



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2408

March 3, 2019

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

MailCall News

Subject: 1ST BN 517 3 foot long photo.

Bob, I was at the Show of Shows National gun show in Louisville Ky. and saw a 3 ft. long picture of the 1st Bn. with probably all of the officers, **Bill Boyle** included. I would guess it was taken in Camp McCall. I have the name and phone number of the vendor who had it, so I don't know what the Mail Call rules about things like this, but thought I would throw it out, and see what you think. The price was \$900.00 dollars, so that seems awfully pricey to me.

Thanks,
Morris McDowell

Interesting. I do have a copy of a photo on the website that is identified as HQ Company 1st Battalion. Is this the same photo? This copy was sent to us by **Cotton Nelson**, son of **PFC Gerald Nelson**, HQ/1 See full-size at: http://517prct.org/photos/hq1_dress.htm



I do recognize **Bill Boyle** in the front row, in front of the 3rd group of 4. Although this is identified as HQ Company, I think this must be the whole 1st Battalion, with HQ Company, plus Companies A, B, and C.

I see each of the 4 groups has about 12 men across x 6 rows = 72 men plus officers. According to Wikipedia, "A company will have 80-150 men, typically run by a Captain or Major, whereas a Battalion has 300-800 and is led by a Lt. Colonel." So this photo would appear to be the whole 1st Battalion, headed by **Lt. Col Bill Boyle**.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

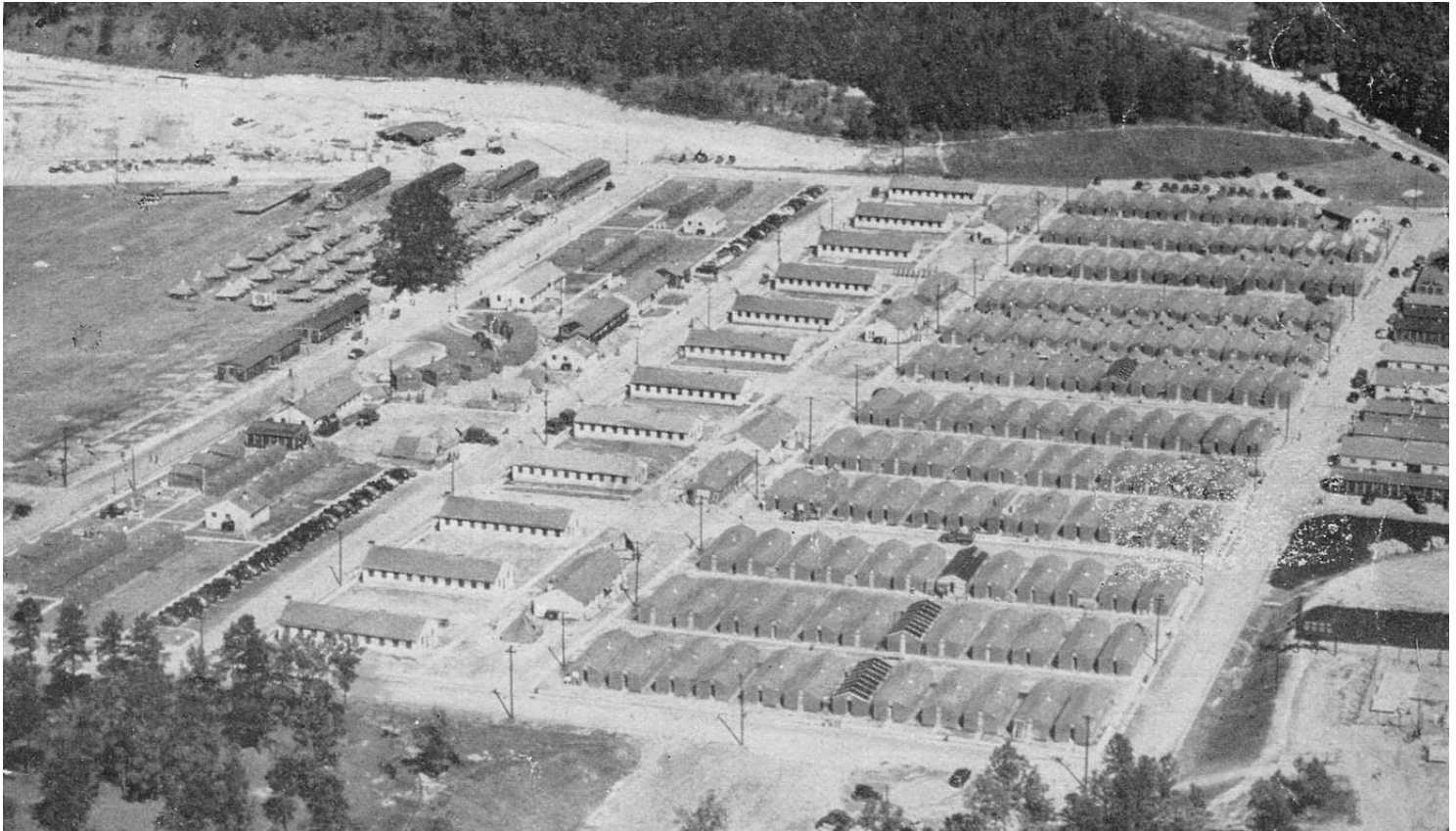
Also, per Wikipedia:

“During World War II, most infantry regiments consisted of three battalions (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) with each battalion consisting of three rifle companies and a heavy weapons company. That is, rifle companies A, B, C along with heavy weapons Company D were part of the 1st battalion, rifle companies E, F, G, and heavy weapons Company H constituted the 2nd battalion, and rifle companies I, K, L, and heavy weapons Company M were in the 3rd. There was no J Company: the letter *J* was traditionally not used because in 18th and 19th century old-style type, the capital letters *I* and *J* looked alike, and were therefore easily confused with one another. It was common for a battalion to become temporarily attached to a different regiment. For example, during the confusion and high casualty rates of both the [Normandy Landings](#) and the [Battle of the Bulge](#), in order to bolster the strength of a depleted infantry regiment, companies and even battalions were moved around as necessary.”

We know that the 517th was slightly different, with each Battalion having an HQ Co plus 3 companies.

Also, can someone tell where this photo was taken? Was this Camp Toccoa or Camp MacKall? If you look at the buildings in the background, there are more plywood building that I think were in Toccoa. Here is a picture of Toccoa from their website:

<https://www.camptoccoaatcurrahee.org/photo-gallery-1?lightbox=datapitem-i3dczwb>





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

What a great MailCall. It has such a beautiful, stirring recount of the presentation to **Bob Webber** of the French Legion of Honor. Thank you. The way that you put it together made me feel like I was personally there beaming proudly. How thrilling that **Mel [Dahlberg]** could be there as well as Bob's son and daughter. Many thanks to Bob's son for ensuring that this happened. I can feel our respective Dads giving Bob an Airborne salute. Airborne all the way!

On top of that, to see that **Tom Cross** will be inducted in the US Army Riggers School Hall of Fame is glorious news, surpassed only by the fact that the school will be renamed in his honor. The Seitz kids feel a special connection and affection for Tom because he was so near and dear to our Dad that Dad selected him to be his best man when Dad and Mama were married.



from left, Mel Dahlberg, a fellow paratrooper from the 517th regiment, Christina Selander-Bouzouina, an honorary consul for France in Minnesota, Bruce Webber, Bob's son, Ted Kozlowski, Stillwater mayor, and Barb Kruse, Bob's daughter. (Jean Pieri / Pioneer Press)

Thank you so much.

Pat Seitz

I chased the French in Chicago to get the Legion of Honor Medal for my dad **Michael Sura**. He didn't qualify because he wasn't alive to accept it. He was alive when he earned it.

Dennis Sura

I'd like to have my son Michael Azeff (grandson of **Lt. Warren Caulfield**) added to the mailing list for Mail Call.

I love reading them and REALLY appreciate all that you do.

Thank you,
Shelly Caulfield Azeff

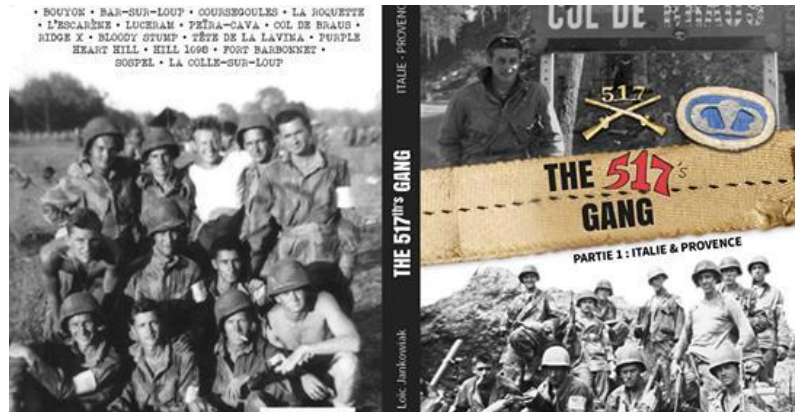
February 28 at 9:07 AM

I am now working on the english version of the book. The sale of books in French will allow me to print the English version.

Feel free to share !

GOFUNDME.COM

Cliquez ici pour soutenir la campagne The 517th's Gang - Publication du livre organisée par Loïc Jankowiak





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Dear Claire & Bob

I am the daughter of **Charles Pugh** (1923-2001). As a kid I was the assistant on the paper version of Thumberbolt newsletters- typing and photocopying.

I was last in Nice in 2013. My mom, Ann Pugh, recommended that I see Le Muy and learn more. Thanks to Steve Markle I took about 1,000 photos on flash drives for the museum damaged in LeMuy.

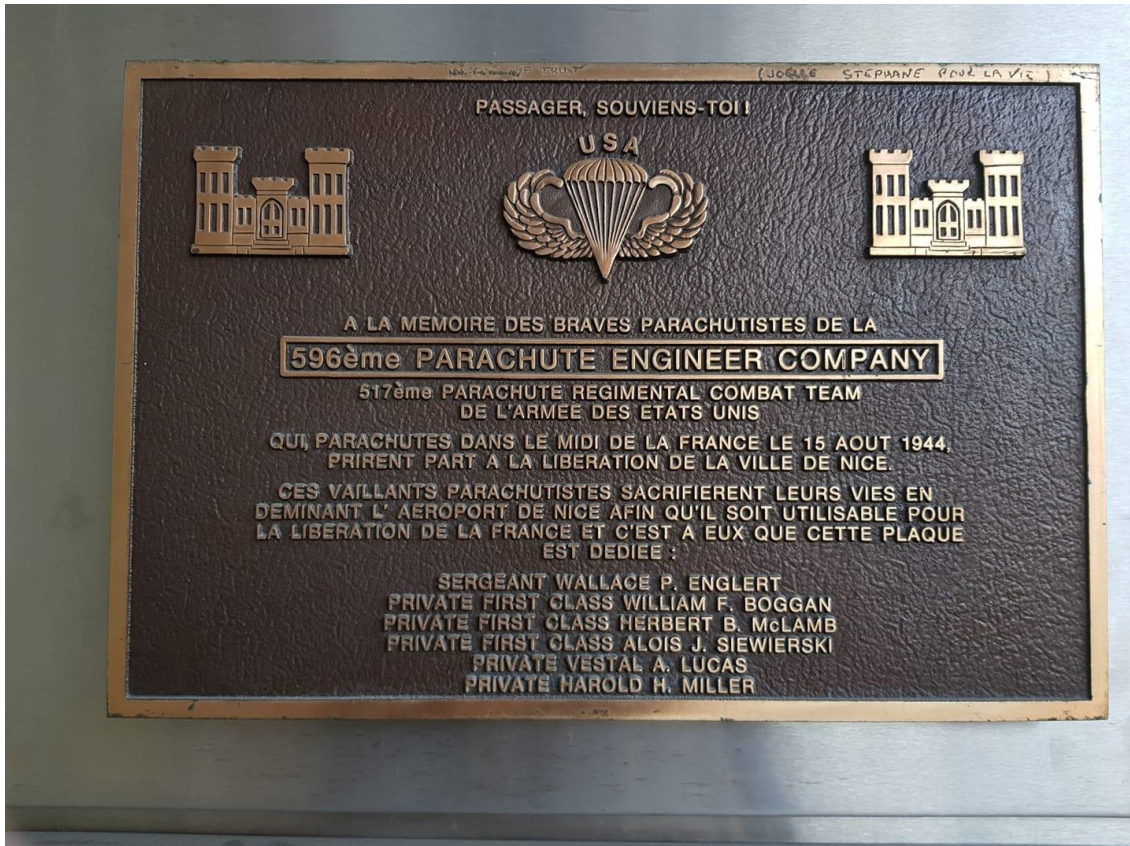
The plaque had been given to city officials including the mayor during a visit to the airport in mid 1990s- perhaps during the 45th or 50th anniversary trip of his colleagues and spouses. My dad carried the plaque to the events.

My mom said that trip, perhaps in summer involved three personally significant events that included taking the plaque for the airport. My dad was one of the guys whose job it was to remove mines that the Germans had placed surrounding where the airport is. My dad was only a few feet away from the four or five men who were killed- with some relatively minor injuries. It meant a lot to my dad that the airport should have a memorial plaque.

When I went through the airport after visiting Le Muy it took me a long time to find the plaque. It wasn't where my mom said it was. After 10 mins. I found it on the exterior just off the main entrance near a motion sensor sliding door. I have no idea if my mom was confused or if they had moved it.

Thank you,

Theresa Pugh





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

In doing some research on Camp MacKall, I ran across an article on the actor, John Dall.



From Wikipedia:

John Dall (May 26, 1920 – January 15, 1971)^{[1][Note 1]} was an American actor.

Primarily a stage actor, he is best remembered today for two film roles: the cool-minded intellectual killer in [Alfred Hitchcock's *Rope*](#) (1948), and the trigger-happy lead in the 1950 [film noir *Gun Crazy*](#). He also had a substantial role in [Stanley Kubrick's *Spartacus*](#) (1960). He first came to fame as the young prodigy who comes alive under the tutelage of [Bette Davis](#) in [The Corn Is Green](#) (1945), for which he was nominated for the [Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor](#).



What caught my attention was a note in the bio:

John Dall Thompson (he used his middle name for his acting career) was born in New York City on 26 May 1920, the younger son of Charles Jenner Thompson (1873–1929) and his wife Henry (*née* Worthington). [...] His father was a civil engineer. His elder brother, **Worthington Thompson**, was later a decorated lieutenant in the **517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team**

And I see that **Lt. Worthington J. "Tommy" Thomson** received a Bronze Star while with the 460th PFAB, according to APO 333, April 1945, along with citations for **Lt. Bob Reber** (HQ/3) and many others from the 517th.

See: http://www.517prct.org/documents/1945_april_30_bronze_stars2.pdf



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

R E S T R I C T E D

[Handwritten signature]

HEADQUARTERS 13TH AIRBORNE DIVISION
APO 333, U. S. Army

Page 5

GENERAL ORDERS)
:)
NUMBER 12)

30 April 1945

Award of Bronze Star Medal (Oak-Leaf Cluster) ----- Section I
Award of Bronze Star Medal ----- Section II
Award of Bronze Star Medal ----- Section III

I -- AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL (OAK-LEAF CLUSTER) -- Under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, 22 September 1943, and pursuant to Letter, Headquarters, Gise Intermediate Section, Communication Zone, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Awards and Decorations", file AG 200.6 (G-1), dated 24 April 1945, in addition to the Bronze Star Medal previously awarded, a bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to:

First Lieutenant Worthington J. Thompson, O1 042 447, 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, United States Army, for heroic achievement in action. First Lieutenant Thompson's position was attacked by two Tiger Royal Tanks and a reinforced company of enemy, forcing Battery "B" to evacuate several houses on the outskirts of St. Jacques, Belgium. Despite direct fire on him, First Lieutenant Thompson established an observation post in the attic of a nearby house and by peering through a hole made by one of the enemy shells, directed fire on the attacking force. His skillful maneuvering of 155 howitzer fire by sound, demolished two houses 65 yards from him, killing many of the enemy. He then concentrated his efforts on the two tanks and caused them to scurry for protection in the woods outside of town. Contemptuous of 88 millimeter shells hitting his observation post, he continued to move the fire and adjusted on the enemy re-organizing south of the town. His fire for effect killed 60 Germans and completely broke up the counterattack. Entered the military service from New York City, New York.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

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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PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM