



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2168

July 13, 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)  
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[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)

## MailCall News

### Southern France Then & Now: The Airborne Side. Part1 by Airborne Task Force Museum

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

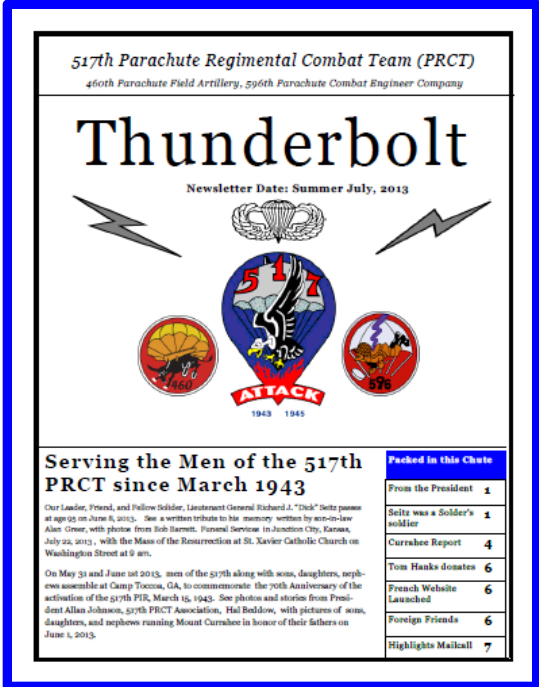
Here is a great new YouTube video done by our friends at the Airborne Task Force Museum (**J. Michael and Adrien Soldi and Eric Renoux**), showing photos taken in 1944 with those places today. The old photos were taken by **Joe Broudy** and **Bill Sullivan** of A Company in 1944, and most of the new photos were taken during **Bruce Broudy's** visit in 2011.



See the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7qltuLgKQg>



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Just approved the printing of the Thunderbolt from the Printer. You should be seeing it in a few days. If you are anxious to see it now, go to the 517th website where Bob has posted it.

Lory

To view the Thunderbolt online now, click here --> [Summer 2013 Thunderbolt](#)

Hi Bob ~

Scott and I are looking into going to Belgium, December 2014 for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. We really would like to go to Manhay where his Grandfather was wounded as part of I Company. Do you have any contacts in Belgium who could help in our planning?

Thanks! Our contact info is below.

### Scott and Deana Ross

Home: 360 654 4334

Scott email: [scott@ross-wa.net](mailto:scott@ross-wa.net)

Deana email: [deana@ross-wa.net](mailto:deana@ross-wa.net)

Thanks again.

Deana Ross

Hi Bob, What great wedding pics! You are blessed! I wanted to let **Pat Seitz** know what a great dad she had, and so grateful he chose my dad as a trooper. Also Pat, I had heart surgery just over a year ago and it's a heck of a thing, but follow docs orders and Alan will be back at it better than before. I was even able to do a big chunk of Mt. Currahee in June, and I'm currently down in Mexico kayaking for 1-2 hours each morning. Thanks Betty for the Senior Test. I will use that the first day of school to remind my students there's a lot to learn in this world. Great humor! Finally, I wanted to let everyone know that **Marshall Baird** will be receiving the French Legion of Honor very soon in a ceremony in Tucson where he lives. So good to hear they don't require travel anymore for those that are limited.

### Tim Curtis

Son of "Bud" Curtis



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

I got a note from **Lory Curtis** who is thinking about a possible reunion next summer, for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Dragoon. I will include the note below. At this point, it's just an idea for discussion. If you have some thoughts, feel free to contact Lory.

As far as I know, the expected reunions and events for 2013 to 2014 could include the following:

August 8-11 2013	Operation Dragoon, Arlington, VA <a href="http://werenotlostwereinfrance.com/2013/02/11/program-for-2013-operation-dragoon-event/">http://werenotlostwereinfrance.com/2013/02/11/program-for-2013-operation-dragoon-event/</a>
August 2013	Operation Dragoon 69th commemoration in Le Muy and Southern France <i>Possibly attending: Allan Johnson, Claire Giblin, Leo Dean, Hoyt Kelley and sons</i> (Does anyone know the schedule of events yet?)
January 2014	Florida mini-reunion, Kissimmee, FL
April/May 2014	West Coast Party mini-reunion, Palm Springs, CA
June or July 2014	Annual reunion (Proposed – see note from Lory below)
August 2014	Operation Dragoon 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Le Muy, Sospel, and Southern France
December 2014 – January 2015	Battle of the Bulge 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Belgium <i>Possibly attending: Scott and Deana Ross</i>

I know that it is hard to plan for anything too far out, since many (most) of our troopers have some travel limitations, but I wanted to put the list out there in case people want to contact each other and coordinate their activities. – BB

Hello everyone,

President **Allan Johnson** asked me to look a a national reunion next summer 2014 in New Orleans, where the National WW II museum is located for our 70th Anniversary of the jump into France. I just got back from Indiana this week and meeting with my other brother in law from Mobile Alabama, just up the road from New Orleans he asked if I was crazy for wanting to go there in the summer. But, of course it is the only time all of us can get together. I have it set up as usual with arriving on Thursday and leaving on Monday morning. I am looking at a few dates to consider for next year - the first is:

June 26-30 (My preference because I don't think it will be as hot as July I could be wrong)  
July 10-14  
July 17-21

Also, I know there is a big push to go to France in August for the 70th Anniversary of the jump, and I have already heard from some folks that said they didn't think they could afford two trips in one year. So a lot to consider. Let me know what you think

Lory



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

**Betty Travers** has a wonderful sense of humor. Her test made me laugh out loud! Thank you for keeping us going.

Next week, we go to Junction City, Kansas for Dad's funeral. The vigil will be at 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 21 at St. Xavier Catholic Church on Washington Street and the funeral Mass the next morning at 9 a.m., immediately followed by the burial at Ft. Riley and immediately after that, a reception at the Marriott Convention Center (next to the Marriott Courtyard Hotel) in Junction City. I understand that President **Allan Johnson** will be attending and **Nancy Fraser** will be with him. In the event any other members of the 517th family are coming (full disclosure -- Kansas in July is VERY hot, Junction City is not easy to get to, and so many have so much else on their plates right now), please let me know so that I can ensure that they sit with President Johnson right behind the family pew. Pat

PS Hope Claire has as wonderful a wedding for her son as you did for your beautiful daughter -- what a very special, and emotional, time for a father when he walks his "little baby" daughter down the aisle.

**Pat Seitz**

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Subject: **Al Kunzer** passed away 9 July

Steve,

I'm not sure if you remember me, but my name is **Justin Boggess**, I'm one of **Alfred Kunzer's** grandsons. I wanted to write you to let you know I have some bad news. Al Kunzer passed away this past Tuesday, 9 July. He was 88 years old. He had been in steadily decreasing health the past several months. He fought back multiple times, but he couldn't win this last battle.

He made sure that everyone around him, even in the hospital, knew that he was a paratrooper. It was all he ever talked about.

I hope all is going well on the west coast,  
-Justin

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Thank you so much for letting us know.... while this is sad news for us, he has rejoined many of his buddies who have left ahead of him. I only wish I had a chance to meet him. My dad was a good friend of his (my dad was born and raised in Rochester), and he often encouraged him to join up at the reunions but could never convince him to do so.

Have you seen the collection of photos of the 596 engineers? Your grandfather has more than a couple of photos of him; <http://www.markleweb.com/gallery/v/wwii/> (type Kunzer in the search box, there are 8 pictures)

I just let my mom know, and she also reflected about how he was in the inner circle of my dad's group of friends, including **Christian, Hudson, Moses, Saunders, Roberts,** and **Verdi** to name a few). All of these guys (including your grandfather) are extended family and will always be remembered.

Stay in touch.

- **Steve Markle** -



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Guestbook entry on the website:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: <b>Matt Skovera</b> From: Uniontown, Pa. E-mail: <a href="mailto:rmskovera@verizon.net">rmskovera@verizon.net</a>	On May 2, 2013, my uncle <b>Paul Skovera</b> (HQ/3) past away. He was 93. He joined the 517th in Italy 1844, after going AWOL from his airborne unit in Sicily, to be with his brother, my dad, Matt(HQ/3) a Toccoa man. From what I understand, <b>Capt. Joe McGeever</b> , after hearing what my uncle did to be with my dad, fixed it with Army brass. I am sure, I made that sound way too simple. Befo00re their jump into southern France, Capt. McGeever would again involve himself in their lives by not allowing them to jump from the same plane. My uncle had told me they were not happy about that at the time. My dad and uncle went on to serve together in the same 81MM mortar squad the remainder of the war. My uncle then served and fought in Korea before retiring from the Army in the early 1970's. I often wonder if they were the only brothers to serve with the 517? Although my dad talked very little of the war, just before his death in 1986, he showed me a picture of Capt, Joe McGeever. I knew then how important that was to share with me, and I have that picture in my home today.
	Added: July 12, 2013

### *Just for Laughs*

From **Phil McSpadden**:

A man on his Harley was riding along a California beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, God said, 'Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish.'

The biker pulled over and said, 'Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over anytime I want.'

God replied, 'Your request is materialistic; think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking; the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific and the concrete and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind.'

The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, 'God, I wish that I, and all men, could understand women; I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, why she snaps and complains when I try to help, and how I can make a woman truly happy.'

God replied: 'You want two lanes or four on that bridge?'



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## *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

