



# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2012

September 11, 2010

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

Website  
Mail Call  
Mail Call Archives  
Roster

[www.517prct.org](http://www.517prct.org)  
[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)  
[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)  
[www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)

### *Welcome back, Howard*

I was shocked and sorry to read about Howard's miss hap. The Paratrooper that he is allowed him to survive this tragic event. By the sound of his letter in Mail Call he is back to his former self.

The two men that had the most to do keeping our 517 PRCT group together, without a doubt, was Howard and Ben Barrett. Even now Howard is still giving us legal advice and help in regard to making sure the 517 Association will be here long after all of us Veterans are gone.

I wish you the very best Howard.

Darrell Egner

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This message for our great comrade Howard Hensleigh. I was distressed to learn of you very difficult accident, but am happy and relieve you are recovering in good shape. I salute you with extreme affection, old friend.  
Airborne all the way!

Dick Seitz

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Have you seen the video of the Iowa Hawkeye football player riding on a scooter who gets hit head-on by a truck? (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjluL-quPDo>) It has been making the rounds on the internet. He just picks himself up and walks away. The day after I saw that video, I read about Howard's accident and how he picked himself back up, once again. They sure make some tough guys in Iowa.

Bob Barrett



## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Hello,

I want to wish Howard Hensleigh a speedy recovery.

He is not forgotten and still in my thoughts. I often remember the nice conversations we had and the help he gave me.

Somehow we lost track and I hate to see what happened.

Take care buddy and hang in there!!

Ronald Stassen

Adopter of Capt Robert Woodhull's grave at W.C. Margraten

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### *MailCall News*

Bob - Would you pass along this message to Claire Giblin and Steve Markle? The email addresses listed for them in the 517th roster on the website bounced back as bad. Thanks! mark

Hi Claire & Steve - I saw your exchange of posts in this Mail Call about the photographs. In addition to the D-Day museum and the museum at Ft. Benning, I want you to also be aware of the The Institute on WWII Center and the Human Experience at FSU, here in Tallahassee. Their website is below. As a die-hard Florida Gator, it galls me to say FSU is better at anything than UF, but this is one area they beat the pants off of us. Thanks for all you guys do for the 517th.

Be well, mark

<http://www.fsu.edu/~ww2/>

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517<sup>th</sup> lighter on ebay:

[http://cgi.ebay.com/517-Combat-WWII-Airborne-Paratrooper-Cigarette-Lighter-/310248608708?pt=LH\\_DefaultDomain\\_0&hash=item483c4213c4](http://cgi.ebay.com/517-Combat-WWII-Airborne-Paratrooper-Cigarette-Lighter-/310248608708?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item483c4213c4)



These were given out at an early 517<sup>th</sup> reunion??



## *MailCall News*

My daughter-in-law recently gave birth to our grandson. As everyone sat nervously in the waiting room, my son came in and told us we had a grandson. Everyone ran out as he was being pushed down the hallway. Everybody was excited and I started to think how my dad would have loved to have been here. Just then I looked at what our new grandson was being transported in and realized my dad had been there the whole time.

Jay Sutcliffe

(son of Jim Sutcliffe, H Company)



This is Don's oldest son Mike. Don is improving each day and has moved from the ICU at Robert Packer in Sayre, PA to rehab at the Arnot Ogden Hospital in Elmira, NY. Please keep him in your prayers.

Thanks,  
Don's Family

Don Saunders [596<sup>th</sup>]



# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Bob:

I am a member of the 11th Airborne Division and occasionally run across the names of former 517th men who remained in service after WW II. Many were in the 187th of the 11th Airborne. The most recent one was that of William J. Boyle. They may be gone but their names live on in history.  
Merle





## *MailCall News*

Hello Bob,

My name is Judy McMorrow Azure. I am Merle McMorrow's sister. I have enjoyed following the news and mail call regarding the 517th for some time now through my brother. He has been very faithful about forwarding the information to me.

If possible, I would like to have my name added to the mailcall list to save him some time and trouble.

Thank you,

Judy McMorrow Azure  
1601 28th Ave South  
Fargo, N.D. 58103  
[jdazure@q.com](mailto:jdazure@q.com)

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To: Claire Giblin, Chairman  
From: Katherine D. Wheeler, Auxiliary member  
Richard H. Wheeler 460th Bty B

There is an organization named Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge looking for new members. They have as members Veterans and Associates. Richard is a member as a Veteran; I am a member as an Associate.

We have National Officers; we are one organization. Both Veterans and Associates hold office in the National and local chapters. Richard is President of the local chapter in Central Ohio; I am Secretary/Treasurer. We all pay the same dues. Associates are gradually taking over in running the organization as veterans age and are unable to be active.

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Inc. is for all who served in the Bulge. The magazine is The Bulge Bugle.

To get information on how to set up an organization of veterans and associates you can contact:  
Ralph Bozorth, Executive Vice President  
VBOB, Inc. PH: 484-351-8844  
PO Box 336  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
email: [ralph@battleofthebulge.org](mailto:ralph@battleofthebulge.org)

We just had our annual reunion in Columbia, SC. Next year it will be in Columbus, GA in mid Sept.2011.

Claire, we would appreciate having your email address. Ours is [airbornekd@earthlink.net](mailto:airbornekd@earthlink.net).  
Thanks.



**From:** Steve Markle [mailto:steve@markleweb.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 09, 2010 7:41 PM  
**Subject:** Do you have Mike Saunders Contact information?

He wrote in about a week ago now...

We have been thinking about his Dad (Don) and praying for a quick recovery...

-Steve-

Mike Saunders can be reached at his Dad's email: [jdwildlifeacres@aol.com](mailto:jdwildlifeacres@aol.com)

## The Army's Got Talent

The Army tried to get our minds off the possibility of returning home before they had the necessary available shipping at their disposal. This was the first America Has Talent Program.

Merle W. Mc Morrow

ACT TWO

Scene 1. The Service Club . . . . that same evening  
 Cape Dance by Tom Acosta: recall by Tom and Shorty  
 Ballroom dance by Evelyn Catron and Gene Katzenstein, Margie Murphy and Norman Myers, Terry Herman and Ted Dome  
 Jitterbug Routine by Rosalie Congelos and Lee Foote, Harriet Schwartz and Tom Acosta, and the Chorus  
 "In Spite of Everything": lyrics and music by Len Pabish and Lou Alexander . . . . . sung by Leo Principe

Scene 2. Red Army Barracks . . . . later that evening  
 Three Russians . . . . . Paul Holteen, Ken MacDonald, A. J. Bianco  
 "Soviet-American Friendship": lyrics by Gabriel Levenson . . . . . sung by Shorty and the Three Russians

Scene 3. The G. I. Barracks . . . . . the next morning  
 "Conversion Boogie": lyrics and music by Len Pabish and Gabriel Levenson . . . . . sung by Norman Myers, Tom Cornfield, Tom Acosta

Scene 4. "Conversion Boogie" . . . . . danced by Bob Keefer  
 The Two M. P.'s . . . . . Paul Holteen, Ken MacDonald  
 Personnel Clerks . . . . . Terry Herman, Mickey Zimmer  
 Recruiting Sergeant . . . . . Phil Corvino  
 A Possible Recruit . . . . . Tom Acosta  
 Clothing Salesman . . . . . Gene Katzenstein, Norman Myers  
 Flower Girl . . . . . Rosalie Congelos  
 The Girl Back Home . . . . . Mary Grady  
 The Bank Teller . . . . . Alex Letko  
 Real Estate Agent . . . . . Tom Cornfield

Scene 5. At the docks, ready to take off . . . . . the next day.  
 "You're On Your Way": lyrics and music by Lou Alexander . . . . . sung by Lou and the entire cast

The Boys in the Band

Bob Ross . . . . . Director	George Meyers . . . . . Saxophone
Franky Fantasie . . . . . Piano	Dave Telson . . . . . Drums
Vincent Marcellino . . . . . Saxophone	Jim Mosca . . . . . Bass Fiddle
Bob Smid . . . . . Saxophone	A. J. Bianco . . . . . Guitar

The Commanding General, Berlin District, the Chief of Special Staff Section, the Commanding Officer, Headquarters Command, and all unit commanders are to be thanked for their cooperation and their contributions to the production.

U. S. HEADQUARTERS - BERLIN DISTRICT  
 and FIRST AIRBORNE ARMY  
 Adjutant General's Section  
 Printing

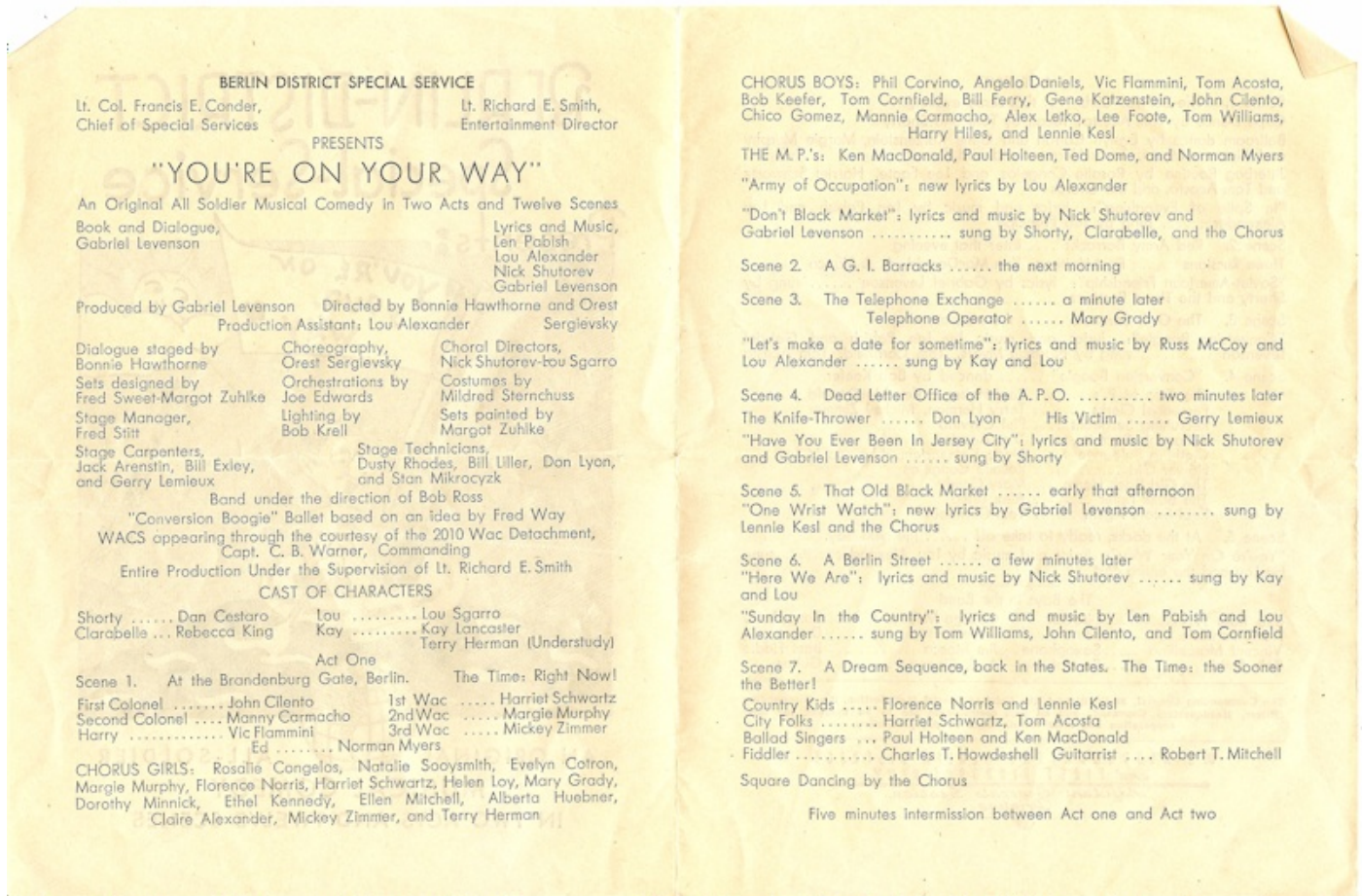
## BERLIN-DISTRICT Special-Service

Presents:

AN ORIGINAL ALL-SOLDIER  
 MUSICAL COMEDY  
 IN TWO ACTS AND TWELVE SCENES



The Army's Got Talent (cont.)



Fayence, Callian, Montauroux

Dear Mr Hensleigh

How are you doing these days? I havent seen you sending in much mail call recently, although it was the period of the anniversaries of the landings. I would like to ask you a question. You told me many things when I had interviewed you over the phone a couple of years back. But you didnt say much about the period when Fayence, Callian and Montauroux were re-liberated.

Could you maybe tell me more about these three towns by email? I could also >phone you, but I think the phone is not a good option for you?

All the best
Jean-Loup Gassend



## *Fayence, Callian, Montauroux*

Dear Jean,

Callian was the town we passed through early on the morning of Dday. I would not say we liberated it then as it was not occupied at that time and we were there not more than 30 minutes. Later, when I came back to get out jump casualties to the field hospital, the 141st Infantry Regiment was making a night attack on Callian. Early the next morning, Frank Longo, who drove me there in an old black French sedan furnished by Col. Graves for the job we had to do, and I went into Callian. There were still a few Germans there and some of our troopers who did not join us in the march to the drop zone were in town in a mop up operation with the 141st. The Germans still had a few troops in town and we were shooting at each other when we got a target. So, Callian was really liberated by the 141st with a little help from our troopers who remained in the area after the jump.

A Callian lady told me our jump casualties had been moved to Montauroux and a man in Callian volunteered to go with me to Montauroux to get me "in through a back door". We had artillery fall on us on the way, but got into a tunnel and made it into the back door without injury. The Germans occupied Montauroux with some force. Capt. Plasman, our Bn. surgeon was in charge of the small medical clinic with our jump casualties. He had treated some of the German casualties and they left him there without taking any of our men with them. While I was there the Germans left town by truck. I heard the motors gunning up as they left. I had borrowed an SCR 300 radio from the 141st that planned to attack the town. I requested the regimental commander to let me get into town and let him know what the situation was before his planned attack to be proceeded by a heavy artillery barrage. I told him we had jump casualties there. He agreed and when the Germans left town, I called him telling him that the regiment could come on into town without a fight. Some of his first elements contained a "meat wagon" (ambulance) which hauled our jump casualties to the field hospital. This is how Montauroux was liberated--without a shot being fired.

We heard that the battalion was headed for Callian so Longo and I there and did some of the clean up work with Joe Grazzaffi, from the regimental S-2 section. A German sniper hidden in some bushes wounded one of our lieutenants. I spotted him and Joe emptied his carbine on the bush. The German came out bleeding from several wounds with his hands up. The battalion arrived in Callian the next day and Col. Paxton sent me to redirect one of the companies that got off on the wrong road. That is another story I will get to, but will get this off.

Howard Hensleigh

When the jump casualties were on their way. The Frenchman from Callian, Frank Longe and I returned to Callian where we met





## Guestbook

I have been trying to do some research on my wife's great-uncle Charles P. Ginn. From letters he wrote her mother (his niece) during the war he was originally in E co at Camp Toccoa, then in HQ, 2nd Bn. I know he was a medic and eventually transferred to the 82nd in 1945. If anyone has any more information on him I would appreciate hearing from you. Charles is deceased but I had several conversations with him about his airborne service since I was assigned to the 101st Abn for a time.

Howard Gray  
Savannah, GA

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Howard,

Yes, Charles Ginn was with the HQ Company of the 517<sup>th</sup>. He is listed in the Christmas roster of 1944:

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

Also, he was indeed a medic, as confirmed in this photo from the book [First Airborne Task Force](#) by Michel De Trez



Le Lt. Col. Dick Seitz avec les hommes de son stick. Les hommes ne portent pas la tenue de saut M-1942. Ils sont vêtus de divers uniformes, incluant la tenue HBT, la chemise et le pantalon moutarde et les récents uniformes M-1943. Agenouillés, de gauche à droite : Pfc. Eugene "Chop-Chop" Mars, non-identifié, S/Sgt. George L. Backus, Pfc. Natan Rubenstein (Communication Platoon). Debout, de gauche à droite : Pfc. Charles P. Ginn, Lt. Col. Dick Seitz et deux non-identifiés.

Lt. Col. Dick Seitz with enlisted men of his stick. The men do not wear the M-1942 jump suit. They wear a variety of uniform, including HBT fatigues, O.D. woollen shirt and trousers, and the latest M-1943 uniforms. Kneeling left to right : Pfc. Eugene "Chop-Chop" Mars, unidentified, S/Sgt. George L. Backus, Pfc. Natan Rubenstein (Communication Platoon). Standing left to right : Pfc. Charles P. Ginn, Lt. Col. Dick Seitz and two unidentified men.



***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](mailto: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 treasurer:

Leo Dean  
14 Stonehenge Lane  
Albany, NY 12203

***Save the date!***

**Annual 517th Reunion (probably the last one)**

**July 13-18, 2011  
Atlanta, GA**

**with visits to Camp Toccoa and Fort Benning**

