



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2315
March 13, 2016

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

MailCall News



Wow! I just got this from **Johnny Privott**. It is a beautifully framed, high-resolution photo canvas print of all of **Ben Barrett's** WW2 medals.

Johnny built one of these custom shadowbox prints for his granddad's medals. (**TEC5 William Raymond Doane** of the 596th PCEC, 1st platoon) It came out so well that Johnny is now offering these custom prints to the public.

These prints combine Professional Format Macro Photography and Giclee Reproduction Canvas Printing.

See:
<http://medalgraphics.com/>



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Dear Bob, You are the new owner of an Original Medal Print. I am truly sorry it took so long, but your 515th patch took a while to get and I ran out of gold flame stock.

The Medal Print is a visual product. We tell everyone what we make and they say that's nice but no picture of it does it justice. You have to see it with your own eyes and feel the canvas. I also ask you to share this with the rest of the 517th family. Take a photo of it for mail call.

The regular price is \$250 with a one-time setup fee included and each additional print is \$200. I have no idea on shipping costs, this is the first out of state shipment and this letter will be in the box. I am waving the setup fee for all 517th family and friends, so \$200 a print.

I put a lot of love and time in each print and hope it shows. Again thanks for the work you do for all of us.

Sincerely,

Johnny Privott
Medal Graphics
757-285-9485
MEDALGRAPHICS.COM

From Johnny's web site, <http://medalgraphics.com/>

*We think Military Medals are some of the coolest things ever made. They rank up there with Hot Rods, Electric Guitars, and custom motorcycles. About three years ago I ran across the website for my grandfather's old Army unit. I decided to start building his shadowbox. "This should be easy," I thought. "I can find everything I need on the internet right?" **Wrong!***

After eight months and over \$700, the medal box was finally finished. I told my nephew, "Kyle, I wish I could have just ordered a print or a poster at this point." Not many people build a shadowbox for someone who passed away twenty years earlier, and that realization was the start of Medal Graphics. The following years were spent on intensive R&D. Working with different large format printers, over a half-dozen medium format cameras, and lighting scenarios, we have found the perfect combination to create The Original Medal Print.

It's an honor for us to create this artwork for veterans and their families, and we take a great deal of pride in the fact we can give back in our own way to the ones who have sacrificed so much for us. From our family to your family, thanks again.

Sincerely,

John Privott
Pres. Medal Graphics





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I'm here with my grandfather, **Ignatius Joe Bail**, and we were talking to him about the people he knew in the war. I saw the mailcall with the email from **Harris Miller** and we realized that they knew each other in the war. And he remembers going curling in Minnesota with Harris Miller and another guy named Johnson and the Tallackson twins right after the war. My grandfather and Harris Miller wrote letters.

My grandfather would like to get in touch with Harris Miller. Could we get his address or his email address? Thank you so much.

Jennifer Walker

Joe Bail, meet Harris Miller. Harris, meet Joe. Keep us posted on MailCall. – BB

I also found in the whitepages:

Roger L Tallakson, age 89
3320 Palmaire Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85051
(602) 973-1398

Ignatius Joe Bail and **Harris Miller** were both with the 460th PFAB A Battery, along with the **Richard and Roger Tallakson** (the Tallakson twins), and **Ernest A Johnson**. -- BB

Two members of the 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, Roger and Richard Tallakson, were identical twins. They had asked to jump from separate airplanes so Mom and Pop wouldn't get a double jolt in a single telegram from the War Department in Washington, D.C.

When the green lights flashed in their respective C-47 cabins, they leaped into the dark unknown. Roger landed some twenty-five miles from his designated drop zone, and Richard crashed to earth thirty miles from his target field.

After daylight, each twin began asking other troopers for information on his missing brother. Richard heard that Roger had been killed, Roger was told that Richard died.

Two days later, the twins were joyously reunited in an assembly area. Neither had been injured.

From *The Spy Who Spent the War in Bed: And Other Bizarre Tales from World War II* (2003)
by William B. Breuer



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I found this in my dad's stuff. He was in the 82nd but now thinking 517 because of this also I am sure it's never seen the light of day the colors are Pristine. Any info is appreciated.

Sandra Hudson
Carl I Hudson



Hi Sandra,

What is your Dad's name? If it is Carl Hudson, I have not found a specific record of him, but my records are very incomplete.

That drawing is unique. Is that your Dad's face in the cartoon? I have not seen that before, but it is certainly based on a V-Mail card from 1945, originally drawn by **Dick Spencer** of the 517th. Although it is not an exact copy, I don't know why your Dad's pic would have the 517th info on it. Either he was with them for some period or made very good friends with the 517th.

The original V-card examples can be seen at:

http://517prct.org/documents/1944_xmas_vmails/1944_christmas_vcards.htm

http://517prct.org/documents/1944_xmas_vmails/1944_christmas_vcards_2.htm

Thanks for sending this in.

Bob Barrett



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-----Original Message-----

Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 9:26 PM
To: mailcall@517prct.org
Subject: Re: **Raymond Johnson**

Hi Ben,

My name is Kylee Johnson, and I stumbled across your webpage the other day when doing some research on my Grandfather, **Raymond Johnson** who was a PFC in the HQ company of the 1st battalion, 517th. Unfortunately, I don't have any stories to share, but I was wondering if you or any of the guys have any information about him? Most of the stories on your page looked a little older (most are from 2001), but its never too late to try right? I never got the chance to truly get to know him and would love any information on him. Anyways, thanks for your time, and sorry for any inconvenience.

best,

Kylee Johnson

Hi Kylee,

We recently got a message from **Harold Lawrence**, saying that he knew your grandfather, Raymond Johnson, from the war. They both served in HQ Company, 1st Battalion of the 517th. You can contact him at:

Harold (Sug) Lawrence
25111 Thrushwood Ln
Spring, TX 77373
281.353.8020

Let us know if you're able to make a connection.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

Bob, the last time I went to the Vet's home, one of them asked me how many members are part of your newsletter, I told him that I would ask. You don't have to put this in the newsletter, it's up to you. also that helicopter landing on that shack is unbelievable. What a guy!!!! **Anne Justice**

Hi Ann, It's just a small newsletter. Currently sent to about 365 members of the 517th family - troopers, family, friends from the US and Europe. Back in 2003, we used to send the printed Thunderbolt to about 1300 people, mostly troopers. But sadly, we have lost touch with most of them in the last decade.

Bob Barrett



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Re: **Ken Brown**, I Company

My mother recently returned from a trip to Florida to see my grandmother and brought me back some of my grandfather's paperwork. I'm hoping to see if I may be able to find anyone who knew him.

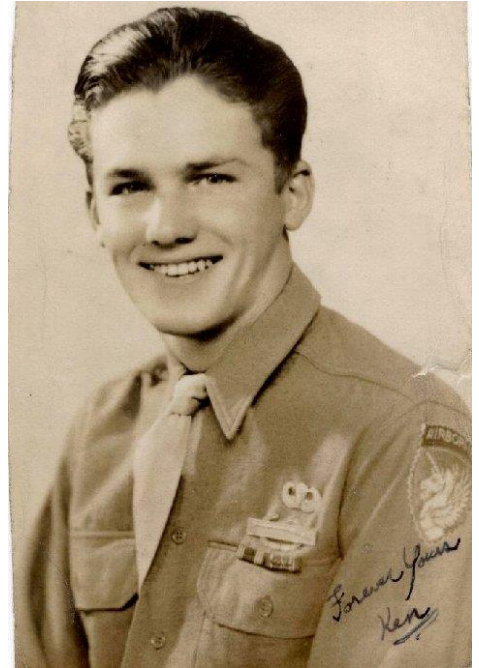
She brought me this picture back, the original, and I found the same one posted here on your website.

http://517prct.org/photos/3rd_battalion_I_Co/i_co_mackall.htm

In the attached, he is marked in pen, second row from front, 8th from left. Attached is a picture and his discharge papers.

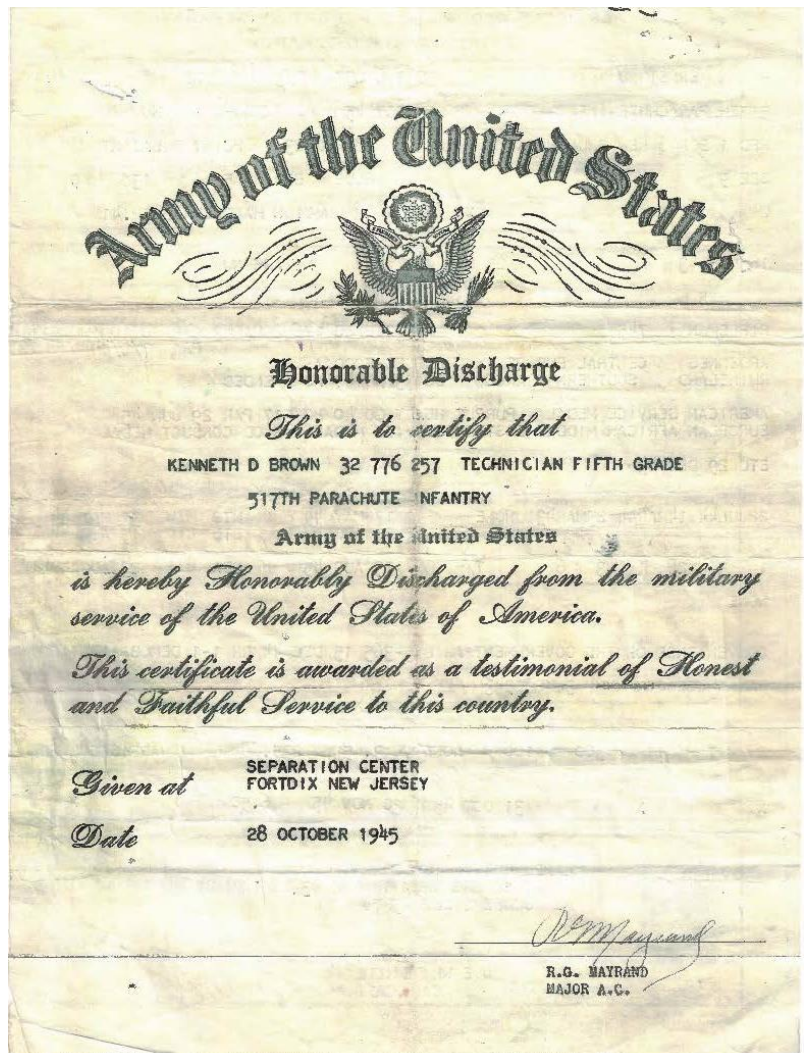
Any help you could offer would be most welcome.

Christopher M. Campion, Jr



Ken Brown
I Company

With his parents





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This is that photo of all the movie stars then under contract with MGM, celebrating MGM's 20th anniversary in 1944. Notice that 3 of the stars are in military uniforms. If you need to blow the picture up larger, click [here](#).

Front Row: James Stewart, Margaret Sullavan, Lucille Ball, Hedy Lamarr, Katharine Hepburn, Louis B Mayer, Greer Garson, Irene Dunne, Susan Peters, Ginny Simms, Lionel Barrymore

Second Row: Harry James, Brian Donlevy, Red Skelton, Mickey Rooney, William Powell, Wallace Beery, Spencer Tracy, Walter Pidgeon, Robert Taylor, Pierre Aumont, Lewis Stone, Gene Kelly, Jackie Jenkins

Third Row: Tommy Dorsey, George Murphy, Jean Rogers, James Craig, Donna Reed, Van Johnson, Fay Bainter, Marsha Hunt, Ruth Hussey, Marjorie Main, Robert Benchley

Fourth Row: Dame May Whitty, Reginald Owen, Keenan Wynn, Diana Lewis, Marilyn Maxwell, Esther Williams, Ann Richards, Marta Linden, Lee Bowman, Richard Carlson, Mary Astor

Fifth Row: Blanche Ring, Sara Haden, Fay Holden, Bert Lahr, Frances Gifford, June Allyson, Richard Whorf, Frances Rafferty, Spring Byington, Connie Gilchrist, Gladys Cooper

Sixth Row: Ben Blue, Chill Wills, Keye Luke, Barry Nelson, Desi Arnaz, Henry O'Neill, Bob Crosby, Rags Ragland



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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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