



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2182

October 20, 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

517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team (PRCT)  
460th Parachute Field Artillery, 596th Parachute Combat Engineer

# Thunderbolt

Newsletter Date: Fall, October 2013

**Serving the Men of the 517th PRCT since March 1943**

August 11, 2013, three 517th PRCT troopers with family return to celebrate the liberation of Southern France. Our very own President of the 517th PRCT Association Allan Johnson, 596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company, along with Leo Dean, Regimental Headquarters, and Hoyt Kelley, Headquarters, First Battalion commemorate and remember their time in combat in Southern France.

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**Fall 2013 Thunderbolt now available online:**

[Fall October 2013 \(3 Mb\)](#) **NEW!**

Printed copies will be mailed soon.



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

Monday, Oct. 14, 2013:

My wife and I just returned from the Mall to observe the Million Veteran's March on Washington. There were no million veterans by any stretch of the imagination and not even close to the Memorial Day Rolling Thunder ride with thousands of supporters of the military. We attended because my wife's uncle was killed in the Invasion of Normandy in a tank. My older brother was a paratrooper with the distinguished 517th Parachute Combat Regiment Team Company H. So we can in respect to them and others.

What I saw today distresses me in the Administration's perception and disparate treatment of the veterans vs. other groups that descend on the Mall. I have lived in the Washington, D.C. area since 1989 and have never seen the posturing of security police against any group like this excepting those militant groups that get themselves arrested. Today I saw a armored vehicle at the White House and later in front of the WW II Veteran's Memorial (I was unable to take a picture of the vehicle). There were mounted police in Lafayette Park across from the White House which I have provided with a picture. This was for the appearance of the Veterans of the United States Military in the Mall!

I arrived a tad late to the White House on Constitution Avenue when the Veterans marched to the White House. We spoke with some veterans who described the scene when the veterans who removed the barriers at the WW II Memorial brought them to the White House and placed them in front of the WH fence where they were rushed by the security police. Some other veterans who were nearby rushed to the scene and caused the security to back off and not confront the vets. The mounted police came upon the group as a backup as well as the armored vehicle. There were a number of police cars and vans on the side street of Lafayette Park. The White House roof top rifle snipers who usually at their post on the roof of the White House showed an obvious presence ( see picture).

Who was the threat? It was apparently our military veterans who fought and protected us from oppression outside the United States and who must have been perceived as a security threat to somebody to be subjected to intense security scrutiny as though they were Middle Eastern terrorists protesting the Administration.

I do not understand the attitude of the Administration towards veterans who merely wish to air their concerns and be able to assemble peacefully as other groups have done through the years. But, never have I seen the security presence as I have today and I am not one to exaggerate. I wonder what the grandfather of the President, who served in WW II, would have said to see his comrades in arms treated like this.

My wife and I were proud to see the peaceful behavior by the vets from all wars as they visited the memorial sites with their families and friends. Some proudly wore their uniforms (see picture).

I normally would not write about what I experience in Washington, D.C. over the years but something is really wrong with our Country when our veterans of all the wars are being scrutinized and with the ramped up security for whatever reason during their modest " Million Vet March". I have never witnessed such a treatment of the veterans in all years I have been here except in these recent months.

Frank Ramos



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

For those of you outside the Beltway:

This morning's Washington Post had pictures of the veteran's on the Mall removing the barriers and the confrontation with the police at the WH.

Frank



**Protesters seize fencing at monuments, pile it at White House**

BY LYNH BUI

Ernest Adkins left his wife and 4-month-old baby in Blacksburg, Va., Saturday to drive four hours to Washington. The U.S. Army veteran then spent Sunday morning marching through the city, where he wound up standing in front of the White House for three hours, holding a sign over his head that read "Respect our Vets."

He was one of the hundreds of veterans who descended on Washington for the "Million Vet March on the Memorials." Frustrated with the government shutdown, protesters tore down barricades from closed monuments and memorials and piled them outside the White House. It was the latest burst of public outrage over lawmakers' inability to compromise over the budget, leading to a shutdown that has crippled government services and left tens of thousands of federal employees furloughed.

With a modest disability check that may be cut off within weeks and severe health problems after doing two tours of duty in Iraq, "I don't know what to do to bring in income," said Adkins, 32.



The closure of monuments throughout the city has been one of the most visible symbols of the shutdown.

"They are our memorials, and they belong to us," said Steve Nevels, who drove six hours from West Virginia to participate in the demonstration. Nevels, 39, said he helped take down some of the barricades that were blocking the World War II Memorial, where the group started its march at about 8 a.m. Protesters then made their way to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial before converging at the White House shortly before noon.

They carried "Impeach Obama" signs and waved yellow

"Don't Tread On Me" American Revolution-era flags before moving on to the U.S. Capitol a few hours later. The demonstrations were mostly peaceful, with a few short clashes between police and protesters in front of the White House as officers put up temporary fencing along the sidewalk.

U.S. Park Police estimated there were 100 to 200 protesters and said there were no arrests.

Michael Ashmore drove 24 hours from Texas for the march. The 24-year-old former Marine served four years in Afghanistan and said his disability benefits stopped about a week ago.

Ashmore says he suffers from

TOP: Protesters in "Million Vet March on the Memorials" pile barricades at the White House. LEFT: Police scuffle with demonstrators. ABOVE: Former vice-presidential candidate

post-traumatic stress disorder and is "living one day at a time" without his disability check.

Politicians, Ashmore said, "just need to get their priorities straight and look out for everybody else instead of themselves."

At about 3 p.m., Adkins prepared to wrap up his protest and head back home to his family. Holding back tears, he said his household has cut back on expenses, spending money mostly on diapers and formula for his son.

"Stop being petty," Adkins warned lawmakers. "We're talking about childish games that are affecting the American people."

*lynh.bui@washpost.com*



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

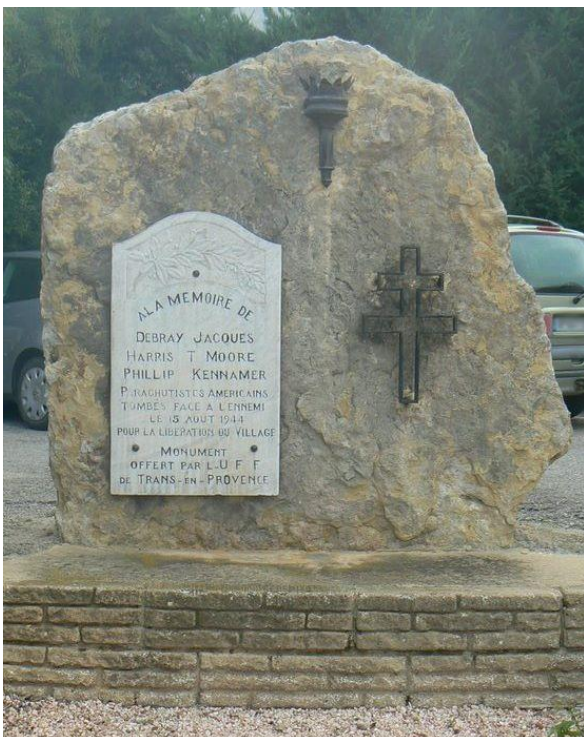
Photos from: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstAirborneTaskForceTheForgottenFront>



**Myrle Traver**  
F/517 in Maritime Alps  
fall 1944  
(Photo: Traver's family)



**Cpl Homer McRoy**  
1/596 Airborne Engineer Company  
l'Escarène train station



Monument de Trans-en-Provence où sont tombés 3 paras du 460th PFAB, dont un français rattaché à la Task Force...

A la memoire de  
Debray Jacques  
**Harris T. Moore (460/C)**  
**Phillip Kennamer (460/C)**  
Parachutists Americans  
Tombes face a l'ennemi  
Le 15 Aout 1944  
Pour la liberation du village

Monument  
Offert par L.U.F.F.  
De Trans-en-Provence



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

Here is the first notice that I have seen for next year's events for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of Operation Dragoon:



From: <https://www.facebook.com/events/246786602142946/>

I hope everything is fine - I just saw your posting with the picture of **Mel Biddle** at the White House. I doubt it is Truman behind Mel. He looks a bit older than Truman actually was at that time.

I also remember a documentary about the Battle of the Bulge in which **Bob Cooper** was interviewed. I do not have it at hand now but if I come across it, I'll pass on the link.

Kind regards,

**Gilles G.**



Gilles,

You are probably right. Here's another picture of **Mel Biddle** with President Truman at that ceremony. Maybe that couple is Mel's family?? -- BB





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

Hi Colonel Tingle,

I just thought I would pass this set of messages on to you. Lonnie has asked for information and photos of **Antonio Almeida** of the Service Company. Unfortunately, the Service Company was a small unit and we do not have very many records or photos of them. Could you just ask **Lee Johnson** if he remembers Pfc Almeida? FYI, on one of the found records, Almeida is listed as MOS 7014, which, I think, is a motor mechanic, while Lee was a rigger, so they might not have known each other.

And say hello to Lee from all of us.

Bob Barrett

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Hi Bob... I saw Lee today and asked him if remembered Antonio and he said didn't recall anyone by that name. Lee said the as well as being a rigger, he also was a courier driver. He remembered some of the other drivers, but didn't recall any of the motor mechanics... Lee spent most of his time on the road away from Service Company. Sorry we didn't have a connection here – it would have been nice to have filled in some of the blanks for Lonnie's father-in-law.

Lee is doing much better. He's very stable and adjusting keeping up with MLB, NFL, and college football on Saturday afternoons. Today he signed off on his letter to his VFW Post in New Baltimore, MI where he was the Post Commander in 1949/1950. He wished them continued success with Post 7573.

I haven't gotten him interested in NASCAR yet, but maybe after football season, he'll start keeping up with NASCAR.

Thanks for all that you do for the 517 – Lee enjoys the Mail Call and he reads them from cover to cover.

Earl

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Toccoa 517<sup>th</sup> T-Shirts from Frontline Crate Company \$13.00

<http://www.frontlinecrates.com/products/517th-p-i-r-t-shirt>



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

My name is Trevor Miling. My great uncle was **Edward J. Lang of Company C**, 517 PIR. He was killed in Christmas Eve 1944. I am completing my teaching degree at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan and am studying to be a social studies teacher. I was wondering if you had any information about my uncle Ed or could possibly put me in contact with someone who knew him during the war. Any information I could get on uncle Ed would not only be appreciated by myself and my family but would also assist me as a future history teacher and help preserve the memory of those who have sacrificed so much for this nation.

Thank you very much,

Very respectfully,

**Trevor C. Miling**

Grand Valley State University College of Education  
Secondary Social Studies Major, Earth Science Minor  
Substitute teacher, PESG, LLC

Hello Trevor, I haven't found a lot on Cpl. Lang on my website records, but here is what I can tell you:

- He was with C Company, and is listed on the 517<sup>th</sup> Christmas 1944 roster: <http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>
- He was KIA on 24-Dec-44 and is buried in the Henri-Chappelle Cemetery in Belgium. [http://www.abmc.gov/search/wwii\\_list.php](http://www.abmc.gov/search/wwii_list.php)
- His army serial number is 36741514
- I tried to look him up in the NARA WW2 enlistment records, and I see 9 Edward J. Lang's, but none with that serial number: [http://aad.archives.gov/aad/display-partial-records.jsp?s=3360&dt=893&tf=F&bc=%2Csl%2Csd&q=lang+edward+j&btnSearch=Search&as\\_alq=&as\\_anq=&as\\_epq=&as\\_wog=](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/display-partial-records.jsp?s=3360&dt=893&tf=F&bc=%2Csl%2Csd&q=lang+edward+j&btnSearch=Search&as_alq=&as_anq=&as_epq=&as_wog=)
- I do have a note that his KIA was listed on a morning report along with many other casualties in that battle. [http://517prct.org/records/dec44\\_c.jpg](http://517prct.org/records/dec44_c.jpg) I will see if we can get a copy of the morning report.
- We have several 517<sup>th</sup> histories. Probably the most detail is the "Record of Company C", which does include some brief info on when and where Cpl. Lang was killed. (Although it is listed as Cpl. E. W. Lang") [http://517prct.org/documents/c\\_co\\_history/c\\_co\\_history.htm](http://517prct.org/documents/c_co_history/c_co_history.htm)
- There is a photo of C Company at Camp Toccoa. The names are not listed, but there are many with "KIA" noted. [http://517prct.org/photos/c\\_co\\_toccoa.htm](http://517prct.org/photos/c_co_toccoa.htm)



I'm afraid that is all I can find right now. I will print your request for info in the next MailCall newsletter that I send out weekly. Do you have any stories or photos that you might be able to share with us?

Bob Barrett



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

Hello,

My name is Geoff Gentilini and I am the lead researcher at Golden Arrow Military Research. We specialize in tracing the steps of individual WWII Veterans to show where they were and what they did during the war. This is a unique process that we have devised as a way to help genealogists, family members and historians gain a better understanding of the experiences of individual WWII Veterans. This service is not offered by the National Archives or any other company in the United States, and it is especially exciting because so many Army and Air Corps Personnel Files were destroyed in the 1973 Personnel Center fire. Many times we can actually reconstruct the service history of those whose records were lost in the fire. Our research specialists are on-site at the National Archives and can access records pertaining to individual veterans that most folks would not know how to find.

In addition to tracing the steps of individual WWII Veterans we also offer Official Military Service Records of WWII Veterans. In most cases we are less expensive than going directly through the government and can have the exact same records ready within about 2 weeks. It can take the government 4 months just to respond to a family member's request for their veteran's records. If you have dealt with the government in requesting records then you know how frustrating it can be. We offer an alternative to the red tape and frustration of dealing directly with them.

We believe that folks who visit your site could benefit greatly from the work that we do and we would like to ask you to link to our website from your site. Please feel free to browse our website to see all of the exciting opportunities we offer for researching individual WWII Veterans:

[www.goldenarrowresearch.com](http://www.goldenarrowresearch.com)

If you are interested you can see what people have said about our work on a wide variety of projects here: [http://www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?s=bc1dc00fa99a8b161e1fe43277c1708b&sho\\_wtopic=124442](http://www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?s=bc1dc00fa99a8b161e1fe43277c1708b&sho_wtopic=124442)

Thanks,

*Geoff Gentilini*

*Lead Researcher*  
*Golden Arrow Military Research*  
[www.goldenarrowresearch.com](http://www.goldenarrowresearch.com)

*If you are part of a social network, forum, or online group please let others know about the service we provide!*

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

Mr. Barrett,

My grandfather, **Frank Gallucci**, served in D. Co. of the 517th. I am certain you don't remember me, but we met briefly at the Oklahoma reunion and, I believe, the 2007 Washington DC reunion.

My grandfather passed away last week and I have since come across numerous photos of him and others that I would like to share on the website. I would also like to sign up for the Mail Call (at [alexpgallucci@gmail.com](mailto:alexpgallucci@gmail.com)) and any other subscription services for the 517th. (My grandfather received the Thunderbolt magazine and I would love to sign up for that if it is still published).

I am eager to become involved in perpetuating the memory of the 517th and would be able to serve in the Association in any capacity. I currently practice law in Michigan. I recently began a blog (website) about my grandfather's service in World War II and about other issues in World War II history. If you would like, I can provide the link to that site so that it can be put up on the 517th website. Thank you very much and please let me know how I can help.

Best,

Alex Gallucci

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Alex,

My condolences on the death of your grandfather. As you know, these were all great men and heroes. I will include your note in the next MailCall, as well as Frank's obituary.

I will add you to the MailCall mailing list. And yes, we would love to have any photos or stories about Frank Gallucci. We are always looking for biographies as well. See: <http://517prct.org/bios.htm>

Let me know your mailing address and we will add you to the Thunderbolt distribution list. And let me know the link to your blog about Frank.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

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

### *Taps – Frank Gallucci*



**Frank L. Gallucci, Sr.**, 88, passed away Thursday, October 10, 2013 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. Born in Detroit, MI, Frank was a graduate of the University of Detroit and its law school. He was a World War II combat veteran serving in the 517th Parachute Combat Team, attached to the 82nd Airborne Division and the Fifth Army in Berlin following the war. He had six combat jumps and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, receiving the Purple Heart multiple times. He also received the Bronze Star, Croix de guerre and numerous other military awards. He was Executive Vice President of Essex Wire, Founding Partner of Gallucci, Hopkins & Theisen, and Retired Of Council for the Barnes & Thornburg Law Firm. He was a member of the Indiana, Michigan and D.C. Bar, where he argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He also served as Chairman of the Board of St. Joseph College and was a Board Member of Ohio Art and the Allen County Sherriff's Merit Review Board,

St. Patrick Catholic Church, Arcola and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Surviving are his wife of 60 years Rita Gallucci of Fort Wayne; son Louis P. Gallucci of North Las Vegas, NV; son Frank L. (Tina M.) Gallucci Jr. of Fort Wayne; daughter, Sandra M. (Raymond) Wardell of Fort Wayne; grandchildren Alex (Andrea) Gallucci, Olivia Gallucci, Sophia Gallucci, Maria (Lance) Lockstadt, Dante Gallucci, Dominic Wardell, Philip Wardell, Victoria Wardell; sister, Mary (Sam) Mininni of Livonia, MI; sister, Dorothea Siedlik of Novi, MI; brother, Richard Gallucci of NC. Frank was preceded in death by son, Peter F. Gallucci; son Michael Patrick Gallucci; parents Luigi and Maria Rose Gallucci. Mass of Christian Burial is 10:30 am, Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, with calling one hour prior; Fr. Jim Shafer officiating. Calling also at D.O. McComb and Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road, Sunday, October 13, 2013, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm & Monday, October 14, 2013, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm & 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm with a Rosary at 7:30 pm. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery, Arcola. Memorials may be made to St. Patrick Catholic Church, Arcola or St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. To sign the online guest book, go to [www.domccombandsons.com](http://www.domccombandsons.com)

From: <http://mccombandsons.tributes.com/show/Frank-L.-Gallucci-96532050>



Sospel

(background, standing next to tree) Sgt. McKeon

(foreground, standing L to R) **Frank Gallucci**, Ted Hillhouse, Perry

(kneeling L to R) Joe Molina, Al Herr, Dick

From:

[http://www.517prct.org/photos/d\\_company\\_files/kane\\_company\\_d.htm](http://www.517prct.org/photos/d_company_files/kane_company_d.htm)



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

### *Military Humor*



Two Texas Highway Patrol Officers were conducting speeding enforcement on Hwy 77, just south of Kingsville, TX. One of the officers was using a hand held radar device to check speeding vehicles approaching the town of Kingsville. The officers were suddenly surprised when the radar gun began reading 300 miles per hour and climbing. The officer attempted to reset the radar gun, but it would not reset and then it suddenly turned off.

Just then a deafening roar over the Mesquite treetops on Hwy 77 revealed that the radar had in fact locked on to a USMC F/A-18 Hornet which was engaged in a low-flying exercise near this, its Naval Air home base location in Kingsville TX.

Back at the Texas Highway Patrol Headquarters in Corpus Christi the Patrol Captain fired off a complaint to the US Naval Base Commander in Kingsville for shutting down his equipment.

The reply came back in true USMC style:

“Thank you for your letter.

You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Hornet had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked on to, your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it, which is why it shut down. Furthermore, an Air-to-Ground missile aboard the fully-armed aircraft had also automatically locked on to your equipment's location.

Fortunately, the Marine Pilot flying the Hornet recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile system alert status and was able to override the automated defense system before the missile was launched to destroy the hostile radar position on the side of Hwy 77 south of Kingsville.

The pilot suggests you cover your mouths when cussing at them, since the video systems on these jets are very high tech. And Sergeant Johnson, the officer holding the radar gun, should get his dentist to check his left rear molar. It appears the filling is loose. Also, the snap is broken on his holster.”

Semper Fi



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

## Donald R. Burgett

As posted on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/camptooaatcurrahee/>

### [Donald R. Burgett](#)

Dear Friends,

Please, I am need of your help. We are on the countdown for my Kickstarter campaign. The goal of the campaign is to fund the re-publishing of my four book titles; *Currahee!*, *Seven Roads to Hell*, *Road to Arnhem* and *Beyond the Rhine*. It will also allow me to publish my new 5th manuscript and debut it next June in Normandy, France on the 70th anniversary of D-Day.



My targeted funding goal is \$20,000, if I do not reach the goal amount, I receive zero funds. We are currently at 76% funded. ANY and ALL pledge amounts COUNT! I am confident with your backing we can reach the goal. Along with the rewards currently offered, for a pledge of \$20.00 USD or more, I will include your name in my 5th book and acknowledge you as a contributor and backer of this project. If you have already pledged, I thank you so much for your support.

Kickstarter link: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1552682373/my-rendezvous-with-destiny>



**My Rendezvous with Destiny**  
[www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com)  
 My 5th book will tell the story of my life before the war, as a paratrooper during the war & as a veteran & writer after the war.

## 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