



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2382

March 11, 2017

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

MailCall News

From: William Dean
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 12:07 AM
To: mailcall@517prct.org
Subject: **Dean R Billy 517th parachute infantry D company**

Hi Bob my name is Billy Dean.

My dad's name was **Billy Jr Dean** and he was a paratrooper in the 517th D company I carried on the family name and became a famous country music singer in Nashville and I hope to meet some of the families of company D. If there's anything I can do to keep it going please say the word....you can check me out just google Billy Dean country music.

Sincerely,

Billy

Hi Billy!

Nice to hear from you. I do see that your Dad was indeed with D Company of the 517th as PFC R. Billy Dean on the Christmas 1944 roster, printed in France just before the start of the Battle of the Bulge. http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_company_d1.jpg

I don't see any other specific mentions of him in any of the documents or books that I have, but my records are very incomplete. We do see him listed on the D Company morning reports on a few locations, including LIA BC ("Lightly wounded in action - Battle Casualty") in January 1945.

PFC	2-Dec-1944	34409220	7745	1 Mi W of La Colle, France
	Above 3 EM fr duty to Abs Sk NBC LD.			
PFC	5-Jan-1945	34409220	7745	1/2 Miles NE of Begeval, \Belgium
	above (6) EM fr ab sk in Hosp NBC LD to duty.			
PFC	25-Jan-1945	AGQ 34409220	7745	1/2 Mi N. of Wallerode, Belgium MOS 7745.
	Dy to ab sk in hosp LIA BC. Basic status changed fr asgd to atchd unasgd.			



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7745 = Infantry rifleman

I don't know if you have much info on the 517 PRCT, but this was a very elite unit. One of the first elite trained paratrooper units, and possibly the only unit to remain as an independent Parachute Regimental Combat Team during the war, called upon to move into action quickly. There is lots of documentation on the website. A great summary of their history is "A Cut Above" - a video documentary produced a few years ago. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guJE71bIP10>

As you might expect, there are not many active members still left of the 517, but there are some. I will get the word out in the next weekly MailCall to ask if anyone has any memories of Billy Dean. And I will keep looking into the records. There are lots of D Company photos on the website:

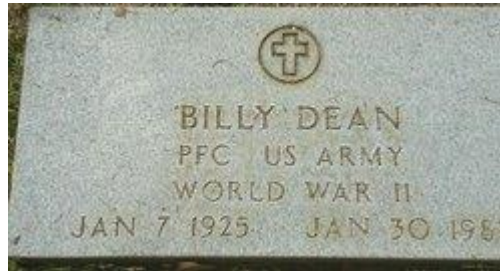
<http://517prct.org/photos/photos.htm>

Do you have any war-time photos or records of your Dad that I can share?

Regards,
Bob Barrett

Billy Dean
PFC US Army
World War II
Jan 7 1925 – Jan 30 1983

Providence Baptist Church Cemetery
Quincy, Gadsden County, Florida, USA



For those of you who might not know Billy Dean, he is a well-known country singer (and actor) with several gold records, a Grammy nomination, and 11 Top Ten country hits.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Dean

<http://www.billydean.com/>

“Dean got his start performing in his father’s country band at the age of 8.”



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Subject: NOR'EASTER!!

WOW! You sure have had some cold, WET and horrific winter weather up there! Hope all is good with the family!

Mike Wells

Mike,

I know that you haven't finished (started?) D Company yet. But is there any way to take a quick look and see if there is anything for PFC Billy Dean? (R. Billy Dean).

Thanks,

BB

Bob: I have finished D Co and thought I had sent it to you via email.

I will resend and check on Billy Dean later today when I get to my computer.

I have made a thumb drive for you with ALL Co's on it; included MR's and spreadsheets for each Co. Just cleaned up the files and removed duplicate info, etc. I'll send that out via mail this week.

Stay warm! And dry!

MW

New entry on website Guestbook:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Lloyd Wayne Henry From: Broken Arrow, OK E-mail: exalj2@cox.net	My father, Lloyd "Hank" Henry was in Company D. He passed away May 19, 1984. I was honored to be with him when he attended the 1973 reunion in New Orleans. His buddies made me realize that this was the Greatest Generation. If anyone has any stories about Hank Henry, I would be most pleased to hear/read them. Regards, Lloyd Wayne Henry
	Added: March 11, 2018



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Please don't forget my Dad who died in maneuvers at Camp MacKall while training, he was the Man with Half a Heart, there was an article written about him in the Thunderbolt written by the Bade Commander.

Thanks
Son **Jesse Ellington**

Subject: Pvt. Jesse Ellington, "The Man with Half a Heart."
Date: Saturday, July 10, 2010, 3:49 AM

Many of you have heard the story of my Dad, who was in the 517th Paratroopers, and I didn't really know what happened to him while he was in the Service. He died when I was 4 and all I remember is going to the funeral at Highland Cemetery in Ft. Mitchell, Ky. Right across the river from Cincinnati. After many hours of researching I finally found an article in the Official newspaper of the 517th that someone had taken a picture of and sent it to the 517th web site.

The Man with Half a Heart

by Col. Louis A. Walsh, Jr. 517th Commander 1943

Not many of us got to know Pvt. Jesse Ellington intimately.

We know he joined us at Toccoa and that he was ever robust, cheerful and uncomplaining. We know he made every march and run, that he never fell out or legged off. We know he qualified with all the weapons. We know he took Jump School in his stride and we know too, the place he held in the hearts of the men in his company. We know he was a little older than most and that he had a little daughter and two sons. What we didn't know that physically, he had but half a heart. Medically, this wasn't readily detectable. But Ellington knew. Why else the pain with each running step? Why the shortness of breath? Yes, Ellington knew. He knew that and more. He knew why we were in this War and what we were fighting for. The only thing he didn't know was how to quit!

Let's do justice to this man who won't get a chance to fight with us on the battlefield. His fight is already won. He had given all that anyone can give. Let him live forever and be an inspiration to us.

The Regiment is assembled now--complete--a Parachute Regiment. You have won the right to wear your wings. Do it proudly and let each of you be the sort of man you'd want the man next to you to be. When the going is rough, as it is bound to be, and you think it is not worth it all, remember Ellington, the Man with Half a Heart, but a fighting one!

Faithfully, Col. L.A Walsh



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RE: 517th MailCall - February 25, 2018 - "Rosie the Riveter Dies at Age 96"

For Gen Seitz wife Pat:

I am the brother of **Ishmael Ramos** (deceased) Company H who helped arrange for VP Cheney to speak at 517th Event in Washington, D.C. and sat next to **General Seitz**

My mother in-law Tillie Valenzuela was a welder during WW II on ships at Long Beach, CA. She was a single mother raising two daughters, one is my wife, Margaret. Tillie was the "foreman" teaching other women and men how to weld. She was invited by the Navy Captain to go to Europe and help return the ships after the War. She could not go as she had two young girls to care for as they did offer child care to women like her at the time.

Tillie lost her brother, Luis Ruiz, from Arizona, shortly after the invasion of Normandy killed in a tank he was operating. Tillie later married another man, who was with Patton's famous third Armored Division and battled their way across the infamous Remagen Bridge in Germany. They liberated imprisoned Jews in the concentration camps they came across and saw the dead in railcars.

I write this to recall that the women on the West Coast of the U.S contributed to the war effort., like my family, who often overlooked.

Thank you.

Frank Ramos

Bob: **Frank Ramos** has written such a beautiful tribute to his mother-in-law. So glad he shared it. Hope it inspires others to find out how their mothers and grandmothers contributed and sacrificed during WWII. We Knowing Frank, I trust he has shared this with his children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews etc. The women and men of the greatest generation certainly did not brag about their contributions and sacrifices for our country. They gave of themselves to serve others before self. Once again, thank you Bob for showing us the rich heritage of selfless service which is what makes America great.

PS Hope Frank is not embarrassed to know I am merely my outstanding father's daughter.

PSS Even today mothers' lack of quality child care continues to be an issue.

Pat Seitz



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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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