



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2367

August 20, 2017

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

MailCall News



AIRBORNE

WHERE IS THE PRINCE WHO CAN AFFORD SO TO COVER HIS COUNTRY WITH TROOPS FOR ITS DEFENSE, AS THAT TEN THOUSAND MEN, DESCENDING FROM THE CLOUDS, MIGHT NOT, IN MANY PLACES, DO AN INFINITE DEAL OF MISCHIEF BEFORE A FORCE COULD BE BROUGHT TOGETHER TO REPEL THEM?

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
1784



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Top Secret – Operation Anvil Intelligence Reports

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

Hi Bob. I saw the question from Dan Fournie about the Intel report for Anvil/Dragon. I will check to see if there is more to the last part that I either didn't upload or just missed when I photographed the report at the AHEC. In either case, I'll see if I can get it. The center is in Carlisle, PA, which isn't far from where I live.

All the best.
Mike Kane

Mike Kane checked and there are about 30 more pages of documents that weren't in the uploaded materials. What's the best way to get them to you? I don't know if I can email that many but if I post them on Google Drive, could you download them?

Thanks,
Mike Kane

PS: Here is the link to the entire folder of files I copied from **Col. Graves'** documents which he apparently donated to the US AHEC in Carlisle.

I think I got it all and posted it to:
http://517prct.org/documents/1944_dragoon_intelligence_reports/intelligence.htm

Wow! Great stuff. And I'm sure that some of our historian friends will love this. Thanks, BB

I have included just a few sample pages below. There are over 50 pages that Mike scanned, including the pre-invasion intelligence reports, lessons learned from Rupert Graves, and a few other interesting documents. -- BB



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~~TOP SECRET~~

BIGOT ANVIL

To the east is the PO Valley, comprising fields, vineyards, and fertile valleys, with altitude 500 to 1500 feet, bounded on the south by the APPENINE Mountains.

2. Target Area.

CHART II



a. The target area extends east to west, from CANNES to MARSEILLE (85 airline miles), and from TOULON north to PEYROILES and the DURANCE River (40 miles), and includes the FREJUS - BRIGNOLES - AIX - AVIGNON highway to the RHONE Valley. The area is bounded on the east by the southern end of the High Alps, on the north by the pre-Alps, and on the west by the RHONE Delta.

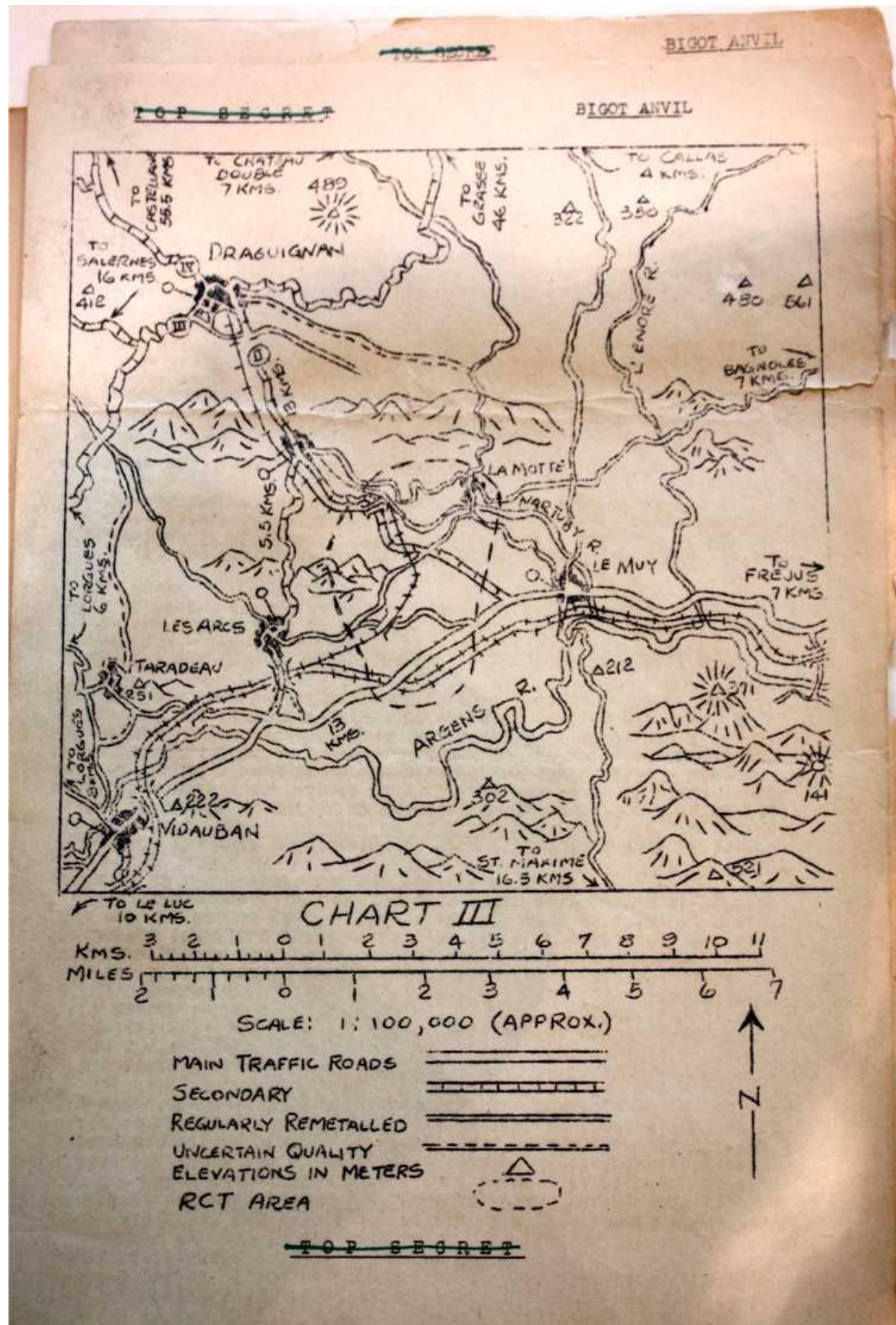
b. The coastline, irregular and deeply indented, is characterized by extremely rugged terrain, which rises abruptly from the shore to heights of over 1000 ft. Beaches lie at the heads of many of the deep coves. The most suitable beaches for amphibious operations in Southern FRANCE lie in this area east of the Port of TOULON but exit on a highly canalized roadnet dominated by elevations up to 3000 feet. Between TOULON and Cape BENAT, the beaches are obstructed or dominated by the off-lying HYERES Islands, and east of St. RAPHAEL the beaches exit into valleys which terminate in dead-ends in the lower ALPS.

c. Major ground masses - namely, Chaine des MAURES, Chaine de la St. BAUME, and Mt. St. VICTOIRE, tend northeast-southwest, and lie approximately parallel to the coast and across the normal line of approach inland. They afford excellent sites for consecutive delaying positions. Their position has forced lines of communication east and west, and few roads of any type cross their rugged ridges, which rise from 1000 to 3500 feet.

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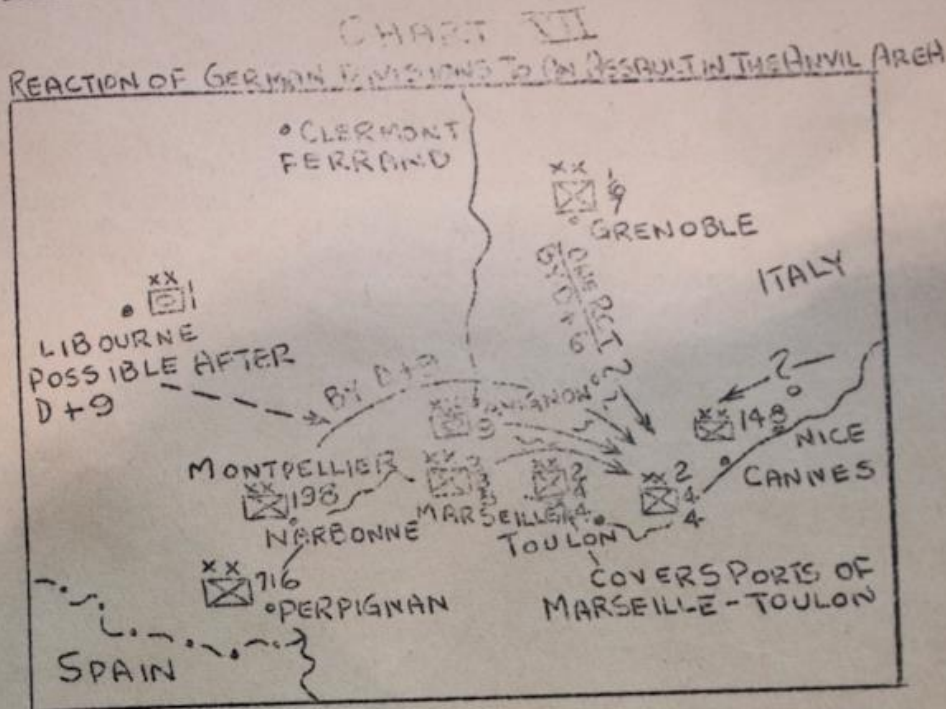
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B. Ground



a. In the 517 P.R.C.T. Sector the estimated enemy reaction to our landing is based on a study of German tactics in the defense against airborne troops, current disposition of troops, and their disposition as related to the terrain.

The assault, as now envisaged in the LE MUY-FREJUS area, will land in the close vicinity of one regiment of the 242nd Infantry Division and the elements of the 1048th Assault gun unit (14 assault guns S.P.), remaining in that area. By D/1, the bulk of the 242nd Infantry Division and elements of the 244th Infantry Division should be involved in an attempt to contain the beachhead while engaging our Airborne effort. By noon of D-Day, it should be apparent to the Germans that the assault is a landing in force, and the commitment of the Army Reserve—the 9th Panzer Division—toward the beachhead and the LE MUY Sector should be expected. It is estimated that this division can make its appearance in the LE MUY Sector by the evening of D/2.

The terrain in the sector of the 338th Infantry Division restricts enemy movements due to extensive flooding initiated by the Germans. Therefore, it is likely that this unit will have a high priority of commitment, and, it is estimated that some elements can start its movement for the LE MUY area on D/1, the Division closing by D/3.

(1) Anti-aircraft Artillery.—Reaction to Allied bombing attacks over South FRANCE has been increasingly strong from the standpoint of AA defenses. Only slight reaction to Allied fighters has been noted in this area.

(2) Anti-tank Units.—The acceptance of the 1048th Tank Bn. in the LE MUY area is no longer favored. Rather, it is believed that this is the assault gun unit, possibly from the Anti-Tank Battalion of the 108th Reserve Division loaned to the 242nd Anti-Tank Bn. to strengthen the anti-tank defenses of the ARGENS Valley. It is there-



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If the enemy should initiate a withdrawal, or be forced out of ITALY, it is then likely that a substantial force could be made available to bolster the defenses of southeastern FRANCE. Actually, if a disengaging movement should be effected, a portion of the forces involved should be expected to withdraw into FRANCE, as it is one of the few escape routes.

Currently, however, there are no indications that the Germans have any intention of doing anything but to try to hold the PISA - RIMINI line.

In conclusion, the ability of the German High Command to replace the units recently transferred, and to further reinforce the Nineteenth Army, is contingent upon the current military situation in other theaters and the importance they place upon the defense of Southeastern FRANCE.

IX. CIVIL AFFAIRS AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

Civilian relations in FRANCE present somewhat more of a problem for our troops than they did in ITALY. The French nation is not and has never been sympathetic to the Germans, and once the despaired French who have endured five years of occupation by the Boche are convinced that our troops have, in fact and in force, come to liberate them, they will fight and fight fiercely to help do the job. It is not safe to make comparisons between French and Italians insofar as their patriotism or love of their patrie is concerned. FRANCE is an old, proud nation which for centuries has played a dominant role in world affairs, whereas unified ITALY is hardly one hundred years old and a good distance from national cohesion that makes for national patriotic unity.

The French citizen then, generally, may be counted upon as friendly and reliable. He will be even anxious to fight alongside British and American forces. But, so thoroughly has GERMANY browbeaten him and deliberately attempted to crush his spirit, it will, as in NORMANDY, take time for the liberated French to really believe that their liberation has been accomplished. Parachutists first encountering French civilians may find them reticent and distrusting. On more than one occasion the Germans have faked "invasions" by parachute elements with the intent to smoke out Frenchmen who would help a legitimate Anglo-American invasion.

But five years of German occupation and the German's diabolical scheming have not gone entirely without result. Among sections of the French population are to be found political groups whose loyalty to FRANCE and the Allies has given away under the pressure and bribery of German collaboration. While it is quite safe to say that the German collaboration that prospered under the early years of LAVAL's regime has now suffered its most serious threats with the successful NORMANDY invasion, plus the ever present Allied air superiority, it would be both foolish and careless to discount the potential treachery of certain French elements pledged to collaboration; traitors who are deathly afraid of the consequences of their reason with an Allied victory, and who are so closely emeshed in the German occupational military system and the Gestapo they cannot be other than German instruments.

Several military and political organizations in FRANCE show varying tendencies of collaboration with the Germans; the Milice Francaise (Milice), the Parti Populaire Francaise, (P.P.F.), Gardes Francaise (G.F.), the Groupe Collaboration (G.C.), and the Legion de Volontiers Francaise. Most of these organizations are under direct control of national and regional German authorities, and the relative

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HEADQUARTERS 517TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY CT
APO 758, U. S. ARMY

RID/ebb

2 November 1944

SUBJECT: Compilation of Lessons Learned for Period 15 August 1944 to Date.
TO : Commanding General, 1st Airborne Task Force, APO 758, U. S. ARMY.

1. In compliance with letter dated 25 October, 1944, Headquarters, 1st Airborne Task Force, the following lessons learned from combat are submitted.

2. TACTICAL LESSONS - REGIMENT

a. In the airborne operation the area selected to be occupied was compact and capable of support by artillery and 4.2 mortars. As three objectives were given the Regiment, one was assigned to each Battalion. A Regimental Reserve of two companies was designated, each of two Battalions furnishing a single company. Although the value of this could not be foreseen, it so happened that one of the companies assigned to the Regimental Reserve never arrived at the DE as the Battalion with which it jumped was dropped 25 miles from its objective. However this reserve company proved to be the margin of safety that immediately seized the objective of the missing Battalion. The lesson learned from this was to take the reserve from at least two groups in case one is lost.

b. The Regimental Combat Team was divided into four groups for the flight from Italy to France. The division into four groups of a combat team composed of 3 Rifle Battalions, an Engineer Company, and an Artillery Battalion was a major problem. Most Regimental Commanders probably would have made four balanced teams, each one composed of Infantry, Engineers, and Artillery. However, it was decided to keep the Artillery intact in one group, and each Rifle Battalion intact with only detachments of Regimental Headquarters Company, Service Company and Engineers. Fortunately, this method was successful, although it was taking the chance that all artillery would be lost or landed some distance from the rest of the Regiment. It so happened that the artillery landed closer to the DE than any other Battalion and was able to assemble its guns and equipment very quickly and move into position. It may be tempting fate to try this again, but to my mind it is better than breaking three Battalions into four groups.

c. On moving out from the airborne to the ground mission, there were many difficulties in maintaining continuous support without adequate transportation; nevertheless means were usually devised to ensure this support. For example, the Artillery would displace forward by truck in the first shuttle as many guns as could be towed and still transport sufficient ammunition and men to operate the guns. Where a Rifle Battalion was already in position, the reserve company sometimes would act as ammunition bearers for the Artillery. In the meantime, the remainder of the Artillery Battalion would be proceeding on foot. The trucks would then return for more ammunition.

d. At the town of Fayence, a group of about 200 enemy gave consider-



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Other MailCall News

This Mail Call [#2366] is so visually beautifully captured the significance of the 73rd Anniversary of the southern invasion of France -- the photos, Lory and Tim Curtis' Dad's recollections and letter to his mother of the drop, Merle's copies of the propaganda leaflets, the picture and recap from the mini-reunion with the final pictures of the flag so creatively created.

Thank you for this and all that you have done to pay tribute to our heroes including your Dad and mine, who have joined their brothers who went before them, and to those who are still with us sharing stories. How blessed and privileged we are to have them touch our lives and inspire us to uphold the principles and values for which they fought selflessly so that we could live in freedom. I know our Dads would be extraordinarily proud of what you have done to preserve their history and the history of the 517th. Well done.

Pat Seitz

Re: FW: **Pvt. Jim (James) Bacaloff** - family geneology

I'm sorry to say, Jim Bacaloff was my maternal grandmother's step-father. Her real father died in WW2. So really, I'm a living relative, but not biologically.

- Dan Olson

Hi Bob, I just wanted to share a few photos from back in June. **Mimsey [Boyle]**, her cousin Joe and myself made a trip to Toccoa. It was a very nice visit. The town people were friendly, the museum was great and I tried grits for the first time. Well, that last part wasn't so great. In the museum there was a section dedicated to the 517th. There were a few recognizable items on the walls. We saw a picture of **Col. Boyle**, the guidon for F and a photo of A company where I could clearly see **Gene Snyder** and **Mel Trenary**.

Even someone like myself who has no family association with any of the 4 regiments who trained there will be overwhelmed with emotion at times just thinking of the men who trained there. Hence, I wore sunglasses a lot. Although only two original buildings still exist, just being there where so many great men once ran and ran and ran some more and the feelings I experienced convinced me to go back in October for the military weekend.

I have to send the photos in two separate emails.

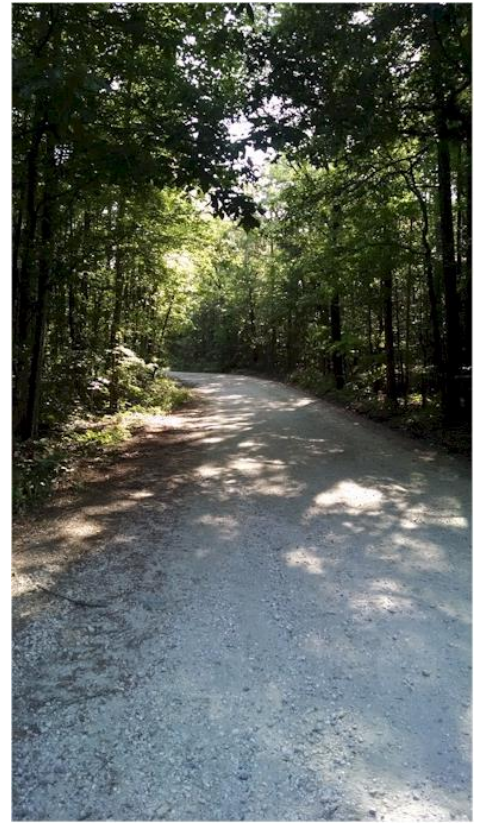
Jim Kraus

You can let any of the guys know if they want to go but would want someone around just in case, I'm here.

Jim Kraus



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Re: Kingdon Brady

I have a few pictures I'd like to send to you regarding my Dad, **Kingdon Brady** from Yakima Washington, went to Ohio University and became a Pathologist in Indiana

Where might I send this information?

Thanks you!

Kingdon K. Brady

Hi Kingdon,

I'd love to have any pictures or stories that I can add to the website, especially wartime and paratrooper training. A short bio is even better.

Are you aware that we already have a short bio of your dad on the site:

<http://www.517prct.org/bios.htm>

You can send any info to me in any format.

Thanks!

Bob Barrett

OK Bob,

Know I'm getting older, but for the life of me, can't seem to find, anywhere, on the 517th site, the mailing address for Mimsie (sp?). It's August 15th, seventy-third Anniversary of Operation Dragoon, and I'd like to send a donation to the 517th Assoc.

Any help you can provide is appreciated!

Kenton Floyd Immerfall

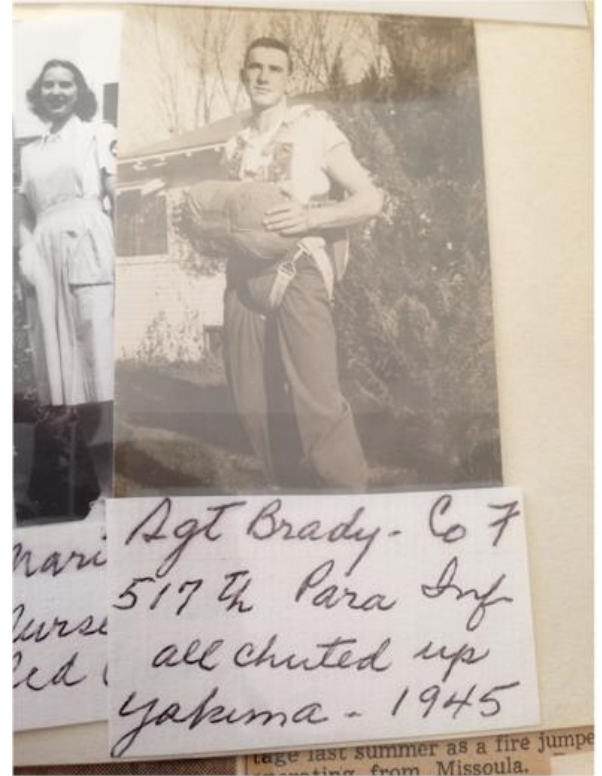
Nephew of **Floyd A. Stott**

1st Lt., Co. "I", 3rd Bat., 517th PIR/PRCT

Hi Kenton,

Thanks for the question. I do need to get the word to everyone on MailCall.

It's not you. I did recently remove Mimsey's contact info from MailCall. As you may recall, the official 517th Association has been dissolved. There is no more Treasurer and no bank account. All remains





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funds and assets have been transferred to the custody of the Toccoa Currahee Military museum. If you feel the need to send a donation to support the memory of the 517th, you could send it to Toccoa which is trying to rebuild the Paratrooper site. Were you at the Atlanta/Toccoa reunion in 2011?

See: <https://www.camptoccoaatcurrahee.org> – BB

Thanks Bob,

Yep, I remember the Association was dissolved but guess I didn't realize we wouldn't have a treasury anymore.

Yes, I made the reunion in Atlanta. One that I will not soon forget. Like to tell vets I transport about the 517th troopers being called out of the crowd to pin the jump wings on new recruits at Benning. Get choked up every time I tell it.

Realize my Uncle Floyd wasn't part of the Toccoa and Currahee experience, at least not as far as my research has shown. And "Dick" told me how the 517th had to "throw the 3rd together" without going through all of the weeding-out that the 1st & 2nd experienced.

Enjoyed all of Toccoa and going out to the base of Currahee but enjoyed even more seeing the faces of the Troopers who actually were there and went through the training. Remember sitting with Trooper Marvin Moles (Co. "I") out and back. Kept asking him questions and loved every minute of the trip. Miss the little guy!

I'll take a look-see at the link you sent and decide if that is something I need to do in Floyd's Memory. Someday I need to make a decision about what to do with the WW II items I hold that were his. Not going to live forever and nobody in my family is interested. The main treasures are Floyd's trunk with his serial #, his Army-issued binoculars, his personal billfold that had Italian and French monies still in it, etc. Know a museum would be a perfect place for people to see these items, but there is one in my Iowa hometown that has told me they want the items too. Since Floyd grew up there that might be the 1st choice. Am going back to visit relatives soon so will stop at the museum to see what's what.

Hope all is well in your neck of the woods. Pass along my Good Wishes to Joanne when you connect with her.

And thank you for ALL you do for the 517th Memory!!!

Kenton Floyd Immerfall

RE: Mini reunion UTAH

I see Lory and Mike Wells have taken the lead pioneering this new idea of Pop Up Mini Reunions. Why wait around when you can just get together anytime, call up a friendly and have a mini reunion. Way to go guys. Carry on.

All the best to everyone. Hope you're having a good summer.

All the best,
Paul Abbene



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Administrivia

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- 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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