



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2088

January 8, 2012

*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

Happy New Year!

Hello and Happy New Year to all!

I cannot believe that Kissimmee is already practically upon us! This time next week, we will be in sunny Florida again, enjoying meeting friends old and new and planning for Palm Springs in April and Kansas City in July.

Hey, Lory - what do you think about having friends and family sign up to help at the t-shirt and pin sales table?



I spoke with **Leo Dean** yesterday. He is doing great and looking forward to Palm Springs. He will take a pass on Kissimmee this year BUT - although he still has a cast on his right hand, he is now:

- moved into his own new apartment on the ground floor (new address: 16 Stonehenge Lane, Apt 17B (as in Bastard, he said), Albany, NY 12203
- back to driving
- back to work on Monday

So good news all around.

Start planning now for Palm Springs and Kansas City!

Claire Giblin



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Subject: **Pvt Harold H. MILLER, U. S. Army**

Hello,

I am Maxine Miller Whitman and doing genealogy on my MILLER family.

I have a cousin, Pvt. Harold H. MILLER ID: 33758235, that was KIA in France (died 18 Aug 1944). He was a paratrooper in the 596th Parachute Combat Engineering Co. who parachuted into the Nice, France airport to de-mine the area.

Harold H. MILLER was born 3 Aug 1916 in Clinton County, Pennsylvania, to Omer I. MILLER and Anna (Rinzo) MILLER. He enlisted 30 Nov 1942 in Pennsylvania. His body was returned for burial in the Blanchard Cemetery, Blanchard, Clinton County, Pennsylvania.

My local Veterans headquarters here suggested I send you an email to see if you have any information in my quest.

Thank you very much.

Maxine

Hi Maxine,

I will post your request into our newsletter that I send out weekly. It gets to a small, but enthusiastic group of 517/596/460th troopers and family and friends. I will forward any info I get back.

You probably already know this, but there is a plaque in Nice remembering Harold and a few others: http://www.517prct.org/nice_airport_plaque.htm Also here is a photo of the Nice airport from 1944: http://www.517prct.org/photos/596th_photos_markle/596th_portraits.htm

This is from the Paratrooper's Odyssey, the 517th's official history. It was a huge job to clear the airport:

From September 15th to October 11th the 3rd Platoon, 596th Engineers, was detached from direct support of the RCT and was charged with removing mines and obstacles from the Nice Civil Airport. This was a challenging and dangerous job. The Platoon removed 1500 mines and explosive devices,* demolished 13 Flak towers and two pillboxes, and removed 3,000 feet of sea wall that the Germans had put in as an anti-landing obstacle. In the course of this work five Engineers were killed when a truck loaded with Tellermines blew up. The truck's driver had been underneath working on the engine. He was seriously injured and died later. This tragic accident brought the number of 596th men killed in action since arriving in France to eleven more than most infantry rifle companies.

And you probably already have it, but I looked up his NARA enlistment record, based on that serial number

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=1&tf=F&q=miller+harold+33758235&bc=,sl,sd&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=4217901>

That record says that he enlisted on April 10, 1943 and was married.

I hope this little bit helps.

Bob Barrett



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hello again Bob,

Thank you so VERY much. I shall change my date of his enlistment.
I appreciate all your efforts and shall add any new information to his genealogy record.
I indeed did find the plaque and printed the picture of it.
Thanks again for the information.

Maxine

Hey Bob: Did our "Ode To A Top Hand" make it to Mail Call? Have an exchange between General Zais and myself that I'll send along.

Thanks, **George Jones**.

Dear Mr. Barrett,

My name is Mike Thornton and I am a nephew of **Andrew J. Murphy**, who was killed on June 18, 1944 near Grosseto, Italy. I was honored to make contact with members of the 517th about 12 years ago and received information about my uncle that was very valuable. However, we lost valuable pictures and other items of my uncle in a flood that hit Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1972 and would like to use today's technology resources or other sources to restore what we can. Life has been busy the last dozen years and there are many grand nieces and nephews old enough now to appreciate Uncle Andrew's sacrifice and life.

We would like to ask for assistance in locating pictures of Andrew, especially as a member of the regimental boxing team (he was a heavyweight) and any other pictures or stories of his training and service. We do have the Paratroopers Odyssey book and have found some online resources but not many. We understand he was killed very early in the 517th's war experience thus limiting some recollections and contact with him among his peers.

Your help is most graciously appreciated and I would be interested in information on how to receive your mail call emails.

Thank you again and on behalf of Uncle Andrew's extended family we wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

All the best,

Mike Thornton

Andrew Murphy of B Company was the first 517th trooper to be killed in action. I did a quick scan of what is on the website, but I don't have any photos of Murphy. Does anyone else know of any? – BB



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Dear Bob: A belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and the Barrett clan. I have not dropped off the face of the earth, but could not open Mail Call on my new email account (seitzpatricia46 .at. gmail.com) no matter what I did including having my tech folks make sure I had all the Adobe updates. Yesterday, I finally had the bright idea to forward Mail Call to my aol account (paseitz .at. aol.com) and lo and behold, I can open Mail Call again! I have missed reading them -- you do such a wonderful job. May I impose on you to use my paseitz .at. aol.com address for sending Mail Call?

Many thank yous.

Pat and Alan

PS Dad is arriving in Miami next Saturday (Jan. 7) and will spend a week here before going to the Florida Mini. Needless to say, we're pounding heaven with prayers that the weather is warm -- as you are so right -- after the winter of 44-45, warmth is paramount!

Pat: I'll send MailCall to both for now. I'll send one to my gmail account and see if I have similar problems. -- BB

Regardless of your political leanings, you have to appreciate the effort these wounded soldiers put forth and appreciate a former Commander in Chief riding with them.

phil mc spadden



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TiGYDvc4IU>



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

[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
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