



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2427

November 24, 2019

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

Veterans Day 2019



November 11, 2019

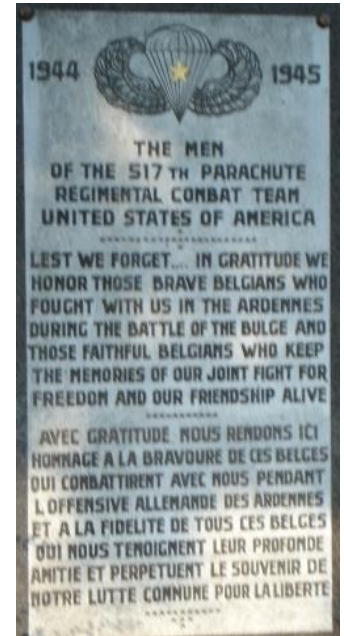
Dear friends of America, we had a special gratitude to the US veterans during this day. After the Holy Mass of Souvenir in Trois-Ponts, flowers and homage at the US monuments.

With Love and respect.

Irma and Arnold TARGNION



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Nov 10, 2019

A most solemn and respectful Veterans' Day salute tomorrow as we remember all who have served in our armed forces and defended our freedoms. Thank you Lord for creating them and for their selfless service.

Thank you for another excellent Mail Call. A special thank you to **Tim Curtis** for recalling his wonderful brother Lory. My Dad thought the world of Lory.

Alan and I just finished listening to the homily of the Chief of Naval Chaplains Rear Admiral Margaret Kibben at today's Veterans Day remembrance at the National Cathedral in DC. It is a most powerful and moving tribute to all who have served in battle. We highly recommend listening to it. It reflects on and captures emotions those of us who have not seen combat can never imagine. It is on YouTube; scroll through the service to the homily.

Pat Seitz



November 10, 2019:

[Veteran's Day Sermon by](#)

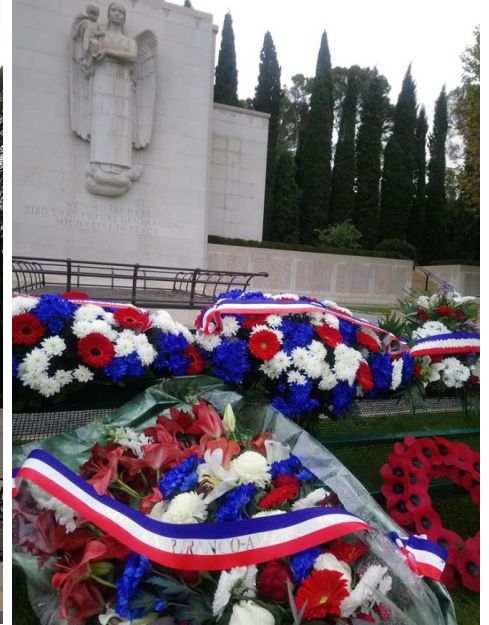
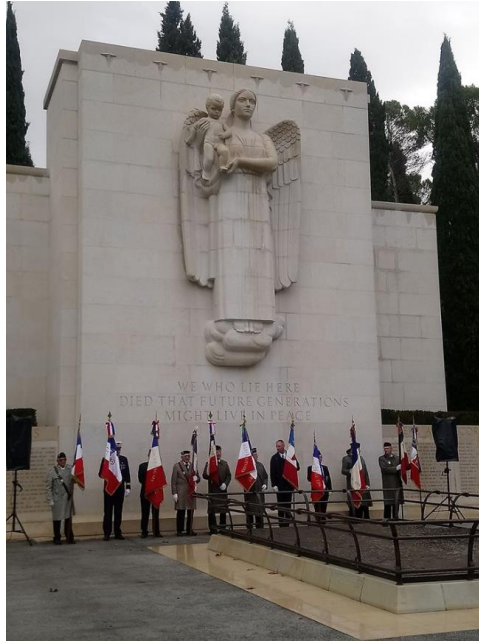
[Rear Adm. Margaret G. Kibben](#)



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The Franco-American Society of Draguignan, France:

Armistice and veterans day ceremony at [Cimetière américain de Draguignan](#). Respect memory and loyalty.





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MailCall News



Gene "Zoot" Snyder 517TH celebrated his 95th birthday on Oct 24. Here are pictures of him & the cake his Granddaughter had made for him. We ate the cake. I truly thank you for MailCall Dad and I open it first thing.

Thank you
John Snyder

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

Got it. Not sure how I ever got off the list, but it's good to be back. Thanks for keeping it going. Our dads would be very pleased.

Tim Curtis



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Thank you, **Major Richard Seitz**

I recently sent a donation to Rich Seitz that will be to support the Camp Toccoa C-47 Project. I would like to thank Rich for getting our family a brick in our father's name. **Michael A. Sura**, Corporal, 3rd Battalion, H Company 3rd Platoon.

Happy Veterans Day to the 517th men and their families.

Dennis Sura

From **Jean Mi Soldi**:

Thanks Sam and his group for that air drone fly on top of Barbonnet 517th fort.

<https://www.facebook.com/570617036338388/videos/776996216083266/>





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From [517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team - Families & Friends](#)



Jeff Van Ness checked in to US Army Airborne School, Fort Benning with Joe Van Ness and 3 others.

November 14 at 9:56 PM · [Fort Benning, GA](#)

I get the honor of pinning my grandfather's WWII Airborne wings on my son for completing Airborne school. My dad pinned them on me when I completed, and I get to continue the legacy. UPDATE: Justice now owns, wears and will be the keeper of the exact wings pictured here in his great-grandfather's Airborne portrait. Airborne All The Way!

Jeff Van Ness

Pvt. Joseph F. Van Ness
B Company, 517 PRCT

KIA August 31, 1944
Buried at Rhone.Cemetery



For more info on Pvt. Van Ness, see <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2405.pdf>



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“Challenge Coin Check” Rules for Veterans & Military



Challenge coins carry great sentimental value and are symbols of pride representing one's service to our country. Each piece is of the highest quality & excellence, symbolic of our U.S. Veterans, active, & reserve military.

1. A **“Coin Check”** consists of a challenge and response. A challenge is initiated by either holding your coin in the air or slamming it on a table or floor and yelling **“Coin Check!”**
2. Individual(s) challenged **must respond** by showing their Coin with their own unit's logo to the challenger **within 10 seconds**.
3. Anyone challenged who **doesn't** show their Coin must **buy a round of drinks for all challenged**, including the challenger.
4. Coin Checks are permitted **anywhere** and **anytime**.
5. If everyone being challenged produces their Coin, the challenger must **buy a round of drinks** for all
6. challenged.
7. If you accidentally drop your Coin and it makes an audible sound on impact, then you **“accidentally” initiated a Coin Check**.
8. **There are no exceptions to the rules**. They apply to clothed or un-clothed. One step and an arm's reach are allowed.
9. **A Coin is a Coin**. They are not belt buckles, key chains or necklaces. Coins worn in a holder around the neck are valid.



From: <https://chatter.vetfriends.com/challenge-coin-check-rules>



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Found on the internet from Sept 25, 2009:

https://www.delcotimes.com/news/world-war-ii-veteran-hailed-by-french-town/article_fee36411-ad59-51fa-893d-30eafee1002a.html

World War II veteran hailed by French town

VICKY THOMAS Sep 25, 2009



WWII vet Joe Bail of Brookhaven w/ his medal he received in France for his participation in D-Day

BROOKHAVEN -- With some historians referring to it as "the forgotten D-Day," the Aug. 15, 1944, allied invasion of southern France in World War II is less known by Americans than the invasion of Normandy.

But the appreciation the citizens of the southern French village of Le Muy have for the contributions Operation Dragoon veterans made to their freedom was made clear to Brookhaven resident **Ignatius "Joe" Bail** last month.

The 84-year-old former U.S. Army paratrooper was honored at a 65th anniversary celebration in Le Muy commemorating the landing in southern France.

Since Operation Dragoon was both chronologically and geographically situated between two larger

operations in Normandy and Italy, the invasion tends to get less recognition.

However, southern French villages celebrate the anniversary of the landing every year.

During August's ceremony, Bail was one of eight U.S. paratroopers awarded the French Legion of Honor, France's highest decoration.

"It was overwhelming," said Bail, a member of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team, 460 Field Artillery, Battery A and a retired Scott Paper Co. employee.

Bail, his wife, Helen, one of their three children, September Walker, and Bail's granddaughter made the trip to France to attend the celebration.

Walker spoke with an organizer months before the event, who said he would apply for the French Legion of Honor for the veterans who could attend. It takes months of paperwork to get approval for the medals, Walker said.

Bail said he did not know he would receive the medal until a uniformed man brought it out on a velvet pillow.

"It was definitely a surprise. I didn't know anything about it," said Bail, a 49-year Brookhaven resident and Chester High School graduate.



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Bail enlisted in the Army at age 17, but his interest in paratroopers began when he attended a presidential celebration as a child.

"There was a pilot and plane flying over and a person jumped out in a parachute and floated down. I thought that was so great. I was only about 10 then, and I really said I'd love to do that," said Bail. "When the war came and I heard about paratroopers, I said, 'I'm going to sign up and join.'"

He trained at jump school and spent weeks training in Italy before landing in southern France near 4:30 a.m. on a foggy Tuesday morning, Aug. 15, 1944.

His outfit landed in Le Muy, about 20 miles away from their planned landing spot, which turned out to be fortunate.

"The field that we were supposed to have landed on was full of piled rocks, stakes about 20 to 30 feet high, the ground was saturated with gasoline, and they had machine gun men waiting for us to jump. But we didn't. We never got there," said Bail.

He said Le Muy was deserted during his landing when he missed a pine tree by a few inches. He had enough time to cut a piece of silk from his parachute for a souvenir.

After the men reunited and pieced together four howitzers, a weapon that floated down in pieces, the unit began marching north. Bail said they had to march everywhere they went.

"The roads in the mountain weren't very good, and they were shaped like a snake," he said.

Bail was wounded Sept. 9, 1944, a few miles north of the French village of L'Escarène.

After the unit pulled in at dawn, dug foxholes and set up their weapons, they heard shells from above.

"We knew the next one was going to be right where we were, so everyone ran to the foxholes. One of the fellas in my outfit jumped in my foxhole. He was hit in the neck. The next shell actually hit our howitzer and destroyed it," said Bail.

"At the same time, it killed my best friend and wounded nine others."

Bail didn't realize he was injured until his lieutenant saw his uniform was ripped.

"He said, it looks to me that you got hit, too. I didn't even know it," said Bail.

At the medic station, he had eight pieces of shrapnel removed from his back. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

When the Bail family visited France for the first time in 2008, they visited the grave of his friend, Robert Brown, who was killed in the attack. Bail and his family praised the warm welcome they received in France last August.

They said the celebration included a parade they rode in, live music, a movie commemorating the invasion and a stunning fireworks display.

"It is amazing how appreciative those people were. They were so genuine," said Helen Bail.



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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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Le Franglish!

You Can't Read This Article Si T'es Pas Bilingue
(English & Français)

Being bilingual est parmi the best pleasures dans le monde entier. Think about it pour un instant. You can utiliser deux different languages en même temps in a such a way that makes ton cerveau wants to exploser from the speed par la quelle it switches from one langue to l'autre but still tu peux do it and ressentir spécial(e) at the same time, et c'est pour ça you are unique. le fact that tu peux lire this article without stopping to think est un talent très few people have. La majorité of people struggle to lire juste in one single language, but what you are doing maintenant est un signe of absolute genius. Reading a très complicated texte in two langues différentes seamlessly makes you un(e) nerd et someone qui trouve joy in languages. Reading cet article must have given your brain a nice little workout.

That's why you should le partager avec vos amis.

De rien in advance and have a très bonne journée.