



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2192

December 22, 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

Florida Mini-Reunion – Sign up now!

Hello Claire, I am a 460th D-battery original member and am planning on attending your mini reunion. I am sorry that I have not registered before and am putting the check into the mail today. The form does not have a zip code please forward via e-mail.

Are there any other D-battery members attending?

Stephen Armbruster

Hendersonville, N.C. 28791

It is great to hear that **Stephen Armbruster** is coming to Kissimmee next month! Who else is coming?

I think **Bill Webb**, who is coming, was with the 460th.

Other attendees:

Darrell Egner - I am not sure which outfit

Allan Johnson, my dad - 596

Leo Dean - Reg HQ

Hal Beddow - 1st AB Task Force

Ray Hess - again, I don't know -

Babbie Boyle, Col Boyle's widow, will be there.

**Florida mini-reunion
January 18-20, 2014
Kissimmee, FL
Registration Form**

We will also have many family and friends coming, and I need to check my mail for even more!

So so happy to be meeting you!

I will look for your registration! all the best -

Claire



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

This Week in 517th History

Christmas Greetings

From the Combat Team Commander

On the occasion of our first Christmas overseas, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartiest congratulations and greetings to all members of this command.

Although we naturally miss being at home we do not feel sorry for ourselves but take comfort in living under the best condition possible and also take comfort in being with the comrades with whom we have served and whom we trust.

At this Christmas time I wish you all a Merry Christmas. May the New Year strengthen the ties of friendship and loyalty and keep us steadfast in our determination to serve our country well and honorably during the coming year.

R. D. GRAVES,
Colonel, 517th Prcht Inf.,
Commanding.

And then, the Battle of the Bulge...



From Life Magazine.

<-- This is the 460th PFAB, heading to the Bulge.



RIGHT: Weary US paratroopers trudge through a snow-covered track deep in the Ardennes.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Manhay, Christmas 1944

MailCall News

Bob: May I echo Darrell's message about your great Mail Calls. This one was outstanding -- hard to believe you are able to top the outstanding prior ones.

Loved **Tom Cross'** emails. He is outstanding, as Dad would always say. Alan and I will be in the Jacksonville area February 6-9. It would be wonderful to see Tom if his schedule permits.

Was thinking of the Battle of the Bulge, thus, your recount of the history of the 517 during this week 69 years ago, was a real gift. Thank you. Next week on Christmas Eve, as the **Dick Seitz** clan gathers for the first time without Dad, we will recall Dad's story of his Christmas Eve during the Battle of the Bulge. It was a memory that he carried for the rest of his life, it had such an impact on him. He and his command post were in a barn next to a farm house, and just before midnight, the farmer invited them into the house to toast Our Lord's birth. Dad said the farmer did not speak English and Dad did not speak the farmer's language but they were able to communicate somewhat. Dad noticed on the mantle the pictures of two young men in German military uniforms. The farmer didn't say anything about the young men and Dad didn't ask. He said the farmer's gesture that evening symbolized for him the message of the Prince of Peace.

Alan and I wish all the members of the 517th and their families the fullest joy and peace of this holy season. May it continue through the new year blessing everyone's 2014 in every way. Thank you again for all that you and your family do for the 517th.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer.

[Thanks, Pat. But I'm just the scribe, printing what people send to me. – BB]



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Greg,

Here is the enlistment record for your grandfather, **Chales L. Farley**, from the national archives:

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=1&cat=WR26&tf=F&sc=24994,24995,24996,24998,24997,24993,24981,24983&q=farley+charles+l.&bc=,sl,fd&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=367261>

Bob B.

Yeah that's him!

That's when he started in Puerto Rico. He played baseball down there too. I got a picture of him and the other guys in their uniforms!

Greg Farley

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Spyro P. Vangellow From: Evans Mills, NY E-mail: spauva@twcnny.rr.com	To the 517th family, I am officially wishing my friend Nolan Powell a very HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY today, and many, many more. I will be seeing you in two weeks for Christmas and cannot wait!!!!!!
	Added: December 15, 2013
Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Robert J. Reginato From: East Palo Alto, CA E-mail: rjreginato@gmail.com	I am trying to locate anyone who may have known or was in contact with my brother, Joseph John Reginato , who was 19 when he was killed in the village of Piera Cava in southern France on 09 September 1944.
	Added: December 16, 2013

Bob: With all due respect to Howard, those are pictures of **John Lissner** in this email. Uncle John was my godfather -- an outstanding one at that, though Dad once remarked, with a smile on his face, when I was an adult, "it beats me why I asked John to be your godfather as he was always getting into trouble!" He was a very devoted, loving individual, who was very important in my life. Needless to say, I was very blessed to have had him as my godfather.

Pat Seitz

PS Please let Lory know I enjoy reading his Dad's letters. I have been asked to speak to the 82nd Airborne Division Chapter in Miami in January about Dad, and your postings in this and a couple of other recent Mail Calls, have been invaluable.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Feliz Navidad/Merry Christmas

Bob and Joanne: Thank you in behalf of myself and our family for carrying on the *Mail Call* tradition from your father for the 517th PCRT Association. I only have a small sense of the time and effort it takes to compile, edit and produce this work of extra-ordinary work of love.

It is fitting that this month's article about the 517th message of the call up to the Ardennes in 1943 is befitting of the Christmas season to appreciate what they endured for us during the "*Battle of Bastogne*".

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and to all the remaining 517th paratroopers and their families.

Frank Ramos

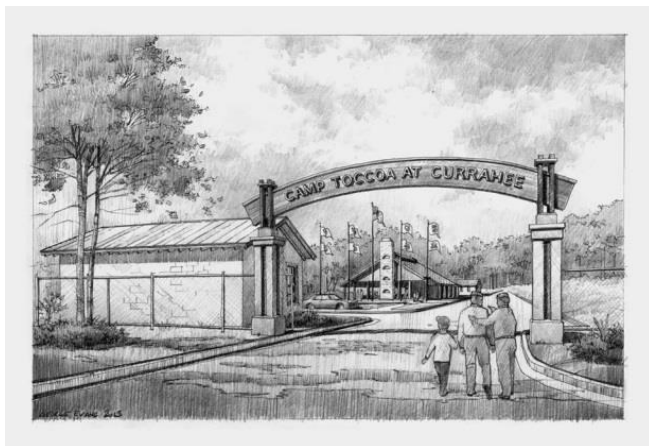
Bob,

In the last mailcall 2191, you posted some pictures from the 2009 reunion. Sitting on the bus you list **Phil McSpadden** and a question mark as to whom the other person is. Well it is our own **Colonel (then Captain) Robert (Bob) Dalrymple** of the 596th Combat Engineers.

Thought you might like to let everyone know.

Lory Curtis

[Of course! I never met Bob Dalrymple, but I should have recognized him. I have seen him in plenty of other pictures. – BB]



You were invited !

by Brenda J Carlan

Executive Director at Currahee Military Museum

[2014 D-Day Run, Memorial Walk and "Jake and Jack Track"](http://www.active.com/toccoa-ga/running/races/70th-anniversary-of-d-day-at-currahee-10k-run-memorial-walk-and-jake-and-jack-track-2014)

70th Anniversary of D-Day WWII 1944-2014

10K, 3 Miles UP - 3 Miles Down Currahee.

May 31st, 2014.

<http://www.active.com/toccoa-ga/running/races/70th-anniversary-of-d-day-at-currahee-10k-run-memorial-walk-and-jake-and-jack-track-2014>



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

A few weeks ago, I received an email message from a man about seeing the movie, *Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed*. The DVD has a trailer where they interview me and I talked about why my Dad joined the paratroopers. I said basically what my Dad told me about why he joined the paratroopers, and I put it in the book. My Dad said:

"The next Sunday I attended church with my parents in the newly completed Park View Ward building on Ximeno Street in Long Beach, California. While there I saw an old friend who a few months before was my Sunday school teacher. He was dressed in an Army uniform. It was Willard Hill. He was now a Second Lieutenant and was wearing his Army officer's uniform. He was a paratrooper! He had jump wings on his uniform, and more impressive than that were his highly polished jump boots with his pant legs tucked into those boots. You could see your face in those highly shined boots. I had never been so impressed by a military soldier in my entire life. I was very impressed and wanted to know everything about the paratroopers. Willard told me how great it was to be a paratrooper. I believed every word Willard told me. I wanted to be a paratrooper! "

Well, **Willard Hill's** son was the man who emailed me and we have spoken now and have gotten to know each other. He told me my Dad is the man who influenced your Dad to be a paratrooper. He loved the movie and now the book. I never knew of **Willard Hill**, and now I do. His son has sent me pictures of him. Now the neat thing is Chris Hill lives in Southern Utah, in the St. George area, and he has a brother and sister that live up here where I do in the Salt Lake area. What a small world. How great it is to have email!

Lory Curtis

From **Don Sliker**:

A soldier's Christmas:

<https://youtube.googleapis.com/v/8D-OL-KQOt4>





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hello Mailcall,

My name is Michael Culhane; I have been searching for information on my Uncle **Sgt. Robert J. Miller** for years now. No one in our family has shared anything about him other than he was KIA in WWII. I was told initially that he was KIA in the Pacific Theater, only later to be told that it was Italy. Unfortunately no one in the family has said much about Roberts passing or of his 517th involvement. His wife and kids passed away a couple of years ago.

I have been searching on Ancestry.com and also online for years for him. In September of this year I found Robert's Headstone application on Ancestry.com and then your site with information that Tony Ventura had posted.

What I know now is that he was a member of 17th Airborne Division, 3rd Battalion, I Company, 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment and **1Lt Floyd A. Stott** was his Commanding Officer. He was MIA and or KIA on September 7, 1944 in the Provence region of France. I am waiting for his service records to come and have received his burial records.

I am looking for information on Robert's 517th time. Can you help me with any information or who to contact for more information?

Thank you for your help in my quest.
Regards,

Michael Culhane

*For more information on Sgt. Robert Miller, including letters to his mother from **Lt. Floyd Stott** and **Cpl. Fred L. Allen**, see: [Robert J. Miller, I Company, 517 PRCT](#)*

Anthony Ventura is not related to our family. **Robert Miller's** son Doug had given Tony the information in 1999 when he was at Fort MacArthur in San Pedro, California doing a WW2 display. My cousin Doug was part of a Civil War group that was always at Ft. MacArthur.

I do know now where my Uncle is buried and have added him to the Find a grave site. I also started on my page on find a grave a Virtual Cemetery for 517th PIR, I Company. I only have 8 names at present. it would be great if there was a list of who was in I Company so more could be added.
Thanks again Bob,

Michael

Most of I Company is listed on the Christmas 1944 roster:
<http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>

Plus, of course, those who were KIA: <http://517prct.org/kia.htm> (6 in Provence, 14 at Manhay, 27 in all KIA.)

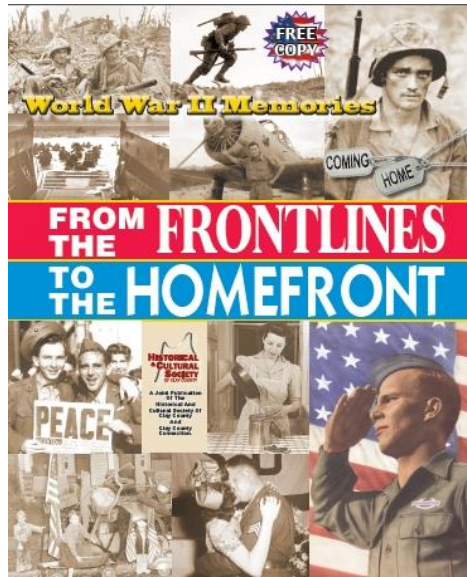
Bob B.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I just received a copy of this magazine, published by the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (MN) and the Clay County Connection. This is a 64-page color newspaper special edition, including personal stories of lots of WWII veterans from the county.

By the way, what a wonderful idea for any local historical society, to collect and print the stories of these local heroes! -- BB



The best news is that it includes the story of our own **Merle McMorrow** from Breckenridge, MN, now living in Fargo, ND.

24 From The Frontlines To The Homefront

Breckenridge Native Was WW II Paratrooper

McMorrow returned to France multiple times, including this photo from 2000 where he posed in his paratrooper uniform with local ladies dressed in 1940s style.

COMING FROM PAGE 17
in on one side and made me First Lieutenant. Then we could go to all the officers' clubs. It had been thought I still be in the big command.

From when he returned to the group the effect of the "paratrooper" hadn't worn off, as almost expect to retain the commanding officer.

Throughout the summer McMorrow's group stayed in France, located just southeast of the Italian capital, where they waited and prepared to parachute into France as part of "Operation Dragoon." This would be the first time the paratrooper were to be dropped into a combat zone.

"You weigh about 100 pounds, more than your actual weight," McMorrow said about the paratrooper uniform in action. "You have ammunition and food in the pockets, and a heavy helmet on your top. It's not easy to jump in your old pants."

While in his paratrooper uniform, McMorrow actually landed in enemy territory via parachute in 1944. McMorrow had practiced jumping at 1200 feet, but needed to do it at 800 feet in enemy territory.

"We wanted to get down to you got out the door you fell about 70 feet before the main line pulls your pack off and pulls the chute down automatically," he explained.

However, when the chute opened it hit with a force strong enough to pull straps and webbing off of soldiers' backs, causing them to swing with the wind. 25-foot parachutes, the longest had a 20-foot reserve chute on hand as well.

The jump day finally arrived on August 13th. The paratrooper were to land the day for "Operation Dragoon" by entering France from above and cutting the supplies, caused by preventing German reinforcements from entering. Afterwards, the group was to protect the Allied armor as it moved north.

And so, roughly a year-and-a-half after volunteering for the service, McMorrow found himself leaping into the unknown of 800 feet on an August morning. Luckily, all the training had paid off, and he soon found himself on the ground.

"We were to prevent the Germans from coming in and opposing the troops at the sea along the coast," he explained. "So they got in there they started jumping onto the beach."

McMorrow maintained and often wears the jumps he jumped out the first used on his paratrooper mission to southern France nearly 70 years ago to military functions.

McMorrow's childhood in the cold Minnesota climate prepared him for the Allied operations during the Battle of the Bulge.

"I was better off because I know how to handle it," he said. "But that first jump was the toughest. I was young and I had a lot of gear. I was young and I had a lot of gear. I was young and I had a lot of gear."

There was a lot of tough times and hardships.

"One time above the jump also landed nearby. As he made his way across the French ground, McMorrow had to be very careful of German soldiers firing artillery into the tops of trees in the wooded areas, causing them to be hit by the enemy's machine guns. In the meantime, the troops were waiting for the enemy to be hit by the enemy's machine guns. In the meantime, the troops were waiting for the enemy to be hit by the enemy's machine guns."

"In those days I would be in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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McMorrow, right, and several other veterans returned to La Brie, France, in 2004 for the 60th anniversary of Liberation Day, the anniversary of "Operation Dragoon" when his first paratrooper into France in 1944.



I have attached Merle's story on the following pages.

For the full online edition, go to: <http://barnesvillerecordreview.net/48833/2201/special-sections>



Breckenridge Native Was WW II Paratrooper



McMorrow has returned to France multiple times, including this photo from 2009 where he posed in his paratrooper uniform with local ladies dressed in 1940s style.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

it on my collar and made me a First Lieutenant! Then we could go to all the officers' clubs. If I had been caught I'd still be in the brig somewhere!"

Even when he returned to his group the effect of the "promotion" hadn't worn off, as he almost forgot to salute his commanding officer.

Throughout the summer McMorrow's group stayed in Frascati, located just southeast of the Italian capital, where they waited and prepared to parachute into France as part of 'Operation Dragoon.' This would be the first time the paratroopers were to be dropped into a combat zone.

"You weigh about 100 pounds more than your actual weight," McMorrow said about the paratrooper uniform in action. "You have ammunition and food in the pockets, and a jump knife in case you get in a tree so you can cut your chute off."

While he had practiced jumps multiple times, actually landing in enemy territory was another issue. McMorrow had practiced jumping at 1200 feet, but needed to do it at 800 feet in enemy territory.

"You wanted to get down to

the ground as soon as possible, because you would be getting shot at as you came," he said. "Our chutes would free fall straight down, and as soon as the chute opens you wanted to get to picking a landing location."

However, the Germans had scouted out the best drop zones and, in some cases, set up telephone poles soaked in gasoline to be lit if parachutes were sighted.

"In the end it was a blessing that we didn't come down in some of the ideally situated drop zones," McMorrow said.

Instead, the Allied force chose a different, yet still dangerous, location, near the cities of Le Muy and Draguignan.

The landing zone was located in wine country, and filled with steel stakes and wires. The land was also terraced, which meant a possible broken leg or other injury if a trooper landed unevenly.

Despite the danger of leaping out of an airplane into a combat zone, McMorrow said he took solace in the fact that the jump process was very regulated.

"Everybody who has never jumped before has a stomach as tight as can be, but the minute

you go out the door you fall about 75 feet before the static line pulls your pack off and pulls the chute down automatically," he explained.

However, when the chute catches it hits with a force strong enough to pull rings and watches off a soldier's hands. If anything went wrong with the initial 28-foot parachute, the trooper had a 20-foot reserve chute on hand as well.

The jump day finally arrived on August 15, 1944. The paratroopers were to lead the way for 'Operation Dragoon' by entering France from above and aiding the amphibious assault by preventing German reinforcements from arriving. Afterwards, the group was to protect the Allied force as it moved north.

And so, roughly a year-and-a-half after volunteering for the service, McMorrow found himself leaping into the unknown at 4:30 a.m. on an August morning. Luckily, all the training had paid off, and he soon found himself on foreign soil in France.

"We were to prevent the Germans from coming up and opposing the troops at the sea shore," he explained. "So once they got in there they started going north up the Rhone."

'Operation Dragoon'



McMorrow maintains and often wears the same tan jump suit he first used on his paratroop mission in southern France nearly 70 years ago to military functions.

concluded in September and the First Airborne Task Force ended in November. McMorrow was transferred to the 463rd Field Artillery battalion and sent to Mourmelon le Grand, France on December 12, 1944, just days before the start of the Battle of the Bulge.

An incorrect estimate that the war would be over by Christmas 1944 led to a lack of winter clothes being supplied to the troops serving in the Battle of the Bulge.

"There wasn't any winter

clothing shipped over because the war was supposed to be over," McMorrow said. "Then the Bulge came off on December 16 and we were shipped into Belgium to attempt to stem the attack that was going on."

"We were moved into Bastogne on December 19 and remained in that general location until January 25, 1945," McMorrow wrote.

McMorrow's childhood in the cold Minnesota climate prepared him for the frigid conditions during the Battle of the Bulge.

"I was better off because I knew how to handle it," he said. "But those guys from the south, like Georgia and North Carolina, they really suffered. They didn't know enough to take their boots off and dry their socks over the fire, and then put them back on. There was a lot of trench foot and frostbite."

Other, more obvious dangers also lurked nearby. As he made his way across the frozen ground, McMorrow had to be wary of German soldiers firing artillery into the tops of trees in the wooded areas, creating more hazards. In the meantime he worked as a sergeant in the instrument section, ensuring the weapons worked appropriately.

"In those days I would lay in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



McMorrow, far right, and several other veterans returned to Le Muy, France, in 2004 for the 60th anniversary of 'Liberation Day,' the anniversary of 'Operation Dragoon' when he first parachuted into France in 1944.

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Breckenridge Native Was WW II Paratrooper

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

the foxhole ahead of the guns, which would sight on me, and I on them, and would tell them what sight setting they should have," he said.

McMorrow spent a long time either on guard with another soldier while in a foxhole, or back in a dugout trying to warm up.

"You were on a two-hours-on, two-hours-off schedule," he said. "Two candles in the dugout was enough to keep warm. It got down to 10 below zero, but most of the time it was around zero, plus all the snow."

This continued during the winter and on through Christmas.

"The division was then moved to the Alsace area of France under 7th Army control," McMorrow wrote of his group after the Battle of the Bulge. "We remained there until the end of February and then returned to Mourmelon. General Eisenhower presented the Division with the Presidential Unit Citation."

As the war neared its end, McMorrow was moved to Dusseldorf, Germany, where roughly 300,000 German forces in the Ruhr Pocket of the country eventually surrendered after Dusseldorf's capture on April 17.

The regiment was sent south to stop any potential last German



It was a sudden decision to volunteer for the paratroop group that led to McMorrow attending jump school at Fort Benning, GA.

stand in Bavaria, but hostilities ended before they got too far. However, the group continued on their way.

"The war ended in May but we were down there until June, living in chalets and hunting and fishing," he said. "That was a great time."

The division was then broken up and McMorrow was transferred into the 82nd Airborne Division and sent for duty in Berlin. In the capital he was responsible for guarding the

remaining structures in the badly damaged city. His free time involved watching USO shows and football games.

He weathered tough seas and storms to return to the United States on December 16th and was discharged from Camp McCoy, WI, with two years, eight months and 15 days of service completed. He returned to Breckenridge on Christmas Day 1945.

After getting married to his high school girlfriend Kathryn on June 12, 1946, Morrow decided to seek an education. After he was unable to enroll in the University of Minnesota system he joined North Dakota Agricultural College, now NDSU, to pursue engineering.

He earned his degree in 1949 and accepted a position with the Bureau of Reclamation in Bismarck, where he worked until retirement in 1980.

After 52 years of living in the state capitol McMorrow moved to Fargo, where he currently resides. His wife Kathryn died in 1996, and he later married Margaret Chapman. McMorrow's two sons, Tom and Mark, live in Wayzata, MN, and Fargo.

Among the mementos of his WWII experience are several photographs captured on McMorrow's own camera. For a soldier constantly on the move the film was more important than

the machine used to capture the images.

"The soldiers had cameras, and they kept them until no film would fit anymore," McMorrow said. "Then you'd get rid of the camera and try to get another one."

The World War II experience is still very much a part of McMorrow's life. He still has his heavily decorated paratrooper uniform neatly hanging in his home, which still fits and is proudly worn to local military events.

One such event was held on February 20, 2013, when he was awarded the prestigious French Legion of Honor Medal for his wartime efforts presented by Senator John Hoeven.

"I think about the associations I had with people," he said. "I used to go to reunions in Kissimmee, FL, and a national conference every two years somewhere in the country. But a lot of those guys are dead, or incapacitated in one way or another."

However, he has managed to get in touch with many other veterans worldwide by using online forums.

"I can spend hours sometimes searching for a fellow in there and finding out what happened to them," he said.

McMorrow is also part of the 517th Parachute Association.

"We were a small enough outfit that we could keep track of each other pretty well after the war," he said. "And I was lucky enough to get elected president of group twice, so I got to know a lot of guys I wouldn't have otherwise known."

McMorrow and his wife, also attended the 40th and 45th anniversary celebrations of the war campaign. McMorrow has also made several return visits overseas and to reunions until recently.

"Not too many vets can come to reunions anymore, but the younger generation is taking over," he said. "The children and grandchildren hope to keep it going."

The legacy of the 517th continues in France, where a local man opened a museum dedicated to its members. Also, the date of the group's arrival is commemorated yearly.

"Every year there's a big celebration on August 15. They call it Liberation Day," McMorrow said. "They welcome



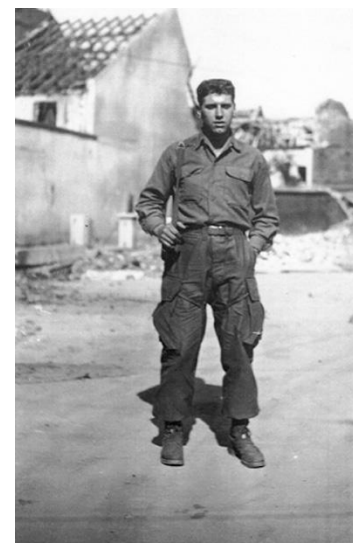
Once a paratrooper was fully dressed for a mission they would weigh about 100 pounds more than usual due to ammunition, food and other necessary materials.

you with open arms. We made some good friends over there, and stay in contact by e-mail."

McMorrow has written two books about his war experiences, titled "From Breckenridge to Bastogne: The Accounts of World War II Paratrooper Merle McMorrow" and "From Rome To Berlin Via Bastogne: Travels of a World War II Paratrooper."

In his extensive war writings he addresses his feelings about his time spent in the military, including a passage that seems to summarize it best.

"It had been an experience filled with fears, joys, love, hate, sorrows and happiness. Never again would I experience so many different types of emotions in such a short period of time."



After landing in France, McMorrow eventually found himself fighting both the enemy and the winter elements at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

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517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I have to totally agree with **Darrel Egner**, your editions of mailcall are just Magnificent! Each time I see one, I say another issue can't get better than this one, but you amaze me every week. Thank you so much for doing this it sure means a lot to me and I know others.

Thanks to **Darrel Egner** on his comments about my Dad's welcome to Camp Toccoa by **Lt Lissner** and **Alicki**. I glade to hear he wasnt the only one who received special treatment, Ha Ha.

I especially enjoyed your report on the 517th up in Soissons France. Here is what I wrote in my book about that experience and some letters that my Dad wrote to his mother. You will notice the last letter he wrote was on his 20th birthday on December 13th. He was not able to write another letter home until December 29th. The must have been on tough battle in Belgium.

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

see below:

"On December 1, 1944, the 517th was ordered to join the XVIII Airborne Corps and directed to hold up in the town of Soissons in Northern France. The movement over the five hundred miles from La Colle-sur-Loup in southern France would be in train boxcars, better known as the forty and eights. This came from the length of the cars of forty hommes and eight cheveaux. This meant 40 men or 8 horses. These train cars were the same type used the Germans to transport the Jews to the concentration camps. To move the men of the 517th would require three trains. One train assigned for each battalion. Thirty-five men were put into each forty and eight and shipped northward. Bud and the others only had C rations for food. Sleeping was done anywhere a soldier could find room. Some men made hammocks by slinging ponchos and shelter halves from the roof of the boxcar. For the next few days there would be no washing or shaving and the boxcars began to stink. To make matters worse the French railway workers would only take the train within their own localities. The train would stop to change crews every fifty miles or so. There were no scheduled stops so when a man had to use the toilet or relieve himself he had to jump off of the train when it slowed down. This was fine for the first two trains those men could jump back on another train. However, the men on the third had nowhere to go and found themselves in the middle of France. Some decided to take a few days R&R (rest and relaxation) before reporting back to the unit. On December 9 and 10, 1944, the trains arrived.

The 517th had been in combat for over **one hundred (100) days**. Everyone was hoping the war was now going to be over. Rumors had it that the war would be over by Christmas, but no such luck. Hitler would launch one last desperate campaign to try and stop the American forces. It would become to be known as the Battle of the Bulge. As the 517th arrived in Soissons, France it was cold, and then it began to rain. The unit stayed there twelve days rearming, refitting and obtaining new soldiers to take the place of the combat dead and wounded. With the war practically won the 517th returned to garrison duties. A new training order directed the men to begin close order drill (marching), tactical exercises, and calisthenics. The men began to believe they might have seen their last days of combat. While in Soissons a message was put out for all men who received a court martial in southern France were to report for additional extra duty in Soissons. Bud and Harold "Sug" Lawrence reported to their Company Commander, Captain (CPT) Ehly. CPT Ehly told these two men they were once again on extra duty. How could this happen, they had performed their thirty days of extra duty while in southern France? It was not fair, but they found themselves once again performing dirty jobs no one wanted to do. They thought they would never get off extra duty when the word came down the Germans had launched a winter offensive. The 517th was quickly put back into action. Bud was happy he was off extra duty, but had no idea how tough it was going to be fighting in Belgium and Germany.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Letter to Folks from Harland L. Curtis
Northern France
Saturday December 2, 1944

Dear Folks,

Gosh, I owe you all a letter now. I got one from Dad and you the other day, and just a few minutes ago I got a letter from Bert (Bud's brother) telling me his experiences in the South Pacific. I'm sure happy he finally got home again safe and sound and I truly hope something will happen that he won't have to ever ship out that way again. I don't like to have him running around out there.

I've got lots of things to thank you all for, so I'll try my best. I'll start by thanking you for the three packages that have come in the late two days, and also my watch finally arrived and it sure is a honey. It's really a classy looking watch and is keeping perfect time. I'm sure glad I have it. The packages I got had the addresses of "Hi Douglas" – Stienickerts and the one with Bert and Lorrain's address in Redondo Beach. The chocolates you sent were really delicious. I didn't know you could still get candy like that. I'm saving this strawberry jam and honey as I have a pretty good idea that I'll enjoy it more in a few days. Thanks millions for everything. These packages are coming through swell, and I guess I have been getting my share of them.

Not much has happened around here to speak of. We still are having chow from a field kitchen (containers of food prepared in the rear and taken out to the men in the field, then served to them) and there is a picture show about every night. Tomorrow we are going to have memorial serves for the fellows that were killed (Soldiers from the 517th PRCT killed in December 1944, were 3 officers and 21 enlisted men. During the entire time in combat from Italy to Germany, June 1944 to February 1945, a total of 15 officers and 202 enlisted men were killed).

It is sure swell to hear Dad is the foreman of the department now, and can quit that night job at the shipyards (Bud's Dad, Bert senior, worked for the city of Long Beach as an electrician and also worked at the Naval Shipyard in Long Beach part-time as an electrician wiring ships at night).

Thanks again for the swell packages and I hope to get some more of your cookies soon and that's a help if anyone wants to know, so send all the things you can. I'm always happy to receive them. Tell everyone hello and,

Lots of love,

Bud

Letter to Mom from Harland L. Curtis
Northern France, later to be known as Soissons close to Reims
Monday, December 11, 1944

Dear Mom,

Finally got some mail in today, and I got a letter from you and one from Jill with that picture I asked for. I'll bet it does seem nice to have Bert home and taking his motorcycle apart and getting all greasy. There is so darn little I can say, that I'm afraid I will have to make this letter do for everyone. Tell Bert I'm sure happy he made it home okay, and I hope he won't have to ship out for a while.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

As you can see from the heading on top that I am now in Northern France, and I also have a new A.P.O. (Army Post Office). Which is "109", so remember it when you write next. I can't tell you anything about how I got here or when I left or arrived, but without giving away any valuable information I think it is safe to say – "Gee, but it is cold."

You know how the sky is there in Long Beach about 5 in the afternoon, well it is that way here all the time. Dark and dreary all day long so I can't take any pictures at all. I haven't had much chance to write for a while or get mail either, but I think things will get going regular now.

If you get in the mood to send another package, I would sure like some more honey, and strawberry jam, and anything else you want to send. It sure tasted swell. The watch is keeping perfect time. It sure is a dandy, and I'm very happy to have it. Thanks a lot for everything.

Just two more days till my birthday. Gosh but time has gone by fast, and yet so slow. I hope I'm home this time next year. It is about time for chow and I'm about starved. Oh yes, the big event of the day was I took a super wonderful hot shower today, and I feel halfway clean for the first time in quite a few months. Boy, what I wouldn't give to step into that shower at home and stay there for half the day. How about some hair oil in one of those packages!

Well, I guess I had better start closing this letter and get ready for chow and I think there is going to be a U.S.O (United Services Organization) show tonight and I'm going to do my best to see it.

Keep writing often and give my love to everyone.

A' bientot and Monaime a tout or just so long and love to all.

Bud

Letter to Mom from Harland L. Curtis
Northern France
Wednesday, December 13, 1944, Bud's 20th birthday

Dear Mom,

Got your letter this evening that you said hoped would get to me on my birthday, and it did exactly. I haven't much to say and it is pretty late at night anyway. I just want to send this money order. I sure hope you are getting all of them and the allotment.

It would be nice if you could find a lapel watch that Jill would like, but I guess they are hard to find. I don't care how much it costs, whatever you do get her; just as long as it is something nice and will make her happy. The only thing I want for Christmas as any other time is to have her happy. She is about the only thing that keeps me from getting discouraged and loosing hope of ever getting back so take good care of her for me.

Tell Bert and Pop hello and also Lorrain and Harley and everyone.

Lots of Love,

Bud



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Dear Webmaster,

I send you hereby some pictures of e letter (written in French) and some pictures of a US M1 helmet which was discovered recently in Villefranche (Alpes Maritimes in France).

As you can see this helmet is a WWII US M1 , front seam, McCord, swivel bale helmet with on each side two decals. On one side a bleu whale head and on the other side a deer or 'bambi' decal. This helmet was found together with a Westinghouse para liner 3rd model.

I also have attached a letter from the 'manager' of the Villa 'Leopolda' from Villefranche sur Mer, from where the helmet originates. This villa is one of the most beautiful villas at the 'Cote d'Azur' on the Mediterranean Sea. This villa was part of the estate of the Agnelli family from Italy (FIAT) and is now owned by the widow of Safra, very famous banker.

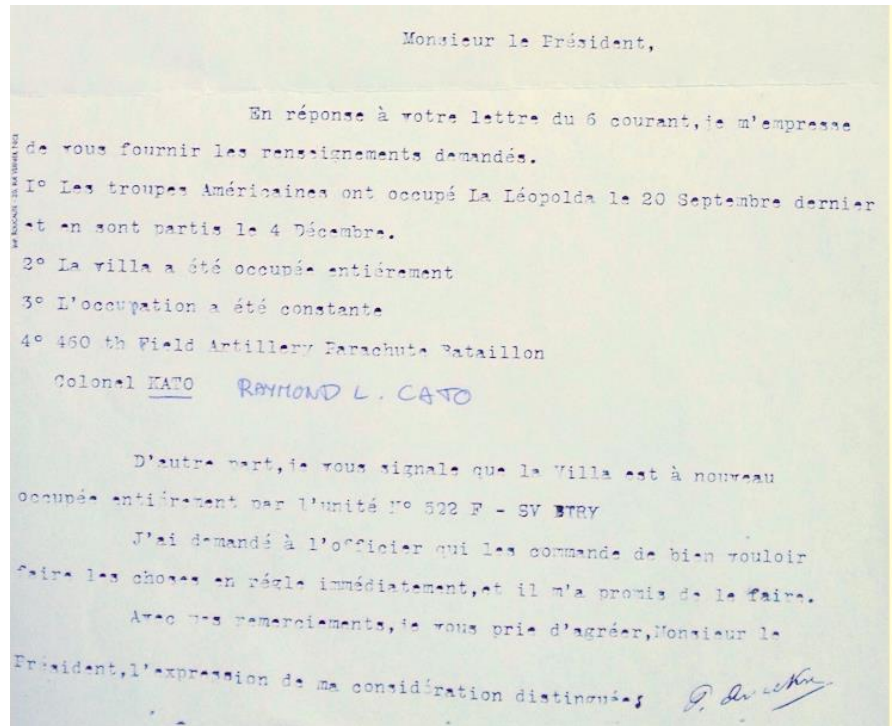
In this letter the manager explains that the 460th Field Artillery Parachute Battalion under command of **Colonel Raymond L. Cato** had 'occupied' the villa from September 20, 1944 until December 4, 1944 and that after this date (letter was written December 9, 1944) the villa was still 'occupied', but now by another unit, the 522 F – SV BTRY.

I am writing this mail and sending you these pictures with the question if you could tell me more about the habit, or not, of using this kind of decals by the 460th FAPB.

Thanking you on forehand for reading my mail, your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Raymond Rinsma



See close-ups of decals on the next page



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



I try to avoid printing anything political in MailCall, but this was too hard to let go unnoticed. -- BB

New budget cuts retirement pay for veterans...

TELL US AGAIN CONGRESS



HOW WE DIDNT EARN EVERY CENT OF OUR RETIREMENT BUT YOU DID....



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Bob... please find attached a summary of **Lee Johnson's** funeral and photos. Rather than re-tell Lee's story, I just added the link to Lee's biography on the 517 site.

Thanks Bob for all that you do for the 517. I look forward to seeing all who can attend the reunion next month.

Earl
706.399.0533
earl.tingle@us.army.mil

Today, 16 December 2013, accompanied by a fitting farewell from family, friends, and a fellow 517th Paratrooper, T5 Leroy Johnson was laid to rest at the National Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida. The cemetery staff provided an Honor Guard, and Lee received full military honors.

Lee, even age 94, was in reasonably good health until early Spring of this year. Those of you who attended the reunion in Kissimmee in January will recall meeting and speaking with Lee. Lee mentioned many times what a great reunion that was and what a pleasure it was to see fellow 517th buddies. Having been a paratrooper in the 517th was a highlight of Lee's life.

Please see Lee's biography at the 517th site below:

http://www.517prct.org/bios/lee_johnson/lee_johnson.htm

Attending the funeral for Lee today were former 517th President Darrell Egner, Lee's sister-in-law Pauline Cyphers, Pauline's granddaughter Shelby Shadle, and Lee's paratrooper friend, Earl Tingle.





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MERRY CHRISTMAS 517th ! - Paul Abbene



Washington DC...the soldier in dress uniform was nearly as tall as Hal. Leo must have been levitating.



Toccoa GA Summer 2013



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Looking for Pvt. Robert R. Gruwell – KIA August 15, 1944

From: "Joe Figueiredo" <joefig1995@comcast.net>
To: Claire Giblin
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 9:54:46 AM
Subject: Search for a 517th member KIA in France whose body was never recovered.

Ms. Giblin:

My name is Joe Figueiredo [fig-ah-red-oh] and I live in the area of Carlisle, PA. I am a volunteer at the United State Army Heritage and Education Center [AHEC], <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/>, in Carlisle. AHEC is a part of the United States Army War College located at the Carlisle Army Barracks.

As a volunteer, I help to research World War II veterans from the written surveys they sent to AHEC to try and locate veterans whose stories, photos and artifacts could be used in future exhibits in AHEC's Soldier Experience Gallery.

While doing this research, I came across the box for the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team [517th PRCT]. My eye caught a folder that had written on it, "Body non-recoverable." I read the documents in this folder. It identified a soldier by the name of **PFC Robert R. Gruwell** of "G" Company. He was reported killed in action on 15 August 1944 in France.

What I recall of what happened to him is that his body was found by other members of the 517th PRCT who identified him by sight, but his dog tags were missing. They removed his boots and were able to confirm his identity. The soldiers moved on and left PFC Gruwell's body where they found it. My guess is that a German soldier removed PFC Gruwell's dog tags after he was killed. PFC Gruwell was buried in an unknown grave in or near a small French village.

Subsequent searches to find the grave after the war were unsuccessful. Members of the 517th PRCT Association travelled to France in the late 1990s I believe and interviewed French citizens in an effort to locate his grave. They were unsuccessful in their search. Upon returning to the United States, the 517th PRCT Association sent copies of the documents they acquired to the archives at AHEC where I found them.

I was touched by what had happened to PFC Gruwell and wanted to try and do something, however little, to help to try and locate his body. I understand he was from Los Angeles and the only relative I am aware of was his mother. How she must have felt to be informed that not only was her son killed in action but that his body was not recovered.

I was aware of a gentleman from Fall River, MA by the name of Ted Darcy, who created the WFI Research Group, <http://www.wfirg.com/home>. Mr. Darcy, through WFI has been searching for years in an effort to identify soldiers and sailors missing from World War II. Exactly how he does this I do not know. But, I contacted Mr. Darcy about PFC Gruwell and asked if he wanted the documents from AHEC. Mr. Darcy asked for the documents and I sent copies to him. Mr. Darcy did say that he, Mr. Darcy, knows PFC Gruwell is buried in one of six graves. Mr. Darcy uses DNA from the grave site and then traces a member of the veterans family for their DNA. He then submits the samples to the Army in Hawaii for positive identification.



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This is rather long winded, but I will come to the purpose of my contacting you.

On the 517th PRCT web site I came across a photograph taken of members of "G" Company at Camp Mackall and submitted by a **Howard Hensleigh** in 2007. I presume PFC Gruwell is in the photograph, but not knowing what he looks like, I cannot be sure.

Here is my request. I am hoping someone, anyone, can identify PFC Gruwell from the "G" Company photo and/or has another photo of PFC Gruwell. I spoke to the Chief Curator at AHEC about PFC Gruwell. He was interested in the possibility of getting a photo of PFC Gruwell for a potential exhibit about his, PFC Gruwell's, plight. I believe this story would send a powerful message to the people who see the exhibit. I realize this is a long shot request, but I do not know what else to do at this point. I cannot say for sure that a future exhibit would be created, but having a photograph would go a long way to making it a possibility.

Anything you can do would be most helpful to this search. I do not know what else to do and time is running out.

Please email me if you discover any information or pass this email to anyone else who can help.

Thank you so very much in advance and please thank all of the remaining members of the 517th PRCT for their service and the sacrifices they all made.

Joe Figueiredo
717-385-3834

Joe Figueiredo
"The power of the press is very great,
but not so great as the power to suppress."
Lord Northcliffe, Alfred Harmsworth (1865-1922)
The Daily Mail

One additional piece of information. I seem to recall that PFC Gruwell is the only member of the 517th PRCT whose whereabouts are unknown.

Joe

BB: Here's where we need some help from the 517th: Can anyone identify PFC Gruwell in any of the G Company photos? This Camp Mackall photo can be viewed at:



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

More details about the search for PFC Gruwell were in a MailCall last June:

<http://517prct.org/mailcall/2161.pdf>



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Wow. This would be a great story. Yes, let me put this in MailCall. Did you send this to Howard yet?

In the last conversation about Gruwell – <http://517prct.org/mailcall/2161.pdf> – someone thought he might be buried in a church graveyard. I would love to know where and Ted Darcy came up with 6 possible gravesites. He must have 6 “unknown soldiers” found somewhere but unidentified. What a great tribute this would be.

I’m working on next week’s mailcall as we speak.

Oh, I am also aware that **Jean-Loup Gassend** was also looking for a photo and family records after our story in <http://517prct.org/mailcall/2161.pdf>. I think he did get some info on the family that might be of use to Joe Figueiredo or Ted Darcy:

See: <http://www.findagraveforums.com/ubbthreads.php?ubb=showflat&Number=2446618>

Bob Barrett

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your email. I have already forwarded it to our webmaster, Bob Barrett, copied here. He will publish it in this week's email newsletter, which goes to an email group of several hundred veterans, family members and friends of the 517. Still active, as you can see from the website, there is a mini reunion next month in Florida and another in spring in California.

Bob suggested that we forward it to **Howard Hensleigh**, who is an incredible historian of the 517, which I have already done.

Thank you very much for your surprising and exhaustive research on behalf of these veterans. I hope something comes of giving this story some publicity this weekend.

All the best -
Claire Giblin

After reading this message two things stand out: There seem to be six possible grave sites that may contain the body of **Pfc. Gruwell**. Secondly **Jean-Loup Gassend** has done a lot of research on such things and has a detective's interest in checking them out on the ground. If Jean-Loup could be given the six locations he possibly could obtain the necessary DNA which could be checked here on the deceased's relative. Jean-Loup is a medical doctor with training an interest in pathology. This type of search may catch his interest, if he has time along with his other professional duties.

The deceased was not in the 3rd Platoon of G Co. when I was assigned to it and I could not pick him out in the Camp Mackall picture. There may be a living member of G Co. who gets Mailcall or the Thunderbolt who could identify him. But as stated above, time is running out so if we can help we should do it now.

Best airborne regards,

Howard Hensleigh

Another thought. Most of G Co. was dropped near Callian. HH



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Looking for info on Lt. Charles R. Casey, I Company

Dear sir / miss,

I'm Ron Hagen living in the Netherlands my passion is to collect 51th airborne related items. i have a intresting collection about the rare unit.

my question is and i hope you are can help ore also the 517th chapter friends can help me with the folowing thing.

I HAVE IN MY COLLECTION A RARE AND AWESOME 517TH 509TH NAMED GROUPING.

1ST LT CHARLES D CASEY.
0-503800.
100 PROSPECT ST PROVIDENCE.
PROVIDENCE COUNTY, RHODE ISLAND.

I LOOKING FOR A PHOTO FROM THIS 517TH MEMBER IS THERE A WAY PLEASE TO HELP ME MY QUESTION.

THANKS IN ADVANCE,

RON HAGEN THE NETHERLANDS.

Hello, Ron,

Thank you for contacting us.

Have you looked at the photos available on the website, www.517prct.org?

Are you trying to locate a photo of Lt. Casey?

Let us know and we will do our best to help.

Thank you -
Claire Giblin

YES I TRY TO LOCATE A PHOTO FROM HIM AND ALSO FROM HIS FELLOW 517TH TEAMMEMBERS.

HE IS WOUNDED IN ACTION IN A PLACE CALLED (SMITH) A SMALL PLEASE NEAR HURTGENWALD.

KIND REGARDS,

RON HAGEN



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Claire and Ron,

Yes, we know there was a **Lt. Charles D. Casey** with I Company listed on the Christmas 1944 roster. Unfortunately, I have not found any photos or casualty reports listed for Lt. Casey on the website. We do know that I Company was in the area of Schmidt (Smith?) in February 1945.

I will post Ron's note in the next MailCall and see who remembers him.

Ron: How do you know he was from Providence RI? How do you now he was wounded in Germany?

Bob Barrett

Bob,

I HAVE A HIS COMPLETE GROUPING PATCHES / DOGTAGS / FULL 509TH ALFABETIC ROSTER AND ALSO HIS SEPERATION QUALIFICATION RECORD.

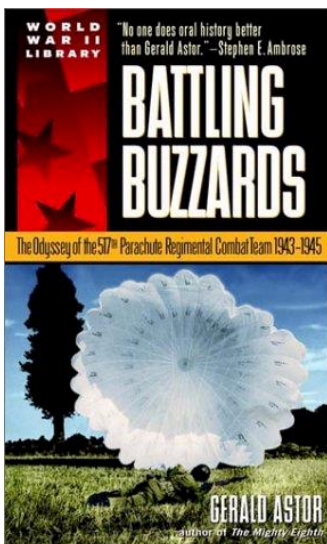
HE IS ALSO NAMED IN THIS BOOK SEE THE PICTURE AND BOOK-PAGE (361 DOWN THE PAGE) YOU SEE HIS NAME.

THANKS IN ADVANCE AND THANKS FOR THE HELP I HOPE YOU COULD FIND OUT A PICTURE FROM HIM AND HIS TEAM MEMBERS.

RON

Here is a short excerpt from *Battling Buzzards* by Gerald Astor, describing some battles in the Huertgen Forest.

This is the only small reference that I can find about Lt. Casey. Does anyone remember him or have any info?



Battling Buzzards, FINAL BATTLES, Pages 361

Saxion watched what he describes as an endless stream of men carried back on litters. “When mortars started to pound us our position became exposed so we withdrew to our starting point. On the way back we passed the bodies of Captain Woodhull and his observers, killed by the mortars that we observed being set up that morning.”

One of the wounded from I Company was Lt. Charles Casey who had been a friend of Saxion since Sicily, and through Saxion's difficult days in Rome, then the invasion of Southern France, the Bulge and now the bloody encounter between Bergstein and Schmidt.

“Casey came up from the Kall ravine,” says Saxion. “blood pouring from an ear and he had another wound in his hip. He asked me for a cigarette but did not ever recognize me.”



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Taps – William L. Kruse, HQ/1

May 28, 2012

To Members of the 517th,

I would greatly appreciate it if you would honor my step-father, **William L. Kruse**, by publishing the enclosed obituary in the Thunderbolt.

Our family and friends were blessed to have him in our presence. He was not only a hero to us for his days of military service, but in his everyday life as well.

Many thanks to each and every one of you for what you have done.

Sincerely,

Peter Bencharsky

William L. Kruse

1st Lieutenant, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 517th PRCT

On May 23, 2012, Bill Kruse passed away peacefully at Avalon Care Center in Sonora. He lived to age 96. He was preceded in death by his wife of 30 years, Jacqueline Kruse.

Bill was born in Fairfield, California and later moved with his family to Ukiah, California. He attended Ukiah Union High School where he played on the football team. He grew up with and became lifelong friends with the Romer and Parducci families. He worked on the Romer Dairy Farm where he was known as "Brother Bill".

After high school, Bill moved with his father to Kauai, Hawaii and both worked at a sugar cane mill. Bill played semi-pro football on the company team.

He joined the Hawaiian National Guard and later enlisted in the U.S. Army after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Soon after enlistment, Bill was approached to attend Officers Candidate School where he graduated as a Second Lieutenant. He also became a member of the 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Team. With the 517th Bill made a very well-known night jump into Southern France to do battle against the Germans. It was there he encountered a one on one shooting match with a German soldier while Bill was pinned in a gully on the side of the road. He said he could hear the bullets flying over his helmet that sounded like "loud pings". He was rescued when a number of his troops who were looking



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

for Bill's whereabouts found him and took shots at the soldier who then fled. Soon after, the 517th was sent to the Ardennes mountains to give support in the Battle of the Bulge.

At war's end, Bill was residing in Atlanta, Georgia where he met his first wife, Anne. Looking for a better income and wanting to move back to California, Bill and his family moved to San Francisco's Sunset district. He was employed by the U.S. Mint as a machinist which became his lifelong trade. Not being fond of civil service, Bill found employment with Triple-A Machine Shop in Hunters Point, San Francisco. He spent over 30 years there as a top notch machinist then foreman and a member of I.A.M. Local #1327. In the early 1970's Bill lost his first wife.

It wasn't long after that that he met his second wife, Jackie Kruse. Bill and Jackie lived in Pacifica, CA, for many years before retiring to Sonora, CA in 1981 to their weekend/vacation home. They both got involved in numerous organizations and clubs and quickly had a large circle of friends.

Bill was a member of the Twain Harte Golf Club as well as their men's club, SIR'S Branch #136, Elk's Lodge #1587, and the Columbia then Sonora Lions Club.

In his younger days, Bill was an avid fisherman and hunter. Bill and his buddy from high school loved to share stories of days gone by. One of the favorite ones of a hunting trip where the third member of the group got a deer. He was not strong enough to carry it so Bill and John Parduccioni ended up with the load. Up to the end Bill and John still were grumpy about that.

Once Bill retired he did little fishing or hunting. He and Jackie took up golf and they both traveled extensively.

After Jackie's passing in 2003, Bill began to slow down. He lived with his step-son, Peter Bencharsky and his daughter-in-law Jeanne Bencharsky for about 2 years. Bill really wanted to come back home to Sonora. He did so with help from Seniority Life Care at Home. When home care was not enough, he moved to Casa Viejos in Jamestown. Just before his passing he needed more assistance and moved to Avalon Care Center in Sonora.

Bill left his family and friends with many fond memories of good times and lots of fun and laughter. Whenever his name is mentioned, everyone says what a kind man he was and that he was a joy to be around. As Bill would say whenever someone said Good Bye, Bill's response was "if you can't be good, be careful!"



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From Operation Dragoon After Action Report:

Headquarters 1st Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The 1st Bn., enplaned at Campino Airfield, thirty miles Northeast of Rome, Italy, at 0030 hours, 15 August 1944. The planes took off at 0200 hours and after circling the field for assembly purposes, headed Northwest for Southern France. The intended drop zone was in a flat area about one mile West of La Motte, France and the mission of the Bn. less A Co., was to be in Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of Chateau St. Roseline. From the time all sticks jumped until about 1400 on "D" plus three, the activities of the Bn., must be recorded in terms of smaller units in view of the fact that assembly of the Bn was not completed until the above mentioned hour and dates.

At H Hour Hq. Co., 1st Bn. jumped and landed in scattered areas in the vicinity of Trans-en-Provence. Darkness and a low lying fog obscured all land marks. A temporary CP was established and searching parties were sent out for men and equipment. At day light the Co., location was definitely established. The Co., then consisted of the LMG and Rocket-Launched sections, a few 81mm Mortar men and five men from Co., Hq. Enroute a few riflemen from "A" Co., joined the organization as did the remainder of the 31mm platoon. A few hundred yards West of the assembly area, the Co., was fired on by automatic weapons. The enemy were driven out and the Co., moved into the Assembly Area. Road blocks were set up with LMG's and Rocket-Launchers and the area was out posted by mortarmen. At the cross road South of the assembly area, a German barracks housing about a squad of men was located. After a short fire fight, four were captured, two killed and two wounded. In the immediate area, a heavy water cooled German machine gun, a small field piece, a few automatic weapons, a large store of grenades and a supply of gasoline were located. The machine gun, field piece and gasoline were destroyed, during the attack section **Pvt. Lynch** was severely burned. At about 0740 hours, two platoons of Co. A under command of Lt. Reith joined the organization. At 0750 hours, the elements of Hq. Co. 1st Bn and Co. "A" moved out toward the Bn. objective. Along the prescribed route, a small German patrol was encountered and after an exchange of shots the unit continued its advance across Highway #7 and started to ascend to its objective. At this time, a German truck and trailer loaded with demolitions drove out of the woods and parked near a small bridge. Machine gun and rifle fire was placed on the truck and its occupants and they jumped in a ditch across the road. **Lt. Kruse** and five men moved forward but they were pinned down by enemy fire. **Sgt. Ford** who was with **Lt. Kruse**, was shot in the leg. As more fire was placed on a civilian truck which had pulled up along side. Both trucks were utilized to a road block, thus completing one phase of the Co.'s mission. The Co. then reorganized, consolidated positions on top of the hill and prepared to defend.

Later, two cars and motorcycle came down the road from the West. As they slowed down on sighting. The road block, a patrol led by **Lt. Reardon** knocked out one car and a motorcycle and the LMG team at the road block knocked out the other car. D Day paused without further event with the exception of small clashes with snipers in the surrounding area.



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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

