



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2206

March 23, 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

MailCall News

I did not have a current picture of **Dallas Long** for last week's MailCall. Thanks to [First Airborne Task Force ; The Forgotten Paratroopers](#) for this tribute and these pictures of Dallas. -- BB

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

It's with sadness that we have learned that the **1/Sgt. Dallas Long** passed away on February 22. Dallas was part of the 3/517 and was dropped by mistake near Callian with all his battalion. Dallas had 95 years.

C'est avec tristesse que nous venons d'apprendre que le 1/Sgt. Dallas Long est décédé le 22 Février. Dallas faisait partie du 3/517 et avait été parachuté par erreur près de Callian avec tout son bataillon. Dallas avait 95 ans.

Rest in peace Dallas Long.



1/Sgt. Dallas L. Long 

George Company
3rd Battalion
517th Parachute Infantry Regiment
"ATTACK!"

September 22, 1918 - February 22, 2014



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I want to thank you so, so much for sending this Mail Call to me. I use to get Mail Call on a regular basis and don't remember why it stopped. My Uncle Dallas was a very special person. It saddens me that I did not get to see him often as I got older. It was important to me after my father died (Uncle Dallas's only brother) to know that my Uncle Dallas was still here. Made me feel somehow still more connected my father. My father and my Uncle Dallas are now reunited, but I feel a great loss.

Thank you,

Cindy Gossard

My son & I went to San Jacinto battleground yesterday see the 100th anniversary of the battleship Texas. It was in WWI & WWII . It is impressive to see. We saw & talked with some who had served on that ship. I got a kick out of telling them I had been on that ship before they had . Our family went on the ship for a lecture when I was about 4 years old . That would make it around 1928 that I was on the ship. They were stationed near longbeach,calif. or sanpedro. Anyway at at the battleground it started raining it didn't let up so we finally had to leave sooner than expected. I also have an ancestor who fought with Sam Houston at San Jacinto, Texas.my son was a Veitnam veteran so we got in at a reduced price.

Mel Trenary

[Loïc 'Jack' Jankowiak](#) shared his photo.

S/Sgt Hoyt F. Kelley, Little Boyle Alamo hero. 1st Battalion / 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment à Nice, en août 2013 lors de sa remise de décoration de la Légion d'Honneur.





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Please convey my appreciation to those who expressed their sympathy relating to the death of Mardy. Life without her is not much fun. She kept me in my place and searching for a response to some of her comments. One could not help but love her. It will take awhile to repair what she has done to my heart.

Merle

I just received my Thunderbolt in the mail yesterday and I want to thank **Claire Giblin** for doing such a fine job of putting the written material together for publication in the Thunderbolt. I would ask any of our folks out there if they are not getting the Thunderbolt and would like to have a written copy to please send in a request through mailcall. Remember the Thunderbolt can be accessed from the 517th website www.517prct.org/archives

. Also, last week was the Palm Springs reunion and I need pictures of the events so I can put them in our Spring edition of the Thunderbolt so please send in your pictures.

Lory Curtis, Co-Editor of the Thunderbolt

Morning reports being added to the web site.

Occasionally I get requests from people for copies of the morning reports (what happened to who, by date and location). For example, **Jean-Loup Gassend** is working on a book, and there are some soldiers and events that we have little information about, except what is on the morning reports.

Mike Wells spent many months scanning and then compiling the results into spreadsheets that we can search and sort, looking for people and places. It is still a work in process, but I am beginning to post these records onto the web site as a continuing effort to put everything we can on the website for future researchers.

You can see a sample of the morning reports at http://517prct.org/morning_reports/g_co.htm

Bob Barrett

Thank you for Howard's comments about **Sgt Long** (what a man, may he rest in peace) and the collection of photos, for the snippet from the Paratroopers Odyssey, the Bob Hope quotes, cartoons and clipping and the video of the incredible 13 year old Dutch trumpeter -- very moving. A very special Mail Call. Thank you.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

Thank you so much for including that story on the little boy from Ohio who gave the soldier \$20. What a touching story.

Juliana Stonis
daughter of **John Stonis**
Company's A and E



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Subject: Bobb Slattery

I got your name from **Kaare Johnson**. I just recently found out my dad, **Bobb Mattern Slattery**, was a member of the 517 and I wonder if you have any listing that would show his name? He enlisted 1943 in Vermont.

Thanks

Steve

Hi Steve,

I did a quick search of what I have on the web site, but unfortunately haven't run across any specific entry about **Bobb Slattery** yet.

Yes, I did find his enlistment record from VT on the national archives. He was only 18 when he enlisted.

My website archives include the unit written histories and many artifacts, but there are many holes in it. I only have what people have sent in to me. I will continue to dig around and I will post your note in the next weekly newsletter. Do you happen to know what Company he was with?

Do you have any photos or stories about your Dad? I would love to post any photos on the website.

I hope you are aware that the 517th was a very elite unit with a unique history. Unfortunately, because they were a small independent unit and moved around to where the action was, they are not as well-known as the bigger units. There are some published books about the unit, but for a quick introduction, you can view the video "A Cut Above" on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guJE71blP10> or Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/10951367>

Bob Barrett

Thank you.

Dartmouth College just sent me what they found in his alumni (1949) file and there are newspaper clippings which mention that he was Army Parachute Infantry with the 517 (1944 to 1946). But they were reliant on what he told them and so I have no other verification. In fact that is what my agenda is somewhat to verify facts on my dad's life.

I do have a couple of photos at home I will scan and send to you to see if it triggers any recollection.

Many thanks

Steve Slattery



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Palm Springs was different, and I loved it! We had an establishment all to ourselves, and had the run of the entire place. It was a former nudist colony, and it might even be one right now. But it wasn't the week we were there, and most of us kept our clothes on.

All of our meals were eaten right there; we did have one dinner at the local Elks Club, as is tradition. All of the meals, unbelievably, were prepared by Master Chefs **Wayne and Karen (Frice Wallace)** and **Robin (Frice Homedew)**, assisted by **Barbara Nance, Nancy Boian, Brad and Connie Lecklider, Barb Leckliker, Scott and Deana Rossi and Diane Speelman**. The energy in the kitchen was infectious and it seemed like everyone was helping.

The first morning's breakfast was the best omelet of my life, and the great meals continued until we wrapped it up on Thursday night with our banquet - best food ever at a banquet! Both the steak and the salmon were absolutely delicious. **Wayne Wallace** is a master of the grill!

As always, it was wonderful to see everyone. We had nine veterans in total, and I'll have to count on Karen to provide the list because I know I will leave out someone.

Ever-crazy **Leo Dean** did a skydive while we were there - #161. Wayne drove him out there (during his short break from kitchen detail), and there were other fans with us as well. We enjoyed our usual Palm Springs tradition of facials one day.

Because we weren't at a hotel, our expenses were far more reasonable and our food better and cheaper than in years past. Special thanks go to Wayne, Karen and Robin, who went to bed far later than I did every night, as they prepped the next day's meals. They were incredible!

The entertainment at the banquet was Irish-themed (the weekend before St. Patrick's) and brought our gathering to a close in excellent fashion. The sun had finally come out in every way!

Reunions are so enjoyable, and I was happy to see old friends and meet new ones as well. Please plan to join us in France this August (an informal and loosely-knit gathering where we coordinate but don't necessarily travel together), January 2015 in Kissimmee and probably March 2015 in Palm Springs!

Veterans, don't forget to vote on the issue of merging with the Auxiliary!

Airborne all the way!

K. Allan Johnson



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Hello,

I received the Thunderbolt (winter, January 2014) today addressed to my Daddy, **Robert H. Newberry**.

Daddy died February 16, 2011 at his home in Dawsonville, GA. I thought I had notified everyone, but somehow I must have omitted the 517th PRCT.

Please adjust your mailing list. If I need to provide information for an obituary to be included in this publication, I will be glad to. Daddy had a long and distinguished Army career and we are proud of his service. He and Mama are buried in the National Cemetery outside Canton, GA.

God bless all of you forever,

Rnonda Newberry Hildreth (daughter)

NEWBERRY, Robert



Capt Robert H Newberry
517th PIR Co E
Commanding Officer

Robert Harvey Newberry, LTC, U. S. Army (retired) died February 16, 2011 at his home in Dawsonville, GA at the age of 91. He was born January 19, 1920 to Carrie and Henry Grady Newberry in Lizella, GA. Lt. Col. Newberry had a long and distinguished military career. He served as commander of E. Co. 517 Parachute Company in Europe during WWII, and as commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry during the Korean conflict. He was a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Army Language School (Greek). His military decorations included 3 Bronze Stars, 2 Purple Hearts and the Army Commendation medal. Subsequent to retiring from the Army in 1970, Mr. Newberry served as Deputy Director of the Alabama state parks until his retirement in 1981. Mr. Newberry was preceded in death by his wife, Emily Johnson Newberry, daughter, Susan Newberry Berryman, his parents, and siblings, Jack Newberry, Marcus Newberry, Grace Keadle and Albert Newberry. He is survived by his daughter, Rhonda Newberry Hildreth; son-in-law, W. Bartley Hildreth, granddaughter, Amy Johnson Hildreth, and many nieces and nephews.



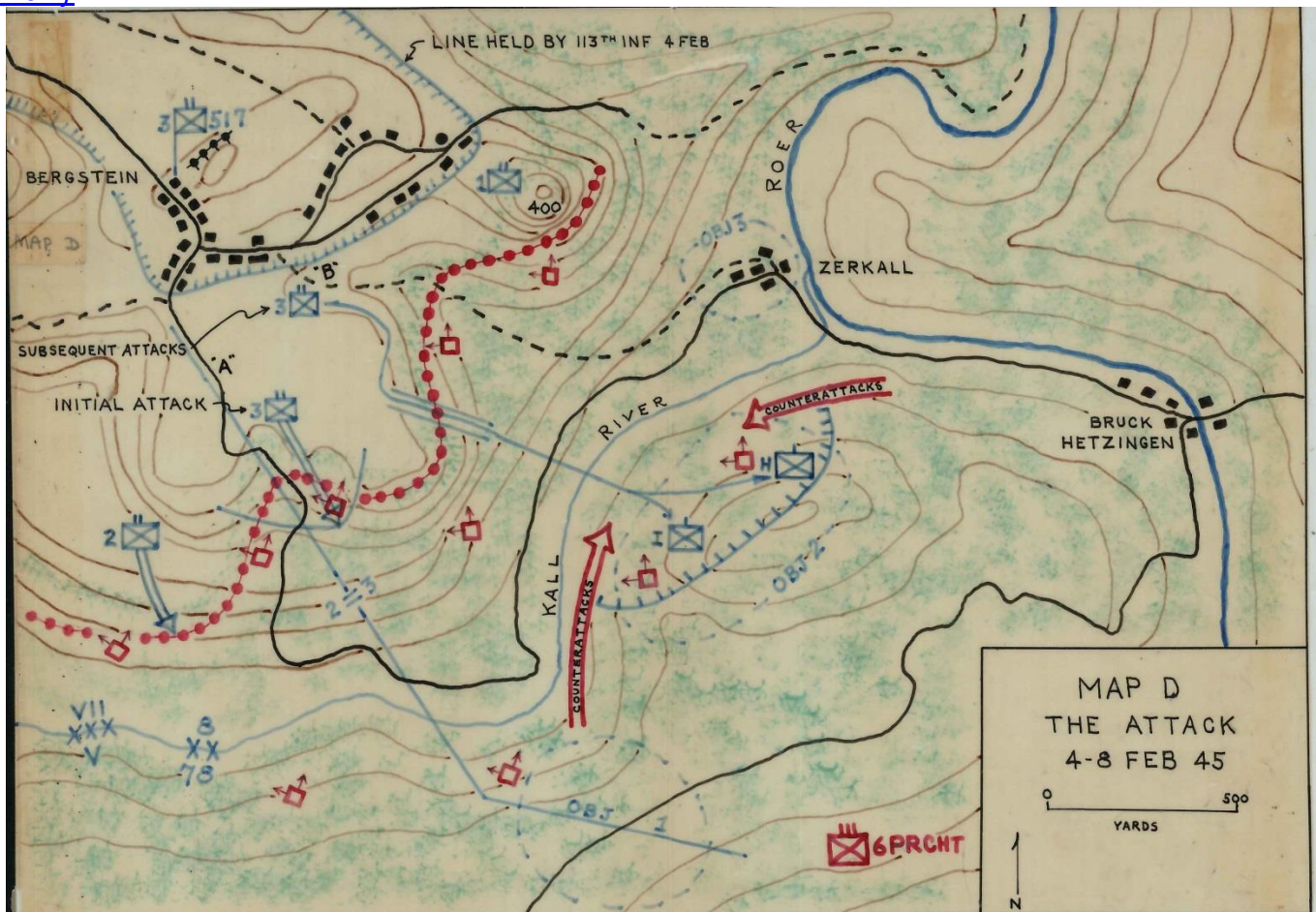
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Then and now, from: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstAirborneTaskForceTheForgottenFront>



B Battery of the 460th PFAB between Luceram and Peira-Cava then (photo from **John Harte**) and now (Francesco Barucchi) - October 1944.

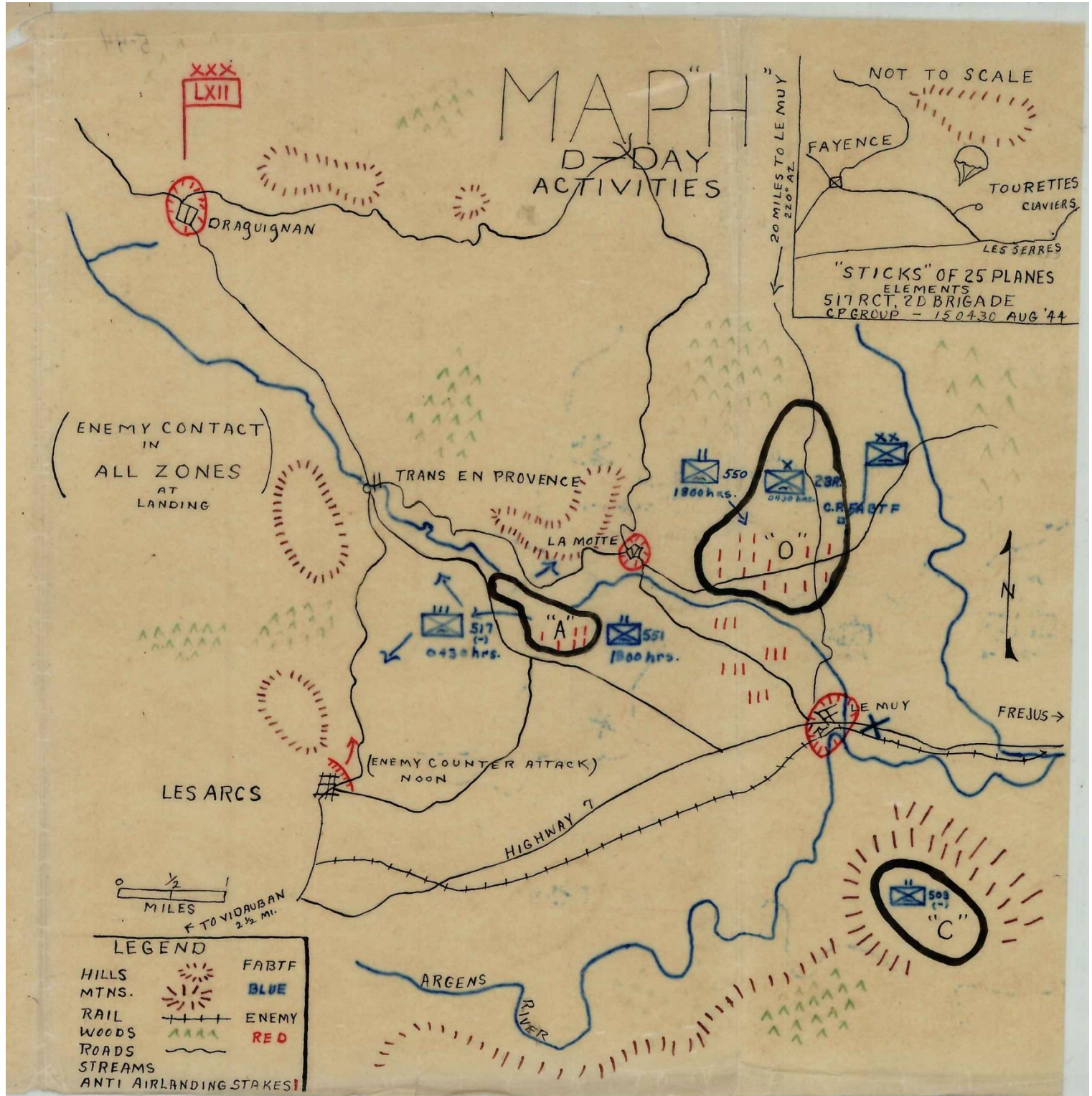
BB: I recently found some 517th action maps on the Fort Benning Infantry School website. These belong with some of the infantry school action reports which are on our website, previously without the maps. I will get them all posted soon, but here is one sample covering the [attack on Bergstein Germany](#):





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Another map of D-Day of the First Airborne Task Force:





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WWII Veteran Presented Congressional Gold Medal In Hyannis

March 16, 2014 6:55 PM



Kiyoshi Ota, 91, poses for a photo with his niece, Diane Ota of Dennis, left, and grandniece Meredith LaPierre of Needham. The Army veteran received the Congressional Gold Medal on Sunday at Emeritus Senior Living in Hyannis.

Cape Cod Times/Christine Hochkeppel

HYANNIS (CBS) – Kiyoshi Ota, a Purple Heart recipient who fought in Italy, France and Germany during World War II, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony Sunday on Cape Cod.

Ota, 91, was a sergeant in the Army's **442nd Regimental Combat Team**. Composed of Japanese-Americans, the 442nd RCT had the motto of "Go for Broke," and was one of the most decorated units in the war and also had one of the highest casualty rates.

Ota is among more than 1,500 Japanese Americans honored by President Obama in 2010 when he signed a bill granting them the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, in recognition of their World War II service.

The Congressional Gold Medal is bestowed by the U.S. Congress and, along with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, is the highest civilian award in the United States.

Prior to the bill signing Ota had suffered a stroke and was unaware he was a recipient.

David Worsman, a Vietnam veteran and member of the VFW Post 1074, was instrumental in completing the documentation for Ota to receive his medal, and presented it to him Sunday at his home at Emeritus at Cape Cod senior living community.

Diane Ota expressed her appreciation to Worsman for making the medal presentation happen for her uncle.

"It is all just a tribute to the spirit of our men and women in the armed services," she said.



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Subject: The names we grew up with

Fw: The names we grew up with, what a list ! (sorry no one left that's my age)

Nila Gott

I can only send this to people our age, since today's people don't have any idea who these Men were and that's a pity.

- Sterling Hayden, US Marines and OSS. Smuggled guns into Yugoslavia and parachuted into Croatia.
- James Stewart, US Army Air Corps. Bomber pilot who rose to the rank of General.
- Ernest Borgnine, US Navy. Gunners Mate 1c, destroyer USS Lambertson.
- Ed McMahon, US Marines. Fighter Pilot. (Flew OE-1 Bird Dogs over Korea as well.)
- Telly Savalas, US Army.
- Walter Matthau, US Army Air Corps., B-24 Radioman/Gunner and cryptographer.
- Steve Forrest, US Army. Wounded, Battle of the Bulge.
- Jonathan Winters, USMC. Battleship USS Wisconsin and Carrier USS Bon Homme Richard. Anti-aircraft gunner, Battle of Okinawa.
- Paul Newman, US Navy Rear seat gunner/radioman, torpedo bombers of USS Bunker Hill
- Kirk Douglas, US Navy. Sub-chaser in the Pacific. Wounded in action and medically discharged.
- Robert Mitchum, US Army.
- Dale Robertson, US Army. Tank Commander in North Africa under Patton. Wounded twice. Battlefield Commission.
- Henry Fonda, US Navy. Destroyer USS Satterlee.
- John Carroll, US Army Air Corps. Pilot in North Africa. Broke his back in a crash.
- Lee Marvin US Marines. Sniper. Wounded in action on Saipan. Buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Sec. 7A next to Greg Boyington and Joe Louis.
- Art Carney, US Army. Wounded on Normandy beach, D-Day. Limped for the rest of his life.
- Wayne Morris, US Navy fighter pilot, USS Essex. Downed seven Japanese fighters.
- Rod Steiger, US Navy. Was aboard one of the ships that launched the Doolittle Raid.
- Tony Curtis, US Navy. Sub tender USS Proteus. In Tokyo Bay for the surrender of Japan.
- Larry Storch. US Navy. Sub tender USS Proteus with Tony Curtis.
- Forrest Tucker, US Army. Enlisted as a private, rose to Lieutenant.
- Robert Montgomery, US Navy.
- George Kennedy, US Army. Enlisted after Pearl Harbor, stayed in sixteen years.
- Mickey Rooney, US Army under Patton. Bronze Star.
- Denver Pyle, US Navy. Wounded in the Battle of Guadalcanal. Medically discharged.
- Burgess Meredith, US Army Air Corps.
- DeForest Kelley, US Army Air Corps.
- Robert Stack, US Navy. Gunnery Officer.
- Neville Brand, US Army, Europe. Was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart.
- Tyrone Power, US Marines. Transport pilot in the Pacific Theater.
- Charlton Heston, US Army Air Corps. Radio operator and aerial gunner on a B-25, Aleutians.
- Danny Aiello, US Army. Lied about his age to enlist at 16. Served three years.
- James Arness, US Army. As an infantryman, he was severely wounded at Anzio, Italy.
- Efram Zimbalist, Jr., US Army. Purple Heart for a severe wound received at Huertgen Forest.
- Mickey Spillane, US Army Air Corps, Fighter Pilot and later Instructor Pilot.
- Rod Serling. US Army. 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific. He jumped at Tagaytay in the Philippines and was later wounded in Manila.
- Gene Autry, US Army Air Corps. Crewman on transports that ferried supplies over "The Hump" in the China-Burma-India Theater.
- William Holden, US Army Air Corps.
- Alan Hale Jr, US Coast Guard.
- Harry Dean Stanton, US Navy. Battle of Okinawa.
- Russell Johnson, US Army Air Corps. B-24 crewman who was awarded Purple Heart when his aircraft was shot down by the Japanese in the Philippines.
- William Conrad, US Army Air Corps. Fighter Pilot.
- Jack Klugman, US Army.
- Frank Sutton, US Army. Took part in 14 assault landings, including Leyte, Luzon, Bataan and Corregidor.
- Jackie Coogan, US Army Air Corps. Volunteered for gliders and flew troops and materials into Burma behind enemy lines.
- Tom Bosley, US Navy.
- Claude Akins, US Army. Signal Corps., Burma and the Philippines.
- Chuck Connors, US Army. Tank-warfare instructor.
- Harry Carey Jr., US Navy.
- Mel Brooks, US Army. Combat Engineer. Saw action in the Battle of the Bulge.



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- Robert Altman, US Army Air Corps. B-24 Co-Pilot.
- Pat Hingle, US Navy. Destroyer USS Marshall
- Fred Gwynne, US Navy. Radioman.
- Karl Malden, US Army Air Corps. 8th Air Force, NCO.
- Earl Holliman. US Navy. Lied about his age to enlist. Discharged after a year when they Navy found out.
- Rock Hudson, US Navy. Aircraft mechanic, the Philippines.
- Harvey Korman, US Navy.
- Aldo Ray. US Navy. UDT frogman, Okinawa.
- Don Knotts, US Army, Pacific Theater.
- Don Rickles, US Navy aboard USS Cyrene.
- Harry Dean Stanton, US Navy. Served aboard an LST in the Battle of Okinawa.
- Soupy Sales, US Navy. Served on USS Randall in the South Pacific.
- Lee Van Cleef, US Navy. Served aboard a sub chaser then a mine sweeper.
- Clifton James, US Army, South Pacific. Was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.
- Ted Knight, US Army, Combat Engineers.
- Jack Warden, US Navy, 1938-1942, then US Army, 1942-1945. 101st Airborne Division.
- Don Adams. US Marines. Wounded on Guadalcanal, then served as a Drill Instructor.
- James Gregory, US Navy and US Marines.
- Brian Keith, US Marines. Radioman/Gunner in Dauntless dive-bombers.
- Fess Parker, US Navy and US Marines. Booted from pilot training for being too tall, joined Marines as a radio operator.
- Charles Durning. US Army. Landed at Normandy on D-Day. Shot multiple times. Awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. Survived Malmedy Massacre.
- Raymond Burr, US Navy. Shot in the stomach on Okinawa and medically discharged.
- Hugh O'Brian, US Marines.
- Robert Ryan, US Marines.
- Eddie Albert, US Coast Guard. Bronze Star with Combat V for saving several Marines under heavy fire as pilot of a landing craft during the invasion of Tarawa.
- Cark Gable, US Army Air Corps. B-17 gunner over Europe.
- Charles Bronson, US Army Air Corps. B-29 gunner, wounded in action.
- Peter Graves, US Army Air Corps.
- Buddy Hackett, US Army anti-aircraft gunner.
- Victor Mature, US Coast Guard.
- Jack Palance, US Army Air Corps. Severely injured bailing out of a burning B-24 bomber.
- Robert Preston, US Army Air Corps. Intelligence Officer
- Cesar Romero, US Coast Guard. Coast Guard. Participated in the invasions of Tinian and Saipan on the assault transport USS Cavalier.
- Norman Fell, US Army Air Corps., Tail Gunner, Pacific Theater.
- Jason Robards, US Navy. was aboard heavy cruiser USS Northampton when it was sunk off Guadalcanal. Also served on the USS Nashville during the invasion of the Philippines, surviving a kamikaze hit that caused 223 casualties.
- Steve Reeves, US Army, Philippines.
- Dennis Weaver, US Navy. Pilot.
- Robert Taylor, US Navy. Instructor Pilot.
- Randolph Scott. Tried to enlist in the Marines but was rejected due to injuries sustained in US Army, World War 1.
- Ronald Reagan. US Army. Was a 2nd Lt. in the Cavalry Reserves before the war. His poor eyesight kept him from being sent overseas with his unit when war came so he transferred to the Army Air Corps Public Relations Unit where he served for the duration.
- John Wayne. Declared "4F medically unfit" due to pre-existing injuries, he nonetheless attempted to volunteer three times (Army, Navy and Film Corps.) so he gets honorable mention.
- And of course we have Audie Murphy, America's most-decorated soldier, who became a Hollywood star as a result of his US Army service that included his being awarded the Medal of Honor.

Would someone please remind me again how many of today's Hollywood elite put their careers on hold to enlist in Iraq or Afghanistan?

The only one who even comes close was Pat Tillman, who turned down a contract offer of \$3.6 million over three years from the Arizona Cardinals to enlist in the US Army after September, 11, 2001 and serve as a Ranger in Afghanistan, where he died in 2004. But rather than being lauded for his choice and his decision to put his country before his career, he was mocked and derided by many of his peers.

I submit to you that this is not the America today that it was seventy years ago. And I, for one, am saddened.



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BB: I am going to follow up Nila's trip down memory lane with this photo from 1944:



This is a photo of all the movie stars then under contract with MGM, celebrating MGM's 20th anniversary.

Notice that 3 of the stars are in military uniforms. Can you name them?

If you need to blow the picture up larger, click [here](#).



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I thought this was interesting.

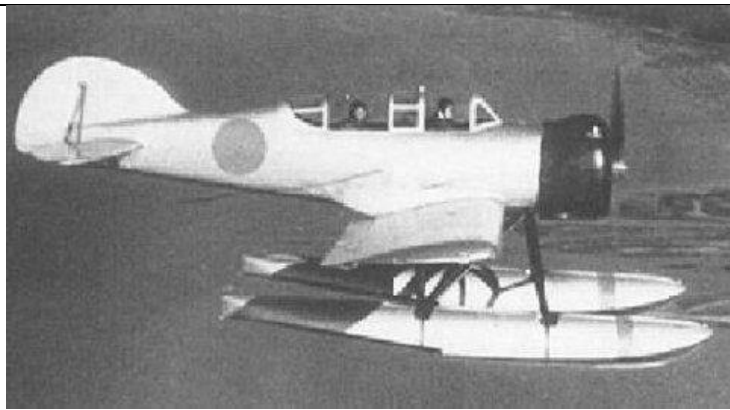
Katherine Wheeler

Subject: HISTORY OF THE BOMBING OF OREGON DURING WORLD WAR II.....

The Day Japan Bombed Brookings, Oregon

Brookings, Oregon
By: Norm Goyer

September 9, 1942, the I-25 class Japanese submarine was cruising in an easterly direction raising its periscope occasionally as it neared the United States Coastline. Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor less than a year ago and the Captain of the attack submarine knew that Americans were watching their coast line for ships and aircraft that might attack our country. Dawn was approaching; the first rays of the sun were flickering off the periscopes lens.



The only plane ever to drop a bomb on the United States during WW-II was this submarine based Glen.

submarine's navigator.

Their mission; attack the west coast with incendiary bombs in hopes of starting a devastating forest fire.

If this test run were successful, Japan had hopes of using their huge submarine fleet to attack the eastern end of the Panama Canal to slow down shipping from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Japanese Navy had a large number of I-400 submarines under construction. Each capable of carrying three aircraft. Pilot Chief Warrant Officer Nobuo Fujita and his crewman Petty Officer Shoji Okuda were making last minute checks of their charts making sure they matched those of the

September 9, 1942: Nebraska forestry student Keith V. Johnson was on duty atop a forest fire lookout tower between Gold's Beach and Brookings Oregon. Keith had memorized the silhouettes of Japanese long distance bombers and those of our own aircraft. He felt confident that he could spot and identify, friend or foe, almost immediately. It was cold on the coast this September morning, and quiet. The residents of the area were still in bed or preparing to head for work. Lumber was a large part of the industry in Brookings, just a few miles north of the California Oregon state lines.

Aboard the submarine the Captain's voice boomed over the PA system, "Prepare to surface, aircrew report to your stations, wait for the open hatch signal" During training runs several subs were lost when hangar door were opened too soon and sea water rushed into the hangars and sank the boat with all hands lost. You could hear the change of sound as the bow of the I-25 broke from the depths, nosed over for its run on the surface. A loud bell signaled the "All Clear."

The crew assigned to the single engine Yokosuki E14Ys float equipped observation and light attack aircraft sprang into action. They rolled the plane out its hangar built next to the conning tower. The



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wings and tail were unfolded, and two 168 pound incendiary bombs were attached to the hard points under the wings. This was a small two passenger float plane with a nine cylinder 340 hp radial engine.

It was full daylight when the Captain ordered the aircraft to be placed on the catapult. Warrant Officer Fujita started the engine, let it warm up, checked the magnetos and oil pressure. There was a slight breeze blowing and the seas were calm. A perfect day to attack the United States of America. When the gauges were in the green the pilot signaled and the catapult launched the aircraft. After a short climb to altitude the pilot turned on a heading for the Oregon coast.

Johnson was sweeping the horizon but could see nothing, he went back to his duties as a forestry agent which was searching for any signs of a forest fire. The morning moved on. Every few minutes he would scan low, medium and high but nothing caught his eye.

The small Japanese float plane had climbed to several thousand feet of altitude for better visibility and to get above the coastal fog. The pilot had calculated land fall in a few minutes and right on schedule he could see the breakers flashing white as they hit the Oregon shores.



The aircraft carried two incendiary 168 pound bombs and a crew of two.

Johnson was about to put his binoculars down when something flashed in the sun just above the fog bank. It was unusual because in the past all air traffic had been flying up and down the coast, not aiming into the coast.



The "Glen" was launched via catapult From a I-25 class Japanese submarine.

The pilot of the aircraft checked his course and alerted his observer to be on the lookout for a fire tower which was on the edge of the wooded area where they were supposed to drop their bombs. These airplanes carried very little fuel and all flights were in and out without any loitering. The plane reached the shore line and the pilot made a course correction 20 degrees to the north. The huge trees were easy to spot and certainly easy to hit with the bombs. The fog was very wispy by this time.

Johnson watched in awe as the small floatplane with a red meat ball on the wings flew overhead, the plane was not a bomber and there was no way that it could have flown across the Pacific, Johnson could not understand what was happening. He locked onto the plane and followed it as it headed inland.

The pilot activated the release locks so that when he could pickled the bombs they would release. His instructions were simple, fly at 500 feet, drop the bombs into the trees and circle once to see if they had started any fires and then head back to the submarine.



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Johnson could see the two bombs under the wing of the plane and knew that they would be dropped. He grabbed his communications radio and called the Forest Fire Headquarters informing them of what he was watching unfold.



Warrant Officer Fujita is shown with his Yokosuka E14Y (Glen) float plane prior to his flight.

The bombs tumbled from the small seaplane and impacted the forests, the pilot circled once and spotted fire around the impact point. He executed an 180 degree turn and headed back to the submarine.

There was no air activity, the skies were clear. The small float plane lined up with the surfaced submarine and landed gently on the ocean, then taxied to the sub. A long boom

swung out from the stern. His crewman caught the cable and hooked it into the pickup attached to the roll over cage between the cockpits. The plane was swung onto the deck, The plane's crew folded the wings and tail, pushed it into its hangar and secured the water tight doors. The I-25 submerged and headed back to Japan.

This event, which caused no damage, marked the only time during World War II that an enemy plane had dropped bombs on the United States mainland. What the Japanese didn't count on was coastal fog, mist and heavy doses of rain made the forests so wet they simply would not catch fire.

Fifty years later the Japanese pilot, who survived the war, would return to Oregon to help dedicate a historical plaque at the exact spot where his two bombs had impacted.

The elderly pilot then donated his ceremonial sword as a gesture of peace and closure of the bombing of Oregon in 1942.



This Memorial Plaque is located in Brookings, Oregon at the site of the 1942 bombing.

This Week in 517th History

One cold day in March [1944] when all were shivering and knee-deep in mud, it was announced that the parachute elements of the 17th Airborne Division were being pulled out for overseas shipment as the 517th Regimental Combat Team. This news was received with greater elation than the end of the war a year later. If there is a special hell reserved for soldiers who have sinned, it must be something like the Tennessee maneuvers.

So, from the mud of Tennessee, the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team emerged. The parachute units were hastily shipped back to Camp Mackall to prepare for overseas movement, leaving the glider-riders of the 17th Airborne to their own devices.



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Military Humor

"Do not touch anything unnecessarily. Beware of pretty girls in dance halls and parks who may be spies, as well as bicycles, revolvers, uniforms, arms, dead horses, and men lying on roads -- they are not there accidentally." – Soviet infantry manual, issued in the 1930's

One of the serious problems in planning the fight against American doctrine is that the Americans do not read their manuals, nor do they feel any obligation to follow their doctrine. – From a Soviet Junior Lt's notebook

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 this one-page form:

[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](#)

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