



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2417

June 16, 2019

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

MailCall News

*We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition;
And gentlemen in England now a-bed
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.*

The St Crispin's Day speech is from Shakespeare's history play *Henry V*, in Act IV Scene iii 18–67. In the speech, which fell on Saint Crispin's Day, Henry V urged his men – who were vastly outnumbered by the French – to recall how the English had previously inflicted great defeats upon the French. The speech by Shakespeare has been famously portrayed by Laurence Olivier to raise British spirits during the Second World War, and by Kenneth Branagh in the 1989 film *Henry V*, and it made famous the phrase "band of brothers." The play was written around 1600, and several later writers have used parts of it in their own texts.

I received a message to our 517th Reenacting group Facebook page about a grave marker for **Deole Harter Priddy** of the 596th that was found recently.

We are trying to find out if this was discarded due to an error on the marker or if it needs to be properly placed. It is in the Smartsville, CA area.

Our group is working on an answer but we appreciate any help or information.

Thank you.
Matt Holmgren

www.battlingbuzzards.org
<https://www.facebook.com/WW2ABHistoricalCo/>





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I haven't found too much about DeOle Priddy in my records. He is listed the December 1944 Christmas roster. And there are a couple of brief mentions about him in the 596th Wings newsletters:

May 1981:

Bill Hudson isn't sure about making the Reunion. He tried to telephone De Ole Priddy in Alaska but had no luck in Fairbanks or Anchorage.

May 1983:

DeOle Priddy, whom we just recently located, and his wife Donna have 5 children, 4 girls and 1 boy. De Ole has been in heavy construction all over the west coast and Alaska but presently he is taking it a bit easier as he recovers from a heart attack last July. Drop him a welcoming line if you have the time. He is delighted to hear from our gang and plans to be at the reunion.

December 1985:

De Ole Priddy moved and we presently do not have a mailing address for him.

So that doesn't help much.

From Family Search:

[FamilySearch Family Tree](#)

[Deole Harter Priddy, 1922 - 1989](#)

Deole Harter Priddy was born on [month day](#) 1922, at [birth place](#), California, to Guymond G. "Guy" Priddy and Nellie Susan Priddy.

Deole had 6 siblings: Donald Priddy, Ronald Priddy and [4 other siblings](#).

Deole passed away on [month day](#) 1989, at age 66 at [death place](#), California.

Now there is a DeOle A Priddy who lives in New Meadows, Idaho. I'd expect that he might be related somehow.

Sorry, Matt, but that's all I can find. Nothing about any obituary, and nothing in FindAGrave or anywhere else about where he ended up being buried.

Bob Barrett



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Camp Toccoa at Currahee honors 75th anniversary of D-Day



WYFF News 4
Published on Jun 6, 2019
SUBSCRIBE 30K

Remembering the brave: Camp Toccoa at Currahee opened the gate to visitors today. It's where thousands of paratroopers trained during WWII including the famed Easy Company, featured in the HBO documentary "Band of Brothers". Brennan McDavid WYFF spoke to a woman who traveled from Kansas for a hike where heroes once trained. www.wyff4.com



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvNjrN9tFAk>

Is anyone manning this email?

We have a question about George W Dunaway and Jack G Dunaway. Jack is my grandfather, and we are trying to find information about his service in WWII. We were told that Jack was in the 517th, but can only find images that include the name George W "Jack" Dunaway. The image that is listed <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2199.pdf> is of my grandfather, Jack G Dunaway, holding my father.

Did George W. Dunaway really go by "Jack?" Was there a Jack G. Dunaway in the company?

Sincerely,

Anne Isom





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi Anne,

I've tried to find records about Jack and George Dunaway. I'm still not sure if they might have been confused. This photo is from a website that no longer exists. But I do see a Corporal Jack G. Dunaway listed on the 1944 Christmas roster with the Regimental HQ Company.

http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_hq_1.jpg

And I see some stories about Jack Dunaway in some older MailCalls. From these stories, it seems that your grandfather was a well-known member of the 517th and attended many reunions.

From <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/749a.htm> September 6, 2004:

Thanks-to the reply's of Jack Dunaway inquiry, One said he was a delightful person?? A lot of you may recall his wearing a Carol Channing hair-piece to the mini in Palm Springs reunion?? Everyone that saw him smiled real big, Typical Jack,?? I was surprised to hear him say to me that he knew he was the 517 clown, in Palm Springs, He had to be 10 years older than us 18 year olds in Toccoa, Always had a funny story for us, mostly made up??stuff?? That would make him 90 or so today if still with us?? At a reunion in San Antonio, Jack and I had finished our Banquet dinner and walked to the bar, for a drink, A lady steps up from another table, she had been told that I was the Chef, that had prepared this very good meal we had just ate?? and she wanted to Thank-me for the fine fine meal,?? What else to do but turn her over to the real Chef, Jack Dunaway?? walking behind me, Jack had heard her inquiry and without missing a beat said Yes I am the Chef, and I would do anything for these 517 men, but Thank-You anyway?? Jack claims to have been in a movie in Hollywood just before he came to the 517, portraying Paratroopers, I believe it was Objective Burma with Errol Flynn, I have the movie but have not found Jack yet as one of the extras, It had to be another movie as the 517 was photographed making a jump in No. Carolina on a very windy day and it is the scene in the movie?? Objective Burma
P.S. Sleep Well Old Friend, Tom McAvoy

Tom McAvoy

Michael Aterburn, Thank you for your note on Jack Dunaway, I cannot imagine Jack being still in practice, as he has to be 90 years old now, He had said to me one time that he only handled indigent cases, He comes to work at 10:00 A.M. reads the mail and sees if there is anything on the court docket for him today, and goes on to Santa Anita Racetrack??? A pretty good life for an older Gentleman??? Tom McAvoy

From September 8, 2004:

I will do that John, My past experience with Jack and his number at work, was The secretary answered the phone and says who is calling?? I tell them and 10-15 minutes later still no Jack??? So I hung up the phone??? a few months later I ask Jack at Palms Springs, how come you don't come to the phone when someone calls you????He claims I answer my phone on the first ring every time????????? That was the time I got up early one morning in Palm Springs and find Jack Dunaway jogging in front of the hotel, back and forth maybe 30 Ft. turning around and back the other way?? He could not see me so I just watched and he carried on with this for 15 minutes or so??? No one else saw him that I know of, O! Yes Jack claims he gets up everyday at 5:17 sharp??? Tom McAvoy



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From May 22, 2006:

Marty Donahoo

Hi Ben~~

This is pretty long but interesting. Do with it whatever you think is best.

Lud and I went to the Memorial Service for Jack Dunaway on Saturday. I'm forwarding this photo of Jack and his son, Michael, (taken in late '43 or early '44) along with a synopsis of his obituary. His ex-wife wrote the obit. She told us that they had remained friends throughout his life. He did many things in his life that I think anyone who knew him might be interested in.

He was born in Oklahoma in 1914. His maternal grandmother was a full-blooded Indian of the Cherokee Nation. He enjoyed growing up with friends and relatives as part of the Cherokee culture.

Jack was very interested in school and graduated from High School at age 16. He graduated summa cum laude from college at the age of 19. After graduation a cousin working in the casting department at 20th Century Fox in Hollywood told him he might be able to get him work at the studio for \$50 a week (1936). Several screen tests later Jack was under contract. He soon became one of its most in-demand stunt men, particularly in Westerns. As a Cowboy, and sometimes as a feathered Indian, Jack took falls for the likes of Clark Gable, Joel McCrae, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry as well as on countless Studio location film sets.

Jack met actress, Virginia Wicks, on a Paramount Studios set where they were shooting "Wells Fargo." Jack was Joel McCrae's stand-in for the film. Later that year Jack and Virginia married. They had one child, a son, Michael Wicks Dunaway. Not long after, Virginia was under contract to the Samuel Goldwyn Studios. She was a Goldwyn Girl.

At the outbreak of World War II Jack enlisted and trained as a paratrooper. He served with the 517th PRCT.

Returning to California after the War, Jack set up a driving school in Hollywood and attended night courses, earning his law degree and passing the State Bar of California January 14, 1954. He soon after opened a small office at Hollywood and Vine.

An important thread in Jack's life was always the yearly gathering of Jack's parachute combat team, the veterans of the 517th. He never missed going until his health finally deteriorated to the point where he was unable to attend.

In 1973, Jack met Yoko Seto, a Hollywood film editor. She remained a faithful companion of Jack's for the rest of his life.





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From <http://517prct.org/mailcall/1628.htm>



These are members of S-2 section Regt Hdq Co.

1st row L.to R: **Jack Dunaway**, next **Johnny Davis**, (both deceased), 3rd **Bill Edwards**, 4th **Capt. Al Dearing** (deceased), 5th unknown

back row **Joe Allen**, next **Burch**, 3rd unknown, 4th **Wireck**, 5th unknown

signed **Tom McAvoy**



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And do these look like pictures of you Grandfather?

From <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/845.htm>, February 7, 2005

Lud Gibbons

Last week I had lunch with Jack Dunaway in Los Angeles.

A couple of months ago , they had a party at a local saloon with some 15 to 20 friends , celebrating Jack's 90th.

As you can see he hasn't lost his hair.

Sorry I missed Florida see you in Georgia.

Lud



Another picture of Jack Dunaway , taken at the same time.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Cindy Robinson Karst shared a post to the group: [517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team - Families & Friends](#).

June 3 at 4:24 PM

A young woman from Draguignan, whom I have never met (Sylvie Sam), visited my Uncle Al's grave with her Dad and placed flowers there in honor of him.

We connected when I posted an item on the Draguignan city site. She asked to hear more about my Uncle and promised to visit his grave.

I can only be deeply touched and humbled by her wonderful heart.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

75th Anniversary of Southern France

From: Libersa Alison <libersaa@abmc.gov>
To: "'clairejib@comcast.net"' <clairejib@comcast.net>
Date: June 12, 2019 at 9:20 AM
Subject: 75th Anniversary of Southern France

Hi Claire

Hoping that this finds you all well – especially your Dad.

As you know the 3 ceremonies for the 16th of August are normally organized by the City Hall of Draguignan. This year being the 75th Anniversary – it is the American Battle Monuments Commission who will be hosting the Ceremony here at the Cemetery. I am now organizing and am delighted to send to you the official invitation.

If you wish to attend, we would be delighted and very honored to have you with us. Please let me know how many seats you would like to reserve, and I will block them for you.

Just a couple of things to take into account this year:

1. The Ceremony starts at 10:30 a.m.
2. Seating will be available for everyone – we will have about 1000 seats.
3. All seating will be covered with tents – this means no one will be sitting in the very hot sun.
4. Water will be available for all.
5. The Ceremony will be filmed.

I will be your main POC for the Ceremony, so if you should need any help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards

Alison

Alison Libersa

Senior Cemetery Associate and NAI CIG

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AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



'Time will not dim the glory of their deeds'
GENERAL OF THE ARMIES JOHN. J. PERSHING

William M. Matz, Jr
Secretary of the
American Battle Monuments Commission.

and
Andy Anderson
Superintendent of the Rhone American Cemetery

Request the honor of your presence at the ceremony

75th Anniversary of the Southern France Landings

The Ceremony will be held at:
RHONE AMERICAN CEMETERY
Draguignan, Var
Friday 16 August 2019 at 10h30

R.S.V.P. to
Mrs Alison Libersa : libersaa@abmc.gov
Before July 15, 2019



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

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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