



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2378

January 21, 2017

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

MailCall News

Subject: Earl Mangello, Co E, 517th PRCT

My father was **Pvt. Earl Mangello**, who was in Company E, 517th PRCT. I never knew him, he died in July, 1947 when I was 5 months old. I was given up for adoption and I never knew who my birth parents were until last year. I learned of Earl's WW2 service while researching him, and have been catching up on the 517th's history since. I even attended the 2017 Currahee Weekend last October.

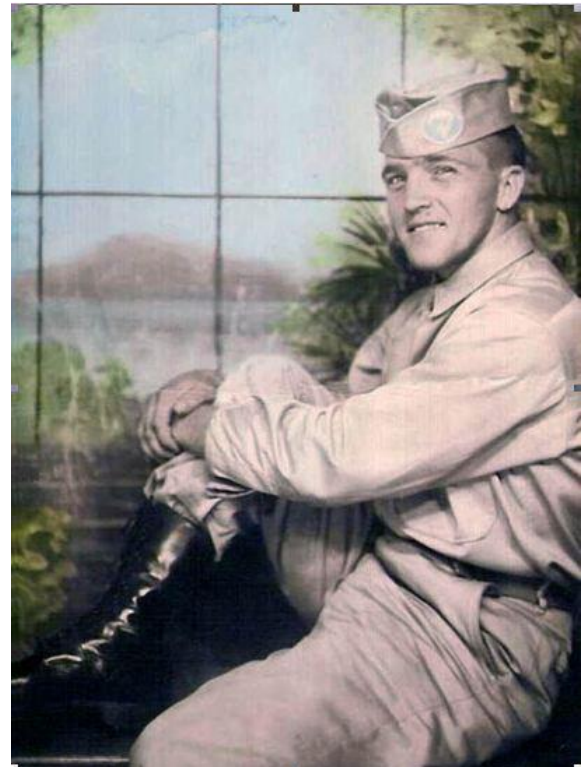
I only have one photograph of him (Attached), which I found on Ancestry.com in the family tree of a distant relative. The original photo was folded in the middle, and the copy appears to be doctored as a result, looking washed out at the base of the mountain.

It appears to be a studio photo of him in uniform, likely taken at either Camp Toccoa or Camp MacKall. Could the hill in the background be Currahee Mountain? Are there any known photos of other paratroopers with the same backdrop?

I would also like to know if there are any resources that Earl's name appears in, such as morning or casualty reports. I have been in contact with Earl's half brother, and I learned that Earl landed in Italy and was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. I assume that Earl also participated in Operation Dragoon.

Lastly, do you have a searchable database of stories of his fellow soldiers who may have mentioned him by name in any of their wartime reminiscences?

I tried to get a copy of his DD214, but found that it was lost in the 1973 fire that occurred at the St. Louis records center.





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Feel free to publish his photo in MailCall and any part of this request for information on him.

Thank you for any information that you might find.

Best regards,

Martin Neaman
Pittsburgh, PA

Hi Martin,

Glad to hear from you. I'll tell you what I can, but I don't have too much in my records. I don't see Earl Mangello mentioned specifically in the books or journals, but I can piece together a few things.

If he was with the 517th in Toccoa, they he did land in Italy, dropped into Southern France on August 14, 1944.

We know he was in Company E, and he is listed in the Christmas 1944 roster while in France, just before the Battle of the Bulge started.

See: http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_company_e2.jpg

So we know we was in France in December 1944 and with everyone else, he was soon sent to the Bulge in the Ardennes.

COMPANY	STATUS	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	RANK	DATE	CODE	S/N	MOS	LOCATION	NOTES	WEATHER	MORAL	SIGNED BY
E	AWOL	Mangello	Earl	E	PVT	24-Jul-1944	72	33441035		8 Miles South of Rome Italy	Duty to AWOL 0600 Hr			Edgar F Brooks, CAPT, INF
E		Mangello	Earl	E	PVT	26-Jul-1944	T	37441035		8 Miles South of Rome Italy	CORRECTION Remarks of above EM 24 July which read duty to AWOL 0600 should read duty to Conf. Mil Auth Arno Rome, Italy 24 July			Edgar F Brooks, CAPT, INF
E		Mangello	Earl	E	PVT	26-Jul-1944		37441035		8 Miles South of Rome Italy	Conf Mil Auth Rome Italy to Duty 1600 Hr 25 July			Edgar F Brooks, CAPT, INF
E		Mangello	Earl		PVT	6-Sep-1944	50	33441035	675	1 mile NE L'Escarene, France	Duty to abs sk Hosp NBC LD to Trfd to Det of Pat 7th Army as of Aug 30/44			E. H. Schofield, CWO AUS
E		Mangello	Earl	E	PVT	21-Oct-1944	A	33441035	7745	1 Mile NE Col de Braus, France	Reasgd & jd Co fr Det of Pat 7th Army NBC LD			E. H. Schofield, CWO USA
E		Mangello	Earl	E	PVT	3-Jan-1945	AG	33441035	7745	Vicinity of Trois Points, Belgium	fr duty to Ab sk in Hosp LWA (BC) basic status changed fr asgd to atchd unasgd.			Martin J. Fastaia, Capt Inf
E		Mangello	Earl	B	PFC	11-Mar-1945	AG	33441035	7745	Joigny, France	Fr AB HOSP DS LWA BC-LD to Dy. Basic Status changed Fr Atchd Unasgd to Asgd			Robert H. Newbury, Capt., Inf

I did find some interesting morning reports for Mangello, some attached, which confirm he was with E Company:

July 24, 1944: south of Rome in July: AWOL at 0600 hr

July 26 1944: Looks like a correction – he wasn't AWOL, he was with the Military Auth. (MPs?) in Arno Rome. But he returned to duty on the 26th.



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September 6, 1944: L'Escarene France: Hospitalized with NBC (Non-Battle Casualty) and transferred to 7th Army

October 21, 1944: Col de Bras, France: Rejoined company

Jan 3 1945: Trois Ponts in Belgium: LWA BC (lightly Wounded in Combat)

March 11, 1945: Joigny France: rejoined the 517th. Now PFC.

COMPANY MORNING REPORT

ENDING 3 Jan 1945

STATION Vicinity of Trois Points, Belgium
ORGANIZATION Co E 517th Preht Inf Regt Inf.

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
38530110	Franko, Johnny M.	7745 PFC	MOS 675
16156005	Hantke, Herbert J.	7745 Pvt	
38343318	Mitchell, Frederick W.	PFC	7697
35705097	Ware, Charles B.	7745 PFC	
33441035	Mangello, Carl E.	7745 Pvt	
19123187	Nichols, Neal H.	7745 Pvt	
39283778	Little, Arthur J.	7745 PFC	
39203707	Kelley, Paul E.	7745 Pvt	
34784736	Smith, Rossa E. Jr.	7745 Pvt	
34773903	Easter, James F. Jr.	7607 PFC	
36596876	Markiewicz, Louis P.	Cpl	7740
36597875	Morris, Robert L.	7745 PFC	
37721865	Hopkins, James R.	7745 Pvt	
34874760	Holloway, James R.	7745 Pvt	
38348919	Martinez, Federico D.	Pvt	7745
37563165	Smith, LeRoy E.	7745 PFC	

Above (16) M fr duty to Ab sk in Hosp LWA (BC) basic status changed fr assg to atchd unassg.

OFFICER STRENGTH	PLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	WO	FLT O
ASSIGNED					
ATTACHED UNASSIGNED ATTACHED FR OTHER ORGN					
TOTAL					

AVIATION CADETS	ENLISTED MEN	
	PRESENT	ABSENT
ASSIGNED		
ATTACHED UNASSIGNED ATTACHED FR OTHER ORGN		
TOTAL		

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COMPANY MORNING REPORT

ENDING 3 Jan 1945

STATION Vicinity of Trois Points, Belgium
ORGANIZATION Co E 517th Preht Inf Regt Inf.

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
19121011	Provo, Frederick I	7745 Sgt	7697
Fr dy to ab sk hosp SWA (BC) basic status changed fr assg to atchd unassg			
0-1304235	Kizalawicz, Joseph P	Irlst Lt	1510-0
Fr dy to ab sk hosp LWA (BC) basic stat-ty changed fr assg to atchd unassg			
0-52091A	Whitley, Charles W	1510-0 1st Lt	
Fr dy to KIA			
36748617	Mourek, Robert B	7745 Cpl	
37567901	Guatafson, Bertilo	7745 Pvt	
Fr dy to KIA			
35568870	Walter, Charles J	7521 Pvt	4
Held fr atchd to Hq Co 2nd Bn this Regt to ab sk hosp LWA (BC) basic status changed fr assg to atchd unassg			
33761629	Mullan, Thomas E	7657 T/5	
(atchd fr Med Det this Regt) held fr atchd to Co. RECORD OF EVENTS			

Co began attack on enemy held terr at 0630 Met heavy enemy resistance and Co subjected to intense mortar barrage.

OFFICER STRENGTH	PLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	WO	FLT O
ASSIGNED	1	3	1	3	
ATTACHED UNASSIGNED ATTACHED FR OTHER ORGN					
TOTAL	1	3	3	3	

AVIATION CADETS	ENLISTED MEN	
	PRESENT	ABSENT
ASSIGNED	100	27
ATTACHED UNASSIGNED ATTACHED FR OTHER ORGN		40
TOTAL	103	68

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You can see from the Jan 3 1945 morning report that Jan 3rd was a tough day of battle.

MOS 7745 means paratrooper rifleman. 675 was a messenger.



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I did find another photo with that same tropical background at http://517prct.org/photos/robert_a_harp/robert_harp.htm. So these were taken at Fort Benning, GA in March 1944. This was around the time the 517th began to prepare for Europe.

If you want to do more reading, there is the *Paratroopers' Odyssey*, which is on the website, or *Battling Buzzards* by **Gerold Astor**, available on Amazon. There is also an autobiography by **Gene Brissey** of E Company, who probably had an experience that was very close to what your father experienced.

http://517prct.org/documents/brissey/brissey_history.htm

I hope this is a start for you.

Best regards,

Bob Barrett



Thank you so much for the information, the morning reports were something I never saw before. When I was at Toccoa last Fall, I met **Jim Kraus** from Phoenix who mentioned knowing you. I am glad that I finally inquired about Earl to you.

I am also saddened to see that your great uncle **Pvt. Robert Harp** died during the war. I imagine that you have some way to pass his memory down through each generation. I am putting together 2 shadow boxes for my grandchildren. I hope to include all the Airborne Division patches that he served under. I figure that they were the 17th Airborne, 18th Airborne, Allied Airborne, 82nd Airborne and the 13th Airborne. They were attached to the 82nd Airborne just after the Battle of the Bulge, were they not? Just not sure that they were considered to be under the 82nd.

Thank you for Robert Harp's photo and for the information that it was taken at Ft. Benning. Is the hill in the background supposed to be Currahee? I guess that you noticed that the photo that you sent was reversed. The photo that I found of Earl was reversed as well, so I flipped it and photo shopped the crease out of it. I sent you the finished product in my last email, but I attached both versions to this email.

Earl was married in 1943, 2 weeks before his wife gave birth to their only child (my half-brother). When Earl returned after the war she had moved on and they divorced. By May of 1946, he had met my mother on terms that I do not know, but I was conceived. He probably never knew that I was born and by July 1947, he would dead after falling from a bridge and drowning. I suspect that the photo taken of him at Ft. Benning was sent home to his wife at the time. It was passed on to her daughter from her second husband and that is how it ended up on Ancestry.com, where I found it while researching Earl's name.

I am 70 now, but I was 68 when I learned that my parents were not my biological parents. I did a an extensive 2 year search using DNA to determine who my birth mother and birth father were. I found Earl's enlistment record and from that I knew his unit and did enough research to learn of the Camp Toccoa weekend on the 517th website last October.



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Thank you for all the work you did to get me the information contained in your last email, if you run across anything regarding **Earl Mangello**, please remember me.

Best regards,

Martin Neaman
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

RE: Camp Toccoa

While picking up a pizza I was flipping through a motorcycle magazine (Hog Magazine, Vol. 42) and I came across this photo.

Paul Abbene



"I do not believe in the airborne division. I believe that airborne troops should be reorganized in self-contained units, comprising infantry, artillery, and special services, all about the strength of a regimental combat team [...] To employ at any time and place a whole division would require a dropping over such an extended area that I seriously doubt that a division commander could regain control and operate the scattered forces as one unit."

- *The conclusion of General Eisenhower's review of the performance of American airborne forces during Operation Husky*^[9]



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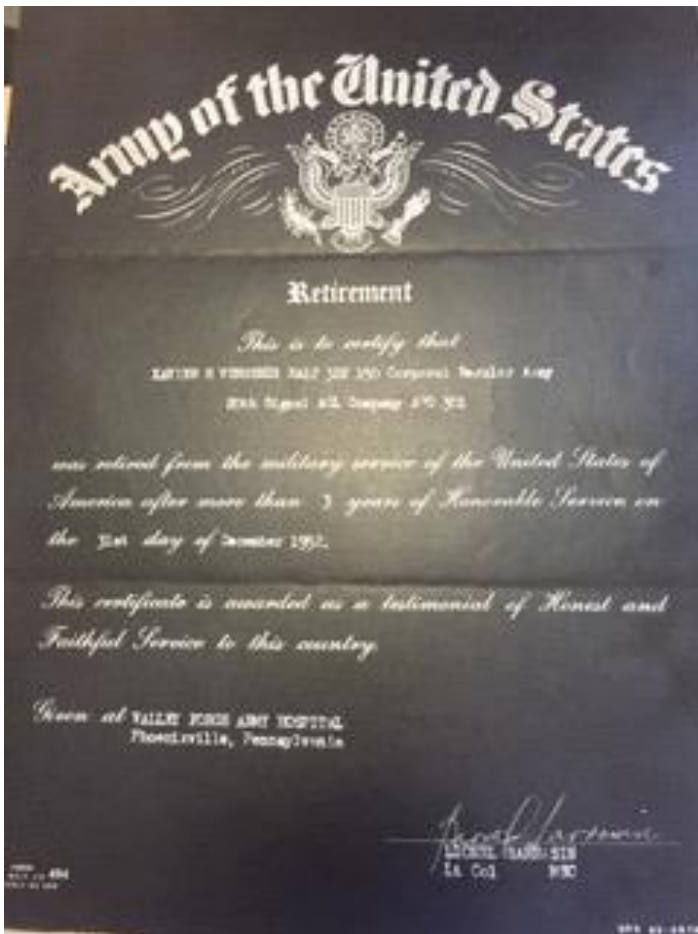
BOB - THIS IS NOT FOR MAILCALL SINCE IT'S RELATED TO SERVICE IN KOREA (unless you think it's appropriate)

Some of the children and grandchildren of my first husband, who served in Korea and who died several years before Jim and I were married, will be in Korea for the Olympics. One grandson, a Major in the Air Force is stationed in Seoul so they will be visiting with him and his wife and then doing some traveling together. They would like to visit areas where he, **Xavier H. Verbeck**, might have served. (Prior to being sent to Korea he was one of MacArthur's honor guards in Tokyo). The documents I have identify only his unit, etc., but there is no specificity.

Since several of the 517th and some family members continued their service into retirement I wondered if any would have served in Korea and might have information on him or any data that could be useful.

Would appreciate any suggestions.

Best regards and thanks
Brenda (**Brenda Verbeck Mortensen**)





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Saw the dialogue on these men in the latest Mail Call.

I've started working to finish up B Co and found the MR's concerning Slaten, Murphy, Ellis, Gorgos and Taylor. The MR's are attached..

Mike Wells

Hello Bob,

I share you my 517TH display with a M43 jacket and a helmet from Dragoon Operation. The M43 was recovered by Joe (Chichinelli 551ST PIR) from southern of France.

I'm one of the organizers of the Dragoon Commeration at the town of La Motte and some others Villages.

As the others years the veterans and theirs families are welcome.

Have a day.

Frédéric HERMANN





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Administrivia

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- 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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