



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2170

July 27, 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

Lt. Edward M. Athey, H Company



The daughter of **Lt. Edward Athey**, 'H' company, notified me of Ed's passing Tuesday July 16, in California. Ed was buried with full military honors at the National Cemetery in Eagle Point. We have lost another great 517 trooper.

Morris McDowell

Officers of H Company

Back row Lt. Dick Spencer, Lt. Irving Pinkston, Lt. O.G. Garrett, two unknown trooper

1st row, Lt McKillop, Lt. Hilliard B. Thomas (KIA Col De Braus), Lt Edward Athey





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Longtime Yreka CA resident Edward Moore Athey passed away July 16, 2013 at Meadowlark Assisted Living in Yreka. He was 92 years old.

Ed was born June 1, 1921 in San Jacinto to Emerson and Julia Athey. He served in the U.S. Army's 517th Parachute Regiment during World War II, and saw action in Southern France and the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded two Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts during that period. After the war, Ed and his wife June moved to Montague and then Yreka, where Ed started a career designing and building homes throughout Siskiyou County. During the building boom of the 1960s, he was the building and maintenance coordinator for the Siskiyou County Schools, working with school boards and architects. He was active in the Saint Marks Vestry and choir for many years. He volunteered his design skills to local churches and the Humane Society. Ed was a founding member of the Yreka Kiwanis Club. He loved gardening, sharing vegetables and grapes with everyone he knew. He enjoyed repurposing and refurbishing old furniture, believing that good wood should never be wasted. Ed and June attended 517th Parachute regiment reunions for years, and he was interviewed by writers and videographers for his knowledge of World War II history.

Ed is survived by his daughter, Julie Black and her husband Mike of Rocky Point, Oregon; a special friend, Dorothy Lange, a nephew and several nieces. Ed was preceded in death by his wife, June Athey in 2008, and his four brothers, Emerson, William, John and Cliff Athey.

A private interment service will be held at Eagle Point National Cemetery in Eagle Point, Oregon, where Ed will be laid to rest with his wife, June. Donations in his memory may be made to Madrone Hospice, 255 Collier Circle, Yreka, CA 96097, Siskiyou Humane Society, 1208 N. Mount Shasta Blvd., Mt. Shasta, CA 96067 or a charity of the donor's choice.

From MailCall #602, 2003:

I would like to mention an incident about one of the favorite officers in H Company.

We were in our barracks in Soissons getting ready to move into Belgium when **Lieutenant Athey** came into our barracks and saw that we were removing the tracer bullets in the machine gun belts. Tracers work both ways. He immediately turned around and walked out without saying a word.

– **Ben Barrett**

[Lt. Athey's story of Paratroopers in gliders](#)



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Dick Seitz Funeral Service

Dear Bob and Helen:

Thought you would like to know Dad's funeral and burial were beautiful, uplifting and a comfort thanks to the attendees, the Army and the community who pulled out all stops to remember Dad. (Dad would have been pleased that it ran on time and the soldiers were not kept waiting in the Kansas heat!) Both U.S. Senators came and the generals, included General Sullivan (former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff), Lt. Gen. Anderson, present 18th Airborne Corps commander, the present commanding general of Ft. Riley and about 5 former commanders, plus other general officers that Dad had mentored. After the burial, we had a full house at a reception with food and "adult beverages" somewhat akin to an Irish Wake.

President **Allan Johnson** and **Nancy Fraser Armand** honored Dad by coming all the way out and representing the 517th. Allan and Nancy came to dinner with the family after the vigil and the evening of the Mass (which was a little rowdy). It was wonderful to have them with us as the 517th was "family" to Dad and to the rest of us.

The 517th's logo was on Dad's urn, on the Mass program and on the display that Gen. Grange, Dad's radioman sent, which was posted in front of the pulpit. (**David Grange** very much wanted to be there, but had had eye surgery 6 days before the funeral and didn't even have his stitches out yet.) Plus all the Seitz clan members wore their 517th lapel pin. I will scan the program for both the Mass and vigil tomorrow and send it to you. The local radio station carried the Mass live and the Topeka TV station had extensive coverage which is the first link below.

Also, Senator Moran gave a wonderful tribute to Dad on the Senate floor, the press release and video of the tribute are below.

Pat Seitz

War Hero & "Fixture" In Community Laid To Rest At Fort Riley

<http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/War-Hero--Fixture-In-Community-Laid-To-Rest-At-Fort-Riley-216519111.html>

JUNCTION CITY, Kan. (WIBW) -- He was a philanthropist, a mentor and a "genuine American hero"- his exploits on the battlefield the stuff legends are made of and a man who had an equally lasting impact on his community.

Funeral services were held in Junction City and on Fort Riley Monday for Lieutenant General Richard Seitz, a well known World War II and Vietnam veteran who passed away at the age of 95. A mass was held at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church followed by an inurnment at Fort Riley's cemetery with full military honors.



During his 35-year career as an Army officer and Paratrooper, Seitz, a native of Leavenworth, Kansas, commanded the 2nd Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment during World War II, the 82nd Airborne Division and the XVIII Airborne Corps.



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He started off at Kansas State University and was commissioned early because he had high school ROTC and ROTC at K-State.

"He joined the war effort and became one of the early parachutists. He joined the 517 Parachute Infantry Regiment. They fought in Italy and they jumped into southern France. He fought all the way across Europe, including the Battle of Bulge," said his nephew, Retired Colonel John Seitz.

When he was placed in command of the 2nd Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment in 1943, it made him one of the youngest infantry battalion commanders during World War II at three days shy of his 25th birthday.

He remained in the Army after World War II and was promoted to colonel in 1954.

Seitz was promoted to brigadier general in July 1963 and two years later, he was named Assistant Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Vietnam and then served as Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, Vietnam and Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, Vietnam.

In March of 1967, he was promoted to major general and later assumed command of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. In late 1968, he personally commanded the effort to put down rioting in Washington, D.C. following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

In May 1973, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and served as the commanding general of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Ft. Bragg and retired from active duty in 1975.

His military awards, decorations and civilian citations include: the Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

"Dick Seitz is an American icon. He's like John Wayne. He was one of the first paratroopers. He jumped behind German lines three times," said Senator Pat Roberts of the general, his close friend. "He was at Anzio, the Black Forest, the Battle of the Bulge. When Hitler's troops almost broke out, it was Dick Seitz's paratroopers and Dick Seitz that stopped them. He didn't stop there. He was with MacArthur in Japan, when we had the riots in Washington and Detroit, they called on Dick Seitz to lead the effort to quell the riots but in the proper way."

Seitz lived in Junction City for decades after retiring from the military.

He was involved in many local organizations and a longtime supporter of Geary County schools. He worked on school bonds for the construction of Junction City Middle School and other elementary schools in the district. He would frequently visit local schools to meet with children to talk about leadership and greet teachers and staff members.

"He had a distinguished wartime career but I think his career after he retired is even more special because he was a mentor and coach for many of the commanders at Fort Riley. He did a lot of things in the community with the Boy Scouts, with the YMCA. He was a fixture. I'm going to miss him greatly," John Seitz said.

General Seitz was humbled last year when Fort Riley named its new elementary after him. The school's mascot is the dragon in honor of the battalion Seitz commanded during World War II.

"He went down there regularly. He and the principal became very good friends and he'd walk the halls and talk to students and he was an inspiration to those children. It was a very special thing for him," his nephew told WIBW.

"This man was a national treasure and genuine American hero, very unassuming, very self-effacing, very humble man. That's on the outside. On the outside, he was tough as nails, Airborne all the way," Senator Roberts added.



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Sen. Moran Honors Lt. Gen. Richard “Dick” Seitz

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This week, U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) honored Lieutenant General Richard “Dick” Seitz during a speech on the U.S. Senate Floor. Lt. Gen. Seitz was a highly decorated officer who selflessly served the United States through three wars and recently passed away.

“There is no group of individuals I hold in higher regard than our nation’s veterans, who have dedicated their lives to serving our country,” Sen. Moran said. “Dick was a mentor, friend and someone I greatly respected as a man, dedicated soldier and American hero. He never stopped serving his country or his community, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know him.”



A Mass of the Resurrection will be held on Monday, July 22 at 9 a.m. at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Interment will follow with full military honors at Fort Riley Cemetery.

VIDEO: [Click here](#) to see Sen. Moran pay tribute to LTG Seitz.

Other MailCall News

Website Guestbook entry:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: Howard Jones From: Scottsdale, AZ E-mail: howard.jones@svTempest.com	What an absolute delight to find this site and the "Record of Company C, 517th". I remember the stories of my dear Uncle Frank Ubel and still hold and cherish a couple pieces of memorabilia he gave me years ago. I was amazed after reading the history of the unit that the stories he had told me about his time with the 517th were, if anything, very understated. There were also a couple details tactfully omitted from the write up, e.g., exactly how he made his weapon "operable". Added: July 25, 2013



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[Glider Training and D-Day Invasion, August 1944](#)

from Shiroku "Whitey" Yamamoto, 442nd Antitank Company

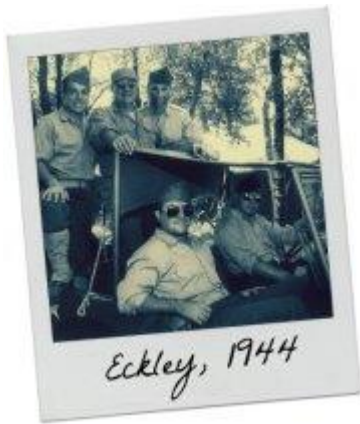
This webpage includes his story of glider training, the invasion in August 1944, and some mentions of the 517th troopers.



Shiroku "Whitey" Yamamoto reunited with Frank and Red of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment in Touet de L'Escarene, France. September 1944.

[WW2 Airborne Historical Company](#)

We'll be at Eckley Miners Village this weekend portraying F/517th PRCT during Operation Dragoon. Stop by our camp and learn about the forgotten Allied Invasion of Southern France.



[1940's Weekend \(July 27 & 28\)](#)

Saturday at 10:00am

[Eckley Miners' Village Museum](#)

2 Eckley Main Street, Weatherly, Pennsylvania 18255

"United in this determination and with unshakable faith in the cause for which we fight, we will, with God's help, go forward to our greatest victory."
- General Dwight D. Eisenhower (1944)

Travel back in time to the 1940's World War II era! Witness to WWII soldier encampments and demonstrations, a 1940's car show, and the life of people in the coal country during these years. Join us in honoring the sacrifices made by all the men and women who served our country during the Second World War.

Admission:

Adults (13-64)...\$10.00; Seniors (65+).....\$9.00; Children (6-12)..\$6.00

DON'T FORGET! Join us on the evening of Saturday, July 27 for a 1940's Swing Dance in the Freeland Public Park Pavilion! (Check out the '2nd Annual 1940's Swing Dance' event page for more



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Eckley Miners' Village Museum's

1940s WEEKEND

The World War II Years

Saturday & Sunday, July 27 & 28
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

See life on the home front—
stroll through Eckley, circa
1944, and see the daily lives and
chores of a mining patch town!


Experience the warfront—
visit Allied and Axis military
encampments and see firing
demonstrations, skirmishes,
weaponry, cavalry and military
vehicles!


Witness to the entertainment of
the Big Band era—
enjoy live musical performances
or watch a movie
from the 1940s!

Admission:
Adults (13-64) \$10
Seniors (65+) \$9
Children (6-12) \$6

Swing the Night Away!
1940s Swing Dance
Saturday, July 27, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Freeland Public Park Pavilion on Front St., Freeland
Music will be provided by the Hazleton Philharmonic
Big Band Sound
Admission to dance: \$10 regular admission,
\$8 for those in 1940s era attire/uniform

Eckley Miners' Village Museum
2 Eckley Main St., Weatherly PA 18255 | (570) 636-2070 | www.eckleyminersvillagemuseum.com

 Find us on Facebook!

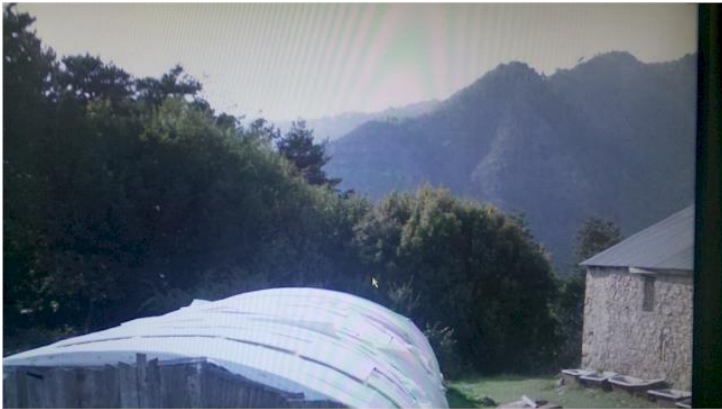
 Eckley is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,
in partnership with the Eckley Miners' Village Associates.



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Photos taken (Sept. 44 ?) on a ridge in the Col De Braus. The newer photos I pulled of Google maps. **Byron Carroll** was an Aide to **Capt. Schnebli** Battery Commander. I have more photos I need to meet with **Steve Markle** he lives close by 10 min. away to get the other ones scanned in.

Jim Miller
Grandson of **Byron Carroll** Tec. 5, 460th D- Battery
8101 Glen Canyon Ct.
Citrus Heights CA,
95610



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