



# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

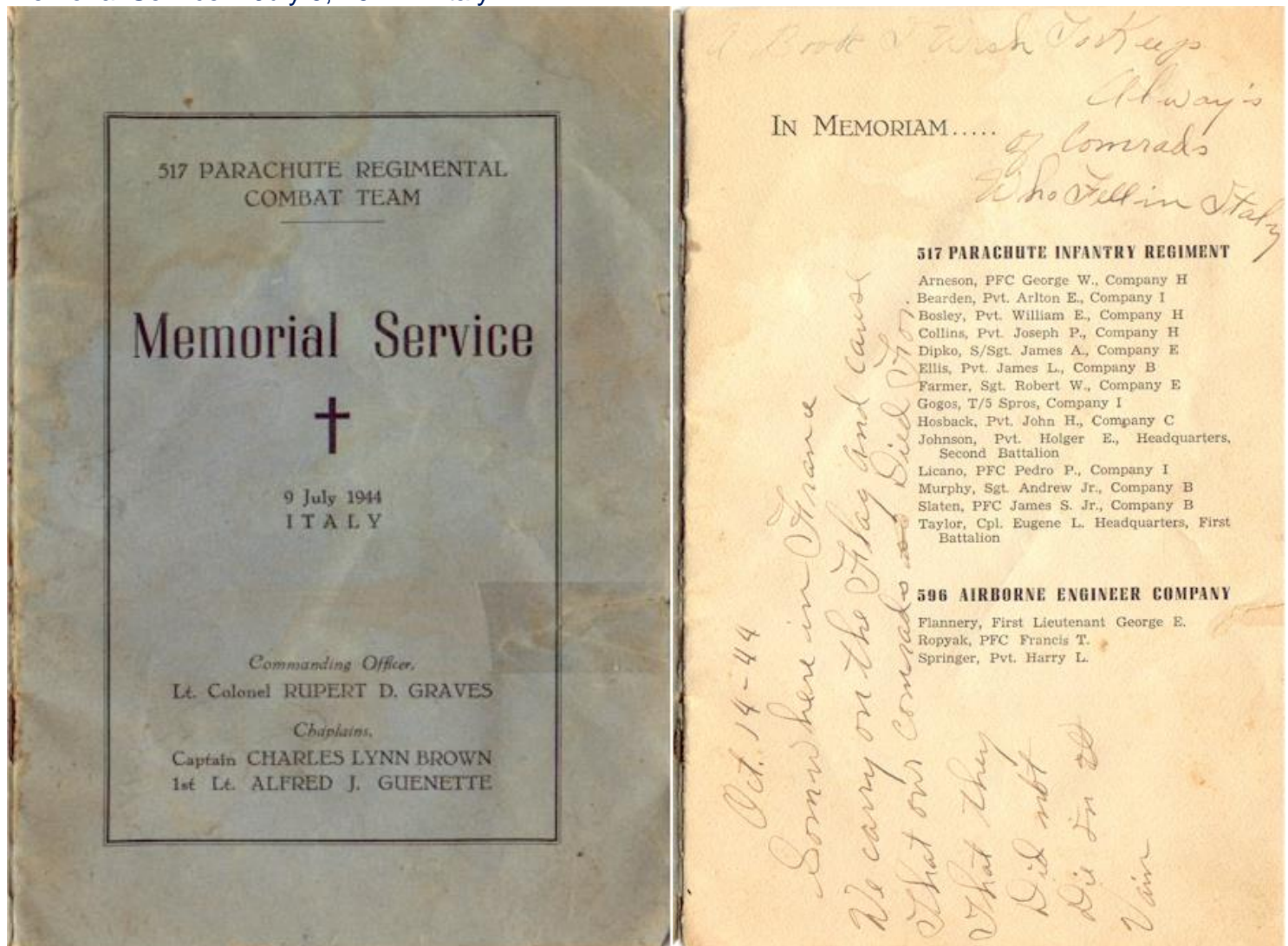
## MailCall No. 2362

July 9, 2017

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

## MailCall News

Memorial Service – July 9, 1944 in Italy



The complete booklet is at:

[http://www.517prct.org/documents/1944\\_july\\_9\\_memorial/1944\\_july\\_9\\_memorial\\_booklet.htm](http://www.517prct.org/documents/1944_july_9_memorial/1944_july_9_memorial_booklet.htm)



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From **John Egelhof**: Obit of 517<sup>th</sup> trooper:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/twincities/obituary.aspx?n=william-b-burn&pid=186035008&fhid=4423>

### **William B. BURN 1924 – 2017**



Age 92 of Edina, MN, formerly of Fargo, followed his beloved wife into eternal rest on July 6, 2017. Born October 9, 1924, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Bill was a graduate of U High in St. Paul, attended the University of Minnesota and the Brown Institute of Broadcasting in St. Paul. **He served in the 517th Parachute Infantry during WWII.**

Bill married Ellen Salscheider in St. Paul on May 10, 1947. They moved to the Fargo/Moorhead area in 1948 when Bill joined WDAY Radio/TV. He served as Executive Vice President of WDAY Radio and retired in 1984 after 37 years in the radio broadcasting business. Bill was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He will be remembered for his compassion and integrity, but mostly for his wonderful sense of humor. He will be especially missed at family gatherings where he entertained everyone with stories of growing up in St. Paul and of the various celebrity interviews he conducted during the early years of his broadcast career (Rosemary Clooney; Stan Kenton; Harry James; Nat King Cole; Peggy Lee; and Bob Hope).

Bill is preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Ellen; his parents, William and Eunice; his sister, Elizabeth Severson; and brother, Douglas. Bill is survived by his four children: Bill (Laura) Burn; Suzanne Burn; Barbara (John) Bennett; and Cynthia (Dwight) Hager; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, please consider directing a donation to your local chapter of the Animal Humane Society in memory of our father. Memorial Service 11 AM on Wednesday July 12, 2017 at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel with visitation one hour prior. Private family interment Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights. [www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com) Edina Chapel 952-920-3996 5000 West 50th Street Edina, MN 55424

Published in Pioneer Press on July 9, 2017

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Does anyone remember Bill Burn?

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RE: MailCall 2361

This was a very rich Mail Call. Thank you to you and to **Joe Figuerido** (sp?) for more details on the efforts to locate the body of **Pvt. Gruwell** who was killed August 15, 1944.

What great news that Camp Toccoa has received the 517th's contribution! My compliments to the Association's President and Board for making this decision. Words cannot express, however, our Association members' gratitude to the two unsung heroes who made this ultimately happen: **Joanne Barrett**, the Association's Treasurer and **Cody Thornton**, Esq., the lawyer who did the legal work pro bono. Their outstanding patience particularly with all the legal and record details, their selfless dedication and dogged commitment was truly awe inspiring. We owe them BIG time. May we always sing their praises. Thank you Joanne and Cody.

Speaking of singing praises, the pictures from **Karen Frice Wallace's** mini-west coast reunion were gorgeous. What a fun, successful and imaginative (even if a little cool) time everyone had. Thank you, Karen for helping to celebrate and serve our heroes.

**Merle**, thank you for sending the 2000 Thunderbolt (and other editions) to Bob, and thank you, Bob, for printing it. Merle, you have a way with words, so thank you for enabling all of us to read about your experiences in Europe after the war.

Finally, thank you to **Sue Pohler** for sending Bob a copy of her father's schedule while in the 517th. **Norm Pohler's** schedule was very helpful to me, especially now that Alan and I have walked the 517th's battlefields, to visualize how much the 517th was on the move during the war.

**Pat Seitz**

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Happy Birthday, Miriam Kelly!

Section: AHAA 21,2  
L CHARLES MCKILLIP  
517 AIRBORNE  
2ND BATT CO D

My uncle: **Lewis Charles McKillip** (known as Charlie or Bus) was in the 517th during WWII. He was there from 26 July 43 until ? My husband & I purchased a brick for him at the WWII National Museum in New Orleans. I am sending a copy of it. Maybe there are still mates of his who might recognize his name. As with many of those in the Greatest Generation, he didn't talk much about his service. He did say he was a "rich man"

because he had two pairs of socks -- he wore one & kept the other one close to his body to warm it for the rotation of socks to keep his nearly frozen feet somewhat warmer during that horribly cold winter. When I asked why he signed up for the paratroopers, he said because it paid \$25 a month more!

He was born 15 Feb 1925 and passed 6 May 2005 in Escondido CA. He worked for Bechtel Power Corporation for many years. If anyone remembers him, I would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Kathryn McKillip Thrift

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L. Charles McKillip was with D Company. -- BB



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"Iron Mike" is the nickname of a 16-foot-tall statue of a U.S. paratrooper who has apparently just landed on a big pile of rocks. He was built in 1961 partly of steel (which is made from iron). For decades he stood at the 18th Airborne Corps entrance to Fort Bragg. Then he got rusty and was removed in 2005.

After five years of restoration work, Iron Mike was returned -- but 12 miles away, in downtown Fayetteville, where he now stands outside the Airborne and Special Operations Museum. The spot formerly occupied by Original Iron Mike is now home to Replica Iron Mike, who stands on a less-impressive pile of rocks. The replica is the same size as the original, but it's made of bronze, which has no iron in it.

Note: The boulders that Iron Mike is standing on came from Currahee Mountain at Camp Toccoa, GA.



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Really enjoyed the variety of photos and articles in this latest Mail Call. From the Frice (Gene's memory lives-on through his daughters) photos of the mini-Reunion in OR, to the unbelievable notes from **Norm Pohler** that his daughter sent, to the Thunderbolt photo of Merle McMorrow and his bust-my-gut "Fake News" comment. Such a really Great Family these 517th folks! And Happy B-Day today Mimsey!

### **Kenton Floyd Immerfall**

Nephew of **Floyd A. Stott**, 1st Lt, Co. "I", 3rd Bat., 517th PRCT

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Hi Bob,

I found a picture of **James Walton** and a picture of his wife on his tomb

Michel Quilez



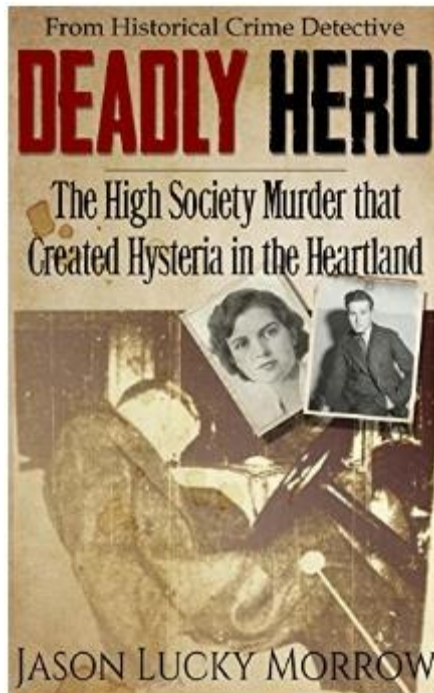
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**Pvt. James L. Walton** was with Hq. Co, 2nd Battalion, and was killed September 1, 1944 near Levens, France. See more at <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2357.pdf>

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The Kennamer Case has been a matter for discussion from time to time. In time it was almost forgotten until 2004. Then Colette Michel from Le Muy became interested in a tiny war memorial erected by the locals. It is in Trans en Provence along the main road to Draguignan near the intersection of Impasse Notre Dame and Place de 16 Aour. A tiny city park and small chapel sit nearby. The inscription on the memorial, when translated reads, "*In memory of Debray Jacques, Harry T. Moore, Phillip Kennamer, American parachutists who died facing the enemy on August 15, 1944 for the liberation of the village.*"

Kennamer had started writing a book while in prison titled "*The Inside of the Kennamer Case*". Kennamer's sister Opal claimed she finished writing the book in 1947 but no record of it being published nor any copy was ever found.

Judge Kennamer died of heart problems in 1960 and is buried by his daughter Opal in Chelsie Cemetery in Chelsea, OK. Opal never married.

Last year I was interviewed by a newspaper journalist by the name of Jason Lucky Morrow who writes stories on sensational crime stories that create national attention. A copy of his book arrived recently and it is all about the trial that resulted in a verdict that sent Kennamer to prison for 25 years.

**Milton Rogers, Owen Burnham, Lark Washburn and Ballinger**, all men from Battery C and Utah contributed to the story.

Title of the book is *DEADLY HERO: The High Society Murder that Created Hysteria in the Heartland*.

Very interesting because we knew a different Kennamer.

**Merle McMorrow**

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For more about **Phil Kennamer**, visit **Jean-Loup Gasend's** book, Operation Dragoon. Here is an excerpt about Phil Kennamer's story in a previous [MailCall 2274](#)





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OKLAHOMA STATE PENITENTIARY

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Institution — OKLAHOMA STATE PENITENTIARY      Located at — McALESTER, OKLAHOMA.

		Received <u>3-4-35</u>
		From <u>Pawnee</u>
		Crime <u>mansl. 1st. dg.</u>
		Sentence <u>25</u> yrs. <u>      </u> mos. <u>      </u> days
		Date of sentence <u>      </u>
		Sentence begins <u>3-4-35</u>
		Sentence expires <u>3-3-60</u>
		Good time sentence expires <u>12-21-46</u>
		Date of birth <u>      </u> Occupation <u>salesman</u>
		Birthplace <u>Okla.</u> Nationality <u>amer.</u>
		Age <u>19</u> Com. <u>med.</u>
		Height <u>5-11</u> Eyes <u>bro.</u>
		Weight <u>161</u> Hair <u>bro</u>
		Build <u>med.</u>

A prison mug shot of a disheveled looking Phil Kennamer. Note that his sentence, with good time, expires on 12-21-1946—less than half of his 25 year sentence.



Phil Kennamer, the dashing paratrooper.



The war memorial for Jacques Debray, Second-Lieutenant Harris Moore, and PFC Phillip Kennamer. It is located between Trans en Provence, and Draguignan, France,



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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](mailto: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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