



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2157

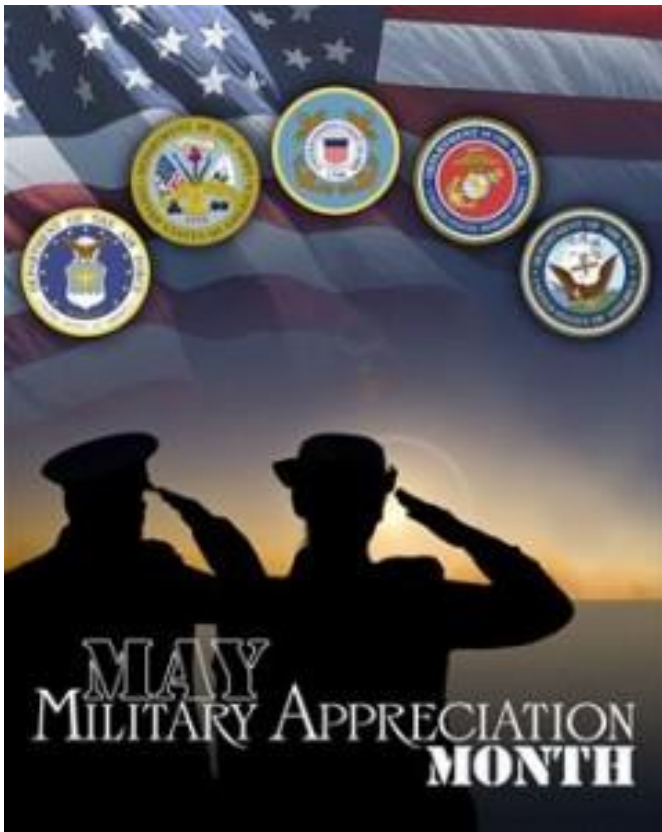
May 5, 2013

*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)

www.517prct.org
MailCall@517prct.org
www.517prct.org/archives
www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
www.517prct.org/archives

May is Military Appreciation Month



National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity, to honor the current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. The month of May is characterized by six national observances highlighting the contributions of each

History of NMAM

In 1999 Senator John McCain introduced legislation to designate the month of May and National Military Appreciation Month. Both the Senate and House of Representatives adopted resolutions calling for Americans to recognize and honor U.S. Service Members during NMAM. These proclamations also urge the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe NMAM.

Read more: <http://militarybenefits.info/national-military-appreciation-month/#ixzz2SFHol4ub>



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The 6 National Observances during National Military Appreciation Month:

[Loyalty Day](#)

Date: Wednesday, May 1st, 2013

About: Loyalty to the nation. It is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and to reflect on the proud heritage of our American freedom.

[Public Service Recognition Week \(PSRW\)](#)

Date: Sunday, May 5th – Saturday, May 11th, 2013, Celebrated the first full week in May

About: A time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world. The 2013 theme is "Why I Serve."

[Victory in Europe Day AKA V-E Day or VE Day](#)

Date: Wednesday, May 8th, 2013

About: May 8th, 1945 is the day the Germans throughout Europe unconditionally surrendered to WW II Allies.

[Military Spouse Appreciation Day](#)

Date: Saturday, May 11th, 2013, traditionally set for the Friday before Mother's Day.

About: A day to honor military spouses with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Recognizes the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong and our country safe.

[Armed Forces Day](#)

Date: Saturday, May 18th, 2013, Celebrated the third Saturday in May every year.

About: A single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. It honors everyone serving in the U.S. Military branches; Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy.

[Memorial Day](#)

Date: Monday, May 27th, 2013, A Federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May.

About: A remembrance of our veterans. Commemorates the men and women who died while in military service.





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MailCall News

*Subject: Returning of the wartime photos of **George Rieck's** grandfather, as reported in [MailCall #2098](#)*

Dear Georg,

I believe we have finally gotten the pictures in the mail. I asked a lady to send them by going to the post office and I trust that has happened. You should receive the complete page from my scrap book. We did it this way to make sure no damage was done to them. On the back of the page are pictures of some of the SS troops that held Manhay, Belgium when we attacked and took the town on January 27, 1944, which you may disregard as they may have no interest for you or your family.

This has been a seventy year Odyssey and I am happy to be able to bring it to a conclusion. We would not have been able to do it without the assistance of **Jean-Loup Gassard**.

My very highest regards to you and your family,

Howard E. Hensleigh

It is with sadness to inform The Thunderbolt Newsletter that **Joe P. Sliakis** passed away August 10, 2012 and his wife **Sue** passed away August 29, 2012 in Grass Valley, California.

With Respect,

Roy Houghton

Trustee of Sliakis Family Trust



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Hello Bob, Some time ago there was someone that was adopting Henri-Chapelle graves of 517th KIA. B Company Trooper **Ledlie Pace** was not among them.

I sent a message to the address in the MailCall and requested a sponsor for him. This reply is what arrived today.

I guess it did not reach the person that was sponsoring 517th troopers. I'll try to use the search function in the archives to see what I missed. My cousin **Richard Baysinger** was on patrol and next to Ledlie when he was killed by 88 fire. That is why I know his name and feel some responsibility to him.

My goal is to have him adopted by someone, just like the others.

Thanks,

Don Gentry

To: DGentry509@aol.com
Sent: 5/2/2013 1:37:42 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Fwd: Fwd: Copy of: 517th PIR Dec 1944

Dear Don,

I received below email traffic from our chairman.
To inform you: Ledlie R. Pace is buried on Henri-Chapelle indeed.

Ledlie R. Pace

ID: 13099192
Entered the Service From: Pennsylvania
Rank: Private

Service: U.S. Army, 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Died: Saturday, December 23, 1944
Buried at: Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery
Location: Henri-Chapelle, Belgium
Plot: D Row: 5 Grave: 48

Awards: Purple Heart

I can find out for you if his grave is adopted or not.
Please let me know exactly what you want me to do for you.

Sincerely,
Jasper van Haren
Fields of Honor - Database
www.fieldsofhonor-database.com

Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgraven / Foundation United Adopters American War Graves
www.adoptiegraven.nl



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Here is some background on the gravesite adoptions at Henri-Chapelle from MailCall #2066, August 28, 2011:

Subject: RE: Information about WWII soldiers

Hi Bob and Ronald,

Thank you so much for letting me use the information on your website. I will send you additional information if I find any, although I think you have a lot of information about **Robert Woodhull** already. I found another soldier **Floyd A Stott**, who is buried on Henri-Chapelle who I also would like to add to my website. So far we have 5 soldiers from the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment Battalion registered, **Lincoln W. Ackerman, Francis A. Bloom, Frank W. Hayes, James L. Baney and George Mills**. You can read their stories on http://www.adoptiegraven-database.nl/index.php?searchword=517th&ordering=newest&searchphrase=all&limit=20&Itemid=61&option=com_search.

Kind regards
Astrid [van Erp]

Astrid,

We thank you all for your tributes to these fallen soldiers. Every year when members of the 517th visit Europe, I know they are amazed and grateful for the efforts that our friends in Europe exert to maintain their memories and take such great care of their burial grounds and monuments.

I have a special interest in **Floyd Stott**, as my father **Ben Barrett** was in the battle at Manhay and witnessed Floyd's heroic death in that attack. Ben always made a special point of paying tribute to Lt. Stott's grave at Henri-Chapelle. I have copied **Kent Immerfall** on this email. Kent is Floyd Stott's nephew, and is a good friend and active participant in the 517th remembrances.

Also note that the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team included the 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion and 596th Parachute Engineer Company. I see that on your website, you also have a page for **Pvt. Richard E. Donnelly** of the 460th. We consider him to be a part of the 517th family as well.

Thank you for all that you do.

Bob Barrett



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Dear Bob -

Wow - how wonderful to hear from Jim, who volunteers for a state veteran home in Arizona.

Jim, thank you for taking such a personal interest in our dear veteran, **Earl "Daniel" Boone** of F Company. F Company actually remains the best represented at reunions and I am sure you'll hear from some of the guys. It is really great that you reached out.

Thanks so much –

Claire Giblin

Jim,

Thanks for your note in our 517th guestbook about Earl Boone. I included your note in our last weekly MailCall. I did get one reply which I am forwarding to you, below.

I haven't run across any stories about Earl Boone on the website yet, but we do know that he was indeed with F Company:

<http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>

Do you know if he trained at Camp Toccoa? If so, can he find himself in this F Company photo?

http://517prct.org/photos/f_company_at_toccoa_1943.htm

Oh, I did look through the Morning reports for F Company, and here are the entries for Boone:

COMPAN	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	IV	RANK	DATE	COD	S/N	MOS	LOCATION	NOTES	SIGNED BY
F	Boone	Earl	E	PVT	28-Sep-1944	50	35556721	745	1/2 Mi So. Luceram, France	fr dy to abs sk LD NBC to trfd to Det of Pats Seventh Army.	E. H. Schofield, CWO, USA
F	Boone	Early	E	PVT	5-Oct-1944	A	35556721	7745	2 Mi So. Luceram, France	Reasgd & Jd Co Fr Det of Pats, Seventh Army LD NBC.	E. H. Schofield, CWO, USA
F	Boone	Earl	E	PVT	19-Oct-1944	50	35656721	7745	2 Mi. N.E. Luceram, France	fr dy to abs sk LD NBC to trfd to Det of Pats, Seventh Army.	E. H. Schofield, CWO, USA
F	Boone	Earl	E	PVT	4-Nov-1944	B	35556721	7745	Vicinity of St Charles, France 715-999	Reasgd & Jd Co fr Det of Pats, Seventh Army LD NBC.	E. H. Schofield, CWO, USA
F	Boone	Earl	E	PVT	30-Jan-1945	II	35556721	7745	3 Kilometers N of Stavelot, Belgium	aptd Sgt as of 18 Jan 45.	Martin J. Fastaia, Capt., INF
F	Boone	Earle	E	Sgt	9-Mar-1945		35556721	7745	Joigny, France	fr dy to sk in qrs NBC (LD).	Bill G. Smith, CAPT, INF
F	Boone	Earl	E	Sgt	10-Mar-1945		35556721	7745	Joigny, France	Fr qrs to sk in hosp NBC (LD)	Bill G. Smith, CAPT, INF
F	Boone	Earl	E	Sgt	12-Mar-1945		35556721	7745	Joigny, France	Fr dy to sk in qrs NBC LD.	Bill G. Smith, CAPT, INF
F	Boone	Earle	E	Sgt	18-Mar-1945	II	35556721	7745	Joigny, France 675-410	aptd S Sgt as of 10 Mar 45 per SO 48 Hq 517th Prcht Inf APO	Bill G. Smith, CAPT, INF

I see that he was promoted along with 8 others from Private to Sergeant on January 18th near Stavelot. And 10 other privates were promoted to Corporal the same day. How did he pull that off? What was that all about?

Regards,
Bob Barrett



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Hi, Jim -

Well, if you are interested in getting him to Toccoa, Lory and my dad would love to meet him there. I am copying **Lory Curtis** (son of Bud **Curtis**) and **Mimsey Boyle** (daughter of **Col. Bill Boyle**).

My dad is going; he will be so glad that another vet would be there! He arrives on Thursday, May 30 and will stay the night in the greater Atlanta area with a very old friend; she will drive him up to Toccoa on Friday, May 31. I think that Mimsey arrives on Thursday and will head straight to Toccoa; Lory and Morris McDowell I think arrive Friday morning and head up. Everyone goes back to the airport Sunday midday for afternoon flights.

It would be great for everyone to add the two of you to the mix - please do everything you can to get him there.

There is an F Co. photo from the Atlanta pictures from our visit...look at the 2011 reunion photos...**Gene Frice, Mel Dahlberg** and others. I am copying Gene and Mel - I hope one of the email addresses is good.....

Good luck and all the best -

Claire

Hi Bob,

Thanks for in the info on Earl. Mr. Boone is a great man and it has been an honor to get to know him. I visited with him for 4 hours yesterday. I am trying to get him on a plane to go to Toccoa for the reunion this month. I have always wanted to go there and to go with someone who trained there would be a once in a lifetime event. Wish me luck!

I actually printed out that Christmas Document for him last week. You could see the wheels turning in his head as he was reading old F Company names.

We also looked at this F Company picture. [F Company at Camp Toccoa 1943](#) He is top row, 17 from the right. His buddy (**Sowell**, top row, 3 over to his left) lives in Payson, AZ and they see each other once a year. He was quite fond of **Captain McKinley** and he said the fellow listed as "**Juiky**" was a tough S.O.B.!

In response to the question how did he pull off getting promoted from private to sergeant...Everybody was dead...

I will look for more for responses and try and get an updated picture of Mr. Boone.

Regards,
Jim





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Jim,

I am excited that you and Earl may be coming to Toccoa. They are having a fun run up and down Currahee Mountain and will honor the 517th as its 70 anniversary of the activation of the unit. You may have seen this advertisement on Mail Call, and I have given you our proposed itinerary.

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

A proposed itinerary of events are:

Friday, May 31st	12:00 noon	Meet for Lunch and visit
	1:30 pm	Tour Toccoa and visit Camp Toccoa Museum
	2:30 pm	For those who would like drive up Mount Currahee and see the view
	6:00pm	Meet at Museum for dinner and watch the 517th movie, Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed.
Saturday June 1st	7:00 am	Prepare for Fun Run up and down the mountain, that is if you are doing that
	8:00 am	Fun Run or in my case a fun walk on level ground
	11:30 am	Recognition of runners
	12:00 pm	Tribute to the 517th at Parachute Park
	1:00 pm	Lunch
	2:00 pm	Visit Museum, visit with friends
	6:00 pm	Dinner and 1940's Swing Dance

Subject: Re: Meeting in Toccoa.
Hi folks,

I regret to tell you **Earl Boone** and myself will not be attending. To make a long story short, his heart cannot handle flying and driving would not work for either of us. Earl was very disappointed. I feel like I was just punched in the gut. I'm sure you will have an amazing time. I guess I don't need to start training so I can run Curahee!

I am attaching a pic of Earl I took today for your site. I just wish he would have smiled. He has his jump wings, his CIB and his Presidential Unit Citation on his hat.

Take care and please stay in contact. Maybe we can make the next one if it is within driving distance of Phoenix.

Best regards,

Jim Kraus





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Dear Bob, I have been unable to open the last 3 Mailcalls. I get your message and then click as usual and the attachment does not open. Are there any problems in the rest of Group 4?

Howard Hensleigh

I know one person who had a problem, but that was when I did a merger of multiple files. The last few MailCalls have been straightforward.

Can you open them from the web site at <http://517prct.org/mailcall/> ?

Do you know what version of Adobe Reader you have installed? (It's ok if you don't know.)

I'm sure we can figure it out together.

Bob Barrett

[Is anyone else having trouble opening recent MailCalls? I guess if you are having trouble, you aren't reading this message. If you know of anyone having issues, let me know. – BB]

Hi,

Wanted to show (for a sample of how to display medals) what **Rick Vasquez** made for his dad, Ignacio Vasquez. He loves doing this and also made one for a Pearl Harbor survivor.

Nila Gott (Vasquez)

www.nilajgott.com

See my ebooks on Amazon Kindle, B&N Pubit, and Smashwords

Nila Gott





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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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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

This Week in 517th History

Letter home to parents, May 10, 1943

In the *Book Letters Home: A Paratrooper's Story*, this is what my Dad said about **Lt. McKinley: Lory Curtis**, son of **Bud Curtis HQ, 1st BN**

In a letter he wrote to his mother on May 10, 1943, he asked:

Did my Company Commander send you a letter about me being in this outfit? I heard he sends everyone's folks one what did he have to say?

Bud

Bud's Company Commander, then First Lieutenant **John E. McKinley**, from "F" Company did send a letter to his parents telling Bud's parents about the training and how Bud would become one of the world's finest fighting men. Note: This was quite a letter to send to the parents of an eighteen year old boy who was being turned into a man very quickly to fight for America's freedom. **Colonel Walsh** felt it important to have the families of these new paratroopers involved in their lives. If family members would encourage their sons to do their duty they would be better fighting men. Colonel Walsh ordered each company commander to write a letter home to each paratrooper's parents. Bud started his career with F Company and here is the letter sent to his parents by his company commander.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Company "F"
517th Parachute Infantry
Camp Toccoa, Georgia
May 10, 1943

Dear Mr. Curtis:

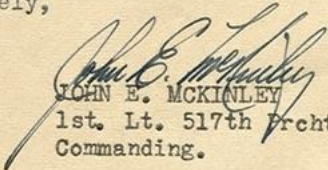
Your son has been assigned to this Company, and as his Company Commander I am writing to clarify any ideas you might have regarding the Parachute Troops and the men with whom he will be associated in his service to our country.

All Men accepted must be physically, mentally and morally in the highest bracket of American manhood, and they must have the capacity to absorb mental and physical training which will develop them into the finest soldiers in the world. You may well feel a high sense of pride in the fact that your son has willingly volunteered to serve his country as a "Paratrooper", a soldier whose distinctive uniform, bearing and soldierly appearance set him apart from other soldiers wherever he may go and gain for him the admiration and respect which the men in no other branch of the service enjoy.

The moral, mental and physical well being of your son and the other in this unit is carefully provided for. The men are required to keep the barracks in which they live spotless at all times; sanitation is impressed upon all personnel and barracks, meals, etc., are inspected daily by an officer. Free Medical and Dental service are available and all men are required to take advantage of them. Attendance at religious services of all denominations is encouraged and there is a chapel in the area with a Chaplain on duty at all times to care for spiritual needs. For relaxation a Recreation Room is provided in the area and there are supervised athletics. Later on men will be permitted to go into town on week-ends where there is a fine U.S.O. building for their use. Your son will be put through a gradual physical training process which will develop him into a superb soldier at the peak of physical efficiency.

Your son has received the golden opportunity of being associated with officers that are highly specialized in this type of work. These men were hand-picked by the Regimental Commander who is a shrewd observer of leadership. Within our organization the enlisted man and Officer have a common interest, therefore they are closely united. It is this combination plus being the best trained, best equipped soldier in the world that will enable him to become the world's finest fighting man.

Sincerely,


JOHN E. MCKINLEY
1st. Lt. 517th Parch. Inf
Commanding.