



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2267

April 19, 2015

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

517th PRCT 2015 Annual Reunion



2015 National Reunion

New Orleans, LA June 25-28, 2015

[Program Info](#) [Hotel Information](#)

[Event Registration](#) [Hotel Reservation](#)

Registration Cut-off date: May 22

Well, am I the first?

Sent in my Registration and booked my flight today, so who's going to join me? Looking forward to a great Reunion, and especially seeing the Liberty Belles again!! I've never been to New Orleans, so this will be a real treat for me. See you there!!

phil mc spadden

This will be my first time in NOLA as well. Looking forward to it! Registered and have my flights - I think I have our hotel rooms as well.

Cannot wait to see all!

Claire Giblin

Hey Bob, I hope this post works from face book about the WWII museum and things to do around New Orleans. Just wanted to pass on the info. I'm looking forward to it.

Rick Sweet

<http://bit.ly/1N9euZv> (Or see next page)



How to spend 2 days in New Orleans

By LINNEA COVINGTON. Special to amNewYork April 6, 2015



The famous Cafe Du Monde on Decatur Street is a popular spot for chicory-laced coffee and beignets. (Credit: Getty Images)

One can always travel to New Orleans for the major parties -- think Mardi Gras and Jazz Fest -- but even after these big events, you can enjoy this fantastical city to the max. From live jazz seemingly on every corner to amazing Southern food to drinking outdoors, the Crescent City calls to anyone looking for fun and a truly good time. With that in mind, here's how to spend two perfect days in New Orleans.

DAY 1

For a true Southern breakfast, snag a table at the **Ruby Slipper Cafe** (multiple locations, therubyslippercafe.net). At this mini chain (there are four locations), you can get piles of fried chicken on buttermilk biscuits or sautéed Gulf shrimp swimming over a plate of steaming grits, all served in a casual, diner setting.

After this feast, explore the National WWII Museum (945 Magazine St., 504-528-1944, nationalww2museum.org), a three-building space hosting exhibits meant to show you the war through the eyes of the people who lived it. This means you can expect interactive displays, oral histories and more than 100,000 artifacts from that time period.

For lunch, enjoy the elevated Louisiana fare at chef Donald Link's **Cochon Restaurant** (closed Sundays; 930 Tchoupitoulas St., 508-588-2123, cochonrestaurant.com). Make sure to try the fried alligator and wood-fired oysters, two dishes that showcase local ingredients. Add smoked pork ribs with



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watermelon pickle, crawfish pie and a pint of Covington Pontchartrain pilsner, and you will be set. After that spread, it's the best time to sit back and relax on a cozy bus while taking an architecture tour of the city with **Preservation Resource Center** (prcno.org).

Now's a good time to grab a snowball at the 76-year-old **Hansen's Sno-Bliz** (4801 Tchoupitoulas St., 504-891-9788, snobliz.com), a seasonal spot dedicated to the frozen water and flavored syrup dessert prevalent around NOLA in the warmer weather.

Next, dinner brings us to Alon Shaya's new, self-titled joint, **Shaya** (4213 Magazine St., 504-891-4213, shayarestaurant.com). The young chef's Israeli cuisine sways drastically from traditional Southern food, which proves a nice break from the pork-saturated and butter-covered heaven that is New Orleans dining. Shaya also uses an impressive wood-fired oven to churn out the best pita in the state, possibly the country. End the night at **The Spotted Cat Music Club** (623 Frenchmen St., spottedcatmusicclub.com) for live jazz, blues and funk.

DAY 2

Start with a lighter, but just as NOLA-esque, breakfast of fresh beignets and dark chicory coffee at the famous **Cafe Du Monde** (multiple locations, cafedumonde.com). There are numerous locations nowadays, but the spot across from the French Market was the first and, some would say, foremost. It's also the perfect launching spot for a day wandering around the charming and historical French Quarter, an area laced with iron balconies, bars and shops all housed in brightly-colored buildings. As you walk around, keep in mind that you can take any alcoholic drink from a bar or eatery and enjoy it alfresco. Have a cocktail seated at the old-school bar in **Old Absinthe House** (240 Bourbon St., 504-524-0113, ruebourbon.com/oldabsinthehouse), or take a pickle-laden bloody Mary to go.

Stop in the **New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum** (724 Dumaine St., 504-680-0128) to learn about the history of this dark magic, and pick up a couple charm and gris-gris bags to bring home. You can also get your palm read or tea leaves dissected at **Bottom of the Cup Tearoom** (327 Chartres St., 800-729-7148, bottomofthecup.com), an 80-year-old shop that indeed sells tea, but also features psychics.

Lunch brings us to chef and restaurateur John Besh's **Lüke** (333 St. Charles Ave., 504-378-2840, lukeneworleans.com), where you should fill up on oysters, seafood gumbo, roasted jalapeno grits and craft cocktails, all while sitting at the distinguished bar. From there go visit the wonder that is **Mardi Gras World** (1380 Port of New Orleans Place, 504-361-7821, mardigrasworld.com). As cheesy as it might sound, this establishment proves pretty awesome given you can walk through the rows of giant goddess, cartoon characters and animals that have graced many a parade.

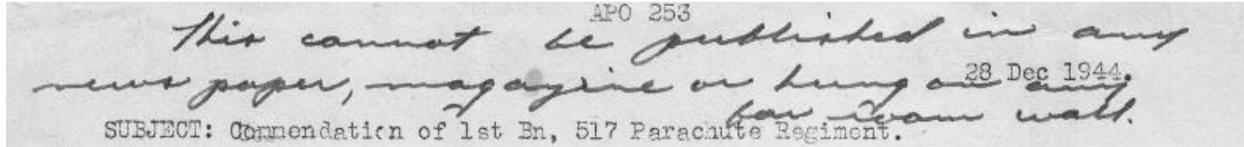
Surprisingly, you are probably hungry after all that meandering, so you might as well head back to the French Quarter and dine at the eclectic **Arnaud's** (813 Rue Bienville, 504-523-5433, arnaudsrestaurant.com), established in 1918 by a French wine salesman. Say goodbye to Louisiana with its signature drink, the French 75 -- a tippie comprised of gin, lemon, sugar and sparkling wine, and grab another cocktail at the newly refurbished **Le Meridien Hotel** (333 Poydras St., 504-525-9444, lemeridienneworleanshotel.com) in its brand-new, New Orleans-themed lounge.



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MailCall News

What does this note say?



This is from **George Sullivan**'s copy of the [Ridgway Commendation to the 1st Battalion](#).

I read it as "or hung on any for/far ???? wall"

any help yet?

Claire Giblin

Good Morning-

I think it says "any bar room wall".

Katherine Wheeler

Yes the commendation is an original document (didn't realize you already had an example of one). As best I can tell, the inscription – in Dad's non-Palmer-method handwriting ;-{-) – says:

"This cannot be published in any newspaper, magazine or hung on any bar room wall."

I assume that Dad was recording what an officer/Sr. NCO told him when copies of the commendation were distributed.

Also enclosed is embarkation card for the Madawaska – don't know if you already have an example. And, there's an Illinois certificate of appreciation – evidently given to servicemen who served in WWII.

Best regards,

Roger Sullivan
Son of **George A Sullivan**



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ARMY SERVICE FORCES
TRANSPORTATION CORPS
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES

NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION

S Sgt. George A. Sullivan
517th Parachute Infantry Regiment

returned to the **UNITED STATES** on the
ship Madawaska Victory
which sailed from Le Havre, France
on 12 Aug 45

Sig. R. J. Davis
Title Colonel, Infantry, Commanding

SPB-6-20-43-103M

State of Illinois Service Recognition Certificate

Awarded to:

George A Sullivan

**Having Served Patriotically
and Faithfully in the Armed
Forces of the United States during
World War II is hereby Awarded this
Citation
for Meritorious Service
by the Grateful Citizens of the
State of Illinois**

Given at Springfield, Illinois
this year of our Lord, 1947,
by the Service Recognition Board

Leo M. Boyle
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Dwight H. Green
GOVERNOR

Richard Yates Rowe
TREASURER

Lawrence Lee Sehall • Chicago

HOLLIBRAND BANK NOTE COMPANY



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Here are 2 items relative to the 517th:

1. **Louie Gelen's** obituary. This is not the first time that we've been misplaced as to where we jumped.
2. The return of your list of 596'ers and their status (alive or dead). It is pretty accurate, however **Ed Philips** is still kicking. He was an officer in **Dalrymple's** cadre and left us in Italy to join the First Airborne Task Force under General Frederick, and then moved onto the staff of General Ridgway, head of the 18th Airborne Corps.

Bill Hudson

Ed Philips was on our roster, but he wasn't identified as part of the 596th. That has been corrected. Here is the updated list of all known 596thers, as updated by **Bill Hudson**:

Last Name	First Name	T-BOLT	MailCall	Co.	Spouse	Relation	Trooper	City	ST
Anderson	Robert	Y		596	Avis			Big Springs	NE
Bullino	Michael	D		596				St. Claire	PA
Christian	Bill	D		596	Sylvia			Tustin	CA
Conger	Marjorie	Y		596	Marjorie	widow	Willard H. Bill Conger (d.)	Holiday Island	AR
Dail	Robert	?		596				Hopewell	VA
Dalrymple	Robert (Bob) W.	Y	MC	596	Marya			Green Valley	AZ
Eddy	Harold L.	D		596	Polly			Ann Arbor	MI
Eggler	Robert	D		596				Edgewater	FL
Gelen	Louis E.	D		596	Vera			Crookston	MN
Giblin	Claire	O	MC	596		daughter	Johnson, Allan	Hillsborough	NJ
Hudson	William S.	Y	MC	596	Gloria			Santa Cruz	CA
Hyman	Lester E.	D		596			(d.)	Louisville	KY
Johnson	Kaare Allan	Y	MC	596				Hacketstown	NJ
Kelly	Patrick A.	D		596				Warwick	NY
Kenyon	Kyle	D		596				Sevierville	TN
Kosan	Ernest	D		596				Hammondsport	NY
Kunzer	Alfred	D		596				Macedon	NY
Lyon	Dr. James	D		596	JoAnn			Sterling	IL
MacFadden	J.M.	D		596				Croydon	PA
Madison	Lyle S.	Y	MC	596	Mary Ann			Huntersville	NC
Markle	Elaine	T		596		widow	Markle, Gene (d.)	Rocklin	CA
Markle	Steve	Y	MC	596		son	Markle, Gene (d.)	Rocklin	CA
Moses	James	D		596				Louisville	GA
Phillips	Ed	O	MC	596				South Paris	ME
Pugh	Ann	N		596		widow	Pugh, Chas. F. (d.)	Alexandria	VA
Pugh	Theresa	Y	MC	596		daughter	Pugh, Chas. F. (d.)	Alexandria	VA
Reichwald	Herbert A.	Y	MC	596	Marie			Shawano	WI
Roberts	Harold A. (Hal)	D		596	Jeanne		Hal Roberts (d.)	Gig Harbor	WA
Roberts Gray	Jo Anne	T		596			Hal Roberts (d.)	Gig Harbor	WA
Saunders	Donald R.	D	MC	596	Jan			Pine City	NY
Secon	John W.	D		596				Denver	CO
Shull	George H.	D		596				Shelby	NC
Turner	Marshall	D		596				Bruceton	TN
Ventoza	Manuel	Y		596	LaVerne			Seattle	WA
Wurch	Edgar	D		596				Clifton	NJ

Y = recently confirmed, N = do not send, D = deceased, O = Online MailCall reader, T = used to receive Tbolt in 2008



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Occasionally, we receive a few notes via the US Mail, mostly after the Thunderbolt is sent. Here are a couple of notes received:

My father, Bruno Wachholz, was a member of the 517th Company G. He passed away in 2010. Please keep the Thunderbolt going. I appreciate your efforts.

Ursula Wachholz
Lorrain, OH

Enclosed is dues for my Thunderbolt plus extra for someone else. Would like some information on trip to Southern France. Does it include food and transportation to & from sleeping place? Also looking for someone who knew **Douglas Miller** or buddy of.

Ruth Hall
Morocco, IN
Widow of **Lawrence Hall**, I Company

I hope you're doing well. I'm working on a project to help spread awareness about financial resources available to military personnel and families.

I was checking out your page here: <http://www.517prct.org>

Are you open to suggestions for new resources to add to this page?

As part of their commitment to support all who have served our country, this program offers discounted wireless service to all active military personnel as well as veterans. A great explanation of the program can be found here: <http://devices.verizonwireless.com/content/vzw-eStore/military-veterans.html>

I believe it would be really beneficial to spread the word about this and other discount programs available to military personnel.

I really appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Tim Phelps

I'm not going to promote this on the 517th website, but I checked it out and this is a valid program with Verizon wireless: Verizon offers discounts to service members, veterans and federal employees, including 15% off plans \$34.99 or higher. There may also be discounts on data as well as 25% off accessories in some cases. Apply online, where you will need a DD Form 214 or Veteran Card.

<http://www.military.com/discounts/verizon-wireless-military-deal>



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Dear Bob, What a great newsletter received from you today. Sent the 'you tube Marine interview with Letterman' to my Marine friend, from WWII who is a journalist. I am sure that he will enjoy it.

I am hoping to finish my novel in less than 30 days, and then the fun part---figuring out how to publish it.

I had seen an article in your newsletter, a few times back, on **Earl Boone**. He is a veteran from the 517th, living here in Arizona. I went to visit him in the Veteran's home and what a wonderful day I spent with him.

He told me about his experiences and I passed on some stories and copies of the 517th newsletter to him that I mentioned and that he wanted.

He said when his group got to the 'Battle of the Bulge', they saw 40 German tanks waiting for them on the hill. The good news was that they were out of gas and most of them not operating, and the battle was almost over.

He told me a lot of fun stories about going on leave in different places with his friends and the good times they had.

I had the best time meeting all of the men from the different wars and even got a proposal of marriage from one of our fighting men there from WWII.

He truly enjoyed the 'Airborne Beer' story I told him about from your newsletter as well as the story on the Sainsbury chocolate story from WWI.

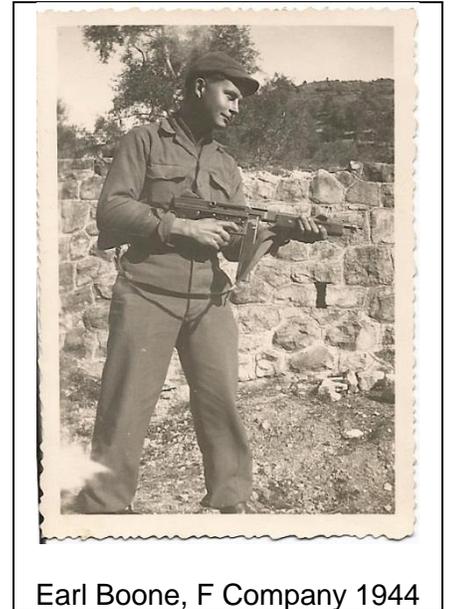
He had the book on Operation Dragoon by Roland Orengo. He had enjoyed seeing the written part about the 517th as well as the pictures. I mentioned how helpful that 'Roland' was on 'Division St. Louis' for me.

I told him I would come and visit him again soon. He is about 50-60 miles from where I live. He asked me if I liked 'Mexican food', and I told him that I did. He said he would love to eat some. I imagine, due to special diets, they don't serve much of that in the Vet's home. But I told him the next time that I came, after checking with the staff on his medical issues, I would bring him some for lunch. He said he could eat it and didn't have any problems like that.

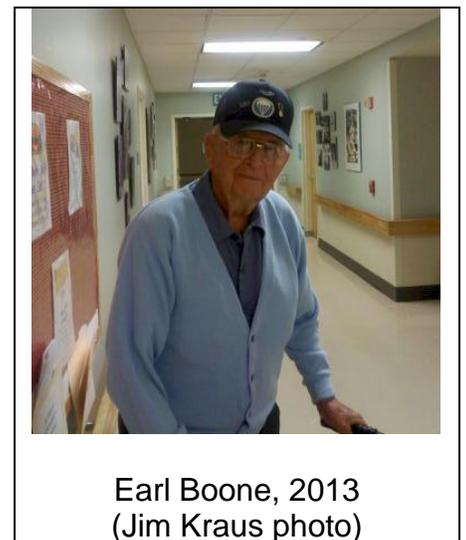
Another friend he connects with was bringing him a Wendy's hamburger the next day.

He is a wonderful man, so full of life and quite the character. He had me laughing over and over. We had such a good time. I call him once a week to say hello and make sure he is all right.

Take care, **Anne Justice**



Earl Boone, F Company 1944



Earl Boone, 2013
(Jim Kraus photo)

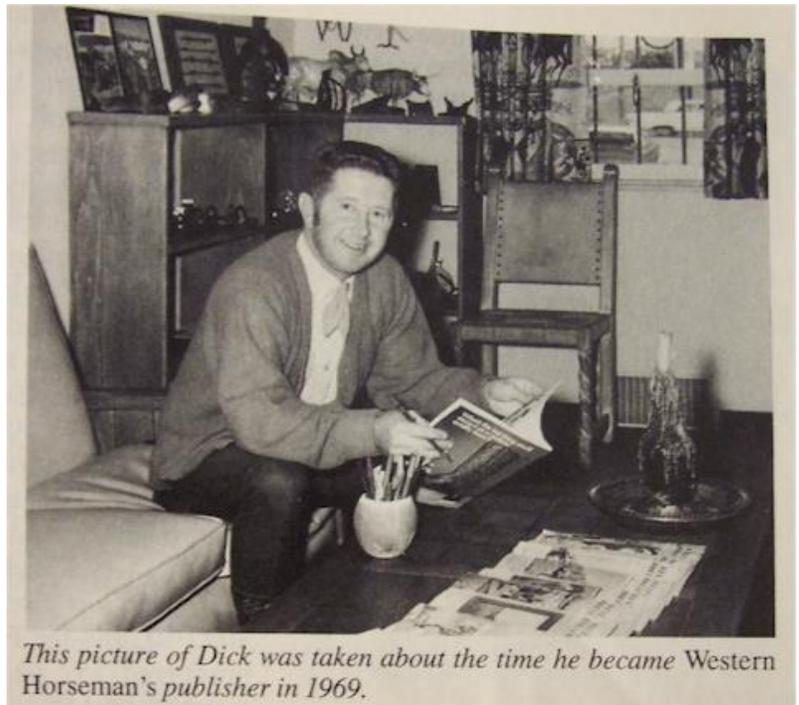


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I just saw an ad for the TV series, "The Odd Couple". This week's episode included this scene with an eagle mascot, which to me looks suspiciously like Herky The Hawk. I know there are lots of eagle and hawk mascots, but Herky is the only one I know with that toothy snarl.



As most of you know, **Dick Spencer** of HQ Company 3rd Battalion created the original drawings for Herky the Hawk for the University of Iowa after he returned to Iowa after the war. Also there is now a Wikipedia entry for [Herky the Hawk](#).



This picture of Dick was taken about the time he became Western Horseman's publisher in 1969.



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In Memorium – Louis O. "Louie" Gelen



Louis O. "Louie" Gelen, age 91, of Crookston, MN, died late Wednesday evening, January 28, 2015, at the University of Minnesota-Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis, MN.

Louie was born at Aure, MN, near Bemidji, on February 13, 1923, the son of Olaf and Leora Gelen. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, grew up on the family farm, and attended country school through the 9th grade. He worked with his father for several years before enlisting in the US Army on April 20, 1943. Louie served, during WWII, with the 517th Parachute Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division, and saw action in Rome-Arno, southern France, Ardennes, the Rhineland, and central Europe. As a paratrooper his most important jump was made behind enemy lines in the battle of Normandy. In recognition of his service to his country, a grateful nation awarded him the American Theater Service Medal, Bronze Arrowhead, European-African-Middle Eastern

Theater Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. Following his honorable discharge with the rank of Sergeant, Louie returned home and attended Bemidji State College. From 1947-1951 he served as Bemidji City Assessor, and on October 31, 1948 was united in marriage to Vera A. Lundmark at the First Lutheran Church in Bemidji. Vera's wedding dress was made from the material used in Louie's parachute. At her urging Louie made application to the Minnesota State Patrol School. After successful completion of the program he was hired as a State Highway Patrolman in 1952. During these years the couple was blessed with the adoption of their children, Lori and David. The Gelens settled in Crookston and Louie served with distinction during his 30-year career with the State Patrol, retiring with the rank of Sergeant in 1982. He enjoyed the respect and esteem of colleagues throughout law enforcement, and was known not only for his professionalism and fairness, but as someone who would always "have your back."

Louie's faith was very important to him, and he and Vera were devoted members of the Trinity Lutheran Church for over 60 years. He was a twenty-five year member of the Crookston Volunteer Fire Department, and generously gave of his time to the Tri-Valley Medical Assistance Program for the elderly, as well as, volunteering with the IRS doing tax preparation for the elderly and those who qualified as low-income. Louie was a 66-year member of Crookston's American Legion Post #20, and held lifetime membership in VFW Post #1902. In April, 2009, Louie, along with several WWII veterans from the area, participated in the Northern Valley Honor Flight. This was a two-day trip to Washington, DC, where visits were made to the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other sites: and the opportunity to visit with dignitaries who shared with them the common bond of military service. The trip was an emotional and memorable experience for Louie and his companions, honoring their sacrifice and patriotism for a country loved so much by them all. For many years Louie was a welcoming figure in the pro-shop at the Minakwa Country Club, and when not working could often be seen on the golf course getting in a round with his regular foursome. He was fortunate enough in his lifetime to record 2 holes-in-one. In younger years, he also enjoyed bowling in one of the local leagues. Playing cards was second nature to Louie and he regularly enjoyed meeting his buddies for coffee at the Legion and getting in a 'few hands.'

Louie was devoted to Vera, and seeing them together defined the term soul-mates. For many years the couple spent winters in Arizona, enjoying time with their son and daughter-in-law, David and Lucy, and grandson, Jonathan. Very sadly, Vera passed away last October 22nd. Louie deeply mourned her loss and looked forward to the time when they would be reunited. His loving family will forever remember him for his kind and gentle nature, and the smile that was always present.

Family members include his daughter, Lori Gelen of Bemidji, MN; son and daughter-in-law, David and Lucy Gelen, and their son, Jonathan, of Chandler, AZ; sister-in-law, Florence Lundmark, of Bemidji; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. In addition to Vera, his beloved wife of 66 years, Louie was preceded in death by his parents, Olaf and Leora; 3 sisters, Florence Evje, Hazel Jallen, and Olga Gelen, who died as a teen-ager; and a special cousin who was like a brother, Fred Bakke. May God bless the memory of Louie Gelen.



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70 Years Ago This Week - 1945



With the end of the war in Europe nearing, America lost its President 70 years ago on April 12, 1945.

69 Years Ago This Week – 1946

[Col. William J. Boyle Receives DSC](#)

April 13, 1946

NY Times

COL. BOYLE RECEIVES DSC Gets 2d Decoration for Heroism in Battle in Belgium

The Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded to Lieut. Col. William J. Boyle, it was learned yesterday by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Boyle of 869 Sterling Place, Brooklyn. Colonel Boyle, previously the recipient of a Bronze Star and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf cluster, received the DSC for "extraordinary heroism in action" as commanding officer, First Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry, on Christmas Day, 1944, during the fighting in Belgium.

A graduate of St. Augustine High School in Brooklyn, he was a member of the West Point class of '39. He is now under treatment at Halloran General Hospital for serious wounds of both arms.

The New York Times

Published: April 13, 1946

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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



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Website	www.517prct.org
Send MailCall news to	MailCall@517prct.org
MailCall Archives	www.517prct.org/archives
2015 Roster (updated!)	www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)	www.517prct.org/archives