



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2141

January 13, 2013

*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

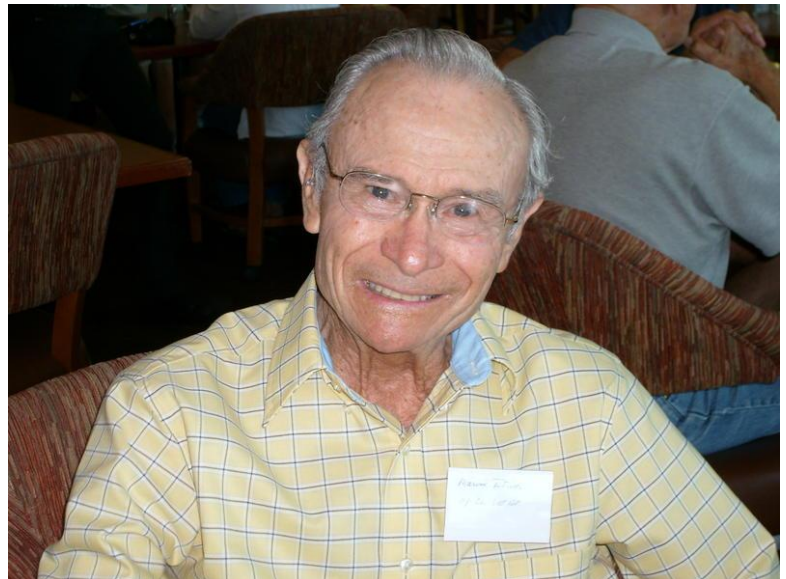
www.517prct.org/archives

2012 Roster (updated!)

www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Marvin David Tetrick, HQ Company, 1st Battalion

My lifelong buddy **Marvin Tetrick** passed away this week. He was a squad leader in the machine gun platoon, Hdqs. Co. 1st Bat. Marv and I have been buddies since the 4th grade of grammar school in Compton Calif. We were drafted on the same day in March 1943 and both joined the 517th at Toccoa in April. I was in Co. A and Marv's machine gun squad was attached to us on many occasions in combat. Neither of us were ever evacuated or missed a day of our respective combat assignments. Since WWII our families have lived within a mile of each other in Calif. and Yuma, AZ. We both became civil engineers and worked on the design and construction of freeways and rural highways in the deserts and mountains of eastern California. After forty years we both retired on the same day in December of 1987. Marv was in such demand that he double dipped another two years on major construction projects.



Gene "Zoot" Snyder, Co. A

P S Someone asked a question "how did we get cameras when they weren't allowed?" It was usually easy to get a camera from a recently captured German if **H. Hensleigh** or someone in his unit didn't know about it.



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Marvin David Tetrick

May 7, 1924 - January 6, 2013



Born on May 7, 1924 in Deerfield, MO, 65-year Bishop, CA local, Marvin David Tetrick, died on January 6, 2013 in Bishop. He was 88.

We were nearly deprived of Marv's illustrious example of how to truly live on the day his life began. The folks attending Marv's mother as she gave birth thought he was stillborn, so set his seemingly lifeless form on the kitchen table as they attempted to save his mother's life. Ten or fifteen minutes later, as his mother showed signs of improvement, they heard a cry from the table; Marv was alive! After that, Marv never looked back, applying a voluminous energy and focus to every task he performed, embracing both beloved pastimes and dreaded obstacles with the same gusto and can-do attitude that was so prevalent amongst many of his generation.

During the Great Depression, Marvin's family migrated westward in hopes of finding work, first to Raton, NM, where his father worked at a chicken farm in exchange for food, but no wages. Extremely poor, the family remodeled a chicken coop for their habitation. The Tetricks moved west again, eventually settling in Southern California—first in Long Beach, then Compton. To contribute to household finances, Marv worked a paper route as a young boy, sold magazine subscriptions and shined shoes with a shoe-shine box he built himself out of scrap lumber. With the shoe-shine box strapped to his bike, Marv oftentimes pedaled from Compton to Long Beach Harbor to shine shoes for sailors who were a little more generous with tips on payday.

A gifted natural athlete, Marv enjoyed ocean swimming and surfing. He built a wooden long-board and surfed off Palos Verdes with friends in the 1930's and early '40's. He also joined the gymnastics team at Compton's Enterprise High, attending classes with baseball Hall of Famer, Duke Snider.

When he was 18, Marv and a few of his buddies cruised around a Gardena neighborhood looking to meet up with a girl whose address they had on a scrap of paper. They spied three cute girls in the driveway of a house and figured this was the place. It was the wrong address, but the right girl. Romelia "Rickie" Glavis thought Marv was the right boy, too. They were engaged around the time that Marv was drafted into the United States Army in 1943, the same day as his best friend of 81 years, Gene "Zoot" Snyder.

In an effort to stick together, Marv and Gene Snyder volunteered for the Army's paratrooper division, entering the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team. Returning from training for a five-day leave, Marvin wed Romelia on March 31, 1944, shipping out to the European combat theatre in June of the same year. Marv saw action in Italy, Belgium and France, surviving two hard winters on the front and fighting in the bloody Battle of the Bulge. As the war concluded the 517th was absorbed into the 82nd Airborne Division; Marv and Gene became part of the occupying allied force in Berlin.

Returning home from the war, Marv continued his schooling at Compton Junior College. He and Rickie welcomed a son, David, in 1946. Around that time, Gene Snyder trekked up to Bishop, CA, seeking employment. He told Marv about the opportunities and invited him to take a look; both Marv and Gene were hired on with the California Division of Highways (now Cal Trans), Marv receiving his first paycheck in early 1948, eventually earning his Civil Engineers License and becoming a Resident Engineer at Division of Highways. Marv and



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Rickie had their second child, Donna, in 1949, just as Marv, along with Gene, began working on the extensive road improvement projects that widened Highway 395 from two to four lanes from Mojave to Topaz Lake. Marv also oversaw numerous highway jobs in Inyo, Mono and Kern Counties. He and Gene retired together in 1987, after 40 years of service.

Marv was a working class Renaissance man if ever there were one. He was a member of the Toastmasters and 20-30 Club, President of the local chapter of the California State Employees Association, a comedic skit writer and performer, a member of Playhouse 395, not to mention a skilled practitioner of home economics. Marv was also an avid backpacker, fisherman and amateur naturalist, a champion for the preservation of the Desert Tortoise, bonsai enthusiast, lifelong gardener and die-hard Dodgers fan. A self-taught mechanical genius who could fix just about any device, Marv could often be found tinkering under the hood of his 1939 Ford flatbed pick-up truck. Marv was also a prolific storyteller. Chances are, if Marv was talking, he was telling a story, right up to his final days.

Throughout his life, Marv possessed a fearless love of adventure and insatiable curiosity about life. He always wanted to know more. He exuded unparalleled vibrancy, had a keen sense of humor and an infectious laugh. Marv did not speak ill of others and was never anything but kind to friend and stranger, alike. He approached life, and death, with a rare grace, courage and humility. Marv never complained and always did his best, even when illness reduced his capabilities. His example will continue to influence those who knew him for years to come.

Marvin is preceded in death by mother Ida Jessamine Tetrick, nee Klontz, father John Harvey Tetrick, brothers Melvin Lynn Tetrick (also a paratrooper who perished in WWII combat), and Harvey Austin Tetrick, who died in infancy.

Marv is survived by his beloved wife of 68 years, Romelia Tetrick and son David Tetrick, both of Bishop, daughter Donna Gollihur (Dick) of Sacramento, CA, and brother-in-law George Glavis of Torrance, CA; grandchildren, Andrea Tetrick (Karen Robb), Kristen Tetrick, Jason Tetrick (Sunee), Jereme Tetrick (Gina), Garrett Gollihur (Amy), Leslie Springer (JR), Janelle Gollihur, 10 great-grandchildren, numerous nephews, nieces, cousins and countless friends.

Services are scheduled for Saturday, January 12 at 10 a.m. at Brune Mortuary, in Bishop, with private interment to follow. A reception for friends and family is set for 12 Noon at Whiskey Creek in the Kitty Lee Room. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to please consider donations to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, or the charity of your choice.

MailCall News

Dear Dear Bob: What a great job you did on MailCall #2140. I admit I am a Howard "groupie" so anything from him always makes a MailCall extra special but may I echo **Mike Wells'** comment (my Dad made the same one over Christmas)

Happy New Year to all.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer



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From: Nikki Ridgeway
To: mailcall@571prct.org
Subject: Nancy Fraser Armand

Hello, I'm writing you for my Grandfather **George Kennedy**. He is looking for an address for Nancy Armand. He met her at the Kansas City Reunion and promised her a 517th necklace and he lost her address. Do you happen to know it? Thanks for any help you could provide.

Another great Sunday reading MailCall. Thanks so much! I wanted to share what a pleasure I had yesterday spending the afternoon with one of the great heroes of the 517th. **Marshall Baird** was in 1st Battalion A. Co. and lives in Oracle, AZ. I was fortunate enough to watch the premier of Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed with Marshall back in September in Mesa, AZ, I have wanted to sit down with Marshall ever since, and yesterday he was such a gracious host telling me stories of his life and his time with the 517th. After the war Marshall spent a considerable amount of time managing a large cattle ranch which has since become the Biosphere 2 which is quite a tourist attraction here in Arizona, and currently run by the University of Arizona. Marshall was courteous and signed my SASAC movie poster, and here are a few pics so his old pals can see how well he is doing. Still driving around town in his truck with Purple Heart plates, and Jumpwing emblems on the back too. A day I will remember! Thanks Marshall!

Tim Curtis, Son of **Harland "Bud" Curtis**

Bob: the Thunderbolt arrived and it looks superb. Our compliments to Helen and Claire. We very much enjoy receiving the Thunderbolt and like the President's message and some photos we may not have seen in Mail Call. However, if it will save some costs, Alan and I can forgo receiving the hard copy.

Pat Seitz

Spoke to **Mimsey Boyle**, and have flight reservations. I will arrive on Thursday, the 17th and will share a room with Mimsey. Hope to see you there.

Nancy (Fraser) Armand

Hi all. I just got off the phone 1:30 MST with **Gene Frice**. He has told me the Palm Springs reunion is March 11-15 at the Riviera Hotel in Palm Springs.

Lory Curtis

West Coast Mini
Palm Springs, CA
March 11-15, 2013
[Registration Info](#)



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From Irma and Arnold Targnion
Trois Pons, Belgium



ST JACQUES - Father RADERMECKER and Father ETIENNE celebrating the Holy Mass of SOUVENIR on Saturday 2013 Jan 5. Many people attended the ceremony. With a gratitude and respect.

[Note the 517th pictures and candlesticks on the altar]



2013 JAN. 5th - homage at the monument in St Jacques.
Maria Gaspar and colour-bearers.



Logbiermé - ceremony at the 517th monument
- 2013 JAN. 5th



flowers in Logbiermé



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Dear Veterans, dear families and dear friends of the 517 PRCT,

I wish you a happy and peaceful 2013!

The unit in the attached picture is claimed to be one of the 517th in 1945 in the US. I haven't been able to identify the unit yet.

Best regard.

Flavio Laina, Belgium



For the past week it has been very cold here in Salt Lake City. Lows around -10 to 2 degrees at my house with highs in the 18 and 20 degree range. On New Year's Day I came down with a bad chest and head cold and have been suffering with it now for about a week. As I went outside this past Saturday morning when it was 2 degrees to put out my garbage cans, I found it very hard to breathe with such cold air having this chest cold. All of a sudden I stopped and thought about you brave men of the 517th during the Battle of the Bulge and winter campaign into Germany. I remember my Dad telling me it was usually around -20 at night and not much warmer during the day. I know many of you must have had colds, the flu and other ailments during that time.

I cannot imagine how you were able to endure such hardships. After I got my garbage cans out, I quickly returned to my warm house being very grateful to have a nice warm home to go into. My Dad like the rest of you had foxholes or anywhere else you could find to sleep, and try to stay warm. In speaking with **Hoyt Kelley**, HQ, 1st BN, last year, he told me that everyone was cold and hungry and this caused muscles atrophy, making it very difficult to not move without pain. I don't understand how you men did all that you were required to do in such adverse conditions without the proper winter clothing; but you did it! I am just grateful you were able to be successful. Thank you for your service in just horrific conditions.

If any of you troopers have any stories you would like to post here on mailcall, I sure would enjoy reading about your experiences.

Lory Curtis

Hello, my name is **Thomas L. Rea** and I was named after my Uncle who was in the 517th and killed in the war on Feb. 9th 1945 . Thank you for your efforts to find anyone who might have remembered him. Could I be placed on your mailing list?

regards Tom



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Subject: Running off on the Keyboard

I am always amazed at how the 517 PRCT guys made such remarkable history in the Big war. We came home and married and raised a great bunch of kids who are now taking over. Must be the DNA, huh? Space will not permit me to acknowledge all the people that have done so much to keep the 517 together. This would never have happened without people like **Bill Lewis**, **Ben Barrett** and now his son Bob who gives us a weekly dose of current information that many of us look forward to in Mail Call. One name that always comes up is our **General Seitz** who commanded every Paratroop outfit in the Army. I'm still proud that Major Seitz picked me in March 1943 to join his 2nd Battalion. But I digress!

I think we should have a Man/Women of the year, people that are involved in almost every facet of the 517. I just received the Thunderbolt and as usual it was packed with information. I also noticed it was mailed from Utah. Had to read to find out that **Helen Beddow** retired from the T'bolt. and Lory stepped in. Helen thanks for all your hard work for these many years of service.

Man of the Year: **Lory Curtis** a retired military officer. He is now a part of the T'bolt and he also chaired the last 3 National Reunions. Need I say more?

Women of the year: **Claire Giblin**, Alan Johnsons little girl. She is the Editor of the T'bolt and seems to be involved in almost everything the 517 does. Great job Claire.

Hope to see all of you in Kissimmee next week.

Darrell Egner



Sgt. Joe Lobit, a 13th Airborne Paratrooper and veteran of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment with his collection of German knives that he had acquired while serving in Germany during the final months of the war. The photo was taken in August 1945 at Camp Pittsburg, an embarkation camp in France prior to the Soldier's departure for home.

Gilles Guignard



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I got this email from a friend, and didn't realize there is a band of brothers' day, and if there is now, I think this needs to go out to all of our vets with a big thank you.

Lory Curtis

Happy Brothers' (& Sisters') Day

You may have served in Combat or in non-combat.

You may have retired out or you may have served for a short time.

You may have been a draftee or a volunteer.

You may have served in the Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard or the Merchant Marines,

BUT YOU SERVED. YOU DID YOUR JOB HONORABLY and for that I am **PROUD** to call you Brother.

You may have served during Korea, WWII, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq or Afghanistan, But you served, you did not run.

You have a DD 214 with those words "HONORABLY DISCHARGED" two of the most noble words in the world.

Again I am proud to know each and every one of you.

* Today is Band of Brothers' Day* ; send this to all your brothers, fathers, sons and fellow veterans you know. Happy Brothers' Day!

To the cool men that have touched my life: Here's to you!! I was never a hero, but I am thankful and proud to have served among them.

A real Brother walks with you when the rest of the world walks on you.

Send to all your Band of Brothers, because the fake ones won't.

The above note is a great sentiment, so I included it in this MailCall. Unfortunately, I cannot find any official record of any official "Band of Brothers Day". Notes similar to this appear on the internet, but not on the same day. -- BB

Subject: Address change

George E. Rumsey, 949 SIBLEY MEMORIAL HWY, APT 425, SAINT PAUL, MN 55118

Arrived in Toccoa early March 1943. **John W. Forrest** and I were sent to the 460th first and then back to the 517 for whatever reason. Was in Headquarters 1st, Machine Gun Platoon to the end in 1945, and my dues are current. Had a Birthday, January 8, turned 88. Just turned 18 before I got to Toccoa so maybe was one of the youngest in the outfit.

Thanks for your help

G. Rumsey



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Cameras have been the subject of inquiry several times. Here is what I observed. I didn't know anyone who carried his own camera into combat. Many of the Germans had them. When we took prisoners you know what happened. I had several and used them as we could have film developed by the civilians all over. I kept one in my B bag way in the rear and had one in my bed roll, lost by **Capt. Hooper** in the Bulge. **George Meline** and I took several pictures of the men of the armored infantry outfit which relieved us up in the Maritime Alps of Southern France. We remained to orient them at the end, while the rest of the outfit enjoyed the Riviera. A letter I sent to **Capt. Comboy** the commander of that outfit that relieved the 3rd Bn. came back to me marked KIA. Some of the men of the well liked captain's outfit wrote me asking me to send them pictures of him we had taken. It was a double blow to have to write them that the film and camera were lost in the Bulge.

So, as far as I know most if not all the cameras used to take pictures by the 517th were of German origin.

My best 2013 airborne regards,

Howard Hensleigh

Gentlemen,

Outpost Europe of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, in partnership with the French Embassy and the Army Historical Foundation, will be conducting a historical seminar and commemoration of Operation Dragoon, the invasion of Southern France by the 7th US Army (6th Corps - 3rd, 36th, 45th ID) on 15 August 1944 and the subsequent Southern France campaign. This invasion and campaign were supported by the OSS, included an airborne assault in support of the seaborne landings by the 1st Airborne Task Force - units are listed on the attached paper, as well as a seaborne special operation conducted by the 1st Special Service Force. This will be the fifth year we have hosted this event, and we would like to make this year's the biggest yet.

Our purpose remains to honor the veterans of Dragoon, as well as to gain them greater recognition for their tremendously successful operation which has historically been overlooked and overshadowed by the landings in Normandy and the combat in Northern France.

Each year the centerpiece of the commemoration is our ceremony at the Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery. During this ceremony the French Embassy awards the French Legion of Honor to veterans who fought in France. We will do so again this year.

I would like to ask you to please disseminate the attached information widely through your organizations and among your fellow veterans and ask for your participation and assistance in making the event a success. We won't have our WWII veterans around too much longer, we need to show them our appreciation now. Mark the dates on the calendar and plan to attend!

Thank you!

Rock of the Marne!

C. Monika Stoy

President

Outpost Europe

Society of the 3rd Infantry Division



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THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



Operation Dragoon - The "Forgotten D-Day"

The Allied Landings in Southern France and the Southern France Campaign

15 August 1944-14 September 1944

Hosted by

Outpost Europe, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, the Army Historical Foundation, and the Embassy of France



When: 8-11 August 2013 (Thursday-Sunday)

Where: Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Who: Please join us in honoring the veterans of the 6th Army Group; 7th Army; 6th Corps; 3rd, 36th, and 45th Infantry Divisions; 1st Allied Airborne Task Force – 517th Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team (including AT CO/442nd Infantry Regiment, 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion, 4463rd Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, 550th Airborne Infantry Battalion, 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion, and the 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade (UK); 1st Special Service Force; US Army Air Corps; US Navy, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine; the OSS; and from the participant allied nations of France, Poland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Greece, and Canada; family members, friends, and anyone interested in WWII history.



What: 8 August: 1 to 3 PM – registration; 5 to 8 PM – historical seminar
9 August: 9 AM to 5 PM – historical seminars and veterans' remembrances
10 August: 8:30 to 1200 AM – ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery with presentation of French Legion of Honor in Amphitheater
5 to 9:30 PM – Banquet
11 August: 8:30 to 11 AM –historical seminars

Why: To honor the veterans of the Forgotten D-Day, to preserve history, to educate the public, and to pass on the torch of their proud legacy.

Room Reservations: Price - \$95 per night, one day prior to event and one day after. Reservations: 1-800-325-3535
Reservation Group Name: Operation Dragoon
Cut off date for reservations: Friday, 21 July 2012

Point of Contact: Monika Stoy, President, Outpost Europe, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division
timmoni15@yahoo.com, PH: 703 912 4218
6531 Milva Lane, Springfield, VA. 22150 USA
RSVP by 30 June 2012

Registration: Event registration - \$30. Banquet - \$40. (Free for Dragoon Veterans)

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

My Father then **2lt Frank Stone** was a battalion adjutant with the 517 in Toccoa who was transferred to the 506 before D Day. My mother is actually from Toccoa and they met while he was there. I have a silver plate they were given from the regiment when they got married.

I was curious if there were rosters or the like to determine which Bn he was in. I am guessing a 2lt was not the regimental adjutant.

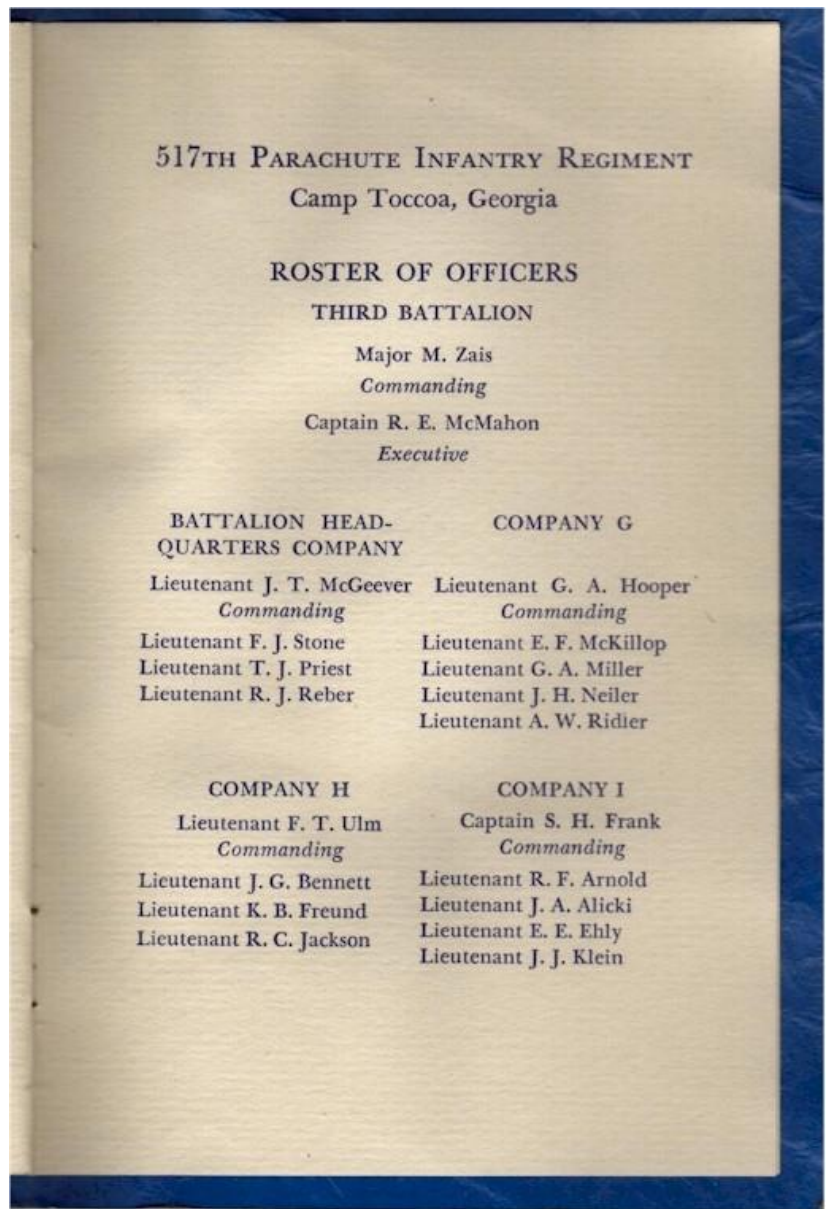
Thanks for your assistance

Pete D. Stone

Hi Pete,

He was in the Third Battalion. I found this, a PropBlast booklet from June 12, 1943.

Bob Barrett



See: <http://517prct.org/documents/propblast/propblast.htm>



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Submitted by

Name: **Bryan Mortensen**
From: Nevada
E-mail: bcm@mvdsl.com

Comments:

God bless the soldiers and families of the 517th! May America never forget the sacrifice that was made!! Thank You!!!

Added: January 12, 2013

517/460/596 Roster Review

Help us update the roster! Check your address and contact info on the new roster at www.517prct.org/roster.pdf. Send any corrections to MailCall@517prct.org.

Note that only people marked with a green **Y** will receive the Thunderbolt newsletter in a paper version. But if you receive weekly MailCalls, you don't need to receive the paper copy since we will be posting all future Thunderbolts on the website and in future MailCalls. See: [Winter 2013](#)

Last Chance – January Mini Reunion

Sign up ASAP, and let Brenda know. Registration forms attached.



Florida Mini-Reunion

January 18-21, 2013

[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
- 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 Donations, In Memory of... etc.) and make all checks payable to:

517 PRCT Association, Inc.

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



During WWII Marvin was a proud member of the 517 Parachute Regimental Combat Team, a special paratroop outfit that existed from 1943 to 1945. The 517TH's motto was simply, "Attack." Marv saw action in Belgium, Italy and France and fought in the infamous Battle of the Bulge. After the armistice, the 517TH was absorbed into the 82ND Airborne Division, and Marv became a member of the occupying allied force in Berlin, Germany. Marv had about a thousand and one war stories, which his family never tired of hearing.

In Memory



Marvin David Tetrick

May 7, 1924—January 6, 2013



Marvin and Romelia's Wedding

March 1944

Saturday, January 12, 2013, 10:00 AM

Services in Remembrance of
Marvin David Tetrick

Brune Mortuary, Bishop, CA

Officiating: David Tetrick, Andrea Tetrick

Pallbearers: David Tetrick, George Glavis,
Richard Gollihur, Jason Tetrick, Jereme Tetrick,
Garrett Gollihur

Honorary Pallbearers: Gene Snyder,
Conrad Morris, Chuck Carter, Lou Wadsworth



Invocation & Verse Reading: David Tetrick

Reflections on a Life Well-Lived: Andrea Tetrick

Remarks: David Tetrick

Remembrances: Any & All Wishing to Participate

Closing Comments: David Tetrick



Immediately following the services, the family will meet at the East Line Cemetery for a private interment. In the meantime, folks are invited to gather at Whiskey Creek in the Kitty Lee Room at 12 Noon for a light luncheon.