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MailCall No. 2159

May 19, 2013

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

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Victory in Europe Day



Dear friends,

We had a special thought for all of you during the ceremonies on MAY 8th. The children from the schools attended the ceremony.

Our Love and Respect to you.

Irma and Arnold Targnion

[from Trois Ponts, Belgium]

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Hi Bob,

Thanks for the NY Times front page from May 8, 1945. I thought some might be interested in this scan of the front page of a Paris newspaper "Front National" from May 9, 1945 which my dad brought home.

All the best,

Mike Kane, Jr.





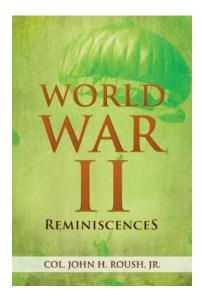
MailCall News

Dear Bob,

Your people would be interested in the book "World War II Reminiscences". details are shown in <u>www.ColRoush.com</u>. also on <u>www.coljroush.com</u>.

Thank you, John Roush

[Note: This is the book that includes a story by Bill Brannan of A Company. – BB]



World War II Reminiscences by Col. John H. Roush, Jr.

Col. John H. Roush, Jr., a man who has been in combat in WWII and served in various branches of the Army, pens a collection of stories about the horrors of war in his new publication, *World War II Reminiscences*.

This volume presents a dramatic collection of significant combat experiences of over a hundred men in WWII, as told from one combat veteran to another. In the 91 chapters are stories involving all the various branches of combat service and all of the various theaters of war.

Within reminiscences, veterans of dangerous encounters are much more apt to open up with details in discussions with men who have also experienced combat. Many

find it emotionally distressing to talk of the war with the general public or to recall the horrors of warfare.

It has been said that war has become and continues to be an intractable social phenomenon. While some say its elimination is necessary to the survival of mankind, we do not seem to have approached closer to that elimination in the sixty-seven years since WWII ended.

Encounters of warfare remain a stark reality within the present era. That being so, perhaps we should read of what happened as recalled in the most vivid memories of men involved in the most overpowering conflict of modern warfare. Within the book many have opened up.

Paperback: http://www.amazon.com/World-Reminiscences-Col-John-Roush/dp/1479739952

Kindle (only \$3.99): <u>http://www.amazon.com/World-War-II-Reminiscences-</u> ebook/dp/B00C86X524/ref=sr 1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1368549446&sr=1-1



Hi Lory,

We all enjoyed the movie and the experience. It was more enjoyable on the big screen and I paid more attention to it than the first time in KC (or was it Atlanta?) - as Claire said probably a bit tired (h-over) at that time. The response from others in the theater was all positive and a Lady paratrooper veteran commended Ryan and Adam on how were they able to capture the emotions and feelings inherent in a trooper's mindset.

My best friend Larry, 101st airborne veteran - who saw his own turmoil and drama in Vietnam, said it was powerful and invoked a lot of emotion in him that he did not anticipate. My daughter-in-law Helen was very appreciative in that she got a lot better insight to what Pop had done during the war over and above just seeing his pictures and mementos that I have at the house. My son Eric and my colleague Chris (work with him for the Navy) also enjoyed the experience very much.

I did not know till that morning that Allan and Claire were coming down so that made the day of course even livelier. After the flick, Allan provided a brief insight into the 517th's history and his take on why he became a trooper. Allan held court with Ryan/Adam and was greeted/thanked by the patrons for his service. Larry, who was influenced by Pop in becoming a trooper, especially enjoyed chatting with Allan whom he first met at one of the initial Dragoon celebrations here in DC.

A very fulfilling event indeed!

Would love to come to Toccoa later this month....but a lot of other stuff going on - will see.

Cheers and Airborne!

Tom Copsey



Photos from Earl Boone, F Company

Perhads (?), Varner, Banks, Valuke (?), Milojevich, Kinder, Boone, Stanley, Addelman, Newland at the Can Can Club Nice 1944

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More photos from Earl Boone, F Company:



Machi, Peacock, Zalik, Hill, Shaw, Fedal, Hanson, Holderman, Jop, Penrtol (?), Mounce



Sowell, Hill, Holderman, Boone -Lille, France May 3,1945





Lt. Giuchici, Joe, McCollum

Capt. McKinley (See Lt. McKinley's Letter to Mom's on page 11-12)

See more of Earl's photos at: http://517prct.org/photos/earl_boone/earl_boone.htm

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Hello everyone,

If you remember a movie was made about my Dad and his WWII unit the 517th. **Jasen Wade** played my Dad in the movie. He is now trying to be selected as the host of Wild Kingdom. Please read his email and vote for him. We all hope he gets the job.



Lory

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

Hello everyone,

I am not in the habit of sending out mass emails, so I hope you will forgive me for this rare moment. There is an amazing opportunity that is happening for me and I would love for you all to get involved. Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom is looking for a new Wild Guide. They launched a competition last month that I entered, and just this week I found out that I made it to the top 12!!!

The next step is a public voting that will help select the top 3. This is where I need your help. I don't have a strong Facebook or Twitter presence, and most of these contestants do. I am going to heavily rely on the social networks of those who choose to help me. There are several ways you can help:

1. follow this link and vote for me. http://www.wildkingdom.com/nextwildguide

For some reason my video doesn't have my name on it, but I am the guy in the blue shirt and red hat. Watch the video and hit the VOTE button on the bottom left corner of the screen. I think you can vote once a day, for those who want to go above and beyond.

2. Join the conversation on the Wild Kingdom website and mention me as a good choice. You can also follow my video to YouTube and like the video and leave a message there as well.

2. jump on facebook and find my fanpage JASEN WADE. Like the page and help me build a stronger presence in the social scene.



Thank you all for considering the donation of your time and kindness!!

Wish me LUCK!!!! --Jasen

From: Lory Curtis To: Jasen Wade

so you are saying I can vote more than once???

You can vote once a day until May 27th. Any help you can bring me would be amazing!!!

Thanks Lory!

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RE: 460th Abn FA photo (use of **Joe Richardson**'s photo with the 460th patch)

Thank you so much for getting me permission to use the image. The attribution will not be a problem. We haven't settled on a printer yet, right now we're just focusing on putting the book together. I'm hoping we'll be done this year. Once it's done I can add him to our contact list.

As far as the 517th PRCT's insignia goes, your site has actually been one of our best sources of information. For this book we have been trying to include documented patches and ovals as much as possible to tell the story. We're hoping to add one of the Nice, France made 517th pocket patches, as a collector friend of mine has one. For two of the examples you show we believe we have narrowed

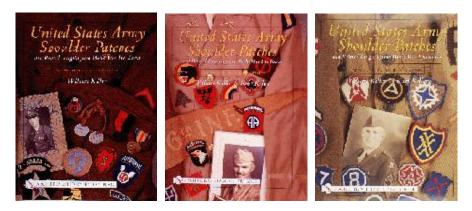


down who made them. Boots- (Les Hughes, has written in ASMIC's Trading post quite extensively) and Patch King. Some of the others out there are outright fakes. I do not know when or where the "Airborne" tabbed version came from. Even the post war Boots types are hard to come by so our ability to examine these up close has been very limited.

We've seen one other instance of the 460th patches being worn in Italy in some street side snapshots but the quality of the images was quite poor. I have yet to see any photos showing the 517th patch being worn. We have seen a few oval pictures besides the ones on your site in fact we have a very nice identified theater made oval portrait and a photo of the original shirt the soldier was wearing. Your site confirmed for us the 596's use of an oval as we have an unattributed example of one of their ovals. Right this minute we do not have all the 517th's information assembled. If you are interested, I can let you know when the book is finished.

Best regards, Bill

Info on Bill Keller's books: http://www.schifferbooks.com/newschiffer/book_template.php?isbn=0764313940



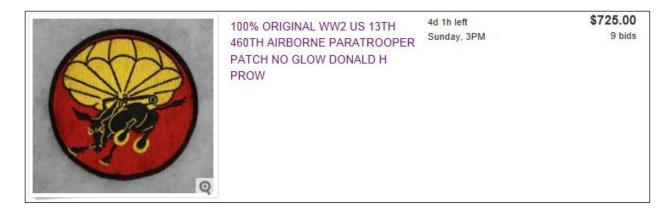
Book Description

Beginning in the Civil War, the U.S. Army sought to find an effective system to distinguish troops from different units. In the closing days of World War I, it finally arrived at a practical and desirable solution with the adoption of the shoulder patch or shoulder sleeve insignia. For more than eighty years, this often simple device, has been the source of pride and inspiration for servicemen everywhere. This all new collection (the third in a multi-volume set), with a gallery of more than 600 color and sepia toned illustrations of original insignia and period photographs, documents the evolution of these special insignia. From the period beginning with World War I to the Korean War era, you won't find a more indispensable guide for the study and collection of U.S. Army shoulder patches. Collectors will especially enjoy the handy reference section for determining whether a patch was made by an ally, or a former foe. With special emphasis on theater made patches, these volumes are sure to be a collector's paradise. Without a doubt, this series is the finest and most complete effort to date on the subject.

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Speaking of patches, I just ran across this on eBay:



This is being advertised as "AN 100% ORIGINAL WW2 US ARMY PATCH", previously owned by **Donald H. Prown**. It is a large size, like **Joe Richardson**'s but it appears to be very machine-made. – BB

Wait... Check out the price on this one:



Hi again Bob,

Believe it or not both of these are originals. Luckily "Boots" never made a patch for the 460th. The fakes I've seen for this unit are usually just horrible. Unlike the 517th other Airborne units' first/original insignia (506th, 507th, 508th, etc.) was US made and available fairly early on in their existence. I don't know if the 460th ever had any theater made though it is possible. Both of the ones on eBay are overpriced (in my opinion) but then again most Airborne insignia is these days.

Hope this helps,

Bill Keller



Bob,

Last week I received a letter from **Harold "Sug" Lawrence**. Sug was in HQ, 1st BN with my Dad and I have had the pleasure to speak with him on the phone a few times. One time I got my Dad and Sug on the phone together and if you could have heard all of the reminiscing they were doing, it sounded like ole home week. Dad and Sug were close friends during the war. Anyway, Sug sent this letter about what he read in the Thunderbolt, and I wanted to relay the information. Also, if you want the Thunderbolt just let me know through mailcall. I have a few extra copies I can send out if you missed out on the last mailing.

Lory Curtis

Here is Sug's letter:

May 4, 2013

"It was with sadness that I read **Zoot Snyder**'s letter about the passing of **Marvin Tetrick**. Marvin was one of the nicest men you would ever meet. Marvin was a machine gunner in 1st BN from start to finish.

He never missed a day of combat and didn't suffer a single scratch. After the war he returned home to his wife and child. They were married while he was on furlough after we completed jump school at Fort Benning, GA.

I live in Spring Texas and at 91 years old I am still working. My health is pretty good. I have always been very proud to be a 1st Bn 517th Paratrooper.

Sug Lawrence

Bob,

I had no idea...until I read Mail call #2156 (I think) about your daughter (Brianne), her co-workers, fiancé, and others who were "in the line of fire" at the Boston Marathon. I agree with all of the emotions you mentioned, after you wrote such a griping account of what transpired that day...from the Red Sox game through your daughters staying with you for a few days. Believe me...if it were my daughters, I'd be just as ANGRY (if not more) and want to "take care of" whoever is responsible for this act of terrorism...PERSONALLY.

Just sorry I haven't been opening Mail Calls sooner. Have to adjust my schedules so I have more computer time.

You are ALL in my thoughts and prayers...

Kent Immerall



A Final Toast for the Doolittle Raiders

Sent in by Nila Gott:



Editor's note: CNN Contributor Bob Greene is a bestselling author whose 25 books include "Late Edition: A Love Story"; "Duty: A Father, His Son, and the Man Who Won the War"; and "Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen."

(CNN) - It's the cup of brandy no one wants to drink.

On Tuesday, in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, the surviving Doolittle Raiders gathered publicly for the last time.

They once were among the most universally admired and revered men in the United States. There were 80 of the Raiders in April 1942, when they carried out one of the most courageous and heart-stirring military operations in this nation's history. The mere mention of their unit's name, in those years, would bring tears to the eyes of grateful Americans.

Now only four survive.

After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, with the United States reeling and wounded, something dramatic was needed to turn the war effort around. Even though there were no friendly airfields close enough to Japan for the United States to launch a retaliation, a daring plan was devised. Sixteen B-25s were modified so that they could take off from the deck of an aircraft carrier. This had never been tried before -- sending big, heavy bombers from a carrier.

The 16 five-man crews, under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, who himself flew the lead plane off the USS Hornet, knew that they would not be able to return to the carrier. They would have to hit Japan and then hope to make it to China for a safe landing.

But on the day of the raid, the Japanese navy caught sight of the carrier. The Raiders were told that they would have to take off from much farther out in the Pacific than they had counted on. They were told that because of this they would not have enough fuel to make it to safety.

And those men went anyway.

They bombed Tokyo, and then flew as far as they could. Four planes crash-landed; 11 more crews bailed out, and three of the Raiders died. Eight more were captured; three were executed. Another died of starvation in a Japanese prison camp. One crew made it to Russia.

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The Doolittle Raid sent a message from the United States to its enemies, and to the rest of the world:

We will fight. And, no matter what it takes, we will win.

Of the 80 Raiders, 62 survived the war. They were celebrated as national heroes, models of bravery. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a motion picture based on the raid; "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," starring Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson, was a patriotic and emotional box-office hit, and the phrase became part of the national lexicon. In the movie-theater previews for the film, MGM proclaimed that it was presenting the story "with supreme pride."

Beginning in 1946, the surviving Raiders have held a reunion each April, to commemorate the mission. The reunion is in a different city each year. In 1959, the city of Tucson, Arizona, as a gesture of respect and gratitude, presented the Doolittle Raiders with a set of 80 silver goblets. Each goblet was engraved with the name of a Raider.

Every year, a wooden display case bearing all 80 goblets is transported to the reunion city. Each time a Raider passes away, his goblet is turned upside down in the case at the next reunion, as his old friends bear solemn witness.

Also in the wooden case is a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Very Special cognac. The year is not happenstance: 1896 was when Jimmy Doolittle was born.

There has always been a plan: When there are only two surviving Raiders, they would open the bottle, at last drink from it, and toast their comrades who preceded them in death.

As 2013 began, there were five living Raiders; then, in February, Tom Griffin passed away at age 96.

What a man he was. After bailing out of his plane over a mountainous Chinese forest after the Tokyo raid, he became ill with malaria, and almost died. When he recovered, he was sent to Europe to fly more combat missions. He was shot down, captured, and spent 22 months in a German prisoner of war camp.

The selflessness of these men ... there was a passage in the Cincinnati Enquirer obituary for Mr. Griffin that, on the surface, had nothing to do with the war, but that captures the depth of his sense of duty and devotion:

"When his wife became ill and needed to go into a nursing home, he visited her every day. He walked from his house to the nursing home, fed his wife and at the end of the day brought home her clothes. At night, he washed and ironed her clothes. Then he walked them up to her room the next morning. He did that for three years until her death in 2005."

So now, out of the original 80, only four Raiders remain: Dick Cole (Doolittle's co-pilot on the Tokyo raid), Robert Hite, Edward Saylor and David Thatcher. All are in their 90s. They have decided that there are too few of them for the public reunions to continue.

The events in Fort Walton Beach this week will mark the end. It has come full circle; Florida's nearby Eglin Field was where the Raiders trained in secrecy for the Tokyo mission.

The town is planning to do all it can to honor the men: a six-day celebration of their valor, including luncheons, a dinner and a parade.

Do the men ever wonder if those of us for whom they helped save the country have tended to it in a way that is worthy of their sacrifice? They don't talk about that, at least not around other people. But if you find yourself near Fort Walton Beach this week, and if you should encounter any of the Raiders, you might want to offer them a word of thanks. I can tell you from firsthand observation that they appreciate hearing that they are remembered.

The men have decided that after this final public reunion they will wait until a later date -- some time this year -- to get together once more, informally and in absolute privacy. That is when they will open the bottle of brandy. The years are flowing by too swiftly now; they are not going to wait until there are only two of them.

They will fill the four remaining upturned goblets.

And raise them in a toast to those who are gone.



Lt. Col. James Doolittle leans over a bomb on the USS Hornet deck just before his "Raiders" began the bombing raid on Tokyo.

This Week in 517th History

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.

(See Lt. McKinley's picture on Page 5.)



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

Dear Mr. Curtis:

Your son has been assigned to this ompany, 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 thefact 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 theservice 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 relaxtion 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 handpicked by the Regimental Commander who is a shrewd observer of leaders.ip. 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 worlds finest fighting man.

Sincerely,

1st. Lt. 517th Frent. Inf Commanding.



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.

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. 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

Administrivia

- If you miss any MailCalls, they are all available online at <u>http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/</u>
- 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: <u>MailCall@517prct.org</u>
- 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