



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2146

February 18, 2013

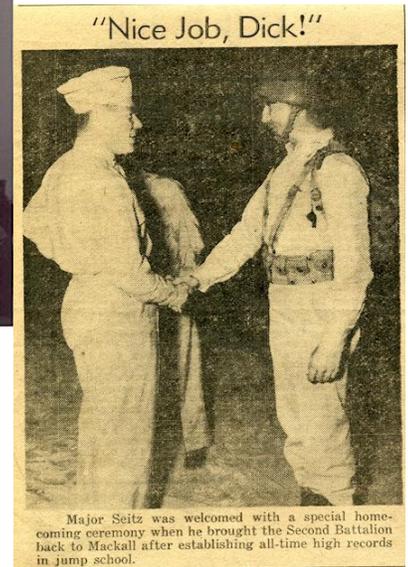
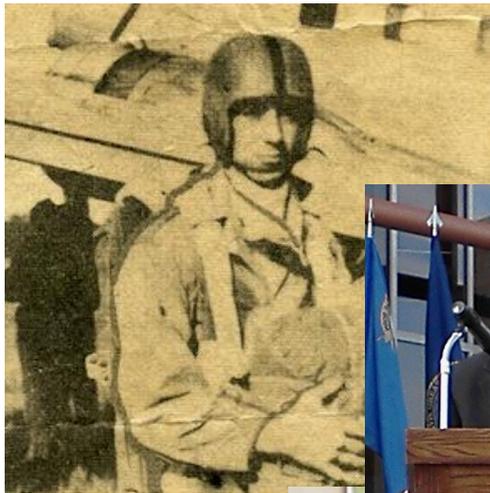
*517th Parachute Infantry Regiment  
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

Website  
Send Mail Call news to  
Mail Call Archives  
2013 Roster (updated!)  
Thunderbolt (Winter 2013)

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### Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, General Seitz!



### Second Bn. First In Life Of Seitz





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



To General SEITZ, Some roses from Trois-Ponts to wish you a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY, our Love and Best Wishes for a nice day, a wonderful spring, a very good health and joy with your family and your comrades from the 517th. Our heartfelt gratitude to you and your brothers who liberated us from the enemy. We shall never forget. We love you as members of our families. God bless you. God bless America. Congratulations for this special day. **Arnold, Irma, Maria and members of CADUSA - Trois-Ponts**

I want to wish the General a wonderful birthday. He has always impressed me, but I would like to share a story about the reunion in Atlanta, GA. I went up to speak to General Seitz, and complemented him on his moving speech. His reply to me still resounds in my heart. He looked over at the young soldiers who were with us at the banquet and said that they were the heroes and we needed to be sure to honor them as well. My memory does not allow me to quote him exactly, but it once again shows that he always thinks of his fellow soldiers. His pride in the Armed Forces and the United States of America is one that I wish we could instill in many of our elected officials and countrymen.

Happy Birthday General!

**Heather Riley**  
Daughter of Ian Cowan CO B 1

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Dear Lt. Gen Seitz,  
I have never known a person who knew how to accomplish his goals like you. It is amazing how you have the ability to get exactly what you want, when you want, and from who you want. This is what the 517th needed in 1943 and what America needs now

**Donna Hilliard**

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Gen. Seitz - Just a note to wish you a very happy 95th birthday. Many thanks for being the epitome of a selfless leader. You were, and still are, a great role model for the men you lead, and now for the children of those men. Hope this Birthday exceeds your wildest expectations!

**Mark Landreth**



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Dick Seitz

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Can't believe your 95, you walk around looking like your 45. Hell I can't keep up with you. **Charley Pugh** and **Bill Lewis** found me in 1986 so it took 42 years to reconnect with you. In your quiet way and mostly behind the scenes manner you have done more to benefit the 517 than anyone I know. I have never forgiven you, but you decided that I should become President for two years. Deed done!

You and I have attended many military functions together and you always took me under your wing. You introduced me to more Generals and important people than I can remember. I'm sure most of them thought I was a high ranking officer not a Grunt as I got to sit with you guys. Some of the best times were when you and I would sit and have our Martini's together.

Remember when the commanding General of Fort Benning found you when we were there for some function? You were at Church at Fort Riley and met him many years ago, he was a Lt. then but he always remembered you. You must have given him some tips on how to become a great leader which you are. I have always said and believe I would not be alive without your leadership.

Love you,  
**Darrell Egner**

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This will let you all know I am still Airborne Con graduations to General  
Back in TACOA After a formation Our commander told us complaints had received that we were making too much noise on morning runs next day our commander was Leading our run at passing The Complaints area We were given command Cadent Count You Could All most Hear The roofs raising After that run I knew I was In Good outfit

**Robert R Cooper Co D**

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Happy Birthday, Dick!!! I regret I didn't get to know you sooner, but glad of the times I have spent with you. As I've said to others, don't leave us for that big DZ in the sky until you have been successfully cloned!!!

All the best, **phil mc spadden**

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Happy Birthday General Seitz "Dick"!!

I hope you have a fantastic birthday.

It has been such a pleasure to get to know you though out all of these years. I just wish my Dad, **Nate Rubenstein** were here to also wish you a great Birthday and many more.

You definitely keep the 517 PRCT on their toes!

**Chris Lindner**

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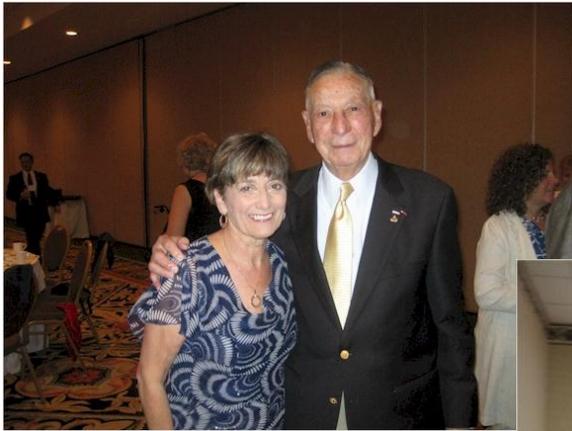
Memories from Howard:

You asked for it. Dick Seitz bachelor party buddies held him upside down out of his upper floor Joigny quarters threatening to drop him without a chute until he agreed to say, "I do."

**Howard Hensleigh**



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



Lt. Col. Richard J. Seitz  
Bn. Commander



Regimental Commander Colonel Lewis Walsh, 2nd Battalion Adjutant Lt. Paul D. Lewis, 2nd Battalion Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Richard J. Seitz, 2nd Battalion Executive Officer Major Tom Cross and Regimental Executive Officer Lt. Col. He Weber.





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

Dick Seitz has never stopped leading. He has been instrumental in making sure the Association still exists, and still has reunions. You will never meet someone more supportive.

Dick Seitz's speech at Savannah in 2005 - still linked from the 517 main page, I believe - lives on as an incredible oral history and a concise summary of the unit. He did that speech *without notes*. It was the first time I'd heard him say, "The men of the 517 are the finest men ever to pull on a pair of jump boots," before he admitted that he'd run into some trouble over the years for standing that ground. Of course, he prefaced this by saying that he's commanded every airborne outfit that there is - which of course gives him all the credibility to say that about the 517.

It was the first time I met him in person - in the elevator after the dinner there. My father says he was standing three inches taller after hearing his commanding officer speak glowingly of how incredible they were.

So then, two years later, here I am, hosting the 2007 reunion in DC. When Dick arrived, he presented me with a pin from his own Kansas City reunion, which he'd held onto for years, thanking me for hosting.

**Bertil Jansson** was there attending his very first reunion. Everything had been going well for him, but then he got into an auto accident, and was devastatingly injured. He arrived in DC in a wheelchair, accompanied by his two sons. He was thrilled to be there in the hospitality suite, as people were trickling in and out in the evening. In walked Dick Seitz, and Bertil was thrilled to meet him. Automatically and out of deep respect, he struggled to rise to his feet. In a quick and gentle but firm gesture, Dick put his hand on Bert's shoulder so he couldn't continue to try to stand, and smoothly asked about his commanding officer. "**Bill Boyle?** Why, Bill Boyle was one of the finest field commanders ever..." The awkward moment passed and they continued chatting.

Bert Jansson had a great reunion. It turned out to be his only one, and I am so glad that he was able to meet Lt. General Seitz and see all his old friends. So invigorated was he during that reunion that each day, he seemed better. He graduated to his walker and, by the final banquet, his cane. I will never forget the respect in his eyes and his heart when he met Dick, and I will never forget how respectfully Dick treated him. It was a privileged view into leadership.

Happy 95th, Lt. General Seitz! It is a privilege to know you!

All the best -

**Claire Giblin**

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Happy Birthday wishes are sent to you with great admiration and devotion for the leadership you provided when we fought as the 517th Parachute Regiment during World War II. You went on to lead the finest fighting division of the United States Army.

I feel so fortunate that through the years I have had the privilege to come to know you as a friend I deeply cherish.

**Hunter McDonald**



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First of all, it has been my opinion on meeting and visiting with "Dick" that he doesn't like a lot of fanfare and extra attention made about his RANK or stuff like that. Unfortunately, I didn't meet "Dick" or any of the other 517th Family until the St. Louis Reunion. Since then, however, my life has been changed forever. I've been able to learn, first-hand, from 517th Troopers not only about my Uncle **Floyd Stott**, but also what WW II was all about...and not necessarily what I learned in text books.

"Dick" has been an excellent teacher, not only about his recollections of WW II, but about Life-In-General (pun intended). I always get a smile on my face when I recall him speaking about the 517th Troopers, "The best damn group of soldiers I ever served with," or similar words to that point. His story about the troopers coming under fire from the enemy except some felt they had to dash into a grape orchard to retrieve luscious grapes and then dash back to their lines is one I can see myself doing. Always enjoy hearing about ALL of the men "Dick" personally interviewed for the 517th until he was told they needed to fill the ranks quicker. Got a feeling those "quick recruits" did a lot of fighting with the 1st & 2nd Bat. troopers just to "prove" themselves worthy. Also got a feeling this "fighting spirit" kept many a Trooper alive in Europe.

Knew I could find "Dick" relaxing in the hospitality rooms at reunions. He is a very good listener! While all sorts of conversations are going on all over the room, "Dick" would usually sit quietly taking it all in and only respond when addressed. Being a good listener is a skill many humans could do a better job with. "Dick" was born this way.

If I had my druthers, I'd like to sit around a table with "Dick" and Howard and just listen to them recall. Got a feeling what one didn't think of the other would. Heck, the whole history of the 517th could probably be summed up (in a few volumes) just listening to these two Troopers.

My Wish is that the Good Lord will take care of "Dick", and his loving family, for many more birthdays to come. "Dick" probably asks his Creator why He is allowing this Great Trooper to stick-around longer than many of the 517th Troopers. Well, the Lord has a plan for all of us. And "Dick" is used to following plans and orders. "Dick's" work on this Earth is not finished. There are ears and eyes out there in need of his wisdom and character. I hope they are as good a Listener as their Teacher.

Thank you "Dick" and may you have a Blessed and Celebrated Birthday!

**Kenton "Kent" Floyd Immerfall**  
Nephew of **1st Lt. Floyd A. Stott**  
3rd Bat. "I" Co. 517th PRCT

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My father **Jesse K Davis** will also have a birthday on Feb 18th. He will be 96. He was in B co.

**Kathy McIntosh**

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**Walter Wayne Smith** -- Hq. 1st Bt. and wife **Peanie** wants to wish Gen. Dick Seitz a great 95th birthday. A man we have enjoyed and looked up to over the many reunions we have attended. May you have good health to enjoy many more.

Blessings from Walt and Peanie



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To General Seitz

You are an inspiration and highly respected by all your troopers.

Do you remember the pack mules traveling up the trail in the Alps? Do you remember having to explain the losses of equipment and supplies? Do you remember putting the blame on the mule that slipped and fell into the canyon? If not, then I am reminding you of how we had to go down on ropes, shoot the mule and retrieve the supplies.

Have a wonderful 95th birthday!

**Myrle and Betty Traver**

F Company

Pictures from Camp Toccoa 2011

From **Lory Curtis**



Last summer...the Kansas City Reunion...**Leo Dean** is planning a jump...**Nancy Armand** is joining him...she asks me if I want to jump..."sure"...**Mimsey Boyle** wants to jump...maybe **Mike Boyle** too. Leo's stick is filling up the plane. After breakfast I walk into the courtesy lounge and from across the room General Seitz calls out, "*Hey Paul, I hear you're going to to jump with Leo today.*" I reply, "*Yes sir, weather permitting.*" Loudly and with an encouraging grin the General says, "*God Bless your heart !*" When everyone was telling us we were nuts General Seitz is telling us to go for it. Attack life...it's what these guys do. I still laugh whenever I think about it.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GENERAL SEITZ from -  
**Paul Abbene**

ps - I thought the general would like this photo.  
Fort Benning Graduates.





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HAPPY BIRTHDAY dear general SEITZ,

The first time we met you and call you "general", you said "not general, we are all paratroopers!" That was the first time that we realize the great spirit and the great family the 517th was.

We are thinking of you often, and you have forever a special place in our hearts. You are one of the most important person of our life, and meeting you change our life, and of course our spirit. You are the first and most important supporter of our action to perpetuate the legacy of the US airborne in Southern France, every time we met you, every letter you sent us, gave us the motivation to keep going, sometimes in some bad time of our lives. It was a great privilege and if we still so active in our Museum association is because of you, and the great and warm 517 family support.

We will always be there, in Southern France to remember the sacrifice of the 517th parachute regiment did for my country.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GENERAL, with Great Respect and Admiration.

from Jean Michel , Eric, and all your friends of Southern France.



August 1994,

General Seitz Inaugurate the Airborne Museum .



Welcome General Seitz, daughter Pat and Allan visiting southern France August 2005, with Aime Legard and Mayor Zekri



1999 517th Battle Tour , general Seitz with Vietman 2 stars general combat uniform.



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Birthday Photos at Seitz Elementary School:





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

### Other MailCall News

Dear Sir/Madam,

Recently I have adopted the grave of **BOYCE, Ray L** at the American War Cemetery Henri-Chapelle. He served in the 517th PARA INF REGT, 2nd Battalion Headquarters. Do you have any additional information about him? Or do you know a veteran who might have known him?

Sincerely,

M.B. (Max) Poorthuis

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**Oorlogs-graven.nl**

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**E** [max@oorlogs-graven.nl](mailto:max@oorlogs-graven.nl)

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Here is a picture of mom and dad's 517 plate

[A wedding gift from the 517<sup>th</sup> to **Lt. Frank Stone**  
-- December '43]

**Pete Stone**

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Dear Pete,

This plate must have been obtained by your father in the early days of the 517th. Since he saved it through the years, it and the 517th must have meant something to him. I have never seen one before. I will send it along to Bob Barrett to give him the opportunity to put it on the website or Mail Call.

Since your father was one of the very first officers of the third battalion, who assisted in the formation of an outfit that held together in doing tough jobs in combat, you should join us as a member of what we call the auxiliary. I know that he valued his record with the 506<sup>th</sup> -- 101st which are well recorded in history. However, he also contributed at a critical time to the hardening of many individuals into a good fighting outfit in the 517th. The good part is that you need not choose, but can be a member of both.

Thank you for your interest,

**Howard Hensleigh**





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This Monument is placed in Breaux Bridge Veterans park, My Father Ret. LT COL **Thomas Fred Patin** was the Commander to first initiate this Special Forces Group. At some point and time they will have a Paratrooper placed on this Monument.

Thanks and have a good day,

**Tony Patin**





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

Dear Bob:

This is a Happy Valentine's Day email to three special people.

First to you, who continue to make MailCall the blessing that it is and continue your wonderful father's legacy of preserving the bonds of the men of the 517th and its history. You truly are the fruit that does not fall far from the tree. Your sister is rather outstanding as well -- also fruit from the same tree!

Second to **Howard Hensleigh**. The last thing I want to be perceived as is a stalker, but in Howard's case, I am a true "groupie." I look forward to reading whatever he writes (and that you republish) in MailCall. What a gem of a human being, leader, lawyer, soldier, writer and historian he is to say nothing of being a fabulous guy. Our hats are off to Howard!

Third to **Lory Curtis**. His ears should have been burning recently as Dad was once again sang his praises for all that he has done to preserve the history of the 517th, to organize the reunions, to get his Dad's letters published and the movie made, and the last Thunderbolt out. He must have a number of clones in his closet!

Happy Valentine's Day to you all!

**Pat Seitz and Alan Greer**

### *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](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf). Send any corrections to [MailCall@517prct.org](mailto: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](#)





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

### *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 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

### *Our Fearless Leader*

