



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

eLee HUE



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2475

March 13, 2022

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

MailCall News

Bob,

I think you're still confused about what I have sent you. The biography I'm working on is not finished and I haven't sent you anything on it. What I have sent you is a photo history that includes my dad's WW2 photos.

Since I sent it to you, I found a Christmas card that Thomas Hertzell (**Paul Craig's** nephew) sent to my dad in 2001, thanking him for sending him two photos that included his uncle, Paul. The photos were returned to my dad with the card. I've added those photos to the document and I'm attaching the updated document (*The World War II Photo History of Ray V. Helms*) to this email.

I was hoping to have it added to the "Training and WWII Photos" section of the website.

The document I'm sending is in PDF format, but I'm going to send another email with the same document in Microsoft Word format, so you can use the one that works best on the website. The document views better if you can scroll an entire page at a time on the screen and I can't seem to do that when I view the PDF version on my laptop.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Glenn Helms

The World War II Photo History of
Ray V. Helms



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





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Hi Bob,

I'm planning a trip to France/Belgium in August of this year to visit Les Arcs and the Ardennes, assuming I can work my way through all the COVID protocols successfully.

Would you please include this announcement in your next Mail Call?

We'd like to meet up with any lovers of the 517th legacy who might be over there around the 12-16 August timeframe.

Please ask them to reach out to me at the return address below.

By the way, my book about **Gordon Lippman**, a veteran of the 517th, is getting good reception in writing contests as well as book stores.

Thanks, and All the Best,

Robert Lofthouse | T 610.392.7084 | rob@holdtheline.press

Author of Honor Through Sacrifice | www.holdtheline.press

Five-time Award Winning Author

#1 New Amazon Release on 11/4/2021

Hi Robert,

I included your request in today's MailCall (in progress). Les Arcs and Ardennes are in 2 different countries, but I did a similar trip once with my Dad in 2009. I assume that you picked the August dates to catch the annual multi-day observances in southern France. I don't see schedules posted yet, but I'm sure they will be planning those events in the next few months. The main event is the parade and ceremonies in Le Muy, but all the towns nearby participate with their own commemorations. The 517th probably won't have an official group attending this year, but you never know. There are some tour groups that often attend, such as https://miltours.com/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=122

Allan Johnson (596th) used to attend almost every year until his recent passing. Here is a great re-cap from his trip in 2004: https://517prct.org/allan_johnson_trip_report_aug_2004.htm





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Regarding your book on **Gordon Lippman**, I found this conversation in old MailCall from 2013. <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2173.pdf> Lynnette Myhre and **Marlys Buchenau** (Gordon's sister) were looking for info about him, hoping to include him in the South Dakota Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, when I look at that site, <https://www.sdhall offame.org/>, I do not see him listed there yet.

My name is Lynnette Myhre. I am helping Marlys Buchenau in her efforts to get her brother, **Gordon J. Lippman** inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame. I was on the website for the 517th, checked the 'Christmas Roster', and found that Gordon was listed as a Staff Sergeant for Headquarters Company 1st Battalion. In March 1943, Gordon enlisted in the Army and became one of the most decorated military men from South Dakota. He served his country in combat in three wars. He was wounded in December 1944 in the Battle of the Bulge, for which he was awarded a battlefield commission of 1st Lieutenant. (Gordon was killed in Viet Nam in 1965.)

We are looking for pictures or articles about Gordon and his service in World War II. If you have any such items, we would love to hear from you.

Any help you can give us in our efforts would be much appreciated.

Lynnette Myhre
Marlys Buchenau

Hi Lynnette and Marlys,

I will put your request into the next MailCall that I send out weekly to the troopers and friends. **Bill Boyle** who passed away a couple of years ago commanded the 1st Battalion. If you read the history, you will see that the 1st Battalion, as well as all the 517th, fought many heroic battles. Back in 2007, Boyle did say this about Gordon:

"I barely knew him in the 517. I talked to him before he went to Nam at Ft. Bragg. It was this that caused me to say I remembered him. He was a good man or he would not have been with us."

While we are waiting for anyone to respond, I know that there is a page about Lt. Lippman at

<http://www.sdvietnamwarmemorial.com/lippmangordon.htm>

With your permission, I would like to include that write-up on the 517th website. We are trying to collect as many 517th biographies as we can.

I am looking through the website for other pictures and stories, but I don't think there is much there that didn't come from you. One minor item I found, as sort of a souvenir, is that Gordon was one of the signers of a "short snorter". See the story on page 3 of this Mailcall: <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2069.pdf>

There are some photos of the HQ Company, 1st Battalion, including: http://www.517prct.org/photos/hq1_dress.htm

PS: My Dad, Ben Barrett is also buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Next time I go to DC, I will be sure to visit Lippmann's gravesite, and look for his name on the Vietnam Memorial.

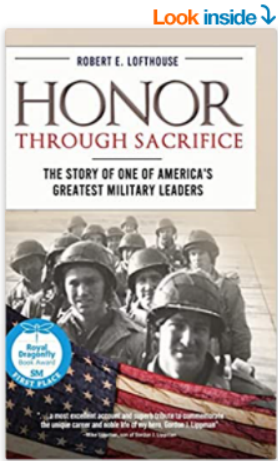
Regards,

Bob Barrett



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I see that Robert Lofthouse's book on Gordon Lippman is now available on Amazon:



Honor Through Sacrifice: The Story of One of America's Greatest Military Leaders Hardcover – October 22, 2021

by Robert Lofthouse (Author)

★★★★★ 4 ratings

See all formats and editions

Kindle
\$2.99

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1 Used from \$14.95
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"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.

Read more

See: [Honor Through Sacrifice](#)

Bob: I finally had time to read this Mail Call. It was wonderful, especially all of the pictures relating to **Tom Cross** during the war and his recent burial at Arlington National Cemetery. Because my brother Rick lives in Alexandria Va, he was close enough to be physically there on behalf the **Dick Seitz** kids and granddaughter. He was a very special man, and such a special friend of my Dad's, he was Dad's best man when Dad and Mama married June 23, 1945 in Joigny France.

A bleated Happy 2022 and many blessings on you. Thank you for keeping us connected through MailCall.

Pat Seitz



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Found an old note from last July 9th, posted by **Jean Michel Soldi** on the Facebook page 517th Family and friends

Yesterday was a special day for a 94 years old gentleman. As 517th flag holder in southern France, **Adrien Soldi** presented on behalf of 517th members and family to french résistant fighter **Jean Bima** the 517th pin. Jean was 17 years old scout and lead the way to many 517th paratroopers in Les Arcs france on D day and day+. August 1944. Jean have been awarded of the legion of honour by President Holland and said he will hold 517th pin on his heart for rest of his life. Happy Birthday mister Jean.!❤️ thank you for you service with the 517th.





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Another old newspaper article:

Edward T. Higgins, F Company

Newspaper Obituary July 1989



E. Higgins, electrician and athlete

Edward T. Higgins, 64, a familiar sight each morning in South Philadelphia as he jogged from his home in Grays Ferry to League Island Park near the Spectrum, died Thursday at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center.

Mr. Higgins was an electrician for the city Office of Emergency Preparedness for 26 years until his retirement in 1983. He had been working part-time as a security guard until a recent illness.

Mr. Higgins was always active and athletic.

"I remember he played with the Tobey Indians, a football team in the neighborhood," said Frank Pugliese, a friend and former co-worker. "That was before and after World War II."

He also was a co-founder of the Downtown Athletic Club, which was located near 28th and Reed Streets, Pugliese said.

His daughter Catherine said her father spent many happy hours playing ball at Lanier Playground with Shane, his 3-year-old grandson.

As a member of the 82d Army Airborne Division during World War II, Mr. Higgins was involved in five parachute jumps behind enemy lines. For one of those jumps, he was awarded the Purple Heart.

Survivors include his wife, Catherine Gray Higgins; sons, Edward Jr. and Daniel; daughters, Eilyn Bucciarelli, Dorothy Harada, Catherine, Joanne and Patricia; seven grandchildren, and two brothers.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 9:30 a.m. Monday at St. Gabriel Roman Catholic Church, 29th and Dickinson Streets. Burial will be at SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Marple Township.



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The American Cigarette Was Victorious in WWII

In 1900 cigarettes in the U.S. were considered a fad, derided as being something for immigrants and kids. The upper and middle classes smoked pipes and cigars and preferred Turkish and Greek tobacco over flue-cured tobacco from the South.

In WWI however, the U.S. government began appropriating money to put American cigarettes into the rations of U.S. troops in the hopes that cigarettes would beguile Doughboys away from more serious vices like opium, which was widely available in Europe.

By 1920, cigarette use in the U.S. had nearly tripled from seven percent before the war to 20 percent.

The government considered tobacco such an important commodity that it created a farm program that paid farmers not to grow tobacco and keep the price stable. Movies in the 1930s glamorized cigarettes and the pipe and cigar were portrayed now as something for snobs or gangsters.

When WWII broke out, the government again partnered with cigarette makers to include smokes in the rations of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. Officers were given Camels and Lucky Strikes while enlisted men were limited to Rolled Gold, Chesterfields, and Pall Mall.

And that was resented by the enlisted men.

While billions of cigarettes were donated to the war effort by tobacco companies, Uncle Sam bought billions more of them as well. Precise numbers are not known but it's estimated that the government bought 55 billion cigarettes for the military, just in 1944.

Overseas, American cigarettes could be traded by a U.S. serviceman for food, booze, intelligence from prisoners, and even sex. And a soldier who didn't smoke could sell his cigarettes to his squadmates for cold hard cash. Cigarettes were also used for gambling. In Europe, there were military rest camps called "Camp Camel," "Camp Lucky Strike" and other brand-named camps that probably took their names from the cigarettes available there.

After the war was over, the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe included one billion dollars in American tobacco and cigarettes. That's over \$15 billion in today's money.

By 1949, U.S. flue-cured type tobacco had conquered Europe. Surveys had 85-90 percent of German preferring American tobacco to the Turkish or Greek varieties they knew before the war. Even into the 1980s, a carton of genuine, American-made Marlboros was a highly coveted prize to get your hands on in Europe. So, U.S. bases overseas limited how many cigarettes American troops could buy because they could sell them to civilians at exorbitant prices.

Which explains George Washington's famous saying "If you can't send money, send tobacco."

From: <https://sofrep.com/news/the-5-weird-stories-about-wwii-that-you-have-to-read/>





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Administrivia

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- 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.
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- 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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GI Joe Comics 1945 – “The Voice of the Veteran”