



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2400

December 2, 2018

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

Major Lory Vaughan Curtis, Ph.D.



I was truly saddened to hear the news of Lory's passing. He left us far too soon. However, reading Tim's letter last week he certainly never wasted any of his precious time here and he effected so many people's lives in a positive way. It was an honor to meet him and to become friends with Lory and in addition to become friends with his brother Tim, Mike (his brother from another mother as they say), and all the fine people I was privileged to meet through the 517th. There should be a word for the special kind of person who expends such effort bringing people together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and I will think of him throughout this holiday season and I will drink a special toast to him with a nice tall Coca Cola...I remember he was a soda man. You can all partake in same if you wish. Well done Lory.

All the best to all of you,

Paul Abbene



Losing Lory V. Curtis is indeed quite a loss. He certainly was an accomplished individual and a remarkable promoter of honoring the 517th paratroop division.

John Krumm



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of **Lory Curtis**. What a wonderful person Lory was. Lory had a very interesting life and I know his Dad is so proud of him for keeping the history of the 517 PRCT. My prayers are with Lory and his family at this time.

Chris Lindner



Pictures from the 2015 reunion in New Orleans by Paul Abbene

There is no way that Alan and I can express our sorry and sympathy for and to the Curtis family as well as all of us in the 517th "family".

Lory was one of a kind and so instrumental in preserving the life of the Association. My brother Rick, Alan and I loved him. My Dad, in particular, loved, admired, respected and relied on Lory and his positive "Can do" leadership.

He is victorious and at home with the Lord, and I am sure organizing a reunion of Heaven's 517th PRCT Chapter! It is an understatement to say he is an example to all of us of God's ideal "good and faithful servant" using the unique talents he had been given to make this a better world in so many ways beyond what he did for the 517th. How blessed we were to know him. Rest In Peace, our dear friend.

The Curtis family is in Alan's and my prayers petitioning God to encircle them with love and shower them with every grace needed to flood them with wonderful memories and stories to help counterbalance their sorrow.

Pat Seitz and Alan Grier

So sorry to hear about Lory Curtis. He was such a great contributor to our organization. – Bruce Broudy



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MailCall News

My grandfather's name was **Bluford (BL) Upton** and I think he may have served with your father in 3rd Battalion, Company H. Might you have any way of telling me more about his time over there? He too was a Toccoa man, met my grandmother while at Camp Mackall (and later returned to start his life with her in Rockingham, NC), and was one of a handful that made it home it would seem from start to finish. I appreciate any help you can offer.



Thanks, Chad

C.Chad Upton

Principal
Leicester Elementary School
Buncombe County Schools

Hi Chad,

You are correct, in that **Ben Barrett** was also with H Company. But Ben was a transfer from the 515th and did not join the 517th until Sospel in September 1944. He was with H Company during the battle of Manhay and wounded in January 1945 in Bergeval.

I don't know if I shared this with you in the past, but **Bluford Upton** does show up in 4 morning reports that I have. Looks like he was in the hospital near Rome from June 13 to July 22 1944 (reasons unspecified). And then he wounded (LWA/BC) in Bergstein Germany on February 7th 1945, rejoining the 517th on March 31 in Joigny France. I have attached a copy of the Morning report from Feb 7 '45.

So, yes, PFC Upton was with H Company from start to finish, but it was not without plenty of action and a purple heart.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

COMPANY MORNING REPORT			
ENDING	7 Feb	1945	
STATION	Bergslien, Germany		
ORGANIZATION	Co H, 517th Prcht Inf.		
SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
37615630	Usery, Harvey J.	7745 Pfc	M
23535567	Rice, Everett, J.	7745 Pvt	I
34605411	Weaver, Harold B.	7745 Pvt	I
	fr duty to MIA		
35302470	Hesler, Rex	7745 Pfc	AG
	fr duty to abs sk hosp LDNBC basic		
	status changed fr asgd to atchd unassgd		
36532556	Upton, Bluford L.	7604 Pfc	AG
36532568	Hamilton, George W.	7745 Pfc	I
36532453	Bynum, Claude L.	7604 Pfc	I
35299044	Plummer, Donald	7745 Pfc	I
35557311	Sanroeder, Calvin W.	Pfc	I
	fr duty to abs sk hosp LWA BC basic		
	status changed fr atchd unassgd to asgd		
RECORD OF EVENTS			
Co moving out to attack high ground approx 500 yds SE of Bergstein, Ger.			



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Hi Bob: Thank you so much for posting the letters and info about my Dad **Harold Geibel**, if there are any email enquirers please feel free to give them my address sdufek@me.com I appreciate hearing the love and support still there for the men of the 517th and all the men and woman who fought for our country. I am always so moved by the stories of the sacrifices they made in their young lives that changed their lives and our own for ever more.

Best Regards and thank you for all you do!

Suzi Geibel Dufek



Wanne (Trois-Ponts) Armistice Day - 2018 NOV; 11

with Love, gratitude and respect.

Arnold and Irma Targnion and members of CADUSA





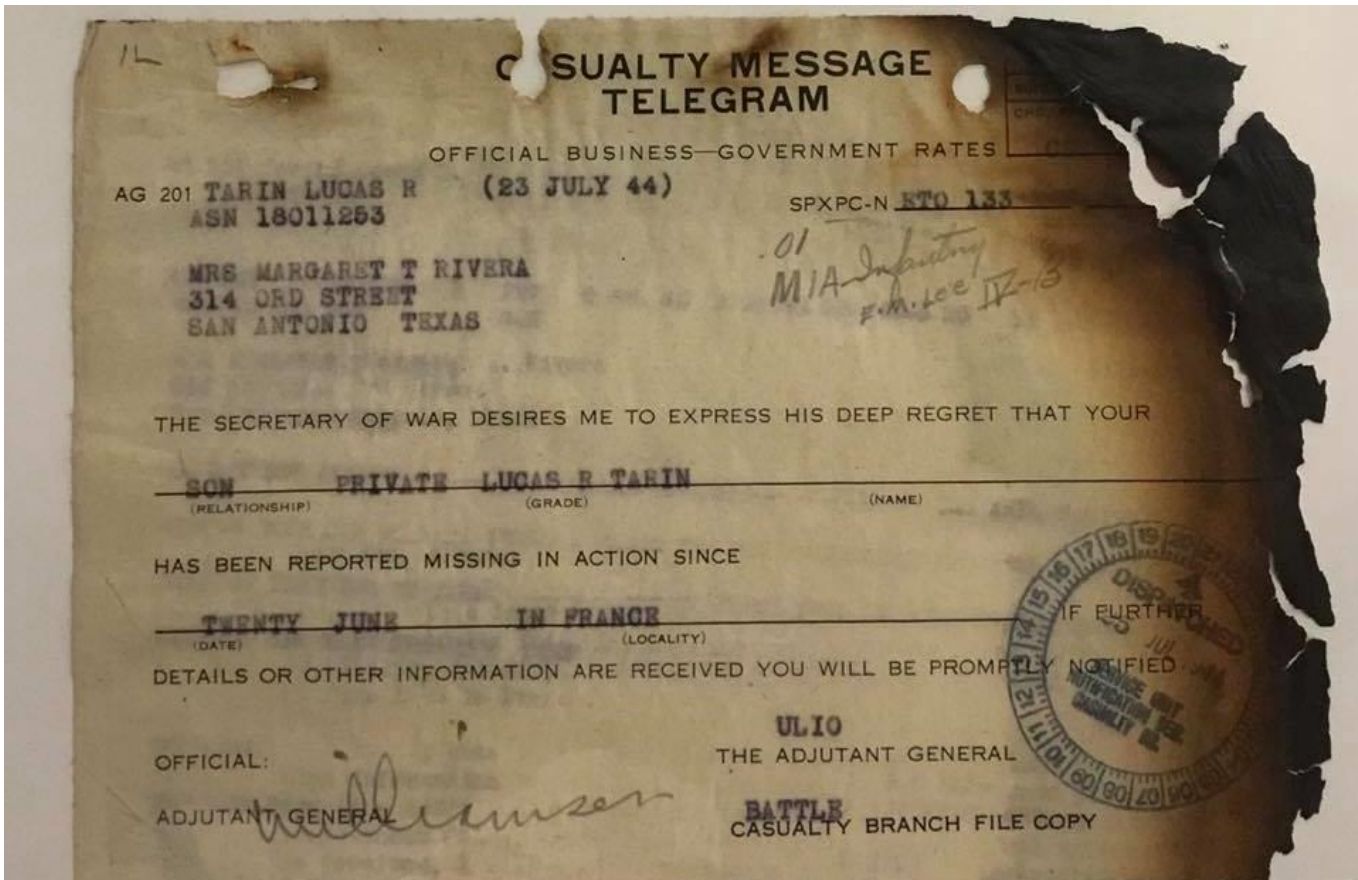
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Footsteps Researchers

November 26 at 2:51 PM ·

Here is an example of a B-File (burned). These are personnel files (OMPF) that survived the NARA fire of 1973. This is one reason some files take longer than others for researchers to get... they have to go through the preservation department before they reach the Research Room. If you are lucky enough to have one of these, it is like you won the lottery. I did this file today! I have no idea what type of file or condition it is in until it arrives in the room for me to view and image. I have waited just a week or two to sometimes a month or two for a file. It is still faster than the 6-12 months some people are telling me it takes through other sources. I'm in St Louis, so I'm here and monitor. Thanks, Myra



Keith Gill Are you saying that so called lost records might actually exist it just was not viewable until preservation? I have had more than a few rejected as lost in the fire. Would love to have another chance.

Myra Miller It seems like 2-3 out of every 10 OMPFs I do are good files. Almost always there is something like a payroll record or a medical information sheet as they have been reconstructing files in recent years. I get burned files more often than you would think. I am there and submit my forms in person. I wait, and eventually I get files to view and image. I never know until I see the folder if it is going to be a good one or not.

Myra Miller Sometimes the waiting process is a week or two and other times it is a month or two. I never know.



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Honorable Discharge Emblem

On November 29, 1944, the War Department officially adopted the honorable discharge emblem.

Some of the earliest plans for a multi-service honorable discharge patch originated in 1919 following World War I. The purpose was to allow honorably discharged individuals to wear their uniforms for a period of time after leaving the service if they couldn't afford civilian clothes.



The original design was similar to the eagle on the Presidential Seal but was changed in 1943 by Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. Their new design pictured an eagle preparing for flight, called "The Eagle Has Flown." This was meant to coincide with the first major Allied offensives against the Axis Powers in the Pacific and Atlantic. The Army and Navy officially adopted the honorable discharge emblem on November 29, 1944, with the issuance of War Department Circular #454.

The emblem is also known by another name – "ruptured duck." This name is credited to actress Hedy Lamarr, wife of Friedrich Mandl, the owner of several German arms factories. According to legend, Lamarr created countless revolutionary ideas that improved weapon design and production, which made her husband jealous. Fearing for her life, Lamarr fled to America where she described her escape as a hazardous flight on a "segeltuch gebrochen" or broken bird. The more literal translation of the phrase is "ruptured duck".

When women working in the manufacturing plant that produced the honorable discharge pins heard Lamarr's story, they began labeling the boxes "ruptured ducks" partially in honor of her story and also because the policy at the time required that boxes be labeled something other than what they contained, to confuse enemy agents.

The emblem is worn above the right front pocket on all outer uniforms. Honorable discharge is awarded to those members of the armed forces who receive a rating between good and excellent for their service. While honorable discharge is usually given to those who complete their term of service, those who don't complete their time can receive the honor as long as they're not discharged due to misconduct.

#WestPointMuseum

Peter Schrijvers

November 15 at 3:30 AM

THE ULTIMATE BATTLE. As a warm-up for the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge next year, the 2018 commemorations of this epic clash promise to have something in store for all. Among the many events is the traveling exhibition 'Through Their Eyes,' which will be arriving from Berlin, and for which I have written the stories pertaining to the Bulge. In addition, from 6 to 10 pm on 15

December, the Bastogne War Museum is organizing its first Book Fair, where I will be giving a talk, entitled 'The Ultimate Battle: A Lifetime of Writing on the Bulge.' I will, of course, also take time to autograph 'Those Who Hold Bastogne' and my other books. Hope to meet you there next month.



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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
- 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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