



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2172

August 11, 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)

## MailCall News

Please check and see why I have not received any mail calls since Dick died,  
Thanks. **Babbie Boyle**

Hi Bob, I don't know what happened but we have not been receiving the mail call for the last few weeks. I just noticed in my address book that I had the wrong address for you. Please add us back on the mailing list.  
Thanks, **Betty Traver**

As you can see by these notes, I continue to have difficulties in getting recent MailCalls delivered. I do my best to break up the MailCall into 8 separate mailing groups, and copy myself just to make sure that some are getting delivered from each group. But no matter what I do, every few months, some email systems think that the MailCall is spam and block delivery. I do not get any messages telling me why. I think that I know most of the rules on how emails get classified as spam, but the rules continue to change. You will notice that I try to keep the text very simple, in plain words and few buzzwords and numbers. Most of the problem, I think, is that I send out about 400 emails every Sunday, and I put most of the addresses into the "bcc:" category, so that everyone's email address is not visible to everyone else. I may have to change that approach. I won't get into all the details, but I apologize if you've been missing emails. Please remember that I do try to get each MailCall written by Sunday night, and they are all available at [www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives).

**If you want to be removed from the weekly MailCall delivery, please respond and ask to be removed from the mailing list. Do not just delete them or report them as spam, because that could get us put onto a spam list and prevent delivery to everyone else.**

Bob Barrett



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Bob: thank you for resending these as we had missed some. The bio of Dick Spencer was superb in Mail Call 2171. The guys in the 517th were extraordinarily talented and dedicated in so many ways.

**Pat Seitz**

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I have been hit or miss with the mail calls..... but this one got through. Are you seeing any "bounced" messages back from markleweb.com or lunarpages.com?

Go figure.

**-Steve Markle-**

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Dear Bob, Just wanted to let you know that I continue to be an avid reader. Thanks for all your work...I would never put MailCall on a junk status.  
YVT,

**Bob DeCarlo**

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Guestbook entry:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: <b>SFC James J. Butco USA Ret.</b> From: Larksville, PA E-mail: <a href="mailto:sfcbutco@msn.com">sfcbutco@msn.com</a>	I had the privilege of serving in the 517th Engr. Co. (Light Equipment) in Viet Nam. The Units history referenced direct lineage to the 517th PIR. Just to let you know we carried on in the highest traditions set during WW2. You would be proud to know this. Thank You for your service.
	Added: August 4, 2013

Does anyone know if there is a connection between our 517<sup>th</sup> PRCT and the 517<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company? I do see that these smaller engineer companies were started by General Westmoreland during Vietnam to be more agile and quickly deployed. (Dick Seitz was Gen. Westmoreland's Chief of Staff. Hmm.) – BB

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I don't know where to start as it's been a long time since I gave Bob something to do. First of all I fell almost 4 months ago and broke several vertebra's in my back. Stayed in the Hospital/Rehab over a month and home Rehab, etc. ever since. Two weeks ago they injected cement into several vertebra's but it didn't seem to help. Still have pain 24/7. The only time I get out of the house is when my daughter takes me to doctor appointments almost every week. That's enough of my sad story.

Then **Dick Seitz** passed away which was a total shock. **Chris Lindner** was here for a visit and we both had tears of sorrow after getting that news. I have said many times that I am still here because of Dick's leadership. Hard to believe he was only 5 years older than me. He was a dear friend to me and he was the greatest General that ever wore the Stars. Thank you **Pat Seitz** for keeping us informed about your Dad. You did a great job letting us know the many things he accomplished in his life. I will never get tired reading or hearing about him. I miss having our Martini's to close out the night.

We lost a board member this year and our By-laws require that the officers of the 517 PRCT must be from the military. Between **Claire** and her Dad (**Allan Johnson**) they came up with asking **Rick Seitz** if he would serve on the Board of Directors. As a retired Military Officer he was a perfect fit. I am sure Rick got 100% of the vote from your officers. He agreed to serve so we still have a Seitz in our group. Thanks Rick.

The next subject is our Mini Reunion in January 2014. **Brenda Mortensen** chaired the last Reunion and what a wonderful job she did. Thank you Brenda! Our attendance was up from the year before to about 50 people. Due to unforeseen issues she will not be able to chair the 2014 Reunion. I went to the do-it-all girl **Claire Giblin** and she agreed to take on this major job. Thanks very much Claire. My goal is to get well by then so I promised to be her helper. I booked the same hotel and dates for 2014. More information to follow when we get closer to January.

There was some talk about having a National Reunion in New Orleans or some other locations. I believe what will be the deciding factor would be to find someone willing to take this major project on. If we don't have a National Reunion it would probably increase the attendance at the 2 Mini Reunions. At least I hope so.

Just a reminder August is the month we voted to pay our dues. The dues are \$30 for the year or more, if you can afford it. Please send them to **Joanne Barrett**. Her mailing address is in all Mail Calls and the Thunderbolt. Thank you!

If you read this far, thank you. It's called running over on the key board.

**Darrell Egner**

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*For the record, any contributions to the 517<sup>th</sup> Association or events are voluntary donations, not dues.*  
– BB



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

From: [xavier van daele](#)

Sent: Thursday, August 08, 2013 10:15 AM

To: [Philippe McSPADDEN](#)

Cc: [Christian de Maercken](#)

Subject: Search for an orphan

Dear Phil,

How are you my friend?

I need your help for a daughter of a 460th's soldier... Mrs. Naomi Rauff, who lives in Massachusetts would much to trace the last steps of his father:

1st Lt.	<b>GEORGE</b>	<b>F.</b>	<b>HEAFY</b>	Ardennes-Alsace	460/A	Henri-Chappelle
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He was KIA the 5 January 1945...

Could you help us? Where to put me in touch with someone? I also joined the mail my friend Christian de Marcken which is directly related to Ms Rauff.

Thank you so much for Mrs Rauff...

Take Care.

Your Belgium friend: Xavier

Webmaster: <http://usairborne.be/>



Webmaster: <http://us.army.39.45.xooit.com/index.php>



I checked with **John L Garvey**, and neither of us remembers this name. I don't know if anyone else has any info. thanks,

**Phil McSpadden**

Hello Phil,

maybe you could still help us to locate the place in Belgium or 2nd **Lieutenant Heafy** has lost his life? What unit were you in the 460th?

Do you remember where you were located in Belgium on January 5, 1945?

From what I found, the 460th PFAB was the artillery support of the 82nd Airborne.

Thank you so much Phil!!!


Take Care.

Xavier



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The only items I have found about George Heafy are from the American Battle Monuments Commission:



**AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION**  
**THE WORLD WAR II HONOR ROLL**

**George F. Heafy**  
**Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army**

Service # O1178185

**460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion**

Entered the Service from: New York  
 Died: 5-Jan-45  
 Buried at: Plot D Row 12 Grave 17  
 Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery  
 Henri-Chapelle, Belgium

Awards: Bronze Star, Purple Heart

And from the enlistment records:

View Record	ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	RESIDENCE: STATE	RESIDENCE: COUNTY	PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	DATE OF ENLISTMENT YEAR	SOURCE OF ARMY PERSONNEL	YEAR OF BIRTH
	32341047	HEAFY#GEORGE#F### #####	NEW YORK	WESTCHES TER	FT JAY GOVERNORS ISLAND NEW YORK	21/5/42	Civil Life	11

And a little more info about his family members from the fields-of-honor site:



<http://www.adoptiegraven-database.nl/index.php/henri-chapelle/american-war-cemetery-henri-chapelle-h/9067-heafy-george-f>





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Thought you might find all of this interesting - if you've got time to read through it!

### Phil McSpadden

Subject: INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA

See: [101 Interesting Facts about The Villages, FL](#)

Here are a few samples:

2. An average of 20 people move into The Villages every day.
3. To maintain its senior-citizen status under federal law, at least 80 percent of homes must be occupied by at least one person who is 55 years of age or older.
4. The average age in The Villages for a male is 62 and female is 60.
5. Persons under the age of 19 years are not permitted to reside within The Villages but may visit for a maximum of 30 days per year unless a longer exemption is granted.
7. In 2011, The Villages sold almost one percent of all the new homes in the entire United States.
8. One real estate journal reported that The Villages sold about 2.5 times more homes than the second largest development in the United States in 2011.
13. Half of the people buying homes in The Villages pay cash for their house.
19. There are over 100 miles of golf cart paths.
24. Commercial property at the Villages FL averages a 97 percent occupancy rate.
30. The Villages has more holes of golf than any other community/facility in the world with currently 540 holes. (Mission Hills in China is second with 216 holes).
34. There are about 10,000 tee times available each day in The Villages.
36. There were 1,832 holes-in-one recorded in The Villages last year. That's 5 holes in one recorded every day of the year in 2011.
38. Statistically, there were 5,810,493 golf balls lost in The Villages last year.
41. Golf cars are the vehicle of choice in The Villages. There are over 50,000 golf carts in The Villages.
45. Villagers play 5,200 softball games each year.
46. There are currently 133 men's softball teams, 15 ladies teams, and 68 co-ed teams competing in 17 leagues over three seasons.
47. The Villages has 216 softball teams (2,592 players) playing 164 games per week and approximately 2,296 games for the winter season which is the busiest.
54. There are over 100 pickle ball courts in The Villages.
81. The survival rate for sudden cardiac arrest in The Villages FL last year was 44% – about 7 times the national average of only 6%. Contributing to this high survival rate are the many Villagers taking CPR training – over 7,000 in the last five years; and neighborhood CPR/AED programs.



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### 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Dragoon Events in France

Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 8:32 AM

We leave tonight for France to observe the 69th anniversary of the 15 August, 1944 invasion of Provence.

Our jump list includes veterans **Leo Dean**, **Allan Johnson** and **Hoyt Kelley**. Hoyt is traveling with his family for his first return trip since the war. Also coming are **Bruce Broudy** and his sister **Eileen Broudy**, with their respective spouses. Another veteran who has become a friend is **Dick Field** of the 551, who travels with his daughter Ginni.

We are looking forward to time in Sospel with good friends **Patou (Patricia)** and **Roland Orengo**, **Gilles Guinard** and **Frederic Brega**. Frederic has been instrumental in having a plaque designed for Col de Braus, which will be unveiled while we are there. Thank you, **Howard Hensleigh**, for authoring the text! Frederic made the wonderful point that people enjoying a day trip and picnicking in the area should know about the battles that took place there - the tremendous losses - and share the hope that it would never again be necessary. Howard caught the phrasing beautifully, and we will send pictures of the ceremony.

Then it will be on to the La Motte-Le Muy-Les Arcs area for ceremonies and commemorations in various towns and villages, including Le Mitan (site of the field hospital) and Salernes. Friends in the area who make this possible are **Eric Renoux** and **Jean Michel (Mickael) Soldi**, and now Jean Mi's son **Adrien**, as well as newer friends like **Bertrand Prud'honne** in Salernes and **Sabine** (whose last name escapes me at the moment), the lovely mayor of La Motte. When I first met her and called her Madame (for Madame Mayor), she corrected me, saying that she has been the mayor for only two or three years, but she has been "Sabine" all her life.

They are all already looking forward to the 70th next year. Please plan to come to a great party and heartfelt recognition of the sacrifices made by the men of the 517th.

We will send a trip report and photos as soon as possible. In the meantime, please make your plans for Kissimmee in January, Palm Springs in March I think, and France in August. And who is interested in New Orleans in June or July? Raise your hands and let Lory know if a gathering will work for all - there has already been interest in another reunion. **Mel Dahlberg?**

All the best to my favorite vets –

**Claire**



Anniversary of Operation Dragoon - 2004



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## *69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Dragoon – Schedule of Events*

**From AIRBORNE MUSEUM "15 Aout 1944" Association:**

<http://airborne-task-force-museum.com/en/news/267-notez-les-dates.html>

### **69th ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION DRAGOON EVENTS**

#### **The 13 of August :**

- Welcome of veterans family, reenactors and friends in La Motte military Camp. (all day)
- At 22pm : Start from La Motte, first village liberated of Southern France of the "Dragoon March". all along the night, reenactors and friends will walk across the battle field, drop Zone and Landing Zone with historical explanations.

#### **The 14th of August.**

- Early in the Morning, "Dragoon March" arrive in Le Mitran, Robert Frederick Division H.Q on "D" Day.
- At 10 am : Ceremony in Le Mitran Hamlet Monument with Mayor of la Motte and veterans.
- 11 am : Breakfast and drink of welcome presented in front of Mr Lavagne Barn. Originally first field Hospital on "D" day.
- 18 h : Official ceremony of city of La Motte. at Bagnols Road, 1mile Est of Le Mitran.
- 19 h : start from the memorial of the WWII military convoy with veterans, for the liberation of La Motte down town. Welcome of our heroes by the citizen.
- Lunch of welcome on the square all together with WWII musical mood until the rest of the night.

#### **The 15th of August :**

- Official celebration in different city along the coast. Our association is welcome to Puget sur Argent at 11am, with lunch at 12.
- At 18h : Les Arcs official ceremony. followed by a welcome drink and WWII musical orchestra until the rest of the night.

#### **16 th of August :**

- 9.30 Am : Ceremony at American cemetery and memorial Rhône of Draguignan dedicated to the allied soldiers who gave their life for our Country and freedom.
- 10. 30 : convoy moving to the drop zone and landing Zone area .
- 12 am : Luncheon of the friendship at the Valbourges winery Castle, formal US 551st parachute infantry HQ on "d" day. (for the first time since WWII we have asked for a religious ceremony prayers in front of the old chapel for Airbornes troops killed in action in this place.)
- 18 pm : Official ceremony of city of Trans en Provence. at the monument dedicated to the paratroopers of the 460th and 1st choc batallion killed in action in the town.
- 19pm : WWII vehicle convoy across the streets with Welcome drink down town followed by WWII Jazz orchestra.





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### 17th of August :

- WWII reenactors camps are moving north to Salernes,
- at 17pm : Convoy and groups are starting from the camp, Est of the town to progress in the main street and liberate the town.. welcome of the citizen.  
then: exhibit of the vehicles on the main square.
- 19 pm. official ceremony of the city. liberated by the 45th US ID division.
- 22pm : WWII orchestra on the square all together.

### 18th of August :

- Start from Salernes in WWII vehicles and drive on different high spots of the french resistance Maquis across mountains and vineyards.
- Stop at different monuments graves with explanations of french veterans survivors.
- 12.00 : Welcome of the Convoy by the little village of FOX AMPHOUX, with luncheon with all the people of the town. exhibit of vehicles.
- about 4pm : back to the Camp in Salernes across forests north by the Maquis of the french resistance barracks and monuments.

### 19th of August :

- 19 pm : Ceremony in Sillans la Cascade followed with Drink and lunch on the Cattle courtyard.

## *The Vietnam Memorial Wall*

From **Don Sliker**:



### **The Wall**

A little history most people will never know. 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.



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- 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.

Please pass this on to those who served during this time, and those who **DO Care**.



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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

## *Operation Dragoon Anniversary – August 15, 1944*

This week is August 15, the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Dragoon. It is a good time of year to remember to pay your annual membership donation (only if you can afford it). Suggested donation: \$30

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Enclosed is my annual donation contribution towards the 517 PRCT Association.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **517 PRCT Association, Inc.**  
c/o Joanne Barrett  
70 Pleasant Street  
Cohasset, MA 02025