



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2125

October 7, 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

MailCall News

Thank you so much for posting the pictures of **General Seitz** and the dedication of Seitz Elementary School. What a tremendous honor and recognition of our beloved General Seitz. I am so grateful for the opportunity to know him.

Many may not know, but General Seitz, when he was the youngest Battalion Commander in the Army he was the one who interviewed PVT Curtis to determine if he was 517th material. This is what my Dad wrote about the experience on April 27, 1943.

"Well today the first thing we did was to jump from the mock tower. Then we had a personal interview by a Major (Seitz). Boy is he a swell guy. About 30 years old..(General Seitz to us later in 2007, he was only 27 years old) Well I walked in. Saluted him, told him my name. He asked me how I liked the paratroops. I told him "PERFECT." He said he was organizing a bunch of paratroopers for actual combat overseas in about 9 months from now. He asked if I wanted to be in it. If you could have heard him, the way he said, "If you do come into my battalion, you are going to work, and work hard, and when I'm through with you, you'll be a man, and the very best."(Major Seitz also told Bud we are going to go to Japan and kill the Japanese, is that what you want to do? Bud responded, "Yes sir!") Then if you could have heard him say. "Write your folks and tell them you are in my outfit, and that you'll be overseas in 9 months, and tell them that I'm personally going to bring you and all the others back alive." Well cold chills went up my back, and I would have done about anything he wanted me too. Well anyway I'm on the road to being a paratrooper. But I am going to have to work for it."

General Seitz told me at the 517th PRCT reunion in Washington D.C., on July 1, 2007, "I interviewed 3,100 men and only allowed 700 into the 517th. Headquarters was putting a lot of pressure on me to get the battalion staffed, but I was looking for men with spirit and heart, not muscles."

I am glad he saw the spirit and heart in my Dad, and now I am sure his legacy at Seitz Elementary will



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inspire those children to have spirit and heart, just like the men of the 517th.

Thank you General Seitz for your many years of continued leadership.

From a proud son of a paratrooper who served under General Seitz

Lory Curtis, son of Bud Curtis

Thanks for all your hard work keeping MailCall going. I sure look forward to it each week. I want to report what an honor I had last weekend seeing the premier of Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed in Phoenix. It was such a pleasure to sit beside and watch the movie with **Marshall "Mark" Baird** a member of 1st Battalion who lives in the Tucson area. Mark had not been to a movie in 30 years, but we sure enjoyed watching this tribute to the great men of the 517th together with our families. I can't thank my brother enough for all his hard work and dedication bringing this movie to fruition.

Mark's daughter Maggie shared with my wife at the local Home Depot a few days ago that Mark was locked out of his house recently. So of course, what does a 90 year old Paratrooper do but crawl through the window. Don't think Maggie was too happy about that, but of course we know what these guys are made of.

If anyone is reading this in Arizona, you can see SAS Airborne Creed at the Cinemark 16 in Mesa for a few more weeks. I would be happy to give any Troopers or family members a ride up if you are unable to drive on your own. You can email me at tsea333@q.com By the way, I'm back to work full time and feeling damn good since heart surgery.

AATW

Tim Curtis

Submitted by

Name: **Steven Jegou-Leduc**
From: France
E-mail:
steven_jegou800@hotmail.com

Comments:

Thank you to all the American soldiers who fought for Freedom, for France. Last Summer, in August, we met some of them in the very south of France to celebrate the 65 years of freedom and friendship between the paratroopers of the 517 Parachute regimental Combat Team and the people of Europe!!! The celebrations were just fantastic.
Thanks a million.
Steven, Delphine and Constance our daughter.
Sorry but our english is very poor...

Added: October 5, 2012



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This is my new address:

bobd7921 @ gmail.com

Please use it from now on. Thank you

Bob Dalrymple [596th PCEC]

596 PEC Commander



Capt. Robert W. Dalrymple
(Col., USA Ret.)

Hello Bob, This is an interesting offer. I ordered this and another as an early Christmas Present.

Don Gentry

10,850 pages, 89 issues, of the journal Military Review dating from March 1938 to December 1948, published by The Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

For the complete description, sample pages, or to obtain this set go to:

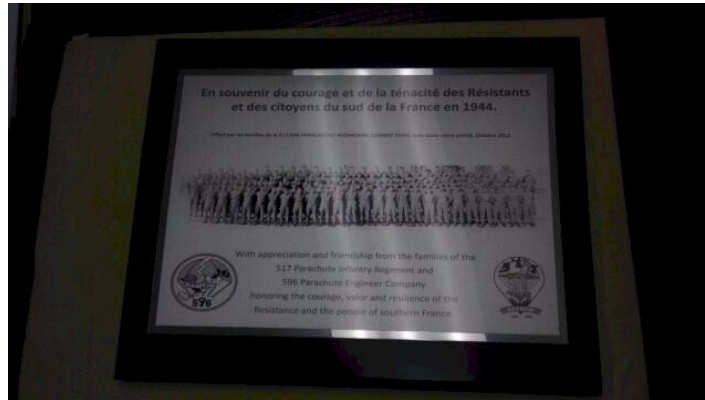
http://www.paperlessarchives.com/wwii_military_review.html





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The plaque below (along with an index of the men in the photo) will be given to Jean Michele and Eric on behalf of the 596 & 517. It is for the new Liberation Museum in Le Muy, France.



The actual size is about 20 inches wide and 14 inches deep. The message is in French and English. Many thanks to the Moses family for finding this handsome photo. This photo makes it look like a framed photo. It is all metal. The photo is of the men in Georgia before they departed in 1943. It is etched in aluminum and looks like pewter with a wood frame. This photo does not do it justice.

This will be given to the museum along with two flags flown over the US Capitol building.

A special thanks to **Steve Markle** for scanning about 900 photos, articles, memorabilia, and letters from the soldiers that will be given to the museum. That surely took Steve many weeks or even months to organize and scan. All are categorized by the soldier's name.

I will see Le Muy, the Chateaux Ste. Roseline abbey and some of the neighboring towns.

I send greetings from my mom, **Ann Pugh**.

Theresa Pugh
Daughter of **Charles Pugh**

**En souvenir du courage et de la ténacité des Résistants
et des citoyens du sud de la France en 1944.**

- Offert par les familles de la 517/596 PARACHUTIST REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, avec toute notre amitié, Octobre 2012



With appreciation and friendship from the families of the
517 Parachute Infantry Regiment and
596 Parachute Engineer Company
honoring the courage, valor and resilience of the
Resistance and the people of southern France.






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From Nila Gott

Service with Honor



Michael Anthony Monsoor (April 5, 1981 – September 29, 2006) was a U.S. Navy SEAL killed during the Iraq War and posthumously received the Medal of Honor. Monsoor enlisted in the United States Navy in 2001 and graduated from Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training in 2004. After further training he was assigned to Delta Platoon, SEAL Team Three.

Delta Platoon was sent to Iraq in April 2006 and assigned to train Iraqi Army soldiers in Ramadi. Over the next five months, Monsoor and his platoon frequently engaged in combat with insurgent forces. On September 29, 2006 an insurgent threw a grenade onto a rooftop where Monsoor and several other SEAL and Iraqi soldiers were positioned. Monsoor quickly smothered the grenade with his body, absorbing the resulting explosion and saving his comrades from serious injury or death. Monsoor died 30 minutes later from serious wounds caused by the grenade explosion.

On March 31, 2008, the United States Department of Defense confirmed that Michael Monsoor would posthumously receive the Medal of Honor from the President of the United States, George W. Bush. Bush presented the medal to Monsoor's parents on April 8, 2008. In October 2008, United States Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter announced that DDG-1001, the second ship in the *Zumwalt* class of destroyers, would be named *Michael Monsoor* in his honor.

Monsoor died September 29, 2006 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq and was described as a "quiet professional" and a "fun-loving guy" by those who knew him. He is buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego.

During the funeral, as the coffin was moving from the hearse to the grave site, Navy SEALs were lined up forming a column of twos on both sides of the pallbearers route, with the coffin moving up the center. As the coffin passed each SEAL, they slapped down the gold Trident each had removed from his own uniform and deeply embedded it into the wooden coffin. For nearly 30 minutes the slaps were audible from across the cemetery as nearly every SEAL on the west coast repeated the ceremony.



The display moved many attending the funeral, including U.S. President George W. Bush, who spoke about the incident later during a speech stating: "The procession went on nearly half an hour, and when it was all over, the simple wooden coffin had become a gold-plated memorial to a hero who will never be forgotten."



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From Paul Abbene:

Leo Dean - 517th PRCT – at the Toccoa Museum



Dear Mail Call,

John D Russell, HQ/1st (the same outfit as "Bud" Curtis), thoroughly enjoyed attending the showing of "Saints & Soldiers: Airborne Creed" in Twin Falls, Idaho recently. Theatre goers were impressed that a member of the 517th was there in attendance.

I have attached photos of John, then and now.

Thanks for all the great work you do on Mail Call. We really enjoy it!

Mark Russell
(son of John D Russell)





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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

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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