



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2329

July 24, 2016

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

MailCall News

What a beautiful tribute to our heroes courtesy of Bill McKendry and **Eddy Lamberty** in the Mail Call commemorating our Independence Day.

We continued a tradition which we have with friends here to have everyone at the dinner table read a portion of the Declaration of Independence out loud. A good reminder of our historical roots and principles.

Pat Seitz

PS Enjoyed your touch of humor from your British friends. Hope they are doing OK since the vote last week to leave the Common Market.

RE: Okay?

Hi Bob, I haven't had an email from you for a couple of weeks and wondered if you were okay.

OR maybe my email got messed up. Hope you are upbeat and kicking.

Nila Gott

Hi Nila,

I was wondering if anyone noticed. You are correct; it's been a couple of weeks since the last MailCall. I have been very busy at work and home -- new grandson and daughter Brianne bought her first house, so I am the fix-it man. Also the news from the 517th family has been rather slow for the first time in years, not enough to fill a MailCall. But I have a few things now so I'll definitely get one out this weekend.

That's for paying attention and for your concern.
Regards,

Bob Barrett



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I got up early sat. Morning & went to a Town called Walden in Conroe, Tx. As I was going to be in a parade on a float For Veterans of WWII. Then the 4th of July I was to be at 9:00 April Sound, another small community in Conroe,tx.for another parade for WWII Veterans. We had candy to throw to the kids . It takes me a little over an hour to get to these community's .God Bless America!

Mel Trenary

In Memorium

Sadly, I must report that I just spoke with Rob McDonald, who shared that his uncle **Hunter McDonald** died on July 15. Though he was tiring near the end of his life, when awake, he was alert until the end, joking and sharing stories, sharp.

Since I know that Bob Barrett often hunts down the obituary and attaches it in Mail Call, I will also share that Rob detected what he'd termed a huge typo, as one version said that he'd received five Silver Stars! He doesn't know the origin of the error, but knows how annoyed of the troopers would be with this kind of thing.

Hunter was a kind and warm spirit. We loved seeing him at reunions, along with his lovely wife Emmie and daughter Keith. They brought an elegant flair to our Kissimmee reunions!

I should point out that Darrell and Hunter, along with Rob, were instrumental in capitalizing on the moment, suggested by Chris Lindner, that we should film the St. Louis reunion. It grew into an incredible project, financed by many of the unit's angels, and just in the literal nick of time.

Ever Darrell's good friend, they were always right by each other. I guess they are again.

All the best to our extended airborne family –

Claire Giblin

Claire--reading this news causes a moment of sadness until I focus on the blessing of having his life touch all of ours and the joy he must be experiencing being reunited with his band of brothers. He ran a great race and was a good and faithful servant promoting our freedoms. And he, through Rob, left a most remarkable legacy. May the angels welcome him with great gusto.

Pat Seitz

I wanted to let you know that my father, **Hunter McDonald**, passed away on July 15, 2016. He was surrounded by his children, grandchildren and wife of 69 years as he peacefully took his last breaths. He will be missed terribly but we are grateful for all the wonderful memories he left us. He was 92, just a few weeks shy of his 93rd birthday on August 13.

Thank you.

Cornelia M. Granbery



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Hunter McDonald Jr.

Nashville, TN

Hunter McDonald, Jr., eldest son of Clara Gilliland McDonald and Hunter McDonald, died on July 15, 2016 at his home in Nashville, TN. A native Nashvillian, he was born on August 13, 1923, and was predeceased by his parents and his younger brother Robertson McDonald. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Emmie Keith Jackson, son Hunter McDonald, III, and daughters Keith McDonald Barry (John), Clara McDonald Milligan, and Cornelia McDonald Granbery (Hill). He is also survived by his younger sister Clara McDonald Bass, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

He attended The Webb School, The McCallie School and The University of the South at Sewanee. As a proud member of the Greatest Generation, he served his country during World War II, having enlisted in 1943 at the age of nineteen. He served with the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team in the European theater of operation. His campaigns included: Rome-Arno, the airborne invasion of southern France, the Rhineland, the Battle of the Bulge and Central Europe. His 517th Regiment earned and was awarded the Presidential Citation for serving above and beyond the line of duty. Later he was assigned to the 505th regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division which was among the first American occupation troops in Berlin. He was awarded the purple heart medal, bronze star medal and five silver stars for each campaign as well as a combat infantryman's badge.

He was the owner and president of three family businesses, the Family Service Laundry, Fort Negley Laundry and Colony Cleaners. He was elected as President of the Southern Laundry Owners Association. In 1961, he was honored to have been selected by the United States Department of Commerce to serve as its representative to create business for American companies in Nigeria.

As a member of the McDonald Clan, he spent his summers in northern Ontario, Canada where the family has gathered at their cottages each summer since 1911. As a fixture on the lake, his advice and counsel was sought by all, both natives and summer residents alike. He took up the hobby of small aircraft flying in mid-life and belonged to the Old Hickory Flyers, where he served as President, and the Nashville Aerobatic Club. He often flew to the family cottage on floats and enjoyed exploring the area and sharing the flying experience with friends and neighbors.

His interest in flying took him to the Northern hinterlands, including the Arctic and the Northwest Territory of Canada, from Hudson's Bay to the Yukon Territory. On one memorable trip during the height of the Cold War, Roy Miles, his dear flying companion, and Hunter flew almost to Siberia; when warned by air traffic control that they were approaching Russian air space, they ignored the warnings and crossed over the international date line. Not fearing any consequence thinking that the authorities wouldn't bother with a small aircraft, the pair took numerous photos. As they reentered US airspace, they avoided repercussion by feigning radio difficulties. He lived his entire life with that same sense of adventure and daring; he was an inspiration to all who knew and loved him.

There will be a private burial service for the immediate family. The family will host a celebration of Hunter's life in the fall for all who would like to attend. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Christ Church Cathedral, the University of the South at Sewanee, The Webb School in Bellbuckle, TN, or The McCallie School in Chattanooga, TN.

Published in Tennessean on July 17, 2016



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I need to mention that **Elmo Kunkel** passed away this year he was 93 yrs. Old. his son came to me at the Veterans gathering in Conroe, TX. I go to every Wed.& told me this.he came to visit his son a couple of years ago & then came out to visit with me. I don't know the exact date he passed away. His picture is in the last book that was made of our outfit, showing all of our pictures.

Mel Trenary

Elmo (Mo) David Kunkel

Born: November 01, 1921

Died: September 05, 2015



Elmo (Mo) David Kunkel, 93, of Bella Vista, Arkansas, died Saturday, September 5, 2015 after a brief illness. He was born November 1, 1921 in Hamilton County, Texas to Albert J. Kunkel and Nettie Appleby Kunkel.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Lillian Kunkel; brothers, Roland, Albert, James, Charles and Daniel Kunkel and sister, Marie Jahns.

Survivors include his wife, Jo Carlene Kunkel; sons Daniel (Linda) Kunkel and Barney (Kathy) Kunkel; stepdaughter, Lynnae (Elwood) Lewellen; stepsons, Randy (Anita) Langhover and Rod Langhover, 20 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

Elmo served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He received two Purple Hearts, Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, French Freedom Medal among others. He was honorably discharged.

He was a charter member of Bella Vista Lutheran Church, a Life Member and past Commander of the Bella Vista V.F.W. Post #9063; served on the Honor Guard of the Bella Vista V.F.W. and was a member of the American Legion Post #341.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at Bella Vista Lutheran Church, 1990 Forest Hills Blvd, Bella Vista, AR.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Bella Vista Funeral Home & Crematory, 2258 Forest Hills Blvd., Bella Vista, AR.



Mo Kunkel, right, and his wife, Jo Kunkel, sit in their Bella Vista home Friday reflecting on his service during World War II. EUGENE WILLIAMS • THE MORNING NEWS

Mo Kunkel
HQ/1
2001



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Death of **Jack Walbridge**

This is to inform you that my father passed away January 18, 2016. My mother would like to send you a note.

SHERRY WALBRIDGE DAMSTRA



Jack C. Walbridge, age 91, of Dutton, went to be with his Lord on Monday, January 18, 2016. Jack was an Army combat veteran proudly serving in the Airborne Company 517 during WWII. He was a Sunday School teacher, song leader, and an active leader in the church for many years. He also, along with his father and grandfather, owned Walbridge Meat Market on the west side of Grand Rapids. He retired at the age of 62 and enjoyed traveling, fishing, and camping. Jack will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 68 years, Lorraine; his children, Ron (Cheryl) Walbridge, Sherry (Bert) Damstra, Curtis (Kim) Walbridge, Marie (Bob) Cogswell; grandchildren, Brent (Andrea) Walbridge, Bradley (Melissa) Walbridge, Aaron Damstra, Sarah (Dan) Oberst, Katie (Cory) Pendrick, Lisa (Jose) Gonzalez, Jason (Megan)

Cogswell, Laura (Joe) Pomorski; great grandchildren, Alexa, Bryce, Madisyn, Ethan, Noah, Alayna, Adelyn, Landen, Jenna, Aubree, Khloe, Charleston; brother-in-law, Robert (Carol) Diefenbaker; several nieces and nephews. The funeral service will be held 11 am Thursday, January 21, at Good News Baptist Church, 6830 Eastern Ave. SE, with Rev. Terry Frazine officiating. Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery. Memorial contributions in honor of Jack may be given to Good News Baptist Church Building Fund or Faith Hospice.



Jack C. Walbridge, 2009

I Company



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Found online from 2014:



Dallas Long

G Company

Dallas Lloyd Long, Sr., age 95, of Lithonia passed away peacefully at home Saturday, February 22, 2014. He was an incredible Christian and beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He was preceded in death by four sisters, and one brother. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine “Jerrie” Long; children, Donna Knapp (Dale) of Snellville, Deborah Mullen (Chris) of Charlotte, NC, Dallas Long, Jr. (Beth) of Baton Rouge, LA; grandchildren, Lauren Hammond (Kevin), Megan Walker (Chris), John Mullen and his fiancé Christine O’Neill, Justin Mullen, Rachael Mullen, Dallas Long, III; great grandchild Kyler Hammond, and soon to be great grandchild, Kolton Hammond; sister, Wilma Albert (Babe) of Kenton, OH; and sister-in-law, Barbara Long of Kenton, OH.

Mr. Long was born September 22, 1918 in Kenton, OH. He was a member of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. He was a former member of Rainbow Park Baptist Church where he served as a deacon. He held many professions, but was most proud of his military career: He served in World War II as the 1st sergeant of Co. G, 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team. He jumped into Southern France liberating Alpine towns, later fighting on the front lines of the Battle of the Bulge, stopping German advancement. Mr. Long retired as a Warrant Officer from the Army Reserves. He was a true Patriot, a very talented craftsman, and an engaged, active naturalist.

A Funeral Service to Honor the Life of Dallas Lloyd Long, Sr. will be held Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 11AM at Tom M. Wages Snellville Chapel. Interment will follow at Westview Cemetery. The family will receive friends Tuesday beginning at 9AM at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Music Ministry of Smoke Rise Baptist Church, in memory of Dallas Lloyd Long, Sr.



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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.
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19 Oriole Court
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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