



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2037

February 6, 2011

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

Website

www.517prct.org

Mail Call

MailCall@517prct.org

Mail Call Archives

www.517prct.org/archives

Roster

www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Looking for info: PFC Jack D. Gettman, Company D

From: Gettman, Dennis J Dr CIV USA TRADOC [mailto:dennis.gettman@us.army.mil]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:17 PM
Subject: 517th member

Sir,

I am pretty sure my Dad, **Jack D. Gettman**, served with the 517th (as a member of the 13th Airborne Division) during WWII. However, he was killed in an accident at work in 1976 at age 53 and I have limited information about him. I do know that he was wounded in France and received a PH for his wound.

Also, I am pretty sure that he was in Belgium (because he complained about his feet which were frozen in the war). My parents were divorced and my Mom has also passed. Any information or direction you could point me in would be of help. Just trying to catch up on my Dad's life.

Thanks,

Dennis Gettman

Dennis,

Yes, indeed. PFC Jack D. Gettman was in Company D of the 517 PIR. At the end of the war, the 517PIR was assigned to the 13th Airborne. But throughout all the fighting the 517 was an independent unit, who fought "where they were most needed".



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He is listed here with Company D in the Christmas 1944 roster: <http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>

I checked the Company D Casualty reports for June, July and August, and he is not listed in those. We are working on transcribing the rest of the months. http://517prct.org/records/casualty_reports.htm



And... Attached is a picture of (standing L to R) Faiola, **Gettman**, Lewis, Bonner, Jimmy Olsen, (kneeling L to R) Ben Shankman, Geary, McDade, Canziani, taken somewhere in Southern France, probably in the Sospel, Col De Braus area.

See: http://www.517prct.org/photos/d_company_files/kane_company_d.htm, Group 31.

Hope this helps. Please keep us posted if you find more info.

Bob Barrett
MailCall@517prct.org



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Sir,
Thank you so much! Brought a tear to my eye seeing Dad and SO young.
Thank you again.

Dennis Gettman

Sir,

I would assume that the gentlemen in the photo (Faiola, Lewis, Bonner, Jimmy Olsen, (kneeling L to R) Ben Shankman, Geary, McDade, Canziani) were squad/team members - any way to find out who is still around? I would really like to talk to anyone who knew my Dad then. Again, Thanks so much for your help.

Dennis

[None of these guys are on the MailCall list, but a few are still on the old roster. Is anyone out there in touch with any of them? – BB]

Guestbook Entry

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Clement R. Markley From: Texas E-mail: moshe1652@aol.com	Raymond E. Markley was my father. I was re-reading his WWII journals today and decided to see what i could find out about his unit, the 517th. I am proud that he is my father and proud that he fought with men as honorable as those of the 517th airborne. <hr/> Added: January 31, 2011

Name That Trooper

Answers to last week's puzzle:

SGT. Randolph Coleman, F Company
Lt. Worthington J. "Tommy" Thompson, 460th PFAB



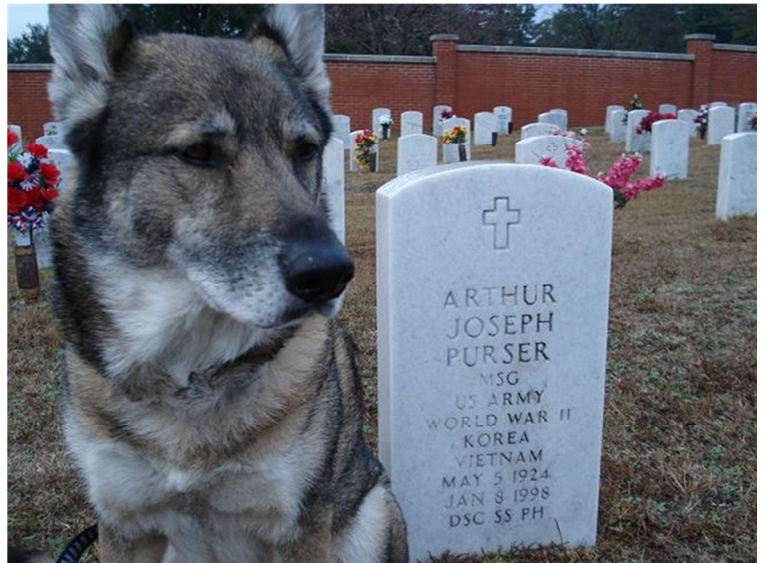
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MailCall News

From: David Purser
[mailto:dpurser1@cfl.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:25 PM
Subject: An Old Troopers Son.

Hello.

My name is David Arthur Purser. I am the last son of **MSG Arthur Joseph Purser**. He is listed on your website was a recipient of the Silver Star. As you can see on the attached picture of his tombstone located at the Ft. Benning Sand Hill cemetery, that my father also earned the Distinguished Service Cross which is not noted under DSC recipients on your website.



I've been on a search going on 5 years for information about my father's achievements while serving as a soldier for the Army. Haven't come up with much because i don't know where to look. I found your website searching my father's name in google. I've never read the actual citations of how he earned these medals (don't know where to look) and my father was never known to brag about what he'd achieved. I only heard two war stories involving death while I was growing up no matter how much I asked. He seemed to like telling the funny stories much better. I have a bag of Medals that the Army sent to me when I requested them, however they are incomplete there a couple missing from the list they sent me due to them not being in stock at the time they shipped them to me. My daddy always said he was going to put a dress uniform with all his medals together but he never got to it. He was too busy working for us, his family. I hope to do this for him someday.

I have only a couple pictures of my daddy (when he retired) if anyone is interested. I remember at his funeral back in 98' and old trooper showed up whom I had never met and told me he had some old film of my daddy driving a jeep. What I wouldn't give to see it but sadly I have no idea where to start looking for this gentleman with the footage, or even if he still walks the earth.

Any help would be greatly appreciated or any points in the right direction. I live in Orlando (where he moved us to in 86'), and try to drive to Benning to visit my daddy any Christmas that I can.

Best Regards, David Arthur Purser.

My name is Jim Penzone and I am a member of the 517prct reenacting unit based in Pa, VA and Maryland. I was wondering if I could be put on the mail call list.

Thank You
Jim Penzone



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Bob,

An Army buddy of mine sent this link to me about the 1940's. I thought our 517th family would be interested in seeing it. Sure brought back a lot of memories for me.

Lory Curtis, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st BN

[The 1940s](#)

Dear Bob,

Late Wednesday afternoon a member of the VA staff told me that a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, who is resident here, was to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on Thursday morning, and invited me to attend. I told him that we had fought alongside the 442nd in Italy and that some of them--an anti-tank platoon and some four point two mortar crews were brought in by glider and supported our attacks in and around the drop zone in the Southern France invasion. I attended the ceremony and they had me say a few words about this great outfit that is the most highly decorated in the armed services. Most of the 517th troopers will remember their reputation. The awardee had five members of the 442nd accompany him and afterward we had an "old home week". They all remembered the 517th.

Best regards, Howard Hensleigh

In Memoriam

Subject: **Tom Weil**

Mr. Hensleigh,

Hi this is Tom Weil's son Chris Weil, I regret to inform you of the passing of my dad. He passed away on Thursday, February 3rd after battling a long illness. He was a fighter all the way until the end and he never complained about pain. I guess it was the Airborne training.

I hope all is well with you

Best of Luck,

Chris Weil

Dear Chris,

Thank you for notifying me of your father's passing. He was a great trooper, frequently the vital man on our S-2 patrols. I first met him before Tennessee maneuvers and we were together through all the combat. One of the most enjoyable moments in **Red Meline's** and my recent lives was making contact with him and your family after so many years.

Please pass on to your family the highest regards from the 517th.

Howard Hensleigh



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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
- 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

Annual 517th Reunion (Probably the Last)
July 13-18, 2011, Atlanta, GA
with visits to
Camp Toccoa and Fort Benning

