



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2142

January 20, 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

MailCall News

Wow, another great issue of mailcall and this issue was packed with a lot of great information. I am so sorry to hear of the passing of **Marvin Tetrick**. I had the occasion last year to speak with **Gene Zoot Snyder** and he told me about his great friendship with Marvin. I found it ironic that they were sent up here to Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City to be inducted into the Army. Both fellows being from Southern California, you would of thought they would have been sent over to Fort MacArthur in San Pedro. I told Gene my Dad was from Long Beach, CA and he was inducted at Fort MacArthur. All three of these fine men served in the 1st Battalion in combat. Although I do not remember my Dad speaking of them he must have known them. My deepest sympathies to the Tetrick family.

Lory Curtis, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st Bn.

Grrrr. We are so bummed. We were thinking the West Coast Mini was going to be in May again. We will not be able to make it due to a wedding at the same time. So sorry we will miss it this year.

Scott, Deana and Dorothy Ross.

As I mentioned I have been going through the roster calling folks to see if they want the Thunderbolt mailed to them. I spoke with a **Joe Molina** from D Company, who lives in California. Joe told me he was blind now and couldn't read the Thunderbolt. So I asked him if he had any family members who could read it to him. He said yes his daughter so he requested that I send him the Thunderbolt. He seemed excited to be able to get it again. Then Joe told me that a very good friend of his from the 517th, **Alex Sierra** passed away about 2 months ago. He told me that Alex was instrumental many years ago in setting up the Palm Springs Reunions. Hopefully, some will remember the great contributions Alex made to the organization. And I hope those attending the Palm Springs reunion this year will take a few moments to remember Alex Sierra.

Lory Curtis



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Dear friends,

I'm sending you a little bit late some pictures of the ceremonies held on the 05th of January 2013. For many years, I've tried to be there for honoring our liberators and I'll do it as long as I'll be able to do so.

I'm also joining a picture of the members of the C-47 Club taken after a mini-reunion in the afternoon. This association was originally founded by WWII paratroopers, one of the founder was a close friend, William H. Tucker!

Last year a Normandy chapter was created in France and in the early days of January 2013, our C-47 Club Ardennes Salm River Chapter has been officially registered.

As the president of this new chapter and on behalf of our chapter, I'm sending our very best wishes for 2013 to all the 517ers and their families, their friends.

With kind regards,

Eddy Lamberty

Eddy Lamberty
Avenue Joseph Lejeune 45
B-4980 Trois-Ponts



Wanne, the 05th of January 2013, meeting of members of the C-47 Club Inc, C-47 Club Normandy Chapter and C-47 Club Ardennes Salm River Chapter



*Spinnenax, the 05th of January 2013
Monument to the 112th Inf Rgt and 424th Inf Rgt*



Saint-Jacques, the 05th of January 2013



*Rochelinvast, the 05th of January 2013
Monument to the 551st Lcht. Inf. Bat.*



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This message is for **Howard Hensleigh**. I didnt realize that cameras were not authorized in the unit. As most of you know from the book I wrote about my Dad's letters home, he had a camera. In fact the picture of him standing by the tail section of the C-47 was taken with his camera. Dad told me after he and his friend **Joe Sumptner** had taken pictures of each other, Dad placed the camera in his mussett bag and made his combat jump with it. I asked Dad weren't you worried about losing the camera? He said he didn't ever think about that. My brother Tim has the camera to this day, and the movie Saints and Soldiers Airborne Creed portrayed my Dad with the camera in combat. The movie producer wanted to use my Dad's camera in the scenes. Here is a picture of the camera, and the photo taken of my Dad just before the combat jump on August 15, 1944.

scenes. Here is a picture of the camera, and the photo taken of my Dad just before the combat jump on August 15, 1944.

Lory Curtis



That's a Kodak camera, made in Rochester, NY. -- BB

This MailCall (#2141) was extraordinary given the amount and range of information. Wow! Well done.

Our deepest sympathy to **Gene Snyder** and the Tetrick family on the passing of Marv. Words can't convey our sorrow for you, but know that you are in our thoughts and prayers on the loss of your best friend, wonderful father, grandfather, great-grandfather. What a life well and truly lived. Gene's note with the happy picture of Marv plus the beautiful description of Marv and his life and the picture of Marv and his bride were magnificent -- a true heartfelt tribute to a special man. Our compliments to whoever wrote it -- it was beautiful. Thank you for sharing it with the rest of us. If we all follow Marv's model of service to others before self, coupled with generous acts of daily kindness, this would be a better world. May Marv rest in peace as he truly ran a great race and made a positive difference in this world.

Thank you to **Lory Curtis** for his work on producing the latest Thunderbolt. We didn't realize that he had assumed Helen's role in this great labor of love for which we all are most grateful. It was excellent.

We were moved by the pictures from **Irma and Arnold Targnion** of the beautiful and solemn remembrance ceremonies and Mass at Trois Ponts. Words cannot express our gratitude adequately to **Irma, Arnold and Maria Gaspar** for their caring and dedication to remembering and honoring the



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sacrifices that were made to keep people free. Thank you, thank you. It means so much to us.

May we say to the fabulous Howard Hensleigh, thank you for the camera answer. Your contributions to MailCall are always something to savor which we always look forward to reading.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

Another great Mail Call. I was delighted to see that early 3rd Bn. officers roster. Old **Jackson** was in H Co. from the beginning and ended up commanding it. Everyone but **Zais** got promoted before I reached the outfit in Nov. 1943.

Message for **Pete D. Stone**. I remember your father who was an officer in G Co. in November 1943. I remember also when he was transferred out. Here is something you might not know. He married your mother without getting **Col. Lou Walsh's** permission and the outraged regimental commander transferred him out of the 517th for that reason. He was an excellent officer and I remembering his wearing an air corps sheep lined leather jacket, a scarce item in those days. You are right, the Bn. adjutant called for a first Lt.

Highest airborne regards,

Howard Hensleigh

I've not heard the married without permission story. I have heard of the flight jacket which was stolen by a medical type after he was wounded in Holland. I had the pleasure of meeting many of Dad's 506 friends at reunions. I will take a picture of the silver plate from the 517 and send it to mail call.

Regards

Pete

Hi Pete,

If I recall correctly the 506th was Dick Winters outfit of Band of Brothers fame. That was mainly about E Co. and 2nc Bn. Did your father ever speak of Winters or any of those guys?

HH

Dear Pete, Your dad and I were lieutenants in G Co. for a short time. Do you know the dates of your father's and mother's marriage and the transfer from 517? **Capt. Hooper** commanded G and **McKillop, Spencer, Pinkston, McElroy** and **Art Riddler** were the other Lts. Riddler was killed but the others made it back to the States.

Thanks for your interest and information, HH



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Mom and dad married 4 dec 42

Pete Stone

That date doesn't come close to my recollection of how Frank was transferred, so I may be mistaken about that. That date also precedes the date the 517th was at Toccoa so my memory may not be as good as its reputation.

Highest regards, HH

My fault HH it was 4 dec 43 not 42

Pete Stone

Hi Pete,

Then your father's and mother's wedding date corresponds exactly with the time frame I recall when your dad transferred to the 506th.

It may be difficult for people in this day and age to realize how overall empowered some commanders were with respect to their subordinates during WWII. Getting permission for marriage from the regimental commander was one thing our 32 year old full colonel **Lou Walsh** required. I think for the enlisted men the Catholic chaplain had to tell Lou that the young lady was pregnant, so to prevent a bastard's being born into the outfit, he had to agree to the marriage. Apparently he had equally strong feelings regarding his officers.

Since you didn't know about the reason for the transfer, your Dad may or may not have known the reason, but it leaked out after Frank left the outfit.

What I have said many times over, is that if you lived through it, don't fight history. Who knows, if your father had remained with G Co. like **Art Riddler**, he might not have returned.

To complete the story I have to tell you an incident of a 3rd Bn. staff meeting, **after Lt. Col. Graves** replaced **Col. Walsh**. Graves graduated from West Point about ten years before Walsh. Like five star General Marshall, Graves may have had a humbling 17 years as a second lieutenant. At this meeting, **Lt. Col. Zais** asked Graves if we were to retain all of the high traditions of the 517th. Graves asked for an example. Zais responded that we all laced our boots the same way--laces straight across. Graves pulled in his chin a moment and said, "I always considered the way a man laced his shoes was his own business".

Before I finish, since others who had great respect for **Lou Walsh**, and I did myself for many of his sterling qualities, I should apologize for my candid statements in this message.

Pete, I am delighted that you have solved the mystery of the life of **Frank Stone** after he left G Co in December of 1943. His life after 517 proves that we lost a good officer.

Thanks for making contact, HH



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Howard, just curious if you got my email thanking you for your kind recollection of my Uncle and namesake **Lt. Thomas L. Rea**?
kind regards

Tom Rea

Dear Tom,

Yes, I did get it and thank you for it.

When I received this message I thought that there were things I could have told you about your uncle's death based on things we who had gone through combat knew. I will try my hand at this at the risk of telling you things you already know.

German artillery and particularly the 88 was a dreaded weapon by front line infantry. Everyone hearing the sound of an incoming 88 hit the dirt as a reflex which didn't require thought. Strangely, you were safe from the one you heard. The 88 rounds traveled faster than sound. It was the one you didn't hear until it exploded that was dangerous. Nevertheless, hitting the dirt was a good idea since you didn't know where the next one would land.

Your uncle was killed by a direct hit, so he didn't know he was in danger from that shell and he did not suffer or linger after he was hit. This may or may not be of interest but since I had a second shot at it I took the chance.

Best regards, HH

From **Brenda Verbeck Mortensen**:

Darrell Egner at Kissimmee:





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Hey Bob,

I guess I forgot to attach pictures of **Marshall Baird** last week. Here's another try! Marshall Baird signing my Saints and Soldiers poster in Oracle, Arizona. Marshall was 1st Battalion A Co.

Tim Curtis



Guestbook entry:

Submitted by

Name: **Shelly Caulfield Azeff**
From: Albany, New York & Montreal
E-mail:
Shellyazeff@gmail.com

Comments:

My dad, **Warren Caulfield**, served in F company. He passed away 5 years ago. I have just finished reading *The Battling Buzzards* and wish I had read it when he was alive. I am in awe of the men's sacrifices.

Added: January 19, 2013



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Mystery of the Dog Tags

Hello Eddy!

I had a phone call yesterday with **John Pastalenic**. He was in H Company, same as my dad.

If you remember, you exchanged emails or notes with him about his dog tags that you found in Belgium. (<http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/1672.htm>) If I traced the notes correctly, you lost contact with him, probably when his email address changed. John does not read email or MailCall, but his wife has an email address, and I have his home address and phone number below.

He was wondering if you still have the dog tags, and if so, if he could have one of them sent to him.

John Pastalenic, H Company
1014 North Hill Road
Arkport, NY 14807 USA
Phone: 607-295-7382
His wife is Dorothy, and her email is d.pastalenic@gmail.com

He also mentioned that the tags were found in Belgium, even though he was wounded in Southern France and did not make it to Belgium. Unfortunately, he cannot explain it either. Perhaps someone else or medical staff carried them into the Bulge and dropped them there.

Let me know if you still have access to the dog tags.

Best Regards,

Bob Barrett

Sgt. Robert P. Price and 2nd
Squad, 3rd Platoon, H Company

Top row, 2nd from left: John Pastalenic; 3rd from left: Wally Vincent; last, top row: with helmet, Sowicki (sp. ?)
2nd row, last on the right, kneeling with cigarette: George R. Monkhouse
Bottom row, Sgt. Robert P. Price; next to him: SSgt. James S. Wilson

These pictures of H Company 3rd platoon were taken by Cecil Doty in the Crater Area in Italy in 1944.





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I indeed remember well the contact I had with **Mr. Pastalenic** and the strange fact that I got his dog tag while he never came to Belgium due to his wounds in Southern France.

In fact, my team leader, when I worked in 2009, knew my interest in the WWII and more particularly in the Battle of the Bulge. He then explained to me that his boy who was around 15 years old at that time, had taken a dog tag in the house of his grandmother who lived in Basse-Bodeux.

I asked him if he wanted to know more about the owner and I made researches. I was lucky enough to find that Mr. Pastalenic survived the war and was still alive.

So, I contacted him and I've explained how I got his dog tag. Such a strange finding is quite more interesting to me and I would have loved to get a WWII picture of Mr. Pastalenic and a picture of today.

Then, I indeed lost contact with him and I really thought that Mr. Pastalenic maybe thought that I had try to contact him by a strange means.

Bob, I'm interested in the Battle of the Bulge for nearly 24 years now and I know that some people try to contact the veterans to get their stuffs. I do respect the veterans and I'll be forever thankful to them for my liberties, I'll do my very best to perpetuate their memories.

In 24 years, 3 veterans sent to me something from their wartime because no members in their family took interest in their service. Every time, I replied them that I didn't want to get those items because their families surely would love them and every time that despite sent a thing to me.

Mr. Hubbard (75th Inf Div) sent me back an Iron Cross he took on a German body around Manhay area. He thought that this item should go back in the area and I still have it with the letter of Mr. Hubbard.

Mr. Hank M Stairs (117th IR, 30th ID) sent me a little box used for his cigarettes.

And my dear friend, Malcom NEEL (now deceased) sends his Jacket that he was wearing at the 1946 Parade in New-York. He was a member of the 80th AABn and he had defended my native village, Grand-Halleux, in December 1944 and I've loaned the jacket to a museum because I did want to honor the memory of my dear friend and not only to keep his jacket only for myself.

I also send back a Gas Mask Bag to a nephew of a soldier of the 117th IR, KIA on Christmas day 1944. This bag came from the grandfather of my former girlfriend in 1999. I made researches and I located the namesake of Leonard BYRNE. I kept in touch for several months. I also got in touch with the brother of this soldier. He wrote to me that he was a Mosquito pilot in the Pacific Theater of Operation. But I lost contact with both of them.

I'll write more later and I'll contact Mr. Pastalenic again after the weekend because I have my son with me. I only see my son only every other weekend.

I'll do my very best with the dog tag because I would be happy to send it back to him.

With my warmest regards,

Eddy Lamberty



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So... Can anyone explain how John Pastalenic's H Company dog tags, last seen in Southern France on D2 (August 15, 1944) ended up in Basse-Bodeux, Belgium? – BB

See John's war time biography at: http://www.517prct.org/bios/pastalenic/pastalenic_j.htm

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](#)

West Coast Mini Reunion

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

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:

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c/o Joanne Barrett
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Cohasset, MA 02025