



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2165

June 23, 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
MailCall@517prct.org
www.517prct.org/archives
www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
www.517prct.org/archives

MailCall News

Bob - I've been out of pocket the past week and only through this Mail Call learned of the passing of **Gene Brissey** and **Dick Seitz**. This news makes me very sad. Both were incredibly generous with their time and knowledge in helping me create the Chronology I've been working on since my dad passed away in '01. I always thought of it as work in progress because there was always another trooper's story to add. I now know better. I'd like to ask the vets to talk to their kids and grandkids about their service, they are curious about it but didn't ask because, understandably, you didn't want to talk about it. Not only is history written by the winners, but also the survivors.

All my best, mark

Mark Landreth

P.O. Box 1453
Tallahassee, Florida 32302
Voice: 850.544.3376

Those of my family that have attended a 517th Reunion will recognize this man among men, a true Paratrooper who valued his Parachute wings and Combat Infantry Badge above all other awards. He was a hero in every sense of the word, yet insisted that "I'm Dick", never **General Seitz**. You may not have met him, or even heard of him, but to me he was the ultimate gentleman and down to earth soldier. I will miss him.

phil mcspadden



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From: <http://www.salina.com/editorials/Britegam-column-for-Tuesday--June-18--2013>

Seitz was a soldier's soldier

-Tuesday, June 18, 2013 3:03 AM

A good friend of mine, Gen. Richard Seitz, passed away the morning of June 8, leaving the world a better place for having walked among us. I had the honor of meeting him more than 25 years ago, and we became very good friends.

He had family in Salina, and I got to know him through his ties to St. John's Military School, which, incidentally, he called "The best military school in America." High praise from such an accomplished soldier. We had lunch June 7, the day after the anniversary of D-Day. He passed away the next morning. If you didn't know Gen. Seitz, I'd like to share a little about him.

Gen. Seitz, or "Dick," as he preferred to be called (at least by his nonmilitary friends), was born 95 years ago in Leavenworth. He and his brother Andy were both Army veterans, promoted to the prestigious rank of general. He had a very distinguished, 35-year military career and often was called a national treasure.

Although the prestige of being a three-star general is something only a few accomplish, he was just as comfortable talking to a new Army recruit, fresh out of high school, as he was meeting with dignitaries in Washington, D.C. He was what some have called a "soldier's soldier." His military career was what legends were made of, yet, he always deferred praise to others.

He joined the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment upon entering the World War II and deployed for campaigns in Italy, France, Belgium and Germany. He later assumed command of the unit and became the youngest infantry battalion commander during WWII. Gen. Seitz was part of a task force sent to Southern France, landing in Le Muy and La Motte, later fighting through the French Alps and then on to the Battle of the Bulge.

His battalion teamed up with a regiment of armor that became known as "Task Force Seitz" that fought in some of the bloodiest engagements in the war, including the recapture of St. Vith, a major crossroads that the Germans had taken along with Bastogne. After the Battle of the Bulge, he saw heavy action in the Heurtgen Forest Campaign.

His career spanned three world conflicts, including World War II the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The honors that he earned, including the Purple Heart, the Silver Star and the Bronze Star, are too numerous to mention. He was presented the Creighton Abrams Award from the United States Army for his work with soldiers and the general public in 2003. More recently, he was presented France's highest decoration, the National Order of the Legion of Honor for his liberation of citizens and villages during WWII. At the awards ceremony, then CIA Director, Gen. David Petraeus, a close friend of Gen. Seitz's, made a surprise appearance.

Gen. Seitz also made several trips back to several villages that he liberated during the war, where he was recognized and shown appreciation for his personal contribution in halting the Nazi tyranny.

So much is written about the number of WWII vets we are losing every day. The number is staggering, and among with them are men and women who have sacrificed much and fought valiantly for our



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

country. They, too, had a strong sense of patriotism and love for this great nation.

Gen. Seitz would say that today's military is no different. He loved the everyday soldier and did everything in his power to make their lives and their families' lives better. His leadership talks were legendary in the Army, and officers would seek him out to talk with their troops. Gen. Richard Seitz was truly an amazing military man who led not by intimidation, but by example.

Upon Dick's retirement, he lived in Junction City and became an icon for the community, as well as Fort Riley. Recently, USD 475 and the school board named a new elementary school, The Seitz Elementary School, at Fort Riley in his honor. It was something he was obviously very proud of, as he often talked about the school and its teachers.

If Gen. Seitz were here today he wouldn't be happy with me talking about him. He would say, "You know Larry, there are people much more deserving than me."

I will personally miss him very much, but our nation also will miss him ... and others like him. He touched everyone he met, leaving them feel honored to know him. He believed in the American way and its people and was a patriot in every sense of the word.

Thank you Gen. Seitz, you gave selflessly to your country and we are all better for it.

-- Larry Britegam is president of Salina-based Sunflower Bank.

From website guestbook:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Andrew Woolhouse From: Scunthorpe, England E-mail: woolhouse3@googlemail.com	Hello All Just thought I'd let you Airborne Nuts out there that my new book is out. It's called... <i>13 - Lucky For Some: The History of the 13th (Lancashire) Parachute Battalion</i> , available from Amazon. It follows the last battalion to volunteer for the British 6th Airborne Division and the D-Day jump and follows them across France, the Battle of the Bulge and Operation Varsity. Enjoy
	Added: June 17, 2013

Could you add a link for my new book on your excellent website *13 - Lucky For Some: The History of the 13th (Lancashire) Parachute Battalion*, available from Amazon.

http://www.amazon.co.uk/13-History-Lancashire-Parachute-Battalion/dp/1482029162/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1371055788&sr=8-1&keywords=13+lucky+for+some

Thanks, **Andrew Woolhouse**



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From Gilles Guignard:

The ruins of Normandy: Unpublished color photos taken in northern France in 1944 show the devastating impact of the Allied Force's battle to defeat the Nazis in World War 2

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2344233/The-ruins-Normandy-Unpublished-color-photos-taken-northern-France-1944-devastating-impact-Allied-Forces-battle-defeat-Nazis-World-War-2.html#ixzz2WILCFasI>

Some samples:



Children watch an American Army jeep driving through the ruins of Saint-Lô



A civilians couple walk through ruins of the heavily bombed ruins in the city of Saint-Lô, France, August 1944



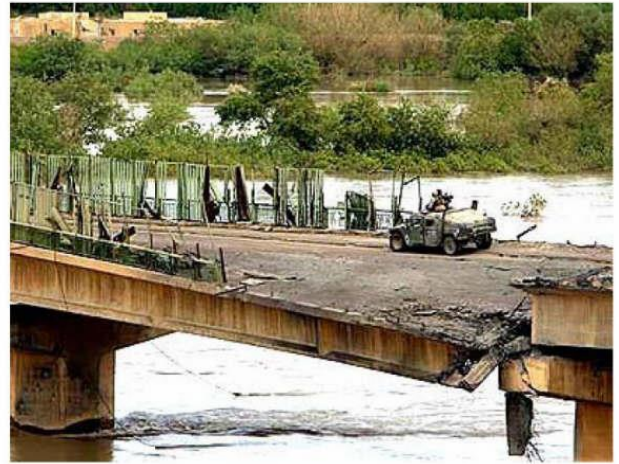
517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From Nila Gott:

WHEN A SOLDIER COMES HOME, he finds it hard to.....



... listen to his son whine about being bored.



...to keep a straight face when people complain about potholes.



... to be tolerant of people who complain about the hassle of getting ready for work.



...to be understanding when a co-worker complains about a bad night's sleep.



..to be silent when people pray to God for a new car.



....to control his panic when his wife tells him he needs to drive slower.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



...to be compassionate when a businessman expresses a fear of flying.



....to keep from laughing when anxious parents say they're afraid to send their kids off to summer camp.



....to keep from ridiculing someone who complains about hot weather.



....to control his frustration when a colleague gripes about his coffee being cold.



....to remain calm when his daughter complains about having to walk the dog.



....to be civil to people who complain about their jobs.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



.....to just walk away when someone says they only get two weeks of vacation a year.



....to be forgiving when someone says how hard it is to have a new baby in the house.

The only thing harder than being a Soldier...



Is loving one.



517th 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
- 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

