



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2174

August 25, 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 (Spring 2013)

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

MailCall News

Hello friends,

I drove **Earl and Veva Boone** up to Payson, AZ today to see **Jack and Jean Sowell**. Some amazing and funny stories were told and pictures were shared. All are doing well. Attached is a picture I took today of Earl and Jack. Feel free to forward this picture to anyone who may be interested. Take care. Regards,

Jim Kraus



<---
Boone and Sowell
2013

---->
Sowell and Boone
F Company
Lille, France, 1945





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I spoke with **Gene Frice** today and he has informed me the Palm Springs Mini Reunion will be held the week of March 10-14. I am sure much more will be sent in future months from the Frice clan as to the hotel and itinerary for the reunion, but he want me to let everyone know the dates so you can start planning now.

Lory Curtis

I'm in the process of writing about my war days. It will be several pages. Who am I to send them to? I have been interviewed about three times; I'm just now getting around to putting it on paper.

Mel Trenary

Bob, I received a letter from the daughter of **Norman "Rawhide" Allen**, Tammie Allen. She wrote this note and sent the obituary of her father who passed away on May 18, 2013.

Lory Curtis

Dearest Thunderbolt and Patriots,

I'm sending this information along to you, with deepest regrets as to our father's passing. Please use what you will to be published in your next Thunderbolt. If there ever was a great man, loved and respected by 1,000's of people of all ages, it would have been, and is our father, Norm Allen "Rawhide."

Personally, I've been having a real struggle with grieving my loss of my Dad. Being the only daughter I looked out for my Dad and he looked out for his daughter. My brothers and I will maintain our father's dream of owning his own ranch, the N Bar A, Allen Ranch on the Blue Slide, cows, tree farm and hay.

If you could get your hands on any war duty information, my brothers and I would truly appreciate it as our Dad did not discuss that much of this part of his life experiences with us.

Send any correspondence to:

Tammie Allen
1325 Blue Slide
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

We would like to continue to receive the Thunderbolt if possible to the address you have for Norman Allen.

Thank you for all you do for these heroes.

Tammie Allen, Shawn Allen, Mike Allen

[PFC Norman Allen was with Regimental HQ Co, 517th.]

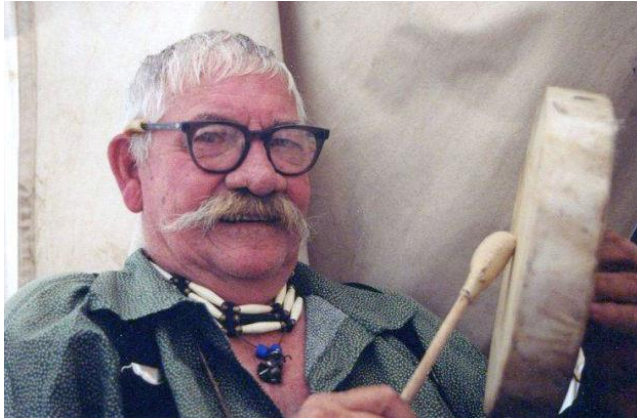


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Missoulian

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June 04, 2013 12:00 am



THOMPSON FALLS – **Norman Edgar Allen**, of Thompson Falls, went to the great rendezvous in the sky Saturday, May 18, 2013. He was 88.

Mr. Allen was born Dec. 7, 1924, in Pine Ridge, S.D., the eldest of three sons. He attended Pine Ridge schools before spending his final two high school years in Chadron, Neb. As a teen he was active in football, boxing, basketball, track and rodeo.

Upon graduation in 1943, Norm enlisted in the U.S. Army and volunteered for the new parachute infantry. He made the elite 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, which operated

independently, with the 82nd Airborne Division and later, as part of the 13th Airborne.

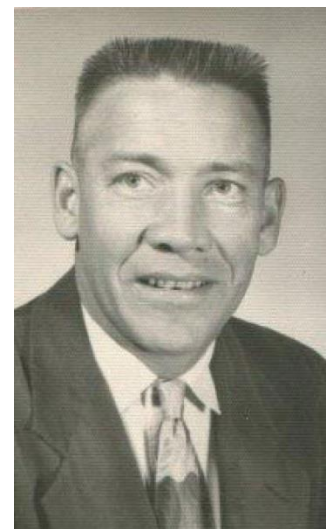
Allen specialized in reconnaissance and demolitions. As a pathfinder and scout, he was among the first to be dropped, and spent a lot of time up front. "I think I crawled halfway through Italy and halfway to Berlin." The only time he rode a tank was during the attack that recaptured the Belgian crossroads town of St. Vith in January 1945, Battle of the Bulge.

Records indicate that during 15 months of overseas service, Cpl. Allen participated in a beach landing and three airborne assaults. He was attached to an intelligence unit where he performed reconnaissance patrols, collected enemy information and road maps, made sketches, routed out patrols and assisted in questioning enemy prisoners. Allen returned home in late 1945 after action in five major campaigns with the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Fresh out of the service, Norm's application to the U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers in Missoula was accepted. His first jump was in 1946 near the Nine Mile Ranger Station. In 1954, he broke his back after landing in a 100-foot tree; recovery took two years. With the Army plus 10 smokejumper years, he made 76 jumps. "I enjoyed doing it." However, "I was sick anytime I got in an airplane."

Mixing college with smokejumping, gold mining and rodeo bronc riding, in 1951 he graduated from Black Hills Teachers College in Spearfish, S.D. He married Fay Bentz on Aug. 15, 1954. They were teachers in Rapeljae and Arlee before moving in 1957 to a ranch he named the N Bar A on the Blue Slide overlooking the Clark Fork River, 12 miles west of Thompson Falls. Norm later discovered the Koo Koo Sint Trail, used by tribes and explorers, crossed the property.

He and Fay raised a family, Michael, Tammie, Shawn and Patrick, and were supportive of their children's school and athletic activities. Norm taught junior high social studies, where he was praised as a teacher and disciplinarian. In 1961, he took a fire control job with the U.S. Forest Service. For a generation of students, Norm was the local Smokey Bear expert. He retired in 1980.





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Norm was an all-around outdoorsman and land conservationist. Guiding hunters, he led strings of 25 packhorses into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. On his ranch, Norm raised a mountain-friendly appaloosa quarterhorse cross, along with trees and hay. In 1976, he went to Missoula on a mission to buy a suit, and came home with a muzzleloader rifle instead. He began hunting only with black powder and still bagged big game.

During the mid-1970s, Norm focused on his memory of doing rawhide braidwork with his Oglala Lakota grandmother. He began duplicating Plains Indian artifacts, and developed a rawhide tanning method. One thing led to another, and Norm became a Mountain Man with the rendezvous handle of "Rawhide." The items he produced are highly prized. Rawhide participated in school and special events throughout the U.S.

For the Blue Slide, Norm was an honest, dependable neighbor. For his town, he was school board chairman who helped ramrod construction of the campus opened in 1973. For friends and random visitors, he was a source of black coffee, conversation – "come on in for a cup and we'll swap some lies" – and a good game of cribbage.

Mr. Allen was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar P. and Iris (LaFurge); brother, Max; son, Patrick; Fay Allen; and 13-year companion, Lee Bristor.

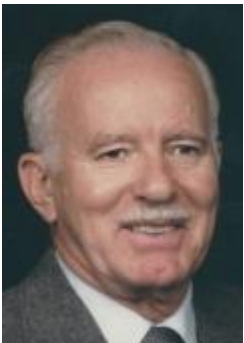
Survivors include his brother, Chuck (Dottie) Allen and sister-in-law Yvonne Allen; daughter, Tammie; sons, Mike (Penny) and Shawn; five grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

He was a member of the Masonic North American Order of the Beaver, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the Thompson Falls Elks Lodge.

A celebration of life service will start at noon Saturday, June 8, at the Allen Ranch, 1379 Blue Slide Road. Following the hillside ceremony, a potluck will take place around the ranch house. Bring side dishes, dessert and your own beverages.

In lieu of flowers, consider donations to the Thompson Falls Public Library District, P.O. Box 337, Thompson Falls, MT 59873

It is with much regret that myself and my brothers Jim and Steve bring you news of our Father's passing.



James "Red" Eberle passed February 22, 2013 barely five months after losing his soul mate and wife of 69 years. He had been in poor health for the past several years but with strong will he held on to care for our Mother. In 1942, Jim joined the United States Army, entering the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team. He began his initial training at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and then advanced parachute training at Camp Toccoa, Georgia. He served in the European Theatre in World War II and made his first jump behind enemy lines at Normandy Beach, then on through France, Belgium, Germany, Holland and Italy; where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded in battle in the French Maritime Alps. During the last three months of his service, he was assigned as one of General Eisenhower's personal guards travelling with him on his personal train. Jim was awarded a Purple Heart, five Bronze Stars, two Silver Stars and the French & Belgian Croix de Guerre. If there are any soldiers out there who served with Red, his family would love to hear from them.

We can be reached via email: billjeni@tampabay.rr.com or phone Jenny Eberle Mourning @ 727-744-6606.



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Bob, update info from **Gene Frice**. – Lory Curtis

Thanks for the note. I have not been in touch for months for a variety of reasons, personal, business, health, and real estate (new home), I only made it with the able help of my caring daughters Laurie, Karen and Robin (Son's Mark and Gene). Back surgery beat me up for months. Just got rid of my cane several weeks ago. Do you think some 400 parachute jumps, climbing mountains as a ski patrolman, or 14' breakers as a beach life guard had anything to do with the problem? Nah, just old age. Doing much better now.

France (70th) We will plan for PSP, March 2014. Many I have talked to feel that France and maybe Belgium are likely in 2014. I would like to see New Orleans planned as well, however I think 2 or 3 in such a short time period might difficult.

Gene

Subject: Pete Jansson Question

Pete expressed an desire to attend a 517 Reunion. We have 2 Mini Reunions each year that are well attended. See below:

East coast Reunion is held in Orlando, Florida in January
West coast Reunion is held in Palm Springs, CA in March

Both of these reunions are published in Mail Call and in the Thunderbolt with details prior to them taking place.

There is some talk about having a National Reunion in New Orleans in June of 2014 but nothing is set in stone at the present time.

Hope to see you at one of the Minis.

Darrell Egner

Just wanting to respond to the question of “what do people think of another reunion”. Scott, Dorothy and I are all for it and will plan to be in NOLA on those dates. Thanks so much for getting the word out early. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Cheers

Deana Ross



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Ben Barrett,

I would like to be added to the email based mailing list. I am the daughter of **Cpl. James "Red" Eberle** who recently passed. My email is billjeni@tampabay.rr.com.

Thank you,

Jenny Eberle Mourning

Mr. Barrett,

Attached is a bio for **Gordon Lippman**. Could this bio be added to the website instead of the one from [sdvietnamwarmemorial](http://sdvietnamwarmemorial.com)?

We will put some pictures together and send them later.

Thank you again for your help.

Lynnette Myhre
Marlys Buchenau

Gordon Lippmann's biography has been added to the website's bio page:
<http://517prct.org/bios.htm>

- BB

Please have someone from the Tampa, Bradenton Florida area contact **Mildred Christie** at 941-749-0870 concerning Thunderbolt memorabilia, certificates, etc. from France as soon as possible. Husband **Bob Christie** is at Emeritus Nursing Home in Bradenton in Memory Care.

Mildred is closing their house and is moving to Assisted Living. Thank you.

Robert Masters

Just for Laughs

A quote currently making the circuit in the business world:

"Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect." — Benny Hill





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More from: 69th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon Events in France



Flag from left to right: 551st PIB, 517th PIR & 550th GIB at the Rhone American Cemetery of Draguignan. August 16, 1944.
Picture taken by Paul Costin

An impromptu picnic at Chateau St. Rosaline.. — at 69^{ème} Anniversaire du Débarquement de Provence.

Claire Giblin



At les Arcs August the 15th

The 2 good Buddies **Alan & Leo**, but missing the "nurse". Where is she ?



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From : [First Airborne Task Force ; The Forgotten Front](#)



1st come back since the end of war. **S/Sgt. Hoyt Kelley**, S-3 1st Battalion 517th PIR. Was with the **Col. Bill Boyle** during the attack of Les Arcs, during 3 days of battle.



M/Sgt. Leo Dean, RHQ/517th PIR, this year in Southern France. A awesome man !!



517th **Don Fraser's** CP near Ridge X (Col de Braus), September 1944. At the right **Milton "Chopper" Kienlen** - A/517



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This is a picture of a static jump which was done in Le Muy on August 13, as part of the Operation Dragoon celebrations. It was organized by Stephane Hadjadje, and included our friends from the WW2 ADT from Oklahoma.

“23 jumpers were of the french reenactment group ABC (AirBorne-Command), 9 were ADT (Airborne Demonstration Team), 1 was an italian Folgore, and 4 were 319th Pfab-173rd AB (active)... thanks to all”

-- Stephane Hadjadje



Video of the WW2 ADT at the Le Muy DZ, with veterans including Leo and Allan. Can you hear Claire?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ne2VmX-ZhM>



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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

Operation Dragoon Anniversary – August 15, 1944

This month, on August 15, is the 69th anniversary of Operation Dragoon. It is a good time of year to remember to pay your annual membership donation (only if you can afford it). Suggested donation: \$30

Enclosed is my annual donation contribution towards the 517 PRCT Association.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Yes, I would like to receive the Thunderbolt magazine sent to my address above

No, I do not need the Thunderbolt mailed to me, I can just read it online

Make checks payable to: **517 PRCT Association, Inc.**

c/o Joanne Barrett
 70 Pleasant Street
 Cohasset, MA 02025