



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2156

April 28, 2013

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

Website
Send Mail Call news to
Mail Call Archives
2013 Roster (updated!)
Thunderbolt (Winter 2013)

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MailCall News

517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team (PRCT)
460th Parachute Field Artillery, 596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company

Thunderbolt

Newsletter Date: Spring, April 2013

1943 1945

Serving the Men of the 517th PRCT since March 1943

Don't Miss the 517th Get-Together on Friday, May 31, and Saturday June 1st. Arrangements with Brenda Carlin, the director of the Camp Toccoa/Carrabee Museum have been made to host us. 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. On the weekend of June 1, 2013, the Camp Toccoa/Carrabee Museum will be hosting a D-Day fun run up and down Mount Carrabee on Saturday morning.

(see http://www.toccoahistory.com/2013_D_Day_Run_Form.pdf)

Brenda has recommended that we stay at the Country Hearth Inn, 302 W Savannah St Toccoa, GA 30677 (706) 297-7799.

This issue of the Thunderbolt available online at 517prct.org

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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](#)

(This link was incorrect in the last MailCall.)



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Bob,

Thank you so much for posting what has happened to your family in the Boston Marathon bombing. I am so impressed with how quickly our law enforcement agencies found the bombers. Again, thanks so much for letting us all know that you and yours are okay. We are a family you know. The 517th family!

Lory Curtis

Dear Bob: we can't imagine the feelings you are having. We thank God that you and your daughters are OK. You, the victims, their families and the residents of Boston have been in our prayers. You all have impressed the rest of us with your fortitude, resilience and caring for others. The professionalism of the first responders and the investigators was awe inspiring. God bless you.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

Dear Bob and family:

That was a fascinating description of Boston.

All of the nation had Boston in mind this week. I am very sorry on so many levels. At the same time, while recognizing the tragedy, loss and fear, I was so proud of the extended Boston medical, EMT, police, fire and local/state and Federal government folks. And the citizens showed such stalwart strength in tremendously frightening circumstances. (I was distracted by West, Texas where I often stopped over the years between Ft Worth and San Antonio). West is a great Czech community.

I hope you and your family got some rest this weekend.

I intend to see the film in DC next month. Thanks for the heads up on that.

Sent from:

Theresa (and **Ann Pugh** who is almost 90)

Daughter of **Charles Pugh**

Alexandria VA

Bob,

Just read MailCall and must say that I am extremely grateful that your daughter, and her friends, were not injured in the blasts. To have received a phone call as you did, from a daughter that was obviously upset, and have connection problems, must have been traumatizing; I know I'd have been nuts!

Thanks for taking the time to write about the incident. You "Bostonians" are a tough bunch of Patriots!

May God CONTINUE to bless you and your family! And give Brianne a big hug from Rhonda and I as we are sooooo grateful she is OK.

M Wells



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Hi I am the son of **Marvin J Jackson** , 517th company d, who was wounded on June 24th in or near Follonica , Italy. The casualty log for that day misspelled his name as "mervyn" nor Marvin

did anyone out there know him or was with him when he was shot?

Just curious about my dad's wartime exploits. He sure was proud to be a 517th trooper

Bob Jackson

Hi Bob,

On a quick search, I cannot locate any more details about your Dad in the 517th records that I have on the web site, other than the casualty list for June 1944, which you already have. I have someone looking for the morning reports to see if there is any more detail.

There is a brief mention of the 2nd Battalion attacks in Italy in the Paratroopers' Odyssey book:

On June 19th the 2nd Battalion captured the hilltop village of Montesario. On the 19th the 3rd Battalion moved through Montepescali against light resistance, going on to take Sticciano with 14 prisoners. On the 20th along Highway 1 36th Division troops took Gavaranno, Ravi, and Caldana.

The RCT bivouacked overnight June 22/23 on a ridgeline south of Gavarrano. There was a public bathhouse in the village and many decided to take advantage of it. Mess and supply trucks moving on the ridgeline drew German artillery fire. Several troopers dived into the bath, clothes and all.

Next morning the RCT moved across the Piombino Valley and closed into an assembly area behind the 142nd Infantry. On June 24th the 2nd Battalion entered the eastern outskirts of Follonica under heavy artillery and "Nebelwerfer" fire. During the night of June 24/25 the 3rd Battalion made a long infiltration, emerging next morning on high ground overlooking the dry stream bed of the Cornia River. At 0800 the 1st Battalion passed through the 3rd to seize Monte Peloso, dominating a broad valley with the town of Suvereto about a mile north of the far side.

The attack was preceded by a heavy artillery barrage fired by 36th Division Artillery under 460th direction. Moving in column along the dry stream bed, 1st Battalion met minor delays as skirmishers with "burp guns" fought to slow the advance. Six hundred yards short of the objective **Major Boyle** called his company commanders forward for orders. As they began to assemble enemy 81mm mortar fire came in, wounding Boyle and several others.

Under cover of a smoke screen laid down by **"Pop" Moreland's 81mm Mortar Platoon**, one company moved west in a shallow envelopment to the left. **PFC Carl Salmon** silenced a machine gun with rifle fire, and the troopers rushed the hill. While they were reorganizing an enemy motorcycle messenger arrived, took a horrified look, and raced away.

The enemy force had been a detachment of the 29th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, an altogether different breed than the Turcomen. None surrendered, although a badly wounded



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officer, incapable of further resistance, was captured and died a few hours later.

The remainder of the Battalion came forward and the position was consolidated. Major Boyle finally allowed himself to be evacuated, and executive officer **Herbert Bowlby** took command.

Enemy artillery fire continued heavy on Monte Peloso through the night. A haystack on the crest had caught fire during the afternoon. After dark it became an aiming point for the German artillery. At 0400 word was phoned down that "Daddy is here." No one had any idea what that was supposed to mean, but it became clear at daylight when the 3rd Battalion of the 442nd (Nisei) Combat Team moved in to take over. The 1st Battalion left the hill, formed up, and filed to the rear to join the balance of the RCT.

While the 1st Battalion had been taking Monte Peloso, **Colonel Graves** had been studying the terrain to the north. It was ideal for defense, with steep hills overlooking broad, open fields. In the distance he saw Tiger tanks moving around. Graves estimated that there would also be minefields to contend with. The Colonel was planning a night attack to Suvereto, and breathed a sigh of relief when he heard that the 442nd was to pass through the 517th in the morning.

The 517th went into IV Corps reserve and remained in that status until early July. While the troopers rested and awaited further commitment, the final steps toward a great decision were being taken.

I will also include your request for information into the next MailCall newsletter, and see if anyone else remembers **Marvin Jackson**.

Thanks for checking in.

Bob Barrett

From **Bill Christian**:

A fitting end: Makin Island – 19 Marine bodies recovered after 70 years.



http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=C6f_FvZpm3g



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Bob... I worked with **Lee Johnson** and he has approved my submitting his story to the 517 site. Lee doesn't have email, so please accept his story for publication on the 517 site. Also, please find "then" and "now" photos of Lee... the more current one was taken as the reunion in Kissimmee in January.

Thanks Bob, and please let me know if you have any questions....

Earl Tingle



See **Lee Johnson's** bio at:

http://517prct.org/bios/lee_johnson/lee_johnson.htm



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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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Guestbook Entries:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Michele Ellington From: Roanoke, VA E-mail: sheogre12@cox.net	Love this site, as it helped me learn more about my father's uncle, as I am working on our family tree. I especially appreciate the service that all of these men put forth, to protect our country. Thank you so much. And to my Great-Uncle Jesse , I am sorry I didn't get a chance to meet you, but I am proud of you just the same. <hr/> Added: April 25, 2013

See Jesse Ellington, "The Man with Half a Heart":
http://www.517prct.org/photos/jesse_ellington/jesse_ellington.htm

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Jim From: Phoenix, AZ E-mail: shamus007x@yahoo.com	Hello, My name is Jim and I am a volunteer at the Arizona State Veteran Home here in Phoenix. So is my 1 year old golden retriever, Leroy. I have met many memorable veterans at the home over the years but have become rather close to an individual who answers to the name Earl "Dan'I" Boone . He was 2nd Battalion, F Company . He didn't want me to contact this site on his behalf but I don't listen too well. Mr. Boone is doing very well here at the home and is quite popular. We often visit for hours at a time and discuss anything from sports to politics. He is quite the character. The other day I drove into the parking lot of the home. I hadn't had a haircut in a several months. As I walked up to him he said to me he thought he saw my truck drive by but thought a girl was driving it! He is very proud of his service with the 517th and proudly wears his paratrooper hat every day and shares the good stories with me. I don't know if Mr. Boone has an email address but if you would like to say 'hi' to him you can email me and I will get the message to him. God bless. Jim <hr/> Added: April 28, 2013



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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