



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2019**

**October 31, 2010**

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

Website

[www.517prct.org](http://www.517prct.org)

Mail Call

[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)

Mail Call Archives

[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)

Roster

[www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)

### *Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Howard*

**Subject:** Howard is 90 on Friday!

Guess what! I just found out that Howard Hensleigh turns 90 on Friday! Yes -- that is tomorrow (October 29) -- probably today by the time you get this. I think that deserves a mention in Mail Call!

Howard is one of our best historians and an incredible legal mind. In 2005 in Savannah, he and his wife Jan helped bring the 517 Auxiliary into the world. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Association, responds generously to all inquiries in Mail Call, and seems to have just about total recall. Just last year, he authored nearly two dozen proclamations and certificates of appreciation for our European friends, which were so warmly received in the many small towns and villages we visited.

Howard is one of the 517's treasures, and we just love him to pieces!

Happy Birthday, Howard!

– Claire Giblin





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### *Notes and an Apology from the Editor*

Well, I got some very strong reaction to last weeks "A Condensed Version of History" article. One in favor (I think), two very much offended, and a lot of silence. [See the emails on the page 4.] Hopefully, those who know me have seen that I go out of my way to not offend anyone, but I guess I did. So I offer my sincere apologies. It was only done in jest. I didn't write the article, but I did select it for inclusion from the pile of things I received.

I get a lot of stuff submitted to me for MailCall. As I have said before, I try not to put in anything that has religious or political bias, or is insulting or offensive. I also try not to include items that have already been chain-mailed all over the internet, that are known to be untrue, or that have been included once or more in the past. But I violated my own rule. That article was written from the view of an extreme Conservative. As Rick Sweet points out, one might assume that most of our 517 soldiers are conservative in nature, but I don't assume that to be the case for all. (I myself am actually more of a liberal -- at least an independent -- than I am a conservative.) But I only inserted the article as humor. It was so over the edge that I assumed everyone else would also take it as a humorous article, and nothing that could be at all taken seriously. But it turns out that was not the case. As you can see on page 4, a couple of people, perhaps many more, were seriously offended. Please take my sincere apologies, and accept that it was meant only in fun, inserted as a filler article during a relatively slow news week.

My priorities with MailCall are first, to include current news about our beloved 517 troopers, family, and friends, second to include any historical stories or items sent to me, and lastly to include items from the numerous submissions sent to me as items of interest, curiosity, and humor. Furthermore, some of the articles I receive are not simple to edit and insert into MailCall. (Remember how Ben always asked people to send links, not long articles?) Some articles are easy to send to each other via email, but may include lots of hidden formatting characters and pictures. In order for me to put these into MailCall, it can require me to put in a huge amount of behind-the-scenes work to reformat them. Most pictures have to be individually edited, cropped, resized, sharpened, and reformatted. My priority is to try to get out the MailCall with whatever I can get in, and not skip a week because I don't have the time.

Well, this turned into a longer excuse and apology than I meant to write. After all, the MailCall is about the 517, and not about me or my feelings -- but just wanted to get it on the record that nothing bothers me more than thinking that I might have insulted, offended, or annoyed one of the troopers.

So please send me more news about you, and remembrances of the 517. That will give me less chance to screw up. – Bob B.

### *MailCall News*

Re: 517 PRCT - MailCall No. 2018 - October 24, 2010

Thanks as always for the updates. My brother and I would like to book the reunion trip in July in Atlanta. Please forward info re: accommodations. We do not want to miss this. The 517th. What more can be said?

Pete and George Jansson

*[I'll include the details as soon as I get the information. See you all there. – BB]*



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### MailCall News

HAPPY HALLOWEEN A VOUS ! -- Patricia et Roland Orengo



*I didn't know that Halloween was observed in France. Could that be another leftover from the 517<sup>th</sup> time spent in Southern France? They were in the Sospel area through October 1944. -- BB*





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### *MailCall News*

RE: The Condensed version of History by John Ruskin—

Being neither a liberal or a conservative (but I still vote) I was very much disappointed in the article or history as you put it in the MailCall.

I don't think the fathers of our nation intended for us to act or think this way (certainly to act out our emotions in such a nasty way). I have received emails, mail, etc. from both sides and want it stop. If those that send it feel it's funny, think again.

I am sure there are both conservatives and liberals in this organization. You fought the war together, covered one another's back. Maybe it was a liberal or conservative that that was there for you when you needed someone. Did you ask him then what he was an elephant or a jackass?

As a Christian, I find this subject very offensive. This is a nation built on the freedom of religion. I know of no religion that upholds such conduct as what has been going on and now I read it in the 517th MailCall.

Disappointed, Marie Rommel

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Hi Bob,

I just want to say that political correctness has gone too far! I am glad that you decided to submit the history about how Conservatives and Liberals began. There is much truth in it and it makes it simple to understand. I will be sending it to my friends so that they too will understand the difference. I respectfully also state that I think that most military families are conservative thus most 517th fans are also conservative. We earned the right to state our opinions. My dad certainly did and every man that served in WWII. I didn't serve in Vietnam but would've if called. I have adopted my dad's rights since he is no longer here. I hope there are no objections. I would like to see more of those types of things submitted. It made me laugh and explained the meaning of life! The Dali Lama was in Cincinnati this week and a child asked him, "What is the meaning of life?" He replied that he had studied that question for many years and still did not have an answer. That and Happiness! I have never heard it explained so simply! Thank you!

Rick Sweet

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HHHHHHHMMMMM I sent an article to you about Bill Mauldin a while back, never saw it in mail call, I thought most of the old troopers would like it. I know my older brother, an "F" Co. platoon Sgt. admired him, anyway. I just read mail call #2018, and it seems like jokes are more important than real heroes. Your choice I know.....now my choice is, please drop me as one of your readers.... thanks

[name withheld]



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Dear Bob,

With the football weekend in the past, it is time I sent my annual message about the Big Ten to Tom Reber, who a few years back was a mainstay in the Wisconsin line. Wisconsin did it Saturday beating Irv Pinkston's, Dick Spencer's, Russ Miller's, Floyd Stott's and my alma mater in a game that held your interest until time ran out with a thirty to thirty-one heartbreaker for us lowans. Since the big W beat numero uno, Ohio State, the week before by a larger score, Iowa did well. But, it could have used that point lost by a missed place kick after its first touchdown and should have rushed the kicker on his fake kick and run for first down on fourth and long that revived Wisconsin's last hope, a drive for its final winning touchdown. Tom, there is always next year.

I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude for all the kind words expressed by my Mail Call friends during my recovery from amputation of my infected right leg and CPR that revived me after almost four minutes of no lung and heart activity. The 517 has always rallied to the aid of those in a snare, and I want all of you to know how much it meant to me at a time of need.

God bless you all,  
Howard Hensleigh

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Hi ben-

I'm a grandchild of a member of the 517. Grandpa passed away in the early 90's, but am doing research now to understand as much as I can about him and what he went thru during his time in WWII.

Still doing a lot of digging right now, and it sounds like my aunt has a lot of his information, so hoping to have some direction after I see that.

Please add me to the mailing list. Thanks for the site and all the information.

-mark hanson  
[mhanson@loose-gravel.net](mailto:mhanson@loose-gravel.net)

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Hi Bob,

It's been a very long time since I've written anything to Mail Call but I do save the Calls you send out. Today I sat down to re-read Mail Calls I saved from a long time ago as well as read those I haven't opened in about two months.

Sadly, I learned that at least two Great Men of the 517th have joined my Uncle Floyd, your Father Benedict, and the other Troopers who are Resting In Peace all over the World. My Deepest Condolences extend to the Family, Friends, and especially the 517th Band of Brothers in the recent day-apart passing of Trooper "Earnie" Gilbert and Trooper Don Saunders. I have to agree with all the kind words stated in earlier Mail Calls about the attributes Earnie and



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Don exhibited in their lifetime. Their family members must be very proud of them. I know I am!

It was Earnie's daughter, Barbara, who was kind enough to tell me about her father and explain certain details, and protocols, with the 517th Reunions. This was at my first Annual in St. Louis. I ran into "Earnie" Gilbert again at my first Palm Springs Reunion and always felt warm around him with his ready smile.

Many years ago, while teaching a Death & Dying social studies unit in 7th grade, I was told that there is an Ancient Native American belief system that states we all take a little of everyone we come in contact with in life with us throughout our lives. How fortunate we are to have gleaned the Very Best from the "Earnies", the "Dons", the "Bens", the "Walts" and any and all of the recent passings of 517th Soldiers.

And on a Recovery Note, I'd like to pass along my sincerest congratulations to Trooper Hensleigh for his speedy recovery (probably not fast enough for him) from his accident. Although I've never met Howard, I feel I know him, intimately, through my conversations with Ben Barrett, reading Howard's accounts in Mail Call, but especially from his unselfish correspondences to my Mother, years ago, as well more recent personal writings he has shared with me about Uncle Floyd. Howard Hensleigh has shown me something I've known for a while...that we can share information with one another and not expect monetary returns. There are multiple examples of this positive behavior in the 517th Family.

I had to chuckle, Bob, on reading your comment about, "Sure make tough guys in Iowa," referring to Howard's latest physical battle as well as the Iowa Hawkeye football player's cycle accident. Since I was born and raised in Iowa, I watch as many of the Hawkeye games as possible and I saw the piece about the football player. Amazing he was not injured severely! I'm sure Howard will be pulling for his Hawkeyes to knock off Michigan State this Saturday. On a related note, I appreciated the piece about Dick Spencer III by his daughter, Bobbie Jo. I recall that Dick is credited with designing and developing the "unofficial" Battling Buzzard logo but was he also responsible for designing/inventing Herky the Hawk, the official mascot of the University of Iowa Hawkeyes?

I plan to email Dominique Potier in Belgium to see if any student or adult has adopted my uncle's final resting place in Henri-Chapelle. If so, I would like to try to communicate with that person to pass along what I've learned about Floyd so the adoptive-person knows that a real, special person once walked among us before he gave his full measure for his country and the people of Belgium.

Lastly, I appreciate reading in Mails Calls that other family members (sons, daughters, grand children, nephews, nieces, etc.) are finding this 517th website after learning their family member served, faithfully, with this unique Team. You, Bob, and the rest of the 517th Family have to feel blessed that you can help so many learn about events that happened 60-70 years ago but are still as important today as they were then.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenton Floyd Immerfall  
Nephew of Floyd A. Stott



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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.
- 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**

