



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2083**

**December 4, 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)

### *Reunions*

I am excited to report that President **Allan Johnson** and I have been working on hosting a National Reunion this coming summer. Kansas City, Missouri Airport Hilton Hotel has been selected as our reunion site and our reunion dates are July 12-15, 2012. More detailed information will follow, but for now mark it down on your calendar. We hope to see as many of you as can attend in Kansas City this summer. But for now remember our mini reunion January 14-16, 2012 at the Ramada Hotel & Inn Gateway, 7470 Hwy 192 West, Kissimmee, FL 34741.

**Lory Curtis**

### *More Remembrances of Ludlow Gibbons*

Dear friends of America, we are so sad to hear of Lud GIBBONS passing. Our thoughts are with you, we would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to Marty and to each of you. We lost a great friend and we remember the happy time we spent with Lud when he came in Ardennes. We have so many memories about the 517th group visiting us with Bill LEWIS, Bill BOYLE, Merle MC MORROW, Ben BARRETT, Gene BRISSEY, Carl KIEFER, Charlie KEEN, Bob and Bill DAVIS, Al PACIOTTI, Bob PASSLEY, Nolan POWELL, Harold ROBERTS, Gene FRICE, Earl PRICE, Phil DiSTANISLAO, Don FRASER, Clark ARCHER, Bruce CHESTNUT, and, of course, General SEITZ and many other friends we have in our hearts. We have had the chance to share emotional moments with those heroes and as long as we'll live, we will remember their courage and sacrifices. Please, accept our sincere condolences.

**Maria GASPAR, Irma and Arnold TARNION**

and members of CADUSA (US AIRBORNE RECEPTION COMMITTEE)



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

For the past 5 days I have been out of the Net, and when I opened my emails this morning I was just shocked to see that Lud Gibbons had passed away. When Tim and I got my Dad back involved in 517th Reunions, our visit reunion was in Portland Oregon in 2006, that the Davis's and Frice's hosted. Tim and I had never been to a 517th reunion so we were a little apprehensive. Anyway, Dad, Tim and I had just checked into the hotel and were walking down the hallway when we saw a man and woman with a 517th name tag on. Well, it was Lud and Marty. They were the first people we ever met from the 517th association. They welcomed us with open arms and treated us like family. We again met with them at the Washington, D.C. reunion. Then in December 2007, my Dad passed away. At the memorial service Lud and Marty were there in attendance showing their support of the Curtis family. Well, needless to say they have been great friends ever since. It has been my privilege to know both of these great people and I am so saddened to hear of Lud's passing. My sincere condolences to Marty and Lud's family. I am just grateful to know I got to see my ole friend one more time in Atlanta, and to share with him our travels to Fort Benning and Camp Toccoa. Attached are a few pictures I took of Lud while in Georgia this past July. I am sure I missed his funeral and memorial service, but I would like to know where he is buried if that is possible. Airborne All the Way!

**Lory V. Curtis, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st Bn**





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

Marty - please accept my condolences on the passing of Lud. We all lost a friend and comrade indeed.

I was fortunate to have spent some quality time (again) with just you and Lud in the food court in this year's Atlanta reunion during our city tour sharing stories about you wonderful folks, my Dad (John-Company I) and Lud's adventures after the war.

Bob Barrett is spot on relating to our experiences with you and Lud in Southern France 2 years ago. I particularly enjoyed witnessing Lud's "inspecting the troops" and bestowing ooh la la kisses on the mayor and ladies of Le Muy.

We will all miss Lud's smile, enthusiasm, and lust for life. God Bless!

### **Tom Copsey**

---

I am truly sorry to hear of Lud's passing in MailCall #2082. He was a direct link to my grandfather's most important battle in WWII, that of the fight for Manhay, Belgium. I was so happy to finally meet someone who was there to describe the pain that was there with the unfortunate events that came to the 1st platoon and **Lt. Stott**, and the sense of duty he had as XO of I Company to push my grandfather and the remaining boys of the other platoons forward into the town as they tried to care for their mates of 1st platoon. I'll always remember it when he said "We had a job to do!"

I will always remember the fun loving, mischievous person that I met at the 2009 Palm Springs mini reunion, and the fun times we had at the 2011 Atlanta reunion, especially our trip to Fort Benning where he kept our 2 year old daughter in stitches.

He will be missed. RIP

### **Scott Ross**

Grandson of **Norman L. Ross Jr.**  
I Company 3rd Bt. 517th PRCT

---

I am fortunate to have been in France at least twice with Lud, including in 2004 when he found the olive grove where he landed in Callian and in 2009 when he unknowingly missed the Legion of Honor ceremony, instead hijacking Gilles on a quest into the mountains. It all ended incredibly well as he later was the sole recipient in a shaded courtyard, in his own ceremony.

We were always happy to see him and Marty at reunions, and are so grateful that he made it to Atlanta four months ago. He was always a pleasure and always had a smile and a hug at the ready.

We will really miss Lud Gibbons, a 517 man to the end.

### **Claire Giblin**





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

Rest in Peace dear Friend Lud, . Your 517th action and Your memory will be perpetuate forever in southern France.

You have been one of the first great man of the 517th we had the privilege to met, in 1994, then you take care of us as your family in your home after the Palmsring reunion, may 1997, and we share many many good time in differents places, we are so proud to met you ,as all the great men of the 517th, you always host a special place in our hearts, and always pay tribute to you and your great outfit.

from the bottom of our hearts sincereres condolences to Marty

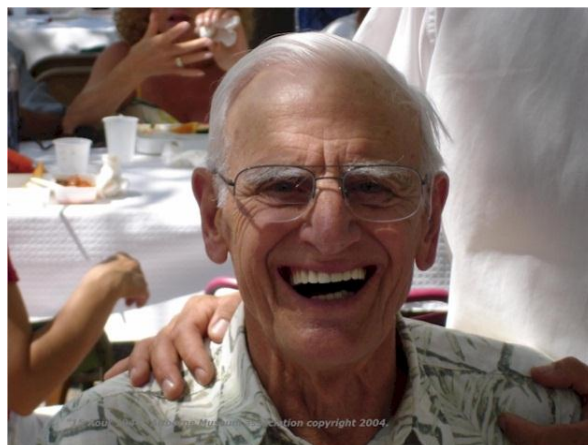
**J. Mickael SOLDI & Eric RENOUX** and all friends of the Drop Zone area.

"15 Aout 1944" Airborne museum association

letter box 79

83490 LE MUY FRANCE

[anvil-dragon@hotmail.com](mailto:anvil-dragon@hotmail.com)





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

### Other MailCall News

Bob, Here is an update on my father, **Tom Cross**. Tom took a bad fall several weeks ago that resulted in several fractured vertebrae in his neck. Less than a week later his wife Bette also took a fall and also suffered a fractured vertebrae. Dad is working hard to get back into shape with physical therapy and often has to be slowed down by the staff. Bette is fighting hard too but having a more difficult time. Please keep them in your prayers. Dad will not have access to the internet for 6-8 weeks but I would be happy to pass along any messages of support to both Tom and Bette.

Best wishes,  
**Wayne Cross**

---

**From:** "J.mickael SOLDI" <[anvil-dragon@hotmail.com](mailto:anvil-dragon@hotmail.com)>  
**To:** [clairejgib@comcast.net](mailto:clairejgib@comcast.net)  
**Cc:** [ginger509@hotmail.fr](mailto:ginger509@hotmail.fr), "Eric adress1" <[cabrian9@aol.com](mailto:cabrian9@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 3, 2011 7:24:32 AM  
**Subject:** Leo

Please my dear Claire,

Update as soon as you can some news from Leo  
tell him we love him and think of him !!!

**J. Mi, Eric, Adrien** and the french friends  
Love JM

---

Hello, all -

I've been talking to Leo regularly, and I know that some of the 517 guys have called him while he's been in rehab. He has really appreciated the calls from everyone.

He told me that he figures they're going to "kick me outta here" sometime late next week, and he's planning to go to a friend's house for a few weeks until his new ground floor place is ready in January. He's got multiple therapies every day, and is getting visitors as well. It sounds like everything is getting better and that he's coming along. He can do more and more for himself and even went up a few steps this week.

He still has therapy multiple times a day, even on the weekends, but he'll pick up if you call him at 518 421 0351.

**Claire**

---



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

RE: Requesting service medals

There are a number of procedures that can be followed in attempting to receive service medals awarded for service time. One procedure that may not work for all is make the request through your State Senator. I contacted mine and provided a copy of my discharge papers. I had the medals within 5 days. Where I worked any Congressional inquiry required a response within 72 hours. I imagine this same requirement applied to the Army.

### **Merle**

---

RE: Requesting service medals

I do not know if my information will help Mary but when Leo and I moved to South Carolina from Rochester, NY, when we went to our County Courthouse for information on taxes and so on. They asked Leo if he was a vet and sent him to an office where he was greeted by a gal who was a rep for vets. This was June of 1986. She sent for his records and the address was: Veterans Administration Records Processing Center, P.O. Box 172, St. Louis, Missouri 63166. On June 6, 1986 Leo received a big manila folder with all his records which included any medical care and history of his services.

Some time after he came home to MA where I was living, he was having a problem with a knee he has injured in one of his first jumps and had been treated for it. The doctor he saw for the knee problem suggested he contact the Vets Administration re: the knee to possibly get some kind of disability. He mailed for all this info around Aug. of 1945 or 1946. We received a letter from them saying that they regretted the files were burned in a fire they had destroying all the records. We were amazed when we received a full folder of all the reports in June, 1986 with nothing even suggesting a fire had destroyed the reports. We are wondering how many other vets had this experience, so I would want people to know what happened to Leo. He had to deal for years with the knee problem which finally was corrected by surgery. In the reports we received it was there in the records of his injury many too many years to try to day anything about it.

I imagine the address I gave you is long gone but maybe she could get some answers by trying it. I have about every paper Leo ever had and some day will go threw them to see what to save. I did donate quite a lot of papers to the boys in France but have a big task to look though them all. If I don't get to it my daughters will have to decide.

I wish Lee and Mary lots of luck. I remember meeting them at reunions.

Also, I was sorry to hear of the passing of Lud. He was a guy that was always smiling. So sad for Mary. We all have to adjust to losing our loved ones. Time helps and then lots of great memories flood in.

Best wishes to all,

**Joyce Turco**, widow of **Leo Turco**, A Battery 460th



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

Paul [Hamilton],

Catching up on Mail Calls and saw your request regarding **Albert A Delgado**. There is one family tree on Ancestry.com with Albert born 1922 and died 1944 (I think he died Jan 16, 1945 if I've found the right Army records). It's a large family and siblings include Tarsicio. It looks as though many siblings are still living.

Ancestry allows subscribers to send a blind email to the owner of a tree, if the person is still an active subscriber they will get both an email and a message via the ancestry website. Would you like me to send a message with your email address? If the owner isn't directly related perhaps he has some contact info.

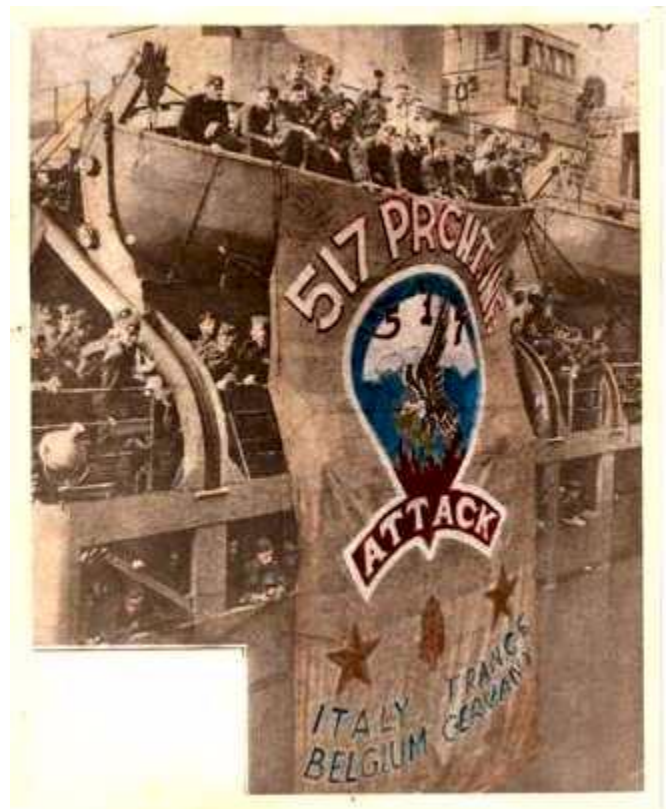
**Elaine Berger**

---

From **Joe Clark**:

Oneida Victory -- WW2

Landing in NYC 1945.



Hi....

I would love to be back on Mail Call...My name is Becky Martinette. My father was **Maurice White, H Company**.... I have missed my connection with the 517 group. My new email address is [Saltaire4@cox.net](mailto:Saltaire4@cox.net) or [Saltire1@cox.net](mailto:Saltire1@cox.net) ....

Thank you

**Becky Martinette**





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

I received this clip from an Army friend of mine. I have been to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier a few times and each time I stood there quietly in respect. You can see by this video clip that some people just don't seem to understand. But, watch and see what happens.

**Lory Curtis**

---

### **Tomb of the Unknowns - Action/Reaction**

Here's something I've never seen happen during any of my visits to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Turn up the volume before you click the link to be sure you hear some people laughing in the background, then stand by for the guard's reaction.

<http://www.allproudamericans.com/No-Laughing-at-the-Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier.html>



---

Lory, That's a great video! After watching it, I was curious about whether the Tomb Guards carry live ammunition – just in case. They are trained guards after all – the best. But I did a little internet research, and from what I can find, the Guards are NOT carrying live ammunition, at least not loaded into the chamber. (But there are plenty of other security forces in the area.) However, as one informed source noted:

“The ‘old Guard’ is the nickname for the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, which is based at Ft Meyer, VA. They do have very strict rules for assignment, and a soldier must be very sharp, no previous disciplinary trouble, over 6 feet tall, and exceed the army standard for height /weight, and appearance.

...The Honor guard unit, which I am thinking is a company furnishes the tomb guards, and also does funeral details, special events, etc. They are not locked and loaded when they stand guard, and are there as a function of respect and tradition. I am confident though, if some ner'do'well tried to disgrace the tomb, he would have to contend with a kid that could near bench press 300 pounds, and a very, very sharp fixed bayonet.”



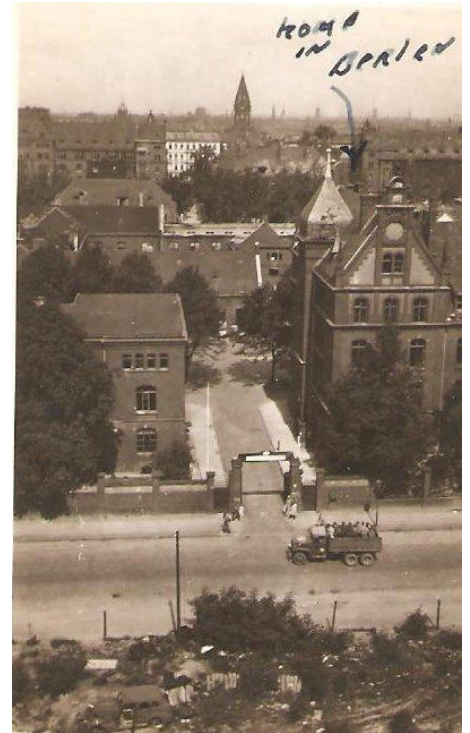


## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I was reading mail call 2078 and Tom Copsey's memo on Vet's Berlin Memories. Our troopers were some tuff Buzzards, with very Big Hearts. Enclosed are the few things I have about Berlin and the kids. **Steve Markle** and **Mickey Moses** have both contacted me. What can I say but just two nice guys. I would like to publicly thank Steve for his help with my stuff and his website to his dad and the 596th. Also many thanks to you Bob for all of your great work too!

I talked to **Becky Martinette** [**Maurice White's** daughter ] today. We plan on a little get together with her mom Betty White and my grandmother Shirley Doane. The old gals are going good and have been life-long friends as was Maurice and Raymond. The meeting will be about the boys and the war and we plan to tape it. They are both sharp as a tack with many stories we both could never remember. Also Shirley and Jack Gutherie went to grade and high school together in Portsmouth Va. Now the world's really getting small.

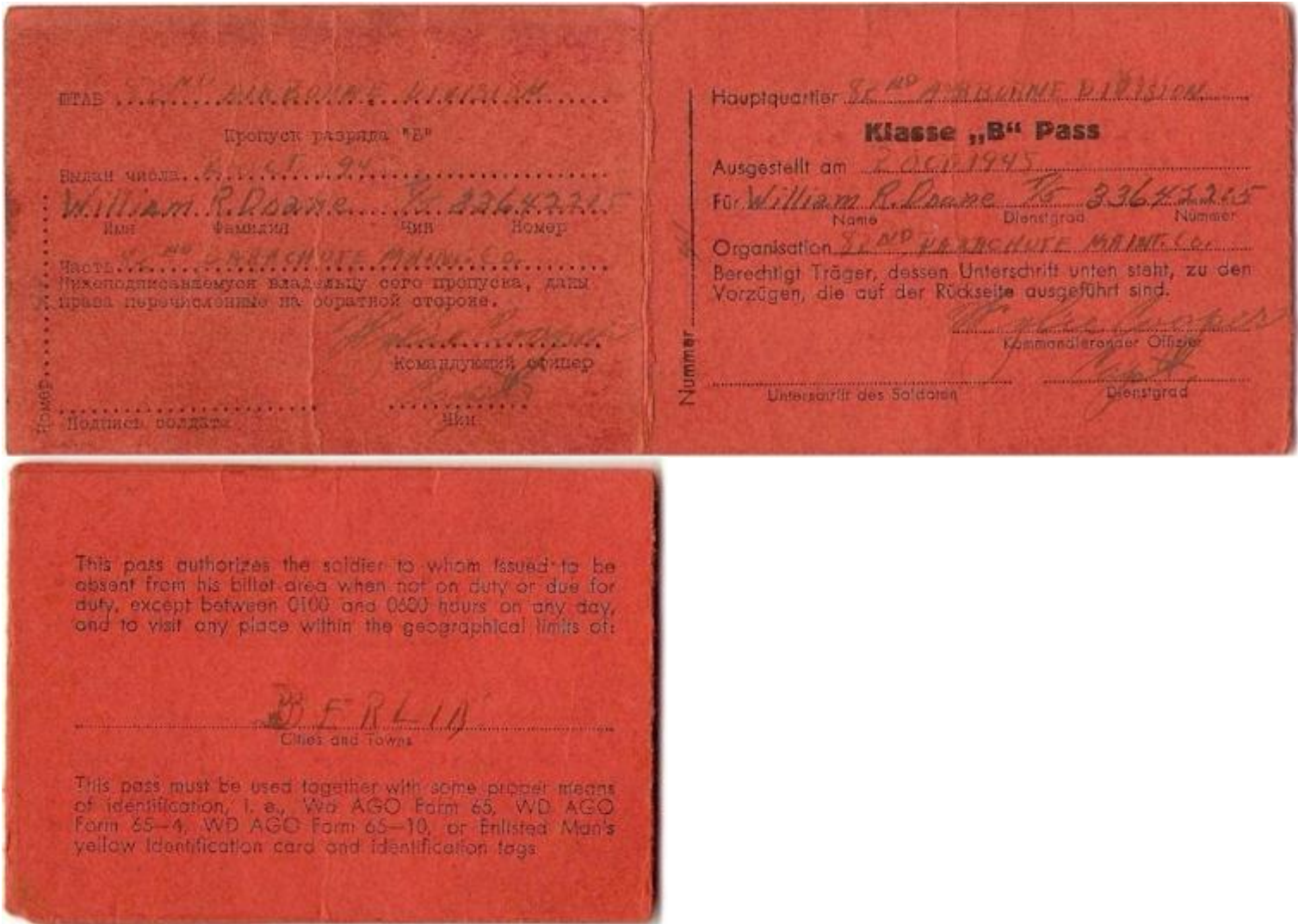
Thanks Again  
**Johnny Privott**  
Grandson Raymond Doane, 596th



"Kids waiting for the scraps from chow. This is about a hundred every meal."



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



I was one of five brothers serving in WWII. Fortunately only three of us were in combat, as the two younger brothers didn't get in the service in time. One of the three still lies in an American Military Cemetery in Luxembourg. There were too many of us returning home to seek jobs for any type of honors, etc. to be extended. Fortunately, today, more than ever before, people ARE recognizing the accomplishments and sacrifices being made by the veterans of the past and the young ones serving today. This article is well worth reading and remembering.

## Phil McSpadden

**Soon To Be Gone** by Capt. Steven Ellison, MD, a military doctor

This should be required reading in every school and college in our country. This Captain, an Army doctor, deserves a medal himself for putting this together. If you choose not to pass it on, fine, but I think you will want to, after you read it.

<http://vantagepointmag.com/2007/12/06/soon-to-be-gone--from-a-military-doctor.aspx>



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

### **Must See Military Video...Ending is fabulous!**

I am now passing this on for you to watch. It's not just enjoyable, it is riveting!  
When you are done pass it on too, I think it's important...don't you?  
If you are a veteran, I say thank you, for everything.

<http://www.nragive.com/ringoffreedom/index.html>

Take the time for this one...You won't be disappointed! The very end is a kicker!

### **Phil McSpadden**

---

Note: Recent MailCalls are currently being rejected by the following:

Steve Gomez – Over quota

Jim Royer – Over quota

Harold Roberts – Account not available

## *517 PRCT Florida Mini-Reunion – January 14-16 2012*

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

For further information contact  
Brenda Verbeck Mortensen, 813-335-8002 [bverbeck@gmail.com](mailto:bverbeck@gmail.com)

## *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



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