



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2196

January 12, 2014

*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](http://www.517prct.org)  
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## MailCall News

Photos from **Arnold and Irma Targnion**. January 4, 2014:



St. Jacques - Holy Mass in memory of the US soldiers.



LOGBIERME 517th monument



St. Jacques - 517th Monument - ceremony and homage



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Happy New Year 2014 to all of you and your families.

Looking forward to meeting you in the future.

2014 is the 70th Anniversary of D-Day (Normandy), Operation Dragoon (Southern France), the Battle of the Bulge (Belgium and Luxemburg) So, please let us know your plans and we'll be surely very happy to meet you again...

The picture hereafter was taken last december (during the Flag of Friendship ceremony) at the new monument erected on the 07th of September by our C-47 Club Ardennes Salm River Chapter 2013 with the support of the community of Vielsalm and our Mother Club, the C-47 Club Inc. Our non-profit association was registered in January 2013 and we are glad that we've been able to erect this monument as our first project in honoring our liberators.



With my warmest regards,

On behalf of the C-47 Club "Ardennes Salm River Chapter", Belgium

**Eddy Lamberty**  
President



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For **Eddy Lamberty**...thanks for the information about activities in the Salm River Valley and you as well as **Claude Orbon's** continued support of veterans and their units during the battle of the bulge.

As you know already the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc and I as its National President, are planning a trip in December to commemorate the beginning of the greatest land battle the US Army had ever fought...and WON! I am in contact with Patrick Brion of the Belgian Army, my best man at my recent wedding, who keeps me informed of Belgian plans for the 70th anniversary of the Bulge. Additionally I am in frequent contact and visits to the Belgian/Luxembourg Embassies in regards to the 2014 visit. Both Embassies have agreed in principal to support our plan, now we need only the final approval of the respective governments.

I will keep you informed of our progress.

Best regards, Airborne...GOYA

Doug

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Eddy, I just realized the list of e mail addresses reflect veterans, family and friends of veterans who served in one of the many Airborne, Infantry Armor, Artillery and support units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge. The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association's membership represent all of these units. Many of the Division Associations are not active and the former members or those who would like to be associated with a unit that fought in the Bulge now have an active Association that honors and commemorates the Battle of the Bulge with an annual reunion, usually in September as well as the December commemoration held in the Washington DC area for three days where the memorials in Arlington National Cemetery and the WWII Memorial are conducted with wreath laying ceremonies. The Association publishes a quarterly publication the Bulge Bugle that contains soldiers' stories of their combat activities during the Bulge. During the December Commemoration we visit the Belgian and/or Luxembourg Embassies where we are welcome every year with a lavish dinner, wine, beer and good cheer.

**As mentioned in an earlier message we plan a visit to commemorate the Battle of the Bulge the week of Dec.16, 2014. We anticipate meetings with the Royal families of both countries as was done in 2004.**

We would welcome anyone who reads this message to join the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association as an Associate Member for a fee of \$15.00 and you will receive the quarterly Bulge Bugle, as well as, should you have interest perhaps joining our group to visit europe in December 2014. I do not know if the veterans of the 82d have a planned trip, I am sure the 101 Abn Div Association will have one planned, but we welcome anyone would like to join our group. Contact me via e mail or phone (301)262-2439) for additional information.

Airborne All the way.

**Doug Dillard**



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*Eric Renoux, Jean Michel et Adrien SOLDI  
et tous les Amis du Airborne Museum  
"15 Août 1944" Association  
vous souhaitent une Bonne année  
et de belles commémorations du souvenir à  
l'occasion du 70em anniversaire de la  
Libération de la Provence.*

1944- 2014

*Wishing you a Happy new year and great  
celebrations of the 70 anniversary of the  
Southern France Liberation 1944-2014.  
<http://airborne-task-force-museum.com/>*

Dear Friends,

Best wishes from Southern France !

**Jean Michel, Eric**

Note: Please for any plan of battle fields tour 2014, thanks to contact us as soon as possible for comfortable hotels booking.

Bob: thank you for leading with the **Col. Boyle** story. Needless to say most fitting for this Mail Call.

**Pat Seitz**

Greetings Bob, thinking of the Colonel this weekend on the anniversary of his near fatal night in Bergeval. It is also the anniversary of my first visit with the **Colonel (and Babbie and Mimsey)** in Saratoga Springs. Your father provided me with their contact information. Thanks to your father and his efforts my life has had blessings of family and friendship and adventures with the 517th. Carry on my friend.

FYI : I received both email and pdf version of mail call. Problem solved. Much appreciation.

**Paul Abbene**

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: <b>Carolyn Huckabee Horton</b> From: Camden, SC E-mail: <a href="mailto:hortontire1971@yahoo.com">hortontire1971@yahoo.com</a>	My father, <b>DeWitt T. Huckabee</b> passed away August 29th, 2013. He enjoyed receiving "Thunderbolt" newsletter. <hr/> Added: January 10, 2014



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As I included that story of **Bill Boyle** fighting and wounded in Bergeval in last week's MailCall, I should have noted that my Dad, **Ben Barrett** was also seriously wounded in another skirmish in Bergeval/St. Jacques on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1945, along with 13 other members of H Company, plus 3 KIA's.

As an interesting side note from the morning reports, I see that 10 members of H Company had a status change from "stockade" to "active duty" on 6 Jan 45.

Bob Barrett

In the last mailcall 2195 you had a great story about **COL Boyle** being wounded. My Dad knew this story about the Colonel all of his life. In fact my Dad was very close friends with **Bob Steele**. Bob and Dad attended the same high school in Long Beach, CA, but did not know each other until they met in the 517<sup>th</sup>. I can remember as a boy my parents going over to Bob Steele's house and my parents visiting with them. I remember **Bob Steele** had a 1957 Thunderbird and how he took me for a ride back then. I was so impressed.

Anyway, at the 2007 Washington D.C. reunion I asked **COL Boyle** about what happened that night. This is what he told me:

In speaking with now **Colonel Boyle**, USA Retired, at the 517<sup>th</sup> reunion in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, June 30, 2007, Colonel Boyle said,

"I took my Intel NCO (intelligence non-commissioned officer) Sergeant **Bob Steele** and two other radiomen with me. There were four of us proceeding back to Bergeval. As we traversed down the ridge at night in deep snow we finally reached flat ground. Within minutes a German patrol a few feet away ordered us to stop and then gave the challenge word in German. We quickly dove to the ground. A burst of automatic fire ripped into the ground from a few feet away. I (LTC Boyle) was hit three times. Twice in my right arm and once in the left arm which was the worst because the bullet hit my femoral artery. I was bleeding badly." Just then they heard more enemy fire up on the ridgeline. **Sergeant Steele** leaned over to see his wounded battalion commander lying in the snow bleeding to death. He bent down and listened to the commander whisper to him, "Go to Bergeval and tell **Major Fraser** that C Company is in a big fight on the ridge." Sergeant Steele said, "I am not leaving you." The Colonel said, "I gave you an order. Leave me and go on to Bergeval." Sergeant Steele didn't want to leave his commander. He realized this large tall man was too heavy to carry in deep snow. He then decided the only way to get this guy to move was to get him angry. Sergeant Steele said to his boss, "You know what your trouble is Colonel, you don't have the guts to help yourself." This enraged Colonel Boyle and he came to life. "No one talks to me like that" he said. Colonel Boyle told me at the reunion, "I sent the 2 radiomen back to tell Major Fraser he was now in charge, and I struggled to my feet leaning on Sergeant Steele we hobbled into Bergeval where I was seen at the aid station by **Dr. Samos**. I remember Dr. Samos telling **Dr. Sullivan**, 'I can't get an I.V. into his arm to



Men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Major Don Fraser, PFC Bud Curtis, and Colonel Bill Boyle discuss issues of the battles at Soy and Hotten, Belgium at the 517<sup>th</sup> reunion in Washington, D.C., June 30, 2007



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give him blood.’ Dr. Sullivan said, ‘Send him back to the evacuation hospital there is nothing we can do for him here.’ Colonel Boyle said, “I was shipped out to the hospital, then to England and back to the States.”

In speaking with **Major Fraser** at the Washington, D.C. reunion on Saturday, he stated, “When I heard LTC Boyle was wounded and not coming back I quickly went to C Company and pulled them out of the battle. That next morning **LTC Zais** brought out **Bob McMahon** to be the new 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Commander.”

Sergeant Steele had just saved Colonel Boyle’s life. For his bravery he received the Silver Star, and a battlefield commission as a second lieutenant (Bob Steele and Bud were friends, both attended Wilson High School in Long Beach, but the two never met until joining the 517th) (see Bud’s letter dated June 22, 1945).

Exerts from Bud's letter to his parents written on June 22, 1945:

*He got all shot up about two weeks later. He wasn't one of those kind of Colonels that sat behind the lines. He was always up there leading the men, but on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January he walked into an ambush and got all shot up. He got slugs from a burp gun put into him by a Kraut. Nothing could kill that guy though. He is back in the States now and the Battalion hasn't been the same since he left. The guys called him "Wild Bill". He was quite a guy alright.*

*The guy that saved the Colonel that night is a guy that I use go to Wilson with (Wilson High School in Long Beach, CA) and he use to go around with Afton. His name is Bob Steel. He got the Krauts that shot up Wild Bill, and then he carried him into the aid station. He got a Sliver Star and was made a second lieutenant soon afterwards. That Bob is a good man too. He has got plenty of nerve.*

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

Website Guestbook entry:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: <b>Michael Culhane</b> From: Minneapolis, MN E-mail: <a href="mailto:michael.d.culhane@gmail.com">michael.d.culhane@gmail.com</a>	Hi, I am looking for information on my Uncle <b>Sgt. Robert J. Miller</b> . He was a member of I Company and He was MIA or KIA on September 7, 1944 in the Provence region of France. Hoping to find someone from I Company who may have known him and have information.
	Added: January 6, 2014

**Only 6 days until Kissimmee!**

**Florida mini-reunion  
January 18-20, 2014  
Kissimmee, FL  
[Registration Form](#)**



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**Subject:** Information regarding 1st LT Joseph Prager

Hello,

My name is Steven Prager and my grandfather, **1st LT Joseph Prager**, served in 460th parachute field artillery battalion and I believe he was in the B battery (I found his name on the 44 Christmas list). Other than the Xmas list there are no other records on your site where his name comes up. If you could please ask other veterans who were in his battalion if they have any information about him (personality traits, what his job was, if he had a nickname, stories, etc.) I would greatly appreciate it.

I've grown up never knowing who my Grandfather was and if I could get some insight as to what kind of a person he was and what he did during his time in the army I would be incredibly thankful. Any information is helpful.

Best regards,

Steven Prager

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Hi Steven,

You are correct, in that I cannot find Lt. Prager specifically named in my records except on the Christmas roster. (I don't have all the records, just what I have put on the website over the years.) From the Christmas 1944 roster, we do know that he was a Lt in the HQ Battery of the 460th.

But I will put your note in the next email newsletter that I send out weekly, and I will let you know if I hear back anything.

In the meantime, if you want a feel for what the 460<sup>th</sup> did during training and the war, I can point you to a few journals:

1. [http://517prct.org/documents/460\\_history/460th\\_routing.jpg](http://517prct.org/documents/460_history/460th_routing.jpg) lists all the places and times visited by the 460<sup>th</sup>.
2. Merle McMorrow of the 460<sup>th</sup> has written a couple of autobiographies, which could give you a great feel for what the 460<sup>th</sup> and 517<sup>th</sup> went through. One of them is available on amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/Rome-Berlin-via-Bastogne-Paratrooper/dp/1439215553/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1389130427&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Rome-Berlin-via-Bastogne-Paratrooper/dp/1439215553/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1389130427&sr=1-1)
3. There's also a short bio from Jim Mortensen on the website: [http://517prct.org/documents/mortensen\\_j/mortensen\\_history.htm](http://517prct.org/documents/mortensen_j/mortensen_history.htm)
4. And it's not historically accurate and a bit silly, but look for the movie "Kings Go Forth", with Frank Sinatra, which takes place with the 460<sup>th</sup> in So. France. It's on TV occasionally. The author, Joe David Brown, was in HQ Battery of the 460<sup>th</sup> (same as your grandfather).

Bob Barrett



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Steven,

Two more pieces of information: I have a copy of the 134<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division book, published sometime around 1946, after the 517<sup>th</sup> and 460<sup>th</sup> became part of the 13<sup>th</sup> AB. I do see Joseph L. Prager listed as a member of the 460<sup>th</sup> PFAB, B Battery at that time.

Also attached is a picture from that book, of the HQ Battery, taken near Rome sometime in 1944. I don't know if you can make out any of the faces. Usually the officers are in the front.

If you have any photos or stories of your grandfather, I'd love to include them on the website.

Bob Barrett



Wow that is an incredible picture! I showed it too my father and he says that if the time period is correct he believes that Lt. Prager is fourth from the left on the front row.

We will try to compile the information that we have and send it too. Thank you again for all your help.

Best regards,  
Steven Prager





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Here's another picture from the 460<sup>th</sup> section of the 13<sup>th</sup> Airborne book. Does anyone recognize the people or location? I see stenciled names on the helmets, which I have not seen anywhere else before. Can anyone explain that?

Bob B.



I have some photos of my Uncle **Sgt. Robert J. Miller**. I have 6 photos that I could send to be added to your site.

Please let me know.

**Michael Culhane**



At Camp Toccoa, April 20, 1944



**Cpl. Robert Miller** and his wife Loyce, in 1944

See more photos at:

[http://517prct.org/photos/robert\\_j\\_miller\\_2/robert\\_j\\_miller\\_2.htm](http://517prct.org/photos/robert_j_miller_2/robert_j_miller_2.htm)

and

[http://517prct.org/photos/robert\\_j\\_miller/robert\\_j\\_miller.htm](http://517prct.org/photos/robert_j_miller/robert_j_miller.htm)

Sgt. Robert J. Miller was KIA in Provence in September 1944.



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In mail call just before Christmas I sent a copy of the letter my Dad wrote this mother on December 29, 1944. My Dad remembers very well the day after Christmas how he and **Colonel Boyle** were just about killed by incoming artillery rounds. Here is what was said about that experience:

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

"In Bud's letter dated December 29, 1944, he related that the 517<sup>th</sup> PRCT had taken and secured the towns of Soy and Hotten Belgium. Bud thought he remembered the 517<sup>th</sup> turned control of these two towns over to the 106h Infantry Division, and on Christmas day the 106<sup>th</sup> Division had lost the ground given them by the 517<sup>th</sup>. Bud thought the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was pushed back by the Germans at the towns of Soy and Hotton. Because the battle was unclear to Bud, his son L. Vaughn Curtis asked the question on "MailCall", the 517<sup>th</sup> PRCT Association email site in May 2004. On May 27, 2004 an email message was sent out to me from then Lieutenant Colonel Boyle, 1<sup>st</sup>, Battalion Commander, 517<sup>th</sup>. He straightened out the story as to what really happened. Colonel Boyle related the following on MailCall #700. He said,

"This is to Lory Curtis, I **Bill Boyle** remember, but would change a few details. It was troops from a regiment of the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Not the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. There Germans had not taken back Soy and Hotton, but two battalion of this regiment (517<sup>th</sup>) were unable to take the hill, Laremoulier. Colonel Howze of 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division ordered me to take the hill. At the time C Company was off on another mission. B Company was on a line from just south of Hotton to just south of Quatre Bras. I gave A Company the job of going down a streambed to attack the hill from the flank. One platoon of C Company that was not on that C Company mission was in reserve. A Company swept the hill although having been fired on by one battalion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division troops. Just before dark I was ordered to take command of all our troops in the area and organize for a defense. I gave A Company an area to defend and then placed elements of about seven companies in position. As daylight came I heard an observer incorrectly directing fire and tried to correct it. It came in directly on part of A Company. It turned out to be from the cannon company of the regiment of the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Yes, I raised hell about that as well as with the only battalion commander of that unit that I could locate. Our versions vary somewhat, but after all it is almost 60 years ago, and we saw it from different view points."

Bud remembered that artillery attack very well, (he told his mother about it after the war was over in his letter dated May 29, 1945) and has never forgot it all of these years later. He said, "On December 26<sup>th</sup>, I was stringing field telephone wire up to LTC Boyle, the Battalion Commander while conducting an offensive operation to retake Soy and Hotton. I had spliced the wire many times that day as German artillery rounds kept blowing up the lines. At about noontime on December 26, 1944, I was stringing wire for the field telephone for Lieutenant Colonel Boyle, the First Battalion Commander, when friendly fire from the some Artillery Battalion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division came screaming in. Apparently grid coordinates for the intended rounds were landing short. LTC Boyle and I hit the ground as the shell exploded with most of the shrapnel going upward and not downward."

Bud then continued, "Close by were two men. One man was the forwarded observer with a radio on his back from that Artillery Battalion standing by the foxhole. The other man was a 517<sup>th</sup> paratrooper in the foxhole. When the rounds came in the man with the radio strapped to his back dove into the foxhole on top of the other man. The artillery shell exploding killing the radioman and his body covered the other man lower in the foxhole. This man started screaming and lost all control about the radioman's death." Sixty years later Bud could still hear his screams. After the artillery rounds stopped coming in, Colonel Boyle, and Bud were shook up badly, but not hurt. LTC Boyle asked Bud, "Curtis are you still alive?" Bud checked himself and said, "Yes sir, I think I am." The Colonel said he had to go and get things organized but would be back. LTC Boyle did come back and kept reporting to Bud the condition of the battle and reassured Bud that everything was alright."



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### *This Week in 517<sup>th</sup> History - 1945*

Since the weather is so cold right now I wanted to relate that the men of the 517th were suffering very similar circumstances at the Battle of the Bulge, except these men had to live in foxholes or where ever they could find some shelter. My Dad told me this story that I put in the book:

"During the "Battle of the Bulge" Bud had been out most of the night splicing commo wire for the telephones. Sometime around 2:00 or 3:00 AM, Bud came stumbling into this farmhouse. Inside were many paratroopers from his unit who were sitting by the fireplace playing cards. A fire is roaring and Bud takes off his overcoat that is soaking wet and hangs it by the fireplace to dry. He walks upstairs and by chance finds an empty bed. Bud is exhausted and lays down his rifle and collapses on the bed. Within seconds he is sound to sleep. Bud remembers what happened next. He related that his friend **Howard "Sug" Lawrence** jumped on his chest yelling, "Get up Curtis, the Germans are just outside." Bud was startled out of a deep sleep. He didn't know what to think. His first instinct was to grab his rifle, which he did. Then he looked out the window and could see German soldiers moving around the houses. Bud ran down stairs quickly, there at the door was a paratrooper saying come over here. As he looked out the door and when he thought the coast was clear he would tell the men to run to safety. Bud stood there until his turn. Then the words "Run." Bud took off running as fast as he could, crossing an open snowy field until he arrived with the others paratroopers. Just then Bud noticed he had forgotten his warm overcoat. He was grateful that he hadn't taken anything else off. The weather was bitter cold (Bud tells his mother about this in a letter dated February 19, 1945 in his postscript). In addition to this story Bud will always remember the day his battalion executive officer took care of him.

Sometime in early January 1945, while in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge, **Major Don Fraser**, Executive Officer of the First Battalion was transporting Bud and some other soldiers to another location in his jeep. Bud had taken off his gloves because they were soaking wet. Major Fraser noticed that Bud was trying to keep his hands warm with no success. Major Fraser took off his gloves and told Bud, "Here take these gloves I can get more but you can't." Bud was very grateful and never forgot Major Fraser's kindness.

Since learning about the glove incident I wanted to know more about it. I posted an email message on the 517<sup>th</sup> mailcall site, asking if Major Fraser was out there and if he remembered the glove incident. Much to my surprise the following email was posted to the site on May 27, 2004:

In an email message, **Jay Littlefield**, Major Don Fraser grandson wrote this about the gloves: "This is Jay, the 20 year old grandson of Major Don W. Fraser. I showed him the story that your father remembered, and my grandfather immediately picked up on it. He told me to tell you that the jeep was from Rome, Italy, and he stole it from the British for **Colonel Boyle**. He said that it had no top or windshield. He also added, "**Keogh** was my driver, he could see in the dark like a cat." He also remembered the glove incident as well. He wanted me to tell you that he did get another pair of gloves from **Bill Price**, the S-4, and that the wet gloves were placed on the radiator to dry off. He was very happy to hear that someone else remembered that jeep and gloves, etc. He also added that Airborne units never got many vehicles, so whenever they would need something they would steal it. He said that they just had to paint over the numbers on the bumper and paint 517 instead. On this jeep they had to paint over the British emblem on the hood as well. Thank you very much for your email, my grandfather's eyes lit up when he read the letter. It was good to see that he has his memory so intact."



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On July 19, 2006, at the 517<sup>th</sup> PRCT reunion in Portland, Oregon, **Bud Curtis** and **Don Fraser** met for the first time since the war. Both of these men remembered that day in Belgium when Major Fraser gave Private Curtis his gloves. Major Fraser related, "My gosh his fingers were frozen stiff and I knew he needed my gloves. I could always get more but he couldn't." To this day and all of his life Bud never forgot this kindness. Now these two men had time to talk about their lives, children, and grandchildren. It was a great reunion.

Here is a picture from Paratrooper Odyssey showing a jeep that I think would be something like Major Fraser and my Dad were in.



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

### *99 Facts About World War II: Part 1*

I received this list of 99 facts about WWII that I thought would be of interest. Number 18 says the bloodiest battle was the Battle of the Bulge where 80,000 people died.

**Lory Curtis**

*BB: It's a very long list, so I'll just include it in sections. Here are items #1-20:*

1. World War II was the most destructive conflict in history. It cost more money, damaged more property, killed more people, and caused more far-reaching changes than any other war in history.
2. The country with the largest number of WWII casualties was Russia, with over 21 million.
3. For every five German soldiers who died in WWII, four of them died on the Eastern Front.
4. It is estimated that 1.5 million children died during the Holocaust. Approximately 1.2 million of them were Jewish and tens of thousands were Gypsies.
5. Eighty percent of Soviet males born in 1923 didn't survive WWII.
6. Between 1939 and 1945, the Allies dropped 3.4 million tons of bombs, which averaged 27,700 tons per month.
7. Russia and the Red Army were accused of several war crimes, including systematic mass rape (over 2 million German women aged 13-70 were allegedly raped by the Red Army) and genocide.
8. Many historians believe that the Battle at Stalingrad (1942-1943) is not only arguably the bloodiest battle in history (800,000-1,600,000 casualties), but also the turning point of WWII in Europe.
9. Even after the Allies arrived, many concentration camp prisoners were beyond help. In Bergen-Belsen, for example, 13,000 prisoners died after liberation. Nearly 2,500 of the 33,000 survivors of Dachau died within six weeks of liberation.
10. Max Heiliger was the fictitious name the SS used to establish a bank account, in which they



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deposited money, gold, and jewels taken from European Jews.

11. The longest battle of WWII was the Battle of the Atlantic, which lasted from 1939-1945.
12. The original abbreviation of the National Socialist Party was Nasos. The word "Nazi" derives from a Bavarian word that means "simple minded" and was first used as a term of derision by journalist Konrad Heiden (1901-1966).
13. The swastika is an ancient religious symbol. It derives from the Sanskrit name for a hooked cross, which was used by ancient civilizations as a symbol of fertility and good fortune. It has been found in the ruins of Greece, Egypt, China, India, and Hindu temples.
14. In 1935, British engineer Robert Watson-Watt was working on a "death ray" that would destroy enemy aircraft using radio waves. His "death ray" instead evolved into "radar" or "radio detection and ranging".
15. Out of the 40,000 men who served on U-boats during WWII, only 10,000 returned.
16. Survivors of both atomic bombings in Japan are called niju hibakusha, which literally means "explosion-affected people".
17. Approximately 600,000 Jews served in the United States Armed Forces during WWII. More than 35,000 were killed, wounded, captured, or missing. Approximately 8,000 died in combat. However, only two Jewish soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honour in WWII.
18. The Battle of the Bulge is the largest and deadliest battle for U.S. troops to date, with more than 80,000 American deaths.
19. The Enola Gay became well known for dropping the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, but few people know the name of the B-29 that bombed Nagasaki. It was "Bocks Car", named after the plane's usual commander, Frederick Bock.
20. More Russians (military and civilians) lost their lives during the Siege of Leningrad than did American and British soldiers combined in all of WWII.

### *Administrivia*

- If you miss any MailCalls, they are all available online at <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/>
- At any time, if you want to be added or removed from the MailCall list, just let me know.
- Send any news, stories, or feedback to: [MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)
- If you send me email that you do not want included in MailCall, just label it as FYEO.
- I now understand how Ben could get confused about what he already posted and what he didn't. If I miss something, please just send it again.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to our new Association Treasurer: Identify the purpose of any donation (Annual Donations, In Memory of... etc.) and make all checks payable to:

**517 PRCT Association, Inc.**  
c/o Joanne Barrett  
70 Pleasant Street  
Cohasset, MA 02025