



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2255

January 25, 2015

*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

[World War II veterans' memories](#) added 4 new photos.

In September 2014, I will start to cross the United States in order to meet and interview US military veterans. The aim: preserve their memories...



Today I had the pleasure to meet an incredible World War II veteran named **Earl Boone** at the Arizona State Veterans Home of Phoenix, Arizona.

Earl was born on December 21 1923 in Sullivan, Indiana. He used to study every morning at the high school and was free the afternoon to work 4 hours/day for a robber company. Earl also spent time playing in a basketball team. He graduated high school on June 1st 1943 but he had only 5 days to celebrate it. When he was drafted on June 6, the recruitment officer asked if there were any volunteers to join the

paratroopers. The wage was little higher than in the infantry. Earl decided to join it and was assigned to the 2nd platoon, F company of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team.

He landed by sea in Anzio, Italy but he performed his first combat jump over south of France during Dragoon operation on August 15 1944. During his war time, Earl was wounded 3 times. He was first shot in the leg in the south of France, the 2nd time in the head by a shrapnel and the 3rd time by the



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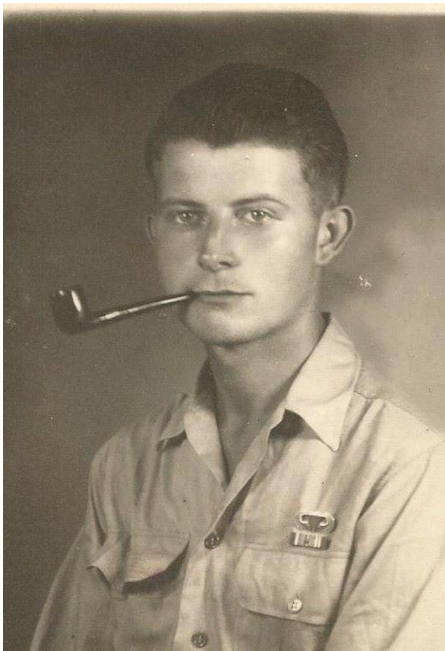
blast effect of an explosion. It was really nice to consider that Earl remembers well the name of many cities in France that he passed through 70 years ago.

After the war, Earl began to work for General Motors but he decided to move from Indiana to Arizona for a new job. In fact, his brother in arms from the same squad named Jack Sowell offered him a job in his own business.

Thank you very much to Earl for this wonderful meeting. I also would like to thank all the different persons of the veterans home of Phoenix who helped me to set up the meeting.



Earl Boone, Rifle Squad, 2nd Platoon, F Company, 2nd Battalion, 517th PRCT at the The Arizona State Veterans Home.



Earl Boone



Jack Sowell (left) and **Earl Boone** (right) in Lille, France in 1945.



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For our dear friends of AMERICA - some pictures from the ceremonies in St Jacques and Logbiermé on 2015 Jan. 10 th. In ST Jacques church,



Victorine MARGREVE (President) welcomes the assembly and Joseph LAMBERT - a Belgian veteran (93) - during his warm speech. During the war, he was prisoner in Germany for 5 years. On 1945 Jan 10th, his parents were killed by the Germans and their house was destroyed by bombing. (just 70 years ago)

Many persons attended the Holy Mass and the homages at the US monuments. Father Georges

RADERMECKER celebrated a very emotional service. Authorities, Mr Jeff HAYS from the US Ardennes cemetery honoured the manifestation by his presence, patriotic associations and flags were with us to express our gratitude and respect.

We shall never forget the sacrifice of those young men who came across the sea to liberate us from the enemy. **Maria GASPAR** - our Honour President - was with us with her heart but could not attend because her back is very painful.

Love from Trois-Ponts. God bless you.

Irma and Arnold TARNION and members of CADUSA





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517th monument LOGBIERME 2015 JAN 10th

C Company KIAs:
PFC Hubert Ford
Cpl..Albert Caraciola
Pvt. Bruno Baraglia
Sgt. William Spears
PFC Walter Jacobsen



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Thank you for the tributes to Howard, especially Wayne Cross's comments from his Dad. Like Lory, to me Howard was so young acting he seemed he would live forever, but as Lory also says this earthly sojourn is only a way station until we return to our true Home, and if anyone ever deserves a mansion there, Howard does! I hope his family knows that he and they are in our thoughts and prayers. His spirit lives on in each of us who had the privilege of knowing and interacting with him.

Sorry that the Florida mini had to be cancelled. My brother Rick is planning on going to New Orleans and Alan and I are seeing if we can too.

Very very interesting the analysis that you shared about the number of folks who open Mail Call. You constantly impress me with your savvy.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

First of all, we are already booked for Kissimmee in 2016 and will, undaunted, try again! Plan now -

But first, look ahead to March 9-13 for Palm Springs, California. Dad (**Allan Johnson**) already has his flight booked. He said that last year's in Palm Springs might have been his favorite reunion ever - and the food was definitely the best. Renting a villa helped keep costs down - so go!

Then we look forward to June in New Orleans. I agree with Lory - it is time to have another national reunion. We are happy that the National WWII Museum - troopers: YOUR museum - is there and it promises to be a great time.

In other business, I am happy to see that the American Battle Monuments Commission, on its facebook page, honors veterans buried in its overseas cemeteries on the anniversary of their deaths. I inquired, and Patrick Michaels was recognized on the 70th anniversary of his death in September last year. All it takes is a private message on facebook; they will honor a soldier not more often than every five years.

<https://www.facebook.com/abmcpage>

I would love to see more of the 517-460-596 troopers honored but cannot locate specific dates of death (though the honor roll is easily available). What we need is someone more familiar with the battles and anniversary dates thereof.

If you have a trooper buried overseas whose anniversary date approaches, please let's see if we can honor him on the ABMC facebook page.

Thank you all –

Clare Giblin

We do have a list of the 517prct troopers buried in Europe at:

If you friends and mail want to help me, tell me the name and date of death, and I can add the KIA dates onto that table. I can get some of that from Morning Reports, but that will take some digging.

Bob Barrett



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Hi Folks,

As you may already understand, the Belgian Army is, once again, facing drastic financial cutbacks over the next few years. Despite the substantial number of closings that have been effected in the past, a new wave of shut-downs for other Army Bases will soon become a reality.

Sadly, this information will quite likely pass with little fanfare or publicity through media, as it is the norm for our times. And it is my fear that people may miss one of the most tragic details these actions would include: The closing of Bastogne's Army Base and the most important Historical Marker of the defense of Bastogne by the 101st Airborne Division and attached units in World War II.

We must not lose a part of our history, and we most desperately need your help! Please spread the word of these impending closings and use every resource you may have, whether it's political; military (high ranked or other) to show the dedication we have to our history. We need to bring a very large amount of pressure upon the Belgian Government, the Department of Defense, the Military through NATO and other channels as well as the Mayor and City Council of Bastogne, if we hope to save our base.

Thanks again for signing, we need also a lot more sharing please, 10000 is a goal but far too low I'm afraid. If we want to change the decision, we might need a least a 100000 Please share with friends, neighbors, family, veterans associations, politicians, re-enactor associations, Fort Campbell Kentucky (!!), etc...

https://www.change.org/p/mr-steven-vandeput-please-do-not-close-the-army-base-at-bastogne-but-keep-it-as-wwii-battle-of-the-bulge-historical-remembrance-site?utm_campaign=responsive_friend_inviter_chat&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=share_petition&recruiter=215526116

Regards

Claudy WINANT.
Belgium.



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517th PRCT National Reunion – New Orleans

517th PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM ASSOCIATION REUNION

JUNE 25 – 29, 2015

BEST WESTERN PLUS LANDMARK HOTEL

METAIRIE, LA (NEW ORLEANS)

Thursday, June 25

3:00pm - 6:00pm **Reunion Registration Open**
Hospitality Room will be open at various times during the reunion.

Friday, June 26

9:00am - 9:30am **Reunion Registration Open**
10:00am - 2:00pm NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM (description follows)
2:30pm - 3:30pm **Reunion Registration Open.**
Additional hours will be posted at the reunion if necessary.

Saturday, June 27

7:30am - 9:00am Breakfast and business meeting
9:30am - 2:30pm CITY TOUR (description follows)

Sunday, June 28

Free day to explore New Orleans on your own or spend time in the hospitality room.
6:00pm - 7:00pm Cocktail Hour with Cash Bar
7:00pm - 10:00pm Banquet
10:00pm - Hospitality Room open

Monday, June 29

Farewells and Departures

[Program](#)

[Registration Form](#)

[Hotel Registration](#)

You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/517th2015
(3% will be added to credit card charges).



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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 Miriam Boyle Kelly
19 Oriole Court
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866