



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2158

May 12, 2013

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

Website

[www.517prct.org](http://www.517prct.org)

Send Mail Call news to

[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)

Mail Call Archives

[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)

2013 Roster (updated!)

[www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)

Thunderbolt (Winter 2013)

[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)

## MailCall News



Dad (**Allan Johnson 596**) and I traveled to Washington, DC today where we met up with **Tom Copsey** and Company at the GI Film Festival. We all attended a screening of *Saints and Soldiers: Airborne Creed*. It was the first time I'd seen it on the big screen, and it was great.

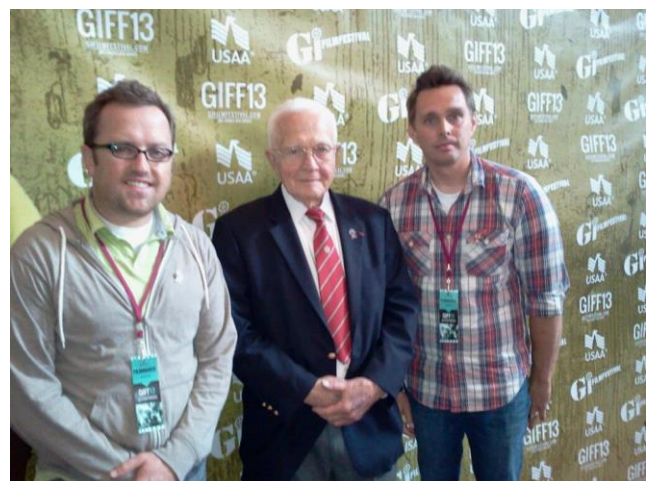
Tom brought quite an impressive team: his son Eric, daughter Helen, and his friends Larry (also airborne) and Chris. Very cool that he was able to bring such a good crowd to support the second film that has been made out of Lory Curtis's book.

The director, **Ryan Little**, and producer **Adam Abel** were both there and took questions after the film. It was really interesting to hear from them about the film making process.

Congratulations to Ryan, Adam and Lory on their continued success. It is just great to see a WWII film involving the 517. And PS: they start filming a third film in August.

Airborne all the way –

**Claire Giblin**





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Hi Lory - I never heard from the movie producer but I will be there tomorrow along with my son and daughter-in-law and my best friend who is also a trooper (Vietnam - 101st Airborne) and we will represent the 517th well.

I did go to the movies at an event at the Canadian embassy Wednesday nite and the short flicks (German, Canadian, Danish, Australian, UK) were all very powerful about the ordeals the "GIs" go through during and after Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, and WWII. As a Danish producer put it well - "we know how to send our troops to war, but we don't know how to bring them back".

Will provide an AAR after tomorrow.

**Tom Copsey**

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Hello:

Seeing the display case for **Mr. Vasquez**, I am sending a photo of the one I made for my daughter of her Dad's medals, (**David J. Walls**), who served in Co E of the 517th. The medals may not be in order, but they are from WWII through his retirement. I have a company putting the ribbons together so they will be in the order of the medals.

**Elaine (Walls) Saunders**



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**From:** Col. John Roush

Dear Friend of Marian.

**Marian Brannan** told me that you might be able to help me with the book "*World war li Reminiscences*" in which are stories by Bill and I. could you kindly advise?

Thank you, john Roush

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Col. John,

I'm not sure what help you are looking for. I did a quick search and see that your book is available on Amazon. How can I help?

I do a weekly newsletter for the troopers and friends of the 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team. I would like to find out more about **Bill Brannan's** stories so that I could mention this in the newsletter.

Regards,

Bob Barrett



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

Dear Mr Hensleigh

Congratulations on your kind gesture to the Rieck family.  
You have not been communicating with Riecks actual son, but he sent me a thank you letter and was also very moved by this whole story.

Best regards

**Jean-Loup**

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Dear Jean-Loup,

Thanks for your response. I am happy you have made contact with the son who was on the way when people (including his father and me) who should have been friends were killing each other. It could be said that peace makes strange bedfellows. Thank you again for your energy and expertise in setting the stage for all this to come about. Sorry I misspelled your last name.

**Howard Hensleigh**

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From **Patrick O'Donnell's** Facebook page:

Glorious Evening. Lily and I at the premiere of the *Real Inglorious Bastards* (a film based on my book *They Dared Return*). The film was shown at Capital and included a Congressional reception.



On stage with the producer of the film. He and his team did a magnificent job. Ed, as you said before the event, "lets have fun." We did!

See: <http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Peace/2013/05/07/The-Quiet-American-Hero-Inspiration-for-The-Real-Inglorious-Bastards>



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Bob,

Here's a guy who's 517 worthy!

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2013/04/30/army-sergeant-becomes-first-amputee-to-complete-grueling-air-assault-school-a-shining-example-that-life-can-carry-on/>

Thanks again  
J (Jay Sutcliffe)



In this undated photo provided by the U.S. Army, Sgt. 1st Class Greg Robinson, an amputee, runs during the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Ky. Credit: AP

Article in the Villages, FL Daily Sun newspaper:

## Group spotlight



George Horsford / Daily Sun

United States Airborne veteran Phil McSpadden wears on his jacket the French Legion Of Honour Medal that he recently received for his service during World War II in southern France.

## Vets to be honored Thursday

**What:** The Republican Federated Women of The Villages will honor veterans at its Thursday meeting at Bacall Recreation Center.

**Who:** Phil McSpadden, a retired chief warrant officer who served in the Army from 1943 to 1969, will be the honored guest and speaker. McSpadden, who also founded the Worldwide Airborne Club in The Villages, will speak about his experiences during World War II, including his participation in the Battle of the Bulge and the invasion of southern France.

**When:** The event begins at 10 a.m., and the group will be collecting breakfast bars for the troops on behalf of Operation Helping Hand. A color guard will present the flags.



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

**From:** Bill Keller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 08, 2013 10:12 PM  
**To:** [webmaster@517prct.org](mailto:webmaster@517prct.org)  
**Subject:** 460th Abn FA photo

Hi,  
I'm writing you concerning the 460th ABN FA photo you have of **Joseph Richardson**.

[http://517prct.org/photos/joseph\\_richardson\\_1945.htm](http://517prct.org/photos/joseph_richardson_1945.htm)

My brother and I wrote the books for Schiffer on US Army shoulder patches

[http://www.schifferbooks.com/newschiffer/search\\_results.php](http://www.schifferbooks.com/newschiffer/search_results.php)

and we're currently working on our airborne book. If you're not familiar with the books they feature many pictures of soldiers wearing shoulder patches (WW1, WW2 and Korean era) and original examples of the shoulder patches. I'd like to use the 460th photo as we have a picture of an original example of this patch. If you are unable to give permission could you please contact the owner of the photo or provide their email address.



Please let me know when you get the chance.

Best regards,

Bill

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**To: Joe Richardson Jr.**  
**Subject: FW: 460th Abn FA photo**

Hi Joe,

See the note below. These guys have literally written the books (3 volumes) on WW2 shoulder patches, and have asked permission to use your Dad's photo as posted on the 517<sup>th</sup> web site for the next publication. I think that your Dad's photo is the only one I have seen with an obviously wartime original 460<sup>th</sup> patch, as you can tell by its large size and the date of the photo.

Since it is your picture, you should be the one giving permission.

Let me know if you are OK with this.

Thanks!

Bob Barrett



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

**From:** Joe & Mary Ann Richardson  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 09, 2013 7:14 PM  
**To:** MailCall@517prct.org  
**Subject:** RE: 460th Abn FA photo

Dear Bob, I would definitely approve of having Dad's photo included in the book, all that I would request is attribution to him and his Battery D of the 460th. If possible I would really like to have a copy of the book when finished since my father and I collected military insignia since the 1960's. My focus in collecting was on airborne and special operations units both US and foreign. I have an extensive collection of distinctive and cloth patch insignia virtually all are period originals and not reproductions.

All the best, joe

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Hello Bill,

Below is Joe Richardson Jr's permission to use his Dad's photo in your book(s). As he requests, can there be an attribution mentioning Joe Richardson and the 460<sup>th</sup>? And is there a way for Joe Jr. to get a copy?

Also, in case you are not familiar, but the designer of the 460<sup>th</sup>, 517<sup>th</sup>, and 596<sup>th</sup> patches was Lt. Dick Spencer. See the story at: [http://www.517prct.org/documents/patch\\_history/patch\\_history.htm](http://www.517prct.org/documents/patch_history/patch_history.htm)

Finally, I'm wondering what else you might know about the patches and whether you have additional early photos. Is it possible to get a copy of whatever information that you have that we might include it on our 517<sup>th</sup> web page? [www.517prct.org](http://www.517prct.org)

Regards,

Bob Barrett  
[webmaster@517prct.org](mailto:webmaster@517prct.org)

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I wanted to share with our vets that after following up on a lead about the WWII ADT, airborne demonstration team, in Mail Call No.2145 <http://517prct.org/mailcall/2145.pdf> from **Steve Gomez**, son of **Cpl Ben Gomez**, B Battery 460th AFA, that I registered back in February and began preparations to participate in WW II Airborne Demonstration Team's 2013 summer jump school at Frederick Air Field, Frederick Oklahoma. This 9 day airborne training culminates in 5 WWII style canopy jumps out of their very own restored C-47 Sky Train, "Boogey Baby", that flew airborne troop transport missions in Europe and award of the US Army Basic Parachute Qualification Badge and membership in the original war bond drive airborne demonstration team with eligibility to jump with the team anywhere in the world. <http://wwiadt.org>

I am doing this in honor of my father's service with the 517th PRCT and I will be recognized by the reenactment team as a legacy representative of the 517th PRCT. The PT recommendations are quite a challenge for a 54 year old who has not done a push-up or sit-up or run 2 miles in almost 25 years since discharge after 5 years with US Army Field Artillery '82-'87. I requested Airborne qualification training back then after completing basic training and they told me that my request was denied because you had to request airborne training BEFORE completing basic. So this is an opportunity to go back in time and do that and honor my father at the same time?! **The Curtis brothers** have been very inspirational to me and are my hero's in my quest to honor my father's service as are all of the members of the 517th PRCT organization.

As some of you may recall my story about my father dying in a VA hospital in 1961 when I was 3 years old and just recently finding a copy of his discharge papers linking him to the 517th PRCT. I attended the Atlanta reunion and met some of the Troopers and now I feel like part of the family and wanted to share this exciting opportunity to join another phenomenal airborne organization with you guys. Updates and mission participation status will follow upon completion of training in July!

**Sgt Dan Perry**, Son of **Corporal Floyd R. Perry**, HQ Co. 2nd Bn 517th PRCT.

Airborne All The Way!

PS; I would like to pass my e-mail address along to **Steve Gomez**. I would very much like to chat with him about his experience with the WWII ADT.



WWII Airborne Demonstration Team

Remember, Honor, Serve

[www.wwiadt.org](http://www.wwiadt.org)



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Just a little more elucidation on the promotion of **Earl "Daniel" Boone** from private to Sgt. at Stavelot, Belgium. The first report, "Everyone is dead" says it all. We had been through some of the worst combat of the war. Many of the leaders of all ranks WERE dead. At Stavelot we were out of the lines for a few days and those who were still alive made the most of it. This meant we got a couple of minutes in a hot shower, after a day or two of confusion in the mess, some good hot chow, and after days of leading units in attacks some privates were promoted to sgt. a rank they deserved from combat leadership. Dan'l Boone was one of them who got recognized with the rank to accord with what he had been doing. It wasn't long before we pulled out to hit the lines again with some recognized new leaders. For once the 517th shuffled some fast well merited promotion papers.

Highest airborne regards,

**Howard Hensleigh**

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Hi Claire,

Attached please find a pic of Mr. Boone taken in France in 1944. I borrowed it from his scrapbook. His scrapbook is amazing! It's a history of him on the 517th and later on with the 82nd. Silver star, bronze star, 3 purple hearts and stories to boot! He is an amazing individual. FYI he didn't smoke a pipe. It was just a prop. He said he was going for the Bing Crosby look.

Regards,

Jim

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Hi, Jim -

I am adding Bob Barrett so this photo can be posted in Mail Call. It is great and I love the background information about the pipe.

If you are inclined, we'd love to have his stories - even anecdotes - in the Meet the Troopers section of the website. Another friend of a vet, **Earl Tingle**, just did the same for his good friend **Lee Johnson**.

Meet the Troopers doesn't have to be some crazy in-depth week-by-week summary - it can be whatever you want it to be, and whatever he's inclined to share. It might make a nice project for him.

Thanks so much and take care -

Claire







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**Subject:** Morning Reports

Hi Bob,

Hope all is well. I was looking at your last mail call and noticed the info you got from the Morning Report. Is this something anyone can use and if so where can we get this information on other soldiers?

**Wade Gilbert**

Hi Wade,

**Mike Wells** has done a lot of work transcribing many of the Morning reports. We don't have them for all Companies, but many. For the ones that I have, I have both a spreadsheet by company, as well as scans of the original reports (some are more readable than others.)

Yes, I have thought about ways to put all this on the website, but to make it easy to use by the casual observer, I will have to create a searchable database on the web site and include links directly to the morning reports images. I could probably figure out how to do that, but it will take some time and work. It is in my future plans.

For now, I do have a spreadsheet for each company. When someone has a question, I just open that spreadsheet and do a "filter" on the last name to get the results such as you saw in the last MailCall. Most of our MailCall readers are not familiar with spreadsheets, let alone a filter. So for now, I just do the quick research myself and provide the results. It only takes a few minutes to search for one soldier.

FYI, I have attached the F Company spreadsheet, with the filter in place for the top row headings. If you click on the Last Name column, you just unselect "All" and select "Gilbert", and you see all the records for your dad. I have also attached the Morning report for 09-Oct-1944, indicating his PFC promotion.

Let me know if you want any more info.

Bob Barrett

COMP AN	LAST NAME	FIRST NAM	MI	RANK	DATE	CODE	S/N	MOS	LOCATION	NOTES	SIGNED BY
F	Gilbert	Earnest	G	PVT	13-Sep-1944	50	39291976	504	600 yds. W. Mt. Venebren, France	fr dy to abs sk NBC to trfd to Det of Pats, Seventh Army.	E. H. Schofield, CWO, USA
F	Gilbert	Ernest	G	PVT	25-Sep-1944	A	39291976	504	1/2 Mi So. Of Luceram, France	Reasgd & Jd Co fr Det of Pats Seventh Army as of 18 Sept 44. LD NBC.	E. H. Schofield, CWO, USA
F	Gilbert	Earnest	G	PVT	9-Oct-1944	II	39291975	504	2 Mi NE Luceram, France	Aptd Privates First Class as of 3 October 1944.	E. H. Schofield, CWO, USA
F	Gilbert	Earnest	G	PFC	29-Jan-1945		39291976	7607	3 Kilometers N of Stavelot, Belgium	fr dy to DS Soissons France as of 21 Dec 44.	Martin J. Fastaia, Capt., INF
F	Gilbert	Earnest	G	PFC	12-Feb-1945		39291976	7607	Laon, France	fr DS Soissons, France to dy.	Martin J. Fastaia, Capt., INF



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My only question would be is there an easy way to "decode" all the abbreviated notes?

Best Regards,  
**Wade Gilbert**

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OK Wade,

Here are a few things I can tell you:

CODE: Sorry, I don't know what those are.

MOS: Military Occupational Specialty code

504 = Ammunition Handler

7607 = Paratrooper, Light Mortar Crewman

*"fr dy to abs sk NBC to trfd to Det of Pats, Seventh Army"* means:

"from duty to absent sick Non-Battle Casualty to transferred to Detachment of Patients, Seventh Army

*"Reasgd & Jd Co fr Det of Pats Seventh Army as of 18 Sept 44. LD NBC."* means:

Reassigned and joined company from Detachment of Patients" Seventh Army as of 18 Sept 44.  
Line of Duty, Non-Battle Casualty.

*"fr DS Soissons, France to dy."* means:

"From Detached Service Soissons, France to duty"

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I found a fairly complete document identifying the common abbreviations used on Morning Reports at <http://www.103didww2assn.org/MR%20Abbreviations.pdf>

Here are some parts of that document – BB

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### What are Morning Reports?

Filed each morning by each company to higher headquarters, the company morning report provided a day-by-day record of unit location, activity, and changes in company personnel. That is, these reports were an "exception-based" accounting of the individuals whose duty status had changed from the previous day. Among the reasons for an individual being listed in this report were: transfer into the unit, promotion or demotion, killed or wounded (including a brief description of wounds), captured or missing in action, transfer to another unit, hospitalization, training, AWOL and desertion. Entries included the soldier's rank, Army Serial Number, and other information.



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The morning report entries made extensive use of abbreviations, including the following:

<b>A</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>gr</b>	<b>grade</b>
<b>A&amp;D</b>	<b>Admission &amp; Disposition (hospital)</b>	<b>GSW</b>	<b>Gun-Shot Wound</b>
<b>Abv</b>	<b>Above</b>	<b>hosp</b>	<b>hospital</b>
<b>AGF</b>	<b>Allied Ground Forces</b>	<b>jd</b>	<b>joined</b>
<b>APO</b>	<b>Army Post Office</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>Line of Duty</b>
<b>aptd</b>	<b>appointed</b>	<b>LIA</b>	<b>Lightly Injured in Action</b>
<b>ar</b>	<b>arrest</b>	<b>Lv</b>	<b>Leave of Duty</b>
<b>AR</b>	<b>Army Regulation</b>	<b>LWA</b>	<b>Lightly Injured in Action</b>
<b>arr</b>	<b>arrived</b>	<b>MCO</b>	<b>Main Civilian Occupation</b>
<b>ASF</b>	<b>Army Service Forces</b>	<b>MOS</b>	<b>Military Occupational Specialty</b>
<b>asgd</b>	<b>assigned</b>	<b>NLD</b>	<b>Not in line of duty</b>
<b>asgmt</b>	<b>assignment</b>	<b>NYPE</b>	<b>New York Port of Embarkation</b>
<b>atchd</b>	<b>attached</b>	<b>par</b>	<b>paragraph</b>
<b>AW</b>	<b>Articles of War</b>	<b>Pers</b>	<b>personnel</b>
<b>AWOL</b>	<b>Absent without Leave</b>	<b>Plat or Pltn</b>	<b>platoon</b>
<b>Bn</b>	<b>battalion</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>Postmaster</b>
<b>Clr Sta</b>	<b>Clearing Station</b>	<b>qrs</b>	<b>quarters</b>
<b>CM</b>	<b>Court Martial</b>	<b>RD</b>	<b>Replacement Depot</b>
<b>Conf</b>	<b>confined</b>	<b>Regt</b>	<b>Regiment</b>
<b>DB</b>	<b>Daily Bulletin</b>	<b>reld</b>	<b>relieved</b>
<b>DoP</b>	<b>Detachment of Patients (Det of Pats)</b>	<b>Repl</b>	<b>replacement</b>
<b>dep</b>	<b>departed</b>	<b>rd</b>	<b>reduced</b>
<b>det</b>	<b>detached</b>	<b>R-W</b>	<b>Race-White</b>
<b>disch</b>	<b>discharged</b>	<b>RTD/U</b>	<b>Returned to Duty/Unit</b>
<b>drpd</b>	<b>dropped</b>	<b>Sht</b>	<b>sheet</b>
<b>DS</b>	<b>Detached Service</b>	<b>SIA</b>	<b>Seriously Injured in Action</b>
<b>dy</b>	<b>duty</b>	<b>sk</b>	<b>sick</b>
<b>EDCMR</b>	<b>effective date concerning Morning Report</b>	<b>Sta</b>	<b>Station</b>
<b>EH</b>	<b>Evacuation Hospital</b>	<b>str</b>	<b>Strength</b>
<b>EM</b>	<b>enlisted men</b>	<b>SFW</b>	<b>Shell Fragment Wound</b>
<b>EPT(S)</b>	<b>Existing Prior to Induction (Service)</b>	<b>SWA</b>	<b>Seriously Wounded in Action</b>
<b>Evacd</b>	<b>evacuated</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Temporary Duty</b>
<b>FH</b>	<b>Field Hospital</b>	<b>temp</b>	<b>temporary</b>
<b>Fr</b>	<b>from</b>	<b>trfd</b>	<b>transferred</b>
<b>FR</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>unasgn</b>	<b>unassigned</b>
<b>fur</b>	<b>furlough</b>	<b>vic</b>	<b>vicinity</b>
<b>GH</b>	<b>General Hospital</b>	<b>WD</b>	<b>War Department</b>

Other abbreviations used in the EMT (Emergency Medical Tags):

<b>C W</b>	<b>Contused Wound</b>	<b>L W</b>	<b>Lacerated Wound</b>
<b>E W</b>	<b>Extensive Wound</b>	<b>M W</b>	<b>Multiple Wounds</b>
<b>F C</b>	<b>Fracture Compound</b>	<b>N Y D</b>	<b>Not Yet Diagnosed</b>
<b>F C C</b>	<b>Fracture Compound Comminuted</b>	<b>Pen W</b>	<b>Penetrating Wound</b>
<b>F S</b>	<b>Fracture Simple</b>	<b>Perf W</b>	<b>Perforating Wound</b>
<b>F U O</b>	<b>Fever of Undetermined Origin</b>	<b>Pun W</b>	<b>Punctured Wound</b>
<b>G S W</b>	<b>Gun-Shot Wound</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>Slight</b>
<b>I W</b>	<b>Incised Wound</b>	<b>S V</b>	<b>Severe</b>
<b>K I A</b>	<b>Killed In Action</b>	<b>W I A</b>	<b>Wounded In Action</b>

Umm...Can anyone explain the difference between a penetrating wound, a perforating wound and a punctured wound? -- BB



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Bob

Also thought you guys might like this.....

A great story of K-9 camaraderie! I imagine that there were K-9 companions among our 517th PRCT Vets travels?!

**Sgt Dan Perry**, Son of a Buzzard, **Cpl Floyd R. Perry**, HQ Co. 2nd Bn 517th PRCT

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**SGT. STUBBY  
WAR DOG HERO!**

Meet America's first war dog, a stray Pit Bull/Terrier mix, named Stubby. He became Sgt. Stubby, was the most decorated war dog of World War I and the only dog to be promoted to sergeant through combat.

One day he appeared at Yale Field in New Haven, Connecticut; while a group of soldiers were training, stopping to make friends with soldiers as they drilled. One soldier, Corporal Robert Conroy, developed a fondness for the dog. He named him Stubby because of his short legs. When it became time for the outfit to ship out, Conroy hid Stubby on board the troop ship. In order to keep the dog, the private taught him to salute his commanding officers warming their hearts to him.



Stubby served with the 102nd Infantry, 26th (Yankee) Division in the trenches in France for 18 months and participated in four offensives and 18 battles. The loud noise of the bombs and gun fire did not bother him. He was never content to stay in the trenches but went out and found wounded soldiers.



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Stubby entered combat on February 5, 1918 at Chemin Des Dames, north of Soissons, and was under constant fire, day and night for over a month. In April 1918, during a raid to take Schieprey, Stubby was wounded in the foreleg by the retreating Germans throwing hand grenades. He was sent to the rear for convalescence, and as he had done on the front was able to improve morale. When he recovered from his wounds, Stubby returned to the trenches.

After being gassed and nearly dying himself, Stubby learned to warn his unit of poison gas attacks, continued to locate wounded soldiers in no man's land, and since he could hear the whine of incoming artillery shells before humans could, became very adept at letting his unit know when to duck for cover.



He was solely responsible for capturing a German spy in the Argonne. The spy made the mistake of speaking German to him when they were alone. Stubby knew he was no ally and attacked him biting and holding on to him by the seat of his pants until his comrades could secure him.



Following the retaking of Chateau-Thierry by the US, the thankful women of the town made Stubby a chamois coat on which were pinned his many medals. There is also a legend that while in Paris with Corporal Conroy, Stubby saved a young girl from being hit by a car. At the end of the war, Conroy smuggled Stubby home.



After returning home, Stubby became a celebrity and marched in, and normally led, many parades across the country. He met Presidents Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, and Warren G. Harding. Starting in 1921, he attended Georgetown University Law Center with Conroy, and became the Georgetown Hoyas' team mascot. He would be given the football at halftime and would nudge the ball around the field to the amusement of the fans.

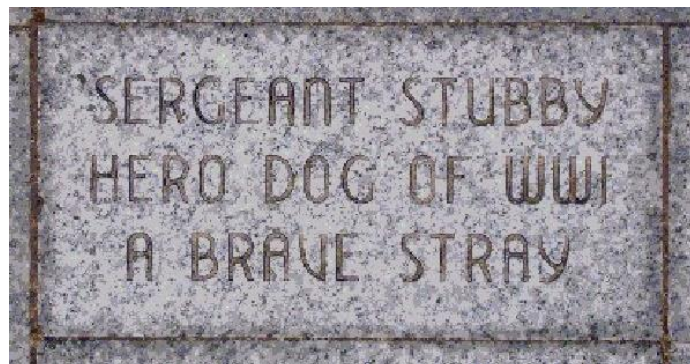
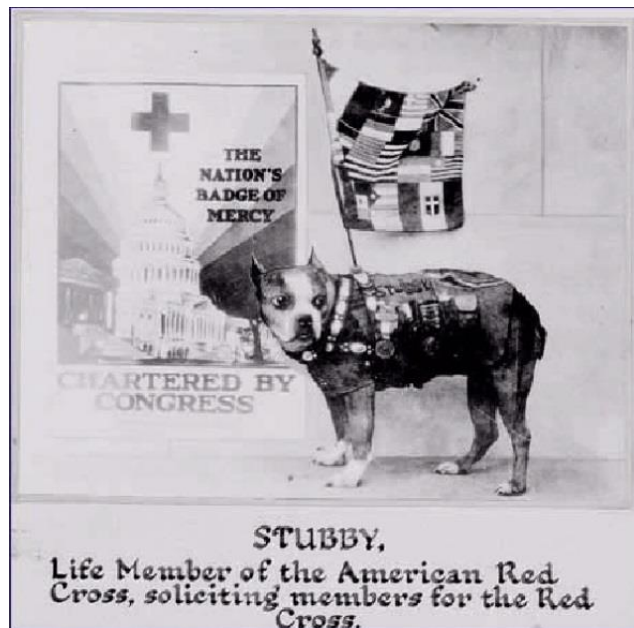


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Stubby was made a life member of the American Legion, the Red Cross, and the YMCA. In 1921, the Humane Education Society awarded him a special gold medal for service to his country. It was presented by General John Pershing.

In 1926, Stubby died in Conroy's arms. His remains are featured in The Price of Freedom: Americans at War exhibit at the Smithsonian. Stubby was honored with a brick in the Walk of Honor at the United States World War I monument, Liberty Memorial, in Kansas City at a ceremony held on Armistice Day, November 11, 2006.





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## Camp Toccoa 70<sup>th</sup> 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](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 517<sup>th</sup> 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**



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

## This Week in 517<sup>th</sup> History

May 8, 1945

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times.

Copyright, 1945, by The New York Times Company.

**LATE CITY EDITION**  
Cloudy with showers today. Partly  
cloudy and cooler tomorrow.  
 Temperature Tuesday—Max., 64; Min., 47  
 Weather today, 5:30 A. M.: Breeze, 1:15 P. M.

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VOL. XCIV..No. 31,881.
NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1945.
THREE CENTS IN NEW YORK CITY

## THE WAR IN EUROPE IS ENDED! SURRENDER IS UNCONDITIONAL; V-E WILL BE PROCLAIMED TODAY; OUR TROOPS ON OKINAWA GAIN

**ISLAND-WIDE DRIVE**  
Marines Reach Village a  
Mile From Naha and  
Army Lines Advance

**7 MORE SHIPS SUNK**  
Search Planes Again Hit  
Japan's Life Line—  
Kyushu Bombed

By WARREN MOSCOW

**The Pulitzer Awards  
For 1944 Announced**

The Pulitzer Prize awards an-  
nounced yesterday by the trust-  
ees of Columbia University in-  
cluded: For a distinguished novel,  
to "A Bell for Adano," by John  
Hersey; for an original Ameri-  
can play of the current season,  
to "Harvey," by Mary Chase.  
Among the newspaper awards  
were those to Hal Boyle, Asso-  
ciated Press war reporter, for  
distinguished correspondence; to  
James H. Heston of THE NEW  
YORK TIMES for his reporting of  
the Dumbarton Oaks Security  
Conference; to Joe Rosenthal,  
Associated Press photographer,  
for his photograph of marines  
raising the American flag at Iwo  
and to The Detroit Free Press  
for "distinguished and meritori-  
ous public service" in its investi-

**GERMANY SURRENDERS: NEW YORKERS MASSES UNDER SYMBOL OF LIBERTY**



**GERMANS CAPITULATE ON ALL FRONTS**  
American, Russian and French Generals  
Accept Surrender in Eisenhower  
Headquarters, a Reims School

**REICH CHIEF OF STAFF ASKS FOR MERCY**  
Doenitz Orders All Military Forces of Germany  
To Drop Arms—Troops in Norway Give Up  
—Churchill and Truman on Radio Today

## 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