



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

eLee HUE



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2470

May 31, 2021

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

Memorial Day 2021



MEMORIAL DAY 2021
HENRI-CHAPELLE
U.S. CEMETERY
MAY 29, 2021



Photos from Henri-Chapelle from Eddy Lamberty



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Lincoln W. Ackerman (HQ/1) KIA January 16, 1945 at Grand-Halleux while the 517th PRCT had installed the first bridgehead on the east bank of the Salm



**Here rests in honored glory
a Comrade in Arms
known but to God.**



From [The Franco-American Society of Draguignan, France](#)

Memory and respect on this Memorial Day in Draguignan.
At the American cemetery, members of the Franco American Remembrance paid tribute to the fallen soldiers for freedom.





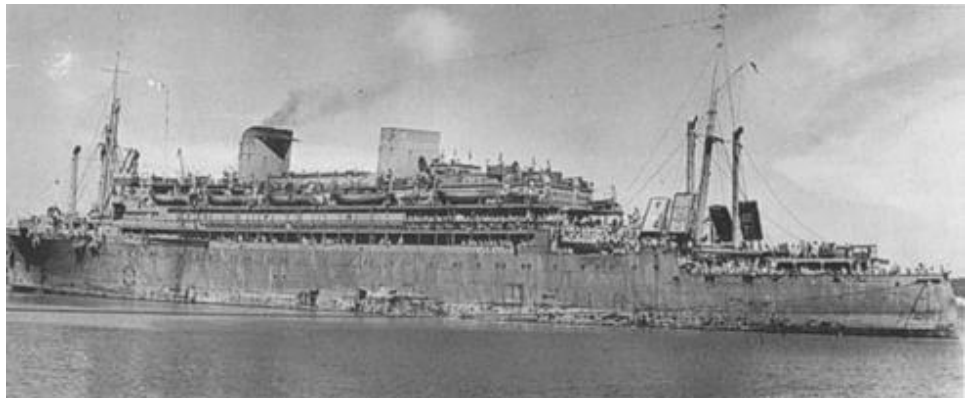
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[More than 37,000 flags are on display on the Boston Common.](#) Each flag honors a Massachusetts resident killed in battle since the Revolutionary War. It's an annual tradition that returns in full this year after being significantly scaled back in 2020 because of the pandemic.

A note from **Loïc Jankowiak**:

Today, the 31st of May 1944, the ships Santa Rosa, carrying the 517th PIR, & Cristobal, carrying the 460th PFAB & 596th AEC, arrived at Naples, Italy.



Santa Rosa in wartime gray livery.

Greetings 517th PRCT, remembrance and gratitude on this Memorial Day 2021.
Be well all.

- **Paul Abbene**



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Monday May 5th:

Dear friends of America. We had a special though on this day of Memory as we paid homage at the US monuments. On Sunday, a Holy Mass was celebrated in Trois-Ponts (outside to welcome more persons) to pray for the soldiers who gave their life for our Liberty. I'll send some pictures.

Can you note that our address is : arnold.targnion41@gmail.com (address with belgacom.net is delete.

Our Love and gratitude to all of you and your families. Have a nice summer.

Irma and Arnold Targnion and members of CADUSA – Trois_Ponts, Belgium





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MailCall News

Subject: HELLO BOB: Happy Memorial Day Weekend

Happy Memorial Day weekend. Where in the hell have you been? I hope your health is fine.

Please contact me ASAP and let me know that you're alive.

Sincerely,

Glenn Mastellari Tucker - Son of **Kenneth Baker Tucker** (Company F - 517th prct)

Hey Glenn,

Yes, I'm still alive. Computer problems, website issues, mailbox full, and buried at work. I have to say that this is the longest break I've had on the website and MailCall in some time – Almost 2 months without a MailCall. But I am recovering and trying to catch up and get things fixed this weekend. I really need to get out a MailCall for Memorial Day.

Thanks for checking on me. Back to normal soon.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

God bless you. Thanks for the update. I was worried about you.

Have a great Memorial Day. I just attended mass and after mass we all went out to the flagpole and a Veteran bugler played "Taps"....it always gets to me. 😞

Take care,

Glenn

Catching up on old emails: From April 7th:

Hello Bob, just a short note to Thank you for another great edition of the 517 PRCT MailCall.

My Best Regards to you, and yours. -- **J.R. "Ray" Estrella**, (Son-In-Law of A Co Trooper - **Bert Duran**)



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Date: April 4th:

Words can't express how much it meant to me to be able to watch the video of my amazing father, **Dick Seitz**, recount the history of the 517th at the 2005 reunion. My heart soared and my emotions were off the charts. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and many blessings to you for putting it in MailCall and to Marvin Reemeyer for sharing it.

Pat Seitz

There are a few of my favorite things on the website – **Irma Targnion's** recollections as a young child in the Belgium during WW2, VP Dick Cheney's surprise attendance and speech at the 2007 reunion in DC, and of course, **Dick Seitz's** keynote speech at the Savannah reunion. I keep these 3 items right up front on the main page of the website, so they are easy to find. - Bob Barrett

https://www.517prct.org/table_of_contents.htm ---->

[I just realized that the link to the YouTube videos has been broken on the website! The link was written using a tool call "Flash player" which is no longer supported and was disabled earlier this year. I just went in and corrected the links. Let me know if you have any troubles viewing this.]

Dick Seitz's oral history of the 517th was delivered at the Savannah Reunion in 2005. Dick did this on short notice and without written notes. This was one of the first reunions that I attended with my Dad, and I remember it clearly. Considering how many leadership positions that Dick had in the Army in his 35-year career, from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and several senior positions stateside, it shows you how attached he was to his first major command with the 517th.

From Wikipedia: "As a young captain, the commander of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment **Colonel Louis A. Walsh, Jr.** saw tremendous potential in Seitz and placed him in command of the 2nd Battalion in 1943. His selection for command made him one of the youngest infantry battalion commanders during World War II at three days shy of his 25th birthday". See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_J._Seitz



[Irma Targnion's Story](#)
[Battle of the Bulge](#)



[History of the 517th](#) by
Lt. Gen. Richard Seitz
at the 517th Reunion,
Savannah, GA
August 2005



[VP Dick Cheney](#)
[at the 2007](#)
[reunion](#)
[Washington, DC](#)



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Hi Bob,

Do you have any information on a **Mercer L Clark**? I was talking to a friend of mine and he mentioned his dad was in the 82nd. He also showed me a regimental patch and it was from the 517th. His dad didn't talk much so any info you may have would be great.

Jim Kraus

Hi Jim,

On A quick look I don't see mention of **Mercer Clark** in the rosters or histories that I have. But as you know, my records are very incomplete. I will keep looking in a few more places and let you know if I find anything.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

From: [Currahee Military Museum](#)

When the United States of America was plunged into the nightmare of World War 2, the United States Military, decides to experiment in a new type of warfare, the Parachute. Our very own hometown was chosen as the site for this location. The birth of Camp Toccoa. This news was posted as headlines across the Nation. This one is from Trenton, New Jersey, the archives of the Trenton-Times Advertiser, August 13, 1942.

This post made possible thru the courtesy of the Stephens County Historical Society and our very own amazing Currahee Military Museum which has visitors from across the World.





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From www.HonorStates.org :

https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=364576&fbclid=IwAR3EMi_0jjeMfJZZfX0QszqHk6ujf6kxytXCiFK8lnTq2ZH-IKBk238jl-E

Gordon Joseph Lippman was a Vietnam War Era casualty on December 11, 1965. ★ He served with honor in the United States Army. ★ He is remembered by the people of South Dakota ★ May his positive example inspire us, as global citizens. ★ When we work together, we can help one another.



ORIGINS

Gordon Joseph Lippman was born on November 25, 1924. According to our records [South Dakota](#) was his home or enlistment state and [Perkins County](#) included within the archival record. We have [Lemmon](#) listed as the city.

SERVICE

He had enlisted in the United States Army. Entered the service via Regular Military. Served during the Vietnam War. He began his tour on September 16, 1965. Lippman had the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His military occupation or specialty was Infantry Unit Commander. Service number assignment was 60536. Attached to HHC, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

CASUALTY

During his service in the Vietnam War, Army Lieutenant Colonel Lippman experienced a traumatic event which ultimately resulted in loss of life on [December 11, 1965](#). Recorded circumstances attributed to: **Hostile, died of wounds, Gun or small arms fire**. Incident location: **South Vietnam**.

DETAILS

Lt. Col. Gordon Lippman enlisted in the Army on 19 March 1943 at Los Angeles, California. He served with the 517th Parachute Regiment in the ETO. His unit served in Italy, Southern France, the Ardennes-Alsace, and in Germany.

He was wounded in December 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge. He received his battlefield commission shortly thereafter, from sergeant to 1st Lt..

He served in Korea during the Korean War, and was wounded a second time. He received the DSC during this time for his actions at the crossing of the Hant' an River, Korea.

On 16 September 1965, he was assigned to duty in Viet Nam where he served as the executive officer of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division at Lai Khe, RVN.

During the night of 11 December 1965, several Viet Cong snipers infiltrated the perimeter of his



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camp. Lt. Col Lippman tried to personally locate the snipers, and while moving across an open area when he was shot and killed.

REMEMBERED

Gordon Joseph Lippman is buried or memorialized at Arlington National Cemetery. This is a National American Cemetery administered through the Department of the Army.

Gordon is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. Name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 4e, Line 12.

COMMENDATIONS

- ★ World War II Victory Medal
- ★ Distinguished Service Cross
- ★ Silver Star
- ★ Croix de Guerre
- ★ Purple Heart
- ★ Combat Infantryman Badge
- ★ Marksmanship Badge
- ★ Korean Service Medal
- ★ National Defense Service Medal

- ★ Republic of Korea Presidential Citation
- ★ Republic of Korea War Service Medal
- ★ United Nations Service Medal
- ★ Vietnam Campaign Medal
- ★ Vietnam Service Medal
- ★ Army Presidential Unit Citation
- ★ Vietnam Gallantry Cross
- ★ Army Good Conduct Medal

Lt. Gordon J. Lippman was with HQ/1. WE have a bio of him on the website at [Gordon Lippman](#)

Gordon enlisted in the Army in March of 1943 and after basic training was sent to the European Theatre with the "517th Parachute Regiment Combat Team". In WWII, Gordon was wounded in December 1944 in the Battle of the Bulge, for which he was awarded a battlefield commission of 1st Lieutenant. His commission was based on these incidents: "On 21 December 1944, the 1st BN, was attached to the 3rd Armored Division and committed against the German break through Belgium near Soy. The BN was ordered to attack at once and clear the road from Soy to Hotten and also to clear Hotten, half of which was held by MP's and cooks from the 3rd Armored Division and the other half by the enemy. The first attempt to clear the road to Hotten failed. The Battalion Commander then decided that Co. B of the 1st BN would continue the attack to Hotten and he, the BN Commander, would take Co A mounted on tanks and halftracks and try to get into Hotten from a rear route. The machine gun platoon was attached to Co. A for this action and as the platoon leader was absent, Sgt. Lippman commanded the platoon. Co. A managed to get into Hotten and attack toward Soy. Sgt. Lippman and six machine guns were with the attacking platoon. They cleared part of the town. Sgt. Lippman then set his machine guns in the captured buildings and held for the rest of the night."

See the first-hand report of the Soy-Hotten battle, as written by Lt. Gordon Lippmann.

http://www.517prct.org/documents/1944_Lippmann_AAR_Soy_Hotton/Soy_Hotton_AAR.pdf



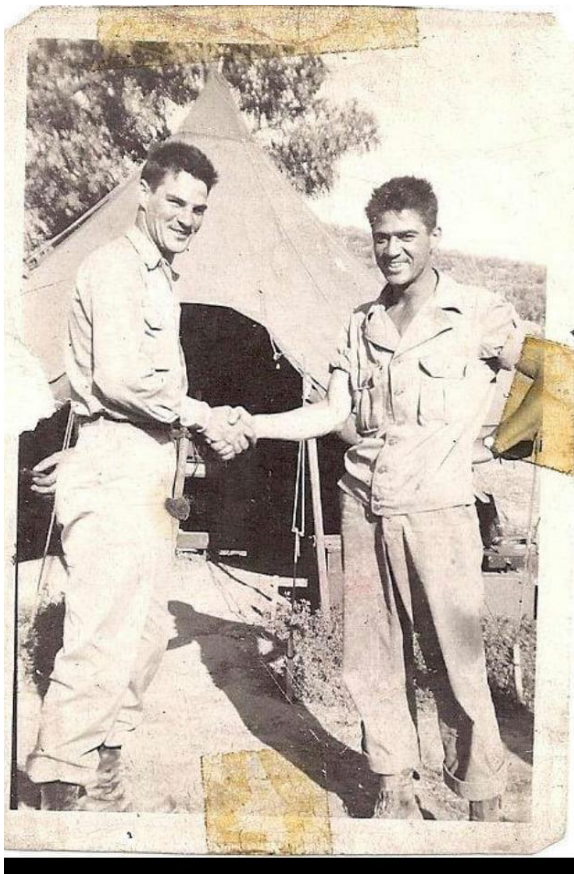
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From [517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team - Families & Friends](#) facebook page



My uncle **Thomas Francis Paturzo** was in Headquarters Co. 3rd Bn. He was wounded Feb 7 and died Feb 10. He was one of 12 kids, my dad being the youngest, he was a NYC kid.

my name is **Mary Paturzo Adair**, pleased to meet you all.



Uncle Tommy with his mom , Jane Monahan Paturzo on the right , his sister in law Dottie Paturzo on left

Chance meeting in Italy , with his older , but shorter brother Tony. What a tender mercy , Tony was just older then Tommy in birth order , and this was the last time they saw each other. A treasured photo in our family for sure .



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Sent: Sunday, May 9, 2021 8:28 PM

Subject: The World War II Photo History of **Ray V. Helms** (517th E-Company)

I'm attaching a Microsoft Word document that includes my dad's WWII photos from the time of his induction into the Army in April 1943 to his discharge in December 1945. I would like for you to please add it to the "Training and WWII Photos" section of the 517th web site.

I've tried to put the photos in rough chronological sequence as much as possible, with some commentary added to provide some of the story with the photos.

I'm still working on a biography that I will get to you someday when I'm able to finish it.

Thanks,
Glenn Helms

Hi Glenn,

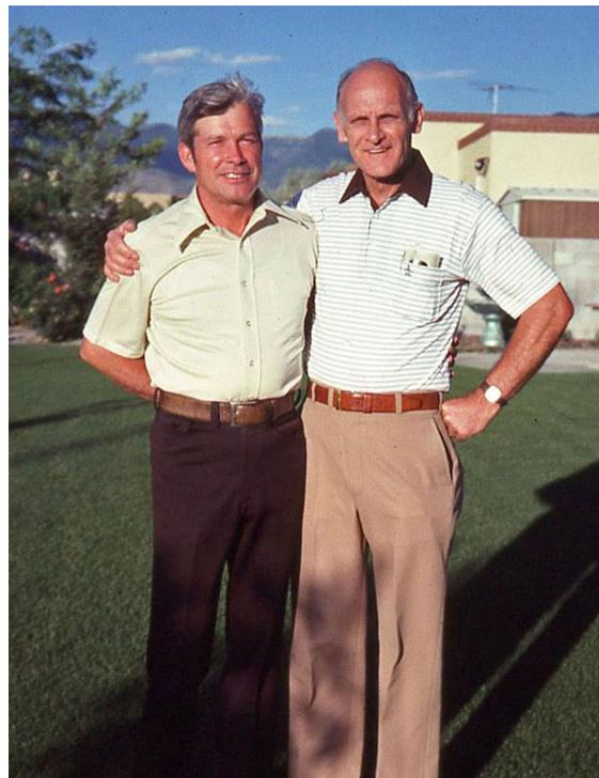
Wow! Great stuff. I'd like to add the whole document (in pdf format) to the "Meet the Troopers" biography section of the website. May I include that now, and I can update it as you make any changes or updates?

Bob Barrett

A couple of sample pictures:



T SGT Ray V. Helms
517th Parachute Infantry Regiment
2nd Battalion – E Company – World War II



Gene Brissey (L) and Ray (R) at Gene and Edie's home in
New Mexico – Summer of 1978



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Camp Mackall, NC – March 1944: Front Row - Roger Bender, Max Kersey, Paul Craig, Lawrence Rydzinski, Peter Racich; Middle Row - John Woody, Eugene Kreyche, John Krumm; Back Row - Stan Zylowski, Adolph Schlapa, John Twiss, Gene Brissey, Charles Lemen

(Note: Ray marked the X's on the photo to indicate those killed during the war)



Mary Patruzio Adair also mentioned that the movie ***Saints and Soldiers, Airborne Creed*** is currently playing on Tubi, a free movie service available via Roku or Comcast.

This 2012 movie was based on actions and some stories of the 517th, particularly **Harland “Bud” Curtis** (Hq/1), from **Lory Curtis’** book, *Letters Home*.

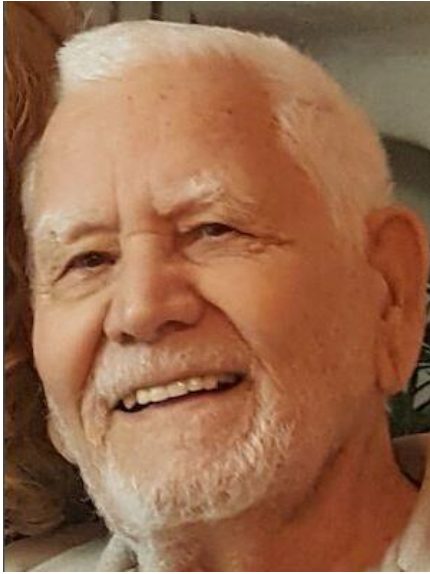
From the 517th Guestbook:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: mark I clark From: Tucson, Arizona Email: mark.clark04@gmail.com	Our father Joseph L. Clark of the 517th, HQ Co. 1st Bn. passed on January 5, 2021. He was 95 years old. Our address is: 6101 N. Panorama PL., Tucson, Az., 85704. Please delete phone # 520-405-8221 and add 480-215-0856. Please let me know if any additional information is needed. Thank you kindly, Mark Clark (son).
	Added: May 7, 2021



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Joseph L Clark, HQ Company, 1st Battalion



Joseph Lambert Clark, 95, passed away at his home in Tucson, Arizona on January 5, 2021. He was born in Mammoth, Arizona to Richard J. and Etirza Verdugo Clark, Sr. Joe was a descendant of the Clark, Barragan and Verdugo Southern Arizona Pioneer families and was raised on a cattle ranch in the San Pedro River Valley. He graduated from Tucson High in 1943 a semester early in order to enlist in the Army to fight in WWII. While in the Army, he became an All-American paratrooper in the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, later consolidating to the 13th Airborne Division in Europe.

Once WWII ended, Joe returned home to the family ranch where he married Doris Quarles, a Baltimore city girl he met while stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland. Joe attended the University of Arizona for two years before going to work in the mining industry. Joe started as a pipe fitter and worked his way to Superintendent. He was consulted for his mining expertise by colleagues around the world. He also taught

technical classes at Central Arizona College. Our father was a devoted family man and was known to help those in need. He was an avid reader and could fix anything put before him, whether mechanical or a broken heart. He did not travel much since his home was his sanctuary. However, he and Doris did travel in retirement to visit family in New Zealand, Norway and Denmark.

Joe is preceded in death by his wife of 72 years, Doris; son John and grandson, Roy Pool; his parents, brothers, Richard Jr. (Nellie), Charlie (Phil) and sisters, Clara, Lilla Burney (Bob) and Cora Hall (Buck). Joe is survived by his children, Norman, Carol, Mark, Nancy Konsmo (Oystein) and daughter-in-law, Phyllis. Also, survived by his grandchildren, Etirza Nuest (David), Linzie Klein (Travis), Zachary Clark (Jocelyn), Ryan Pool, Chelsea Clark and Kristine Konsmo; great-grandchildren, Logan, Aidan, Myranda, Julieann, Brendon, Lily and Madelyn. Joseph has been interred together with Doris at the Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Marana, Arizona. There will be a funeral mass and celebration of life at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the Arizona Historical Society.

I only knew Joe from 517th reunions, but I know he served beside my father in one of the greatest Airborne units of all time. He was a great man, and part of the greatest generation.

Tim Curtis

Bud Curtis and Joe Clark, both of the HQ Company, 1st Battalion.





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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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[How WWII Jeeps Were Crated for Shipping](#)

