



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2078

November 11, 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 (from 2008)

www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Veterans Day Edition – November 11

To all my 517th comrades. On this Veterans Day to all of you, I want to say how proud I am to have served in the 517th Combat Team with you, the best paratroopers to ever have ever pulled on a pair of jump boots. You were the greatest and on this Veterans Day I send you warm respect, admiration and heartfelt best wishes.

Dick Seitz

From **Fred Beyer**: **WILL YOU WEAR BLUE???**

Here are two very touching photos honored this year.

When 2nd Lt. James Cathey's body arrived at the Reno Airport, Marines climbed into the cargo hold of the plane and draped the flag over his casket as passengers watched the family gather on the tarmac.

During the arrival of another Marine's casket last year at Denver International Airport, Major Steve Beck described the scene as so powerful: 'See the people in the windows? They sat right there in the plane, watching those Marines. You gotta wonder what's going through their minds, knowing that they're on the plane that brought him home,' he said 'They will remember being on that plane for the rest of their lives. They're going to remember bringing that Marine home. And they should.'



First Place
Todd Heisler The Rocky Mountain News



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The night before the burial of her husband's body, Katherine Cathey refused to leave the casket, asking to sleep next to his body for the last time. The Marines made a bed for her, tucking in the sheets below the flag. Before she fell asleep, she opened her laptop computer and played songs that reminded her of 'Cat,' and one of the Marines asked if she wanted them to continue standing watch as she slept. 'I think it would be kind of nice if you kept doing it,' she said. 'I think that's what he would have wanted'.



Second Place
Todd Heisler The Rocky Mountain News

And the one that really tightens MY throat:



Blue Fridays - WILL YOU WEAR BLUE???

Very soon, you will see a great many people wearing blue every Friday. The reason? Americans who support our troops used to be called the 'silent majority' We are no longer silent, and are voicing our love for God, country and home in record breaking numbers We are not organized, boisterous or overbearing.

Many Americans, like you, me and all our friends, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of America supports our troops. Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect starts this Friday -- and continues each and every Friday until the troops all come home, sending a deafening message that every red-blooded American who supports our men and women afar, will wear something blue. By word of mouth, press, TV -- let's make the United States on every Friday a sea of blue much like a homecoming football game in the bleachers. If every one of us who loves this country will share this with acquaintances, coworkers, friends, and family, it will not be long before the USA is covered in BLUE and it will let our troops know the once 'silent' majority is on their side more than ever, certainly more than the media lets on. The first thing a soldier says when asked, 'What can we do to make things better for



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you?' is. 'We need your support and your prayers.' Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity, by example, and wear something blue every Friday.

Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you:

1. Jesus Christ
2. The American G. I.

One died for your soul, the other for your freedom.

*YOU MIGHT WANT TO PASS THIS ON,
AS MANY SEEM TO FORGET BOTH OF THEM*

Berlin Occupation

MailCall 2077, Regarding Wade Gilbert's request to find someone that went to Berlin after the war ended June thru Dec 1945.

I was a 50 Cal. Machine gunner with "" Battery 460th. Was in the group that flew to Berlin to help with acquiring quarters.

Would be happy get in contact with Wade to talk about my experience if he can't find someone from "F" Company.

Steve Armbruster

509 Belvedere Ct.
Hendersonville, N.C. 28791

Land line: 828-697-1254

Cell: 828-606-2501

snbruster@att.net

In response to Wade's request about the Vet's Berlin Memories.

My Pop, **John Copsy (517th I Company)** ended the war in the 504th PIR. Pop seldom talked about the war but I do remember his talking about how hungry the German civilians were and of the troopers giving out their rations especially to the children. Pop teared up when he mentioned the children. Attached photo was taken in Berlin.

My thanks to and best wishes for all the 517th Vets and their families during this special week.

Tom Copsy





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First off Wade thanks for all you do for the 517. Please all you troopers that served in Berlin give Wade your experiences. I elected to go to Berlin as all four Grand Parents came from Berlin. I looked in a local phone and found 21 pages of Egner's. In the USA you will find just a few (my sister's research). I was in HQ, 2nd so somehow I was put in HQ, 2nd of the 505, 82AB. Needless to say we needed liquor and beer. Before I was assigned to a duty I mentioned that I had some French connections in Nice. When we were on hill 1098 I spent a lot of time in Nice, sometime with passes and a lot of time without passes.

They gave me a Jeep and off I went to Nice. Went to my favorite Bar and looked up my French friends. They had caves full of liquor that the Germans didn't find. Money was worth nothing to them as they needed smokes, butter, coffee, etc. I made a deal with them to trade the stuff they needed for liquor and wine. Went back to Berlin and the powers to be approved loading a 10X10 with the items they needed. That's how I got the best job in Berlin. My title was "Liquor Buyer for the Regiment". Also arranged to supply the ingredients to make beer. We kept half and the Germans kept half. But that's another story.

The Germans treated us very well considering the fact that we almost destroyed their city and of course they said (?) they didn't like Hitler. We hated the Russians and they hated us. We Americans always thought we would go to War with them sometime in the near future. I expect they felt the same way but I don't this for sure. We had very little contact with them and about the only time we would meet was at the Brandenburg Gate. You asked where we stayed between combat and coming home. Another guy and I stayed in a German Admiral's house on the infamous lake where Hitler dumped thousands of bodies. It was interesting that your Dad left Berlin in December 1945, so did I. Your Dad was a great man and I enjoyed being with him at many Reunions. Your sister was such a good watch dog when she brought him to Palm Springs. You mentioned that he didn't talk much about the War, most of us didn't.

Coming home from Berlin was a breeze. The Army finally got it right. They tried to get as many of us home for Christmas. I walked in to my Mother's Apt. on Christmas Eve. They put us on trucks and took us to the coast of France, put us on ships and we landed in New York City, bused us to Fort Dix, NJ. From there we went to discharge centers near our homes. In my case it was Fort McCoy, Wis as I lived in St. Paul, Minn. They processed us out and gave me \$35 which was what a train ticket would cost. Five of us were going to St. Paul and by train we would not get home for Christmas so all five of us paid a local \$35 each and he took each of us our homes.

Wade thanks again for all you do for the 517 but I have a football program coming on so have to run. If you need any more information let me know.

Darrell "Lucky" Egner



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from Norman Ross's files, issued in 1945:

SPECIAL ORDERS FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS

1. To remember always that Germany, though conquered, is still a dangerous enemy nation.

a. It is known that an underground organization for the continuation of the Nazi program for world domination is already in existence. This group will take advantage of every relaxation of vigilance on our part to carry on undercover war against us.

b. The occupational forces are not on a good-will mission.

2. Never to trust Germans, collectively or individually.

a. For most of the past century, Germany has sought to attain world domination by conquest. This has been the third major attempt in the memory of men still living. To many Germans, this defeat will only be an interlude—a time to prepare for the next war.

b. Except for such losses of life and property suffered by them, the Germans have no regrets for the havoc they have wrought in the world.

c. The German has been taught that the national goal of domination must be attained regardless of the depths of treachery, murder and destruction necessary. He has been taught to sacrifice everything—ideals, honor, and even his wife and children for the State. Defeat will not erase that idea.

3. To defeat German efforts to poison my thoughts or influence my attitude.

a. The Nazis have found that the most powerful propaganda weapon is distortion of the truth. They have made skilful use of it and will re-double their

efforts in the event of an occupation in order to influence the thinking of the occupational forces. There will probably be deliberate, studied and continuous efforts to influence our sympathies and to minimize the consequences of defeat

b. You may expect all manner of approach—conversations to be overheard, underground publications to be found; there will be appeals to generosity and fair play; to pity for victims of devastation; to racial and cultural similarities; and to sympathy for an allegedly oppressed people.

c. There will be attempts at sowing discord among Allied nations; at undermining Allied determination to enforce the surrender; at inducing a reduction in occupational forces; at lowering morale and efficiency of the occupying forces; at proving that Nazism was never wanted by the "gentle and cultured" German people.

4. To avoid acts of violence, except when required by military necessity.

For you are an American soldier, not a Nazi.

5. To conduct myself at all times so as to command the respect of the German people for myself, for the United States, and for the Allied Cause.

a. The Germans hold all things military in deep respect. That respect must be maintained at all times or the Allied Cause is lost and the first steps are taken toward World War III. Each soldier must watch every action of himself and of his comrades. The German will be watching constantly, even though you may not see him. Let him see a good American Soldier.

b. Drunkenness will not be tolerated. Penalties will be severe.

6. Never to associate with Germans.

a. We must bring home to the Germans that their support of Nazi leaders, their tolerance of racial hatreds and persecutions, and their unquestioning acceptance of the wanton aggressions on other nations, have earned for them the contempt and distrust of the civilized world. We must never forget that the German people support the Nazi principles.

b. Contacts with Germans will be made only on official business. Immediate compliance with all official orders and instructions and surrender terms will be demanded of them and will be firmly enforced.

c. American soldiers must not associate with Germans. Specifically, it is not permissible to shake hands with them, to visit their homes, to exchange gifts with them, to engage in games or sports with them, to attend their dances or social events, or to accompany them on the street or elsewhere. Particularly, avoid all discussion or argument with them. Give the Germans no chance to trick you into relaxing your guard.

7. To be fair but firm with Germans.

a. Experience has shown that Germans regard kindness as weakness. Every soldier must prove by his actions that the Americans are strong. This will be accomplished if every soldier treats the Germans with firmness and stern courtesy at all times.

b. Firmness must be tempered with a strict justice. Americans do not resort to Nazi gangster methods in dealing with any people. Remember, your fair but firm treatment of the German people will command the proper respect due a member of a conquering nation.

Headquarters
Twelfth Army Group
Europe

*Of Norman Ross
30905265*

I need not speak of your past accomplishments, other than to say you have reflected great credit upon yourself and your command.

We are now fighting on German soil, and we are in contact not only with the soldiers of our enemy but also civilians of Germany. As conquerors, we must now consider our relations with the people of Germany.

It is imperative that you do not allow yourself to become friendly with Germans, but at the same time you must not persecute them. American soldiers can and have beaten German soldiers on the field of battle. It is equally important that you complete the victory over Nazi ideas.

To guide you I have issued these special "battle" orders. They may appear to lead along a narrow path, but they are NECESSARY. You personally must prove to the German people that their acceptance of Nazi leadership is responsible for their defeat, and that it has earned for them the distrust of the rest of the world.

O. H. Bradley
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. ARMY
COMMANDING



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Other MailCall News

I met **Ruben Duran** in 2008 at the Palm Springs Reunion. Can't remember for sure but I believe Ruben was his son who now runs the Zoot Suit company that Burt started. Ruben and I stayed in touch and saw each other again in 2009.

Ruben was in the Special Forces and his commander was **Gene Frice**. He had quite a history in his time in the military and made hundreds of parachute jumps. I am sure that Gene and Ruban could add some information to this mystery. I believe Ruben lives near Hemet, CA and his E-mail address is durant@sbcglobal.net.

One day during the reunion **Leo Dean** was going to Parris to make one of his many jumps so Ben Barrett, Ruben and myself tagged along. We dropped Ruben off in Hemet as he had an appointment with the Indian Chief of a local tribe. He was doing a fitting on a Zoot suit that he sold the Chief. When Ruben returned the next day in a big Hummer the Chief loaned him, he said the Chief offered to host a big party free for the next Reunion. Needless to say it didn't work out. There is a picture of all the girls in an old Mail Call and also in the Thunderbolt laying all over this Hummer. **

Hopefully between Ruben and Gene they can come up with a name of the other guy in the picture of Bert Duran.

Darrell Egner

** You mean this piece of evidence? -- BB



This is long, with many photos and descriptions, and I hope everyone can open this e-mail. It is worth viewing and remembering.

phil

[World War II: After the War - Alan Taylor - In Focus - The Atlantic](#)



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I just returned from Arizona visiting Mom and discovered a photo album from Dad's (**George A. Sullivan, Ltc. Ret.**) days in the 517th. It contained a few memorabilia, including an original copy of the July 9 Memorial service in Italy. I've enclosed a copy of what I believe to be Dad's Toccoa graduation photo. However, the left shoulder patch doesn't look familiar. (I scanned a paper copy of the photo, so it's not the best quality.) Any information on this would be appreciated.



In this photo, the fellow standing to the left is my father. I was fairly certain before I showed Mom and she confirmed that it was indeed him.

This photo of the men preparing to load is on the first page of the album that she put together for him. It's a collection of about 175 original photos, some 3x5" – others about 2x3". Many are scenes from Toccoa and, and the European campaign. Others are the usual collection of a group of guys posing for the camera (including two photos where guys are standing over a German soldier's roadside grave).



I have seen a few of them in other sources (like the above link and in the "Battling Buzzards"). My question is: who was the photographer? Were these personal snap shots that were shared amongst the troops? Or, were they taken by an army photographer and made available to the troops?

I'd be willing to scan them and share with "517th Mail Call" and am open to suggestions about the best way to do that. Any Ideas would be appreciated.

Best regards,

Roger Sullivan



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I've also enclosed an interesting piece of Nazi war propaganda targeting our troops. It's a front & back scan.

Roger Sullivan



From the website guestbook:

Submitted by	Comments:
<p>Name: Johnny Privott From: Chesapeake Va E-mail: Badazz596th@aol.com</p>	<p>My grandfather was Raymond Doane of the 596th 1st platoon. He was a childhood friend of Maurice White, medic 517th. They enlisted and went to basic and jump school together. Maurice was ruptured in jump school and after surgery returned to the 517th, granddad went to the 596th. Granddad worked for Texaco for 34 yrs. Maurice stayed in the army and retired from the 82nd. They spent their last 15 years or so paling around, drinking and fishing. Maurice White passed away Dec 12th 1991 and Raymond Doane passed away on Dec 13TH 1991. That's what you call sticking together now. Our families buried them both one day apart so all could attend. Being the only grandson of a only daughter, I was very close to my granddaddy. I heard many stories about Italy, the Jump in Southern France, the Alps and the Bulge. Also buddies like Bartholomew, Christian, Cochran, and Longstreth. I found a picture of them in Nice on a bench in the 517th prct.org documents 596th_newsletters/ Wings_Fall_1995.PDF . My grandmother has a German wallet full of pictures I am going to retrieve. It's maybe 200 pictures of you guys with names on the back of every one of them. I even got a picture of moses takin a c*** if I can find it. Lol. All of the men in the 517th and the 509th will always be my life long Heroes even more so as the years go by. I would like to hear from any troopers or family members for the 517th especially 596th 1st platoon that was attached to the 509th.</p> <p>Added: November 8, 2011</p>





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TOP L TO R--BOYER, DOANE, BARTHOLOMEW
BOTTOM L TO R--CHRISTIAN, KUNZER
COCHRAN, LONGSTRETH, LANDRUM

517 PRCT Florida Mini-Reunion – January 2012

WHEN: January 14 – 16 , 2012
(Hospitality Room Opens Evening of January 13)

WHERE: Ramada Hotel & Inn Gateway
7470 Hwy 192 West
Kissimmee, FL 34741
800-327-9170

[Click here to download info and registration form](#)

For further information contact
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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 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