



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2181

October 13, 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

Camp Toccoa Video and News

Were you at Camp Toccoa? Watch this by the WWII Foundation



<http://camptoccoaatcurrahee.org/>

The prestigious WWII Foundation, production company for some of the top award winning WWII documentaries, has produced a fundraising 6 minute video for Camp Toccoa at Currahee. Tim Gray, Chairman of The World War II Foundation, is overseeing the production and says that he is very excited to be involved in the project.

THE MISSION OF CAMP TOCCOA AT CURRAHEE:

- PRESERVE** the legacy of leadership of the four regiments originated at Camp Toccoa during World War II
- CELEBRATE** the lives and contributions of the "Toccoa men"
- HONOR** all veterans and active duty military
- EDUCATE** youth about character, duty and personal responsibility
- PROMOTE** health and well-being by sponsoring athletic and camping activities
- PROTECT** the historic Camp Toccoa site and its natural environment
- CONSTRUCT** facilities for public education, recreation, and remembrance - see our master plan





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

This past weekend we celebrated Currahee Military Weekend with veterans and friends downtown, the museum, the airport, our schools, the Schaefer Center and Camp Toccoa at Currahee!! Saturday night was a night of reminiscing, laughs, telling stories and making history with new stories. While we shared a meal with Camp Toccoa men, our friends and families at the camp site under the stars (and a tent) it was a magical night. A warm thank you to all that helped to make this plan a reality. Special thanks to Tim Gray, Jim Karpeichik and Tom Colones for their collaboration of their talents with telling the story of the Camp Toccoa at Currahee Project, great job!!!! Please watch the film and share with friends and family.

<http://camptoccoaatcurrahee.org/>



[Camp Toccoa at Currahee](http://CampToccoaAtCurrahee.org)
camptoccoaatcurrahee.org

Brenda J Carlan

Taps

DeWitt Talmadge Huckabee, Jr.

460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, Battery C

(January 14, 1925 - August 29, 2013)

U.S. Veteran

Funeral services to celebrate the life of DeWitt Talmadge Huckabee, Jr., 88, of Camden, SC will be held at 4:00 PM, Saturday, August 31, 2013 at Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church in Camden. Rev. Steve Patterson will officiate. Burial will follow in Forest Lawn Memorial Park. Memorials may be made in his memory to Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, 1206 Lyttleton Street, Camden, SC 29020 or a charity of one's choice.

DeWitt Talmadge Huckabee, Jr., died Thursday, August 29, 2013. He was born in Rock Hill, SC, the son of the late DeWitt Talmadge and Inez Hudson Huckabee. Mr. Huckabee was the widower of the late Mary Helen Simpson Huckabee. He was a member of Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church, was twice president of the Wimberly Class, was active in the Activity Club and volunteered in many capacities in the church. Mr. Huckabee was retired from DuPont after 35 years and was a US Army WWII paratrooper serving as part of the 82nd Airborne Division and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Golden K. He was a life member of the VFW and the James Leroy Belk Post 17 of the American Legion.

Mr. Huckabee is survived by his two daughters, Carolyn Huckabee Horton and her husband Mike Horton, and Beth Huckabee Kelly and her husband Steve Kelly Jr., all of Camden; grandchildren, Stephen Kelly III (Kimberly), Michael Horton, Jr. (Betsy), Travis Kelly (Paulette), Sarah Stephens (Rob), Lindsey Mitcham (Nathan) and Tal Horton; great-grandchildren, Stephen Kelly IV, William Horton and Anna Horton; his second wife, Jane Huckabee.

Besides his parents and first wife, Mr. Huckabee was predeceased by a sister, Helen Bethea.



Taps



Robert Roy Cooper

D Company, 517th PRCT

June 2, 1919 - September 24, 2013

Indianapolis, Indiana | Age 94

Robert Roy Cooper, 94, of Indianapolis, passed away on Tuesday, September 24, 2013. He was born on June 2, 1919 in Indianapolis to Ernest W. and Eunice Clara (Shore) Cooper. Robert retired from the Indianapolis Fire Department in 1980 after 40 years of service, serving most recently as the Chief of Communications. He was a proud WWII veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the Battle of the

Bulge in the 517th Paratrooper Infantry.

Robert is a Past President of the Indiana Chapter (47) Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, a lifetime member of both the American Legion Post 500 and the VFW Post 98. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite, Murat Shrine and was a 32nd Degree Mason. Robert also enjoyed photography, playing the organ and attending Colts games at the new Lucas Oil Stadium.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Maxine (Hansbrough) Cooper; daughters, Pam (Bob) Christman, Pam (Jerry) Scott and Stephanie Finchum; grandchildren, Greg, Lisa (Dan), Paige, Jon (Jennie), Michelle (Bobby), Pat (Amanda), April (Tom), Rocky; and 8 great-grandchildren. Robert is also survived by nieces, Kathy Jo (Larry), Becky (Dale), Judy (Harry); sister-in-law, Jean Hansbrough and his loving cat, Sandy. He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Jack Chuck and Gene Cooper.

Funeral services for Mr. Cooper will be held at Flanner and Buchanan-Speedway on Saturday, September 28, 2013 at 10am. Visitation will be Friday evening from 4 until 8pm, also at the funeral home. Entombment will be in Washington Park North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

You are invited to go to the Guest Book page to pass along your personal message or tell a story.

<http://flannerbuchanan.tributes.com/obituary/read/Robert-Roy-Cooper-96435649>



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MailCall News

This is **John Krumm** in Stockholm, Wisconsin. I am wondering if you might be able to add Claudy Winant to the 517th Mail Call recipients. Claudy resides in Belgium and was a host for **Edie and Gene Brissey** as well as for my wife, Irene, and myself when we were there a few years ago. He is very interested in World War II history and is very knowledgeable about it. One of his friends has an absolutely astounding collection of World War II memorabilia. It is probably better than what is in many small museums. Claudy's email address is *****. I know he would really appreciate receiving the Mail Calls. I have been forwarding the most recent ones to him, and he has been very grateful. Thanks for anything you can do on this to include Claudy.

Hello Mr. Barrett and Dear John,

I thank you Dear John for introducing me by the 517TH P.I.R. and to you Mr. Barrett for accepting me. I'm really looking each time after your last published newsletter. Several years ago, I was also in touch a few years ago with Colonel William Boyle and as John wrote, with his friend Eugene Brissey from New Mexico. It's a pity that these soldiers left us, but that's life ! They were our hero's in the Ardennes (St-Vith and Bergstein). And helped the Belgian people to free from the German tyranny. Thank to all these men (veterans) from all the Belgian people who didn't forgot them.

God Bless America and his kind people,

Met vriendelijke groeten, Best Regards,

Claudy.

Hello Claudy,

I know how much the people of Belgium appreciate what these men did, as you say, to help free your people from the tyranny. We have never quite experienced that first-hand in this country, other than the rare and isolated terrorist attacks. I traveled with my father, **Ben Barrett**, to Belgium in 2009 and I witnessed how much evidence of the battles was still visible, how many remembrances were made by the people of Belgium, and how the stories and tributes are passed down from generation to generation. In 2009, we visited the area where Ben fought around Malmedy-Manhay-Stavelot area and made friends with many grateful people.

So we thank you in return.

Regards,

Bob Barrett



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Subject: **Antonio Almeida**

Hello,

I am trying to find pictures or more information on my deceased father-in-law to pass onto my husband as a gift however, I have not found too much information on him. I do know he was part of the 517th Battling Buzzards and his name is **Antonio Almeida**. Any information you could send me would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Lonnie Almeida

Hi Lonnie,

I have searched my records on the 517th website, and have not found much on Antonio Almeida. But here is what I can tell you:

- He was with the **Service Company** of the 517th. His is listed in the 517th Christmas roster of 1944, just before they headed into the Battle of the Bulge. See: <http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>
- I also found him listed on the manifesto of the Madawaska Victory ship, meaning that he was with the 517th until the end, and returned with them aboard that ship on August 20, 1945. See his name on page 41: http://www.517prct.org/documents/madawaska_victory/Madawaska_Victory_August_20_1945.pdf
- On the 517th casualty reports, which are not complete, I see a record that Antonio Almeida had a “non-battle injury” on August 26, 1944: http://517prct.org/records/jun_jul_aug44_svc.jpg
- Lee Johnson, also of the Service Company, has a short bio recounting his travels with the 517th: http://517prct.org/bios/lee_johnson/lee_johnson.htm
- For more general information about the 517th, there are a couple of books and articles recounting the history of the 517th, and the “Battling Buzzards” is available on Amazon.
- A nice overview is the DVD “A Cut Above”, which can be viewed online here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guJE71bIP10>
- You can also look up enlistment records from the NARA, and I see that there are 7 records for “Antonia Almeida”, but I don’t know which is your father-in-law. <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/display-partial-records.jsp?f=3475&mtch=7&q=almeida+antonio&cat=WR26&dt=893&tf=F&bc=,sl,sd>

I will post your message in our next newsletter and see if anyone has a recollection of Antonio.

Bob Barrett



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I saw in the last MailCall the photo of E Company taken in Joigny in, I think, June '45. I have a copy of it, as well as a copy of a photo taken at Camp Toccoa. In the former, there are about 45-50 troopers, in the latter about 150-160. A before and after shot like that needs to be on the wall of every congressional office and all over the Pentagon. It really underscore the seriousness of war and that to survive you need not only to be well trained but lucky, too. Be well, mark

Mark Landreth

[Son of **Roy Landreth**, E Company]

Hi Mark,

I always have the same thought when I see that picture of the E Company survivors. It looks like a lot of men, but then I realized how many were missing. When I searched for **Gene Brissey**, he wasn't there. I went back to his biography and read that he was wounded in the last battle of the 517th in Germany, so he was hospitalized in England and did not make it back to Joigny. These really are the survivors, and every one of them has lost some buddies.

I remember when we had the DC reunion in 2007. I was talking to some of the security team, all ex-military, and they had done some prep research on the 517th. That was the thing that stood out most to them – that of about 2,500 troopers in the 517th, there were 254 killed (10%) and 1,576 purple hearts – a 63% casualty rate!

By the way, I do know that some of the troopers were wounded multiple times. The records are incomplete, but as one example I see that **Clark Archer** of B Company was wounded three times, in three different countries – Italy, France and Germany. Each time he returned to duty.

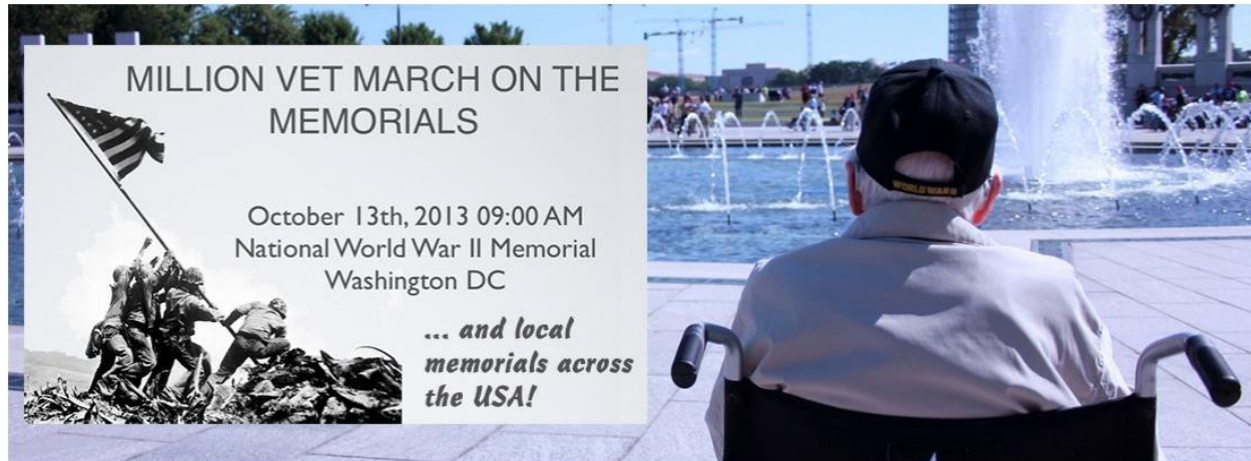
Bob Barrett

Bob - You make lots of good points in your response. I think of guys like **Gene Brissey** who was probably 20-21 when he was wounded and spent, I think, nearly six months in the hospital. For someone that age six months probably seemed like a life time. As to the number of wounded, my dad earned two Purple Hearts. I suspect a majority of the men, especially those in the rifle companies, earned at least one.

Be well, mark



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Join fellow veterans at the war memorials in Washington DC on Sunday October 13th at 9 AM or local marches in your area at 9AM EST/8AM CST/7AM MST/6AM PST. These memorials belong to the American veterans and people! For more information on rallying points, visit <http://1mvetmarch.wordpress.com/rally/>



From:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/AIRBORN-E-MUSEUM-15-Aout-1944-Association/251521034883354>

Draguignan Rhône cemetery, october 2013.

le coeur serré nous sommes venu... nos héros sont derrière les grilles...ce lieu si important à nos yeux est à présent fermé ...

broken hearts arrived this afternoon in front of a gate close.. not able to visit our heroes ...the most important place of southern France close...for how long..? sad sad...



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



BATTLE OF COL DE BRAUS

Chez M. Nicolas Arnulf
2418 chemin de Montagnac
06440 L'Escarène



A l'Escarène,
Le jeudi 30 aout 2013

Objet : Reconstitution sur le terrain en mémoire du 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

PROGRAMME

Samedi 19 octobre 2013 (tenue 517th Dragoon, fin aout début septembre) :

- 09H00 – RDV donné aux participants sur le parking du Col de Braus
- 10H00 – Installation du campement sur le Pas de l'Agree
- 11H00 – 1ere séance photos « reconstitution »
- 12H00 – Repas tous ensemble (lieu à définir)
- 13H00 – Départ du convoi en direction de Touët de l'Escarène
- 13H30 – Les éléments participants à la marche historique sont déposés à la Gare de Touët

Le groupe à pied réalise la marche commémorative sur le thème du 3^{ème} bataillon jusqu'à la Baisse du Pape, remontant par la forêt du farghet (commune de l'Escarène).

Le groupe de véhicule réalisera lui un circuit commémoratif sur l'ensemble de la zone (à définir avec Gilles Gauberti).

- 16H00 – RDV des deux groupes sur la Baisse du Pape
- 2nde séance photo sur le thème de l'assaut de la tête de la Lavina
- 17H00 – Retour au campement
- Repas & nuit passée sur les positions historiques

Dimanche 20 octobre 2013 (tenue 517th automnale) :

- 08H00 – Petit déj' suivi du démontage du camp
- 09H30 – Cérémonie officielle sur la Tête de la Lavina (ou Ventabrun à définir)
- 10H00 – Départ du convoi en direction de Sospel (piste stratégique du pas de l'agree)
- 11H00 – Arrivée au Fort de Mont Agaisen à Sospel, visite du Fort
- 12H00 – Repas tous ensemble devant le Fort
- 14H00 – Retour au Col de Braus, fin du week-end



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Currently for sale on eBay are plenty of signed postcards and items by Melvin Biddle. Here is one great picture that I have never seen before. I'm pretty sure this was at the White House ceremony. – BB



Is that Bess and Harry Truman behind Mel?

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