



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2068

Sept. 10, 2011

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

Website
Mail Call
Mail Call Archives
Roster (from 2008)

www.517prct.org
MailCall@517prct.org
www.517prct.org/archives
www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

So Do We Now Call Him “Sir Richard”?

From the Kansas Junction City Daily Union:

Honored by the French

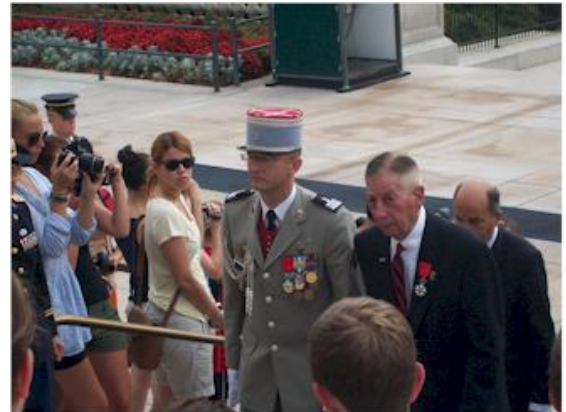
History recently caught up with retired Army Lt. Gen. Richard Seitz, though he was quick to humbly point out that he was just taking part in another military operation at the time — during World War II.

He talked briefly Tuesday morning about his role in Operation Dragoon, the second largest Allied invasion of Europe during WWII and the reason he was honored, among several others, by the French government a few weeks ago in Atlanta, Ga. During the annual gathering to study Operation Dragoon, Seitz received the National Order of the Legion of Honour, France's highest decoration.

Seitz...

...To Be Continued.

[We're trying to get a copy of the full article.]





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-----Original Message-----

From: M.Editor

Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 11:09 AM

To: MailCall@517prct.org

Subject: request for photos

I am managing editor of the Daily Union in Junction City, Kan., and I am working on a story about retired Lt. Gen. Richard Seitz receiving the French Legion of Honor and Operation Dragoon event. Could you email copies of the photos of him printed in MailCall No. 2063? If so, please email them in .jpg attachments in a size at least 10 inches wide.

Mike Heronemus
Managing Editor
The Daily Union
[Junction City, Kansas]

Good evening, Mike -

Our web administrator has forwarded your request, as you can see below.

I am attaching the pictures that appeared in Mail Call, along with a couple of others taken that day, that you are welcome to use, properly credited of course (Claire J. Giblin).

There is one of Lt. Gen. Seitz as he received the Legion of Honor, and another taken immediately afterward, but I didn't have a good angle on anything.

I didn't compress the pictures; let me know if they are too large. Also, please confirm receipt since I'll never know if I crashed your mailbox.

Thank you for your coverage of the 517's own Lt. Gen. Seitz. Quite simply, we just love him.

Sincerely,

Claire J. Giblin

From: "M.Editor"

Thanks so much for your help. And, ditto, he is much loved in this community.
Mike



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

MailCall News

Hi - my uncle receives the Thunderbolt newsletter...recently, an active soldier found my uncle's dog tag (which he lost in 1940something...) tracked him down and mailed the dog tag back to my uncle.

I think this soldier should be recognized for his efforts to locate my uncle and return the dog tag.

I have contact information for the soldier and my uncle. Is this something that could be posted on the website AND in the Thunderbolt?? (My uncle doesn't have web access.) Could you please tell me who I can email the info to for publication in the Thunderbolt?

My name is MaryJo Wilhelm and my email address is wilhelm80@earthlink.net

Thanks for your time – mjw
[MaryJo Wilhelm]

MaryJo,

Of course, we'd love the story for the Thunderbolt (printed mag, twice per year), and the MailCall weekly email newsletter. And I'm sure I'll find a place to put it on the web site.

If you email it to me (with pictures of your Dad and the soldier if you can get that), I'll get it into the weekly MailCall and the web site and pass it on to the Thunderbolt team.

Thanks!

Oh... What's your father's name?

Bob Barrett

Dear Bob: Love the pictures of the trip to southern France. Claire is a great photographer. Brought back memories of the pictures of your Dad and family in the south of France last year. Am so glad you all had that opportunity and memories. Thank you for sharing them with us.

Pat and Alan

PS Your sister, Joanne, is so thoughtful, trying to get a hold of me when Lory Curtis called her trying to tell me he had been talking with Dad who was debating whether to go to the hospital because he wasn't feeling well Friday afternoon. My sister had left him that morning and he was doing well, and I had spoken with him (from Newport RI) around 12:30 his time, and he sounded great, but then Alan has always teased that Dad's response to losing a limb would be to just rub a little dirt on it and keep going! He is doing better, but is a bit impatient that he is not leaping tall buildings with a single bound only 2 weeks after major lung surgery. These paratroopers! But you have to love them, they are and were some truly outstanding human beings.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Dear Sir,

I am the son of **George A. Sullivan** (Ltc Ret.) who served in Company A of the 1st Battalion of the 517th PRCT during '44-'45. I found your contact information after some research on the various 517th websites.

I am looking for further contact information regarding men who may have served with him.

I would be very grateful for a reply.

Thank you most sincerely,

Roger Sullivan

Roger,

I have included your note in the weekly email sent to the 517 troopers and friends. I will let you know if I hear anything back.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

MailCall@517prct.org

From: roger_k_sullivan@msn.com

Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 5:52 AM

To: MailCall

Subject: Re: Researching a member of the 517th

Thanks very much.

Interestingly, Dad's copy of the souvenir booklet has **Richard J Eaton's** signature. So, my Dad must have been friendly with him.

Roger,

Well, Richard J. Eaton was certainly with A Company. I don't know him personally – I have only gone to a few reunions and only over the last 10 years or so – but Eaton is still out there somewhere as far as I know. He had a number of interviews recorded not too long ago:

http://www.witnesstowar.org/content/search/search.php?zoom_query=eaton

Note that Richard Eaton was a Corporal in A Company in December 1944. He stayed in the service and eventually became a Brigadier General. Unfortunately, I do not have an email for him, but I know that he lived in GA in 2008. (Let me know if you want that address.)

PS: You said you Dad was "Ltc. Ret." Is that Ltc for Lieutenant Colonel?

Bob Barrett





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Bob,

I hope this finds you well and thanks for getting back to me so quickly.

I've seen Gen. Eaton's videos, but sadly, Gen. Eaton has passed. I found this online:

EATON, Richard J. Brigadier General, U.S. Army, retired. Age 86 of Nashville, TN, died Saturday, May 15, 2010. Preceded in death by first wife, Patricia...

Yes, my father retired as Lt. Col. But, like so many, he never spoke of his war experiences. He also passed about 13 years ago. The internet has been helpful in researching some of the information (esp. the 517prct web site). I have his medals (Bronze Star with commendation and Purple Heart) from the Belgian campaign.

From what Mom has told me, he left the Army after WWII, and trained as a die-maker in Chicago. When Korea began, he re-enlisted and was involved in the terrible first wave of N. Korean assault. He vowed never to be on the ground again, went to flight school and became an Army Air Corps artillery observer, flying L-19s. He did two tours in Vietnam and finished as Transportation Officer at Ft. Leavenworth – the highlight of that tour was his being responsible for the transportation at President Truman's funeral.

For your information, the other signatures that I can make out in the booklet are:

Zolie Kollet, Youngstown, OH

Arnold Knapp, Harvey N. Dakota

Charles Bannister, Kelso, Wash.

“Kockenspenger” (sp?), Phil. PA

Ned (sp?) Halfpenny, Clifton Heights, PA

Francis Kroch(sp?) Jr., NY, NY

I've sent in the form for the 517th Auxiliary membership and look forward to finding out more information.

I was watching “The War” by Ken Burns and it sparked a memory that Dad fought in Italy, France, and Belgium. That piqued my interest in trying to connect more of the dots of his WWII experiences. So far, I've found him listed on the “Christmas '44 Roster,” as well as on a couple sick rosters – Mom told me that he had pretty severe frostbite in his feet during that time.

I'm reading the “Battling Buzzards” now and it's a real eye-opener as to the innovation that the 517th brought to para-infantry combat.

Thank you again most sincerely,

Roger S.



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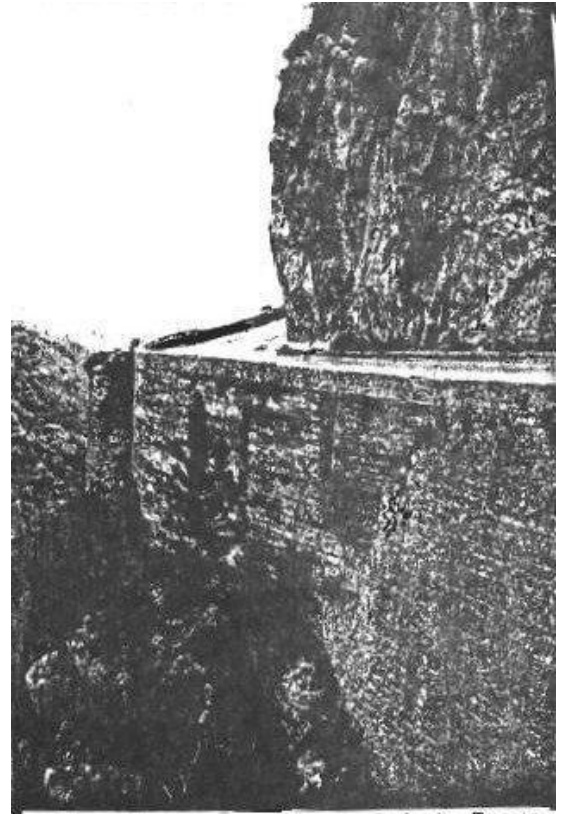
Here are a few pictures of Allan Johnson on the road portion (on the road leading to Col de Braus), which was repaired by the 596th PEC, 517th PRCT in september 1944.

From Paratroopers' Odyssey

"The major Engineer effort was reopening the road from L'Escarene to Col de Braus. From September 11th to 18th the 596th's 1st Platoon concentrated on rebuilding the road where "cliff blows" had dropped two long sections into the valley below, leaving a sheer vertical wall. First a footpath was widened to permit the evacuation of wounded. Then air compressors were borrowed, and men with pneumatic drills worked while hanging from safety ropes over the 400-foot drop truly a job for paratroopers. Footings were driven for retaining walls. As the walls were built up gravel was hauled in. In seven days the road was open. Captain Dalrymple, with justification, called it "the toughest and most important job" the outfit ever had. "

I hope everything is fine. I will be sending more pictures of the Southern France ceremonies for the website.

Kind regards,
Gilles



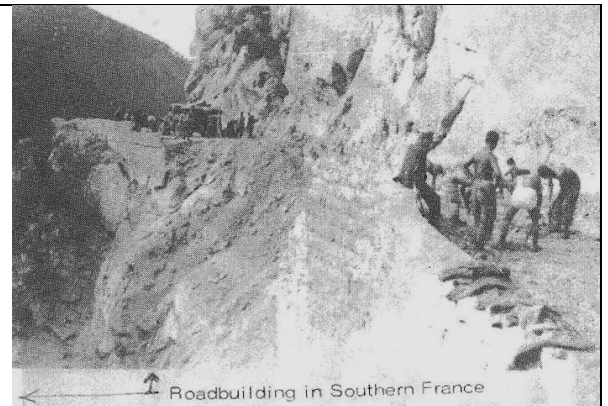
"Blowout" on L'Escarene-Col de Braus road. This was repaired to passability in September, 1944 by the First Platoon.



Picture of Allan in Italy



The Germans set the explosives

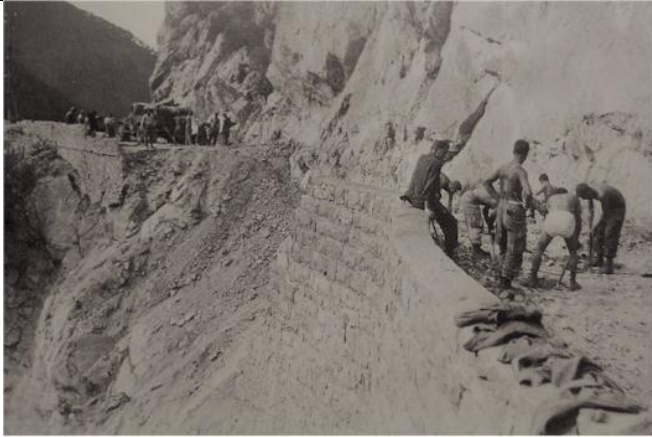


Roadbuilding in Southern France

1944 View from a 596th PEC newsletter



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Same 1944 view



The same place in 2011



Allan on the spot.



Claire and Allan.

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 Dues, etc.) and make all checks payable to:

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