



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2186

November 17, 2013

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

Website
Send Mail Call news to
Mail Call Archives
2013 Roster (updated!)
Thunderbolt (Spring 2013)

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MailCall News

Armistice Day 1944

On the 11 of November 1944, for the commemoration of the end of the world war one, several companies of the 517th PIR parade on the Place Massena in Nice. Here, the B Company of **Captain Charles E. La Chausee**.



460th PFAB, Battery D – September 1943

Q: Is this Camp MacKall? Let me know. – BB

For a full-size version, see: http://517prct.org/photos/byron_carroll/460th_d_battery_1943.htm



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Dear Bob,

I search the book of **John "Boom Boom" Alicki** name " a Veteran's remembrance. He is not available on amazon. And I do not know where to find it. Could you help me? Thank you.

Loïc Jankowiak

Hi Loïc,

I have a copy of the book. It was self-printed, so I don't know if it is available any more. I think **Nila Gott** helped him get it printed, so I will contact her. She is on MailCall. In worst case, I could loan you mine, if you want to make your own copy. (It's 58 pages, 5 ½ x 8 inches)
Let me check with Nila first.

Regards,
Bob Barrett

Bob, I've scanned in these posters and photos, I'm working on letter for D-Battery family's to find more info. I'll add a copy of the letter to get your thoughts on it before I send it out, if that's ok?

Jim Miller, Grandson of **Byron Carroll**



Tennessee Maneuvers - January 6 1944



Camp MacKall 1943-1944



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Hi Jim,

Those are great photos and posters. I haven't seen those before, and you got some great, clear scans. Can I put this all on the web site, especially the D Battery photo?

When you are ready, the notes on your grandfather could be turned into a biography page that I would also like to put on our Bio page (<http://517prct.org/bios.htm>).

Be aware that the list of remaining D Battery troopers and family is getting small. There are only 3 troopers plus 2 relatives on MailCall, 1 other who gets the Thunderbolt, and a few more whom we haven't heard from in a long time. I can give you their contact info. The list is larger if you include all the 460th troopers not just D Battery.

I do have a box of photos from **Christine Mace**, the daughter of **Cameron Gauthier** of D Company who dies a few years ago. There are a lot of photos, most from the war, most of them tiny but I can usually enlarge them. And there are lots of other troopers from other 460th batteries. You may want to get copies of **Merle McMorrow's** books. He was with Battery C and has written a couple of autobiographies. Start with "*From Breckenridge to Bastogne*".

PS: You might also find this interesting. There was a **Lt. Joe David Brown** who was with the 460th HQ. He wrote the books (later movies) "Paper Moon" and "Kings Go Forth". Kings Go Forth (also reissued in paperback as "Combat Mission") is a fictional story, but takes place about some troopers in southern France during the war. They fight in the mountains by day, but on the weekends get some time off in Nice. It plays on Turner Classic Movie channel occasionally.

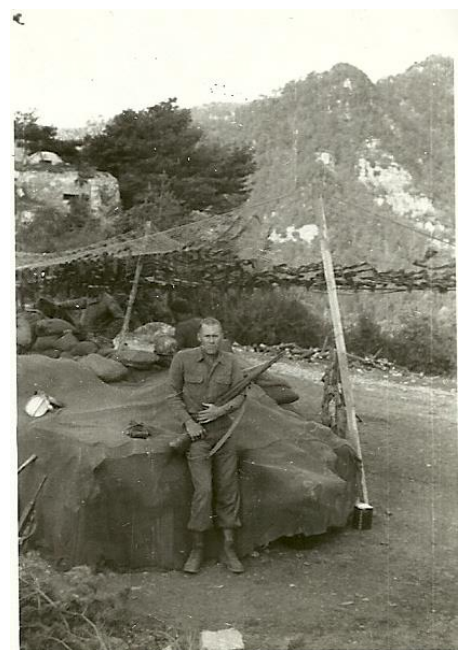
<http://www.tcm.com/mediaroom/video/94989/Kings-Go-Forth-Original-Trailer-.html>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kings_Go_Forth

Bob Barrett

I've been off and on working on a PDF\Yearbook like for D-Battery for 7 years. I have about 30 address of troopers and or kids (crossing my finger) more of them are old but maybe a hit or two on them?? I need to meet with Steve Markle (596), he lives just north of me. I mint to meet with last spring but life and kids got crazy....I'm working on the Bio, its bring the family together with story's that my mom's cousin's (Vietnam Vets with 101st Div.) opened up about him. If people what copies of the poster's we scan them in ta 1.8 GB file and then compressed them. The pic with him holding an M-1, look at the bunker in the top left corner and the hill in the back ground, Mach photos off google and map off 517th website....

PS, the only guy my Grandfather wrote about was **Les (Leslie) Kempter**, H Company, wasn't your dad H or I???

Jim Miller





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Note: You can also buy the DVD of Kings Go Forth on Amazon at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Kings-Go-Forth-Frank-Sinatra/dp/B00005S8KQ>



Poster for *Rivalen*, the French version of *Kings Go Forth*, 1958:





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Here are a few more pictures of the Normandy tribute, via Patou Orengo.

Fwd: It happened in France..!!!!!!!. – **Patricia Orengo**

9,000 Fallen Soldiers Etched into the Sand on Normandy Beach to Commemorate Peace Day September 25, 2013

Les artistes britanniques Jamie Wardley and Andy Moss accompagnés par de nombreux bénévoles, ont envahi les plages de Normandie avec des râteliers et des pochoirs pour graver 9.000 silhouettes représentant les personnes qui sont mortes sur le sable. Intitulée The Fallen 9000, la manifestation se veut un rappel brut et visuel des civils, Allemands et forces alliées qui sont morts lors du débarquement à Arromanches le 6 juin 1944 lors de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. L'équipe originale était composée de 60 bénévoles, mais comme la rumeur s'est répandue, près de 500 résidents locaux supplémentaires sont arrivés pour aider à cette installation temporaire qui ne dura que quelques heures avant d'être emportée par la marée.

British artists Jamie Wardley and Andy Moss accompanied by numerous volunteers, took to the beaches of Normandy with rakes and stencils in hand to etch 9,000 silhouettes representing fallen people into the sand. Titled The Fallen 9000, the piece is meant as a stark visual reminder of the civilians, Germans and allied forces who died during the D-Day beach landings at Arromanches on June 6, 1944 during WWII. The original team consisted of 60 volunteers, but as word spread nearly 500 additional local residents arrived to help with the temporary installation that lasted only a few hours before being washed away by the tide.





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From: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstAirborneTaskForceTheForgottenFront>

Harland "Bud" Curtis - HQ/1 517th PIR.



Left : Bud prior operation Dagoon.

Right : Bud in the Col de Braus near the CP of the 1st Battalion.



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From: **Battle of the Bulge Memories** website:

<http://www.battleofthebulgememories.be/en/stories/us-army/488-the-2nd-battalion-517th-parachute-infantry-regiment.html>

Created on Monday, 26 April 2010 10:25. | Last Updated on Tuesday, 26 June 2012 18:37. | Written by Captain Robert C. HEALEY.

The 2nd Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and the Bulge

Interview with: Major David H. Armstrong, executive officer and Lieutenant W. G. Irwin, S-3.
Lieutenant Colonel Richard J Seitz is Commander.

By Captain Robert C. Healey
Information & History Service

NARA documents (1945)



L to R =Major David Armstrong, Ex Of -
Lt Col Richard J Seitz, Commander
and Tom Cross (Photo Website 517th
PIR)

The 2nd Battalion was in regimental rest area at Soissons (France) when the breakthrough came. All weapons were taken from the Battalion and given to the 82nd Airborne Division. On December 18, 1944, regiment was alerted to move on two hours notice. On the afternoon of the 21st the still-

weaponless Battalion was ordered to move with regiment to Namur (Belgium). New weapons were issued at 2025 hours and the Battalion entrucked at 2130 hours, riding all night and all day to one-half mile south of Aywaille. The 517th Regimental Combat Team was attached to the 30th Division on the 23rd December. In accordance with 30th Division orders the Regimental Combat Team moved by truck 50 miles to an assembly area two miles east of Xhoffraix. The next day, the 24th, the companies left the area and set up defensive positions in the vicinity of Chodes. Christmas Day they moved another 50 miles to Ferrieres and set up further defensive positions. During this time and through the next six days there was no contact with the enemy. On the 28th December the 2nd Battalion entrucked after dark for a forward assembly area one and one-half miles north of Manhay, where it bivouacked for the next three days. New Year's several rounds of heavy artillery fire fell in the vicinity of the Battalion CP. There was one direct hit on the CP, killing one and wounded eight. That night the 2nd Battalion entrucked again for another forward assembly area one and one-half miles northwest of Haute Bodeux.



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For the attack – coordinated attack – which started at dawn January 3, 1945, the Battalion was operating on the extreme left flank of the 82nd Airborne Division, which had the mission of clearing the right bank of the Salm River and occupying the high ground along the river. The 30th Infantry Division on the left flank was to keep pace along the left bank. Battalion objectives were Trois-Ponts (that part of the town lying along the right flank of the river) and the high ground at Mont de Fosse. Companies "D" and "E" were abreast for the attack, Company "D" moving in the left to Trois-Ponts, Company "E" on the right to Mont de Fosse. Company "F" was in reserve. The two companies met stiff resistance on the outskirts of Trois-Ponts. The enemy had good observation from across the river and from Mont de Fosse. Company "E" called for artillery support but could get only a battery – three rounds. Company "F" was committed at 0930 hours. It started to move around left behind Company "D" but was pulled back at 1430 hours to set up defensive positions along the road into Trois-Ponts covering Company "E" which was in difficulty from heavy mortar and machine guns fire from the high ground at Mont de Fosse. Company "D" took Trois-Ponts during the afternoon with losses of 12 enlisted men and two officers killed in action and 88 enlisted men and five officers wounded. It was relieved by a company from the 3rd Battalion.

During the night Company "E" withdrew under the cover of Company "F" and took up Company "F"s positions on the road. Company "F" reassembled and went on a wide sweep around the right flank and took the high ground at (666966), thus outflanking the troublesome resistance on Mont de Fosse. Companies "E" and "D" followed, at daybreak. Company "E" moved in on Mont de Fosse, capturing 137 prisoners with little resistance and moved into Trois-Ponts to relieve the 3rd Battalion's company.

For the next three days the positions were consolidated. There was much sniper fire in the area and the enemy still had plenty of good observation for fire from across the river. On the 4th January Company "F" lost six men and one officer killed. Company "E" took over cleaning out the town on the 5th January and lost two men by sniper fire. Companies "D" and "F" were in defensive positions north of Bergeval. Company "E" lost an officer killed by a sniper in Trois-Ponts.

On the 11th January 1945 the Battalion entrucked at 2230 hours and role all night to one mile west of Stavelot. The next day it was attached to the 7th Armored Division and bivouacked at Neuville.

From the 13th to 18th January, Battalion was on 1-hour alert to pass through 1st Division on attack plan which had to be called off because of foul weather.

On the 19th January trucked to Walk. The companies went into a forward assembly area north of Am Kreuz (864982). On the 20th command post was set up at Deidenberg (865955). Company "F" sent out a night patrol to reconnoiter the wood "Auf der Hard", south of Deidenberg.

For this position the Battalion was working with the CCA of the 7th Armored Division and had Company "B" of 17th Armored Infantry under Lieutenant Hardin to form Task Force Seitz. On the right flank CCB was to take Born and on the left the 1st Division would take Ambleve and work down toward Wallerode (880900). From a line of departure at Deidenberg Task Force Seitz would clear out woods at An der Hand and continue down to clear out resistance in the In der Eidt woods. Companies "D" and "E" led off the assault with Company "F" in reserve. They meet intense artillery and nebelwerfer fire throughout the attacks. It was snowing and the weather was wretched. Resistance from enemy infantry was moderate. They were on their first objective setting up defensive positions by nightfall with loss of six



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men killed and 30 wounded. There, they were relieved by the 508th Parachute Regiment and prepared to continue the Battalion attack to the south and southwest. Pushing out at midnight they secured the edge of the In der Eidt woods.

The Armored Infantry support was called into play for the continuation of the attack. Early in the morning orders came to move down through the woods and attack Hunnange (845899). One company was to mount on medium tanks, the next on half-tracks. Mounting was to be in position.

At 0900 hours the 23rd January they started moving through the woods. There was no bridge over the railroad running into St Vith. The half-tracks couldn't get across the railroad and the infantry had to continue afoot. The tanks, however, got over. They reached the edge of the woods on the southwest. On their right flank Nieder Emmels (839908) which had been reported as taken by 30th Division still showed signs of resistance and four assault guns and 100 prisoners were cleaned out. Task Force Wimple (CCA 7th Armored) was supposed to have taken high ground to south of Hunnange, but two assault guns remained in the town. By 2100 hours defensive positions had been set up around Nieder Emmels and Hunnange.

The morning of the 25th January 1945, Battalion received orders to move to assembly area northeast corner of In der Eidt. The 106th Infantry (424th Regiment) was jumping off from the Auf der Hand woods at 0705 hours to take Medell (883923) while Task Forces Griffith and Rhea took Wallerode. When both were taken – schedule called for 1000 hours – Battalion to take high ground between them. The Battalion jumped off at 1000 hours, was held up for a time by machine guns and small arms fire but was on the objective at 1130 hours. The 106th (424th Regiment) on the left and Task Forces Rhea and Griffith were contacted on the right. Defensive positions set up. Relieved on the 26th January by the 424th Regiment and withdrawn to Stavelot.

Source: Combat Interview from NARA: National Archives = 1945

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.
- 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.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to our new Association Treasurer: Identify the purpose of any donation (Annual Donations, In Memory of... etc.) and make all checks payable to:

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