



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2101**

**April 8, 2012**

*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)

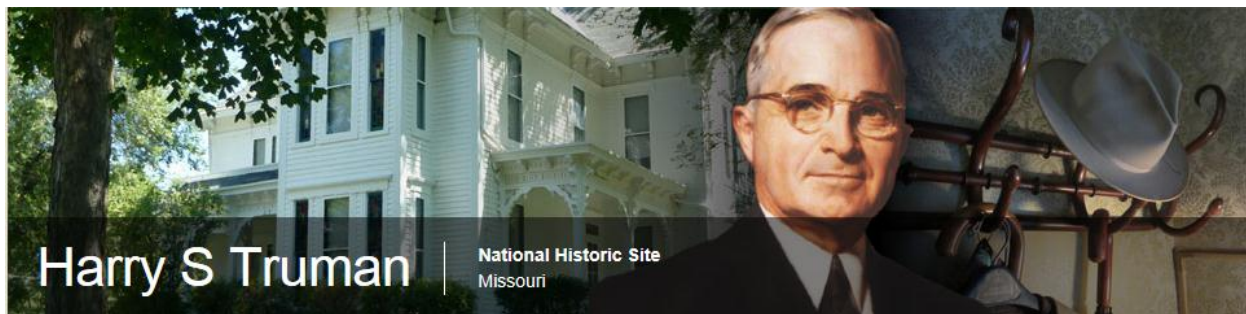
[www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)

## *National Reunion – Sign up Now!*

Please extend my many thanks to **Mel Dalhberg** for sending in his registration for our **National Reunion in Kansas City, July 12-16th**. In speaking with **General Seitz** last week he is concerned that most of us are not thinking about the reunion yet. He and I want to ask our members to register for the reunion soon. Also talk to your 517th friends about the reunion and invite them to come. I am sure like me you may know of troopers who are not on mail call that would love to come to the reunion if you just asked. Get the word out and I hope to see all of you in Kansas City!

**Lory Curtis**

*[Reunion registration info is on the last page]*



**Harry S Truman**

National Historic Site  
Missouri





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

**Ray Bunce's** daughter and 2 grandsons will be attending the reunion. We look forward to meeting Mel and Jess and hearing the stories of the other brave vets who will be there!

Chris Bunce  
Justin Jolly  
David Rokowski

### MailCall News

*I ran across this note on a WW2 collector's page, referencing **George Spears'** photos on our website. I didn't realize that **Pvt. Caver** and others were requisitioning their own weapons. – BB*

<b>RogueJK</b> Machine Gunner  Joined: 09 Apr 2009 Posts: 259	Posted: Fri Jan 29, 2010 6:00 pm Post subject: <a href="#">Download Post</a>  Lots of unique photos as well. Check out these shots of Pvt. Caver from F Co. in Southern France, armed with an Italian MAB38a SMG! <a href="http://www.517prct.org/photos/spears.htm">http://www.517prct.org/photos/spears.htm</a>  Guess he preferred the rapid fire and greater capacity of the Beretta to the extra range and punch of the M1 Garand. Still, you'd think ammo procurement would be troublesome. Unlike the Brits, many of which adopted captured 9mm MAB38s for their own use (preferring them to the often unreliable 9mm Sten), the US forces didn't have the 9mm cartridge available through their normal logistics channels. He would have had to rely on captured German 9mm ammo.	
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From: **Steve Markle** [mailto:steve@markleweb.com]  
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 5:57 PM  
To: MailCall  
Cc: **Johnny Privotte**  
Subject: Question about French Fourragere

I think I can help on this. "From what i have read you have to be mentioned twice. I can only find one mention on the 517th website."

The members of the 1st platoon of the 596 were honored twice by France:

French Croix De Guerre Avec Etoile De Vermeil  
- French Decision #247 (15 Jul 1946) as part of the 596/517

French Croix De Guerre Avec Etoile D'Argent  
- French Decision #246 (15 Jul 1946) for the 1st Platoon of the 596


Document attached. Also referenced here: <http://517prct.org/overview.htm>

-Steve-







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




596



Essayons





Essayons

## 596th PARACHUTE ENGINEER COMPANY

• SYNOPSIS HISTORY •

ACTIVATED	COMPANY C/139th AIRBORNE ENGINEER BATTALION/17th AIRBORNE DIVISION	15 APRIL 1943
REDESIGNATED	596th AIRBORNE (PARACHUTE) ENGINEER COMPANY/517th PARACHUTE RCT	10 MARCH 1944
CONSOLIDATED	COMPANY B/129th AIRBORNE ENGINEER BATTALION/13th AIRBORNE DIVISION	1 MARCH 1945
INACTIVATED	FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA	26 FEBRUARY 1946

• CAMPAIGN CREDITS •

ROME-ARNO	WDGO 99	6 NOVEMBER 1945
SOUTHERN FRANCE	WDGO 87	16 OCTOBER 1945
PARACHUTE ASSAULT	WDGO 70	20 AUGUST 1945
RHINELAND	WDGO 118	12 DECEMBER 1945
ARDENNES-ALSACE	WDGO 114	7 DECEMBER 1945
CENTRAL EUROPE	WDGO 116	11 DECEMBER 1945

THE 596th PEC FOUGHT ON BATTLEFIELDS IN ITALY, FRANCE, BELGIUM AND GERMANY  
THE COMPANY ACCUMULATED OVER 150 COMBAT DAYS AND HAD 15 MEN KILLED IN ACTION

• UNIT DECORATIONS •

596th PEC	FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE AVEC ETOILE DE VERMEIL	FRENCH DECISION NUMBER 247 15 JULY 1946
1/ 596th PEC	FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE AVEC ETOILE D'ARGENT	FRENCH DECISION NUMBER 246 15 JULY 1946
596th PEC	BELGIAN CROIX DE GUERRE	BELGIAN DECREE NUMBER 6185 4 JULY 1949

• KILLED IN ACTION •

1st. Lt. GEORGE E. FLANNERY	PFC ERNEST R. COFFELT	Pvt. LEONARD MATHIS
Sgt. WALLACE P. ENGLERT	PFC HERBERT B. McLAMB	Pvt. PATRICK L. MICHAELS
Sgt. HOWARD D. JAYNES, JR.	PFC FRANCIS T. ROPYAK	Pvt. HAROLD H. MILLER
Cpl. GEORGE H. JONES	PFC ALOIS J. SIEWIERSKI	Pvt. HARRY L. SPRINGER
PFC WILLIAM F. BOGGAN	Pvt. VESTAL A. LUCAS	Pvt. HENRY WIKINS

• COMPANY COMMANDER •

CAPTAIN ROBERT W. DALRYMPLE  
(COLONEL, USA RETIRED)

COMPANY MOTTO = NE PLUS ULTRA





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

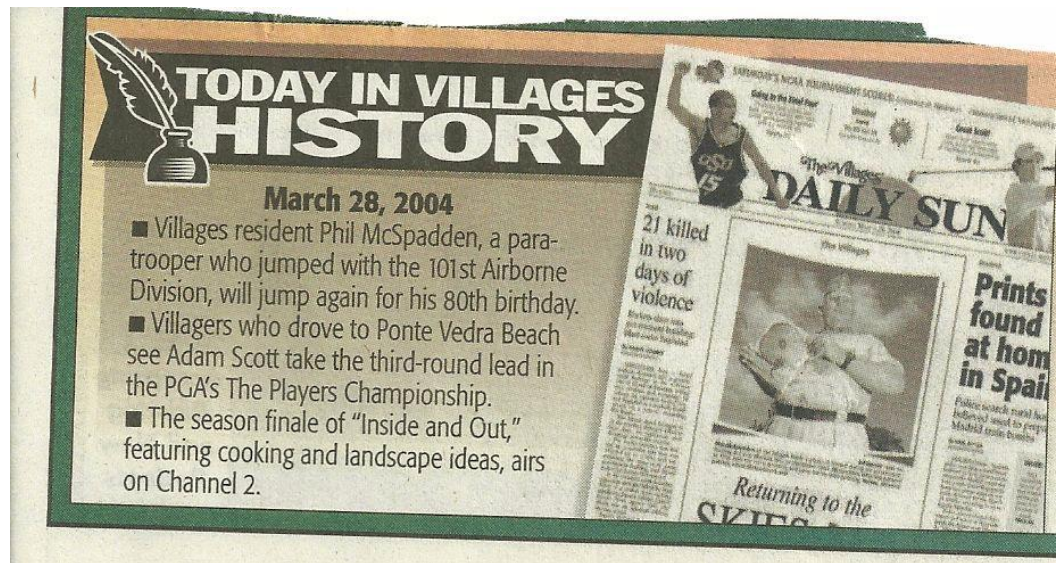
Please extend my many thanks to **Neil Peek** for sending in the picture of the men of the 596th standing with their parachutes and equipment on.

I noticed right away the men were dressed in camouflage uniforms. I don't remember ever seeing men in the 517th wearing camouflage uniforms. Is there anyone out there that can tell us more about the camouflage uniforms? Did the men of the 596th wear those uniforms on the jump into France?

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



This day in history, according to the Villages (FL) Daily Sun:



*I found another website under construction about the **Battle of Grandmenil, 24-27 December 1944**. Grandmenil is next to Manhay. The site is being built by Bob Konings (and Marco Eradus?). It includes a nice page about the 517th visit there in 2009. -- BB*

See: <http://www.grandmenil.com/508/>







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

Bob:

I still don't know what I am doing with this new computer. They say Windows 7 is better but I wish I had Windows XP back.

I hope you receive these Nazi photos. At the end of the war there wasn't a German that supported Hitler. Five years earlier those few that did oppose him were in concentration camps.

**Merle McMorrow**

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INCREDIBLE lost photos from Germany

These are photos of Hitler. It clearly shows how the people were spellbound by his presence! A real piece of history.

These color pictures were taken by a Life Magazine photographer between 1939 and 1940 in Berlin and were lost for over 70 years because the American photographer disappeared at the beginning of the war, along with his Roliflex camera.

Shown here are the originals (used at that time in the production of magazines). The majority are 6"x 9". They were found by a nurse in a Berlin hospital, who kept them put away during all these years.

After her death her daughter returned them to the current editors, who retain the copyrights to Life Magazine, which has not been published since the early '70s.

Some of these are so vivid for being over 70 years old, and so large that you almost feel as if you're standing there. SCARY!

See all the photos at:  
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/12588702/Nazi-Germany-Color-Photos-from-LIFE-archive>







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

In looking into this, I also found another set of recently found photos from the Battle of the Bulge – BB:



© Time & Life Pictures/Getty Image  
Holding out: American troops man the trenches along a snowy hedgerow in the northern Ardennes Forest during the Battle of the Bulge



© Time & Life Pictures/Getty Image  
Icy: An American Sherman M4 tank moves past another gun carriage that slid off icy road in the Ardennes Forest during push to halt advancing German troops.



© Time & Life Pictures/Getty Image  
German POWs carrying body of American soldier killed in Battle of Bulge through snowy Ardennes field



© Getty Images  
Braving the cold: Soldiers with the Seventh Armored Division trudge through snow in a bombed-out Belgian village in 1945

See more photos at:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2075565/Vivid-new-Battle-Bulge-photos-offer-seen-look-war-weary-soldiers-braving-frigid-weather-fight-Nazi-Germans-major-offensive-World-War-II.html>

I was just going through the website's photos page looking at recent additions and saw a photo someone sent in which was offered on Ebay, entitled "Studying Electricity in Joigny". I recognized it from an article I'd come across and purchased a while back from the NY Times archives. It was published July 29, 1945 and was about soldiers using the time to learn civilian skills while still deployed after the end of the war. Here's the two page article and a couple of other photos. I don't know if I ever passed it along to Mail Call.

Best regards,

**Mike Kane**





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

To see a larger version, click here:

[http://www.517prct.org/documents/1945\\_joigny\\_education/Studying\\_in\\_Joigny.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/documents/1945_joigny_education/Studying_in_Joigny.pdf)



Off to school—Nearly 1,500,000 GI's in Europe are enrolling.



Classroom scene—One of the 2,000-odd schools the Army is setting up.

## Greatest Education Project in History

PARIS (By Wireless).

**I**N a pre-revolutionary war French Army barracks at Joigny, ninety miles south of Paris, Pvt. John Cupit of Beaumont, Tex., of the Thirteenth Airborne Division's 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment—which fought in Italy, France and Germany—is hunched over a desk engaged in a rather unusual pursuit for a paratrooper. He is studying advertising. A few doors down the hall a group of fellow-soldiers are attending a class in book-keeping and accounting. And in a nearby farmyard another group clustered around a cow are not just looking at the cow but systematically going into the subject of animal husbandry.

The Thirteenth Airborne is one of sixty American divisions in Europe which V-E Day projected into a state of technological unemployment as far as their basic function of fighting is concerned, with time on their hands until they are sent elsewhere to fight, fitted into occupation forces or sent back to the United States for discharge.

The Army had anticipated this hiatus and determined to put the time to good use—with the result that today Pvt. John Cupit and his comrades are absorbed in the greatest education project in history.

On Aug. 1 the program will swing into action in units throughout the European

**Set up by our Army in Europe, it will have more than a million GI students.**

By GLADWIN HILL

theatre, and within a year it is expected to have covered around half of the 3,000,000 soldiers which V-E Day found over here. They will study everything; from turkey farming to Shakespeare in classes at their unit bases; in newly created American universities on the Riviera and in England; in local schools and private industry; at Army technical installations and by correspondence courses. The program is so big that 25,000 men are being trained just as supervisors and instructors for the instructors, who will in turn teach the soldiers.

"Education" is a word of dull connotation, but the Army has charged the program with vitality and practicality, and it is being received by the soldiers in this spirit. They realize it is an important stepping-stone to their post-war futures. Although the program is voluntary, two-thirds of the soldiers have indicated a desire to take advantage of it.

With due respect to the men who fought in World War I, the Army is dealing today with better-educated soldiers. Figures

prove it. In the first World War only 5 per cent of our soldiers were college men; this time they constitute 13 per cent. Fifteen per cent of our 1918 Army had at least partial high school education; today there is 51 per cent. In World War I 80 per cent of our soldiers had not gone beyond grade school; this time only 36 per cent have not.

**T**HIS was an encouraging element when the education project, formulated only in the broad outlines sketched above, was dumped this spring into the lap of a stocky, boy-faced, 39-year-old colonel in the Engineer Corps named Paul Thompson. Thompson had been in Washington since his recovery from wounds received while leading the Sixth Engineer Special Brigade ashore in Normandy on D-day. A West Point graduate of 1929 and now a brigadier general, he is no pedagogue. But he points out that setting up an educational system for a million men, including the establishment of three full-sized universities, in a few months is more of an

engineering project than a pedagogical problem. Henry Kaiser proved you do not have to be a shipwright to build a lot of ships. It is with a similar engineering approach that General Thompson has been tackling the education problem, as he tackled with notable success the job of setting up an assault training center in England which, within a few months before D-day, turned out 100,000 men capable of holding somewhat more than their own against the Germans.

**F**ORTUNATELY groundwork for the education program had been done in the United States. Through its previous education work the Army had a good grasp of detailed curricula and teaching methods. It canvassed educational associations and individual institutions for counsel and active participation in the new program.

General Thompson's first move was to determine how many soldiers would be interested in voluntary study. Post-hostilities plans called for both educational and recreational programs. A poll last fall, even before the hostilities were over, showed that study was favored over mere recreation—athletics, tours, handicrafts and dramatics—by 57 per cent of the officers, 66 per cent of the enlisted men.

This indicated the need for a huge teaching staff. The backbone of the edu-





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



Animal husbandry—Practical application is the preferred method in all the 171 courses offered, which range from forestry to French.

education program is the "command schools"—classes organized within the regular military units with instructors drawn from the units' own personnel. Course outlines based on the standard texts were all ready, but few men had teaching experience. Training was called for. There was not time to train all the teachers directly, so a large nucleus of "teachers' teachers" was formed. Its members, a few hundred at a time, were given a week's course in the fundamentals of teaching at schools in Paris and in England.

During June and July a thousand men a week went through this course and by November the process will have turned out some 22,000 unit education officers, 2,600 instruction officers and several hundred officers for educational counsel and other specialties. Meanwhile, these graduates have been coaching instructors in the troop units. These may be anyone from privates up with special aptitudes within the curriculum.

ONE of the key features of the education scheme is that courses are broken down into blocks of twenty hours, some courses consisting of only one block, others running as high as 320 hours, so that even if a soldier is pressed for time by other activities, or if his unit is subject to early movement, he will have a chance to bite off at least a coherent chunk of learning.

Curricula will be custom-tailored for

each unit from a large repertoire according to the special wants of the men in that unit. A theatre syllabus, which is the basis for the curricula, lists 171 courses in four basic fields—agricultural, mechanical and technical, business, and general education. They range from American forestry and cotton growing to spoken French and "post-war careers." Under each are listed the preferable occupational backgrounds for potential instructors in that course and the texts needed. Some 4,000,000 textbooks have been shipped over here already.

It is up to the unit commanders to see that courses are organized and as much of the basic curriculum made available to the soldiers as the unit's military assignments permit. Courses also will be available to men in hospitals. Already outfits as varied as headquarters units, infantry and Air Force fighter groups have studies under way.

The Ninth Air Force has more than fifty schools going with 21,000 students. In one bombardment group, the normal complement of one airfield over here, 1,000 soldiers are attending eighty-three classes in thirty subjects. One fighter group has 625 men studying. The most popular subjects so far are French, architectural drawing, photography and elementary English.

Three courses at one time is the maximum considered feasible for one man. Men who volunteer for courses will be excused from regular duties for that part

of their military "working day." The courses have been drawn up to conform with general American academic standards and the Army will give out certificates of completion which institutions in the United States later can honor according to their own particular credit systems.

IT is estimated that by next May there will be 2,200 unit schools—each based on a unit of, roughly, 1,000 men—with 1,250,000 students. A good deal of this study will be on the high school and technical school level for men who want to pursue a regular college curriculum in both academic and technical fields at the three universities established by the Army overseas.

One of these is in a series of requisitioned hotels and villas at Biarritz on the French Riviera, where Europe's millionaires used to play. A virtual duplicate will be in one of the most modern educational plants in England—the British military school at Shrivenham, built in 1937. The third, a technological institute, will be at Wharton, near Liverpool, in a plant where the United States Air Forces had one of its biggest service depots and which offers living accommodations as well as equipment for technical courses.

Each school will accommodate 4,000 soldier-students. Courses will run two months. The faculties will be composed of both Army officers and civilian educators from the United States. Wharton's technical faculty of 450 will be largely

military. Shrivenham and Biarritz will have mixed faculties of about 250 each. Three hundred civilians, including many well-known university and college instructors, and 300 Army officers are being "imported" from the United States for the work.

Places at the universities will be allotted among Army units on a percentage basis, and the standard for admission will be the unit commanders' certification that a man has a high school education or its equivalent. Tuition, of course, will be free. It will take staffs of about 1,200 to operate each of the three universities, including the faculties, but menial work will be done as much as possible by prisoners of war. A good part of the institutions' overhead will be covered by reverse lend-lease.

SUPPLEMENTING unit schools and university centers for men who want specialized training is a program for placing soldiers in three-month courses in civilian educational institutions like Oxford, Cambridge and the Sorbonne wherever arrangements can be made, and in one-month courses in private industrial firms. This program calls for some 20,000 men to attend private institutions and nearly 30,000 to work in private firms in the next ten months.

Another 50,000 will receive specialized training in fields covered by normal Army activities. They will be assigned to places like quarter- (Continued on Page 32)





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

To see a larger version, click here:

[http://www.517prct.org/documents/1945\\_joigny\\_education/Studying\\_in\\_Joigny.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/documents/1945_joigny_education/Studying_in_Joigny.pdf)

## Great Project In Education

(Continued from Page 11)

master depots and machine shops, but their status will be distinctly that of students rather than soldiers on regular military duties. Finally, there are the Regular Army correspondence courses, which, though not new, are being handled as part of the theatre educational program and are receiving new impetus from it. One hundred thousand men in the theatre already are taking these courses and new enrollments are coming in at a rate of 500 daily.

**W**HAT do the soldiers want to study? An exact answer will not be available until the unit education instructors in the next few days pass out preference blanks and get them back, but all the indications are that the Army has produced a lot of would-be business men and relatively few aspirant farmers. The latest poll of soldiers showed that of 69 per cent who said they expected to take Army studies, 20 per cent wanted to study business administration; 15 per cent, general academic subjects; 15 per cent, engineering; 13 per cent, other professions, and only 6 per cent, agriculture.

A more detailed picture can be obtained by returning to our Thirteenth Airborne Division classrooms at Joigny. In the bookkeeping and accounting class Pfc. John Fanko of Fort Worth, Tex., is studying the subject in preparation for majoring in it at the University of Texas when he

gets out of the Army. Pfc. Charles Myers, whose studies at the University of Cincinnati were interrupted by the war, is taking the subject in anticipation of going back to college. Sgt. Fred Provo thinks bookkeeping and accounting will help him in his chosen field of advertising, which he had studied at the University of Washington. Our friend, Private Cupit, is studying advertising because, though before the war he sold furniture and tobacco, he wants to get into advertising when he is discharged, and Pfc. Claude Choate of Hobart, Ind., is taking a course in English grammar as preparation for studying journalism.

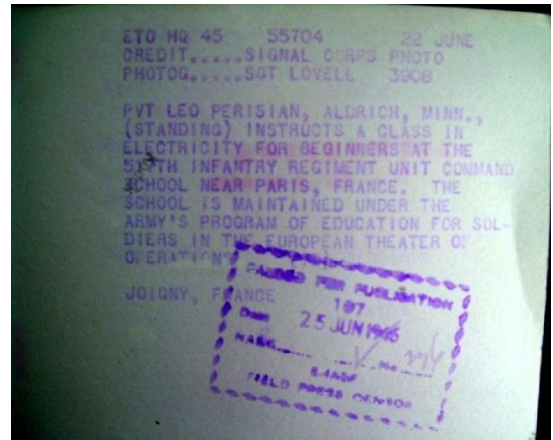
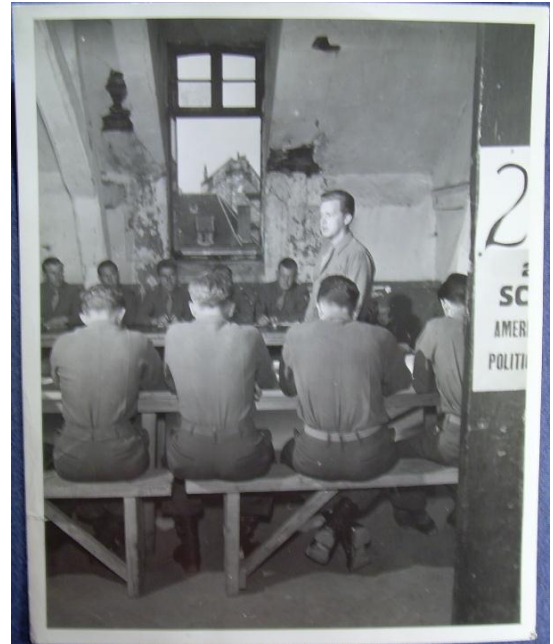
**O**F the dozen members of a course in electricity for beginners, three want to be electricians, two want to be radio technicians, one wants the knowledge for welding work, one for railroad work, one for television and one as groundwork for becoming an electrical engineer.

Perhaps the important fact, however, is not so much what they are studying to be as the fact that they hope to be something and voluntarily are working toward it—and that they have, in the biggest educational program ever undertaken, an opportunity to do so. This, as well as their uniforms and accent, marks them uniquely as Americans, even though they are far from home.

The New York Times

Published: July 29, 1945

Copyright © The New York Times



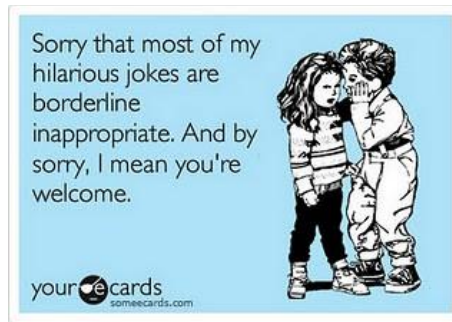




## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

### *Just for Laughs*

Yes, I'm telling you in advance that this section is intended to be humorous. Not political, not insulting, just a chuckle. Last time I tried to insert what I thought was a funny story into the MailCall, I got a lot of negative reaction. Well, not a lot, but a little. And I don't want to offend any member of the 517<sup>th</sup> and friends. So that's my warning. It's just a joke or two. – BB



#### **Some quotes from “The Dirty Dozen” movie (1967):**

*[ My apologies in advance to General Seitz and other officers out there. But I'm sure you've heard officer jokes before. ]*

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Major John Reisman [to Pinkley]: Which one of you guys wants to be a general?

Major John Reisman: Pinkley?

Pinkley: What kind of general, sir?

Major John Reisman: Just a plain, ordinary, everyday, home-lovin' American general.

Pinkley: I'd rather be a civilian, sir.  
-----

Major John Reisman: [briefing the dozen] Shoot any officers you see in there.

Victor R. Franko: Who? Ours or theirs?"  
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Samson Posey: I reckon the folks'd be a sight happier if I died like a soldier. Can't say I would.  
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Joseph T. Wladislaw: Killin' generals could get to be a habit with me.  
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Major John Reisman: You've seen a general inspecting troops before haven't you? Just walk slow, act dumb and look stupid!





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

### ***Recent website additions:***

[Silk Maps of Europe - 1944](#)

[Tony D'Addio, D Battery, 460th PFAB in Logbierme, Belgium](#)

[Danny Fisher, HQ/1 \(KIA\)](#)

[Papers and souvenirs from Odas Sweet](#)

[Raymond Bunce, F Company bio - enlistment through Italy](#)

[War Correspondent's Notebook: Red Cross Man Makes 8 Jumps With Paratroopers](#)

[242 photos of George A Sullivan and A Company](#)

[Commendation to 1st Battalion from the 3rd Armored Division](#)

## ***Reunion Info***

### **West Coast Mini-Reunion**

Palm Springs, CA

May 14-18, 2012

[Information and registration instructions](#)

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### **Annual National Reunion**

Kansas City, MO

July 12-16, 2012

[Program](#)

[Registration Form](#)

[Hotel Registration Form](#)

## ***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