



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2131

November 18, 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](http://www.517prct.org)  
[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)  
[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)  
[www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)

## Armistice Day



Wanne 517 th monument - ceremonies on november 11 - Armistice Day.

With gratitude and respect.  
**Irma and Arnold Targnion**  
Trois-Ponts. Belgium



Wanne: Trois-Ponts - 2012 november 7th - ceremony "Le relais sacré" with a flame and flowers at the US and Belgian monuments (flame on the left side of the picture)



**Roger VAUCHEL**, Belgian veteran as he attends the ceremony at the 517th monument in Wanne. He is the last Belgian veteran in this area.



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This day was set aside to celebrate the end of WWI, and today it is set aside to honor all veterans of all past wars. Today, more than in the past, many restaurants and merchants are providing special discounts to all veterans. My thanks to them for, at last, remembering the many sacrifices the military has made for everyone. I presently have two nephews serving on active duty and a grandson entering the Air Force in February. My thanks to them, and all other men and women, who are striving to keep America strong and free.

THANK YOU, ALL VETERANS!!

**phil mc spadden**

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Our inexpressible gratitude to our remarkable veterans for ensuring that we live in freedom. Happy Veterans Day and God Bless You.

May we compliment you, Bob, on this excellent MailCall. **Teresa Pugh's** report was very moving and captures Alan's and my experience when our stalwart supporters and friends in southern France and Belgium showed us around. Am forwarding MailCall to the Seitz clan as Dad is planning to take his only grandchild, Jordan Christine, to visit this summer.

**Pat Seitz**

### *MailCall News*

As I sit here at my computer thinking of the latest Mail Call, I am inclined to write a bit about my late husband, **David J. Walls**. He was in the 517th and of course, at Camp Toccoa. It strikes me after reading the post from **Theresa Pugh** (and posts from others), that many of the men in WWII did not talk much about their experiences in battle. I know David did not, when our daughter once asked him why he didn't write a memoir about his wartime service, he merely stated: 'no one is interested, and besides, I was just doing my job'. I suspect that would be the response of many WWII veterans; yes, just doing their job.

My interest was particularly piqued when Theresa mentioned Sospel, and the story behind it, which I did not know. When David and I toured Southern France in the early 1960's, we did not stop there; he was more interested in going to the Col de Braus, where he had fought. Which we did, in peacetime it was quite lovely. Perhaps he was aware of what transpired in Sospel and did not wish to relive painful memories. We will never know, he died in 1987.

David was with the 517th in the Battle of the Bulge where he had his feet frozen and was sent to England to recover. He did return to France, when I do not know, but his last WWII service in Europe was in Rheims, France, where he said they 'helped the displaced persons' from the war. I know many stories have been lost from the servicemen who did not want to re-live the war, and we, the survivor's, are left with piece-meal accounts and many questions. David re-joined the Army in 1955 and went on to become a Sergeant Major, retiring in 1975 after serving in Vietnam and peace time Korea.

I am very proud of the service David and all the men and women of all our wars have given to our country, it behooves everyone to remember them and pray we not endure another 'World War'. Our present battles are more than enough, we need peace, not additional memories of a war torn world.

**Elaine Walls Saunders**



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Do you have contact information for **Melvin Trenary** – email or telephone?

He is listed in the Christmas Roster as a PFC along with my Dad – I would VERY much like to talk to him.

This was a nice veteran's day surprise in Mailcall this week!

Thanks

**Roger Sullivan**

Guestbook entries:

<p><b>Submitted by</b></p> <p>Name: <b>Mary Paturzo Adair</b>            From: New York            E-mail: <a href="mailto:ciphergrapho@cox.net">ciphergrapho@cox.net</a></p>	<p><b>Comments:</b></p> <p>My uncle <b>Thomas F. Paturzo</b> was in the <b>3rd battalion, HQ Company</b>, he was a Corp. I'm looking for anyone in that Company and Squad. that may know him.. pictures info anything that will tell me how he died. He died of wounds...Feb 10th 1945 . and was buried for a time in Alsace ,before he was returned home to NYC.</p> <hr/> <p>Added: November 17, 2012 <span style="float: right;">✖➡IP</span></p>
<p><b>Submitted by</b></p> <p>Name: <b>Frank Boblits</b>            From: Maryland            E-mail: <a href="mailto:ampotech_inc@verizon.net">ampotech_inc@verizon.net</a></p>	<p><b>Comments:</b></p> <p>Thank all of you for your service, God Bless WWII Vets are an interest to me, as a former vet myself from the 82nd and 1/115 29 ID I have follow the history of both of these great units, I see the 517th was also one of these special units as well.</p> <hr/> <p>Added: November 17, 2012 <span style="float: right;">✖➡IP</span></p>
<p><b>Submitted by</b></p> <p>Name: <b>Fred B. Liggett</b>            From: Paterson New Jersey            E-mail: <a href="mailto:classfred@msn.com">classfred@msn.com</a></p>	<p><b>Comments:</b></p> <p>My father died in 1960 plane crash in Alaska, I still have much of his WW11 memorabilia. I just emailed a photo with names of some of his buddies which he had written on the back of the picture. Hope you can post it on the website. Sincerely, Fred B. Liggett</p> <hr/> <p>Added: November 14, 2012 <span style="float: right;">✖➡IP</span></p>
<p><b>Submitted by</b></p> <p>Name: <b>Clare Erber</b>            From: Platte Woods, MO            E-mail: <a href="mailto:cerber@sbcglobal.net">cerber@sbcglobal.net</a></p>	<p><b>Comments:</b></p> <p>Happy Veterans Day! Thank you for this proud feeling, United We Stand!</p> <hr/> <p>Added: November 11, 2012</p>





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

Hi Howard,

A SF based news station would like to interview you in the next hour or so. They want to put a veteran's story on the evening news for Veteran's Day. They would need clearance from the VA center you live in to come in with cameras.

Let me know if this is ok with you and the phone # for the nurse's station or front desk of your facility

Joanne

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Hi Joanne, They were here to do it and ran into VA red tape--I have to sign a release and on this after-hours holiday none was available, something like the IRS. The NBC people want the story so they will be back tomorrow or some other day they need the story.

Thanks to you and Bob for the heads up, HH

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Hi Howard,

Thanks for being a good sport about this. I am so sorry about the short notice. A while back, I sent to my daughter the story about you, Jean Loup, and your correspondence with Georg Reick in Germany. She does marketing work, and thought that the story might be interesting to some newspapers or media outlets, especially during Veterans Day/Armistice Day events. Unfortunately, the media have all been busy covering the presidential elections and such over the past few weeks, and she got no responses until tonight, when someone at Bay Area NBC must have been looking for an interesting Vets Day story.

But it was very last minute, so I knew it might be asking a little much to expect everything to fall into place in one night.

Keep us posted if they do come back.

Bob Barrett

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Hi Bob, The lady who showed up here last night is interested in the story. I let her read the correspondence between Georg and me and gave her a background fill in. There is a guy from the VA who is supposed to bring me a form to sign today and the NBC lady, Cheryl Hurd, will probably come by after 3 this afternoon and shoot the story. I think the VA is interfering with my constitutional right to free speech, but I don't think I will raise the issue. I will do my best to highlight the 517th in fulfillment of the Association objectives of letting more people know of what our heroes did to liberate Europe. The recent trip report in mail call was most interesting and it is gratifying to learn again how much those people in Southern France still show their appreciation for the gallant services of our 517th Parachute Combat Team troopers.

Highest regards,

**Howard Hensleigh**

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

Hi Brianne,

We will do the story tomorrow. I talked with Jonathan, the rep at the VA Hospital. He will file the paperwork and talk with Howard. So, we should be good to go for the interview tomorrow. I will keep you posted!

LB

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### **Subject: howard interview**

Hi Brianne,

We are set up to interview Howard Thursday 430pm (pst). We plan to hold the story and air it next week. I will keep you posted on air date and time. Thanks so much for the story idea.

LB

**Lauren Brennan**  
**Assignment Editor**  
**NBC Bay Area**

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Good Morning Gentlemen, hope everyone is doing well. Bob, the articles written in MailCall were just amazing, The Respect and Honor that we give our veterans and current military is so deserving! Reading about the Para Gliders, WOW! I'm not sure how to describe what I'm about to tell you, because I don't want to sound uninformed. After reading about the Para Glider, I became a little more interested, Bobby Martin who is also a paratrooper from Breaux Bridge and a friend of my father, always asked me if my father was ever with the Gliders, I always told him that I didn't think so. Well, I was browsing through the 517 Logo's & Insignias. I saw the Para Glider insignias, I have seen this before in my father's treasures. I opened his treasure chest, sure enough, he has two hats with the Para Glider emblem. The hats are faded blue with a gold trim, he never said anything about the Para Glider and stupid me, I didn't ask. Just wanted to share a bit of history of Ret. **Lt Col Thomas Fred Patin.**

*Thanks and have a great day.*  
*Tony Patin*

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

To whom it may concern , my father was in the 517th prct. His name is **Fred Liggett**, and this is a photo I have of his, he is the 11th man from the left side, he included other men's names he knew, hope you can include this photo on your website.

Sincerely

Fred B. Liggett

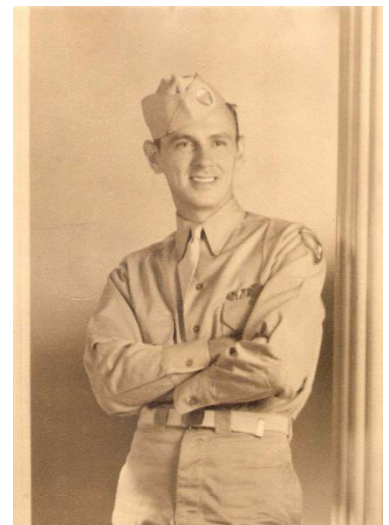


*[Does anyone know where and when this picture of A Company was taken?]*

Another photo of my father **Fred Liggett of the 517th A company**, if could also add this to the website. Thanks

Sincerely,

Fred B. Liggett



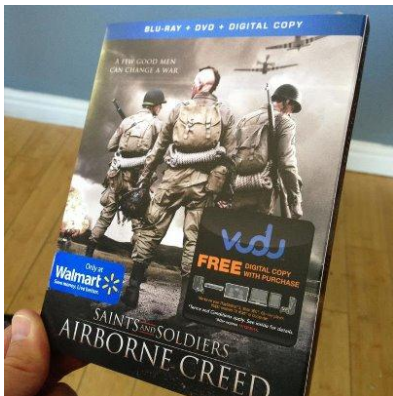


## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From Jerry Wofford:

THIS MAN IS ON A MISSION TO BRING OUT THE SOUL OF THOSE LOST SOLDIERS WITH HIS GOD GIVEN TALENT AND THE STROKE OF HIS BRUSH. HE IS HELPING THE BERIEVED PARENTS OF EACH SOLDIER TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE IN THEIR GRIEF. AS HE SAID "THEY LOOK BACK AT YOU". I'M SURE IT MAKES EACH PARENT FEEL THAT THEIR CHILD WILL ALWAYS BE WITH THE OTHER HEROES OF THIS NATION WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE. HOPEFULLY HIS WORKS CAN HELP TO BRING CLOSURE TO THOSE FAMILIES WHO ARE GOING THROUGH THE MOST INTENSE EMOTIONAL PAIN THAT A HUMAN CAN POSSIBLY FEEL, THE LOSS OF A CHILD. GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY FAMILY MEMBER AND MOST OF ALL GOD BLESS THIS UNSELFISH PATRIOT WHO HAS DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO HELP MAKE THEIR PAIN JUST A LITTLE MORE BEARABLE.... AMERICAN HEROES, ALL.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=IRGWUFEEeXZw&vq=medium](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=IRGWUFEEeXZw&vq=medium)



The DVD is now at Amazon, Walmart, Redbox and [www.airbornecreed.com](http://www.airbornecreed.com)

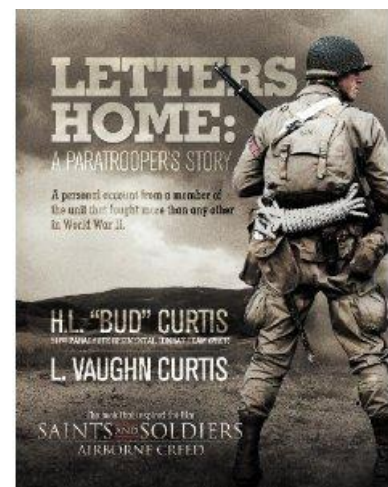
Check out the new 10 minute movie preview:

<http://www.airbornecreed.com/preview>

The DVD includes some background information including interviews with Lory Curtic, Hoyt Kelley, and Dick Seitz, as well as some shots from a recent reunion.

And don't forget to also order **Lory and Bud Curtis' Letters Home: A Paratrooper's Story**, with the new matching cover.

[http://www.amazon.com/Letters-Home-Saints-Soldiers-Airborne/dp/1427650306/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1352611349&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Letters-Home-Saints-Soldiers-Airborne/dp/1427650306/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1352611349&sr=1-1)





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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](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



517 PRCT Florida Mini Reunion 2013  
Ramada Hotel & Inn Gateway, Kissimmee, FL

Reunion Registration Form  
January 18 – 21

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse\_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home)\_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone\_\_\_\_\_

Unit\_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date\_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee - \$45.00  
(Includes Banquet Dinner and Hospitality Room)

Banquet Dinner: Roast Beef\_\_\_\_\_ (# of people)

Chicken Marsala \_\_\_\_\_ (# of people)

Fresh Catch of the Day\_\_\_\_\_ (# of people)

Please send this registration form with your **check made out to**  
**517 PRCT Reunion by December 15<sup>th</sup>** to:

Brenda Verbeck Mortensen  
13046 Race Track Road #220  
Tampa, FL 33626  
Phone: 813-335-8002  
Email: bverbeck@gmail.com

## **517 PRCT FLORIDA MINI REUNION, January 2013**

### **WHERE:**

Ramada Hotel & Inn Gateway  
7470 Hwy 192 West  
Kissimmee, FL 34741

800-327-9170

**WHEN:** January 18 – 21

(Hospitality Room Opens Evening of January 18)

### **RATES:**

A double room is \$65.00,, Tower rooms \$75.00. They will provide these rates for the period +/- five days of the actual reunion to allow for early arrivals and stay-overs.

### **MAKING YOUR RESERVATION:**

**CALL 800-327-9170**

***Identify yourself as attending the 517 PRCT Reunion to get this special rate, WHICH INCLUDES BREAKFAST.***

### **SCHEDULE:**

The hospitality suite will be open 5pm to 10pm on Friday  
10 am to 10 pm on Saturday through Sunday  
10 am to 5pm and after dinner on Monday

Registration: Saturday morning

Rides to Services on Sunday can be arranged

Monday: Memorial Service 6:30 - 6:45 pm; Banquet 6:45 – 10pm

Hospitality suite open following the dinner

For further information contact

Brenda Verbeck Mortensen, 813-335-8002

bverbeck@gmail.com