



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2350

March 19, 2017

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

Capt. Erle E. Ehly, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion

This obituary doesn't begin to cover Dad's amazing life. He rarely talked about the war, but we knew from his military friends and his awards that he was a true WWII hero. He's been my personal hero since I was old enough to know he was my dad.

Thanks,
Janet



Earl Ehly

from Temple University
Yearbook, 1968

The Life of Erle E. Ehly

Ehly, Erle E., 98, of Roxborough, PA, died Friday, March 10, 2017, at Foulkeways at Gwynedd. Erle graduated from Roxborough High School and Temple University. He was a retired Colonel of the U.S. Army, and was a Temple University administrator for over 39 years. He is preceded in death by his wife, Janet E. (nee Toperzer), his second wife, Susan, and brother, Robert J. He is survived by his children: Janet Louise Aldinger (Bruce Aldinger), William Erle (Jackie), and Glen Robert (Mary Ellen); 8 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Carol. Visitation at 11 a.m. and Funeral at 12 noon, Thursday, March 16th at the Chapel of Peace at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, 225 Belmont Ave., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. Interment immediately following. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wyncote Audubon Society, 1212 Edgehill Rd., Abington, PA 19001. Arrangements by West Laurel Hill Funeral Home, Inc.



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From Stars and Stripes reporter Hal Boyle with the 517th in Stavelot, Belgium, Jan 25, 1945:

Any good battlefield commander prizes the regard of his men above any recognition that higher headquarters can bestow. That is why **Captain Earl E. Ehly**, former Philadelphia physical education instructor, treasures a letter written by a wounded man in his company to the commander of the 517th parachute combat team.

"Dear Sir," the letter said. "I am in hospital now with a fractured skull. Being an enlisted man under your command I would like to bring to your attention the kind of officer you have under your command.

"The officer I am referring to is Captain Earl E. Ehly. Here were his actions while we were engaging the enemy at Soy, Luxembourg. We were advancing against a heavy concentration of small arms fire, mortar fire and 240-millimeter artillery fire. Captain Ehly was hit in the leg, and as I started to help him an artillery shell of the 240-millimeter kind fell between us wounding about six more men. Captain Ehly, neglecting his wounds and the mortar fire, crawled to me and gave me first aid treatment and words of encouragement. I wrote this letter of my own free will."

The letter was signed with an enlisted man's name.

The letter -- which means more to Ehly than the hero's ribbons he wears over his left pocket -- didn't add what the boys who patched up the wounded at the aid station remember. Captain Ehly wouldn't permit them to give him blood plasma until he was personally shown that the supply on hand was sufficient for all his wounded men.

MailCall News

I have talked to **Joe Molina**. He's doing fine, considering he has lost most of his sight. Vera and Alex Sierra's daughter is taking care of Joe's son who is handicapped. Vera is doing fine, but misses Alex. I will call her this week. Going to call Gloria Goodsell & maybe Roger will chime in. Received news **Adrianna Polk (Floyd Polk)** passed away a couple of weeks ago. This letter sounds bad but a couple of us are still hanging on. I'm close to 93, had to give up on motorcycles a couple of years ago due to back problems. Kath and I are still getting around - both still driving

phone #s:

Gloria Goodsell (cell) 1 903592 8304

Joe Molina 1 626 333 4767

Maxine Cooper ` 1 317 384 1711

.P.S. Has anyone heard anything of **Dick Young** - D-Co

Bob & Kath Hart

D Co 517



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We heard from Roger Goodsell Jr. that his mother **Gloria Goodsell** had passed away Fri. March 10th. She was the wife of **Roger Goodsell** - 517th D Co. Roger is in asst. living facility and sleeps most of the time. They have had a wonderful life and always enjoyed the reunions.

Bob Hart - D Co

So enjoyed the latest Mail Call regarding the 61 reunion, Curahee events, and WW II facts. Thanks for all you do to keep the 517th family connected. It is truly appreciated!

Tim Curtis

Son of **H.L. "Bud" Curtis**

Hdq. 1st

Hello, I am doing research on a family member and trying to find his discharge papers. I know they were destroyed in the 1973 pentagon fire. I also would like to submit a picture of him as well. he was in the 460 Parachute Field Artillery Battalion. His name was **Henry J Szczepaniak** and was in the unit from 1942 until the end of the war. His Parachute badge has the ID number (33784742) Any information with other veterans or association members would be great. He also went by the name Henry Spanick after the war. His name is in a Regiment Christmas card from 1944.

Thank You

Frank Hewitt

fjhewitt70@hotmail.com

Henry Szczepaniak was with Battery D, 460th PFAB

I received a nice handwritten note from Gloria Hudson:

Dear Bob,

Received your package today and thank you so very much. I did not have a few of the photos that were in the "Mail Call".

I am putting together an album and the information you sent is vital.

I miss Bill but know tghat he's at peace now after 1 year of suffereing through 3 surgeries, the last a brain surgery which was cancerous.

Thanks again.

As ever,

Gloria Hudson



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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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