



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2204

March 9, 2014

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

Website
Send MailCall news to
MailCall Archives
2013 Roster (updated!)
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

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

Margaret (Mardy Chapman) McMorrow

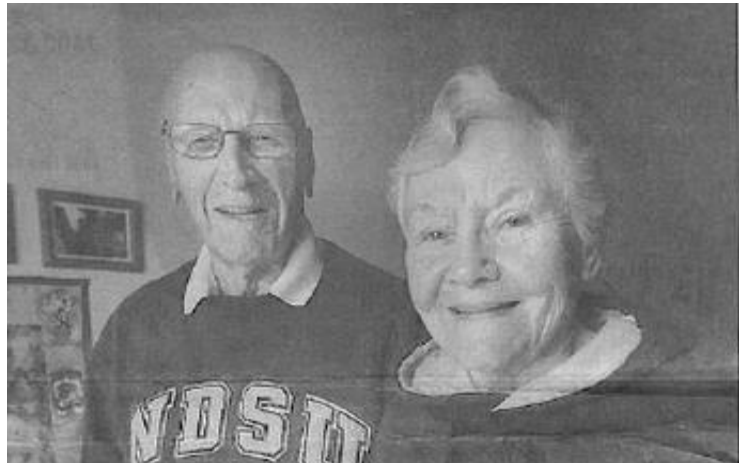
My Mardy died today [Tuesday, March 4] at 1:03 PM. As were her wishes, her body was shipped to the Medical Center at the University of North Dakota.

She wanted to go to Palm Springs and wanted to purchase tickets for France for August. I asked are you crazy; at our age we shouldn't plan on grocery shopping more than a day in advance.

Then two days later this unexpected event takes place.

Enjoy life Bob; there isn't enough of it

Merle



There will be a memorial service for Mardy this Sunday in Bismarck, ND



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Margaret (Mardy) Oda Mc Morrow died on March 4, 2014, in Fargo, North Dakota.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, 2014, at Parkway Funeral Service, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Mardy was born on November 18, 1926, in Albert Lea, Minnesota. She graduated from Arnegard (ND) High School and the North Dakota Agricultural College (now North Dakota State University).

She is survived by her husband Merle Mc Morrow, her son Jeffrey (Patti) Chapman and grandsons Nicholas Chapman and Daniel Chapman, her son Casey (Patsy) Chapman and grandsons Marc (Rebecca) Chapman and Christopher (Haley) Chapman, and her son-in-law Kim (Joanie) Richter and granddaughters Kylene Richter and Katie (Andrew) Thompson.

Her first husband Daniel Chapman, her daughter Linda Richter, her daughter-in-law Linda Chapman, and her parents preceded her in death.

Memorials can be sent to the Fargo/Moorhead Humane Society, 1201 28th Avenue North, Fargo, ND 58102.

<http://www.eastgatefuneral.com/obituary/Margaret-McMorrow/Fargo-ND/1351778>

Those of you who have been to 517th PRCT reunions in the past 10 years will all know Mardy and Merle Mc Morrow. In fact, they were the hosts of the 2001 reunion in Bismarck, ND.

I got to know Mardy at several of the 517th reunions in the last few years. I especially remember traveling with Mardy and Merle to Operation Dragoon ceremonies in southern France in August 2009, and I am so glad to have spent time with her. I will always remember her friendly smile and her patience with all of us during a hectic but rewarding trip. I am so glad that I got to know her on that wonderful adventure.

Bob Barrett





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MailCall News

Dear Friends,

I hope you are doing fine. I read the Mailcall every Monday morning with my coffee at work, what a great read especially on a Monday morning when everything is dull!

Just to let you know that I will be in Southern France this summer, I have a room reserved at Hotel L'Oree du Bois in Les Arcs. arriving on the 11th and departing on the 23rd. Bob Jackson (45th Division) and his family will also be there and we decided to stick together during the two weeks.

It would be great if you could make it to France, Bob!

Since I wasn't able to make it last year due to conflicts with my professional schedules, I am taking 2 weeks off this summer to be there for the whole period of ceremonies.

Looking forward to seeing you all this summer.

Kind regards,

Gilles

Subject: I would love to investigate this

<http://www.lib.umassd.edu/archives/findaids/MC18PAA.pdf>

Now, Bob, I know you will think I am nuts to send this on to you...but this is really for those who are into research on the 517th.

This particular link is for "Sylvia and Luis Cotta Family (Little Compton, Rhode Island) Papers, 1890-1998". The reason this is of interest to the 517th, is that **Philip Sylvia** of Little Compton RI, was in Company G of the 517th. Many, many yrs ago, my husband, David Vickers, & I visited him in Little Compton. The link is ONLY a listing of the contents of a collection...not the items themselves...but it does say that there are pictures & correspondence related to Phil's US Army time 1941-45. I personally wish I was closer to Dartmouth to check this out, especially the pictures.

THE WIDDAH LYN, THE GOOD DR RUTH, & the somewhat finicky ABBE VON DACHSHUND, and now featuring the vicious, elderly chihuahua, MISS DAISY

Lyn Vickers

[**Philip Sylvia** is on the Christmas 1944 roster, with the Service Company. He used to be on our mailing list back in 2008 with w Florida address. – BB]



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Guestbook entry on the website:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Oscar H. Knerr From: Ft Wayne, IN E-mail: oknerr09@comcast.net	I am an (almost) illiterate computer 517 vet. When I discovered this web site in 2000 or so, it was too late, physically, to attend any of the reunions. I would love to hear from any of the Headquarters I&R platoon members that are still around.
Added: March 5, 2014	

Hi Bob,

Please, do put me back on the MailCall list. When it stopped coming, I figured someone was either sick or had passed on. All too familiar now a days. Then I moved back to Indiana. I called up the web page several times but never found MailCall. My generation just cannot ever get the feel of a CP like you young guys do. Thanks a lot.
Have a nice day.

Oscar Knerr

From **Phil McSpadden**

Subject: **Powerful!!!!!!**

In case you haven't seen this before:

A 15 year girl made this. It puts to shame the output of a number of Hollywood producers and/or directors.

All I can say is WOW!!!!!!! This film was made by a 15 year old girl. It is the hottest thing on the internet and on Fox News. Lizzie Palmer, who put this YouTube program together, is 15 years old. There have been over 3,000,000 hits. In case you missed it, here it is.

Watch all of it.....and, pass it on if you choose!!



<http://www.youtube.com/v/ervaMPt4Ha0&autoplay=1>



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Please put me on mail list. My father in law was in the 517th. I believe company A. Thank you.

bonzsearcher

I will add you to the MailCall list. You can unsubscribe yourself at any time.

What is your father-in-law's name?

Thomas Blymire. [A Company] He has passed away. Do any of the vets still get together? Wondering if anyone knew him or have photos? Alan

Subject: Morning Reports

Mr. Barrett how do I access the morning reports. I want to find the one that reports my dad **Mike Sura**, H Company being wounded in the mine field in Bergstein, Germany?

Are you going to France in August?

Hi Dennis,

The morning reports are not on the website yet. But I have some of them including H Company. Here are what we have for **Michael Sura**:

Sura	Michael	A	CPL	29-Sep-1944	11	36716453	745	1 mile NE of Peira Cava, France	rd to gr of Pvt
Sura	Michael	A	PVT	30-Jan-1945	II	36716453	7745	Stavelot, Belgium 718.009	promoted to Cpl as of 22 Jan 45
Sura	Michael	A	CPL	8-Feb-1945	AG	36716453	7607	Vergstein, Germany 324-077	fr duty to abs sk hosp BC LWA as of 7 Feb 45. basic status changed fr asgd to atchd unasgd as of 7 Feb 45.

I attached a copy of the MR for Feb 8th.

I would love to be there in August with everyone, but not sure of my schedule yet.

Bob B.



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My Uncle **Earl Whisenhunt** was a member of the 517 Parachute Infantry Regiment in WW II. He was in Company G. He has been receiving a magazine called the Thunder Bolt for years but for the past few years has not received anything. He does not know how to use a computer so he asked me to send an email see if the magazine is still being printed and if so who the editor is and if there is a phone number he can call. I have enjoyed looking at our website and there is a lot of information there. I found his name on the roster.

So I guess since he does not have a computer is there someone he can call to receive information about what may be taking place.

He name is Earl Whisenhunt, he lives at 4 Heather Way Candler NC and his phone number is 828-667-4932 His wife died about a year ago and have so many of his friends. He is going through some lonely trying times right now. I know he would greatly appreciate it if someone could contact him. I am his nephew and you can email me back or call me on my cell.

I look forward to hearing from someone who can help me help my Uncle Ear.

Have a great day.

Dick Whisenhunt

Good Morning Bob

I appreciate you replying to my email. That Address is Candler NC and not Cander. The zip code is correct so I would think that the mail would get there. If you have time I would really appreciate it if you or someone could give my Uncle Earl a call. He is trying to find someone he can talk with on the phone about this magazine and why his subscription stopped. He has several questions. His phone number is 828-667-4932. If there is a problem with the address the two of you can resolve it. He lives by himself and again the phone call would mean a lot to him.

He has no computer so I will print out several back copies of the magazine for him. Is there any way to obtain copies of past magazines, especially the recent ones so I can just buy them and take them to him. He has a hard time reading but has a magnifying glass and spend hours reading things every day. I know he would enjoy the magazine more than a print out, but a print out is better than nothing.

Thank you again for replying to the email. Have a great day.

Dick Whisenhunt

I think the news for MailCall is Earl is 93, doing very well, and of course is very proud of his service in the 517th. When I spoke with him on the phone, he is as sharp as a tack, and very active!! He still drives his car according to his nephew. It was a real honor to talk with Earl and to hear his stories. He used to live in Santa Barbara CA close to where I grew up as a kid in Long Beach, CA. As you said he is anxious to receive the Thunderbolt and I believe what he said to me was he got the one in October of 2013, which was our last issue, but may have missed other issues because his street was spelled incorrectly. I do have back issues and will mail them to him right away. I believe the printer mailed out the issues last week as of yet I still haven't received my issue. Please let those family members and friends on MailCall check with their 517th troopers and make sure they are receiving the Thunderbolt. We want all veterans to get a copy.

Lory Curtis, Co-Editor with **Claire Giblin**



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

SNAFU Special is a C-47 skytrain who participated in the five most legendary operations of the WW2 : Neptune (Normandy) DRAGOON (PROVENCE) Market Garden (Holland) Repulse (Bastogne) and Varsity (Germany).

During Operation Dragoon, the SNAFU Special is part of the 440th Troop Carrier Group which should take 720 paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment commanded by **Lieutenant Colonel Richard J. Seitz** that must be dropped on the Drop Zone A. **Colonel Rupert Graves's** 517th PIR Regimental Headquarters Company and the 2nd Platoon of the 1st **Earl H. Dillard** of the 596th Parachute Engineer Company also boarded the C-47 taking off from Ombrone airfield.

You can see that on the facebook page :
<https://www.facebook.com/snafuspecial>

Or on the association website :
<http://www.the-snafu-special.com/>

Lt. Col. Richard J. Seitz on Ombrone airfield, prior D-day. We can see in the background a C-47 with "9X" marking who is the 95th Squadron. The Snafu Special was part of this squadron. --->



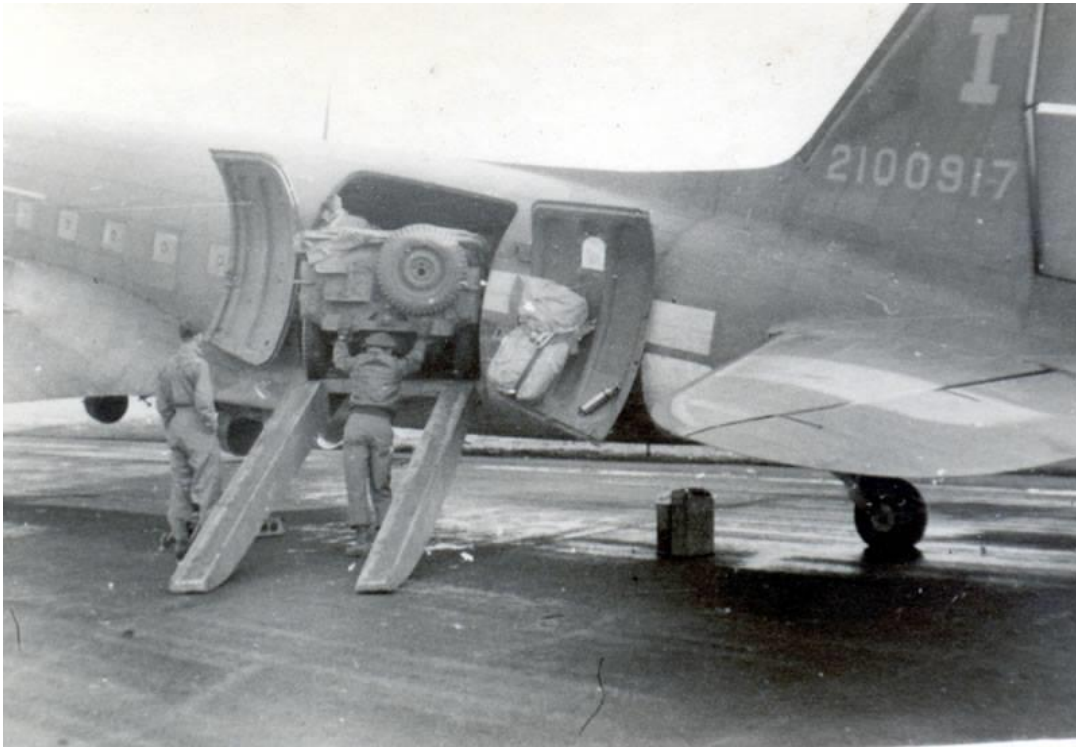
On June 7, 2014, for the 70th Anniversary of D-day, 9 of these C-47s Skytrain will fly in their formation of nine planes V of Vs over The SNAFU Special during the ceremony in her honor.



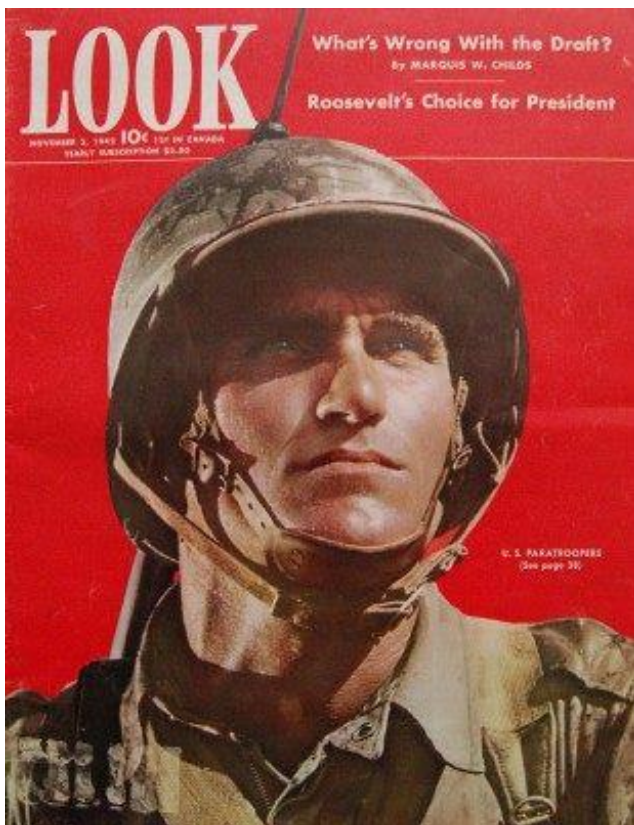


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Speaking of the C-47's, here's something I haven't seen before:



WWII magazines:





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Checkmate !

Battle by bitter battle our combat soldiers checkmate a strong, fanatical enemy. Once again the American fighting man is leaving his mark on the history books of the world—the mark of a man.

Outstanding among these men is the paratrooper—the combat soldier who flies to work—dropping out of the skies in the enemy's rear or on the flanks to deliver the blow that leads to victory.

From the moment that he collapses his chute, he is on his way. Surprise is his ally . . . speed and firepower his weapons . . . raw courage his stick in trade . . . success his mission.

This fighting man knows that he carries in his pack the hopes of a free world. He knows that if *tomorrow* we are to live in freedom . . . *today* we must fight the enemy of freedom—*today* we must fight those who make a mockery of individual rights.

He cannot fight on alone. He needs your help. He needs men, brave men, who will volunteer to serve alongside him. Men who can make a success of any mission. Men who will fight for freedom.



U. S. ARMY

VISIT YOUR NEAREST U. S. ARMY AND U. S. AIR FORCE RECRUITING STATION



THE MARK OF A MAN

This is the paratrooper's badge that marks a man of the Airborne. It is the mark of a real combat soldier—a man among men.



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Military Humor



"Must be a tough objective. Th' old man says we're gonna have th' honor of liberatin' it."

Current Association Members: Remember to Vote

All 517th Association active members (all troopers who served with the 517th/460th/596th in WWII):

Please remember to vote regarding the future of the Association, using either the form attached to the end of this MailCall (Page 11) or print out and use this one-page version:

[http://www.517prct.org/association_business/Solicitation for Votes of Active Members of the 517th PRCT.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/association_business/Solicitation_for_Votes_of_Active_Members_of_the_517th_PRCT.pdf)

Or you may also vote by sending an email to MailCall by clicking one of the links below. Please read the voting documentation carefully. Please include your name and unit in the email.

[I vote YES: Merge the 517th Association and Auxiliary](#)

[I vote NO: Do Not Merge the 517th Association and Auxiliary](#)



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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, or just click on the unsubscribe link on the email.
- 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

