



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2298

November 15, 2015

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

Veterans' Day – November 11, 2015



WANNE - TROIS-PONTS - 517th monument
ARMISTICE DAY flowers and homage at the
monument. With Love and gratitude

Irma and Arnold Targnion



The band " La Royale Fanfare l'Ardennaise of
Trois-Ponts" is playing the American National
Anthem - Wanne Armistice Day 2015 november
11th at the 517th Monument in Wanne

with respect

Irma and Arnold Targnion





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RE: Cap of WWII

Sent from my iPad. I see you finally used that picture you took of my cap in New Orleans. I tried to get Medals of America to make it, but they just ignored me. I guess there isn't enough WW11 Paratroops alive to make it worth their while. I even sent them a sketch.

Mel Trenary

Actually, **Paul Abbene** took the picture of Mel's hat, and sent it in for our Veteran's Day MailCall.

PS: Mel, I haven't forgotten the book with all your photos And memories that you gave me at the NOLA reunion. It is now on the top of my To-Do pile. I'll be working on that soon.

Bob B.

Watching Allan's interview on Veterans Day.

Claire

This is the interview that he signed up for when we were at the WWII Museum in New Orleans. It's unbelievably broad and I urge anyone who has a WWII veteran in their family or circle of friends to take advantage of this free service.



Dear Bob, I want to thank you for so many connections and insight.

Glad we still have MailCall.

Thought you might send this off to everyone, worth watching. I received it the day after Veterans day. Worth a look,

Anne Justice

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/70lkj1hZDnw>



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Lt. David P. Taylor, HQ Company, 3rd Battalion

I am the niece of **David P. Taylor**, who served as a 1st Lieutenant with the 3rd Battalion, Headquarters Company. My uncle died in 1994 in Cleveland Ohio. I did not know him as well as I would have liked. I spent most of my childhood overseas due to my father's service with USIA, which was then part of the State Department.

Uncle David was a quiet person who spoke with very little about his WWII service to his nieces. I know that he was fascinated with history, the Pittsburgh Pirates, was very kind to us as children, and was an excellent and graceful dancer (I found this out at my wedding!). He never married and worked in management for Stouffers, Biltmore Hotel, Commodore Hotel and Holiday Inn and later for TRW.

I am only now becoming aware of my uncle's service, and have found the 517th prct website an invaluable source of information, for which I'm very grateful.

I do not know if he participated in reunions or other events related to the 517th in subsequent years. I do know that some time in the 1970s, when my father was stationed in Belgium and I was in college, my uncle visited my family in Brussels and went to some of the places that were important to him from his service. I only learned of this recently from my father.

I am wondering if anyone who reads the Mailcall remembers my uncle and is willing to share with me any of those memories, by email or by telephone (510) 397-0373. I would like to get a fuller picture of him -- more as a journalist and memoirist than as a genealogist. I am interested in unvarnished recollections. I do not know how my uncle was perceived by the men he served with. Any insight I can get into his life as a young man would be most appreciated.

Also, I've included a timeline and biography based on the information I have, much of which I have questions about. If you have answers to any of those questions I would appreciate it.

My general reading about World War II, which is just beginning, and, specifically, the achievements and struggles of this regiment, have led me to realize how much I do not know -- not only about World War II, but also about a person I only occasionally saw during summer home leave trips and other family events. I've become very interested in finding out as specifically as possible about the actions my uncle participated in and where he would have been at different times during these actions.

I am including the following information in the event it helps jog some memories:

David Pollock Taylor was the only son of Rachel Pollock Taylor from New Castle PA (western Pennsylvania). He had two younger sisters. Verna was the oldest and Maxine (he called her Maggie), my mother, was the youngest. David lost his father to pneumonia when he was just a boy, and my mother never knew her father. My mother died two years ago, before I began asking about this.

I have interviewed my father, who gave me some insight into the family dynamics and who knew the broad strokes of my uncle's service, but not too many details. Unfortunately, I don't have my mother's input which would have been very valuable.



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This is what I know so far about his life as a young man and a soldier, based on this website, his death certificate, news reports from his hometown newspaper (my grandmother apparently was a regular and avid contributor of family news to the New Castle News!):

David P. Taylor, Biography and Timeline

July 11, 1921 - Born

September 1941 -- Began studying at Cornell University in the hotel school.

June 25, 1942 -- Volunteered for the army on June 25, 1942. I do not know if he went directly into the paratroopers or if he volunteered for this later.

November 3, 1942 -- New Castle News report --Completed Noncommissioned Officer's School as a corporal at Camp Wheeler GA and entered Officer's Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA

February 6, 1943 -- New Castle News report -- 2nd Lt. David P. Taylor received his commission as an army officer at Fort Benning GA on February 3. Home on leave for a week for the first time since entering service.

1943, unspecified -- In Sicily in 1943, according to New Castle News report of Jan. 31st, 1945 (see below). I'm assuming he was part of Operation Husky, but I have no direct evidence of this.

1943, unspecified -- Instructor at Ft. Benning, GA, according to New Castle News report of Jan. 31st, 1945 (see below).

April, 1944 -- Returned to Italy after serving as Instructor at Ft. Benning, GA from New Castle News report of Jan. 31st, 1945 (see below)

August 9, 1944 -- New Castle News report -- 1st Lt. David P. Taylor writing from Italy describes a joyous 4-hour reunion with another New Castle boy, Lt. John Thompson of Mt. Jackson. First newspaper mention of his being in the paratroopers.

Christmas 1944 -- Listed as a 1st. Lt. in the Christmas roster, serving under Lt. Col. Forest S. Paxton, in Headquarters Company Third Battalion. First evidence that he was with the 517th.

January 13, 1945 -- Morning Reports -- LWA, 2500 yards SE of Stavelot, Belgium (hospital or site of injury -- not sure which).

January 21, 1945 -- Morning Reports -- asgd and jd to Co fr. Hq Co 3rd Bn this regt as of 12 Jan 45 (not sure what this means!)

January 31, 1945 -- New Castle News report -- Report from letter received by my grandmother from David in hospital that her son suffered three shrapnel wounds of the leg on January 13. The story reads "his wounds might've been of a more serious nature, he (David) related, but for the fact that he was carrying a book in his hip pocket, which stopped one of the pieces before it had struck the bone. He said that only severe flesh wounds were sustained and he hopes to be out of the hospital in a month."





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In this article, it says "Lt. Taylor... has taken part in jumps in Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. His unit, the 517th, was in action for 93 days, following D-Day in Normandy, and went in and relieved the 101st Battalion at Bastogne. After returning from Sicily in 1943, he served as an instructor at Fort Benning GA., returning to Italy last April and taking part in action around Rome, and Yugoslavia, and France." I am not sure how much of this information was from his letter, my grandmother, or staff writers contribution to the article. I am not clear on how he would have served in Yugoslavia based on my research.

March 2, 1945 -- Morning Reports -- if I understand the abbreviations I think he was released back to duty after being sick (non-battle casualty) at Joigny, France and went from unassigned to assigned

March 17th, 1945 -- New Castle News report -- Report from the letter received by my grandmother that David had returned to duty in February after being wounded in January. He said in the letter that his entire unit, The 517th Regiment of the 82nd Airborne division, has been pulled back out of the fighting and will be regrouped with a new unit which has just arrived in France. He will be a member of the staff of the commander of the new unit.

March 30, 1945 -- Morning Reports -- Duty to Absent Sick at 230 Field Hospital, Joigny, France

August 12, 1945 -- Manifest for the Madawaska Victory Ship. Listed under H Company.

August 8, 1994 -- New Castle News obituary. Mentions he received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart (for his wounds in the Battle of the Bulge).

I have attached a photo of my uncle. I think this probably was around the time he enlisted.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Ellen H. O'Donnell

Hi Ellen, It's always great to hear from the families and friends of our 517th troopers. I will include your request for info in the weekly "MailCall" newsletter to friends of the 517th. I do see that Lt. Taylor was indeed with HQ/3 in December 1944, so he would certainly have fought in the Bulge, as you know from your research. Did you find those morning reports on the website?

Unfortunately, **Howard Hensleigh** who was also Lt. In HQ/3 passed away not too long ago, as Howard would have known him well. We have a few pictures of the 3rd Battalion on the web site, although I don't know when your uncle joined HQ/3. I will keep looking.

Also, you've done great research and compiled a good bio. Can I add this to our "Meet the Troopers" page? If you have more pictures please send them. And the newspaper articles or other materials.

Thanks!

Bob Barrett



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Ellen, I do not have the morning reports for the 3rd Battalion HQ. You must have dug those up on your own.

Also, I realized that your uncle was wounded SE of Stavelot on Jan 13, 1945. That is interesting because Tom Reber, who is the son of **Lt. Robert Reber**, who also served in HQ/3 and was wounded in the same battle on January 13th. Tom travelled to Belgium last year, and did his best to trace that battle. Howard Hensleigh provided some of the details in a couple of our newsletters:

<http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2225.pdf>

<http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2226.pdf>

Hope this adds to your history.

Happy Veterans' Day, Bob Barrett

Thanks so much for your prompt reply! Yes, I realized too late that **Howard Hensleigh** would have been a wonderful source of information and already has been because of his writing and activity with the website. He also was a neighbor, as we live in Castro Valley California not too far from him.

Also, to answer your question, I did find the morning reports on the website.

According to my sister, there may be some photos of Uncle David in his paratrooper uniform at her cabin in West Virginia, where she has most of my grandmother's remaining files and letters. There may also be some of his letters that she received while he was in combat. She lives and teaches in Cincinnati, so she won't be there until Christmas at the earliest.

I have shared the bio I created and my email to you with her, so I should have some more information about what we might have in the files.

I have not yet begun the process of trying to obtain his military records from the archive in St Louis, but I realize his records may have been destroyed in the fire. He has no direct family except myself and my sisters, as my mother and Aunt Verna have passed away, so I am not sure if they will give me the full record, if it even exists.

Thank you so much for being willing to include this in the Mailcall issue, and yes, I will be very appreciative if you put this on the Meet the Troopers page. I will forward to you the articles and information I found on the various websites I have researched. Is it best to send a scan or will a link do?

Thanks again.
Ellen O'Donnell

I found those morning reports. Lt. Taylor was with H Company during January to March 1945, not HQ/3. My Dad, **Ben Barrett**, was also with H Company, although he was wounded Jan 5th.

Here is a copy of the H Company morning report for Jan 13.

Bob B.



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Thanks for this info. How extraordinary to see this document in the pre-databased version! Again, I am very grateful to all of the work that has gone into this website. I have learned so much already, and have much more to learn; case in point, the difference between H and HQ. It's my wedding anniversary, so I have to go get ready to go out, but I will check back later.

Best, Ellen

More MailCall News

Claire ~

Scott and I are planning to make one of the mini reunions this year since we were not able to attend any last year. The dates for the Kissimmee is MLK weekend? Do you know if/when the Palm Springs will be? We are presuming NOLA was the last national reunion correct? Any info would be helpful in planning out our year.

Thanks – **Scott and Deana Ross J**

Want to Thank ALL Veterans today (as we should every day), as well as their parents, for allowing us to freely share their memories of days-gone-by and to continue to Rejoice in their Life-Lessons taught to each and every one of us.

In the past couple of days, I've been in touch with **Maxime "Max" Noel** from Belgium. Not sure if "Max" is male or female. As a volunteer for findagrave.com, I answer online requests to search for grave markers in local cemeteries. People from all over the world request photographs of these markers. Some are for loved ones, others are possibly doing genealogy research.

"Max" requested the marker for a young man who was KIA in Belgium in 1944. Darold was a PFC with the 41 Armed Inf. and interestingly enough was killed the same day (27Dec1944) as my uncle and the others from that 517th platoon as they attempted (and succeeded) in re-taking Manhay.

After I found the markers and added them to the findagrave.com web page, told "Max" that my uncle was also KIA, near Manhay, and is resting in Henri-Chapelle. "Max" emailed back that he/she just finished reading **Eddy Monfort's** "La bataille des carrefours" which I also have a copy. It's in French so can only enjoy the photos. "Max" even scanned the page of all 517th PIR casualties (which included Floyd's name) and attached it to the email.

"Max" has adopted a grave of an American soldier/veteran in Henri-Chapelle and wondered if Floyd's grave was adopted. Yes, it has. "Max" wrote that he/she will, "go blooming Floyd's grave at least once a year." These Belgians! Guess we can't ever get a leg-up on them. So thankful they remember our family members...resting so far away.

The last email from "Max" mentioned working on a 100% non-profit tribute book on the FOSSE#1 temporary cemetery, a predecessor of the definitive Cemetery of Henri-Chapelle. A "few" paratroopers were buried there: 21 from the 101st Airborne, 5 from the 82nd, and 1 from the 509th "Geronimo" who



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also jumped into southern France. Didn't know there was a cemetery before the one Floyd is buried in.

Took the opportunity to mention that some of the 517th fought alongside French and Belgian (possibly freedom fighters) during the push to Germany. "Max" sent the following link that mentions a small Belgian contingent that fought alongside the U.S. Army forces in Korea. "Max's" grandfather was part of that Belgian contingent.

<http://www.belgian-volunteercorps-korea.be/english/imjine.htm>

How appropriate that this is all coming-together on Veterans' Day!

Sincerely,

Kenton "Kent" Floyd Immerfall

Nephew of **Floyd A. Stott**

1st Lt. Co. "I" 3rd Bat. 517th PIR/PRCT



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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