



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

eLee HUE



MailCall No. 2472

January 16, 2022

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

Rest in Peace – Maria Gaspar



Arnold and Irma with Maria Gaspar

dear friends of America,

we are so sad to have to inform you that our dear Présidente - **Maria GASPAR** - died yesterday - she was so devoted to welcome american veterans and families. The funeral will take place in St Jacques church on jan. 18 th. If you want to send a word to the family, the address is . Family GASPAR, 7 Bergeval - B 4980 TROIS-PONTS - Belgium.

Maria was our guide, and because of this wonderful Lady, the US airborne Reception Committee is following to remember the sacrifices of those young heroes who fought and died for our freedom.

Sure that God will welcome Maria in His Paradise.-

Our Love to all of you.

Arnold and Irma Targnion - for CADUSA. Trois-Ponts - Belgium



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Ben Barrett and Marie Gaspar at Marie's house in Bergeval - 2009



Claire and Allan Johnson with Marie - 2016



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Battle of Ardennes Ceremonies in Belgium

Battle of Ardennes Ceremonies monuments – Jan 08, 2022

Dear friends of America. We do hope you are OK and that the New Year brings you happiness and a good health. We had a special prayer for all of you on Saturday Jan. 8th in St Jacques Church as Father Dewandre and Father Capé were celebrating the Mass of Souvenir. Flowers, homage, US and Belgian National Anthems at the US monuments with a lot of snow as you can see on the pictures. Especially in Logbiermé. We 'll never forget the sacrifices of those young men who gave their life for our Liberty.

God bless you. God bless America.

Arnold and Irma TARGNION and members of CADUSA _ Trois-Ponts - Belgium



at St. Jacques





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Logbiermé





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MailCall News

Many of you have asked, *What happened to MailCall?* And you are correct -- I have not sent out an official MailCall since... (oh my!) last July. My apologies to the men and families of the 517th, but I took a "brief" hiatus as I had to focus on work, not to mention spend some time with my grandchild (of which I now have 3!)

I have tried to keep up when needed with important inquiries for information and research and family histories, but I have a lot to catch up on. And I will get to all that. I probably won't be quite as regular as I was, every week, but I will send them out periodically as I gather enough news.

And I had to get this current one out when I heard about **Marie Gaspar's** recent passing. She has been so instrumental in CADUSA and all the remembrances of our soldiers forever. Any of our family who traveled to Belgium was always greeted by Marie, Irma, Arnold and the rest of the CADUSA.

Below I have included a few overdue photos of the August events in Southern France, and of new books written by **John Hewitt** (Son of **James McIver Hewitt**, 3rd Bn), and by Robert Lofthouse about **Gordon Lippman**.

Bob Barrett

15-Aug-2021. From **Jean Mi Soldi**:



15th of august 1944. 2021. 517th men. Les Arcs southern France. We remember. 🇺🇸❤️🇫🇷



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Operation Dragoon commemoration events in Southern France:

LES ARCS SUR ARGENS
 De la résistance à la libération,
1942/1944

Du 10 au 15 Août 2021, Salle Hugony
 10h - 12h / 15h30 - 19h

EXPOSITION

www.operation-dragon.com

SAMEDI 14 AOÛT 2021
LA MOTTE SE SOUVIENT... AOÛT 1944

ANNIVERSAIRE DU DÉBARQUEMENT

AU PROGRAMME DE CETTE JOURNÉE COMMÉMORATIVE :

- ★ **11h00 au Hameau du Mitan :** ○○○
 Cérémonie commémorative du débarquement de Provence, suivie d'un vin d'honneur et d'un buffet campagnard. Venez admirer les véhicules historiques et les figurants en habits d'époque.
- ★ **14h45 au village**
 Salle des fêtes Louis Fournaire (salle climatisée)
 Projection du film «Le vent des libérateurs» Productions 44
- ★ **18h00 Mémorial du Mitan :** (Golf, route de Bagnols) ○○○○
 Cérémonie et piquet d'honneur, en présence des autorités civiles et militaires, suivie d'un apéritif sur place, offert par la municipalité.
- ★ **A partir de 21h00 votre soirée au village :**
 Place Clémenceau «Bal Populaire» avec animation musicale **DIRIGÉ**
 Food Truck.

avec les associations :

LA JOURNÉE DÉFILÉ DE VÉHICULES HISTORIQUES*
 Renseignements Mairie : 04 94 50 44 55

Commune de La Motte 83920
 Journée commémorative du Débarquement de Provence, le 14 août 2021

*Merci de ne pas jeter sur la voie publique.



A nice visit this morning... Arcs resistance Jean Bima is happy to recognize himself on the famous photo of the first men of the 517th entering the Arcs on the morning of August 15 Wonderful time this morning with French resistant fighter Jean Bima. He recognized him on the picture of the first 517th men entering in Les Arcs on D day



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Hello Bob. The book will be sent to the printer next week and I hope to have hard copies available in a couple of weeks. Will be happy to send a hard copy is that is of interest to you. Please see attached press release. If you could mention it in your group, I'd greatly appreciate it.

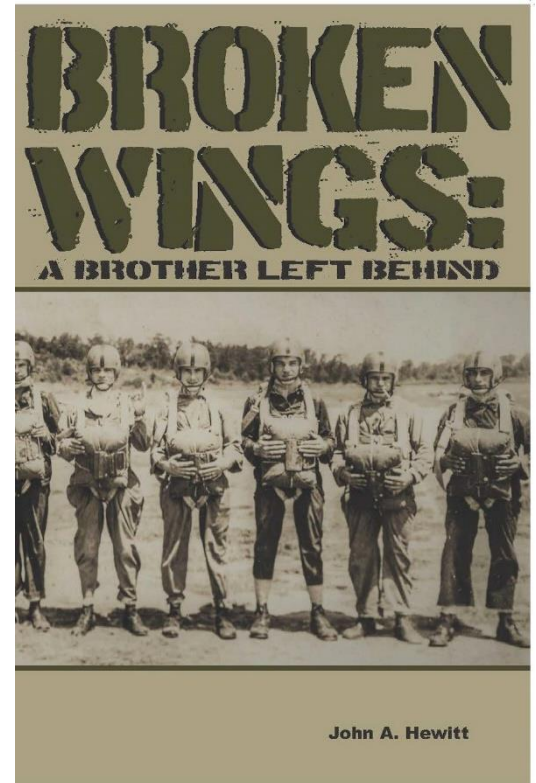
If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Thanks in advance.

John Hewitt
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The Champion Newspaper
PH: 404.373.7779 X 110
www.TheChampionNewspaper.com
www.DeKalbLegalNotices.com

John Hewitt

Son of **James McIver Hewitt, 3rd Bn**



Press Release:

Toccoa native releases book about paratrooper father

Former Toccoa resident, Jim Hewitt, was a graduate of the United States Army's first paratrooper school at Ft. Benning, Georgia in 1941. After completing paratrooper training, he was transferred to Camp Toccoa as a member of the 506th Paratrooper Infantry Regiment and later to the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment serving as a jump instructor under the command of Lt. Col. Robert Sink.

Jim's son, John Hewitt, a 1975 graduate of Stephens County High School, chief operating officer and award-winning columnist for The Champion Newspaper in Decatur, Georgia has written *Broken Wings: a brother left behind* which recounts Jim's early years in coastal South Carolina of being born into a prominent family whose wealth was lost due to a series of devastating events that ultimately landed Jim in an orphanage at the age of six.

Broken Wings tells a story of how Jim's *early years* instilled determination and discipline that ultimately brought him to Currahee, and why after two terms of enlistment and six years of service he had to leave it all behind.

Co-editor of *Broken Wings* and Toccoa native, Deidra Gaines, described the book as "highlighting one of the most important chapters in our country's military history; the reader will encounter an array of human emotions, obstacles, and struggles. The journey entails love, loss, success, failure, honor, humility, regret, and the interwoven aftermath of all."

Broken Wings: a brother left behind will be available on a number of online sites including Amazon Books in hard copy and digital formats. A book signing will be held at Currahee Vineyards during this year's Military Weekend in October.



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Dear Bob, Thank you once again for interest in my book and in working with me over the past year!

As you may know, my book (*Honor Through Sacrifice: The Story of One of America's Greatest Military Leaders*) launches on October 5th. My publisher has just posted a cover poll showing two amazing cover designs. Will you help us pick the best one to use? It's super easy.

Click on this link (<https://www.koehlerbooks.com/cover-polls/honor-through-sacrifice-the-story-of-one-of-americas-greatest-military-leaders/>) and read the synopsis about my book.

Then choose your favorite cover by clicking on it. Told you it was easy!

Thanks for helping us pick my new cover and spreading the word about these gallant men of America!

Sincerely,

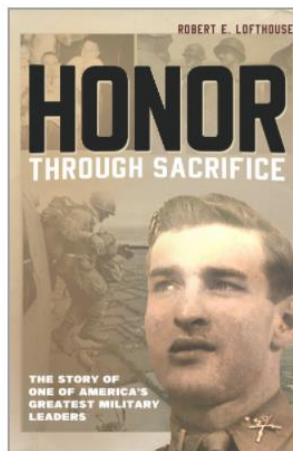
Robert Lofthouse

Honor Through Sacrifice: The Story of One of America's Greatest Military Leaders

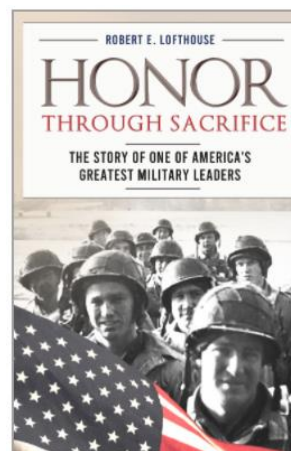
by Robert E. Lofthouse

“A man can fight if he can see daylight down the road somewhere,” President Lyndon Johnson told a senator in March 1965. “But there ain’t no daylight in Vietnam—there’s not a bit.” Even as he said that, he was committing the first US ground combat units and initiating a massive bombing campaign in North Vietnam. Unaware of President Johnson’s private misgivings about the conflict, **Gordon Lippman** dutifully entered Vietnam as the 3rd Brigade/1st Infantry Division executive officer in September of that year. It didn’t take long for his fellow soldiers to figure out that Gordon Lippman was the man they wanted to follow into battle. Overcoming great challenges in the Army, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross and two battlefield commissions, and became a hero among heroes. He focused on the mission at hand, rallied his troopers, led from the front, and dodged enemy bullets. A couple of times they hit home, but he came back to fight again! He was one of those studs to come out of small-town America and become a leading member of “The Greatest Generation.” This is a sweeping story on the broad landscape of twentieth-century compromise, accommodation, and conflict, from the allied war in Europe to the forgotten war in Korea to the televised dinnertime war in Vietnam.

Please read the synopsis above and then CLICK on the cover you prefer. Thanks for helping us pick a cover.



OR





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Hi Bob, Thank you for all your support in the past year. I've finally come down to the last leg of my publishing journey. Soon, this book about **Gordon Lippman** will be published.

But I'm writing to you today to introduce a book pre-publication opportunity for you. As you know, he served with the 517th PIR from its founding until it was disbanded by the US Army. This is just one more story to keep that legacy alive.

Would you join me by clicking on this [link](#), and becoming one of my first backers?

With your support, I'll give you a reward, designed with you in mind, to remember this historic occasion.

The reward levels cover the range of a Camp Toccoa Lede of Quotes, Gallant Men Stand Alone Bookmark, Currahee Run Club Package in a Designer Box, Dragoon Book Bestseller Launch with Dinner, a Rocket City Podcast and the ultimate – French/Belgium Battlefield Tour.

Your provision in any amount will help to bring my writing dream to life and contribute to sharing the little known legacy of a genuine American hero!

Please share this link with anyone you know who might be interested in this kind of story.

Thank you and May God Bless you!

Best,
Robert Lofthouse

Gordon Lippman was with Company A of the 517th – BB

Guestbook entry on the website:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Mike Thornton From: Lancaster, PA E-mail: mthorn70@gmail.com	Greeting and many blessings to all family and friends of 517th troopers. I am the nephew of Sgt. Andrew J. Murphy , who was the first confirmed KIA of the regiment. My uncle is mentioned and pictured in the book, "Battling Buzzards: The Odyssey of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team 1943-1945." He is mentioned on pages 103 and 205 and is in a group picture on the ninth page of pictures (in helmet holding Tommy gun). My family continues to try and find pictures/stories of my uncle, especially as a member of the regimental boxing team. Battling Buzzards mentions a close friend was Edmund "Dog" Jordan and wonder if his family may have any photos or stories to share. We are dedicated as many of you are to preserving and continuing to share the courageous stories of the 517th with generations to come. Thank you for all your support and dedication.
	Added: August 16, 2021



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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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