



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2147

February 24, 2013

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

Website

[www.517prct.org](http://www.517prct.org)

Send Mail Call news to

[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)

Mail Call Archives

[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)

2013 Roster (updated!)

[www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)

Thunderbolt (Winter 2013)

[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)

## France honors Fargo man

Published February 20, 2013, 09:43 PM

### France honors Fargo man with medal

Fargo, ND (WDAY TV) - A long-time Fargoan has been honored by the country of France.

By: **WDAY Staff Reports**, WDAY Staff Reports, WDAY



Fargo, ND (WDAY TV) - A long-time Fargoan has been honored by the country of France.

Merle McMorrow is being recognized for his bravery in helping liberate France, with the Legion of Honor medal.

He enlisted in 1943 and fought battles in Southern France, the Rhine Valley and Central Europe to name a few.

In 1944, he was part of the landings in the south of France called Operation Dragoon, that helped liberate several cities. He also fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Merle McMorrow, French Legion of Honor Medal Recipient: "The real heroes are the ones buried in cemeteries all over the world that never had the chance to come home and pick up where they left off with their lives."

The Legion of Honor is the highest decoration in France



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Merle McMorrow is being recognized for his bravery in helping liberate France, with the Legion of Honor medal.



See the video: <http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/75691/>

### *Birthday Wishes Still Coming in...*

Sir: a belated salutation on behalf of my brother, Ismael Ramos, (deceased), who was a member of Company H, I wish you a well-deserved birthday.

It has been a privilege and honor to have offered my services to Men and families I have met at the 517th PCRT. They are a testament to your ongoing leadership that has endured over the years when you first led those young brave paratroopers at Camp McCall.

I have met a number of Generals and admirals over my career and few stand out over their life span as you have. General Seitz, you compliment the Stars on your shoulder with that enduring and real leadership.

Best wishes.

**Frank Ramos**

This MailCall is beautiful to look at, wonderful to read and such a treasure from some very special people to Dad. Can't describe the joy it gave me to read it. Thank you from the bottom of the Dick Seitz kids', granddaughter's, nephews' and nieces' hearts.

Also, we hope that **Jesse K Davis** had a fabulous birthday celebration. These guys are awesome.

Fondly, **Pat Seitz and Alan Greer**



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### Other MailCall News

Ms. Reed,

Good day - I want to reach out to you and send a special thanks for the Victory Belles brightening up the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team's reunion at Kissimmee Florida last month. As you can see by the photos the nine troopers who were in attendance and their families thoroughly enjoyed the gals and their performance....and their lip glossed souvenirs. One of the troopers, **Darrel Egner**, said it was the best performance at many years of reunions that he could remember.

Am forwarding the link to the 517th's webpage which is ably managed by Bob Barrett (son of Ben Barrett Company H) and copying **Brenda Verbeck Mortensen** who hosts the Kissimmee reunion, saw the Belles on a river cruise, and invited them to perform at our reunion - we are so glad they did!

Give our special thanks to Courtney, Chase, and Amanda for making our reunion banquet a very, very special occasion

<http://www.517prct.org/>

Regards

**Tom Copsey (son of John Copsey, Company I)**  
517th PRCT Auxiliary

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Dear Tom,

The pleasure was all theirs. What a special evening and the Victory Belles were honored to salute the greatest generation in song. So glad they all enjoyed it! Thank you for sharing the pictures!

In harmony,

*Victoria Reed*

Director of Entertainment  
The National World War II Museum  
945 Magazine St.  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
504-528-1944, ext. 267  
646-283-5705-cell

[victoria.reed@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:victoria.reed@nationalww2museum.org)

[www.victorybelles.org](http://www.victorybelles.org)

[www.facebook.com/wwiimuseum](http://www.facebook.com/wwiimuseum)

[www.twitter.com/wwiimuseum](http://www.twitter.com/wwiimuseum)

**Don't forget to thank a veteran!**





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

Hi Bob ~

Scott's grandfather received these two requests for pictures and info regarding Norm's experiences in the 517<sup>th</sup>. Both requests have been fulfilled but we thought we would send the requests and the response Scott put together to the 517<sup>th</sup> and see if anyone else wished to elaborate further.

Thanks!

### Scott and Deana Ross

Philippe BASTIN  
Rue Dr.Olyff 19 A  
4570 MARCHIN  
BELGIUM  
[phl.bas@skynet.be](mailto:phl.bas@skynet.be)  
Member VBOB

Dear Mr.Ross,

firstly,I hope your health is very good

My name is Philippe Bastin and I live in Belgium, a few kilometers from Bastogne .

I am interested in the history of the second World War ,because I have in my family an GI , Sergio Moirano (90 Th Division) ,who participate in D-DAY June 6 landing on Utah Beach and the Battle of the Bulge with the Third Army of General Patton.

Sergio is still alive and lives of 5 km from my home.

For this reason I'm looking for my collection , signed photos of U.S. veterans and I would like to have a signed photo of you at the time of World War II.

This is to keep the memories of those who fought for our freedom.

This will be a great honor for me if you accept my request.

Thank you in advance and wish you a very good health for your future and all the best for you et your family.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR YOU AND ALL YOUR FAMILY!

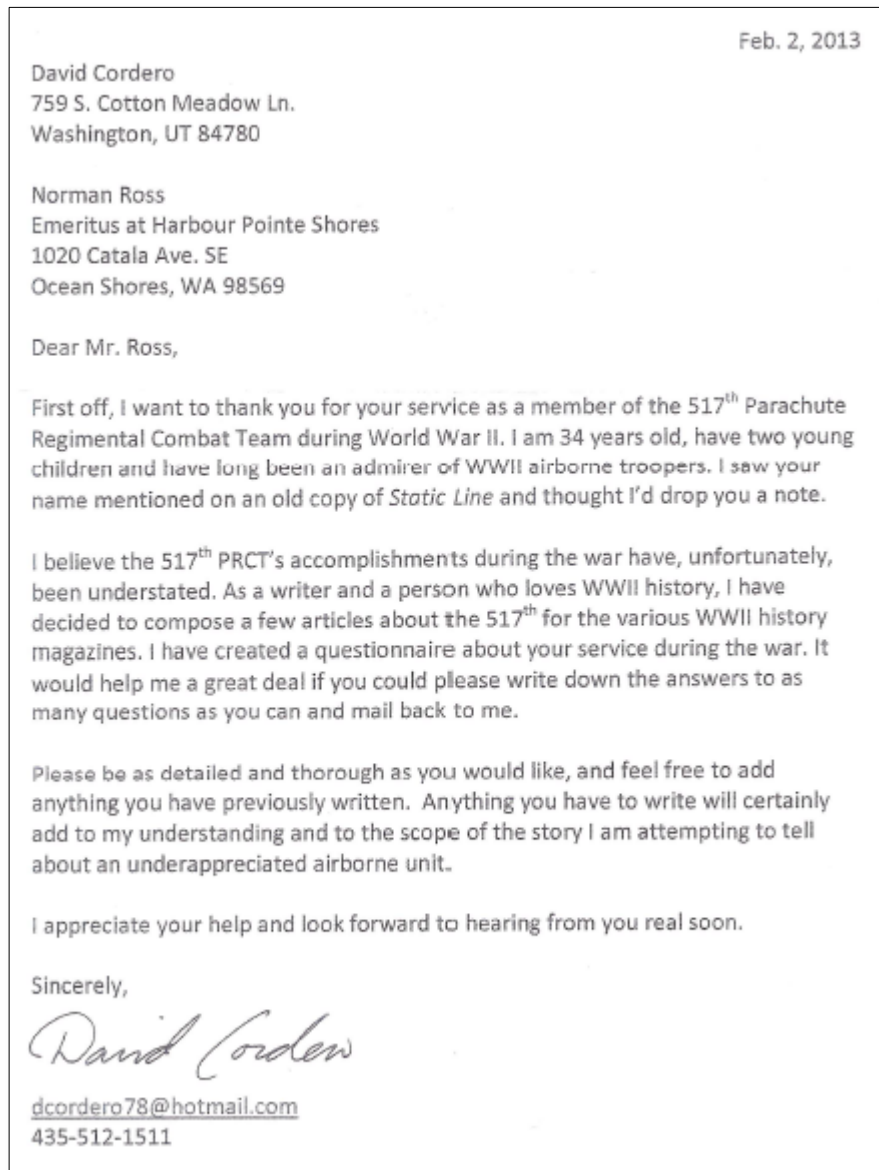
SINCERELY

Philippe BASTIN



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**Norman Ross** also received a questionnaire from David Cordeiro, looking for details about wartime experiences of veterans:



*If you want a copy of the full questionnaire, to help David's research, let me know. – Bob Barrett*

Bob,  
I received this from one of my helicopter pilot friends. I know it is not paratrooper stuff, but as a former Army Helicopter Pilot I am very proud to send this into Mailcall for all to see. Enjoy and God Bless the U.S.A.!

**Lory Curtis**

<http://youtube.googleapis.com/v/RU1oB8sGyYM>







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

Dear Bob,

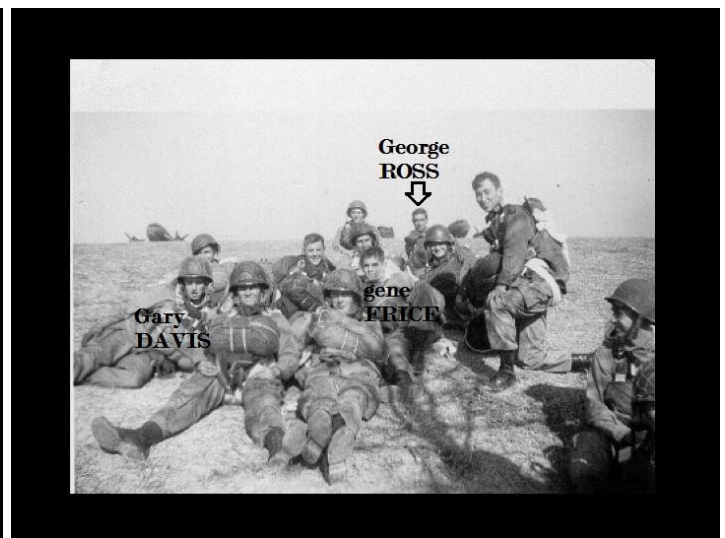
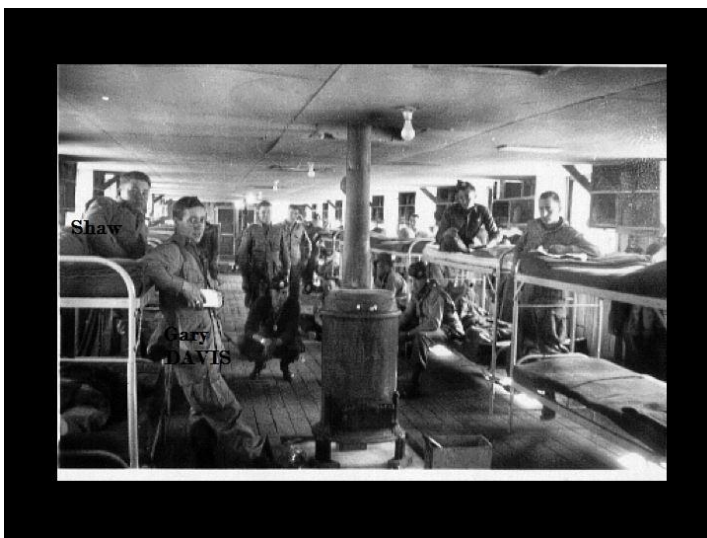
I started tonight identification of some of the Boys in Shelly Azeff's pictures, from F co **It Warren Caulfield**,

i will work on it as soon as i have time, i have mentioned those i am sure, those identification never been possible without the hours and hours spendend listening and learning from our so regretd best friend from the F company, **Gary DAVIS**, but also **Gene FRICE**, **george ROSS**, **AI ADELMAN**, **Ernie GILBERT**, **Ray HESS**, **John JONIENTZ**, **John JEWELL** and the other..

Airborne all the WAY

**J. Mickael & Eric**

Airborne Task force Museum Association  
Southern France





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### 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](#)



### 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