



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2324

May 30, 2016

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

Memorial Day 2016



Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday, which is observed every year on the last Monday of May, originated as **Decoration Day** after the American Civil War in 1868, when the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois, established it as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the Union war dead with flowers. By the 20th century, competing Union and Confederate holiday traditions, celebrated on different days, had merged, and Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service. It typically marks the start of the summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

Annual Decoration Days for particular cemeteries are held on a Sunday in late spring or early summer in some rural areas of the American South, notably in the mountain areas. In cases involving a family graveyard where remote ancestors as well as those who were deceased more recently are buried, this may take on the character of an extended family reunion to which some people travel hundreds of miles. People gather on the designated day and put flowers on graves and renew contacts with relatives and others. There often is a religious service and a picnic-like "dinner on the grounds," the traditional term for a potluck meal at a church. It is believed that this practice began before the American Civil War and thus may reflect the real origin of the "memorial day" idea.

– from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day



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From the FrancoAmerican Society:

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

May 29, 2016: Brothers Carl and **Homer Beaver** who rest side-by-side at the Rhone American Cemetery, are visited by their niece, Barb Molaski and her husband, George.

[Sgt. Homer Beaver of D Company, 517th PRCT was KIA November 4, 1944 near Sospel, France. See MailCall #2110. His, brother Carl, a tailgunner with the 456th Bomber Group, was also KIA over Austria in May of 1944. Both are buried next to each other in Draguignan.]

The Var Matin's story on the Molaski's visit to honor the Beaver Brothers this Memorial Day.

var-matin
Dimanche 29 mai 2016

L'info du jour

Les Molaski sur les traces de leurs soldats disparus

Draguignan Chaque année, le Souvenir franco-américain convie une famille d'outre-Atlantique aux commémorations du Memorial Day. En mémoire des GI'S morts au combat

Entre deux escales en Europe, ils sont venus se recueillir sur les tombes de leurs disparus. Barbara et Georges Molaski ont été invités par l'association du Souvenir franco-américain, en tant qu'hôtes d'honneur des commémorations du Memorial Day. L'événement est particulièrement touchant pour Barbara. Car c'est à ses oncles, les frères de sa mère, Carl et Homer Beaver, que les autorités rendent un hommage spécial aujourd'hui, au cimetière américain Rhône.

Renouer avec le passé
«Ils sont tous les deux morts en 1944, à 27 et 21 ans. Même après la guerre, les familles des soldats n'évoquaient pas leurs disparus car c'était trop douloureux», explique la nièce des deux militaires. Ce n'est donc pas par sa mère qu'elle a appris à connaître ses aïeux. Mais à force de recherches, de persévérance et d'un peu de chance, son enquête a pris une nouvelle tournure il y a trois ans. Elle se souvient: «À l'époque, l'association pour le Souvenir franco-américain m'a contactée pour la première fois». On lui parle alors du cimetière américain Rhône, où les poulx des deux frères reposent côte à côte. Elle apprend que *Carl est mort en Autriche et Homer Sospel, dans les Alpes-Maritimes*. Barbara décide de se plonger dans les archives militaires officielles. Parallèlement, Georges, son mari, ancien de l'armée de Terre américaine, reconverti dans l'informatique pour le compte du gouvernement, fait appel à ses contacts dans l'administration. Ils découvrent que Carl a intégré l'American Air Force (AAF) en mars 1941. Il était artiller à bord d'un avion Liberator et a péri en mai 1944 au cours d'une opération de survol de Wiener Neustadt. Son frère cadet, Homer, s'est engagé en mars 1943, comme parachutiste. Avec quatre camarades, il est tombé dans un guet-apens mortel aux abords de Sospel.

Une histoire partagée
Barbara est passionnée de littérature et d'histoire. Ses recherches la fascinent plus qu'elles ne l'attristent. «Je partage avec ma famille tout ce que je découvre», souligne-t-elle. Ses deux frères, ses enfants et même ses petits-enfants n'ignorent rien du combat qu'ont mené Carl et Homer. Ce bout de leur patrimoine, resté trop long-

temps sous silence, ne sera jamais plus un secret. Elle n'a donc pas hésité à traverser l'océan pour passer ces quelques jours à Draguignan et, peut-être, en découvrant d'avantage sur ses ancêtres. «Et, en prime, Georges et moi adorons voyager!», glisse l'ancienne hôtesse de l'air. «Nous avons tous les deux pris notre retraite en 2011», poursuit-elle. Depuis, quand ils ne parcourent pas le globe, ils sont occupés par l'une ou l'autre des associations dont ils sont membres. Fidèle à ses convictions, Barbara fait partie d'un club d'anciens personnels navigants, les Clipped Wings, et d'un groupe de lecture. Lorsque Georges et Barbara ont l'occasion de se reposer chez eux, à Falls Church, dans l'état de Virginie, c'est donc sans surprise que l'insatiable lectrice retourne dans sa bibliothèque. L'un de ses ouvrages préférés, *The Nightingale* de Kristin Hannah⁽¹⁾, retrace l'itinéraire de deux sœurs françaises, en 1939, dans le Sud de la France. «Dans ce roman, on raconte notamment comment les résistants français ont aidé certains soldats étrangers à passer les Pyrénées pour se mettre à l'abri de l'ennemi nazi», résume-t-elle. Quand elle pense à ses oncles, elle aime à croire qu'ils ont bénéficié d'une aide similaire. Et, on connu, en cette période trouble, le réconfort que procure la chaleur humaine.

C. MALLET

1 - Paru en France aux éditions Michel Laffont, sous le titre «Le Chant du rossignol».

Barbara Molaski, accompagnée de son époux Georges, est venue se recueillir sur les tombes de ses oncles, tombés en Europe pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale.
(Photo Philippe Arnassan)



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

A most sincere thank you to the Veterans of the 517th Parachute Regiment Combat Team on this Memorial Day 2016. All the best to the families and friends of the regiment.

Tip a glass to the boys tonight. Cheers,

Paul Abbene



Colonel "Wild Bill" Boyle and Major Don Fraser - Washington D.C. Reunion 2007

Greetings Bob, wishing you and you family all the best on this Memorial Day. Thinking of your Father on this day. I am forever grateful for connecting me to **Bill Boyle** and to the 517th family. If it is not too late, or too much trouble, I would like to add this to mailcall. Much appreciation. As always thank you for all you've done. Hope to see you soon somehow.

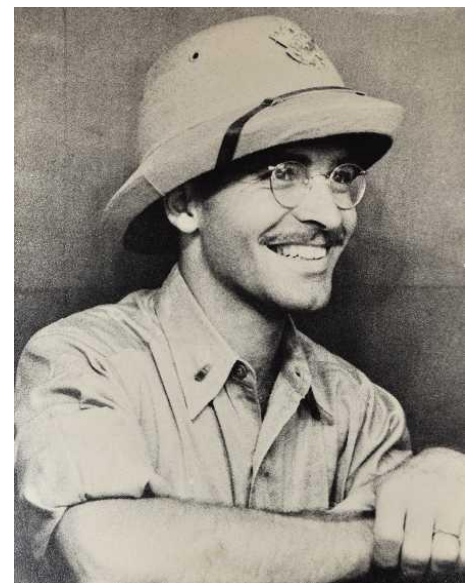
Many grins, **Paul Abbene**

On this Memorial Day I would like to honor my Father,

Captain Michael M. Abbene, MD.

He was an Army Surgeon 58th Portable Surgical Hospital - Myitkyina, Burma. 1944-45.

- Thank you, Paul Abbene





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PFC George "Snake" Hanna, B Company

just a note to let you know **G M Hanna** passed away 6-28-15.

B G Hanna



George M. Hanna, 90, passed on June 28, 2015. 'The Baron' was a contractor, a dancer, a card player, a story teller and a recipient of the Purple Heart who served as a paratrooper during the Battle of the Bulge. He follows his wife, Hilda Hanna, of nearly 66 years, with whom he danced and entertained much of their lives enjoying a vast array of family and friends.

Uncle George was beloved by many nieces and nephews. They are survived by their children Barry Hanna of Palmer Township, PA; Linda Hanna of Wyndmoor, PA; James G. and his wife Patricia Hanna of Allentown; their grandchildren, Angela Hanna of Brooklyn, NY and Nicole Walker and her husband Kyle of West Chester, PA. George also leaves behind his last remaining sibling, Dorothy Kochan, his favorite birthday present.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Wounded Warriors or any charity for wounded Veterans.

Published in Morning Call on July 2, 2015





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

MailCall News



Thank you so much Bob for the assistance. Donald's son and I are trying to get **Mr. Boatright** into a Veteran's home so that he can have some buddies to hang out with. He will be 92 on July 11th.

Here is a picture of him with his son, Jimmy, and daughter (my Ex) Malinda. Malinda is very sick. Mr. Boatright really misses her a lot as do we all. I hope she gets better.

Respectfully,

John Camp
Lt Col, USAF/SJA (Retired)

Bob, thank you for your putting the request for assistance in the 517th Mail Call. For many years I have printing the Mail Calls off in color and mailing them to Mr. Boatright as he does not have access to a computer. He always enjoys the old pictures and information about the men he served with in the 517th.

I have a question about GO 38. Were there more than two pages to the Order? My recollection is that General Orders had a signature of the Commander or the Adjutant indicating that the Order was published. To show that it is authentic, I would like to send to the VA all of the pages of the Order, including the one that shows it was published and that it is an official record. I realize there is some personal and sensitive information in the Order, and I will only share the Order the Veterans Administration.

Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,

John Camp

I can send you all the pages later tonight.

Bob Barrett

Thank you so very, very much. I will get this to the VA today!

Best wishes,

John Camp



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Hi Bob...

I was reading the Mail Call #2323 & I saw that part of GO #38. I wonder if you could let me see the rest of that. That is around the same time that my husband, David Vickers, was also wounded (at least if memory serves me correctly)...and I was wondering if he was listed on that one?

Thanks for all you do, Bob.

Lyn Burton-Vickers

Hi Lyn,

I did a quick look and I found him listed on this one. GO # 36. Here is a page mentioning Vickers at the bottom. (He was from Arlington, MA, not far from here.) I also included the front page of GO 36, although it is hard to read.

There may be others. The dates are all mixed, so I think this is just a paperwork catchup at the end of the war. I'd love to find my father's mention. I will start working on posting more of these to the website so that they are searchable.

Bob Barrett

Gosh, Bob, THANKS! I have David's Purple Heart here and would like to put this with it. I was thrilled to be able to see this. Of course, as an old soldier myself, I reckon it means a bit more to me to have the GO itself. You do a good service for all of us, Bob.

Yes, David was from Arlington...born in Somerville. I have spent many a day in Arlington on Osborne Rd...tho #2 (they moved after the war across the street). When I first met Hensley, he & I being lowans, I found it odd he lived in Carlisle MA...like what is better than Iowa??? LOL

Thanks again, Bob.

Lyn

watch at the 12th minute mark -- Roland and Sospel welcoming the First Special Service Force

<http://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/cote-d-azur/emissions/jt-1920-cote-d-azur>

(Find the link for 5/23/2016)

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Patricia et Roland Orenge





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Bob, this is Bob Hart D-CO 517. This is the third time I have asked to have the E-mail sent to me with no results on the first two. Will try one more time. Our E-mail address is kathbob19@q.com. Hope it works.

Called **Gloria Goodsell** last night, she and **Roger** are both in assisted living home and doing fine. She would like to hear from people.

Her phone # is 1-903-504-5612. Would like to get the last couple of E-mails if possible and thanks for doing what you are doing to keep the outfit alive.

Bob and Kathy Hart

820 E RD of Tralee Shelton WA 98584

Hi Bob,

I think this has happened before. According to the MailCall software, you – or more likely your email system - unsubscribed yourself on March 14.

See:

kathbob19@q.com
Robert Hart
Subscribed Mar 07, 2016 1:19 pm
★★★★★

+ VIP Resend Confirmation Email

⊘ This person unsubscribed on Mar 14, 2016 10:59 pm
After receiving "MailCall #2315"
Reason: Unspecified

It appears that there is something about your email system (q.com) that doesn't like MailCall or doesn't like any newsletters from Mailchimp.com. If this continues to happen, I'm not sure how to fix that unless you can contact q.com.

For now, let's just try it again. I went onto the website and signed you up again. You should have received an email asking you to confirm this.

If that doesn't work, you can try to re-add yourself at: <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall.htm>

I hope this helps.

Bob Barrett



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Good Morning,

My name is Danielle Patin. I am **Tony Patin**'s daughter, one of your subscribers to The Thunderbolt. I am sad to hear that The Thunderbolt is being dissolved. My father enjoyed reading the latest issue, as well as communicating with various members of your establishment. My father wanted to have the last issue displayed in a shadow box so that he could put it in our home. Within our home, there is an area of our living room in memorial to my grandfather, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Frederick Patin. We call it "the shrine". Anyway, there was an accident and some rings are present on the cover of the magazine, and my father doesn't want to display it if it is marked like that. I was wondering if there was any chance I could get another copy of the last issue. It would be great if I could give that to him in time for Father's Day. Please let me know when you get a chance. I would truly appreciate it.

Respectfully,

Danielle Patin

What address should we send it to? -- BB



EMOTIONAL REUNION: WWII veteran reunited with Holocaust survivor he freed from concentration camp 71 years ago. "Everything I have today, all of my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, is due to you."

<http://abcn.ws/27wWT5k>

L'esprit c'est comme un
PARACHUTE
pour que ça marche
il faut l'ouvrir

www.kaizen-magazine.com

"A mind is like a parachute.
For it to work, it must be open."



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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

Website	www.517prct.org
Send MailCall news to	MailCall@517prct.org
MailCall Archives	www.517prct.org/archives
2016 Roster (updated!)	www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
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