

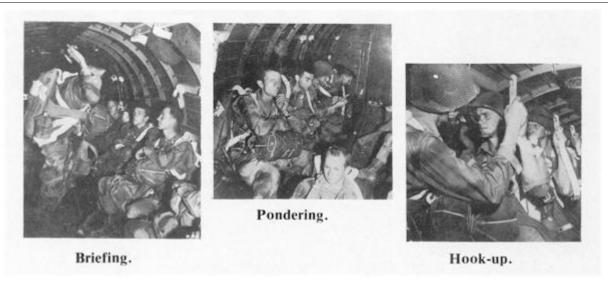
MailCall No. 2366 August 13, 2017

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

Operation Dragoon - August 14, 1944 - 73 Years Ago









MailCall News

The following are my Dad's memories, pictures and a letter to my grandmother regarding the jump into Southern France. All taken from my brother Lory Curtis's book "Letters Home: A Paratroopers Story." Thanks for all you do to perpetuate the memory of my father, your father, and all the great men of the 517th.

Tim Curtis son of Bud Curtis and brother of Lory Curtis



August 15, 1944---Parachute Combat Jump into Southern France

Memories shared by Harland "Bud" Curtis HQ 1st BN in 2004

We got our first introduction to real war against the Germans for about six weeks in June and July of 1944. Around the middle of July the 517th we were trucked to a place not too far south of Rome. I recall a place called Franscatti was within a walking distance of five miles or so. There was a big lake there that was actually in the bottom of a volcano that had been extinct for hundreds of years. It was a good place to go when possible as it was very hot and humid around Rome in the summertime.

Later, we learned the reason we were there was for intensive training preparatory to the invasion of Southern France targeted for August 15, 1944. About three days before D-Day we were transported to an airfield outside Rome in Civitavecchia. Tight security was enforced. Much time was spent at this airfield getting equipment ready plus studying maps and sand tables showing where we were to land, which was behind Marseilles not far from Grasse, the perfume capital of Southern France. The invasion was code named "Dragoon". The map and sand table studies were a waste. The Air Force (Army Air Corps) jumped our troops in at least a fifty mile radius and even into the Mediterranean where some were drowned. I landed in tree-thick mountains far from the intended drop zone which turned out to be a stroke of fortune. The few who did land on the drop zone were annihilated. Berlin Sally announced on radio August 14, 1944, that they would have a hot welcome waiting the 517th. They had gasoline-soaked haystacks and 88 millimeter shells attached to piano wire strung from eight-foot poles which proved to be as hot as she said and totally lethal for those who did land there.





Pictures taken by Bud's friend Joe Sumptner with his camera on August 14, 1944

Memories from my Dad about the pictures that appear in numerous books.

These two pictures were taken at the spur of the moment rather than planned.

My friend from Headquarters, First Battalion, communications section, who I think was Joe Sumptner, from Kokomo, Indiana, took these of me, and I took some of him. When we decided to take these pictures we used my camera and Joe's equipment. The first picture is me standing at the tail of a C-47 airplane. I am dressed as I was on the morning I jumped except Joe's trench knife is shown on my right side below the canteen. Some individuals thought I was wearing three knives, but what appears as a knife scabbard on my right waist is a bayonet scabbard.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I packed the film with me for about three months before getting prints made in Nice, France. Just having these pictures today is a minor miracle when thinking back what the negatives and prints went through to be in this frame now.

Letter to Mom from Harland L. Curtis Combat Jump into Southern France August 15, 1944 as recorded by Bud on August 22, 1944

Dear Mom,

We boarded C-47's (the twin engine plane that was used by paratroopers) in Italy (Chiteviccia) about 2:30 am and had a nice pleasant ride with no opposition at all. Most of us were asleep until almost time to jump. They woke us up and said we would be over the field in eight minutes. That was about 5:00 am. We stood up and hooked up. It seemed like years went by as those last minutes ticked off. I was number 13 man. The green light came on and guys began to disappear in front of me. Then there I was at the door. I had a hell of a body position. I went out of the door like I was throwing a flying block with my right shoulder at somebody. I was heading down nose first when "Wham" she opened and jerked me back up right. I looked up to make sure my chute was open and then I looked around. We must have jumped awfully high because I thought I was never going to come down. There was a low fog about a 100 feet off the ground and it looked just like water. I really thought my number was up for sure. I was cussing the Air Corps and all there ancestors for 17 generations back.

When I sank through the mist I was just beginning to figure it all out when "Thud" I hit the ground. I will never forget that morning. I was miles away from the jump field. Later I found out that it was a good thing I didn't land on the jump field as the Germans had it all ready for us with mines, machine guns, and flame throwers. All I could see was forms of trees through the fog. I cut myself out of my chute and when I stood up I seemed to have lost my sense of balance. I fell down and rolled down the side of a mountain a few yards. I stood up again, and did the same thing again. I stood up again and took a couple of steps and fell off a ledge about 10 feet high and about broke my neck. There was dry grass all over and every step I took you could hear it for a mile. I decided to lay still for a while and see if I could figure out where I was at. I didn't know which way to go. I heard somebody moving a little ways in front of me. I shouted the password at him hoping it was one of our guys, but instead of getting the right answer I got a couple of bullets just over my head. I took off for a big rock and figured I would have it out with the guy, but then I heard somebody behind me. Once again I made the mistake of hoping it was one of our guys and shouted the password to him and got my answer in hot lead. It was so foggy we couldn't see each other but we could hear every move each of us made.

There must have been a whale of a patrol around me and every step I took away from them I could hear them coming closer. I knew as long as it stayed foggy I could hold them off, but it began to get light and I decided the best thing to do was make a run for it and hope they would miss. I took off zig zagging and they opened up on me, but I was lucky and got to the other side of the hill and down in the valley and there I met some of our own guys.

We climbed over another hill and came to a road and met up with most of the company. Ever since then I haven't had much trouble. In fact the Germans are running to fast. I haven't seen one for days.



Question for **Mike Kane** on Op Anvil Intel Summary? My father (**Arthur Fournie**) was in D Battery 460th PFAB and I have been doing some research on the jump of 15 August.

Mike Kane posted 14 pages of a larger document (60 pages): Operation Anvil - Intelligence Summary - August, 1943

in your documents section, but it stops just as the Enemy Dispositions section is beginning. Is there any way to contact him to get the following pages with the remainder of the Intel Summary? Thanks,

Dan Fournie

See: http://517prct.org/documents/1944_dragoon_intelligence_reports/intelligence.htm

From Merle McMorrow:

This is the type of propaganda we fired at the Germans. Smoke shells were used for delivery. Usually the 105s and the 155s shells were used because of the larger space available for packing the leaflets. The smoke cartridge was removed and rolls of 400 leaflets replaced the area used by the smoke cartridge. The leaflets were usually distributed to small areas to your immediate front, Surrender leaflets were usually included with information as to the current status of the war, help offered for the wounded and food available for their enjoyment.

Information dropped to the general public with the intent to destroy morale was dropped by the bombers and covered large areas.

Do we have someone that can interpret?





NACH DEM EINMARSCH DER ALLIIERTEN

auf deutsches Gebiet erfolgte die Proklamierung der Militärregierung durch General Dwight D. Eisenhower in seiner Eigenschaft als Militär-Gouverneur. Die Militärregierung geht streng aber gerecht in den besetzten Gebieten vor. Ihre Hauptaufgabe ist weder die Bestrafung noch die Erziehung Deutschlands, sondern die Sicherung der alliierten Verbindungen, die baldmögliche Herbeiführung des Friedens, und zu diesem Zweck die Entfernung der nationalsozialistischen Führerschicht sowie die Festnahme und Aburteilung der Kriegsverbrecher. Der Zivilbevölkerung wird Gelegenheit gegeben, ihren täglichen Beschäftigungen nachzugehen und durch Selbsthilfe ihre Heimatorte wieder in Schwung zu bringen.



General Dwight D. Eisenhower Oberbefehlshaber der alliierten Streitkräfte und Militär-Gouverneur.

In einem Dorf in Westdeutschland nimmt ein Soldat der Militärregierung die Personalien auf.



FÜR JEDEN DEUTSCHEN SOLDATEN

der jetzt noch im Westen kämpft, befindet sich heute mindestens ein Landser "drüben" - in allierter Kriegsgefangenschaft. Diese Kameraden haben nicht weniger tapfer gekämpft, aber sie mussten in hoffnungsloser Lage erkennen, dass mit Weiterkämpfen nicht mehr gedient war. Als Kriegsgefangene unterstehen sie dem Schutz der Genfer Konvention von 1929, derzufolge sie nach Kriegsende so bald wie möglich nach Hause zurückgeschickt werden. Die folgende Bildserie beschreibt nüchtern und sachlich wie es kriegsgefangenen Landsern während der ersten Tage nach der Gefangennahme ergeht.



3. Erste Hilfe für Verwundete wird sofort am Verbandplatz geleistet. Schwerverwundete gehen gleich per Sani-Kw. zum Lazarett.



Des kann Jedem passieren. In hoffnungtioser Lage und angesichts der Übermacht ergibt sich ein Zug den Anglo-Amerikanern.



Abfransport Ins Durchgangslagor. Gemäss der Genfor Konvention werden die Gefangenen sofort aus der Gefahrenzone gebracht.



Die erste Mahlzeit der Kriegsgefangenschaft besteht meistens aus Büchsenfleisch (C-Ration) mit einer Dose Keks und Konfekt.



5. Personalien-Aufnahme erfolgt durch andere Landser. Wo immer möglich, herrscht unter den Kriegsgefangenen Selbstverwaltung.



Just an update on the Mini-Mini reunion held in Bluffdale, UT on Aug 3, 2017.

The reunion was attended by 2 members of the Association; **Lory Curtis** and **Mike Wells**. Mike won the award for having traveled the farthest to attend the reunion. Lory was an excellent ambassador for the 517th; talking to everyone he met.

A luncheon was served at the Costa Vita restaurant featuring a Mexican cuisine. It was a great opportunity to swap stories (lies), remember past reunions and contemplate the possibility of future gatherings.

After the luncheon Lory hosted a reception at his home, where good conversation was continued and attendees were pleased to have Chris, Lory's wife, as an excellent hostess! The conversation was lively and included topics that the paratroopers would be proud of.

A great time was had by all, but, as the saying goes that "all good things must end," so did this one. Attendees were surveyed and it is reported that 100% agreed that another Mini-Mini Reunion would be held within the next 30 days!

One group photo was taken and is included with this report.

Until next time!

Mike Wells





Hi webmaster,

My name is Rose Gotseff. I am trying to contact Mr. Daniel J. Olson who has communicated with you as **Jim** Bacaloff's great grandson.

I am doing a paternal geneology search for my son, Peter Gotseff. Peter's grandmother was the sister of Jim's mother. Both from Bulgaria. Until now we were not aware of any living relatives in this country. Thus the interest when I found the post from Mr. Olson.

I hope you can forward this Email to Mr. Olson. I have attached the picture we have and the label on that back of it.

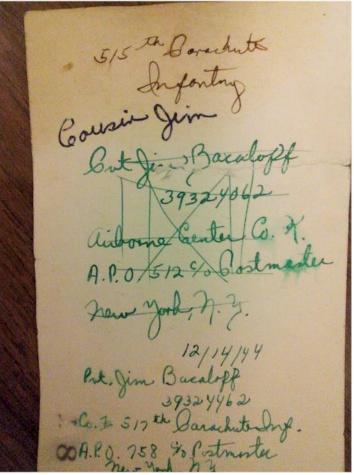
Thank you for your time.

Rose Gotseff

Note for Mr. Olson: Hello, I really look forward to hearing from you. I have not found much info past the 1940 census for the Bacaloff family.

Daniel Olson's note about Jim Bacaloff was in: http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2347.pdf







Posted to the 517th Guestbook:

Submitted by	Comments:		
Name: Sarah Stafford (Zuiss) From: Wichita, KS E-mail:	My grandpa, John Zuiss, is listed as "Service Company. I'm interested to know what kind of things he would have done.		
sarah stafford@ymail.com	Added: August 3, 2017		

RE: Recorded interview with Mel Trenary

It was sometime before the 2015 reunion....I was with him at that one and I remember him telling me he had already had the interview.

Rick Trenary

Interviews of several men took place at the 517th Reunion in 2008 at St. Louis. The DVD is called "Spirit of the 517th" / "A Cut Above"

Katherine Wheeler

All or most of the "A Cut Above" interviews are viewable on Vimeo, but I don't see any there with **Mel Trenary**. Does anyone remember any other recorded interviews with Mel? -- BB

Was that Melvin Biddle's son asking for videos? If he was at the St. Louis reunion I have videos of the men being interviewed.

Right now we are at our home in Jackson Hole, WY. The videos are at our home in SAN ANTONIO, TX. We go back to SAN ANTONIO the first week of October. If you can tell me which Melvin he is looking for I can go over my videos and see if I have any.

Please let me know what Melvin's last name was and maybe it would be
helpful if his son knew if he attend the St. Louis reunion. Claire would also have copies of the interviews
that were taken at the St. Louis reunion if Melvin was there!

Chris Lindner

Thanks

Roger Goodsell, platoon sgt. 2nd platoon, D co. passed away this morning July 30th in Tyler Texas. We received a call this afternoon from his son Roger Goodsell Jr. - phone # 1 903 592 8304. Roger had been in assisted living for the last year. His wife Gloria passed away about 9 months ago.

Bob Hart - D Co.



Sgt. Roger Goodsell Sr. - D Company



Roger Goodsell Sr. Tyler, Texas 2/10/1922 - 7/30/2017

Lt. Col. Roger Walker Goodsell Sr., 95, passed away July 30, 2017, in Tyler. Services will be held on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017, at 11 a.m. at Marvin United Methodist Church with Rev. Gerry Giles and Dr. Don Garrison officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to service at 10 a.m.

Roger was born to the late Winifred Arletta (Walker) Goodsell and Oscar Addis Goodsell in Kingston, N.Y., Feb. 10, 1922. He graduated from Kingston High School and Stewart Tech in New York City. He worked for Brewster Aircraft on Long Island, N.Y. before volunteering to join the U.S. Army as a paratrooper during World War II where he was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries suffered in the Battle of the Bulge near Born, Belgium, and a Bronze Star.

He participated in five campaigns-Rome-Arns, Southern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe as a member of the 517th Parachute Infantry. He was awarded the Infantryman Badge for many engagements against the enemy and was in the initial jump in Southern France. Following the end of the war, Roger was first sergeant of the 505th, Parachute Infantry during service in Germany and the U.S. He made 15 combat parachute jumps.

Following the war, Roger married Gloria Mae Post of Kingston on July 4, 1947, in Alexandria, Va. The couple moved to Schenectady, N.Y., where Roger was employed by General Electric Company. The couple then moved to Tyler in 1955 where General Electric was building a new plant (now Trane). Roger rose in position to become manager of shop operations in 1964.

Roger joined the U.S. Army Reserves and attained the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1968. He received a meritorious service award and a certificate for Outstanding Student in the Dallas area in 1964 and retired from the reserves in 1982.

In 1971 Roger accepted the position of plant manager at the Trane plant in Fort Smith, Ark., and Gloria took a position as Latin teacher at South Side High School. Following retirement in 1991, the couple moved back to Tyler where they enjoyed retirement in a home Roger built, traveling, being close to family and renewing friendships at Marvin United Methodist Church.

Roger loved people, travel, sailboats and airplanes. He rarely heard a plane pass overhead that he did not look up and identify it. He and Gloria traveled throughout the U.S. and Europe and especially cherished the many friends they made everywhere they lived and traveled.

After he retired, Roger bought a sailboat, which he named Duchess, the nickname he had lovingly called Gloria since they were high school classmates. Together they trailered the boat to New York City in 1986 where they sailed with hundreds of other small craft during the July 4 Liberty Weekend and the Tall Ship Parade. They also summered for several years on Lake George in upstate New York.



Roger was also a member of the local chapter of the Military Officers Association and a member of The Masonic Lodge No. 1233 for 58 years and the Shriners for 53 years. He and Gloria rarely missed a military reunion.

Roger was preceded in death by his wife earlier this year, his parents and sister Shirley (Goodsell) Norton and is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Belinda Goodsell; son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Ruth Goodsell; grandson, Richard Goodsell Jr.; granddaughter, Lindsay and her husband David Garner and two great-granddaughters, Leah and Jenna Garner.

The family would like to give special thanks to Heart to Heart Hospice for its excellent care of Roger.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Heart to Heart Hospice, 7925 S. Broadway Ave., Tyler, or Marvin Church Ministries, 300 W. Erwin St., Tyler, 75701.

More MailCall News

Hello Bob,

I didn't sow it that you already putted my question in the mailcall... I first replied on your mail and then read the Mailcall. Here are the pictures of the papers i have.

On 2 it says that he died of a gunshot. On the other one you can read that it was not during combat.

That's why I'm curious what was happened.

With Regards

Koen Van Hoey

Re: Information PFC Raymond W Hanish

I requested and ordered his IDPF (or what it is left of it). The papers where more about his burial and papers to his wife about his personal items. There was a couple of papers in that it whas by a gunshot he died. And on a other paper it said that it was non combat.

I will take a picture of the papers and send it tomorrow to you. The page of field of honor i also know it. There it says he died at dnb.

Is it possible to put my question for information about him in the mailcall? Maybe a member of the newsletter know more about him? I also have the newspaper about his dead.



Rites to Offer Last Tributes To Pfc. Hanish

Memorial services today at 2:30 f o'clock in the Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed church of Hammond, will pay tribute to Pfc. s

Raymond Hanish, who was killed in action at Kappeborn, Belgium on Jan. 25 this year.

A former Hammond Tech student, Hanish enlisted Jan. 21, 1944, and was assigned to combat in Italy, sometime in October of the same year. He fought with the



Pfc. Hanish

army ground forces in France and Belgium, in addition to the Italian campaign.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L Hanish of Hammond, the 26-year-old soldier was born in Hammond. His wife, the former Vilma Mae Baumgardner, and their child, Betty Lee, three, also sur-

Survivors further include two brothers in military service in Germany, William and Edward; two brothers at home, Carl Louis and Clarence; a sister, Mary Ann, and his grandmother, Mrs. Rose Dettrick.

The Rev. Paul G. Schaeffer, pastor, will officiate at the memorial s, and the Rev. Henry Meier will L. offer the memorial prayer.



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From Phil McSpadden:



Subject: Something Really Special

Boy Creates A Flag For A the Assignment. But No One Expected THIS!!

The men and women who serve America in the Military deserve our full respect and support. They risk their lives around the world to keep us safe.

Soldiers are why America is free. And when we have the chance to take care of veterans, we MUST always do so.

Jacob, a young man from Indiana, designed an American flag for a school art project. What he did is going viral in a BIG WAY!

Can you see what the fuss is about?

There are 4,466 army soldiers on the flag, painted red, white, and blue. It took more than 52 hours --

Here's a closer look:

What a great way to honor the troops! Jacob deserves an A+ for his art project.







I was in Minneapolis over the weekend to attend the funeral of a long-time college friend. I no longer will have to listen to the same old story he would tell when a group of old veterans got together and the conversation eventually got to service time.

He loved to tell the group he could have gone into the paratroops with me but he only met 3 of the 4 requirements necessary but I passed all four with flying colors. When asked what the requirements were he would say:

- 1, You had to be young
- 2. You had to be single
- 3. You had to volunteer
- 4. You had to be stupid

Merle McMorrow

What a wealth of information on **Col. Cato** just by my asking, "Do you know when Col. Cato died?" My appreciation to **Lyn Vickers**.

Bob you are going to replace Google or Bing one of these days as a source for information. When someone is looking for information they will be told, "Why don't you Google BB.

Merle



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.

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