



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

Special Edition MailCall No. 2081

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*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

In Memoriam –Lt. Ludlow Gibbons – H and I Companies, 3rd Bn.



Sadly, I must report the passing of my good buddy Lud, on Friday, November 18th.

He was a soldier to the end....never complaining...telling me each morning "Smile, today is going to be a great one", and almost all of them were.

I think the time he spent in the 517th were his most special lifelong memories. Almost every day he could bring up some memory of his time in the unit.



I will miss him.

Marty

Marty Donahoo donahoomarty@comline.com



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Marty,

I am so sorry for your loss. Lud will always be remembered as one of the best. His sharp mind, good memories — he was great at knowing exactly what happened where with the 517th — and most of all, just such a fun spirit. I'll never forget that great big smile.

Traveling with you and Lud to Europe in 2009 will always be one of my best memories. Even as he struggled breathing after a long climb up the hill at Col de Braus, he wasn't going to let that stop him. He had to finish the tour and point out the history to all of us. Everywhere we went, Lud would flash his smile, then stop and chat with anyone who smiled back at him. He was a solid soldier and leader, a good man, and a great friend. We'll all miss him. And of course, he was one of Ben's favorites to the end. We're all better for the time we spent with Lud.

If you don't mind, I'll pass the message on to the MailCall list.

Bob Barrett

Here are a few photos of Lud over the years:





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France, 2009:



American Cemetery Henri-Chappelle

Ceremony at the Mayor's office in Trois Ponts



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Le Muy 2009, receiving French Legion of Honour:



Le Muy, 2004:



90th birthday jump:





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Lt. Lud Gibbons 517th PRCT - A Platoon Leader back on the Dropzone

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See the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4yJHgRj9Hk>



In death a hero, as in life a friend.