



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2121

September 2, 2012

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

Website
Mail Call
Mail Call Archives
Roster (from 2008)

www.517prct.org
MailCall@517prct.org
www.517prct.org/archives
www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

MailCall News

A number of years a vote was held declaring that 517 dues were to be paid in the month of August as reminder as most of us remember our drop into France on August 15. This 88 year memory is so bad that I forgot August 15th and almost forgot to send in my dues. Joanne, the check will be in the mail tomorrow. I'm told that the Treasury is getting a little low.

Bob several weeks ago Lory Curtis sent you a video of the Kansas City Reunion. The troopers of the 517 awarded General Seitz a plaque of appreciation for being our leader from Basic through the War. Unless I missed this no mention was made in Mail Call regarding this honor.

A bit of humor: At Operation Dragoon in Washington a few days later I asked Dick of all the awards he has received what was the very best. He said naming a new school after him at Fort Riley was the best. As he was born and raised in Kansas he added, "My teachers probably turned over in their graves at this news".

Have to go write a Dues check before I forget again.

Darrell Egner





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Good afternoon Mr. Barrett

My name is **Alison Libersa** and I am the Cemetery Associate and Interpretive Guide at the **Rhone American Cemetery**. Your address was kindly given to me by Claire, who suggested that it might like to subscribe to your weekly MailCall.

We have a big project here at the Rhone American Cemetery, indeed in all of our Cemeteries, to tell the story of each and every one of the people memorialized here – the way that we do this is to tell their story – not just what happened to them in battle but more the story of who they were, if they were married, if they had children, brothers or sisters..... in this way we make sure that their memory lives forever and that they will never be forgotten.



I have an idea that I would like to run past you – I would be willing and greatly honored to supply you with photos of the graves of the 517 PRCHT INF REGT (we have 3 people buried here), the 517 PRCHT INF RCT (33 people buried), the 460 PRCHT FA 517 PRCHT RCT (2 people buried) and the 596 ENGR CO 517 PRCHT RCT (4 people buried).

I would love to be able to collaborate in piecing together information on these people buried here, and most importantly perhaps giving the Families and their Friends the possibility of having a photo of their Headstone.

Please do let me know your thoughts on this

Kindest regards

Alison

ALISON LIBERSA
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AND CERTIFIED INTREPRETIVE PRESENTER
RHONE AMERICAN CEMETERY
553 BOULEVARD JOHN F. KENNEDY
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www.abmc.gov



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Wanne - Trois-Ponts) 517th Monument - the flowers - 2012 august.

Logbiermé (Trois-Ponts), 517th Monument - some flowers will be nice later in september because the gardeners replanted and cut the trees and plants to remove this area. We think of you with gratitude.

With Love in Respect.

Arnold and Irma Targnion

One of my memories of **Fr. Guenette** was during our early days in combat and I believe it was Italy. We were in foxholes under artillery shelling when Fr. Guenette came crawling up leaning into the hole and asking who wished to receive communion. Being Catholic I took the sacrament and asked my foxhole buddy, **Al Kunser**, if he wished also to receive communion. He replied "I am not Catholic" but under my urging he agreed. I understand from Fr. Guenette that the bulk of the men in the foxholes received communion regardless of their Faith.

Bill Christian

596th Parachute Engineers

A recent posting asks who was the 517 guy who went on to join Mensa.

I suspect you might mean my father, **Charles Pugh**, who was from Paducah, Ky but ultimately, after the war became a dentist in Texas. He was a member of Mensa and the regional test administrator for it. He lived a happy and full life until 2001. He married and had three children. My mother lives with me in Virginia--just outside Washington, DC. We had some of his group here at my home six years ago.

Please excuse typos - Sent from my iPad

Theresa Pugh

Alexandria, Virginia



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What a great Mail Call. Please let Claire, Eric et al. know how much we appreciate their contributions in the recount of events and the pictures of August 15 celebrations in Southern France. Fabulous pictures. President Allan and Leo really look sharp (and handsome).

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

Dear 517 Webmaster: please post this to the members

I am **Theresa Pugh, daughter of Charley**. I don't know most of you but I spent many a weekend collating and stapling Wings around our pool table when my dad was alive. And I have been pleased to keep current with many through **Bob Dalrymple** and others.

I send best wishes to you from my mother, **Ann Pugh** (88) who lives with me in Alexandria, Virginia (just outside of Washington, DC). Despite mobility limitations, arthritis, and poor vision, she is doing great. Her mind is clear and her sense of humor is spontaneous. I am trying to persuade her to attend a reunion in either Orlando or Palm Springs in 2013. She has missed all these since my dad died in 2001 because she feared that they would be too difficult emotionally and then later she had some health challenges. I think enough time has passed that she would be very happy to attend.

Please send the details about both reunions so she can decide which one she might attend.

Thanks to the unexpected e-mail communication only last week from **Mr. Jean Mikael** (and presumably his co-founder **Mr. Renoux** who I have not actually communicated with) I have learned much about recent developments at the Liberation Museum in LeMuy. They did NOT ask me to write to you but they did ask me for any photos that my dad might have had left us.

In fact, I found a box of 38 photos that might me of interest to them (and perhaps to you). I have scanned them. I will submit them to this site if I hear this is desired.

I write because I will be in Europe in October for vacation and will visit Le Muy to meet the organizers of the Liberation Museum. I will also see the plaque in honor of those who died at the airport in Nice, and ultimately to Draguignan. I hope to, through the museum organizers in Le Muy, meet any children or grandchildren of the Maquis partisans and townspeople that were of assistance to you or those that you liberated from the Germans. I understand that perhaps many were to be executed when you unexpectedly arrived in Le Muy.

I write to ask if you have photos or maps that I could get to take to the museum in an electronic format (on a disk or flash drive or sent by e mail). Perhaps you already know that the museum suffered terrible damage in 2010 in an unexpected flood. They are restoring the museum. They still hold annual events in honor of the liberation in August 1944.

If you have photos, maps, or paper documents that they might like that you can scan and send, please do so by October 15. I will not have much room in my suitcase so please call me before sending anything larger than a disk or flash drive or letter that you might want me to hand to them. This six weeks "heads up" should give you a chance to photocopy or scan any photos or maps of interest. I used the scanner at my office but know that the Kinkos/Federal Express offices also provide scanning



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services at modest prices. Perhaps other similar office supply businesses do too. Also many younger folks have scanning equipment on their PCs.

Two men have asked my mom or me if I would cash small checks in the US and covert to Euros or offer the small contribution in US dollars to the museum organizers. I am happy to do this but I am not really comfortable asking for money. You don't know me.

In addition to my dad's photos, I am having two US flags flown over the US Capitol Building for their restored museum thanks to Senator Jim Webb. This will be a surprise to the museum (unless of course they subscribe to this listserv).

I think that the current economic conditions have placed stresses on many and many are helping family with practical current problems so I am not trying to become a fundraiser. But for those who were hesitant to send a check before wondering how it might get processed or if the transaction fees would be high too high for such modest checks, it might make it easier to send through me. (If you do, please communicate with the museum directly that you are doing this. I am reluctant to do this without assurance back to you that they receive the money. This way you have some assurance that they are expecting it from me.

Most of you don't know me and we all know too well about scams. My mom gets calls often from scammers. I am convinced that they seek out the elderly.

This unexpected communication with the Le Muy folks has brought unexpected communication in the last week with **Bob Dalrymple, General Seitz, Steve and Elaine Markle, and Bill and Gloria Hudson**. My mom has had the **Congers** in mind all week.

I spoke to **Col. Cross** who is recovering from a broken neck. I observed to him that many of you surely once called him a pain in the neck and he quipped with a twinkle "I suspect that they said far worse" . He and Gen Seitz sound 45 not like their age.

And curiously, through a work friend in Chicago, I met (by e mail) the daughter of one of the many British intelligence officers (and a French mother) who designed many of the Allied decoys and deceptions to enable Operation Anvil and D Day landing and still make Calais look like a target. Her father died many decades ago but it was interesting to see how many talents it took to carry off such a mission as Operation Anvil/ Dragoon. (I recommend the new documentary "Garbo" about the Spaniard who set up an intricate web of false information to deceive the Germans. It is terrific and available on Netflix.)

My contact information is below as is that of my mother. Please let us know if you come to the DC area. I live just six miles from the White House.

Theresa Pugh

2313 North Tracy Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22311
(703) 931-1945
(202) 467-2943 office
(703) 507-6843 cell



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Ann Pugh

(703) 998-7573 home

No separate e mail address-- send through mine

Thank you for reading this long note. It is long overdue and I rather think that my Dad would have wanted me to communicate with you. You men mattered so much to him in ways that my generation really cannot comprehend.

And it sure was easier than putting out that darn "Wings" .)

Fondly,

Theresa Pugh

Hi Theresa,

Thank you for your wonderful note. I didn't get to the 517 reunions when Charley was alive, but I started going in more recent years with my Dad, Ben Barrett, who died in 2010. I know about Charley from stories and seeing many of the 596th Wings newsletters, many of which are posted online now if you are interested. In 2009, I travelled with Ben and some of the 517/596/460 troopers to Belgium and France, and got to meet J. Mickel and Eric in Le Muy at the August celebrations.

I will include your note in the next "MailCall" newsletter, which I send out weekly. Most of the people you mentioned – Gen. Seitz, Bob Dalrymple, J. Michael and Eric, Steve Markle, Tom Cross, etc. – are still on the list of people who read the weekly MailCall. Let me know if you care to be added to the mailing list.

Best Regards,

Bob Barrett

PS: Yes I would love to have the scanned photos for the web site.



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I just found that there is a Facebook page for the **Saints and Soldiers – Airborne Creed** movie. Lots of great reviews and feedback.

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/airbornecreed>



Saints And Soldiers: Airborne Creed
13,065 likes · 2,093 talking about this

▼ Liked Message * ▼

Movie
Two months after D-Day the Allied forces initiated Operation Dragoon on August 15, 1944. The 517th PRCT participated in the invasion of Provence, France..



About

Photos

Events

Countdown

Likes



Sneak Peek

Exclusive Trailer

There is also a listing of upcoming theater showings:

Gem Theater	9/7/12	Panguitch	UT
Regal Bridgeport 17 + IMAX	9/7/12	Tigard	OR
Boise Stadium 21 + IMAX	9/7/12	Boise	ID
Grand Teton Stadium 14	9/7/12	Idaho Falls	ID
Paramount 5	9/7/12	Rexburg	ID
The Roxy	9/7/12	St. Anthony	ID
Skyview Cineplex	9/7/12	Afton	WY
Columbia Mall Stadium 8	9/7/12	Kennewick	WA
Fairchild Cinemas	9/7/12	Moses Lake	WA
Pasco Cinema 12	9/7/12	Pasco	WA
Century SeaTac Mall 16	9/7/12	Federal Way	WA
Carmike Pine Ridge 10	9/7/12	Chubbuck	ID
Magic Valley Cinema	9/7/12	Twin Falls	ID
Cinemark West Plano 20 + XD	9/28/12	Plano	TX
Cinemark 16	9/28/12	Mesa	AZ
Las Vegas Suncoast 16	9/28/12	Las Vegas	NV
Las Vegas Samstown 18	9/28/12	Las Vegas	NV
Orange Stadium Promenade 25 + XD	10/12/12	Orange	CA



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This little display of high strutting in uniforms is hilarious and interesting. Thought you might see how border closings are done in India and Pakistan. I'll bet tickets are sold daily.

This is both fascinating and hysterical. This is how the border between India and Pakistan is closed every evening!! This is not a Monty Python comedy skit, but it does resemble one.

Keep in mind that each of these countries has nuclear weapons...Click on link below

<http://www.wimp.com/indiapakistan>

Phil McSpadden

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

This past August 15th was the 66th anniversary of Operation Dragoon. This is a good time of year to remember to pay your annual membership dues. Suggested donation: \$30

Enclosed is my annual dues contribution towards the 517 PRCT Association.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to:

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c/o Joanne Barrett
70 Pleasant Street
Cohasset, MA 02025