



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2426

November 10, 2019

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

Veteran's Day 2019



Veterans Day Facts (from the [History Channel](#))

The military men and women who serve and protect the U.S. come from all walks of life; they are parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors and coworkers, and are an important part of their communities. Here are some facts about the veteran population of the United States:

- 18.2 million living veterans served during at least one war as of 2018.
- 9 percent of veterans are women.
- 7 million veterans served during the Vietnam War.
- 3 million veterans have served in support of the War on Terrorism.
- Of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II, about 496,777 were still alive as of 2018. (According to US Department of Veterans Affairs statistics, 389,292 of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II are alive in 2019.)
- Connecticut was home to the highest percentage of World War II veterans as of 2018 at 7.1 percent.
- 2 million veterans served during the Korean War.
- As of 2017, the top three states with the highest percentage of Veterans were Alaska, Maine and Montana, respectively.



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16 MILLION
WWII American Veterans

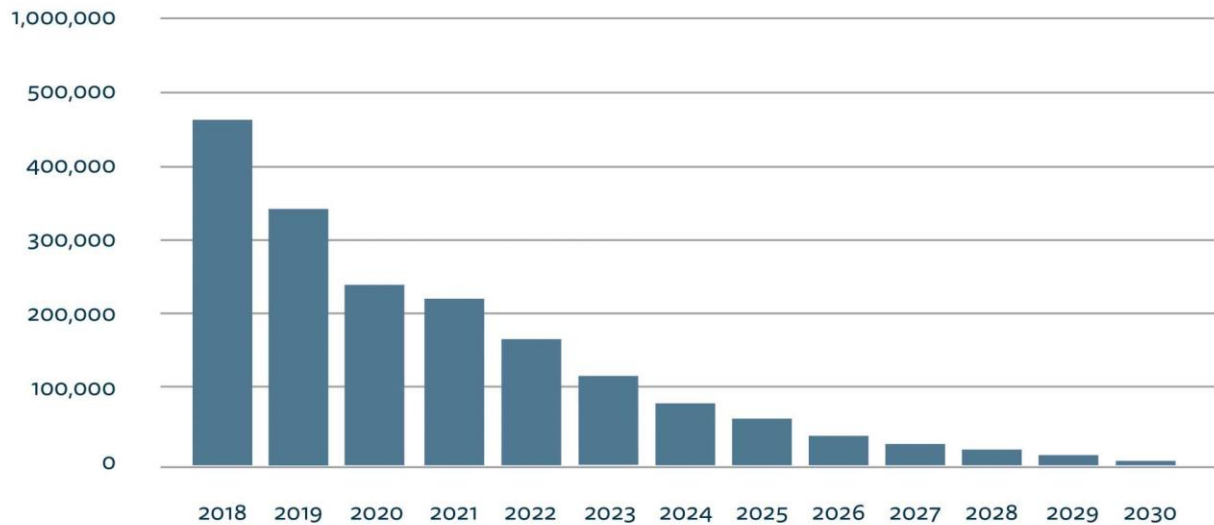


294
Dying Each Day



389,292
WWII Veterans Today

SURVIVING WWII VETERANS



<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/wwii-veteran-statistics>

Blessings on this Veteran’s Day to all the great men of the 517th who are still with us, and those that have gone before. They are always foremost in my mind when I think of the freedom, and great blessings this country has provided to my family. I have such wonderful memories of attending reunions with my father and brother Lory and becoming a part of the 517th family. Bob Barrett you are a Saint for keeping the legacy alive through MailCall. I know it is not easy. No doubt you are an adopted 517th trooper.

If anyone is interested in a copy of my brother **Lory Curtis’** book “Letters Home” get a hold of me at tsea333@gmail.com. I would be happy to send you a copy for shipping charges only. For those who do not know, my brother wrote this book based on the letters my father send home. The movie “Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed” is based upon the book. As my friend **Paul Abbene** would say, I will be lifting a glass this Veteran’s Day in the memory of the 517th, and my brother **Dr. Lory Vaughn Curtis**.

Tim Curtis son of **Harland “Bud” Curtis** and brother of Lory Vaughn Curtis

Wishing all the best to the Veterans and Families of the 517th PRCT on this Veteran’s Day 2019. Appreciate your Freedoms. Thank you.

Paul Abbene



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MailCall News

Subject: Veteran's Day

Hi Bob,

Hope you are well. I have attached a Veteran's Day message. Also, I have not been getting MailCall. Could you try and add tsea333@q.com back to the list. Thanks for all you do.

Tim Curtis

Hi Tim. Good to hear from you. The logs say that you were unsubscribed about a year ago. I cannot re-subscribe you myself, without a confirmation from you. You should have just received a re-confirmation note.

Bob Barrett

From [Loïc Jankowiak](#)'s Facebook page.

It made my month! Thank you Karen !! [**Karen Frice Wallace**]



T/5 Gene "Zoot" Snyder (A Co.) in France

French Maritime Alps, 1944, Zoot Snyder on his way to Nice holding a Guinea Pig. Note the "Nice-l'Escarene" traffic sign in the background. Shortly after the picture was taken, Zoot gave the Guinea Pig to a local civilian.



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On the 517prct.org Guestbook:

Submitted by

Comments:

Name: **Gerald W Allen**
From:
jallen091941@gmail.com
E-mail:
jallen091941@gmail.com

My uncle **Alton Allen** was KIA on 4 Nov 1944, 75 years ago today. As a child he was my idol and my boyhood dream was to follow in his footsteps as a Paratrooper. I lived my dream and joined the Army two weeks after I turned 17 and earned my Jump Wings in May 1959 at Ft Campbell Ky. I stayed in the Army from 10/28/58 - 6/30/80 Pvt E1 to Major. I served three tours in Vietnam and was awarded Two DFC's and Five BS's. I retired as a Master Parachutist, Ranger, Aviator and proud awardee of the Combat Infantry Badge. May your soul rest in peace Uncle Shorty. Airborne All The Way!

Added: November 4, 2019

IRON MIKE STATUE



Iron Mike on the Currahee Rock

The Iron Mike Statue that stands in front of the Airborne & Special Operations Museum stands at 16'4" tall and weighs 3,235 pounds, and is meant to represent a paratrooper that has just jumped into battle in WWII. This version of Iron Mike is dedicated to all paratroopers: past, present, and future. He was sculpted by Leah Hiebert, appointed by LTG Sink, in 1960 and 1961, using SGM James Runyon as a model for the WWII-era Paratrooper. LTG Sink decided on the pose, uniform and gear that Iron Mike would wear, wanting him to resemble the artwork from the cover of Ross Carter's book, "Devils in Baggy Pants". He is made from polyester strips dipped in epoxy that have been stretched over a steel frame. Originally installed at the southern entrance of Fort Bragg at the Knox Gate, he was later replaced with a bronze replica that now stands in the traffic circle in front of the Post Headquarters since 1979. On 14 June 2010, the original was refurbished and placed in front of the Airborne & Special Operations Museum.

Begun in 2014, The "Mike to Mike" Half Marathon and All American Marathon take place in Fayetteville/Ft. Bragg, starting near the original Iron Mike Statue in front of the Airborne & Special Operations Museum in Historic Downtown Fayetteville, finishing near the replica Iron Mike Statue on Fort Bragg.



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CURRAHEE ROCKS



Currahee Rocks Plaque at the base of the Iron Mike Statue.

The rocks at the base of the Iron Mike Statue have great significance. They were brought in from the famed Currahee Mountain, where the first paratroopers of the 101st and 11th Airborne were trained at Camp Toccoa. Here, over 17,000 soldiers reported, trained, and successfully became paratroopers during WWII. Numerous highly-decorated units trained at Toccoa, one of which was featured in Steven Spielberg's *Band of Brothers*. Paratroopers would run "3 miles up, 3 miles down" this mountain for training. Today, "Currahee" is the motto of the 506th Infantry Regiment.

The inscription on the rocks says:

The rock base beneath Iron Mike has its own story. In July 1942 over 5,000 men arrived at Camp Toccoa for training as a new type of soldier, a Paratrooper. Over the next few years over 17,000 soldiers of the 501st, 506th, 511th, and the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiments trained at Camp Toccoa. These boulders were acquired with the assistance of the landowner, the US Army and the city of Fayetteville from the storied Currahee Mountain in Toccoa, Georgia. Today "Currahee" is the motto of the 506th PIR.

These boulders were acquired with the assistance of the landowner, the US Army and the city of Fayetteville from the storied Currahee Mountain in Toccoa, Georgia. Today "Currahee" is the motto of the 506th PIR.

"Currahee is a Native American word that means "Stand Alone".

Paratroopers "Stand Alone" as they drop



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Pearl Harbor Memorial – Scranton, PA



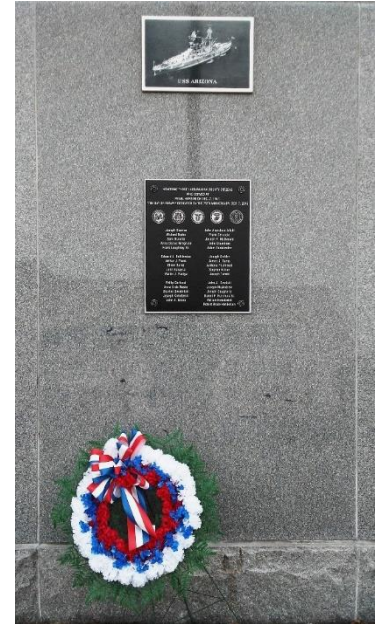
Erected 2016 by 9/11 Memorial Committee of Lackawanna County.

Location. 41° 24.488' N, 75° 39.752' W. Marker is in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in Lackawanna County. Marker is on Washington Avenue south of Pearl Harbor Memorial image. Click for full size.

By William Fischer, Jr., December 11, 2016

2. Pearl Harbor Memorial
USS Arizona above Honor Roll

Linden Street, on the left when traveling south. Memorial is on the grounds of the Lackawanna County Courthouse. Touch for map. Marker is at or near this postal address: 200 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503



In case you missed it, the name on the top right is **John Aloysius Alicki** - Our friend, Lieutenant "Boom Boom" Alicki of Regimental HQ, Demo Platoon.

This plaque was dedicated on the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack in 2016.

Boom Boom died in 2008.



http://517prct.org/bios/john_alicki_files/john_alicki.htm



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Here is a listing on eBay. It includes a card and some letters home from **Pvt. Donald A. Pargeon** of the Service Company, including one sent from Belgium in January 1944. His name is on the 1944 Christmas roster. The letters give some details about fighting in Southern France for 94 days, and being in the Battle of the Bulge in February 1945. He was first a rigger, then a paratrooper.





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January 14, 1945
Belgium

Dearest Mother & all:

Just a few lines today to let you know I am feeling fine. I haven't heard from you for almost a week now, am wondering how you are and what about the operation. Let me know the outcome as soon as possible. How is Dad's finger O.K. I hope.

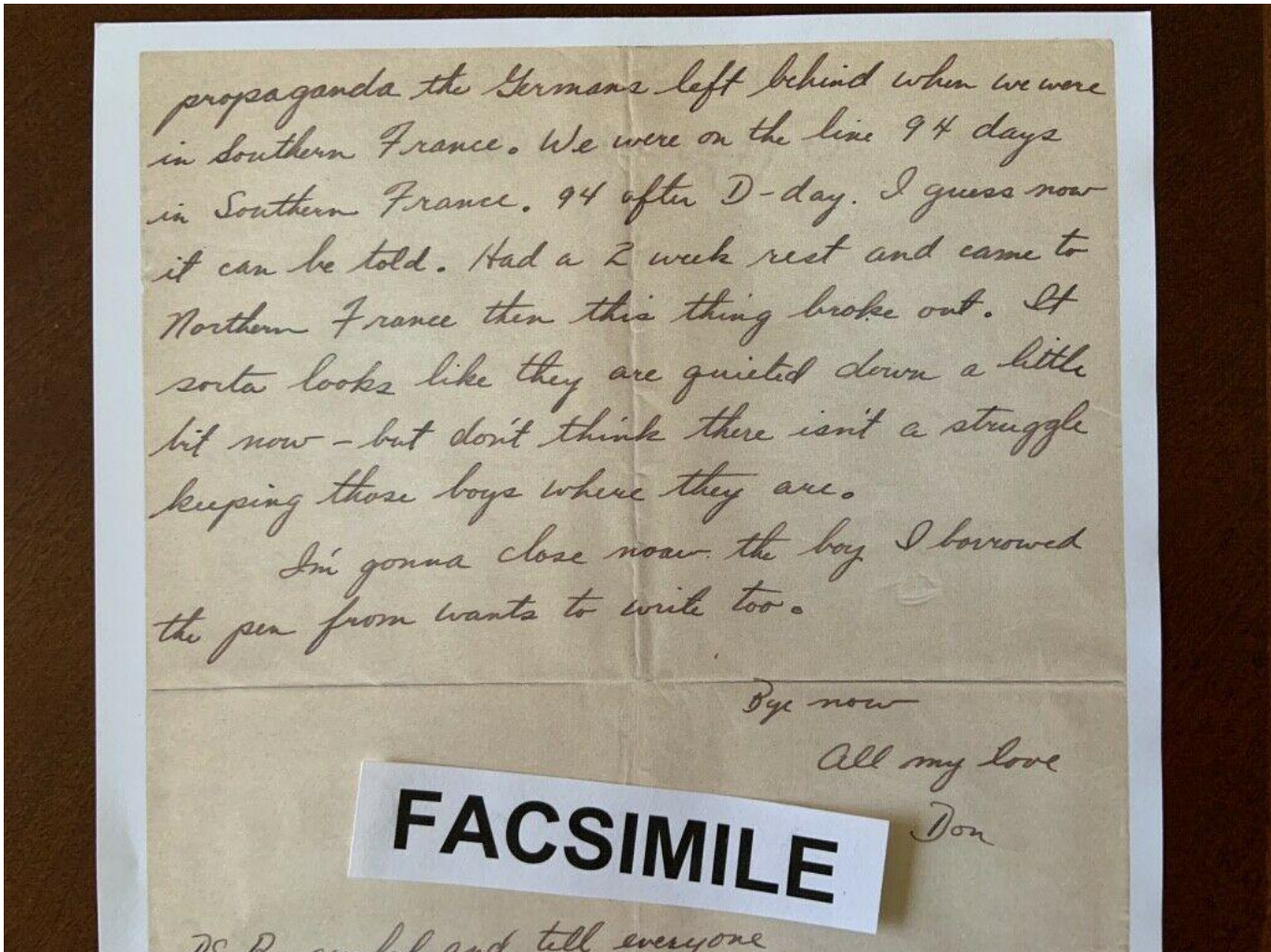
I've seen quite a bit Belgium - but don't know north from south as they move us around so much. Roosevelt seems to think 45 should be V-year. I sure hope so. I should think the German soldier should be getting discouraged. As you probably know they promised them Aachen for Christmas, and Paris for New Years. What can they hope for now. At any rate I hope this thing is finished by June or summer. They sure can't fight in good weather cause good weather means good hunting for our air Corps.

Am sending a 100 Franc note which I thought a very nice souvenir. Also sending a leaflet

FACSIMILE



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Recently sold on eBay:

US Army 517th PIR Airborne Jump Wings Badge Phillips Publications 881Q

I've never seen one of these before. I'm sure it's not WWII-era, but it's still a nice souvenir.

Unfortunately, I missed this. It was sold before I got to it.

It sold for only \$2.99.





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One more listing on eBay. Here is a group photo of F Company. I don't think I have seen this photo before. Does anyone recognize the location or any of the people in the photo? They are all wearing the "AA" shoulder patch of the 82nd Airborne. I know that during the Bulge and in Germany, parts of the 517th were attached to the 82 Airborne at times, but it was never officially part of the 82nd. So I don't think this is the 517th F Company, but it might be someone from F Company who later was with the 82nd in Germany. Opinions? -- BB



Some months ago we sold yard long photos of various elements of the 517th. These came from the estate of a highly decorated member of Company F who in later years had worked to identify most of the guys. Unfortunately he did not write any names on this one. Back is completely blank.

The original 1945 print is a photograph taken in 1945 and probably on the site of a former German Barracks. It measures 7 X 9.25 inches.

The men wear 82nd Airborne Patches and most have a CIB. The lieutenant has a chest full of ribbons beginning with a DSC. On the left is a pathfinder.

One cannot even imagine the combined experiences of this group of hard fighting veterans.

Original WWII manufacture print and not a copy.

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/Amazing-Group-Shot-Veterans-517th-Parachute-Reg-Combat-Team-1945-1-of-2/312826684730?hash=item48d5ec653a:g:Ts4AAOSwQLFdXayJ>



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Christmas Ornament Pre-Orders – Toccoa History Museum

The ornaments should be arriving in the next week or so. There is a limited number of 200, you can call 706-282-5055 or purchase on the website or you may click the photo to purchase online.

This is the first ornament the Historical Society is offering as a remembrance to the men that trained at Camp Toccoa during WWII.

Pre-orders \$25

<https://www.toccoahistory.com/products/h68gk2dgqr9myim9cm32bck52kb6lk>

Found on Instagram, posted on foxcomapny517prct:



Souvenir of the August 1979 517th reunion in Minneapolis, MN.



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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.

Website	www.517prct.org
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2018 Roster (updated!)	www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
Thunderbolt Archives	www.517prct.org/archives

