



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2160**

**May 26, 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 (Spring 2013)

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

## *Memorial Day 2013 News*

They gave their todays for your tomorrows. Let us not forget.  
Home of the free because of the brave.

MEMORIAL DAY

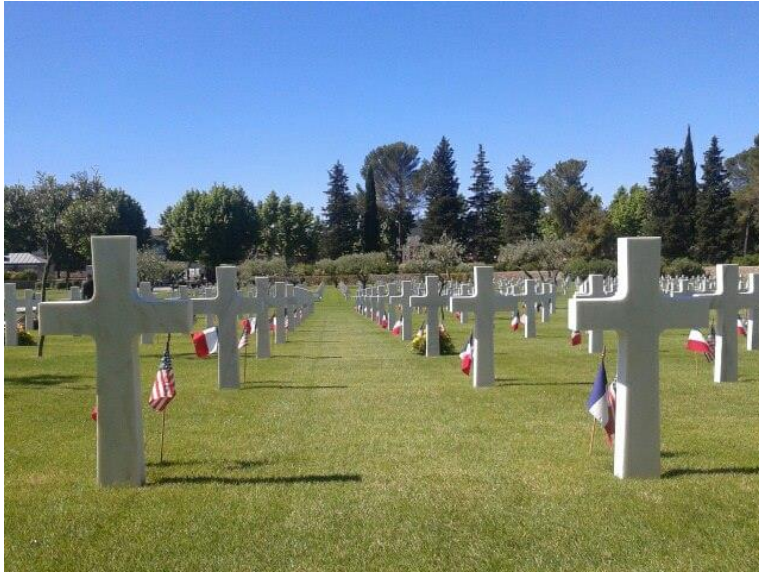






# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From Southern France, via **J. Michael Soldi**





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

# Beverly Cancels Memorial Day Parade Due To Lack Of Veterans

By Jim Armstrong, WBZ-TV  
May 24, 2013 10:20 PM



BEVERLY, MA (CBS) – This Sunday, the streets of Beverly will look just like they always do. And that's the problem, some veterans say. The city has cancelled its annual Memorial Day parade for what's believed to be the first time since the end of the Civil War.

Many veterans who were gathered at the Herman A. Spear American Legion Post on Friday night are upset by the decision.

"It's not right to me," says Ron Innocenti. He is a Vietnam veteran who has not only marched in

the city's Memorial Day parade in the past, he says he has also been its grand marshal.

He hates to cancel because of the message it sends to men and women serving now.

"It's a slap in the face to them that we're not doing it," he says. "But on the other hand, I can see why we're not doing it because of the age of the veterans we have now."

That gets to the heart of the problem. In Beverly, there just are not enough veterans alive who are well enough to march in the parade anymore.

"Most of us, like myself, either have some knee issues or foot issues or whatever," explains Jerry Guillebbe, the city's Director of Veterans' Services. "Just getting down the street to march" can be difficult if not impossible, he says.

Innocenti agrees. "We try and try," he says. "When we were younger we used to march everywhere, but we can't do it anymore."

As for younger veterans – like the men and women who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan – they are often too busy to take part.

"I've found just talking with them," explains Guillebbe, "they're emergency medical technicians, firefighters, police. They're first responders, so traditionally that's their day to work so it's hard to get them to come out and actually participate."

In years past, numbers have fallen so low that for 2013, organizers decided to just have everyone meet here at Odell Park for a ceremony.

It'll be a proper gathering, it just won't be a parade.

"It's very disappointing to me; I think it's a shame," says Robert Driscoll, a local veteran who served in Korea. "Hopefully maybe next year we can change that."

City officials think that's possible. If enough veterans come forward to participate, or if the city can come up with another way to have them be a part of the parade, then the city will bring it back.





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

### *Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall*

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010. The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass., listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville , Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.



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

### Camp Toccoa 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – This weekend!



This Month marks the 70th anniversary of the activation of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Camp Toccoa, GA.

I have made arrangements with Brenda Carlin, the director of the Camp Toccoa/Currahee Museum to have a **517th Get-Together on Friday, May 31, and Saturday June 1st**. Everyone is invited to come. There is no registration, (because this is not a reunion), but please come and celebrate the activation of the 517th. I know our President, **Allan Johnson** is planning on attending along with many others I have spoken with.

On the weekend of June 1, 2013, the Camp Toccoa/Currahee Museum will be hosting a D-Day fun run up and down Mount Currahee on Saturday morning. I'm not sure how much fun that will be, but I and Brenda are planning some fun activities for the 517<sup>th</sup> while we are there. Brenda has recommended that we stay at the Country Hearth Inn, 302 W Savannah St Toccoa, GA 30577 (706) 297-7799, or the Toccoa Inn and Suites, 106 Stephen Cir Toccoa, GA 30577, (706) 886-1048

<http://www.toccoainn.com/Home.html>

Brenda is expecting a large group to these events so I recommend making your motel reservations soon. I am excited to return to Camp Toccoa to see where our fathers trained. I hope to see you there Airborne All the Way!

**Lory Curtis, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st BN**

So far, the following 517<sup>th</sup> friends are expected to attend the ceremonies and the 517<sup>th</sup> dinner:

Lory Curtis  
Tim Curtis  
Morris McDowell  
Mike and Rhonda Wells  
Allan Johnson (596<sup>th</sup>)  
Hal and Helen Beddow (517<sup>th</sup>)  
Rick Sweet (maybe)  
Mimsey Boyle Kelly  
Paul Abbene  
Heather and Joe Riley  
Ilene Brody Shaw +1

The 517<sup>th</sup> will be well represented. If anyone else would like to attend, please let **Lory Curtis** and **Brenda Carlin** know so that they can make dinner reservations.



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

### MailCall News

Sent from my iPad. I just realized that **Sug Lawrence** lives a few miles from me. Can you send me his phone no.? He lives in Spring , Texas & I live in Livingston, Texas. It's amazing. I live just north of him. He was in HDQrtrs & I was in A co. Met him once at a reunion. you can call me at xxx-xxx-xxxx thanks!!!!

Mel

**Melvin Trenary**

---

Bob.... **Lee Johnson** was admitted to the hospital last night. He was having trouble breathing. Today an ultrasound showed fluid in one lung so that was drained and he's now being observed for the next day or so. A week or so ago, he was diagnosed with pneumonia and was on antibiotics so this may be a continuation of that event. I'll let you know as Lee progresses.

**Earl Tingle**

---

As one of the Thunderbolt Editors I have been getting some mail from people with great information about our 517th troopers. I just received one from **Doug Chaulk**, son of **Don Chaulk**, HQ, 3rd BN. Doug wanted to let us know the following:

**Lory Curtis**

"I wanted to advise you that my mother has been receiving the Thunderbolt since the death of my father, Don Chaulk. My mother, Dolores Chaulk passed away February of 2013. I would like to continue to receive the Thunderbolt so please let me know what information and money I need to send in.

In some past years, including the Reunion in St. Louis, there has been discussion concerning cutting overcoats down to short coats. I had a very small picture of my father wearing this coat which I can no longer find. In going through my mother's things after her death, I found a picture of my dad and two guys from the unit; he is on the left wearing the overcoat, which I still have. It would be great if you could print this picture in the Thunderbolt. There are no names on the photo, and I would like to know if anyone recognizes the other soldiers. If any family member of these two men would like a copy of the picture, I would be happy to send them along."



Sincerely,  
Doug Chaulk  
Son of Don Chaulk, HQ Company 3rd Battalion





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



Information and photo's on my mother's brother Uncle **John "Jack" Moon** born Dec. 23, 1924 died Aug. 6, 2005 enlisted at Fort Niagara March 30th 1943 was sent to South Carolina for training he was with the 596<sup>th</sup> 517th Company H he was in the Ardennes, Central Europe, Rhineland, Rome, Anzio, Southern France and the occupation of Berlin, he carried an M-1 rifle but mostly used a Thompson machine gun. He was wounded 3 separate times and missing in action at one point, his worse wound took place in Manhy France which took place June 19th 1945, his medals include the American Service medal, European African medal, Middle Eastern Service medal and the purple heart with three oak clusters. he was discharged Nov. 25th 1945. Before he died I asked him did you ever fly back to Europe to visit the places you had been as a young man, he said hell no, I never got on a plane again, ya know he said I never have landed in an airplane, my aunt Ellie said to him Jack why did you join the Airborne, he stared out the window with a faraway look paused and said, I must have been goddam crazy to do that. Uncle Jack was my hero growing up, he was hell on wheels and told me many war stories but

when he was in his sixties, he became ill and they thought he had cancer, but was finally diagnosed with PTSD, after all those years it came back to haunt him, he became somewhat introverted and quiet after that, not the same Uncle Jack we always knew - God rest his soul, we loved you Uncle Jack. I wonder if there are any surviving men from his company left?

Sincerely yours  
Geoffrey Harding





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

Hi Geoffrey,

Great info and photos! With your OK, I will create a page on the web site for Jack Moon, and also put your note in the next MailCall newsletter.

But a couple of questions. And I apologize in advance if this is too much info.

There are a couple things in your note which leads me to more information about Jack Moon, but it's confusing. You say that he was with the 596<sup>th</sup>, but also H Company (which would make him with the 517<sup>th</sup> PIR, not the 596<sup>th</sup> PCEC). I did some quick research, thinking that it had to be one or the other, and I see that there is a John Moon listed in both at different times. I'm not sure if there were 2 John Moons, or maybe he transferred between units. Let me point you to a couple of sources and maybe you can help recognize him in a couple of photos.

First, here is a photo of the whole 596<sup>th</sup> at Camp MacKall in 1943 ([http://517prct.org/photos/596th\\_pcec.htm](http://517prct.org/photos/596th_pcec.htm)) and the legend (<http://www.517prct.org/photos/596th.pdf>) lists John Moon as the 11<sup>th</sup> person in the second row. Can you tell if that is him?

Also, here are some pictures from Don Saunders of the 596<sup>th</sup>, and there is a Moon listed in two of these pictures. Can you tell if those are your uncle? I think most of these were taken during training just before the war. [http://www.517prct.org/photos/don\\_saunders/don\\_saunders.htm](http://www.517prct.org/photos/don_saunders/don_saunders.htm)

And in 1985, John Moon is listed on the 596<sup>th</sup> roster: [http://www.517prct.org/documents/596th\\_newsletters/Wings\\_December\\_1985.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/documents/596th_newsletters/Wings_December_1985.pdf)

Now, here is the roster for the 517<sup>th</sup> in December 1944, just before the Battle of the Bulge. There is a John J. Moon listed with H Company. (My Dad was in H Company, by the way.) See: [http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas\\_1944\\_company\\_h2.jpg](http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_company_h2.jpg)

So I don't know if there were 2 different John Moon's, or he switched between the units at some point.

Also, you say that he used both an M-1 and a Thompson machine gun. Usually it is the infantry (517<sup>th</sup>) that are weapons experts, while the 596<sup>th</sup> are engineers, although the engineers are certainly trained and carry weapons as well.

Finally -- and I'm not nit-picking, just trying to help -- you say he was wounded in Manhy, France in June 1945. That's probably a little off, since the action was done by June 1945. Most likely, he was referring to Manhay, Belgium around Christmas 1944, since many men were wounded in the attack on Manhay. My Dad talked a lot about that battle. So I did some more research. I have scans of the morning reports for H Company, and I see records of John Moon, a rifleman with H Company, in Italy, in France, wounded in Piera Cava France in September 1944, and SWA (Seriously Wounded in Action) on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1944 in Manhay Belgium.

OK. One more, just to make it even more confusing. There is a photo of the 460<sup>th</sup> (the artillery unit) with a football team in Germany, and there is a Moon identified in one of those photos: [http://www.517prct.org/photos/john\\_harte/Germany%20mostly%20Berlin/Miles,%20John%20Harte,.,.%20Smith\\_Moon-football.jpg](http://www.517prct.org/photos/john_harte/Germany%20mostly%20Berlin/Miles,%20John%20Harte,.,.%20Smith_Moon-football.jpg)

Whew. Too much information? Not sure if I helped, or just made it more confusing.

Regards,

Bob Barrett





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

Hi Bob,

Yes those are Jack in the photo's you indicated, except the last one with the football players - all I know is in our last conversation he was with the 596th parachute engineering company H, and the 504th which must be wrong and the 517th, he might have been confused as he had a stroke at the time, and had some problems talking, though with patience I could understand him - his full name was John Jesse Moon, but he went by Jack.

He told me he carried an M1 but ended up with a Thompson, the only time he knew he killed a man was in Italy with his Thompson while on patrol, he said he was checking out some Roman ruins while the patrol was taking a break when he encountered a young German soldier, he yelled at him to surrender but the fellow swung his rifle up and Jack said he emptied a clip at him and then ran like hell back to his patrol, they returned to where he shot the man and sure enough he was dead but no other Germans were in sight. I asked him how ever kept from being shot, he said he learned real quick to keep his head down, his 1st taste of combat was in Italy, they were pinned down by some Germans on a cliff, and Jack said a fellow next to him stuck his head and caught one in the forehead killing him instantly, he also said at one point they all fired up the side of the cliff and a German medic came tumbling down with his head split in half, Jack told me some pretty gruesome stories when I was a kid, probably because I always bugged him to tell me some war stories, my mother got upset one time when she overheard him and he said the boy keeps asking and I'm not going to make a fairytale out of war I'll tell him like it is.

The one time he was seriously wounded , like you said it must have been in Belgium Manhay, he said they were in a firefight and there was 30 caliber machine gun in a shell hole across a cobble stone street, and they were running out of ammo, Jack and another fellow volunteered to run across the street with ammo, the other fellow in front of him - he said the last thing he remembered was stepping on the cobbles, and then woke up about thirty feet from where he started in the middle of the street sitting with his head between his legs, his pants were in shreds and he was bleeding pretty badly, the other fellow was laying next to him with the top of his head cleaved off like it had been surgically removed, and he was still alive moaning, he died later that day, the two men in the shell hole manning the machine gun were also dead, a direct hit with an 88 had hit the shell hole with the machine gunners in it, he believed the fellow that was in front of him took the brunt of the explosion thus probably saving his life.

Thats amazing your dad was in the same company wonder if they knew each other, is you dads photo at camp MacKall? Is you dad still living - do you know if there are any of these guys still living, wish I had known about these sights before my Uncle died, but then again I was real careful bringing up in anything related to the was since he was still having issues PTSD. Thanks for this info. and any other info. you have on these men and my uncle would be welcome, he does have a son John Moon, but Jack really never talked to him about the was, I'm sure he would like to know what his dad did.

Sincerely yours

Geoff

---

[So... Does anyone know whether Jack Moon of the 596<sup>th</sup> is the same Jack Moon in H Company? Did men transfer between these units? -- BB](#)



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

"The WW II Airborne Demonstration Team provided honor guard at the June 2003 Reunion in Oklahoma City."

My comment is that the http:// link assigned to the underlined title above is incorrect! When I clicked the link it went to [www.wwiadt.com](http://www.wwiadt.com) which is a non-assigned link that is for sale instead of the official link [www.wwiadt.org](http://www.wwiadt.org)



My hope is that this can be corrected?!

Airborne All The Way!

Sgt Dan Perry, son of a Buzzard, Cpl Floyd R. Perry, 2nd BN HQ Co. 517th PRCT

*[Fixed! – BB]*

---

I called sug [**Sug Lawrence**] and we had a nice conversation. he knew some of the guys I knew. he doesn't have an I-pad or a computer so we only talk on the telephone. i don't know when we will get together but I will let you know when it happens. I'm trying to get him to come where I meet with the veterans in Conroe, Texas .we will see! Thanks again.

**Mel Trenary**

---

Bob... here's an update on **Lee Johnson**... (Saturday 1815hrs) Lee is breathing much better now but he's still showing symptoms of pneumonia. The doctors have given him medication and they'll wait until tomorrow or Monday to see if this is reducing the pneumonia symptoms.

*Earl*

### *S/Sgt. Reckless*

## A Horse Named Reckless

*Reckless* was a pack horse during the Korean war, and she carried recoil-less rifles, ammunition and supplies to Marines. Nothing too unusual about that, lots of animals got pressed into doing pack chores in many wars.

But this horse did something more.... during the battle for a location called Outpost Vegas, this mare made 50 trips up and down the hill, on the way up she carried ammunition, and on the way down she carried wounded soldiers...



What was so amazing?

Well she made every one of those trips through enemy fire and without anyone leading her.

Here's her story and photos . . . CLICK [HERE](#)





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

### *This Week in 517<sup>th</sup> History*



We never did find the rest of this Prop Blast booklet. If anyone has a copy, please let me know. -- BB

### *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