



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2418

June 30, 2019

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

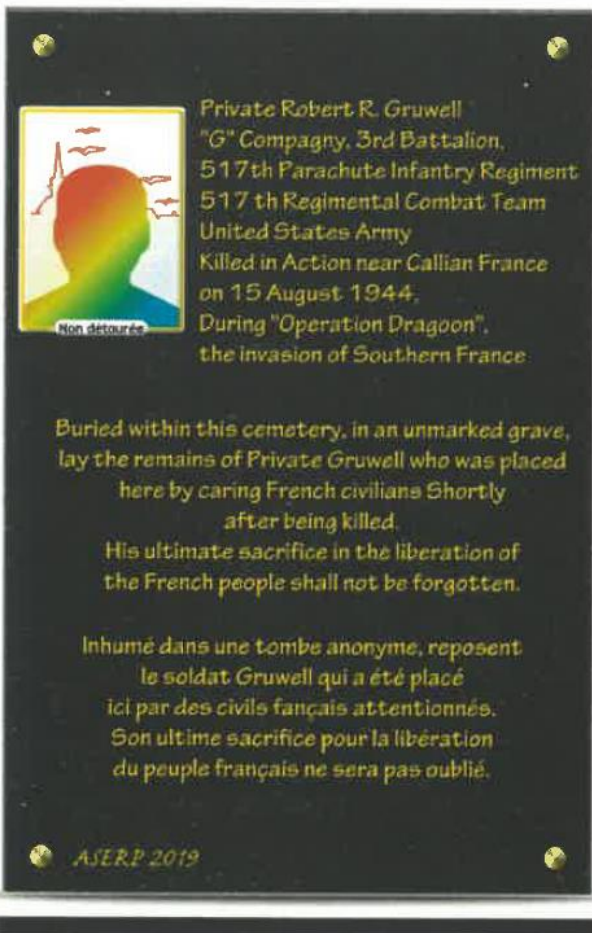
MailCall News

MAQUETTE DE VOTRE PLAQUE

M83051 - 200619-0092962M - soldat americain 40 large

Plaque : HC 40x60 NOIR FIN - Fixation : Fixation murale 4 trous

Réf. client : M83051 - Réf. maquette : 200619-0092962M



I have been informed by the mayor of Montaroux, France, Jeans Yves Huet, that the memorial plaque for Pvt. Gruwell will be unveiled on 15 August, 75 years after his death.

Mayor Huet's email address is: jean.yves.huet@wannadoo.fr.

The artist is Claude Bernard. Would you please pass this information on to those attending the 75th Anniversary proceedings in France?

Thanks, Joe Figueiredo

I just got this from Claude Bernard, the artist in Montauroux depicting the memorial plaque for **Pvt. Gruwell**. It will be 60 cm X 30 cm and I believe it looks good. Please share it with the group. It is to be unveiled on 15 August, the 75th Anniversary of his death and Operation Dragoon. I hope you have been in touch with the mayor of Montauroux and the ABMC people about having a representation from the 517 for the unveiling. If you have not, please let me know. Many thanks for your hard work and assistance.

Joe Figueiredo

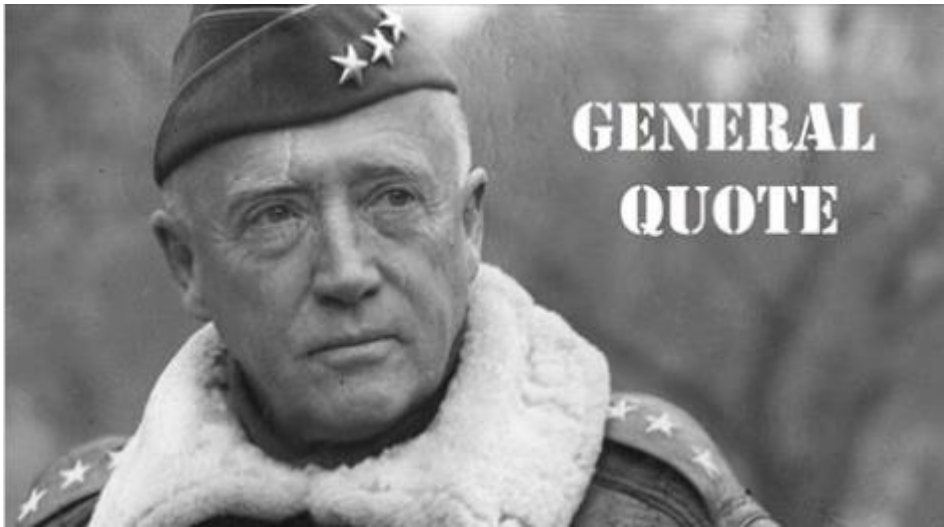


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This is a thank you for helping me find the present address for **John Lissner's** grandson, Matt. When I wrote Matt to thank him for sending me the pictures from Uncle John's funeral in 2004, which somehow ended up in Alan's drawers only to be discovered when he was looking for something else. In my note, I told him how much his grandfather meant to me. He sent me back the attached letter which included a copy of the letter my dad sent him thanking him for sharing tapes of Matt's interviews of his grandfather. It was such a beautiful reminder of Dad and it was especially meaningful given it being Father's Day yesterday. A belated happy Father's Day to you.

Pat Seitz

From <https://www.facebook.com/TheirFinalChapter/>



From General George S. Patton Jr.'s book, *War as I Knew It: The Battle Memoirs of "Blood 'N Guts"*

"On the tenth [February 1945], Bradley called up to ask me how soon I could go on the defensive. I told him I was the oldest leader in age and in combat experience in the United States Army in Europe, and that if I had to go on the defensive I would ask to be relieved. He stated that I owed too much to the troops and would have to stay on. I replied that a great deal is owed to me, and unless I could continue attacking I would have to be relieved. I further suggested that it would be a good thing if some of his staff visited the front to find out how the other half lived."



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From Phil McSpadden (460th PFAB):



Each year my video production company is hired to go to Washington, D.C. with the eighth grade class from Clinton, Wisconsin where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation's capitol, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall's trip was especially memorable.

On the last night of our trip, we stopped at the Iwo Jima memorial. This memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world and depicts one of the most famous photographs in history—that of the six brave men raising the American flag at the top of Mount Surabachi on the Island of Iwo Jima, Japan during WW II. Over one hundred students and chaperones piled off the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, “What’s your name and where are you guys from?”

I told him that my name was Michael Powers and that we were from Clinton, Wisconsin.

“Hey, I’m a Cheesehead, too! Come gather around Cheeseheads, and I will tell you a story.”

James Bradley just happened to be in Washington, D.C. to speak at the memorial the following day. He was there that night to say good-night to his dad, who had previously passed away, but whose image is part of the statue. He was just about to leave when he saw the buses pull up. I videotaped him as he spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington, D.C. but it is quite another to get the kind of



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insight we received that night. When all had gathered around he reverently began to speak. Here are his words from that night:

“My name is James Bradley and I’m from Antigo, Wisconsin. My dad is on that statue, and I just wrote a book called *Flags of Our Fathers* which is #5 on the New York Times Best Seller list right now. It is the story of the six boys you see behind me. Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon Block. Harlon was an all-state football player. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team. They were off to play another type of game, a game called “War.” But it didn’t turn out to be a game. Harlon, at the age of twenty-one, died with his intestines in his hands. I don’t say that to gross you out; I say that because there are generals who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys in Iwo Jima were seventeen, eighteen, and nineteen years old.

(He pointed to the statue)

You see this next guy? That’s Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Rene’s helmet off at the moment this photo was taken, and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph. A photograph of his girlfriend. Rene put that in there for protection, because he was scared. He was eighteen years old. Boys won the battle of Iwo Jima. Boys. Not old men.

The next guy here, the third guy in this tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the “old man” because he was so old. He was already twenty-four. When Mike would motivate his boys in training camp, he didn’t say, “Let’s go kill the enemy” or “Let’s die for our country.” He knew he was talking to little boys. Instead he would say, “You do what I say, and I’ll get you home to your mothers.”

The last guy on this side of the statue is Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ira Hayes walked off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my dad. President Truman told him, “You’re a hero.” He told reporters, “How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me and only twenty-seven of us walked off alive?”

So you take your class at school. 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only twenty-seven of your classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes died dead drunk, face down at the age of thirty-two, ten years after this picture was taken.

The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Sousey from Hilltop, Kentucky, a fun-lovin’ hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70, told me, “Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn’t get down. Then we fed them Epsom salts. Those cows crapped all night.”

Yes, he was a fun-lovin’ hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of nineteen. When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to his mother’s farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. The neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my dad, John Bradley from Antigo, Wisconsin, where I was raised. My dad lived until 1994, but he would never give interviews. When Walter Cronkite’s producers, or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say, “No, I’m sorry sir, my



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dad's not here. He is in Canada fishing. No, there is no phone there, sir. No, we don't know when he is coming back."

My dad never fished or even went to Canada. Usually he was sitting right there at the table eating his Campbell's soup, but we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn't want to talk to the press. You see, my dad didn't see himself as a hero. Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, 'cause they are in a photo and a monument. My dad knew better. He was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a caregiver. In Iwo Jima he probably held over 200 boys as they died, and when boys died in Iwo Jima, they writhed and screamed in pain.

When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my dad was a hero. When I went home and told my dad that, he looked at me and said, "I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. DID NOT come back."

So that's the story about six nice young boys. Three died on Iwo Jima, and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the history of the Marine Corps. My voice is giving out, so I will end here. Thank you for your time."

Suddenly the monument wasn't just a big old piece of metal with a flag sticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heartfelt words of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero in his own eyes, but a hero nonetheless.

Origins: The above-quoted article was written in October 2000 by Wisconsin resident Michael T. Powers (whose name has been omitted from most of the Internet-circulated versions), transcribed from a videotape he made of a talk given by author James Bradley at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. Bradley, whose father, John, was one of the six men pictured in the famous photograph of the flag-raising on Mt. Suribachi in February 1945 (and is thus depicted in the monument's sculpture), had earlier that year published *Flags of Our Fathers*, an account of the life stories of those six men.



T/5 John C Wyatt, Service Company

Accidental Death

Italy

http://www.517prct.org/records/jun_jul_aug44_svc.jpg

28 June 1944

<https://www.findagrave.com/memori.../51554988/john-clark-wyatt>

T/5 John C Wyatt
517th PIR Svrc Co
KIA 28 Jun 44



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From: <https://www.facebook.com/worldwarincolor/>

Sgt. Joe Lobit, a 13th Airborne Paratrooper and veteran of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment with his collection of German knives that he had acquired while serving in Germany during the final months of the war. The photo was taken in August 1945 at Camp Pittsburg, an embarkation camp in France prior to the Soldier's departure for home.

Among the items are the m1884/98 III, used on the Mauser kar 98k, two SA-Service Daggers of which the one on the right has the inscription; "Alles für Deutschland".

The soldier is holding a NCO RAD hewer, which was part of the dress uniform and was ceremonial. The RAD Hewer was officially approved for wear in August 1934 and was issued to RAD-Unterführer (EM/NCO's). The hewer has nicely textured stag horn grips. The blade bears the well known RAD motto 'Arbeit Adelt' (Labour ennobles).

Second on the left is a Spanish Navaja folding knife.

War trophies were permitted by the Army, and the most important limit was weight and portability. Main restrictions were on explosives, 'nonmilitary articles removed from enemy dead', and personal effects of POWs (although they could be bought from the POW, just not taken). The possession of (and sending or bringing home) enemy remains was prohibited but checking at customs upon these items didn't prove to very effective.

The government even footed the shipping costs for occupation troops to send trophies home after the war, not exceeding 25 pounds, plus a premium for officers. In the case of firearms, all war bring backs were supposed to have capture papers though. It basically showed that the soldier had gotten permission to send it back, and someone had inspected the weapon to make sure it was eligible.

Weapons with their capture papers these days fetch a very high premium from collectors. As far as what eligibility meant, originally, you could even bring back machine guns, as long as you registered it under the National Firearms Act upon importing it to the country. One could even get an MG42 shipped home). Concerns that they wouldn't be properly registered, meant that it was decided that they were no longer allowed in mid-1945, but this didn't prevent other firearms from going home, either in shipments by occupation troops or carried along when sent back stateside. An example: 5,000 men of the 28th Infantry were sent home in '45, carrying about 20,000 trophy firearms with them.

Photo: www.517prct.org

Caption: G. Zhukov (Reddit)





Preparations Underway for Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

BY [THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE](#) 2019-06-22 19:28:16

The Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS) Centennial Committee has many projects currently under development in the lead up to the 100th anniversary of the burial of an Unknown American Soldier who fought and died in World War I and is buried in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

On the 11th Hour, of the 11th Day, of the 11th Month in 2021 Americans will pause to recognize those who have sacrificed and those who will sacrifice in the future in the defense of America's freedom and democracy. SHGTUS hopes to include all Americans and bring communities together through a range of initiatives.



“It is important to remember that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is not just about World War I, but it is about every individual who has ever served - or will ever serve - and America's promise to them that they will never forget them,” says President Gavin McIlvenna. “The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier fosters a unifying national identity that transcends our differences of politics, race or religion, and we have applied our best efforts to plan, develop and initiate a number of activities suitable for this solemn occasion of national importance.”



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Those plans will culminate in 2021 with a Centennial Week in Washington DC from November 8-11, 2021.

Among the initiatives underway, SHGTUS has reached out to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America to develop a new merit badge for recognition of the occasion. It has also developed a commemorative coin that will be used as a fundraiser, which is currently for sale on their website.

“We have developed an educational tool kit containing materials that will help Americans reunite with those who have served and sacrificed in times of war or armed conflict,” says McIlvenna. “This tool kit is intended to help children learn more about the Unknown Soldiers buried in Arlington National Cemetery and all those who have served and sacrificed. The kit informs the groups before they visit or lay a wreath in Arlington, and then upon returning to their schools and communities, to help them share their experiences.”

He says that SHGTUS is also working with the Naval Historical and Heritage Command and midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy to research and preserve the historical documents, photographs, and items surrounding the transportation of the Unknown Soldiers by USN/USCG vessels. SHGTUS has also been working with the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia to highlight the important part the USS *Olympia* and her crew played in the transportation of the World War I Unknown Soldier in 1921.



SHGTUS is working with Arlington National Cemetery on the national commemoration plans, and has proposed an initiative to be known as “Public Placing of Flowers on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier” or “Carnation Ceremony” as a way to provide the citizenry an opportunity for individual participation in the ceremonies remembering and reuniting the American people with all those who have and will serve and sacrifice on behalf of America in times of war or armed conflict. Specifically, each visitor will be provided an opportunity to place a flower before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (TUS) and a moment to silently express their patriotic identity with those American values represented by the TUS, those entombed therein, and America’s sacred duty to never ever forget or forsake them during the commemoration ceremonies on November 9-11, 2021. SHGTUS is

also inviting federal, state, regional, local governments, individuals and private sector organizations to build a Never Forget Garden. Some suggestions for plants to be grown include:

- White Roses: Purity – White roses offer a powerful connection to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Chosen to designate the Unknown Soldier of WWI, Sergeant Edward F. Younger did so by placing a “spray of white roses” upon one of four caskets containing the remains of unidentifiable Americans killed in combat in 1921.
- Purple Viola: Innocence – This is the National Flower of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), known as the “Purple Heart Viola”, which has been described as having “the shape of a heart and is deep purple in color.” The flower was adopted 1946 by the Executive Committee of the MOPH after long consideration of the most appropriate bloom to symbolize the MOPH.
- Carnations: Admiration and Love – White, Red and Blue carnations were used in the selection ceremonies of the World War II and Korean War Unknown Soldiers.
- Poppies: Remembrance – The poem “In Flanders Fields” written by World War I Colonel John McCrae, a surgeon with Canada's First Brigade Artillery, captures McCrae's grief over the "row on row" of graves of soldiers who had died on Flanders' battlefields, located in a region of western Belgium and northern France. It presents a striking image of the bright red flowers blooming



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among the rows of white crosses and became a rallying cry to all who fought in the First World War.

SHGTUS welcomes any help with its projects, and more information is available at their website: www.tombguard.org/centennial They can also be reached by emailing publicaffairs@tombguard.org

For more information on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Sentinels that stand the eternal watch, and the Society visit:

Web: www.tombguard.org Facebook: @societyofthehonorguard Twitter: @shgtus

From: <https://www.facebook.com/The517Gang> (Loïc Jankowiak)



Une rare photo du 517th PIR (A Company) en Italie en route pour la ligne de front. Il y a 75 ans dans, dans la nuit du 24 au 25 juin, le 517th était retiré de la ligne de front sur le Monte Peloso par le 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Dans cette toute première campagne, l'unité avait montré qu'elle avait la capacité de combattre et de gagner.

Une toute autre mission allait les attendre dans les semaines à venir...

Pour en savoir un peu plus sur cette première campagne, vous pouvez commander "The 517th's Gang" ici et uniquement ici :

<http://bit.do/the-517ths-Gang>



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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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""Just gimme a couple o' aspirin. I already got a Purple Heart"."
Bill Mauldin, Stars and Stripes (1944)