



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2066**

**August 28, 2011**

*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 (from 2008)

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

### *MailCall News*

Hi, Bob-

I quickly went through the MailCall. I saw the name Katherine Kramer at the top of a page and wondered where that came from. It then occurred to me that you got my maiden name from my email when I forwarded the video on Pres. Bush. Now you know that Katherine Kramer is **Katherine Kramer Wheeler**.

Thanks for the excellent job you do with MailCall. Whenever Richard wanted something copied (which was most of the time), I was able to pick the exact page out instead of printing the whole thing.

Katherine Wheeler

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Katherine,

Ha! I am so glad that you wrote back. I was trying to remember where a Katherine Kramer came from. I couldn't find you in my MailCall roster, so I wasn't sure if I was getting something from a MailCall person, or just some crackpot spam. :^) But the name was familiar and the video was interesting.

I now located your email under **Richard Wheeler**, of course. I'll make a note so that you're both in my book.

Regards,

Bob Barrett



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Had to laugh! I've sent info before from Richard and the email is always from Katherine Kramer. Richard died 17 June 2011 and the article and picture was in an earlier email. Lori Curtis had also sent a note.

Richard had a Military Funeral at Dayton (OH) National Cemetery 24 June 2011. Flag Folding from Ft. Knox, 21 Gun Salute from the Marines, and a LIVE bugler. Many times the bugler holds a digital machine that plays taps. I read that there are very few live buglers. I have the US Flag AND the 21 shotgun shells!! I thought that was neat!

Katherine Kramer Wheeler



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Hello Bob,

Hope all is well on your end?

Hello Astrid, yes I adopted the grave of **Cpt. Robert P Woodhull** several years ago. His marker shows 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, of course that's not correct.

I have the complete story and contact with his family.

Best regards

Ronald [Stassen]

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**Subject:** RE: Information about WWII soldiers

Hi Bob and Ronald,

Thank you so much for letting me use the information on your website. I will send you additional information if I find any, although I think you have a lot of information about **Robert Woodhull** already. I found another soldier **Floyd A Stott**, who is buried on Henri-Chapelle who I also would like to add to my website. So far we have 5 soldiers from the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment Battalion registered, **Lincoln W. Ackerman, Francis A. Bloom, Frank W. Hayes, James L. Baney and George Mills**. You can read their stories on [http://www.adoptiegraven-database.nl/index.php?searchword=517th&ordering=newest&searchphrase=all&limit=20&Itemid=61&option=com\\_search](http://www.adoptiegraven-database.nl/index.php?searchword=517th&ordering=newest&searchphrase=all&limit=20&Itemid=61&option=com_search).

Kind regards  
Astrid [van Erp]



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Astrid,

We thank you all for your tributes to these fallen soldiers. Every year when members of the 517<sup>th</sup> visit Europe, I know they are amazed and grateful for the efforts that our friends in Europe exert to maintain their memories and take such great care of their burial grounds and monuments.

I have a special interest in **Floyd Stott**, as my father **Ben Barrett** was in the battle at Manhay and witnessed Floyd's heroic death in that attack. Ben always made a special point of paying tribute to Lt. Stott's grave at Henri-Chapelle. I have copied **Kent Immerfall** on this email. Kent is Floyd Stott's nephew, and is a good friend and active participant in the 517<sup>th</sup> remembrances.

Also note that the 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team included the 460<sup>th</sup> Parachute Field Artillery Battalion and 596<sup>th</sup> Parachute Engineer Company. I see that on your website, you also have a page for **Pvt. Richard E. Donnelly** of the 460<sup>th</sup>. We consider him to be a part of the 517<sup>th</sup> family as well.

Thank you for all that you do.

Bob Barrett

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From: Johnson, Patricia B, CIV Navy Cyber Forces, N1211 [mailto:patricia.b.johnson@navy.mil]  
Subject: RE: Flag

Bob,

Thank you so much for your response. Yes, he was a paratrooper **John Britsky** (he was a POW in France) I think, he just passed away at 87 years old. I am a little late in requesting this, I also wanted to get him his ID card from the Army because he had lost his wallet and of course lost his ID which broke his heart. Now, it is too late and I am feeling pretty guilty for not trying to obtain one for him earlier.

I appreciate you passing this one.

R, Trish

Very respectfully,  
Trish Johnson  
CYBERFOR/NETWARCOM  
Joint Expeditionary Base, Bldg 1265/2  
2465 Guadalcanal Rd  
Virginia Beach, VA 23459  
Telephone: (757)417-7935/DSN 537-7935X3

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*[Note: Pvt. Britsky was in I Company, under the command of Lt. Howard Hensleigh. He is mentioned in the Operation Dragoon After-Action Reports. – BB]*

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### Col de Braus

Dear Bob

Mr **Bob Cooper of F Company** has sent you a text regarding his experiences at Col de Braus that I have compiled after interviewing him. This text is part of a book about the liberation of the French Riviera that I am just finishing to write. I am hoping to send the final text to the publisher within a couple of months.

You can add Mr Cooper's text to the "soldier's stories" on the website, but please credit me (**Jean-Loup Gassend**) as the person who interviewed Mr Cooper and put the text together.

You can also add that I am always interested in interviewing other veterans about their experiences in southern France. Anybody interested can simply contact me at [jean-loup@gassend.com](mailto:jean-loup@gassend.com)

Best wishes

Jean-Loup

----- Message transféré -----

De : "[RCooper663@aol.com](mailto:RCooper663@aol.com)"

À : [schyzowolf@yahoo.fr](mailto:schyzowolf@yahoo.fr)

Envoyé le : Ven 26 août 2011, 9h 13min 22s

Objet : Re: Re : 517th at Hill 1098

Bob

In a message dated 8/25/2011 10:03:15 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, [schyzowolf@yahoo.fr](mailto:schyzowolf@yahoo.fr) writes:

Dear Mr Cooper

This is the text I made up from what you told me when I talked to you over the phone. You can read it and tell me if there are any mistakes.

Jean-Loup

“Our first platoon was under **Lt Starkey**, and he was atop Hill 1098 and they got attacked. He was able to get a runner down to the other two platoons in the company, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon. The runner got down there to alert us just before dark. We had just been issued mail and hadn't had time to read it, but we started climbing right at dusk. We climbed all night and we got up to the top of Hill 1098 and reinforced our 1<sup>st</sup> platoon up there.

I was a scout and had picked my spot out from behind a great big tree. It was just getting daylight and I got my mail out and was starting to read my mail when the Germans started firing at us. But they were firing high, you couldn't tell where they were coming from. I rolled over and watched up in the trees and I could see bullets raking the leaves high up in the trees. I rolled back over when I could see some movement out in



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the distance and I started firing. I had tracer bullets in my rifle because I was a scout, and of course you know the old infantry saying: "Tracer bullets work both ways" which they did. I took a lot of fire, but I was well covered behind the big tree.

The men started to fan out and fire at the attacking Germans. **Anthony Fabrik**, my machine gunner, came running up to my left. He was a little guy, but he carried the tripod, and you know they throw the tripod down and then the guy comes up and sets the machine gun on it and they are ready to fire. Well he got hit with two burp gun bullets right in his stomach. I got to him a little bit later, I rolled him over and I took his pulse and I knew he was dead. He never knew what hit him. **Sgt Thorng** got killed up there at the same time.

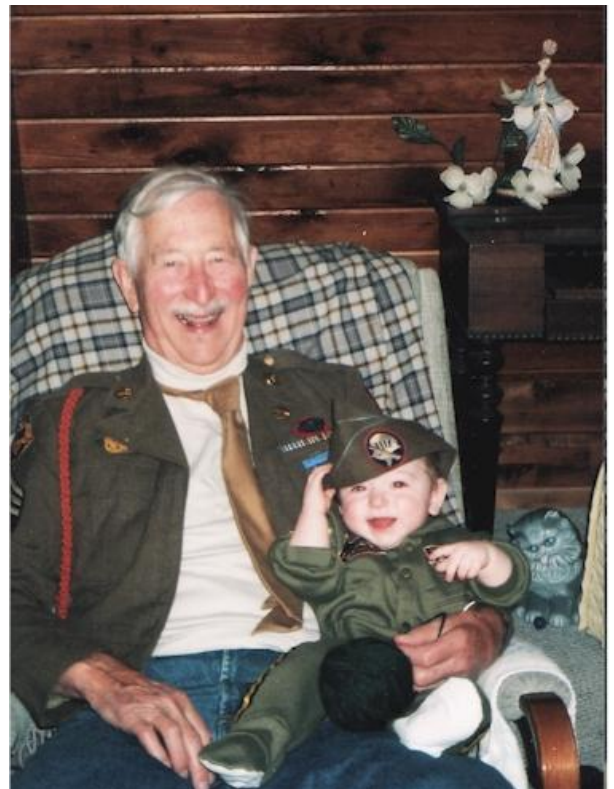
Evidently the Germans didn't realize that we had reinforced the position because we hadn't made any noise, and after their first assault with some burp guns the infantry tried to move up. But we got them and captured a couple of Germans and killed two or three others. Then they backed off and when ever they back off, they know where they have been and then they start shelling. That night we stayed there and then we went down off of there the next day. We were relieved."

### *Photos picked up at the Atlanta Reunion*

I am trying to catch up on items that people gave me at the Atlanta reunion.

First I have a few things from **Scott Ross** about **Norman Ross, I Company**, including a bio (to be posted), "*How I Became a Citizen Combat Rifleman*"

But for now, here is a photo of Norman Ross with his great-grand-daughter, Dorothy Ross (in 2009)





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Next I have a number of WWII photos. Unfortunately, I did not write down who they came from. If you gave me these, please identify yourself. These appear to be mostly F Company guys. – BB.

[Posted on <http://517prct.org/photos/photos.htm> ]



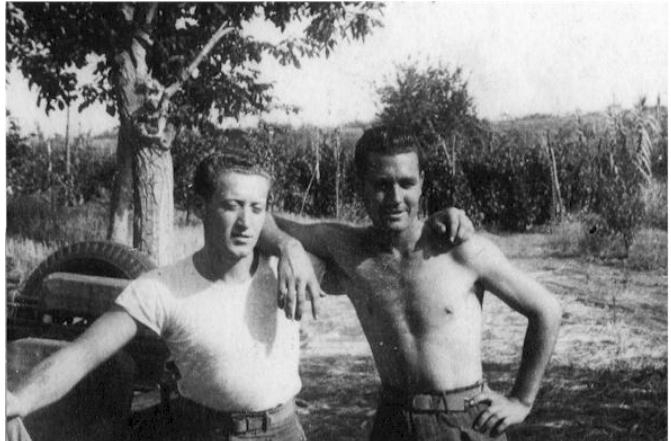
Ness, Kinder, Hibben – Sospel 1944



Ness, Cole, Wright – Rome 1944



Cole, Wright, Shelton, Ness, Collier  
Kinder, Hibbon, Martin, Milojevich (KIA)



Jim Passey, George Hill



George Hill



“our mascot in Italy” (?)



Wright,  
on top of dugout above Sospel



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From the newsletter Military Connections.com:

### Resources

Free Government  
Resource Sites



Veteran  
Government  
Resource Sites

### Attention All Veterans!

There are a large number of websites that provide information on Veterans benefits and how to file and/or ask for them. Accordingly, there are many sites that explain how to obtain books, military/medical records, information and how to appeal a denied claim with the VA. Most of this information is free and available to all veterans, but you have to ask for it. We invite you to look over the list of websites in the event that one or more of them will be advantageous to you. We also recommend that you bookmark the page for future use.

Check out our [Veteran Government Resource Sites](#) Directory

## 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 new Association Treasurer: Identify the purpose of any donation (Annual Dues, etc.) and make all checks payable to:

**517 PRCT Association, Inc.**  
c/o Joanne Barrett  
70 Pleasant Street  
Cohasset, MA 02025



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