



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2305

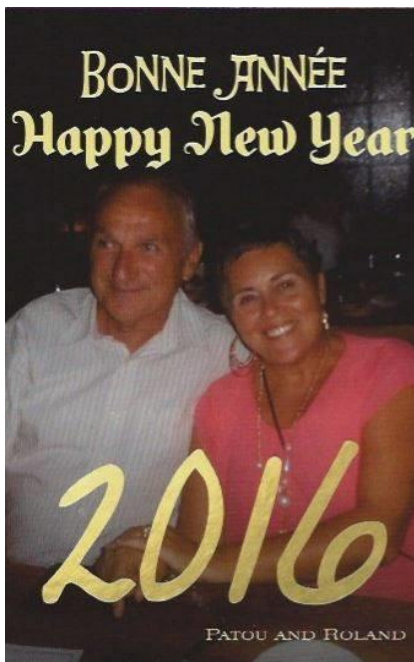
January 3, 2016

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

MailCall News

Recently on Facebook, I saw this photo of this plaque to the 1st Battalion, Major Boyle and Major Fraser, but now I can't find the source. I'm sure it's about the events along the Soy-Hotton road during late December 1944.

Can anyone identify the location? -- BB



For 2016,
Say "yes" to the happiness
Say "no" to the bad mood,
Say "can be" for the future,
Say "I do not forget you" for memories,
Say "farewell" to the stress,
Say "why not" to the laziness,
Say "I understood" my errors,
Say "ever" to the value judgments,
Say "forgiveness" to the punishment,
Say "bye bye" in the hatred,
Say "fortunately that you are there" to the humor,
Say "for ever" for love,
Say "stay there" to the desire,
Say "I love you " to the life!

Patricia et Roland Orengo



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I am so thrilled to be added to the MailCall list for the 517th. I look forward to being a part of this group of very special people who are connected to my late father. I pray everyone continues to have a pleasant and hopeful holiday season.

Best regards,

Lisa Nelson Massey

(daughter of **Gerald Nelson**, HQ Co., 1st Battalion)

To Mel, wish we would put our arms around you as words are so inadequate to express our sympathy in the loss of your fellow comrades as well as your best friend, your bride. God broke the mold after He created you all.

The history and organization of the 517th at the end of this Mail Call was excellent. Thank you for posting it (following the discussion of Hill 400).

Thank you to **Irma, Arnold, Maria and the CADUSA members** for all that they do to honor our heroes and keep their history alive.

Pat Seitz

From **Anne Justice**

AWESOME

“Faith teaches you how to live with courage, how to live with honor, gives you something to strive for,” said. U.S. Army Ranger Kris “Tanto” Paronto. “To me, that’s the American spirit.”

On September 11, 2012, terrorists attacked the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya. We lost four brave diplomats. While the incident will forever be remembered as a tragedy, we would be remiss to forget the courage displayed by the six American servicemen who ran toward the fire. It is their story that is told in the new Paramount Pictures film 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi.

What was it that compelled these men to run toward danger? In a new featurette from Paramount Pictures ahead of the film's release, a few of the soldiers who defended the Benghazi compound explained that they received their strength from a higher power.

“God and the service kind of go hand-in-hand,” said Paronto.
“You’re doing something honorable that’s above yourself.”

link to preview, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m84z-GWwa58>



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Thank you for the weekly updates. I believe the 517 had a baseball team. I believe that my dad, **Charles Pugh** and some of his buddies were on their baseball team.

In fact, now that 71 years has passed, I suppose it is ok to tell this story. I overheard this story told by another 517 member at my house. He said that the men dressed up in their baseball uniforms in Italy and caught the attention of some charming Italian girls. Afraid my dad put on the uniform of the umpire and a collar that sort of looked ministerial. He added a black jacket (not sure where he got the jacket) to look like a Protestant minister. In Italy they (chiefly led by my father as fake minister) performed some less than legal marriages of some (certainly not all) of 517 guys to unsuspecting but respectable Italian girls looking for marriage. My father was not proud of this chicanery in his later years. But at 17 -18 years of age (in 1943-44), what would one expect? I accidentally overheard the story and my dad was not too pleased that as a teenage daughter I heard this about him.

So yes there was a baseball team. I heard they also played baseball in France after the completion of Operation Dragoon in Southern France and awaiting the movement to Belgium in Nov 1944. They were awaiting equipment and supplies and spent some time with baseball. Some guys also got leave and went to other places in France. I think a few men were able to go to Paris in Nov. For a weekend. Sadly the winter uniforms never arrived before they moved into Belgium- to Battle of the Bulge. They fought in summer weight uniforms.

This is all I know about baseball and 517. (My father was also in 596 PCRT).

All that I described was discussed by some men and my dad- so I assume it is true.

Teresa Pugh

Daughter of Dr. **Charles E. Pugh**, 596th Parachute Engineers



Part of the Frascati 596 baseball team.

Front Row LtoR-Cochran, McRoy, Landrum, Botts

Middle Row LtoR-Madison, Benson, Pugh

Back Row LtoR-Pierce, Markle, Spencer, ? , & Von

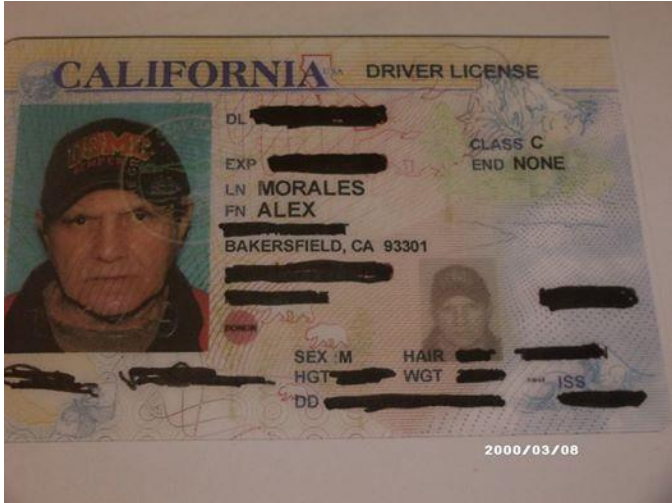
Another baseball team picture. This one of the "596th Frascati baseball team".

I found this picture in a 1983 596th Wings newsletter (**Charlie Pugh** editor).

http://www.517prct.org/documents/596th_newsletters/Wings_January_1983.pdf



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SCORED ONE FOR VETERANS!!

Today Alex went to the DMV to renew his license. When he was told to go have his picture taken he noticed that there were some men having their picture taken, these men were wearing turbans on their heads. Alex was asked to take his hat off to have his picture taken. He said "no", and "no" again when asked the second time. When he was asked why he would not remove his hat he said, "those men didn't remove their head wear, I shouldn't either". It was explained that this was their attire and their religion. Alex told the DMV person that what he had on was his attire and when he entered the Marines he declared an oath to the USA, and one

nation under God, so that his oath was under God so just as good as his religion.

Well, the DMV people didn't know what to do, they spoke to supervisors and called Sacramento. Alex was told, after an hour, that he could wear his hat for the picture and if there were any problems they would let him know and he could appeal their decision. He told them if there was a problem he WILL appeal it. Alex feels no one has more right to display their head gear then a Veteran or active service person. When he left several employees at the DMV clapped quietly for him. He has spoken to few other Veterans and they plan to do the same.





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JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

(A Soldier Died Today)

by A. Lawrence Vaincourt

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow

Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"Our Country is in mourning,
For a soldier died today"

- Sent in from **Nila Gott**



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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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