



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2191

December 15, 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)

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This Week in 517th History

All elements of the RCT were quartered in Soissons by December 10th. Every American airborne unit in Europe was now part of General Matthew B. Ridgway's XVIII Airborne Corps. This included the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions just back from Holland and the 517th and other separate units up from the Mediterranean. Additionally, the 17th Airborne Division was now in England and was scheduled to come across to France in the near future.

During the night of December 15-16 the German army launched its last great offensive of World War II, striking with three armies against weak American positions in the Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg. The Allies were taken totally by surprise. The Germans made their main effort with the Sixth SS and Fifth Panzer armies, while their Seventh army on the left made a limited holding attack.

Movement orders came for the 517th and 1100, December 21st. One Battery of the 460th and a platoon of the 596th were attached to each rifle battalion for movement.

- Paratroopers' Odyssey



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MailCall News

All I am **Charlie Pugh's** daughter.

I was introduced to a woman from St Marie de Callian by the mayor.

In Dec I will be visiting the daughter (now 84) of a Jewish family who lived in the open but hiding their Jewish religion. They lived at the small hotel in the heart of town. She lives in NYC now and emigrated in 1952.

They lived in the small hotel for four years where they pretended to be Catholic. They had left Paris and were avoiding risks of being sent to camps or killed. She says her mother met 6 American men (including my dad) on Aug 14. She also explained that the French families hid the paratroopers in cars and drove them to the intended drop zone. They took farm roads to avoid Germans in nearby towns.

I am looking for stories, names and photos to show her.

Her family left St Marie de Callian right after the paratroopers left and they returned to Paris (although not directly). They returned to an abandoned and emptied apartment in Paris.

Her father was familiar with working with chemicals and other things before the war. He worked with the resistance to blow up trains in other areas farther away from St Marie de Callian. (I believe that he selected hiding in that town precisely because it had no train, navigable river or other assets).

While the atrocities against Jewish people are beyond imagination, I find it impressive that none of the 1,200 or so people in the town turned them in.

Do any of you remember this story or remember meeting her parents?

I send holiday greetings from my 90 year old mother, Ann.

Thank you.

Theresa Pugh

After comparing two copies of the 1944 Christmas roster, it looks like the searchable PDF (http://www.517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/christmas_1944_searchable.pdf) is missing the third page for 3Bn HQ Co and first page of Co G. This is why I couldn't find my grandfather (**Dallas Long**) name in the roster. It is complete in the page by page pdf: <http://www.517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>

John Mullen

[Thanks for catching that, John. I do have a newer, very clear reproduction copy of the 1944 Christmas roster, and I will try to rescan it and re-index it with those pages. – BB]



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Hello Bob and Lory,

I talked with my father (**George Sanford**) on Sunday. He said he had just received an issue of the Thunderbolt. The delivery seems to be working again. Thanks for taking care of it.

best wishes,

John Sanford

This is a message for **Paul Abbene**.



[RE: MailCall 2190]

On page 6 on the left is **Richard H. Wheeler** of the 460th in his jacket and hat that he wore everywhere we went throughout the year.

The picture on pg. 7 is the front view of Richard with me, **Katherine D. Kramer Wheeler**.

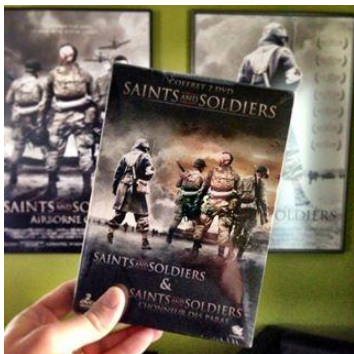
We were 63/83 at that time. It is a wonderful picture; he would have loved it! Richard died at age 87 in 2011. I gasped when I saw the

picture. I printed both and will be adding those pictures to the 5 Great Grandchildren's 3 ring binders that Richard had for them.



Thanks for sharing through Mail Call.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Katherine



Way to go France.

<https://www.facebook.com/airbornecreed>



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Bob I don't know what you have been eating lately but your Mail Calls have been getting better every week. I'll cover a few subjects regarding the last MC.

Claire not to worry about attendance for the Florida Mimi. I made my Hotel reservations some time ago. That last count I had from family members that plan to attend was 8 however they live all over the USA and they work so getting firm answers is difficult this far out. I will bring about \$160 worth of liquor that is left over from last year, plus I will probably pick up another \$100 or so worth of Beer and Wine so we will have a good time.

Bob you are correct those our pictures of **Lissner**. Know how to tell? He was the shortest officer in the 2nd Batt. but he stood tall in all other ways. He was a man's man! The last time I spent any time with him was at **Jim MacKinseys** funeral in Arlington. John did the Meditation and had all of us in tears. I don't have much of a memory but I believe he is the God Father of either Jim's daughter or Pat Seitz. When he retired he lived in Fort Walton Beach, FL. I didn't know it but that's only about 150 miles from my house. He passed on shortly after the funeral.

Lory the story about your Dad's first days in Toccoa could have been me. He was right on about what went down. I arrived about the same time as he did. The Guy that talked me into going into the Paratroops was right in front of me in the Mock up and he refused to jump. He was already out of the barracks when we returned that night and was sent to the Service Company. Next time I saw him he was filling up our Coal Bin (we had coal burning stoves). When we left Toccoa he was sent to a Tank outfit and a German dropped a Potato Masher (grenade) in his tank and he was killed. I enjoyed jumping from the tower which got me into a bit of trouble. I asked **Lt. Alicki** if I could jump again and I learned some new words before he was through with me.

Last subject is the reduction of troops letters that Lory furnished. To me this is very wrong and dangerous. I would like to say how I really feel about this subject but Bob has explained in a very nice way not to get political. That's all folks.

Darrell Egner

These photos were taken by a professional photographer at the recent Observance of Pearl Harbor Day at The Villages Veterans Memorial Park. There are four photos there, all with my mouth open....please note I was singing (mouthing the words) the Star Spangled Banner, just so you know I do shut my mouth on occasion!

phil mcspadden





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Leroy (Lee) Johnson

Hi, Bob -

Earl Tingle, Leroy's good friend, advises that he and Darrell will both be going to **Leroy Johnson's** funeral on Monday. He'll send you a summary.

I wish Jacksonville were closer.

Thanks –

Claire Giblin

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 5:42:00 PM

Subject: Lee's funeral arrangements...

Hi -

Today we locked in the funeral (interment) arrangements for Lee. it's Monday @ 12:30 at the National Cemetery in Jacksonville. Very fortunately, Darrell can attend also - representing the 517 - what a superb show of comradeship on his part. Darrell still has some aches, but he'll be there.

Lee's wife isn't able to travel, but her sister, Pauline will be representing Lee's family. Pauline has been the mainstay throughout Lee's decline. So, it's just the 3 of us and the honor guard. I'll take pictures and will sent to Bob for the following edition of Mail Call...

What a soldier... Lee proudly carried the 517 legacy for many years - without question, he's a part of the 517th history - not to be forgotten.

Earl Tingle



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Subject: info on Grandfather

I'm writing because i have been doing some research on my grandfather who died when i was a baby. and I have some evidence that is making me believe he may have served with the 517. One being the 17th airborne division badge and his wings pin. He has no unit badge i can find. He was a marksman with rifle and carbine. He also trained at Fort Benning TN.

Also because he has the original 517 brochure with autograph page and actual names written in it. One of whom i found actually on your contact list Richard Kalachalsky. I'm not sure the origin of the brochure there's no way he got it in the 80's. for he was extremely ill then. Although his discharge papers have him in the organization of the 681st glider. he has none of their badges or anything from his uniform which would affiliate him with them. so this part is basically confusing me.

His name was **Charles L. Farley**. if you have any info or suggestions for me to be able to identify which unit he actually served with it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks
Greg Farley

Hi Greg,

On a quick look through my records, I do not see your grandfather listed. But the records are very incomplete.

I can tell you that **Richard Kachalsky** was with the 517th PRCT, as part of B Battery of the 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion. He is not listed on the Christmas 1944 record as such, and neither is Farley. But they could have left earlier, joined after, or been reassigned at that time. The 460th did train at Camp MacKall and Fort Benning, and was part of the 17th airborne before joining the 517th. The 681st Glider was also a Field Artillery Battalion and part of the 17th.

I do have a little more info on Kachalsky. He did attend some reunions of the 517th, including Portland, OR in 2006. We (I) have not heard from Kachalsky in a few years. I have an old home address for him in Yonkers, NY.

Before we chase that, can you read any other names from the 517th book? I can't imagine that he would save the book or have it autographed if he didn't know the men. Let's see if we can confirm B Battery with a couple of other names. Compare the names against the Xmas 1944 roster: http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_battery_b.jpg

Please let me know if you come up with more names and we can search some more.

I will include your note in the next 517th MailCall newsletter, going out tomorrow, and see if anyone else might have some recollections or ideas.

Regards,
Bob Barrett



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Hi Bob!

Thanks for the quick response!

Yes there are two more names in the book they are **E.F. Hodge** and the other is Vernon R. Lowgill?

Thanks so much for all your help!

GF

We'll, it looks like we're getting close.

There is a **Vernon Cowgill** is listed on the December 1944 roster. Hodge is not. But both Hodge and Cowgill were definitely with B Battery. See photos

at http://www.517prct.org/photos/john_harte/john_harte_460_b_company1.htm

So I am thinking it's a good bet that your granddad was with them in B Battery at some time. That 517th booklet was written and distributed in Joigny France near the end of the war in March 1945.

PS: Is the last name Farley or Farely?

PPS: did he enlist from Rhode Island?

Bob Barrett

*Does anyone know **Charles L. Farley** of 460/B Battery? Did other members of the 460th join the 681st Glider Artillery? Would that be before or after the 460th?*

History of the 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion

March 1943: 377th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion (17th Airborne) became the 460th PFAB; Camp MacKall, Fort Bragg, Fort Benning

March 1944: Assigned to the 517th PRCT (17th Airborne), Camp MacKall

May 17 1944: Departed to Naples, Italy with the 517th. Multiple battle assignments with the 517th in Italy, France and Belgium.

February 17, 1944: 517th PIR and 460th PFAB assign to the 13th Airborne, Joigny, France

February 25, 1946: 460th deactivated, Fort Bragg, NC

681st Glider Field Artillery Battalion

681st Unit History: <http://www.scionsofthe17thairborne.org/concrete5/index.php/history/unit-history/681st-glider-field-artillery-batt/>



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Hello,

My name is Florent Plana, I'm a 22 years old French student and my major is history, I live in South East of France. I have a great interest in History and particularly in World War II. My great grand father who was a veteran of the First World War was a resistent in Normandy during the second World War. My grand-father was deported in Germany in a work camp. My grand-father never talked about the war to his children, he just wanted to forget this period and have a normal life. He began to talk about the work camps 10 year ago when my sister and I founded old papers, an identity card, and decorations that belonged to him and to my great grand-father. He is now 91 years old and I know how lucky I'm to have a grand-father who can explain to me what happened for him 70 years ago. In his village, approximately 30 young men were sent to German work camps. Today, only 2 are still alive ...

In 2005, I met for the first time a US Army veteran. My sister was an exchange student in Sycamore, Illinois and one of her neighbours was a Pearl Harbor veteran. I was so honoured to talk to a him, I was fascinated by his stories and I really enjoyed listening to him. In august 2009, I worked for a month in the First Division Museum located in Wheaton, Illinois and I had the chance to meet WWII veterans, 10 of them were veterans from the 745th Tank Battalion who landed on Omaha Beach on june 6 1944.

Sadly, only fews WWII veterans are still alive today and it will be more and more difficult to be able to speak to them, in particular for a French student who lives on the other side of the Atlantic.

I'm writing to you, in order to get in touch with WWII veterans who would like to speak about their stories.

I'm looking for @mail address or personal address to contact them.

In 2014-2015, I would like to come in USA in order to Interview 517Th PRC WWII veteran that I could met thanks to this message.

Thank you for your help.

Best Regards

Florent

You can write me on my @mail address ([florentplana@gmail.Com](mailto:florentplana@gmail.com)) on this address:

Famille Mathel-Tharin (Florent Plana)

244 Rue de l'Eglise

73490 La Ravoire

Or add me on Facebook :

Flo mémoires



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Pictures from **Paul Abbene**:



Babbie Boyle and Mardy McMorrow

Washington DC, 2007

Phil McSpadden and Bob Dalrymple

Salt Lake City, 2009



? and Robert Vaughan

Salt Lake City, 2009



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Looks like this might beat the old M1 Garand's from WWII...

Rick Sweet



Subject: New U.S. Army Rifle!!!

The MXT135 Counter Defilade Target Engagement System has a range of roughly 7,800 feet - and is to be deployed in Afghanistan soon. I would call it the "Equalizer." Some call it the "Punisher".

The rifle's gun sight uses a laser range finder to determine the exact distance to the obstruction, after which the soldier can add or subtract up to 10 meters from that distance to enable the bullets to clear the barrier and explode above or beside the target. Soldiers will be able to use them to target snipers hidden in trenches rather than calling in air strikes.

The 35-millimeter round contains a chip that receives a radio signal from the gun sight as to the precise distance to the target.

Lt. Col. Christopher Lehner, project manager for the system, described the weapon as a 'game-changer' that other nations will try and copy.

The Army plans to buy 42,500 of the MXT135 rifles this year, enough for every member of the infantry and special forces, at a cost of \$11,900.00 each.

Lehner told Fox News: "With this weapon system, we take away cover from [enemy targets] forever. Tactics are going to have to be rewritten. The only thing we can see [enemies] being able to do is run away."

Experts say the rifle means that enemy troops will no longer be safe if they take cover. The MXT135 appears to be the perfect weapon for street-to-street fighting that troops in Afghanistan have to engage in, with enemy fighters hiding behind walls and only breaking cover to fire occasionally.



The weapon's laser finder would work out how far away the enemy was and then the U.S. Soldier would add one meter using a button near the trigger.

When fired, the explosive round would carry exactly one meter past the wall and explode with the force of a hand grenade above the Taliban fighter.

The army's project manager for new weapons, Douglas Tamilio, said: "This is the first leap-ahead technology for troops that we've been able to develop and deploy."



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A patent granted to the bullet's maker, Alliant Tech systems, reveals that the chip can determine how far it has traveled. Mr. Tamilio said: "You could shoot a Javelin missile, and it would cost about \$69,000. These rounds will end up costing \$45.00 apiece."

They're relatively cheap. Lehner added: "This is a game-changer. The enemy has learned to get cover, for hundreds if not thousands of years. Well, they can't do that anymore. We're taking that cover from them and there's only two outcomes: We're going to get you behind that cover or force you to flee." The rifle will initially use high-explosive rounds, but its makers say that it might later use versions with smaller explosive charges that aim to stun rather than kill.



What one of the revolutionary bullets looks like that can be pre-programmed to explode to hit troops that are hiding.

[Update: The Senate Armed Services Committee eliminated all funding for the XM25 in its revision of the Pentagon's budget in June 2013.^[4]

Where was this when we needed it???

Phil McSpadden

Army to Field New Type of Parachute

The U.S. Army and other services will soon begin fielding the first new type of parachute in decades, the service said.

The product is known as the Military Free Fall Advanced Ram-Air Parachute System, or RA-1. In coming months, it will start to replace the two-decades-old MC-4 design as the service's primary tactical parachute.

The new rig is made by Airborne Systems, part of Solon, Ohio-based HDT Global, and commercially marketed as the Intruder. Consisting of a main parachute, reserve parachute, harness and container, it's designed to give troops more maneuverability.

"This parachute allows you to land everybody within a 25 to 30 meter circle, instead of having all your guys spread out wherever the wind carried them along the drop zone," Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Ford said in a recent [Army video](#).

Ford is the air detachment platoon sergeant at Fort Hood, Texas, for Company C, 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, III Corps.

His soldiers recently tested the parachute in static-line jumps from UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Previous evaluations involved paratroopers jumping from such aircraft as the C-127 and C-23.

The parachute is also designed to give troops more carrying capacity. The RA-1 can carry upwards of 450 pounds — 100 pounds more than its predecessor — and safely deploy from 3,500 feet to 25,000 feet, according to a recent [article](#) on the website of the base's newspaper, the Fort Hood Sentinel.

The Army has previously said it plans to begin fielding the product in April 2014. It wasn't immediately clear how much the new system costs and how many units the service plans to buy.





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John J. Lissner and the Mulligan Guards

The gentleman in the front seat of the picture of the jeep as well as the gentleman accompanying my father in Nice are both the very same **Col. Lissner**. There is a funny story that accompanies the picture of then Captain Lissner and my father in Nice, but I think I will leave it to my father's good discretion to tell it.

In addition to being an Outstanding Combat Officer, Col. Lissner was the Founder and Commander of the Mulligan Guard and Patron Saint of the Hidey Ho Club in Southern Pines, NC, which was probably rebuilt several times over with generous contributions from the 2nd Battalion members of the Mulligans Guard.

It was one of my great pleasures to have known Col. Lissner. He was a fine man whose service and positive influence on people's lives extended well beyond his military career.

-Wayne Cross



Lissner is in the middle

http://www.517prct.org/photos/lissner_renton.htm



Tom Cross and John Lissner

<http://www.517prct.org/photos/coleman.htm>

per **Tom Cross**, January 2004:

Richard:

You have the words to the "Mulligan Guards Song" nailed. It has been a long time since I have heard/read those words.

John Lissner, Co. F introduced that song to the 2nd Battalion 517th at Camp Toccoa in 1943. He then organized a 517th Chapter which held regular weekend meetings at the Hidey Ho (approximate spelling) Restaurant just outside of Camp Mackall on the road that led to the Town Of Toccoa. I believe that the County was dry at the time which made little impression on the owner at the time as long as arrangements were in place with the local Sheriff.



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John explained to us newly introduced numbers to this Society that the song originated in McSorley's Saloon in Brooklyn and was revered by all who attended this elite bastion of Irishness. John's approach was not very democratic as he very early on established his standing as the Number One "Himself" and personally selected those he considered to be privileged enough to join the 517th Chapter of the Mulligan Guards. It was a small membership as I recall and although I do not remember all of the members selected I do know that **Dick Seitz** was high on the Membership List as was **Carl Starkey Co. D.**, **Bob Newberry Co E.**, **Dave Armstrong Co. D.**, **Bob Clauer 2nd Bn Hq. Co.**, and a few others were also include. I made the cut as did my wife Bette who. I believe was the only female permitted membership. She still has her Mulligan Guard Membership Card to this date. (see above)

The normal pattern for the Hidey Ho Mulligan Guards Meetings always included a ritual marching up and down the long table used for these meetings by "Himself" who lustily bellowed the Mulligan Guard Song, you so ably recalled, and without pausing or losing his marching cadence managed to poke several holes in the ceiling. This made the evenings a rather costly affair. Needless to say this restaurant was rebuilt many times over by not only the 2nd Battalion but by the 1st and 3rd Battalions as well, Sometimes the final event was a rather poorly executed version of close combat activities that took place in the parking lot with little or no damaged being done to the contestants due to their relaxed condition at the time. The restaurant may have been named the Hidey Hole but my memory conjures up the name of Hidey Ho. However, this could be settled by one of the most active of the participants who no doubt remembers most of the events that took place there and a few he might like to forget. I refer to none other than our glorious leader, the C.O. of the 2nd Bn. who had, at various times the SCR 300 Radio call sign of "**Dangerous Dick**".

Richard, I want to thank you for helping me to revive some wonderful memories of the past. I only wish that **John Lissner** were present to tell his version of the Mulligan Guards History and the numerous spell binding and harrowing close calls with the US Army Manual For Military Justice that tested this valiant social group.

Regards, **Tom Cross** (A proud member of the original Co. E 517 PIR)

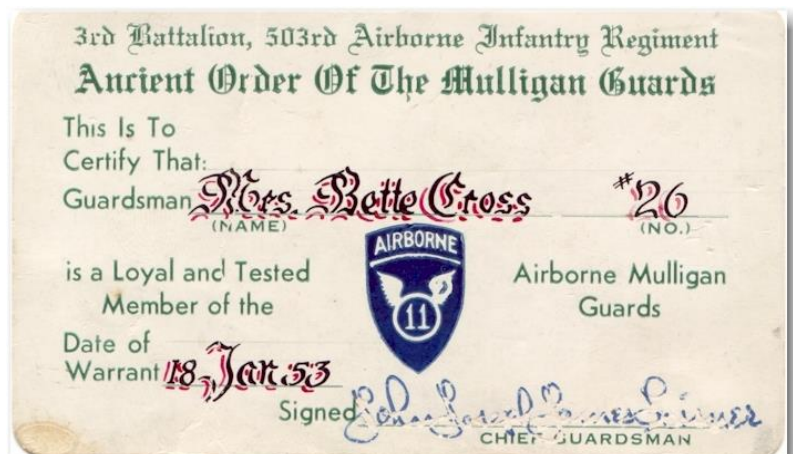
continuing...

Ben,

I finally found Bette's Mulligan Guard Card after turning my office upside down as a result of Bob's Message.

I am mailing the card to you tomorrow. You can return it to me at the Florida Mini Reunion. It would be difficult to send it by e-mail as you will note when you read it. I will however try to describe the card as best I can. Here goes:

The Mulligan Guard Membership Cards were





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not issued to the membership until 1953.

Bette's card was signed by **John Joseph James Lissner** as Chief Guardsman on January 18, 1953. Her Card is Numbered Number 26. The top of the Card indicates John's assignment at the time the card was issued was with the 3rd Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment. I believe it was commanded at that time by our own then Colonel Lou Walsh. The card reads: " This Is To Certify That Guardsman Mrs. **Bette Cross** #26 is a Loyal and Tested Member of the Airborne Mulligan Guards. Date of Warrant: 18 Jan 53. Signed **John Joseph James Lissner**."

The following comment was written on the reverse side of the Membership Card: "Includes spouse if an original Guards Man." It was initialed JJJL. The reason for this comment was twofold. First, I had lost my card and he wanted to make it clear that I was beholding to Bette for membership perks. Secondly, the Chief Guardsman had ordained that Members who did not have a card in their possession at the time of a social engagement could be challenged and if they did not have their card or some special dispensation such as being officially authorized, as in Bette's case, to have an endorsement initialed by John then that Guardsman had to stand payment for all drinks consumed by fellow Guardsmen then present. It was his way of making certain I was fined if Bette was not present.

Includes
spouse if
an original
Guards Man
JJJL

This cost me a lot of jump pay because wives were not encouraged to visit their husbands during the work week while we were at Camp Toccoa. **Lou Walsh** did permit the married officers, which were few in number, to go home to their wives in the Town of Toccoa on Saturday night and Sunday nights but come Monday, AM had to be present for the early morning run. I guess this does it for now.

Regards, **Tom Cross**

Tom Cross

I did not proof read the message that I sent a few minutes ago.

The error pertains to the date of issue of Bette's card which is 1953. That date is correct. The problem is that I give the reader the impression that the card was in use at Toccoa which it was not. The card challenging did not come until 1953 at our Reunions and other social gatherings. So as far as I know we did not have official cards until the 1953 date. My comments about the married officers at Camp Toccoa being allowed to go home on Saturday and Sunday still holds although Saturday at Camp Toccoa was a work day for the most part.

Tom



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I have done it again. Here is Correction # 2A. Had to get out of the sack for this one. Was almost asleep when I realized that Lou Walsh was not commanding the 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment at the time period I stated in my message. In fact he was on his way to becoming an Army Aviator and a Major General. If you are going to place this in a e-mail message for Mail Call would appreciate your doing some editing of my original message on this subject.

Have finally traced all of these errors to a problem with the operating nut directly in rear of the key board. This is a new computer and was OK until the operating nut behind the keyboard began a series of malfunctions.

Hope you understand my problem. Now back to the sack.

Tom

Dot Lubic:

In a message dated 1/9/2004 9:09:09 AM Central Standard Time, Tomx517 writes:

"I believe it was commanded at that time by our own then **Colonel Lou Walsh.**"

FYI. Andrew said he thought the commander at that time was **Col. Charlie Davis**, a Medal of Honor winner.

Charlie Davis is correct. I now recall **John Lissner** telling stories concerning Charlie. I believe that he held the CMH but can not substantiate. *

Tom

More MailCall News

A very special 🎄 **Christmas** greeting 🎄 to you.

Phil McSpadden

The United States Air Force Band performed a flash mob at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum on Dec. 3, 2013.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByfpiTILISk>





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From: Relive History 44-45 [mailto:ronald@relivehistory44-45.com]
Subject: Mark Chernek (Big Yank songs)

Hello Gents,

Attached two very beautiful songs composed and played by a very good friend of mine. The songs are written as a tribute to those who fought for our freedom and those who unfortunately paid the ultimate price during WWII.

May God bless our veterans, the greatest generation!

Best regards

Ronald

Note: Don't copy or use the songs for commercial goals without contacting Mark first.

From: Mark Chernek markchernek@hotmail.com

[High Price for Freedom Mark Chernek-128Kbps.mp3](#)

[We Will Never Forget live at Margraten US Cemetery Mark Chernek-128Kbps.mp3](#)



***Ronald Stassen** is one of our good friends from the Netherlands. – BB*

Note: In the live version at Margraten Cemetery above, is a bit hard to hear the words. I found YouTube videos of Mark singing the songs that might be a little better to understand (and quicker to load):

[The Big Yank sings We will Never Forget](#)

[The High Price of Freedom - Mark Chernek live](#)



From: First Airborne Task Force ; The Forgotten Paratroopers

1st Sgt. Thomas Finley - HQ Battery 460th PFAB

He was killed on active duty in 1954 and ended his career with the rank of Captain.



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I found these clippings in an old 596th Wings Newsletter from July 1982. Does anyone know where they came from? - BB

* * *

IN TIENT on taking an American para-trooper, a German shoved a burp-gun into the shoulder blades of Pfc Carl E. Votti, of the 517th Parachute Combat Team. The Yank whirled on him, knocked his weapon to the ground, took him prisoner. Still smouldering from this defeat, Jerry continued to look for a chance to even things up. Later when Capt.



William H. Young, Provost Marshal, turned his back on him, Jerry leaped to his feet and showered the captain with hay-makers.

Young handed his pistol to one of the guards and bounced the Nazi off the four walls. Seems that Young used to climb through the ropes under the ring name of Billy Ryan on the West Coast—that's how he made his living.

* * *

THREE MEN of Co. I, 517th Parachute Combat Team, were attacked by a German burp-gunner in Grand-Halleaux. One was wounded and the other two darted into a nearby basement. They started back to pick up their wounded



comrade and on the way out they could hear him shouting, "Surrender, dammit, surrender!" They emerged just in time to see the bewildered Jerry hand the wounded man his weapon and burst into tears!

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: GARY HEATH From: Brooklyn Park, MN55444 E-mail: gheath58@hotmail.com	My father-in-law, Richard E. Anderson , passed away today (12-10-13). He was in Battery D, 460TH FAB. Added: December 10, 2013
Name: Jim Miller From: Citrus Heights Ca, E-mail: coachmiller2028@yahoo.com	Mr. Heath I'm sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Anderson, please pass on my condolences to his Family. My name is Jim Miller, I'm the grandson of Byron Carroll who was also in D-Battery. Added: December 12, 2013



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From: <https://www.facebook.com/robert.barbiera.1/posts/182886555238699>

SOSPEL - Location: Valley of the bévéra River - G.P.S.: N 43° 52.628'-E 7° 26.847'-Nissa countea: SOUSPER - community: Communauté d' agglomération of the French Riviera - Altitude: 350 meters - Distance from the Place Masséna in Nice: 42 km - journey: A8, D2204 (l' Escarène Paillon Valley) or A8, D2566 (Castillon) - main events: the Baroquiales, Festival of scarecrows, market Thursday.

-Inhabitants: 4000, (the Sospellois) - Town Hall: 1 place Saint Pierre, 06380 Sospel - Tel: (+ 33) 04 93 04 33 00 - museums: Museum of the Alpine fortifications, fort Saint Roch - Tourist Office: 19 Avenue Jean Medecin 06380 SOSPEL - Tel: (+ 33) 04 93 04 15 80 average SOSPEL Au age, Sospel, under the tutelage of the counts of Ventimiglia, seeking the protection of the count of Provence.

In 1258, the transfer of Sospel to Provence is effective. Capital of viguerie, Sospel, step of the Royal Road of the salt, then takes the importance.

In 1378, when the great Western schism, Sospel became a bishopric.

In 1388, Sospel, as the County of Nice, made note of publishing at the Savoy. The allegiance of the counties of Tende to the count of Savoy, allows the free movement of goods between Nice and Turin, which helps the prosperity of Sospel.

From 1614 to 1796, Sospel is the seat of one of the four prefectures of the Senate of Nice.

In 1794, Sospel becomes a single commune of the Alpes-Maritimes and will never find prosperity of the past.

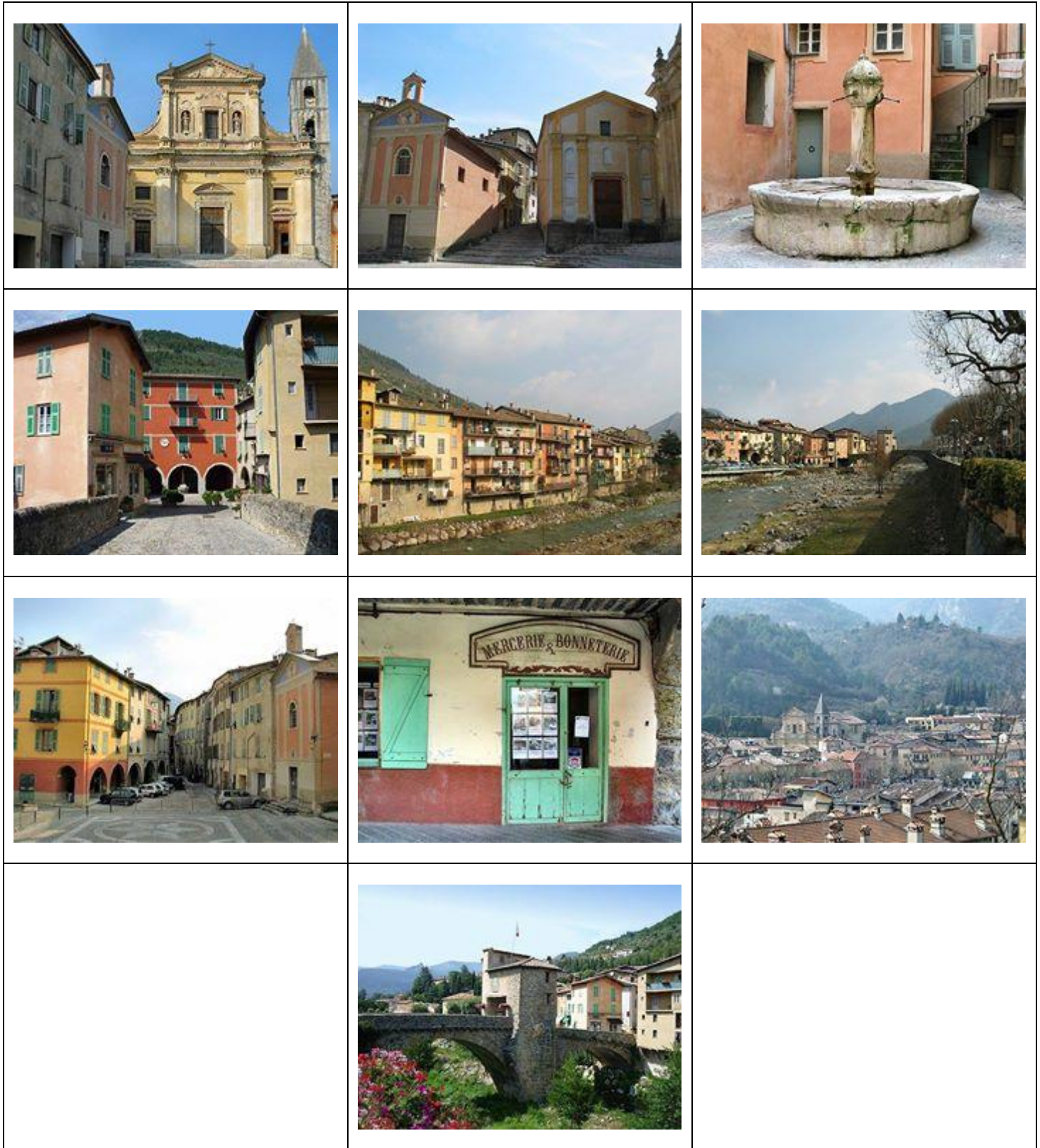
In 1928, the opening of the railway line Nice-Cuneo is promotes tourism.

(Translated by Bing)





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Sospel. I've been there! -- BB



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Army Christmas Operations Order 00-5689

Army Christmas Operations Order 00-5689:
Subject: Christmas

1. An official visit by MG Santa (NMI) Claus is expected at this headquarters 25 December 2013. The following instructions will be in effect and govern the activities of all personnel during the visit.
 - a. Not a creature will stir without official permission. This will include indigenous mice. Special stirring permits for necessary administrative actions will be obtained through the C1. Mice stirring permits will be processed through the C2 for proper clearances and obtained through Veterinary Services, ARCENT-KU.
 - b. Personnel will settle their brains for a long winter nap prior to 2200 hours, 24 December 2013. See MAJ Dickenson for pre-napping medical requirements. See MAJ Adams for napping demonstration. Uniform for the nap will be: Pajamas, cotton, light, drowsing, with kerchief, general purpose, camouflage; and Cap, camouflage w/ear flaps. Equipment should have been drawn from homestation CIF prior to deployment.
 - c. Personnel will utilize standard Sharq Market sugar plums for visions to dance through their heads. Artificially sweetened plums are authorized for those in the unit weight control program. Specifications for this item will be provided by the servicing dining facility.
 - d. Stockings, wool, cushion sole, will be hung by the chimney with care. Necessary safety precautions will be taken to avoid fire hazards caused by carelessly hung stockings. ARCENT-KU safety officer will submit stocking hanging plans to this headquarters prior to 0800 hours, 24 December 2013, ATTN: MAJ Salada, for approval.
 - e. At the first sign of clatter from the lawn, all troops will spring from their beds to evaluate noise and cause. Immediate action will be taken to tear open the shutters and throw open the window sashes. PMO Plan (Saint Nick), Reference LO No. 3, paragraph 6c, this headquarters, 2 February 2013, will be in effect to facilitate shutter tearing and sash throwing. Section OICs will familiarize all personnel with procedures and are responsible for ensuring that no shutters are torn open nor window sashes thrown open prior to start of official clatter. See CPT Donley for hardcopy.
 - f. Prior to 2400, 24 December 2013, all personnel will be assigned "Wondering Eye" stations. After shutters are thrown open and sashes are torn, these stations will be manned.



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g. SSG Bekono will assign one each Sleigh, miniature, M-66, and eight (8) deer, rein, tiny, for use of MG Claus' driver who, in accordance with current directives and other applicable regulations, must have a valid SF56 properly annotated by Driver Testing; be authorized rooftop parking and be able to shout "On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer and Vixen, up Comet, up Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen".

2. MG Claus will enter quarters through standard chimneys. All units without chimneys will draw Chimney Simulator, M-6, for use during ceremonies. Chimney simulator units will be requested through SPC Oswalt on Job Order Request Form submitted to the Furniture Warehouse prior to 19 December 2013, and issued on DA Form 3161, Request for Issue or Turn-in.

3. Personnel will be rehearsed on shouting "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night." See LTC Pride for demonstration. This shout will be given on termination of General Claus' visit. Uniformity of shouting is the responsibility of section NCOICs.

/s/
CHRISTOPHER K. RINGLE
Colonel, USA
OIC, Special Services

Distribution:
Everybody Who Still Believes

Administrivia

- 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.
- At any time, if you want to be added or removed from the MailCall list, just let me know.
- If you miss any MailCalls, they are all available online at <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/>
- 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