



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2109**

**June 3, 2012**

*517th Parachute Infantry Regiment  
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

Website	<a href="http://www.517prct.org">www.517prct.org</a>
Mail Call	<a href="mailto:MailCall@517prct.org">MailCall@517prct.org</a>
Mail Call Archives	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/archives">www.517prct.org/archives</a>
Roster (from 2008)	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf">www.517prct.org/roster.pdf</a>

## *Donald "George" Spears – F Company*

Sorry to inform you of the passing of my husband Donald George Spears. Attached are the narrative and picture that went into yesterday's Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.

LOVE,  
Juliette



**Donald G. "George" Spears**, 87, lost his battle with cancer Friday, March 02, 2012 at home. Born Dec. 4, 1924 in Lagrange, IN as the oldest son of Gaylord Harley and Rose Bernice (Choler) Spears, he lived most of his life in Fort Wayne where he was a 68 year member of First Presbyterian Church. George retired as president of Spears-Dehner Inc. after 48 years. He served in WWII in Italy, France, and Belgium with the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team and was a combat veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. He graduated from South Side High School and Purdue University in Civil Engineering in 1949 where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and was a past president of the Indiana Constructors Inc. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Juliette Ayres Spears; daughter, Juliette J. Spears (Jeanne) of Elkhart, IN; sons Mark W. (Rita) of Fort Wayne and D. Eric (Sherri Bale) of Chevy Chase, MD; and daughter in-law Gabriele Spears of Fort Wayne, and nine grandchildren David (Jenna) Sanders, Nathan Bale, Allyson, Amy, Steven, Viktoria, Brian, Collette, and Kevin Spears and three great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by son James Gaylord Spears and brother, John P. Spears. To sign the online guestbook, go to [www.mccombandsons.com](http://www.mccombandsons.com)



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## Donald "George" Spears – F Company





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George Spears and Gary Davis, F Co.



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

### *Memorial Day 2012*

Dear Friends,

Like every year, European people are presents for the Memorial Day. Young, old, Girls and boy from Belgium, France, Holland, England and USA hundreds personnes spend thed this day together. Prayer and souvenir are the two words of this moment. Twice a year we have the opportunity to show to the USA that our heroes are not forgotten. They are still in our heart.

God Bless America

**S/Sgt Dominique Potier**  
**Belgium Army**

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Dear Bob: I called Dad today, Memorial Day, and realized once again that those who came home still mourn their comrades who did not come home, wondering if there was more that they could have done or whether they could have done things differently so that their men all came home too. It is in knowing that those they lost are at God right hand in heaven that helps Dad. May I share a hymn that appears to be fitting for today: -- **Pat Seitz**

Remember, Lord, the fallen  
Who died in fields of war,  
In flaming clouds, in screaming crowds,  
On streets that are no more,  
That we today might waken  
And greet this day in peace  
With grateful prayer for those who bear  
The storms that never cease.

Remember friends and strangers,  
And those forgotten now,  
Whose names are known to you alone,  
Before whose love we bow  
And ask that you surround them  
With mercy's endless light  
That they may live, and we forgive  
The foe they went to fight.

Remember, Lord, the living  
Who bear the pain of loss --  
Remember all your children,  
The dead and those who weep,  
And make us one beneath the sun  
Where love will never sleep.



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

THIS MEMORIAL DAY, REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED AND FOUGHT  
FOR OUR COUNTRY  
AND ALL OF THOSE WE LOVED AND LOST

**Melanie Hansen, daughter of GARY DAVIS 517TH PRCT, F-CO**



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As I type, it's Memorial Day and Band of Brothers is playing on television.

I want to thank all our friends in Provence. This year marks the first year of events at the Rhone Cemetery for Memorial Day.

The superintendent at the Rhone changes yearly, which means that a new relationship is forged annually between our local friends and the new staff. We are impressed that there are observances today, and grateful that there is still recognition of the sacrifice of those many young men all those years ago.

Thank you all so much for honoring the sacrifice of so many years ago, and for your enduring and unwavering friendship now. We are greatly appreciative.

**Claire Giblin**

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Thank you dear Claire,

You may also have a look on our Face book Page :

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=385415684827221&set=a.385408341494622.76978.251521034883354&type=1#!/media/set/?set=a.385408341494622.76978.251521034883354&type=1>

Love

**Jean Mi,**

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

### *MailCall News*

Greetings, There is not a lot of action from our side for this FaceBook site. I'm sure they would like to hear from the membership and families.

Click here: (9) [The 517th hand Painted Flag for southern France Ceremony](#)

My cousin **Richard Baysinger** has moved out of state and I'm wondering if he has been in contact with a new mailing address. I will offer to drive him to the reunion if I can get in touch.

Thanks for the reminder Lory. Will not know for sure until I reach Richard.

**Don Gentry**

In war there are no unwounded soldiers. -- Jose Narosky

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Hello,

I am looking for information on a **Ralph E Matticks**, who was a medic that served with the 517th during WW2. I don't know much about him but he wasn't on the 1944 Christmas roster. I do know that he received a Bronze star and served in Italy, France and during the Battle of the Bulge. I'd like to know what unit he was in and anyone I could contact that may have known him/ may have more information on his time during the war.

Thanks for the help,

**John Matticks**

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Hi John,

Actually, he is listed on the Christmas roster, but he was not with the Medical Detachment. He was assigned to the Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion, at least at the time of that roster.

[http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas\\_1944\\_hq\\_co\\_2nd\\_2.jpg](http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_hq_co_2nd_2.jpg)

I will post your email in the next weekly newsletter and see if anyone remembers him.

Bob Barrett

This is also from the friends of the 517th.

Click here: (8) [AIRBORNE MUSEUM "15 Aout 1944" Association](#)

**Don Gentry**



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

**Clyde Whittington** was from Texas. He was my grandmother's brother.

**Tara Greenwood**

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Dear Bob

As you may know, I have been working hard on writing a book about the Liberation of the French Riviera for several years. It is about finished now, and a publisher has sent me a contract. I noted when reading the contract that the publishers want to 'cover their ass', and so want signed release letters for all photos used, as well as for quoted materials.

I have asked permission from people who own a large number of photos such as Mike Kane, etc. However in my manuscript I have included some extracts of some autobiographies of soldiers that are on the website, without specifically asking any permission, as some of these people have since passed away, etc.

Would it be possible for you, as the owner of the 517th website, to sign a sort of umbrella discharge letter authorizing me to use materials from the site? This would make life much easier for me then to have to track down the original owner of each photo or quote that I have used.

Please tell me what you think

Best regards

**Jean-Loup Gassend**

*[Done. – Bob B.]*

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Guestbook Entry:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: <b>Joe Combest</b> From: Duncan, OK E-mail: <a href="mailto:JoeCombest@yahoo.com">JoeCombest@yahoo.com</a>	I have not checked in on this site for a while. My dad, <b>Ben Combest was in Co G</b> . He passed in September of 2010. I have never had the opportunity to speak with anyone who knew him from the 517th. If there is anyone out there who served with Ben Combest... I would love to hear from you!!!
	Added: May 29, 2012



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### *MailCall Delivery Problems*

Bob, this is really strange. I was receiving your mailcalls, now all of them you sent are gone from my inbox. I don't understand it. Have you sent out any recent mailcalls this week?

Lory

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Yes, it appears that there continue to be problems with the delivery of recent MailCall emails. For some reason, the MailCalls are being blocked, but I have yet to figure out why. Some people get them, but many do not. When I send the emails, I have to divide the mailing into multiple groups, each with no more than 50 to 100 recipients. (The maximum number depends on who I ask.) It seems that most people in the first group receive the MailCalls, but those in the later groups might not.

For now, it seems to be working, as long as I do not put pictures or too much info in the email notice.

I am able to send out emails every week (so far), which I send out either Saturday night or Sunday. If you do not receive a MailCall notice by Monday, you can always find them on the web site at:

<http://517prct.org/mailcall/>

Bob B.

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This is **George Meline** and I still cannot open mail call. I have been getting mail call through the archives so it is not a big problem.

Thank you Bob for doing such a good job of taking over for your father.

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Hi George,

Thanks for the info. I have heard this same problem before, also from another gmail user. I don't know why the link will not open, but the other person is able to open them from other, non-gmail services.

I will try to look into it, by signing myself up for a gmail account and trying it out from there. Thanks for your patience.

Bob Barrett





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### *National Reunion – Sign up now*

Subject: Everyone should call someone!

The plans for the Kansas City reunion are falling into place and we are going to have a fantastic time! Lory Curtis has organized a heck of a gathering, and we will be having a great time. I especially can't wait to see the new feature film based in part on the experiences of the 517.

Please, register today! Get on the phone and call a friend and make plans to come to Kansas City!

**Claire Giblin**

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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