



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2189

December 1, 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 (Fall 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)

## *John Aloysius “Boom Boom” Alicki*



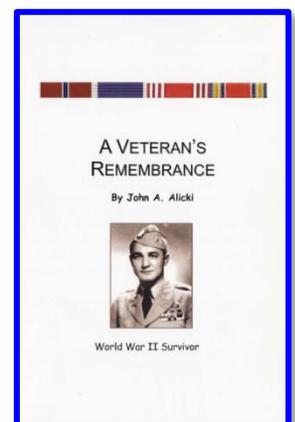
1945

**Lt. John “Boom Boom” Alicki** – Pearl Harbor survivor and 517<sup>th</sup> “greeter” at Camp Toccoa – wrote and published his autobiography in 1996. I have a worn copy that he gave to Ben many years ago. I recently received an original copy from **Nila Gott**, with all color pictures (Ben’s copy is mostly black and white).

I finally got around to scanning Boom Boom’s book and putting it on the website at: [http://517prct.org/bios/john\\_alicki\\_files/alicki\\_book/alicki.pdf](http://517prct.org/bios/john_alicki_files/alicki_book/alicki.pdf)

Note: This is a large pdf file (28Mb), so it might take some time to load.

Be sure to read his story of the mock tower jump, starting on page 12.







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

### *MailCall News*

This is a great Mail Call as usual and especially rewarding at Thanksgiving time.

Special note to **John Mullen** regarding his grandparents. **Dallas Long** was first sergeant of G Co. when I signed into the 517th in November 1943. He was truly a top sergeant. He had what it took to keep our rambunctious eighteen year olds in line with strict military discipline and at the same time display a fatherly effect that gave them some peace of mind. He took the same approach to second lieutenants, of which I was one. At some point in Southern France he transferred to Hq. 3rd Bn. and became its first sergeant. The officers in the 3rd Bn. thought highly enough of him to urge him to go for a combat commission. He turned this down.

After the War he was commissioned in the Georgia National Guard or the army reserves as a warrant officer. He completed more than thirty years of military service and held the highest rank of warrant officer, equivalent to a major at his retirement. He and your grandmother attended all of our 517th reunions for many years and I kept track of him with Christmas cards after that. Seeing him and your grandmother at a reunion was like old home week and we always had things to share. It was only through him that I learned about the post War doings of **Grant Hooper**, who commanded G Co. until sometime in Southern France when Grant traded jobs with **Pysieuski** and became 3rd Bn. S-3. Hooper left us at Bergstein and never kept in touch with anyone from the 517th thereafter, except your grandfather who told me Grant became a school teacher in Washington or Oregon, remained in the reserves and retired as a Col.

I can only say in closing that with grandparents like that, you came from good stock.

**Howard Hensleigh**

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Wishing you and family a very Happy Thanksgiving Bob.

My Walter's memory is almost gone. So very sad to see him like this. He did take the Honor Flight on Sept. 28th. A very good friend was his guardian. He enjoyed it very much but doesn't remember anything about it but Tim (guardian) Hogan took lots of pictures and when I show him there is a big smile on his face. This was the Sat. before they closed the memorials.

I enjoy all your Mail Calls and read them to Walt as his ARMD keeps him from reading. We celebrated his 90th birthday on Sept. 3rd. with family and friends. Thanks for all you do to keep these men together with Mail Call.

Sincerely, **Peanie and Walt Smith** First Bat. Hq.Co.

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Not only do we enjoy reading the substance of your Mail Calls, our special compliments on your layout of this last one. Exceptionally eye appealing. Thank you also for the way you help folks track down information about their fathers, grandfathers and uncles. A very Happy Thanksgiving to you, Joanne and the wonderful extended Barrett clan.

**Pat Seitz**



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

A note for **Lory Curtis**:

In the *Saints and Soldiers – Airborne Creed* movie, one of the main characters has his head shaved into a Mohawk hairdo. I was under the impression that this detail actually did not occur with the 517<sup>th</sup>, and that the actor, Corbin Allred, took the idea from some soldiers in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne. (Artistic license for the movie). But I just ran across this photo of HQ/2 with **Burton Stadler** (5<sup>th</sup> from left), and it clearly shows plenty of mohawks. -- BB



[http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas\\_1944\\_hq\\_co\\_2nd\\_1.jpg](http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_hq_co_2nd_1.jpg)



Did you know... That the 460<sup>th</sup> has a plaque at Ft. Sill, OK?

In looking through some letters of **Clark Archer**, I see that around 1990-1991, the 517<sup>th</sup>, 596<sup>th</sup> and 460<sup>th</sup> donated several recognition plaques to various US Army bases where the men were trained and served.



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

RE: **Sgt. Joe Rosmus**

Good evening and Happy Thanksgiving.

After dinner this evening, we pulled out some boxes of my grandfather, **Sgt. Joseph Rosmus's** things. One of the items found was his notebook he carried with him in the field. Looking through the book, he notes that he was in HQ CO 2nd Bn - 517 Para Infantry. I am trying to find some more information about his time in the military and would love to hear stories about him from those that he served with. He passed away when I was only 5 and I never got to hear him tell his stories. Would there be a way to reach out to others who may have served with him through this mail call? I would greatly appreciate any information you could give me.

Jeanette Rosmus Shable

Winchester, Virginia

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Hi Jeanette,

I did a quick search of the materials on our website, but I cannot find much on **Joseph Posmus**, other than he is listed on the 1944 pre-Christmas roster with HQ/2:  
[http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas\\_1944\\_hq\\_co\\_2nd\\_1.jpg](http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_hq_co_2nd_1.jpg)

I do not see him listed on the casualty reports, although we only have partial records for those.

I will include your note on the next MailCall newsletter, and see if anyone remembers him. I will let you know if I get any responses.

If there are any particular stories or records in his journal that are worth sharing, or if you have any wartime photos, I would love to share them on the website.

Thanks,

Bob Barrett

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I would to thank you Bob for [scanning Boom Boom's biography](#). I searched for a long time!

Happy thanksgiving to all 517th paratroopers and their families !

kind regards, **Loïc** from Southern France.

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## *Huh?*

### **School confiscates third-grader's cupcakes topped with toy soldiers**

The Daily Caller - March 8, 2013

In the latest incident of anti-gun hysteria to erupt in a school setting, officials at an elementary school in small-town Michigan impounded a third-grader boy's batch of 30 homemade birthday cupcakes because they were adorned with green plastic figurines representing World War Two soldiers.

The school principal branded the military-themed cupcakes "insensitive" in light of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, [reports](#) Fox News Radio.

**"It disgusted me," Casey Fountain, the boy's father, told Fox News. "It's vile they lump true American heroes with psychopathic killers."**

Fountain explained that his wife had made the cupcakes. His son, Hunter, helped decorate them. The following morning, Fountain's wife brought the taboo treats to the school's front office, where the secretary reportedly remarked favorably on their appearance.

"About 15 minutes later the school called my wife and told her they couldn't serve the cupcakes because the soldiers had guns," Fountain told Fox News. "My wife told them to remove the soldiers and serve the cupcakes anyway — and I believe she may have used more colorful language."

"We're just taking political correctness too far," the angry father added.

In a statement to local media, Schall Elementary School principal Susan Wright Susan Wright doubled down on her school's bold stand against little green men that represent American soldiers.

"These are toys that were commonplace in the past," Wright said. "However, some parents prohibit all guns as toys. In light of that difference, the school offered to replace the soldiers with another item and the soldiers were returned home with the student."

"Living in a democratic society entails respect for opposing opinions," the principal also said. "In the climate of recent events in schools we walk a delicate balance in teaching non-violence in our buildings and trying to ensure a safe, peaceful atmosphere."



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

## 517<sup>th</sup> History

From the analysis of **Clark Archer**, the 517<sup>th</sup> PRCT historian:

517th PIR Battle Casualties										
517th PIR Medical Detachment records contains details on 1733 battle casualties										
1733 battle casualties represents about 90% of average effective strength										
The ratio of wounded to killed was 6.8:1 (1511:222). The average casualty rate was 14.1 per combat day.										
Month	Year	Shrapnel	Bullet	Other	Subtotal	KIA	Total	% of Effective Strength		
June	1944	42	18	52	112	14	126	6.0%	of	2084
August	1944	34	18	86	138	33	171	8.9%	of	1914
September	1944	148	32	66	246	35	281	16.0%	of	1760
October	1944	52	5	55	112	7	119	7.5%	of	1585
November	1944	28	4	97	129	7	136	6.8%	of	1991
December	1944	96	38	54	188	30	218	9.1%	of	2402
January	1945	293	104	28	425	62	487	23.7%	of	2059
February	1945	84	30	47	161	34	195	11.5%	of	1694
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		777	249	485	1511	222	1733			

### 517<sup>th</sup> History quiz: Who said this?

“The Regiment was made up of pretty young fellows... At one point when the officer strength was 55, Ike Walton, who is a West Point classmate of mine and I had, together, more years of service (18) than all the rest of the officers.”

“The 517 earned fame in areas apart from combat as well. The unit called some of its actions 'improvising', others termed it stealing. In Southern France, the 517th became known as "Colonel Graves and his Five Thousand Thieves." Once, they stole six cases of Good Conduct Medals. When it was explained to Colonel Graves that they had been stolen by mistake, he suggested, “Well, what the hell, give one to everybody who hasn't gotten a venereal disease.”

- from **Martin Setter**, in the 1975 Fort Bragg reunion booklet  
[http://www.517prct.org/reunions/1975\\_fort\\_bragg\\_nc/1975\\_reunion\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/reunions/1975_fort_bragg_nc/1975_reunion_booklet.pdf)



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

**Florida mini-reunion  
January 18-20, 2014  
Kissimmee, FL  
[Registration Form](#)**

### *Military Quotes*

"People think that professional soldiers think a lot about fighting, but **SERIOUS** professional soldiers think a lot more about food and a warm place to sleep, because these are two things that are generally hard to get, whereas fighting tends to turn up all the time." -- T. Pratchett, **SMALL GODS**

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In my experience, the most useful command that can ever be given by a junior officer is "Carry on Sergeant" -- Andrew Moffatt-Vallance"

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"Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory." -- General George S. Patton, Jr.

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"They will salute the rank, but they will only follow the man."

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Campaign ribbon: I was there.

Medal for Valor (Bronze Star, Silver Star, etc): I was there, did something really stupid that worked, and my side saw me do it.

Purple Heart: I was there, did something really stupid, and the enemy saw me do it.

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"We're paratroopers. We're supposed to be surrounded." -- Lt. Richard "Dick" Winters, Easy Company

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#### The Five Most Dangerous Phrases in the US Army

1. A second lieutenant saying "Based on my military experience..."
2. A sergeant saying "Sir, you really don't want to know..."
3. A captain saying "You know, I was just thinking..."
4. A private saying "I learned this in Basic Training..."
5. A chief warrant officer saying "Watch this shit..."



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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 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

