



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2107

May 20, 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

This Week in 517th History

From *Paratrooper's Odyssey*:

May 17, 1943: Left Newport News

In early May the RCT components staged through Camp Patrick Henry, near Newport News, Virginia. The troopers milled about more or less aimlessly for ten days, making the acquaintance of some lovely members of a WAC contingent and an unlovely shipment of Air Corps replacement officers who were to be their shipboard companions. Some raucous paratroopers tried to get one of the aviators to give them flying lessons from the second-floor balcony of a service club, without success.



On May 17th the troopers climbed the gangplanks for their great adventure. The 517th boarded the former Grace liner Santa Rosa* with the WACs and aviators, while the 460th and 596th loaded onto the Panama Canal ship Cristobal. As the Santa Rosa pulled away from the dock Chief Warrant officer **Everett Schofield**, Regimental Personnel officer, was at the rail with a few others. Schofield, the oldest man in the regiment and a veteran of the First World War, found himself reenacting scenes that had taken place twenty-six years before. He must have had a sense of "deja vu." Indicating the troopers swarming all over the ship, the Chief said, "Take a good look. This outfit'll never be the same again."

* By an extremely odd coincidence, the shrine of the actual Ste Roseline was going to become familiar to them all within a few months.



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MailCall News

Bob,

Thanks so much on resolving the mailcall problem for me and some others. I am now receiving mailcall so I am very happy. Bob, you do such a great job keeping mailcall going. I know your father is looking down and saying "That's my Boy" Thank you so much for all of your hard work to keep this going. As you expressed in Mailcall #2105 you have had some bugs to work out of the system. I truly appreciate it.

And even bigger news is I received my Thunderbolt. WOW, is all I can say, what a wonderful newsletter to receive. **Helen and Claire** – another outstanding job. I say to myself I will just skim read a few things, but when I open it up I can't put it down until I have read every word. It is a wonderful newsletter so thanks so much for putting it out to all of us. A reminder about the Thunderbolt, remember to sign the postcard and mail it back to Helen. She must know who still wants to receive it so she is not sending out Thunderbolts that just get returned. If you still want to receive the Thunderbolt and I am sure you do so fill out the card. I did.

I next want to thank **Darrell Egner** for his kind words in mailcall about the reunion. Yes, many of us have been working hard to get another great reunion scheduled. I am very proud to say I sent my registration in a couple of weeks ago, so if you have registered now is the time to do it. Hope to see everyone in Kansas City, July 12-16th.

Lory Curtis, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st BN

Some time ago, I had contacted you regarding **Joe D. Miller**. I took the article about the 517h PRCT and the following is the editor's remarks in his weekly column:

Joe Miller was a delightful visitor in our offices. Joe was **Edith Henningsgaard's** second husband. During World War II Joe served in the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team. Edith has shared with me a phenomenal story from Joe's Army brethren. In a nutshell, one of them made contact with the descendant of a German soldier who he killed in 1944. Following the skirmish, the American soldier took wedding photos that were on the dead man. Now he has shared those photos with the German soldier's grandson. Their dialogue is startling and touching.

The German grandson, Georg Rjeck wrote: "The war that Germany started was wrong. What you and your comrades risked to free Europe is invaluable. The losses from fathers, sons, and friends were painful and sad, no matter on which side. The fact that my father (and his generation) could grow up in peace as a free man and even my generation is owed to you and all Americans who brought down the Nazi regime".

The American responded: "That our governments have been seeking the same objectives for many years has contributed to a different and better world in which we can take an honest view of the past and discover the details that many wartime families must live without. To know the facts eliminates the agonizing mystery".



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I thought you might like to share this bit from The Daily Astorian newspaper of Astoria, Oregon.

Have a good gathering of the 517th—I always enjoyed attending with Joe and admired all of you for your courage in serving—

Best regards –

Edith Henningsgaard Miller

Col. Moyer,

I found your gmail on the LinkedIn site, now that we are connected there. The recent contact was through our guestbook:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Marcia I. McConville From: Mankato Minnesota E-mail: marciamcconville@charter.net	I noticed some questions regarding; Clement McConville from Mike Moyer. I was just wondering if he needed more information? Marcia I. McConville

Bob, thank you for the contact information. I do not usually bother relatives for information but as she asked, I will send her a note.

My interest in **Cpl McConville** stems from a group of medals and patches I bought in 2009. As a paratrooper myself, I sometimes pick up Airborne related items.

The medals came with a note that said they belonged to Clement McConville of the 517th PRCT. I researched the 517th and saw that the medals would be correct for someone who served with the 517th throughout the war. The jump wings with the group were post war and did not have a jump star. Initially, I wanted to determine if the medals were in fact McConville's or a put together group. As I learned more, I wanted to try and document his service.

Circumstantial evidence from various sources showed that Cpl McConville served in the 517th during the time it was in the US, Italy, France and the Ardennes. From your 517th website, I learned about his presence on the Christmas program and voyage back to the USA. A professional researcher said that his records were lost in the St Louis fire, but found some limited information. I purchased copies of the 517th General Orders from another researcher and found the order awarding Cpl McConville the Purple Heart. A different professional researcher found morning report evidence that he served in the 517th for all his time in the Army. There is a three week temporary duty at FT Benning which I believe was for Jump school.

What I would like to find is a copy of his DD214 discharge form which would list his campaigns and qualifications. I have verified the Purple Heart, but the rest is circumstantial.

Thank you,
Mike Moyer



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Mike,

It sounds like everything you found in your research makes sense from all the timelines of the 517th: Fort Benning, Italy, the jump into France, into the Ardennes, and they probably walked into Germany. Back to Joigny France, then the return to the US. He was attached to H Company at the time of the Xmas 1944 roster. (My Dad was also in H Company.)

With your permission, I'd like to post your letter in the next weekly newsletter. The 517 troopers will be glad to know that their service is still appreciated.

Thanks,

Bob Barrett
MailCall@517prct.org

Bob,

Sure you may publish my note.

I was in France a few years ago and went to look at the DZ's around Le Muy. The 517th was a tough, effective unit and part of important campaigns.

I believe I have the 517th General Orders electronically. I am willing to donate them to the web site if you like. Many are hard to read. I had to look carefully to find **Cpl McConville's** Purple Heart order. His name was unreadable on its own but his serial number and home of record were still readable.

regards,

Mike

Mike,

Yes, I would love to have the General Orders, as well as any details you know about Cpl. McConville. We've been collecting as much as we can about the 517th on the website. Being an independent unit, not part of the 82nd or the 101st, and being dissolved in 1945, they have no official keeper of their history, so we are collecting as much as we can.

In your trip to Le Muy, did you happen to run across *the Musée de la libération Le Muy*? It is run by 2 good friends, **J. Michael Soldi** and **Eric Renoux** (and J. Michael's son **Adrien**). They also organize a great annual celebration every mid-August to commemorate the Liberation in 1944. It is a big and well-run event, and they do much to honor the American and British troops.

Regards,

Bob Barrett



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Bob,

Attached are some docs I have. I also have a 43 MB file of morning reports and the GO's (on my home laptop) which I believe are too big for email. I will send them to you if you help me figure out how to upload them somewhere.

We visited a small museum in Le Muy which was inside an arch shaped door like an old firehouse or garage. The door was unlocked so we went in. A man was speaking with a couple and observed us but did not say anything. The displays were arranged in a horse shoe and were an incredible collection of Airborne artifacts. We thought afterwards that we had crashed a private tour of an otherwise closed museum. I believe that the people knew we were Americans and possibly heard me pointing out to my wife and daughter the uniforms and equipment that would have been used by my wife's late father. We stayed a short time, left a contribution and departed. It was an amazing place. I would like to go back for a guided tour of the area some time.

Mike

MORNING REPORT						16 March 1945	
ORGANIZATION						Hq & Hq Co 1	
STATION OR LOCATION						Tolony, France	
NAME						SERIAL NUMBER	
GRADE						MOS	
COPL							
McCoville Clement						27552029	Cpl 7055
Reld fr atchd to Co fr Ser Co and							
trfd in gr and asnd to Co per par							
16 30 46 dtd 15 March 45							
Coleman, Daniel C.						J34648516	S/Sgt 71607
Lippman Gordon J.						39565489	S/Sgt 7604
Above (2) EM apt'd Tec/Sgt as of							
10 March 45							
Downey, Orville E.						39204514	Sgt 7745
Ellington Eddie E.						38434844	Sgt 7604
Hunter, Thomas E.						35608487	Sgt 71607
Steele, Robert P.						39911384	T/4 7761
Eagans, Troy						39911458	Cpl 71607
Kelly, Joe L. Jr.						39566514	Cpl 71607
Larson, Jack J.						39464005	Cpl 71607
Lytton, Charles A.						35750549	Cpl 71607
Miller, Marvin I.						35551572	Cpl 7604
Above nine (9) EM apt'd S/Sgt as of							
10 March 45							
Steele, Stewart C.						37556340	Cpl 7745
Wells, Derrell R.						38475952	Cpl 7604
Above (2) EM apt'd Sgt as of 10 Mar 45							

MORNING REPORT						16 March 1945	
ORGANIZATION						Hq & Hq Co 1	
STATION OR LOCATION						Tolony, France	
NAME						SERIAL NUMBER	
GRADE						MOS	
COPL							
Backstrom Wilbur						R39	
Vedders, Henry J.						37	
Above (2) EM apt'd							
Ahrens, Joseph P.						36	
Hallen, Richard M.						39	
Berrene, Louis A.						33	
Russell, John D.						39	
Petrick, Marvin D.						39	
Above five (5) EM							
10 March 45							
Curtis Harland L.						39	
Fr sk in otrs to							
Casto, Donald G.						39	
(Med Det) reld fr							
RECORD OF							
usual company duties							

LIMITED ASSIGNMENT											
ATTENDANCE	ABSD	ATCND	TOTAL	PRESENT				ABSENT			
				REG	CONF	EXC	AWOL	REG	CONF	EXC	AWOL
13	2	15	1	13							



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Hi Mike,

I think we have the morning reports, but not the GO's. One way to send them is with a service such as <https://www.transferbigfiles.com/> which puts them in a place where I can go pick them up. If you have trouble, let me know and we can try another method.

Yes, that museum you ran into is indeed **Eric and J. Michael's** museum. Unfortunately, the museum got flooded out after that, and they have been working for probably two years to restore the collections and to find a new location.

Thanks,

Bob Barrett

Bob

In reply to inquiry by COL **Mike Moyer** US War College,
RE: Cpl Clement McConville, 517th PRCT SVC/H Co., CIB, Bronze Star, Invasion Arrowhead; <http://517prct.org/mailcall/2106.pdf> <<<In this edition of mailcall Marcia I. McCovnille marciamcconville@charter.net indicates that she is from Mankato MO and maybe documents may be found there.

http://517prct.org/documents/gen_orders22/general_orders_number_22.htm

The above link is to the history/archives/documents section on the 517prct.org website depicting "General Order 22" a photocopy of a mimeographed copy of orders for the Good Conduct Medal and Combat Infantryman Badge for members of the 517th dated November 15, 1944.

I did not find **Cpl Clement McConville** SVC Co/H Co, but maybe someone has a similar set of orders that does include him. My father is on the 44 Christmas Roster and these orders validated that he was with the unit at least 90 days prior

This is where I found the authentication for the CIB for my father, **Pvt Floyd R. Perry**, 517th PRCT INF HQ Co 2BN. I used this reference when filing a DD215 reconstruction request for reconstructed DD214 which in turn authorized the retroactive award of the Bronze Star Medal. This document also validated that my father had been with the 517th as an airborne paratrooper infantryman for no less than 90 days (requirement for CIB) which put him with the unit during the 15 Aug 1944 Invasion/Airborne Assault of S. France in Operation Dragoon for award of the Invasion Arrowhead.

My father died July 1961 when I was not quite 3 years old and my brother was born a month later and we knew very little about his service history. In the mid 70's we were told that his records had been destroyed in the '73 fire in St. Louis MO., 2 years ago we found a copy of his WD AGO 53-55 Enlisted Service Record Honorable Discharge. This document was found at the Indiana State Library Archives due to him having to produce a copy for the \$300 post discharge bonus and the Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Stamp. We had been searching for anything authenticating his award of the Purple Heart which would authorize my brother and I remission of fees for 124 college credits at any Indiana State College but because we couldn't find anything we were denied this benefit as dependents for over 30 years.



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When we found his discharge documents it indicated that our father was injured twice in Belgium July 1945 while assigned to 517th PRCT HQ Co 2BN and discharged while assigned to 513th PIR HQ Co 2nd BN 17th Airborne DIV after having jumped in Operation Varsity while the 517th PRCT was back in France preparing to go to Japan. His Purple Heart w/1 oak leaf cluster led me to this website and discovery of his name on the 44 Christmas Roster and the CIB orders. Last year I attended the 517th PRCT Reunion in Atlanta for the 1st time and joined the Auxiliary in my father's stead. The last 2 years have been a redeeming historical journey and I share this with the intention of encouraging anyone still looking for info about other service member's history and documentation. Ben Barrett's 517prct.org website, the veterans and the auxiliary members have made a true labor of love and respect honoring these troopers and their history. Through this website and reunions I have recovered the lost history of my father's service with such an esteemed unit for my brother and sister, my 2 sons, my 3 grandsons and many nephews and nieces. I had previously sent about a year ago a biography of my father for inclusion in the section titled, "Meet The Troopers", complete with photos, copies of discharge papers, obituaries and family history, but have yet to see it included in that section of the website. It is possible that I sent it to the wrong e-mail address or it got overlooked or lost. Please look for it and inform me if you need it resubmitted.

Respectfully submitted,

Dannie Perry, (E-5 SGT US ARMY)
Son of **Cpl Floyd R. Perry**, 517 PRCT 2BN HQ Co.

Hi Dannie,

You mentioned that you sent in materials for a bio for **Floyd Perry**. I looked and cannot find that material in the usual places. It is possible that I just misplaced it or lost it when I replaced my computer.

Is it possible to send it again to me? Or did you hand me paper copies in Atlanta or some reunion? (I do have boxes of items from there that I will have to find and look through.)

Let me know and I'll be sure to get your Dad's bio on the web site.

Regards,

Bob Barrett
MailCall@517prct.org

A "bad day at the office" type of story with a happy ending,,,

Test pilot ejects jet into thunderstorm:

http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/exclusivevids/ExclusiveVideo_WilliamRankin_206611-1.html



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To: webmaster@517prct.org
Subject: Thank You

Mr. Barrett,

I came across your website while researching my Great Uncle **Walter Duzinski**. I had very little information to go by so I plugged his name into Google and it directed me to your Mail Call No2069 from 19 Sept 2011 and I was shocked to find not only my uncle's name mentioned but his actual signature on the "short snorter" you have posted. It is very exciting to finally have a place to start in the search of my Uncles military history. Thank you so much for putting this website together to not only preserve the history of the 517th, but for also helping folks learn about the sacrifices of all of these great men!

I'm certain it is a long shot, but if you do have any additional info about my Uncle Walter it would be great to hear.

Very Respectfully,

Eric

Eric M. Munshower, Capt, USAF
Commander, 171st SFS
171st Air Refueling Wing
DSN: 294-7218 Comm: 412-776-7218
CELL: 412-418-9135

Hello Eric,

Well, we know that Walter signed the Short Snorter, so he was in the HQ Co, 1st Battalion, and he is listed on the Christmas 1944 Roster: <http://www.517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>

He was apparently very lucky, because I looked through the casualty reports for HQ/1 http://www.517prct.org/records/casualty_reports.htm but did not see him listed there at all. We are in the process of digitizing the morning reports, and may eventually have more info from those reports.

There is plenty of information about the First Battalion's actions in the 517 books and papers, but I could not find **PFC Duzinski** specifically mentioned. There is also a detailed report of their attack on Soy: http://www.517prct.org/documents/infantry_school/MarksSidneyM_CPT.pdf for which they received a unit commendation and a Distinguished Unit citation.
(http://www.517prct.org/documents/1945_1st_bn_commendation/ridgway_dec_28_1944.htm)

I will post your email in the next weekly "MailCall" newsletter, and see if anyone remembers Walter Duzinski.

Thanks for checking in.
Bob Barrett



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Bob,

Thank you so much for the quick response!!! It is nice to now be able to put a story with the picture of him that hangs in my office.

Cheers,
Eric

Eric M. Munshower, Capt, Pa ANG
Commander, 171st SFS
171st Air Refueling Wing
DSN: 294-7218 Comm: 412-776-7218
CELL: 412-418-9135

Eric, You have a picture of him with the 517th? I'd love to have a copy for the website.

PS: We also have the group photo of HQ/1 at Camp Toccoa:
http://www.517prct.org/photos/toccoa_hq_1.htm Do you know if he's in that photo?

Oh, and another one in dress uniforms: http://www.517prct.org/photos/hq1_dress.htm

Bob B.

Eric,

Look what I found!

In looking for something else, I ran across this photo of **Walter Duzinski** with HQ/1 Company in Italy, just before Operation Dragoon. This is in *First Airborne Task Force : Pictorial History of the Allied Paratroopers in the Invasion of Southern France*, by Michel De Trez, and it is also in ['Battling Buzzards' : The Odyssey of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team 1943-1945](#), by Gerald Astor, which is still available in bookstores.

Bob Barrett

August 14, 1944 at Canino airfield, Italy.
The men belong to Mortar Platoon, Hq.
Company, 1st Battalion, in front of the C-47
that will take them to Southern France.

Standing left to right: 1st. Sgt. John
Forrest, Pvt. Francis X. Steggert, Pvt. Carl
G. Larsen, Pvt. Marvin J. Connors,
Pvt. Glen E. Bice, Pvt. Robert A. Morrow
Jr., T/4 Thomas E. Hunter, Pfc. William L.
Finley. Front Row, left to right: Pfc.
Joseph H. Anderson, Pfc. Walter S.
Duzinski, Pvt. Joe E. Huasen, Pvt. Daniel
Knoechelman, Pfc. Charles A. Lytton, Cpl.
George Jones.





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Bob,

Wow, that is awesome!! Thanks for sharing. The picture I have of Walter is from his time with the 101st after WW2.

I'm getting that book for sure! As a military man myself I love to learn about the past and the sacrifices made by those before me.

Eric

Eric M. Munshower, Capt, PaAng
Commander, 171 SFS

RE: Camo pants and jackets shown in Mail
Calls #2100 and 2101

Howard Hensleigh stated that we did have camouflage pants and jackets because he and others made their own with spray paint before the August 15th Southern France jump.

Now, as much as I respect Howard and his total recall, I'm sure he is right about that - but obviously he is not looking at the picture in question [*of Charles Bonaventura and the 596th PCEC*] because these guys are wearing the new type camo, factory made. No way spray painted.

Now again, who/what are these guys?

Regards,
Al Sperry (B Co.)



p.s. I must compliment Howard Hensleigh and his stories about the German soldier Georg Rieck. Wish I could have had experiences like his and lived to tell about them. Howard, you're the best!



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Subject: Order of Service, 3 Dec. 1944

Bob

This morning I discovered a historical document tucked in a book on Jim's shelf. It is the order of service listing the names of all those in the 517 who died in Southern France. My apologies for the blurred photos. I used my iPhone and sent the photos to you from it. I will use my camera and get better photos, especially of the page listing all the names once I obtain an archival clear slip to protect it. It is very fragile and I don't want to handle it any more than necessary.

There is a note on one of the pages in Jim's handwriting: "These are the ones we left behind in Southern France."

My best to all of you,
Brenda Verbeck Mortensen

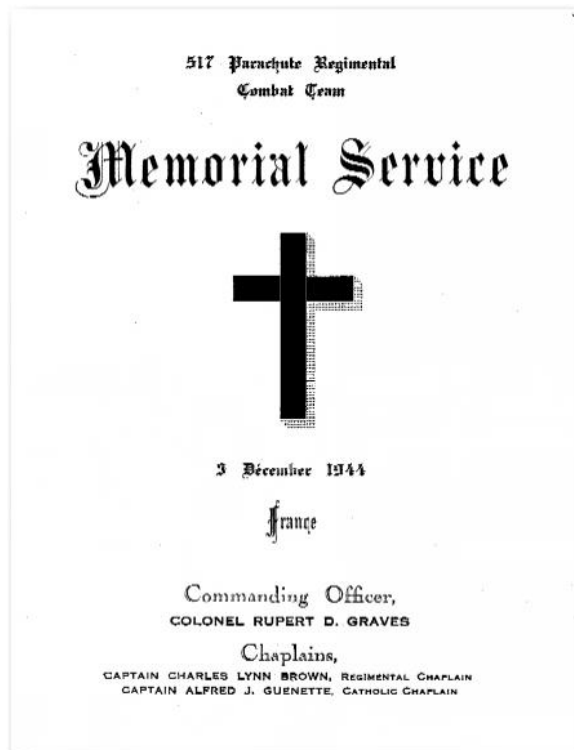
Hi Brenda,

It turns out that we do have a copy of this booklet already on the website at:
http://www.517prct.org/documents/dec44memorial/dec_1944_memorial_booklet.htm

It's not the clearest copy, either, but it is readable.

Thanks,

Bob Barrett





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Vietnam War hero receives posthumous Medal of Honor



Forty-two years after his selfless act of heroism during the Vietnam war saved the lives of his fellow soldiers, Army Specialist Leslie H. Sabo, Jr. posthumously received the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony on May 16.

President Obama presented the nation's highest decoration for valor to Sabo's widow, Rose Mary Brown, and brother, George Sabo.

The then 22-year-old Sabo died on May 10, 1970 as his patrol was ambushed near a remote border area of Cambodia. The attack by North Vietnamese troops killed seven of

Sabo's fellow soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division and would come to be known as the "Mother's Day ambush."

A White House statement announcing Sabo's receipt of the Medal of Honor in April described how Sabo gave his life that day to silence the enemy fire.

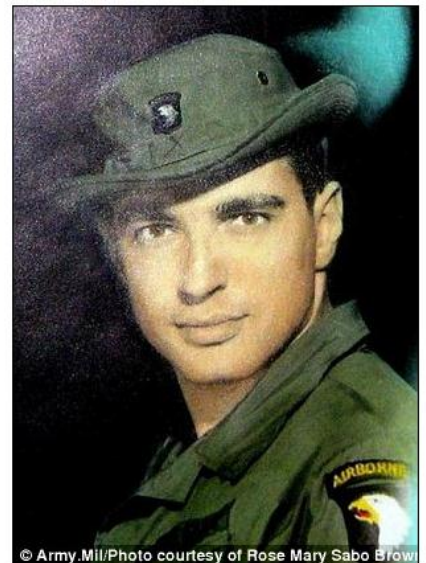
According to the release, Sabo charged enemy positions and killed several North Vietnamese fighters while drawing fire away from his unit.

Later, Sabo used his body to shield a wounded soldier from the blast of a tossed grenade. Wounded by automatic weapons fire, he crawled towards an enemy bunker and dropped a grenade that "silenced the enemy fire, but also ended Specialist Sabo's life."

The statement said Sabo's "indomitable courage and complete disregard for his own safety saved the lives of many of his platoon members."

Sabo's commanders nominated him for the Medal of Honor, but the request may not have been properly processed and was subsequently lost.

[\[More info and pictures here\]](#)





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Just for Laughs

Emmet asked Willard... "Do you remember that stuff they used to put in our coffee during the war to make us forget about women?"

"I think you mean salt peter!"

"Yeap, that's the stuff..."

"I think it's beginning to work!!"



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July 12-16, 2012

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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