their annual marathon party, and there was a bomb blast right outside their window. I knew they had this event every year, and that they are located near the finish line, but it hadn't crossed my mind that anyone I knew would be affected.

Fortunately no one was outside at ground level at the time; they were all up on the second floor. The blasts were loud and one or two people were hit by the ashes but no one was hurt. Not knowing what would happen next, they decided that they had to get out of the building, and managed to climb down the back fire escape. Brianne saw a couple of people bleeding and crying in the back alley, but no one seriously injured. One of her coworkers was in the front window at the time of the blast, and witnessed more of the blood and damage. See Ben's blog entry at:

<http://deadspin.com/i-watched-the-marathon-bombing-from-above-these-are-my-473591429>)

Meanwhile, Brianne's fiancé was on the way to her office and he stopped briefly to talk to someone on the corner, enough to delay his arrival just enough. The blast hit while he was still a half a block away.

Here's an image from a video that has been on the news. I circled where Brianne's office is.



My daughters, who both live and work in Boston were shook up and drove home to spend the evening with us until things calmed down. They all had calmed down and returned to Boston later that evening. Brianne's offices are still off limits and probably will be a crime scene for many more days. They were told by the FBI that their office space was covered in metal ball bearings and debris. How did that not hit anyone during the explosion? The pressure cooker container which held the bomb was found later on the roof.

I'm still stunned about this, but also feeling lucky about how much worse it might have been. As we now know, the damage was much worse than it first appeared, with three deaths and over 170 injuries, many of which were very serious. Now that some time has passed, I realize how close we were to this tragedy. If the bombs had been larger, like the Oklahoma City bombings, there would be no building



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left at all.

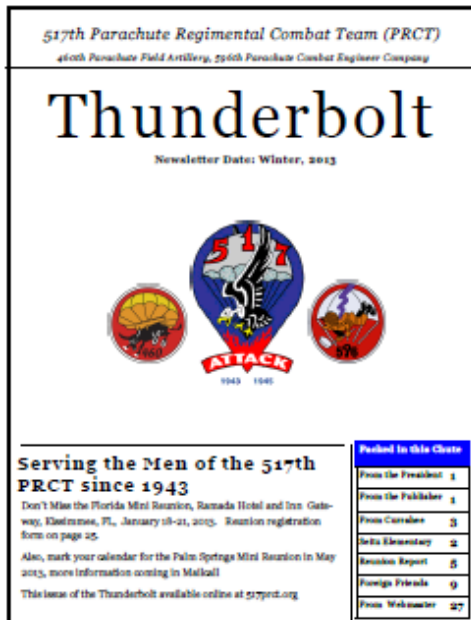
I don't know how to react. I am angry. I was confused, especially during the first day when they hesitated on the news about whether this was a terrorist attack. By my definition, it's a terrorist attack when it is indiscriminately directed at innocent people, with the only purpose to scare us all. What purpose does this serve? Why would anyone go to the trouble to attack people they don't even know? It doesn't take a genius to build a bomb; it just takes a psychopathic loser filled with hate, self-loathing and cowardice.

Bob Barrett (written Wednesday 4/17)

Greatly relieved that incredible law enforcement efforts have paid off in the greater Boston area. Everyone has some connection to Boston, and it's a wonderful town with great traditions. We hold the victims, their survivors and the injured in our hearts and prayers.

Claire G.

MailCall News



The Thunderbolt is now in the mail.

Be sure to read about Teresa Pugh's report of her trip to France last fall.

Read it online here [Spring 2013](#) **NEW!**

Submitted by

Name: **Anna Bockis**
From: New York
E-mail:
anniebee1@roadrunner.com

Comments:

I am the daughter of **Martin Bockis** who was a member of the 517th Battling Buzzards. He dad passed away Dec. of 2011. I am interested in all info I can find about his life.

Added: April 16, 2013



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Note from the editor: After a few very long MailCalls in the past weeks, the news has slowed down again this week. From my end, this will give me a little time this weekend to catch up on overdue postings to the website. I still have a pile of photos from both **Ray Hess** and Christine Mace (**Cameron Gauthier's** daughter) which I am starting to scan in. But please keep your news coming in. – Bob B. The French are going to be hard-pressed to find an 88-year or older person that doesn't have some kind of health problem.

Melvin Trenary

Ha! That's the truth. Ben (my Dad) used to remind everyone that they could increase their VA benefits if they had hearing or eyesight problems, and that to prove that, all you had to do was "say that you're 90 years old". And actually, we did get a couple of volunteers for the France invitation. More news on that soon, I hope.

Great to hear from you. Keep us posted with news for MailCall.

Bob Barrett

Hello -

This summer marks the 69th anniversary of the 517's airborne invasion of Provence. Every year is special and unique, and a wonderful opportunity to connect with our French friends, who work to honor the memory of your service and your sacrifice.

Bruce Broudy received the following from **Eric Renoux, Jean Michel Soldi** (founders of the Airborne Museum 15 Aout 1944 Association in Provence), and Jean Mi's son **Adrien**, giving the highlights of planned activities this August:

Here the celebrations will be in the same dates, meaning. starting the reenactors camp on the 13th, 14th La Motte, 15th all cities celebrate officials landing ceremony. 16th Valbourges HQ luncheon and American cemetery ceremony, Trans en Provence end of afternoon;. 17th north of the Var.

Best to you all,
excited to see you soon.

warmest regards

Jean Michel, Eric, son Adrien and all you friends from the South France.

I know that **Leo Dean, Allan Johnson**, the **Broudy** family and I are all planning to go. This is always more fun with a group and we would love to have you join us. I heard that the **Frice** Team is a maybe; other people have said the same. Please let us know if you're coming; we'd love to see you there.

All the best to my favorite vets -

Claire



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Bob this email was sent to me and I want to share it with all of our 517th family. **Myrle** and I won't be able to make it to Toccoa but we will be with you in spirit.

Betty Traver

[Note: I have edited Betty's email and pictures a little. They came from a chain letter which includes some inaccuracies. This tribute and the photos are from Arlington West, which does this tribute in Santa Monica, although there are similar tributes in Santa Barbara and other locations. – BB]

The memorial in Santa Barbara, California, which was first put together on November 2, 2003 by local activist Stephen Sherrill, was soon adopted by the local chapter of Veterans for Peace. It is installed each Sunday by a team of volunteers on the beach immediately west of Stearns Wharf. Visitors walking to the tourist attractions on the wharf have a clear view, from the boardwalk, along the beach with the white crosses in the foreground. From the walkway, visitors can see a flag-draped coffin and more than 3,000 crosses, made of wood, which are intended to resemble and represent traditional military grave markers. In addition to the simulated graveyard, a placard listing all the fallen American military personnel since the U.S. invaded and occupied Iraq is prominently displayed; this list is updated weekly. Due to logistical constraints, the number of new crosses was halted at just over 3000 even though the latest death toll has exceeded 4400. Adjacent to the placards is a sign containing the message: "At 3000 crosses, the Arlington West Memorial is 141 feet wide and 310 feet long. A memorial for the Iraqi dead would be 141 feet wide and 12.8 miles long."

The second Arlington West was installed in Santa Monica, California on February 15, 2004, a Sunday. It was built on the sand just north of the pier at Santa Monica Beach, "as a way to acknowledge the costs and consequences of the addiction to war as an instrument of international policy" (quote from Veterans for Peace). Like the initial memorial in Santa Barbara, it has been reinstalled each Sunday and Fourth of July since its inception.

From Arlington West

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





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From **Bill Christian**:

Click here to see the video [Solider's Deck of Cards](#).

Bob,

I received this email from the Director of Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed. He has informed me that the movie will be showing at a military film festival in Washington, D.C. next month in May. You will see Ryan says it shows on Saturday, May 11th, and has listed web links to the movie and festival.

Ryan is encouraging any 517th trooper or family member to be involved in the movie showing. I hope some of our folks can attend the showing

Lory Curtis

----- Forwarded message -----

On Tue, Apr 16, 2013 at 2:10 PM, Ryan Little <ryan@gofilms.net> wrote:
Lory,

Yes post it on the 517th site. **Airborne Creed will be showing at the following time at the GI Film Festival in Washington, DC.**

Saturday May 11th @ 12:00 pm.

AMC Shirlington 7 | 2772 S Randolph St, Arlington, VA 22206

Here is the link that takes you directly to the page about "Airborne Creed."

<https://gifilmfestival.webconnex.com/saturday2013>

Here is the information about the film festival:

<http://gifilmfestival.com/>

Sadly the website currently says we are showing on Sunday if you go to the specific write up page on the film. **THAT IS WRONG.** I am trying to get them to change that right now. Hopefully it will be fixed ASAP. Thanks for spreading the word!

RY

Ryan Little | **GO FILMS**
405 South 100 East, Suite 201
Pleasant Grove, UT 84062

On Apr 16, 2013, at 12:17 PM, Lory Curtis wrote:

Ryan,

I got your voice mail about the movie being shown in Wash DC. We do have some sons living there, in fact General Seitz son lives there. I am not sure about troopers though. How do you want to promote this? I can put information on mailcall which is our email site.

Lory



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I'm sending this and another email in case you choose to place them on Mail Call. Want 517th Members to know that those Troopers who didn't come home, and are resting in Henri-Chapelle, will never be forgotten.

Kenton Immerfall

Nephew of **Floyd A. Stott**

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

-----Original Message-----

From: Oliver Caroline <oliverc@abmc.gov>

To: Henri-Chapelle Cemetery <henri-chapelle@abmc.gov>

Sent: Tue, Mar 12, 2013 4:50 am

Subject: Memorial Day 2013 INVITATION

Dear veterans, family members and friends,

Please find attached the 2013 Memorial Day invitation for the ceremony that will take place at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery on Saturday 25th May 2013.

If you plan on attending let us know so that we can have appropriate seating ready for you.

If you have any questions or need assistance in finding a hotel, do not hesitate to let us know.

Check out the following site for more details about **Memorial Day ceremonies in Belgium**: www.aomda.org

Our very best regards,

For the team:

Caroline Oliver

Cemetery Associate

Tel: +32 (0) 87 68.71.73

Fax: +32 (0) 87 68.37.17

<https://www.facebook.com/abmcpage> ;

"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds!" John J. Pershing



See: [Memorial Day Invitation](#)



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This is the second email from Henri-Chapelle. I sent information months ago and suggested they look at "Meet the Troopers" on the 517th Site. But, will send a photo or two of Floyd and add information they requested.

Kenton

-----Original Message-----

From: Oliver Caroline <oliverc@abmc.gov>
To: Henri-Chapelle Cemetery <henri-chapelle@abmc.gov>
Sent: Mon, Apr 15, 2013 3:33 am
Subject: ABMC Facebook campaign: Memorial Day 2013

Dear family members,

As you'll see from the attached promotional piece, ABMC is launching a campaign to honor those buried and memorialized at ABMC sites throughout the world. The plan is that a photo slideshow with all of the images of the soldiers will be released over Memorial Day weekend via Facebook and YouTube.

If you wish to participate in this project, send us a picture to facebook@abmc.gov (CC: henri-chapelle@abmc.gov) no later than Friday 26th April 2013 at 5 PM EDT.
See the attached document for all the details.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With warm regards from Belgium,

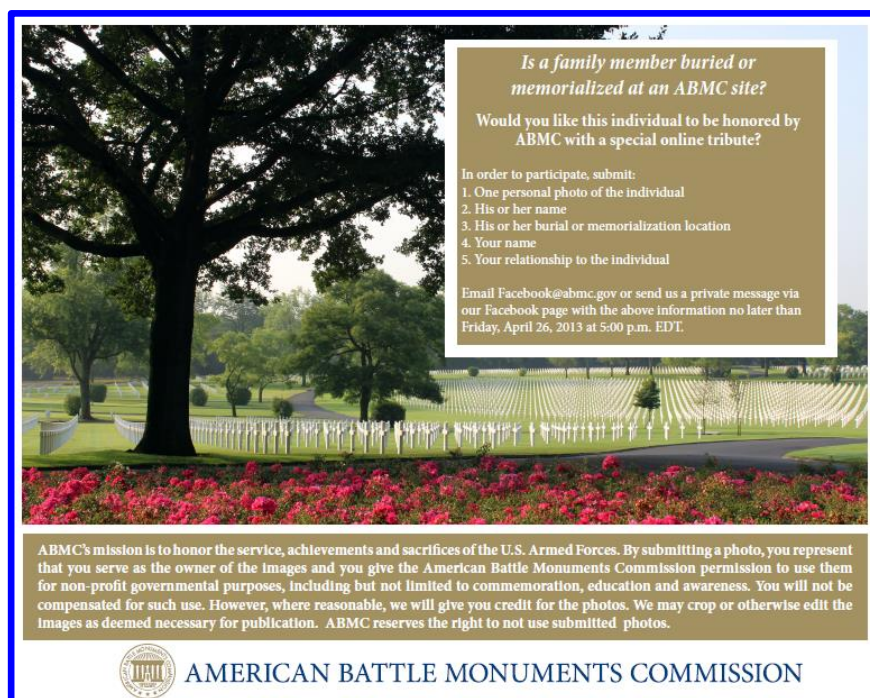
Caroline Oliver

Cemetery Associate

Tel: +32 (0) 87 68.71.73

Fax: +32 (0) 87 68.37.17

<https://www.facebook.com/abmcpage> :



Is a family member buried or memorialized at an ABMC site?


Would you like this individual to be honored by ABMC with a special online tribute?

In order to participate, submit:

1. One personal photo of the individual
2. His or her name
3. His or her burial or memorialization location
4. Your name
5. Your relationship to the individual

Email Facebook@abmc.gov or send us a private message via our Facebook page with the above information no later than Friday, April 26, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

ABMC's mission is to honor the service, achievements and sacrifices of the U.S. Armed Forces. By submitting a photo, you represent that you serve as the owner of the images and you give the American Battle Monuments Commission permission to use them for non-profit governmental purposes, including but not limited to commemoration, education and awareness. You will not be compensated for such use. However, where reasonable, we will give you credit for the photos. We may crop or otherwise edit the images as deemed necessary for publication. ABMC reserves the right to not use submitted photos.

 AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

See: [Facebook Campaign](#)



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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/Currahee 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/Currahee 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



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Military Humor

The Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders did a dance video to “Call Me Maybe.” U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan saw it and did their own version, matching the cheerleaders scene-by scene. Here are the two videos together.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H96-TwrwY7M&feature=player_embedded

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
70 Pleasant Street
Cohasset, MA 02025