



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2164

June 16, 2013

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

General Dick Seitz Tributes

A picture of Dick Seitz taken last Saturday (June 1) with Lt. Gen. Freddy McFarren, one of Dad's protégées



We were so shocked to hear that General Seitz had left us on June 8th. Myrle truly loved him and had the greatest respect for him. We have a picture of Gen. Seitz, Mel Dahlberg and Myrle hanging beneath the display of Myrle's medals. Gen. Dick Seitz will truly be missed by all of the troopers and their families. Please extend our condolences to General Seitz family.
"Airborne All The Way"

Myrle and Betty Traver, F. Co.

I want to give my condolences to the Seitz family. The entire 517 family will greatly miss the leadership and commitment of the General. I was fortunate enough to meet him at Savannah in 2005, and learned several lessons in leadership. The General would always lift you up, and make you feel better about yourself, & do it so tactfully you did not realize what he had done until later. God Bless the Seitz Family.

With great Love and Respect,
Morris McDowell

Absolutely devastated to hear of our loss. Dick was one of the finest of men on every level. I'm sure others are saying it more eloquently, but even in the relatively short time that I have been a part of the 517th family this loss runs deep.
He was indeed... Airborne all the way

Brenda Mortensen



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I am so saddened to hear of the passing of General Seitz. He was a true American Hero, and your tribute to him on mailcall is praiseworthy. It was my honor to have known the General and learn from him. As a retired Army officer, I can tell he was a great leader of men. I have known my share in the 27 years of military service. Not until my Dad sent me his letters he wrote home did I find out that General (then Major Seitz) in fact personally interviewed my Dad for the 517th. General Seitz told me at the Washington D.C. reunion in 2007, he interviewed 3,100 men and only allowed 700 into the 517th. I am so proud that my Dad was one of the men he accepted. This is what my 18 year old Dad wrote to his mother about his interview on April 27 1943 - Exerts from Bud's letter:

"Well today the first thing we did was to jump from the mock tower. Then we had a personal interview by a Major (Seitz). Boy is he a swell guy. About 30 years old. Well I walked in. Saluted him, told him my name. He asked me how I liked the paratroops. I told him "PERFECT." He said he was organizing a bunch of paratroopers for actual combat overseas in about 9 months from now. He asked if I wanted to be in it. If you could have heard him, the way he said, "If you do come into my battalion, you are going to work, and work hard, and when I'm through with you, you'll be a man, and the very best." (Major Seitz also told Bud we are going to go to Japan and kill the Japanese, is that what you want to do? Bud responded, "Yes sir!") Then if you could have heard him say. "Write your folks and tell them you are in my outfit, and that you'll be overseas in 9 months, and tell them that I'm personally going to bring you and all the others back alive." Well cold chills went up my back, and I would have done about anything he wanted me too. Well anyway I'm on the road to being a paratrooper. But I am going to have to work for it."

When I showed the General this quote years ago, he corrected his age. He wasn't 30 but only 25 years old.

Just prior to going to Toccoa Georgia on May 31st of this year to commemorate the activation of the 517th, I called General Seitz and asked him what he remembered about going there. He told me he was sent there from Fort Benning, Ga, and that he had been in the original parachute test unit. He told me Colonel Walsh was one of the greatest leader he had ever known. He also told me as he had done in the past, the men of the 517th were the finest men to ever put on a pair of jump boots. When I was at Camp Toccoa, I was asked to say a few words along with President Alan Johnson and Hal Beddow. I told them what General Seitz had told me, and I let everyone know the standards he had for accepting men into the 517th. He said he was looking for me with heart and spirit. He sure found the right men. They truly were the best of the best.

I will truly miss him, and I am so grateful for having the privilege of knowing him, and seeing him for the last time at the Kansas City reunion last year. I am thankful that he died with his boots on, as a paratrooper and didn't have to suffer as so many people do. I can just see him as he went to the other side of the veil of life, his men greeting him and welcoming him home. I hope my Dad was there to say welcome home Paratrooper. I take great solace in the scripture the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians recorded in Chapter 15, verse 22: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

My deepest sympathies to the Seitz Family

May God Bless you

Lory Curtis, Proud son of Bud Curtis, who started in F Company, 2nd Battalion



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

We are very sad to learn of the passing of General Seitz.

We had the pleasure of meeting him at Savannah reunion, listening to his speech at the banquet, and admiring not only his military service, but also his intelligence and kindness.

That evening, we were astonished to listen to his speech praising his men delivered without any notes.

We raise a glass to you, General Seitz, and to all your men that greet you at the gates of Heaven. Say hello to them for us.

Patou and Roland

Sospel, France

Dear friends of America,

We are really upset to learn the passing of General SEITZ. Please accept our sincere condolences. We have a deep respect for such a Great Man, we had the great honour to meet and to express our gratitude to this hero. We cannot write in english what we are feeling but from the bottom of our hearts, we would like to tell you that we think of you - each of you -with affection. In april, we received a so kind letter from General SEITZ : " ...you are truly wonderful people and your friendship is very special to us ...because of you we will always have a legacy in your great country. I think of you and Maria Gaspar often and hope this find you enjoying the best of live. I hope some day you will visit my home here in Kansas, you will be so welcome. I am doing well at 95 years and look forward to some day visiting your wonderful country. Again, my heart tell thanks for all you do to keep the legacy of the 517th alive... ". You can understand that such a letter is like a treasure for us. We are always so touched that an american says thank you to us, in fact, we are not able to tell you how thankful we are for all you did for our Liberty. A Holy Mass will be celebrated in Trois-Ponts in memory for General Richard SEITZ.

Our Love to all of you.

Arnold and Irma TARNION, Maria GASPAR

and members of CADUSA (US Airborne Reception Committee)

I just learned that Dick has left us, he will join his brothers in arms. But it is a vary Sad news...

I met Leo and Allan last summer since Dragoon commeration, I met this mens who have moral values that we unfortunately lost day after day nowadays.

That why I make commeration and reenactment as passion, for this mens.

Thank to add me on your mailcall. Your work is amazing, a source of impressive documents.

Thank you for all!

Best regards,

Frédéric Hermann



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I've well received your last MailCall#2163 and I'm so very sad with the passing of Mr. Dick Seitz.

I'll always remember my very first meeting with Dick SEITZ while he was doing a battlefield tour in October 1999 with many others 517ers. I then had the honor to spend three wonderful days with him and his comrades in arms while visiting, Stavelot, Bergeval, Saint-Vith, Hunnange and many other places and the last day in Germany (Kaal river). I kept in touch with him and I was so blessed to become a friend of him. In 2005, I had the privilege to meet Mr. SEITZ while he was in the Ardennes, another highlights of my life as all my meetings with our liberators.

Could you please transmit my sincere condolences to his family. My prayers and thoughts are with them in their bereavement.

I'll be forever grateful to him and all the WWII soldiers who came and fought 69 years ago to give us back our freedom. I'll do my very best to perpetuate the memory of their accomplishment as long as I'll be on this earth. We, the Belgians, have a eternal debt of gratitude and I know the chance I have to be a free man.

I'm enclosing some picture taken with Mr. Dick Seitz in 1999 and 2005, I treasure them very highly and their are a part of my photo album.

With warm regards,

Your dear friend in the Ardennes,

Eddy Lamberty





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Truly saddened by the news of General Seitz passing. A great leader of great men. It would have been an honor to meet him just once and to shake his hand. Through the family that is the 517th I had the great fortune to spend numerous reunions in his company. He lifted the spirits of those around him and inspired all of us with his rousing speeches. All I can say is thank you Sir. Airborne All The Way !

Love and Strength to the Seitz Family.

- Paul Abbene

Indeed, there are tears in my eyes, but not necessarily tears of sadness. I will definitely miss seeing and visiting with "Dick" at 517th Reunions. But I would rather celebrate the Trooper and the many memories he left with not only the 517th Family but also anyone he came in contact with. If I may, I'd like to add that Lt. Gen. Seitz had a strong faith in his Creator. Being of the same faith as "Dick," I was blessed to attend mass with him as well as others of the 517th Family. I'd like to believe that "Dick" had Divine Providence Help during those questionable battles because of his personal prayers. And I have the feeling that "Dangerous Dick" prayed more for his Troopers than himself. My Sincerest Condolences to the Seitz and 517th families. Added to my Bucket List is a visit to the Elementary School named for Lt. Gen. Seitz on the base at Ft. Riley. Please know that all of Richard J. Seitz's finest attributes will Live-On in all who knew and loved him.

I would be remiss in not offering similar and as sincere condolences to the Brissey and 517th families for their recent loss. I was fortunate to be able to sit and visit with (more like bombard the Trooper with questions) Gene at past Reunions. May Gene, "Dick" and all departed 517th Troopers Rest In Peace. God Bless!!!

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



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Very sad news to hear That Gen. Richard Seitz passed away, I wish all my condolences to his family and his friends from the 517th .

We want to create an article about him, so I want to know if I can use the story you sent us in the mail call to put in our website, cause your English will be better than mine.

Thank you

Regards

SOLDI Adrien,

<http://airborne-task-force-museum.com>

What a shock it was to hear about our General. Chris Lindner from Texas was over to my house for a visit and about 10 PM she got a call from her sister giving us the bad news about Dicks passing. Frankly we both just sat and looked at each other in disbelief. Dick has been a part of our lives for about 70 years.

Never in my life time have I respecter and loved a man like Dick. Many of you have heard me speak at the many reunions we both attended through the years. My comments always included the following statement "I would not be alive except for the General". In March of 1943 he interview over 3000 of us and picked 240 of us to form the 2nd Battalion. With his training and leadership I survived the war with only two Purple Hearts. I will really miss the Martinies we had at most of our reunions. I could go on and on but a final thought, Dick always gave his troops more credit then he ever took for him self. There will never be another person that will ever come close to him.

As many of you know I have been in and out of the hospital for about 3 months with my back (6 vertebra's damaged) and am now in home rehab which will preclude me from attending the Generals funeral. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank many of you for your calls and get well cards.

Rest in peace General Seitz, the world is a better place because of you.

Darrell Egner



Attached are General Seitz's remarks to his paratroopers in July 2012.

Lory

[Gen Seitz.mpg](#)



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

So very sorry to hear about this, I was just talking about him yesterday. We are working on a fundraising video for the Camp Toccoa project and thought he would be a great WWII veteran to do the narration. We have an address for one of his daughters in Florida, and will send our condolences.

Thanks for keeping up updated. I will be emailing a letter for the 517th newsletter later this week. Talking about and thanks for the 517th coming to Toccoa for the D-Day Run and the 70th Anniversary of their activation in Toccoa.

We have an address for Mr. Beddow, not sure which is the correct Allan Johnson, there are several Johnsons on the list, but no Allan. Could you please email us the correct address.

Special thanks to Lory Curtis for getting this group together!! You did an awesome job in a pretty short time.

Regards!!! Brenda

Keep in mind; Tomorrow, today will be history.

Brenda J. Carlan
Executive Director
Currahee Military Museum
Stephens County Historical Society, Inc.
160 North Alexander Street
Toccoa, Georgia 30577 30577

www.toccoahistory.com
toccoahistory@windstream.net
706-282-5055

Bob: Dad's funeral is scheduled for Monday July 22 at 9 a.m. in Junction City. Have forwarded the email my cousin John sent out with the details and hotels for those interested. Thank you again for the beautiful tribute. Have shared it with many friends and all the family.

Pat Seitz

----- Forwarded message -----

LTG (Ret) Dick Seitz passed away peacefully on the 1st Infantry Division birthday, June 8th. The funeral mass will be held at **9 AM on Monday, July 22nd at St. Xavier Catholic Church in Junction City, Kansas**. Burial will follow at the Fort Riley Cemetery. A reception will follow at the Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center in Junction City. Special room rates are available at the Courtyard for this event. Reservations may be made by calling [785-210-1500](tel:785-210-1500).

John Seitz
Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce
Military Affairs Director



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Cpl. Eugene Lloyd Brissey – E Company



Eugene Lloyd Brissey, born in Owenton, Kentucky on March 23, 1925, died peacefully at home with his wife Edith beside him on June 7, 2013. Having met in 8th grade, Gene and Edie were sweethearts when he enlisted in the Army in 1943. They were married for 65 years. He served in the European campaigns in Belgium, France, Germany, and Italy with the 82nd Airborne, 517th Parachute Infantry, Company E, becoming a squad leader and earning four Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart, among other decorations. He returned home to finish high school, then earned a Bachelor's Degree from Wilmington College in business and history. His successful career as a civilian personnel officer for the Air Force took him and his family from Dayton, Ohio to Tokyo, Japan and finally settling in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1967.

A skilled athlete, he continued playing softball for decades. Known by their friends as Gene, he and Edie enjoyed golfing, bowling, square dancing with The Roadrunners Club, fishing and exploring the Southwest in their motor

home. They maintained connections with many dear friends, including those made overseas and members of the 517th. He was a devoted and generous husband, father, brother, and grandfather.

Storytelling of boyhood and war experiences were gifts to the family. A careful and frugal man, he was known for using items at hand to create and repair just about anything, fondly referred to as "Gene-itizing." He is survived by his loving daughters Denise (Craig Cohen), Lisa (David Ellenberg), and Gisele Livingston; his grandchildren Savanna (Miles Gloetzner) and Jesse Brissey-Cohen, Marlena and Ian Livingston, Lily and Iris Ellenberg; great-grandchildren Abel, Esther, and Anton Gloetzner; as well as sisters Ethel, Alma, Barbara, Betty, and Judy; brothers Cecil and Paul; and 21 nieces and nephews.

His last years brought a struggle with PSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy), managed with the tireless care of his devoted wife and family who express deep gratitude to the caregivers from the Albuquerque VA, Right-At-Home and the Ambercare Hospice team for their expert support. Memorial services are pending. In lieu of flowers, please honor a veteran (ask him his story; thank her for her service) and consider a donation to CurePSP: <https://give.psp.org/>.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Robert Morris à l'extrême gauche avec Eugene Brissey au milieu, après la prise de Sospel. (Bill Morris)

Other MailCall News

TOM HANKS DONATES \$25,000 TO CAMP TOCCOA AT CURRAHEE, INC.

In a recent email to Camp Toccoa Board of Trustees President Robin McClelland, Mr. Hanks expressed his support for the project offering the use of his name in any and all efforts to raise funds. Wrote Mr. Hanks, "I cannot imagine a more fitting site to recreate and honor as would a refurbished Currahee - a stop for all history students no matter the age."

When McClelland learned of the gift, she replied, "We are thrilled Mr. Hanks took time from his lead role in the Broadway play, Lucky Guy, to write such a generous check that certainly will jump start our fundraising campaign."

Hi Bob. For the record, and to answer **Diane Lynch's** question, **Marvin Moles** carried an M1 rifle into combat. He told me that after landing in France he had to put his rifle back together, and as far as I know, only the M1 Garand could fit this description.

Jean-Loup Gassend

Subject: Please include my email on the mail call list

My name is **Cornelia Granbery**. I am a daughter of **Hunter and Emmie McDonald** from Nashville, TN. I would greatly appreciate it if you would add my email to the distribution list for the mail call. Thank you.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Website www.517prct.org
Send Mail Call news to MailCall@517prct.org
Mail Call Archives www.517prct.org/archives
2013 Roster (updated!) www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
Thunderbolt (Spring 2013) www.517prct.org/archives

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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM