



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2449

August 16, 2020

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

76 Years Ago – August 14, 1944



14 August 1944

Units in bivouac area at dispersal fields. Preparation continuing for Airborne mission. Ammunition and other supplies issued. Parachutes fitted and placed in Transport Planes. All bundles were packed and loaded on planes. All personnel of RCT oriented on all phases of Airborne mission. At 2300 hrs. moved to Airfields to emplane. (A Company)

SR Watermark Image - Unregistered version - This line is removed when registered.



From: [Dragoon 1944 Virtual Museum](#) on Facebook

Invasion Day, Rare photo prise du sol le matin du 15 Aout 1944, parachutage du 517th PRCT.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Pictures from August 14 Celebrations in France:

La Motte premier village libéré de Provence - La Motte – The first village liberated in 1944

This morning we were with the association Memory de Provence at the Valbourges estate on this site full of history for a small ceremony of remembrance, we dropped a wreath in tribute to veterans. A thought for those who couldn't make it this year.



In this special year

where we have lost some of our fundamental markers we keep a sense of bitterness and frustration in the aftermath of our commemorative ceremonies.

We would have loved to meet you, veterans, family, friends, well wishers, tourists coming to discover our village... but this damn pandemic decided otherwise.

Our ceremonies open to all, without exception, in full compliance with health rules took place without this enthusiasm to which we are so used and attached.

We missed you... but it is with even more pleasure and happiness that we will meet you next year in this spirit of Brotherhood that characterizes you so well. Waiting to find us take good care of yourself.

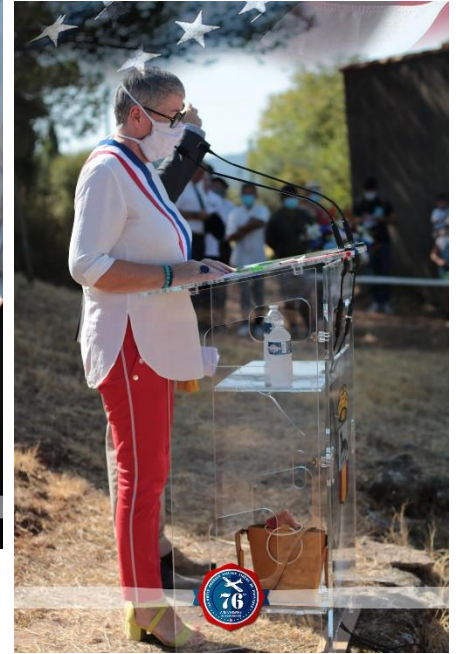
Thierry BERANGER
Defense correspondent
Municipal Advisor delegated to Patriotic Commemorations





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

La Motte:





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Valbourges, France (via Eric Renoux)

Valbourgès 2020! As every year we were present to honor the place on August 16th and have a thought for all those who offered us our Liberty at the risk of their lives 76 years ago... We salute veterans and families who come regularly and could not make the trip this year...

So it's in a small committee... in an unusual atmosphere on this day, at the castle of Valbourgès, that we got together and dropped off a wreath of flowers as a souvenir





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From: www.operation-dragoon.com

76 years later, the first two flags which floated on La Motte at the liberation on August 15, 1944 find their place back for few hours, on the town hall. These two flags were sewn by Mr and Mrs LEYCURAS, military and civilian tailors, and parents of the resistant Maurice LEYCURAS, on the night of August 14 to 15. We wanted to take advantage of this day to pay one more tribute to the Airborne troops, the resistance fighters and the people of La Motte, who participated in the liberation of our beautiful village, the first liberated in Provence. Not having the chance to be invited to the official ceremonies this year, we also owed it to ourselves to pay tribute to our heroes. And because for us legacy and memory does not mean only two days in August, We invite you to come regularly on our website, to learn a little more about the women and men who gave their lives for the liberation of our region. Content is added regularly and throughout the year.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Claire Giblin and **Allan Johnson** (596th) were not able to make the trip to France this year, like the rest of us. But since the last photo of Allan I posted a few months ago, it looks like Allan has recovered well from his surgery.

Here he is toasting to the Anniversary of Operation Dragoon. And he is, of course, having a nice bottle of rose wine from Côte de Provence. (I think that's a 2019 vintage.)





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From **Claire Giblin**: La Motte from 2019, Tribute to the 517th:





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Also from Claire:

Henry Wikins was in my dad's outfit, injured in the jump, later found dead and his body desecrated. Thank you for taking a moment to remember him today.



American Battle Monuments Commission

Help us remember **Henry Wikins** today.

World War II

Service # 33781304

Private, U.S. Army

596th Engineer Company, 517th Parachute Regiment

Entered Service From: Pennsylvania

Date of Death: August 16 1944

Buried: Plot C Row 11 Grave 3

Rhone American Cemetery, France

Award: Purple Heart



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

MailCall News

Subject: Re: ICO the late **Daniel R. Sada**

Mr. Barrett,

Any other information would be appreciated. I have moved from Japan and am in Washington State in the phase of military retirement. Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Leo Davilacorrea

Hi Leo,

Unfortunately, I do not have much about **Daniel R Sada** in my (incomplete) records of the 517th. I do see him listed on the 517th Christmas 1944 roster with A Battery of the 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion.

<http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>

And the brief note in Mailcall 828 from January 2004 mentioning that Dan had died.

<http://517prct.org/mailcall/828.htm>

I see that Dan Sada did include a short bio in the 517 book from Turner Publishing (1998) which I have attached.

If you know his daughter, let us know if she has any ww2 photos or stories.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

DANIEL R. SADA, born July 21, 1924. Volunteered for military service May 13, 1943. Accepted for paratroops at Camp Toccoa, GA and assigned to Btry. A, 460th Prcht. Field Arty. Bn. Basic training at Camp Mackall, NC and completed four weeks jump training at Ft. Benning, GA in July 1943. The 517th PRCT was formed after the Tennessee maneuvers. Removed from the division and sent to Italy in May 1944. Pfc. Sada participated in five battle campaigns in Europe and parachuted into southern France on Aug. 15, 1944.



After the jump immediately started to assemble the artillery gun. Crew assisted in placing, firing, displacing and withdrawing pieces in combat operations. Manipulated gun traverse wheels to change elevation and deflection to place gun on target. Opened and closed breech and loaded gun by hand. Fired piece by pulling hand lanyard. When he was in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium he was in fox hole surrounded with snow. Suddenly he heard voices from the German officer telling Sada's American officer to "let the guns down and surrender, you don't have a chance." Sada's American officer replied to the German "nuts to you." Then they started moving through Berlin Germany. The 517th PRCT were the first ones to occupy the occupation in Berlin Germany. He stayed some months in the occupation in Berlin Germany.

His decorations and citations include the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Campaign Medal w/ 5 Bronze Stars and 1 Bronze Arrowhead, Distinguished Unit Badge, and WWII Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged on Jan. 6, 1946.

In July 1948 he attended California Flying School to get aircraft master mechanic license. He started working with Flying Tigers Line from 1950-80. Leticia, his first wife, and he have four children (two boys and two girls). Unfortunately his wife passed away in October 1987. He and his second wife, Maria Isabel, were married in 1989 and they have one girl. They are all happy together. May God bless you all. Airborne all the way. Sada has been retired since 1980.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

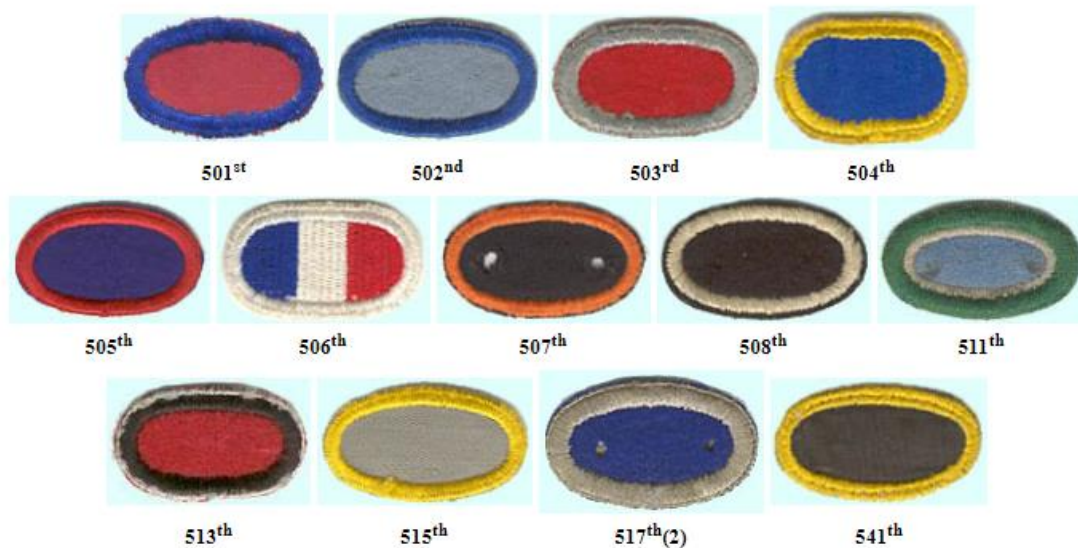
The [Dragoon 1944 Virtual Museum](http://www.dragoon1944.com) which provided the August 14 image of parachutes in Southern France on Page 1 also has these photos of an Airborne cap badge and oval wings with 517th colors. These look very much homemade and original. They came from a collection of Roger P Berringer, also including his Infantry School Parachute Jump Qualification from May 1942. Unfortunately, I cannot find any record of Derringer in my own 517th records, which is unusual. I do see his NARA enlistment record from Jan 9, 1942. He enlisted in Ohio.



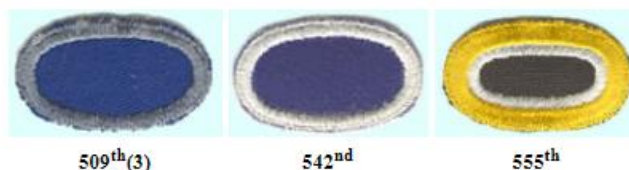
... Nevermind. I did find photos of T/4 Roger "Bud" Derringer in Michel De Trey's book, First Airborne Task Force. Derringer was with the 509th. The 509th oval is almost the same colors as the 517th, but the outside border is a gray color and the 517th is more of a silver color. See below.

From: <http://www.angelfire.com/md2/patches/other/airborne2.html>

Parachute Infantry Regiments



Parachute Infantry Battalions





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Recently on the Facebook page for [517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team - Families & Friends](#), there was a link to a video of **Gene Frice** - a clip from "A Cut Above" movie.

In the comments for that post, I noticed a comment from **David A. Davis**, on which **Jean Michel Soldi** posted a picture. I don't know what year this was, but it had to be at one of the August 14 commemorations in Le Muy, back in the 90's when Jean Michel and **Eric Renoux** organized the events and had the museum in Le Muy. (I attended in 2009 with my Dad and many other 517 troopers.)



This picture is David Davis' uncle, **Bill Lewis**, one of the great leaders of the 517th Association for many years. Bill was the primary author of the quarterly *Thunderbolt* newsletter in the 90's.

L-R: **Merle McMorrow** (460th/C), **Bill Lewis** (HQ/2), and **Jean Michel Soldi**



The Thunderbolt

1999 – 2nd Quarter – 1999

Published by the 517 Parachute Regiment Combat Team Assn., 178 Maple Ridge Lane, Seymour, TN 37865

Editor: Bill Lewis
 Telephone 423-428-4344 E Mail -Para517@aol.com FAX 423-429-5844

From The Past

President's Desk

J. K. Horne



The 517 P.R.C.T. has had many very capable leaders during its many years' existence. They have set a very high standard for all the rest to follow ... that is from all other associations as well as the 517th.

It has been my privilege and my honor to serve, as your president these past two years and my greatest wish is that I have met the standard set by others in the past.

It has been an education and a joy for me to serve as your president and I know that good and great things are yet to come.

1-1701-223-5014

From The

President's Desk

Merle McMorrow



(Merle McMorrow's acceptance speech at the Change of Command Ceremony in Columbus, GA.)
 A little more than 56 years ago hundreds of young, frightened, boys were heading for a small town in Georgia that most had never heard of before. The town was called Toccoa. They came from all walks of life. Many had never been more than 100 miles from their birthplace. They stepped off that train at a little station by the side of the tracks. They were tired, hungry, and scared because they didn't know what to expect.

http://www.517prct.org/thunderbolt/1999%20Q2/thunderbolt_1999_2nd_quarter_compressed.pdf



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Also on the [517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team - Families & Friends](#), I saw this picture from **Lucy Duran Valenzuela**

“My father **Elbert Duran**”

(A Company)



Dear webmaster, Bob Barrett (?),

Thank you for the plug in [MailCall 2447](#) 😊 Be aware that this was not automated, but as the chairman of TracesOfWar I have to keep a keen eye on both the usage of my own material (as content creator / photographer) and the materials of the volunteers within our foundation. Unfortunately with as big of a website as we have, we have to deal with this on a daily basis, so our emails regarding this have been somewhat standardised, that is true. And of course this also means we regularly search (by hand) the web to see what happens with and without permission. We are always willing to share, but please be so kind to respect copyright, especially of pictures, and just drop us a message and we will approve.

Likewise someone should have done so on TracesOfWar behalf if they took any information from your website. It seems to be citations, not pictures, which is slightly different, but I grant you the irony. Let's keep in contact if you like to use anything in the future and vice versa, I think we share the same cause!

Met vriendelijke groet / Kind regards,

Lennard Bolijn
Team TracesOfWar



[TracesOfWar.com](#) is a part of STIWOT.

Read more about our organisation at <http://www.stiwot.nl/about.asp>



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From: Jeanne Davis
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 11:53 PM
Subject: 517th Mail Call Picture

Hello Bob.

I do believe your pic on 517th Mail Call is my father **John R Subra**.

The comparison is uncanning.

Hi Jeanne,

You've raised a couple of interesting questions. First, I assume that you're no relation to the other **Jeanne Davis**, the widow of **Lt. Gary Davis**, F Company.

Second, I don't have much info on John Subra yet. I do see him on the December 1944 roster with A Company.

http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_company_a1.jpg

There is one guestbook entry in 2007 from **Jeffrey Subra**, who must be your brother. He hinted at having some WWII letters from your father. I'd love to see them or any other stories or photos from your dad.

One other thing: it looks like you just signed up for MailCalls. Good thing I got your email, as it appears that you had a typo in your gmail address. So I fixed it. Welcome to the 517th family. But don't set your MailCall expectations too high. It's just news and stories and a little history from the group. I don't actually write much. I just pass on what I hear from others and answer questions if I can find answers.

Tell me what you know about your father's service years if you have more info.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

Hello Bob,

Thank you for your quick response and welcoming me to the 517th Family. It's wonderful to make contact with you.

You are correct. I'm John R Subra's daughter and no relation to Lt. Gary Davis of F Comp. Also, my brother is Jeffrey Subra who contacted you in the past. I have copied him.

We do have his letters that he wrote during WWII and some WWII photos. I will be happy to share those. Also, we have an Acceptance Letter written by **Col L.A. Walsh, Jr**, sent to John's mother Bessie Subra on 19 Aug 43 notifying her of John being selected to the 517th.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

John registered on 30 Dec 1942 while in his Senior Year of High School. His induction date was 30 Mar 1943, Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He received his Central High School Diploma, St. Paul, Minnesota, after the War on 28 Jan 1948. Honorable discharge. Date of Separation 26 Nov 1945.

John fought in Rome-Arno, Southern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, European Theater Operation. Records & Citations: American Theater Ribbon, European-African-Middle, Eastern Theater Ribbon, Wounded in the European Theater Operation. Purple Heart GO 6 HQ 106 and Bronze Star Medal. He was also in Africa.

I'm not quite sure where to start with pictures. Please note gmail will only send 3-4 pictures at a time but I will happily send more. Unfortunately, I do not have a copy of the email that I sent you the other day. So if there is a duplicate, I apologize.



The first photo below is of **Cpl Albert A. Delgado** and my Father. Albert was a very good friend of my Father. Albert's death on 16 Jan 1945 in Belgium was very hard on my Father.

My father was WIA at Trois-Ponts, Belgium on 4 Jan 1945. He was hit in the leg with a M88 and blown into the next room. Every now and then throughout his life, shrapnel would emerge from his skin. His leg pained him the rest of his life and he walked with a slight limp.

My Father was not at Albert's side when he was KIA and this affected him. However, typical of the WWII vets back in the 50's and 60's, he did not really talk about his war experiences. The War was very hard on my Father's health. My Father passed on 1 Oct 1968 and is buried at Fort Snelling in Minnesota. He married my mother in 1946 and they raised 5 children together.

In his letters that he sent home during the War, there are some where he specifically addresses the War directly. I will locate these for you.

My Brother Jeff gave me the website <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2216> where Albert's niece, Melissa Delgado Stutenroth, has two postings. My Brother did locate email addresses for her so I'm planning on making contact with her. I'm sure she would like the photo attached below and another photo of Albert, my Father, with two friends in France. I believe that was the location it was taken.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

The next picture is of my Father's grave marker in Fort Snelling, MN. The Gravemarker has recorded BSM-PH. I noticed on the 517th Org website that my father is not listed as receiving a Bronze Star. I do recall seeing this medal. I believe my Brother has it. Do you know how his name could be added?



The 3rd picture is of my father in 1944. This photo and one other is what used to compare to the Mail Call photo that I believe is of my father. However, even before comparing the pics, I recognized my Father.

Also the A Company at Toccoa pic by **Jack Smothers**, My father is number 58 (4th picture attached). Unfortunately, his name is not recorded on the picture and I'm not sure who to contact to have him recorded. Could you help me with this?

Also, thank you for sending me a copy of the Dec 1944 A Company Roster. It's very nice to have.

I'm looking forward to your response. Also, please let me know that the 4 photos attached did reach you.

In the meantime, I will pick out photos and letters that I believe will interest you. I have a number of pics already in mind to send to you.

Sincerely,

Jeanne (Subra) Davis
Maplewood, MN 55109



Hi Jeannie,

Wow. Great info. I'll have to digest all that and send you a long email back.

First, I forgot to ask. Your original note said that you thought it was your father in one of the mailcall photos. But which photo? Which MailCall?

The letter from Col. Walsh means that he joined in Camp Toccoa, GA with the original unit of the 517th. Looks like he stayed into 1945. He was wounded by the M88, but somehow stayed with the unit? Probably not, as you say he was not there when Delgado was killed.

BTW, my dad was wounded by an M88 just outside of Trois Ponts also on Jan 4th. I've never quite figured that out, since he was with F Company, and most of the Jan 4-5 battles there were **Bill Boyle's** first battalion.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I did not see any mention of Subra in the Morning reports that I have, but I think I am missing A company. I have to check.

I'll get your photos and stories into the next MailCall.

Thanks.

Bob Barrett

Hello Bob,

Good to hear from you. Thank you for asking for clarification. I will do my best to clarify.

The Mail Call pic you asked about is the: "Mail Call 517th Company A." From Home Page under 'Contents' click on "517th Mail Call" and the pic is right there, right under "Subscribe to our Mailing List."

I have attached below the full pic (1st attached below) entitled: "Mail Call pictured John R Subra 517th Company A". In addition, in pic 2 attached below, I have drawn a red arrow to my Father in the "Mail Call 517th Comp A - John R Subra depicted".

My Father was in Company A and I understand (from my sister) that Company A was the only Unit that stayed together from Training Camp Toccoa until the end of the war. Delgado was also in Company A and at Camp Toccoa.

Your email stated: "BTW, my dad was wounded by an M88 just outside of Trois Ponts also on Jan 4th. I've never quite figured that out, since he was with H Company, and most of the Jan 4-5 battles there were Bill Boyle's first battalion."

There must have been some confusion with Lt. Gary Davis of F Company. I have **no** relation to Lt. Davis. Or maybe I'm not understanding what you are referring to.

My Father was wounded on 4 Jan 1945 in Tois Pont. He then was sent to a 1st Aid Station, possibly in Manhay, then he was sent back to England until he recovered. Since he did not have enough points at that time to go home, he was then sent to Germany as part of the "Occupation Force rejoining his unit the 517th which then at that time became part of the 82nd Airborne. This info is from my brother Jeff.

I will get other photo's and letters together this week. However, I have included below an additional pic. Left to right: Unknown, John Subra, Albert Delgado, unknown (my mother said was taken in France). Maybe you might recognize the two unknown friends in the pic 3 below that is entitled "unk, Subra, Delgado, unk 1944 France".

Again, looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jeanne (Subra) Davis



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi Jeanne,

No confusion with you and the other Jeanie Davis. I have that clear now.

Note: I had a typo in my email to you, as my Dad was in H Company and wounded in Trois Ponts. Bill Boyle's 1st Battalion, including John Subra's A Company was also in heavy fighting in Trois Ponts in early January 1945.

Sorry to disappoint you but that Mail Call photo (below) which you think you might see John Subra is not the 517th. It is a standard picture from some Army site that I borrowed, and I don't know the unit. It also looks too clean and organized for the 517th during the war, although it also look like it was probably at a state-side training facility, not in a combat zone.

I have visited Manhay and Trois Ponts with my Dad. But after he was wounded (technically in Bergeval) with many of his comrade, he was evacuated and sent to a hospital in England for 6 months. He never returned to the 517th during the war.

Bob Barrett





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 1:29 PM
To: webmaster@517prct.org
Subject: 517th PRCT Company F Inquiry

I appreciate your efforts to maintain this very comprehensive site devoted to the 517th. I know that I may be disappointed in achieving any real connection due to the passage of time but I must try.

Any information regarding **Anthony J. Kovac** who served with the 517th - Company F would be welcome.

Everything I know about this unit comes from books since dad did not talk about the war. Nor did he seek out the opportunity to attend unit reunions. His reasoning was that those he would most like to see never made it home.

So again - I am attempting to make a connection with anyone from that unit.

Thank you –

Paul Kovac

Hi Paul,

We know that PFC Anthony J. Kovac was with the 517th in December 1944, as he is listed on the Christmas 1944 roster:

<http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>

I also have copies of several morning reports which show him as MIA on August 19, 1944 and returned after being listed as LWA (Lightly Wounded in Action), assigned to the 7th Army (hospital?), and returned to duty on November 11.

It looks like another battle casualty on Jan 5 1945 near Bergeval Belgium. (attached)

Hope this helps a little. I will keep looking. And I am posting your request in the MailCall newsletter.

Bob Barrett
MailCall@517prct.org



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 5:48 PM
Subject: **PFC Corbin V. Zickefoose**

Mr. Barrett,

If you have contact information for Mr. Zickefoose or his son or wife, could you please put me in contact with them?

He served in 1BN and I'd like to find out if he remembers **Gordon Lippman** from their days with the 517th.

Thanks. Much appreciated.

Rob Lofthouse

Hi Rob,

The only info I have is for his son, Larry, but this is from many years ago.
[address sent]

Good luck,

Bob Barrett

Subject: 517 contacts

Hi Bob,

Please help me out here.

I see several references to troopers who served alongside Gordon Lippman in HQ/1.

Would you put me in contact with these people or tell me how I can contact them?

- Ed Henzl
- T. Cotton Nelson
- Lory Curtis
- Corbin Zickefoose

They are either vets or relatives of the vet.

Thanks Bob, this will be extremely helpful, and let me know if you have questions.

Rob



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi Rob,

I just sent you possible contact info for Larry Zickefoose, Corbin Zickefoose's son.

T Cotton Nelson, son of Gerald Nelson might be at:
[address sent]

Ed Henzl was at:
[address sent]

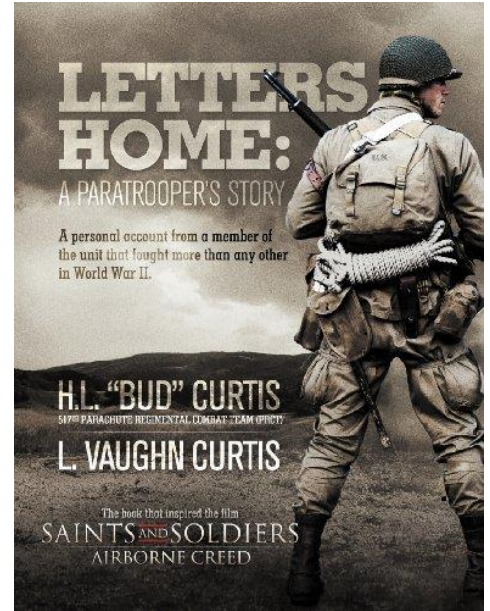
My good friend, **Lory Curtis**, son of **Harlan Curtis**, died a few years ago. BTW, Lory's book, which recounts his father's war time letters, is a great history of the events of A Company from a trooper's view. Unfortunately, I do not see a specific mention of Gordon Lippman in the book.

Hope this helps. Keep me posted.

Bob Barrett

PS: Lory's book, *Letters Home – A Paratrooper's Story*, is available on Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/Letters-Home-Saints-Soldiers-Airborne/dp/1427650306/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=l.+vaughn+curtis&qid=1597627881&sr=8-4



Thanks Bob.

Appreciate the feedback. Memories fade and people pass on. I just wish I had started this journey 40+ years ago. I'll see if these guys can help out.

All the Best.

~ Rob Lofthouse



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.

Website	www.517prct.org
Send MailCall news to	MailCall@517prct.org
MailCall Archives	www.517prct.org/archives
2018 Roster (updated!)	www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
Thunderbolt Archives	www.517prct.org/archives

On the morning of August 15, a small group of paratroopers under the command of **Major William Boyle** entered north of the town of Les Arcs. They were dropped by mistake in the morning several kilometers northwest of the city. The aim of his battalion is to take the heights south of the city. Arriving at the train station, his battalion is facing an enemy force estimated to one battalion. He will resist valiantly all day before being relayed by **Lt. Col. Dick Seitz'** 2/517th PIR



At the end of the afternoon of August 16, the 3/517 arrived from the area of Fayence will launch a counter-attack which will put an end to the resistance south of Les Arcs.

The 517th's Gang is available at: <https://1stabtf.com/en/boutique/the-517ths-gang-us-eng-version/>