



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2193

December 24, 2013

*517th Parachute Infantry Regiment
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

Website
Send Mail Call news to
Mail Call Archives
2013 Roster (updated!)
Thunderbolt (Spring 2013)

www.517prct.org
MailCall@517prct.org
www.517prct.org/archives
www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
www.517prct.org/archives

More Christmas Greetings!

Begin a new chapter by burying the unpleasant memories of the past and making way for better ones to come in the future.

Merry Christmas to all our friends.

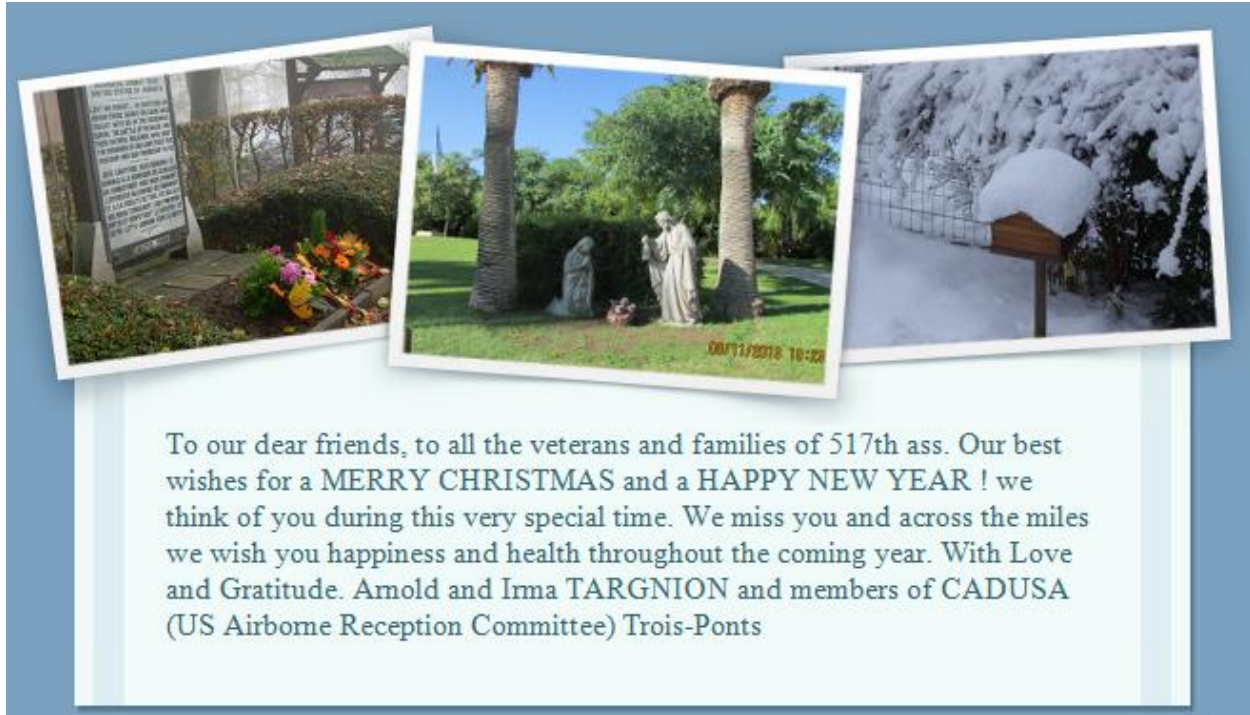
Patou and Roland



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ud5Yulqfgo>

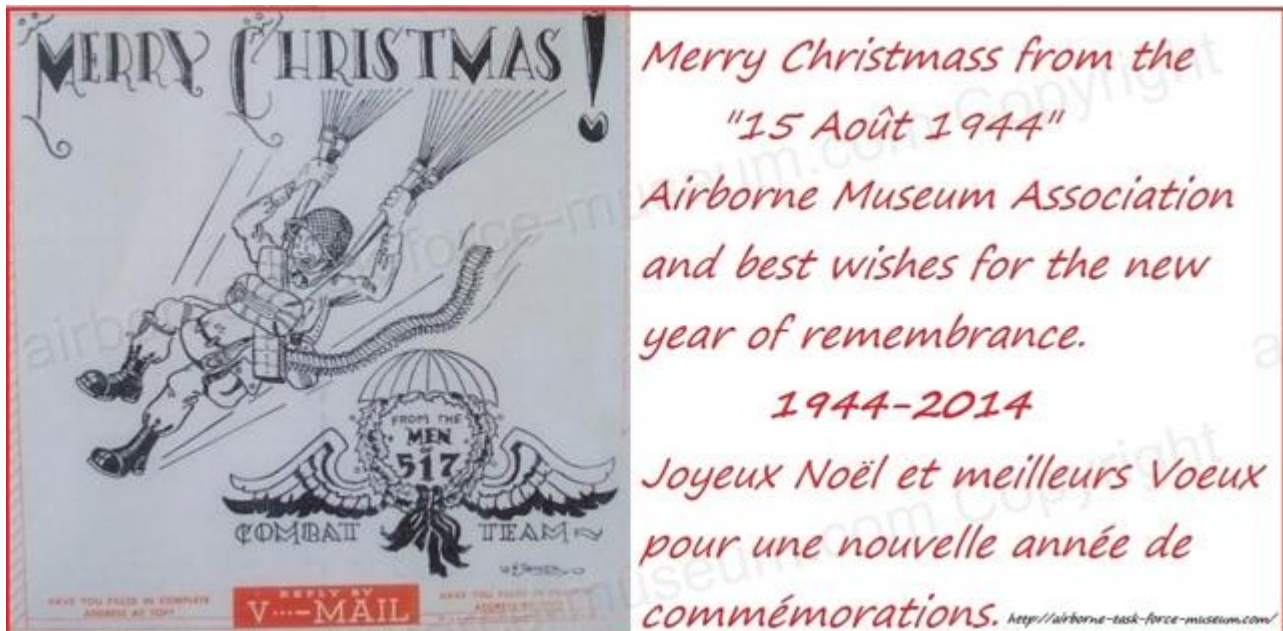


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All the very best from Southern France and thankyou once again to keep the memory of the 517th alive.

JM. Eric, Adrien and all your friends of the drop Zone area.



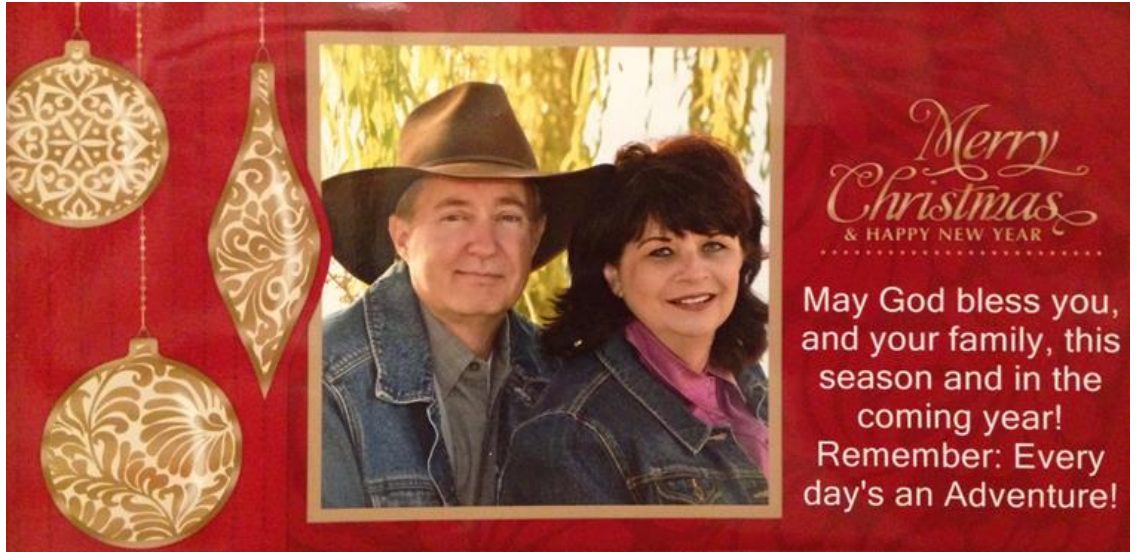


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Maybe "we" should do a "Christmas Roster" every year! (JK!) Thanks for all you do for the 517th!

Just had to send a card, but decided to do the "electronic" thing this year! Hope all is well with you and yours and that the season is a joyful one for you.

Mike and Rhonda Wells



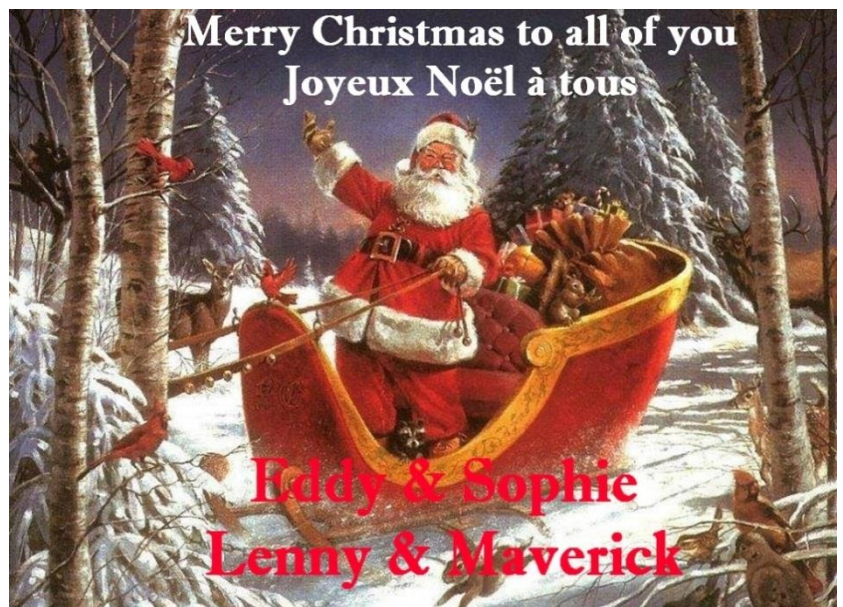
Dear Howard,

even to you my kindest regards and merry christmas to you and your family. there surely is a reason being still here on this earth, old friend ;-). Could you imagine, we were able to find us about 20 years ago? i do not think so.

i still believe it is a miracle and made possible from a higher instance.
i wish you a peaceful new year, god bless you and your family.

your friend **Georg Rieck**

Eddy Lamberty
Avenue Joseph Lejeune 45
B-4980 Trois-Pontsa





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This Week in 517th History

this is the picture of **Sgt. Stanley S. Brown**, who was killed in action in Manhay on the eve of Christmas. The same day, 4 other paratroopers were killed.

Stanley Brown was part of the 517th Pathfinder Team during the Operation Dragoon.

Merry Christmas to all friends, family and members of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

ATTACK !

Loïc



Other MailCall News

Dear Friends of the 517th Paratroopers,

I wish to all of you and family all my best wishes for this Hollydays' Season. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full joy and good health.

Just a few note to say Hello. This year was very special for me because I bought a WWII vehicle. A Dodge WC52 from 1943 and with my son Raphaël 11 years old, we participated, when we can, at severals ceremonies, meeting of reenactment groups but with some friends, we created a no profit organisation called :

Ardennes White Star US Army :

<http://www.ardenneswhitestar.be/index.html> Our objectif is perpetuated the souvenir and the most important for us are the childrens ! This is the reason why we go with our vehicles in the schools and talk with the students in the hope that they will never forget !

With the Best Wishes from MANHAY – Belgium,

Eddy & Raphaël Monfort

PS : Next year in December 2014, we will have the big manifestations across all the Ardennes... In Manhay too with exposition etc... You are the welcome !





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Merry Christmas and a happy new year to friends and family of the 517 P.R.C.T. I think I have finally healed from my motorcycle accident of July 13th 2013....Too many 13's in that date. I'm looking forward to 2014. I also had a heart attack in June so this has been a bad year for me! I broke seven ribs, my left clavicle, and fractured two vertebra in my neck and two in my mid back. The trauma hospital in Knoxville put me in a brace that I wore for five weeks and took it off and never put it back on. I was supposed to wear it for 8-12 weeks but figured I had had enough of that! My neck works just fine now and I'm back to normal....well, my normal anyway so I'm glad I took it off! I hope that we can get together sometime in 2014. To the soldiers of WWII, Thank you so much for your sacrifices and endurance of that cold winter of 1944. My dad **Odas Sweet**, told mom about one morning when he woke up covered by snow and when he stuck his head up he saw no one. He thought that he had been left behind during the night and fear overtook him. But then one by one other heads began popping up through the snow. I can imagine what a relief he felt. Thank you for your service. I am proud to be the Son of a Buzzard!

Rick Sweet

Hi Bob

Did you hear any news about those six possible graves?

As an attachment I am sending you part of the photo of G Co. I circled one guy that stands out particularly in the photo, and who seems to be doing so purposefully... I wonder who he was... Seems like he may have had an attitude!

Regards

Jean-Loup Gassend





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As I was reading the events of the 1st Battalion's actions on D-Day, I noticed it was written that **Pvt Lynch** was severely burned. My Dad was in HQ, 1st BN, and I remember him telling me stories about that first day of the jump and about a trooper that went over and set a German fuel dump on fire to destroy it. Dad said this man was severely burned when he lit the fuel dump on fire. Dad said this man was severely burned, but there was no field hospital to take him to, and Dad said this man was required to march and move with the rest of the battalion as they moved to different objectives. My Dad said this trooper was in great pain and he would cry out many times as they marched because of the pain from his burns. Dad said after a few days they were able to get the trooper to a medical treatment facility, but Dad never knew what happened to him. He thought he had died from his burns. Could this man be **Pvt Lynch**? Does anyone know if he survived?

It would be nice to know the rest of the story if anyone knows.

Lory Curtis, son of **Bud Curtis**, HQ, 1st BN

517th PRCT, HQ Co., 1st Bat., just off the boat in Italy, 1944. Notice the shaved heads.

Standing left to right, Ed Henzl, George Marshall (deceased), Bill Clifford; kneeling in front, **Chopper Lynch**,

Pvt. Ed Henzl, **Tec/5 Clifford Williams** (?), and **PFC George Marshall** are all listed on the 1944 C Christmas roster, but **Pvt. Lynch** is not.

PFC Charles E. Lynch is listed as WIA on August 15, 1944. I do not see any record of him returning to duty. The following excerpt is from *Battling Buzzards*:

[John] Forrest recalls, "We came under small-arms fire from a barracks area where there was a small artillery piece and some gasoline drums stored. After the Germans were driven off, a thermite grenade placed on the breechblock of the artillery piece welded it useless. Somehow, the gasoline drums exploded and a fireball engulfed Pvt. C. E. Lynch. The flames were extinguished but he was badly burned. In those days it was believed oil was a proper unguent for burns. Ehly's action was great. He had us give him the oilers from our rifle butts and he spread the oil over Lynch's exposed body.

"Since there was no way to evacuate Lynch, he marched with us, eyes swollen shut, his fingers the size of frankfurters. When we reached the hill we defended, he lay there without ever complaining or groaning. He even sang, "I've got you under my skin, ya little maggot you."

This is just a shot in the dark, but I found this obituary. -- BB

LYNCH Charles E. Lynch, age 82, of Stratford, died on Thursday, October 20, 2005, at the Connecticut Hospice, Branford. Mr. Lynch was born in Bridgeport, on January 16, 1923 and was the son of the late Charles and Florence Lynch. He was predeceased by his wife, Blanche G. (Campbell) Lynch. He proudly served his country during World War II as a paratrooper with the Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. During his service he was awarded the Purple Heart.





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Sospel Then and Now

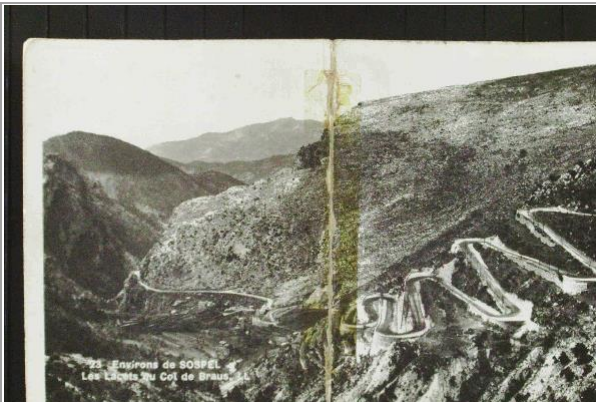
**Mike and Julie Black in Sospel, France, August 2013
with Patricia and Roland Orengo
with 1944 photos from Lt. Ed Athey, H Company**



Mike Black, Julie Black,
Roland and Patricia Orengo



Roland's WW2 Museum & the parka



Bowling Alley Road, Col De Braus, then



Bowling Alley Road, Col De Braus, now



Athey, Harmon, Friebe
Golf Hotel



damaged Golf Hotel

For all of Julie's pictures, see:

http://517prct.org/photos/2013_julie_black_in_sospel/ed_athey_sospel_photos.htm



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I found some time yesterday and managed to load all your Sospel pictures onto the 517th website Photos page. See: <http://517prct.org/photos/photos.htm>. I did resize most of them to one size to fit better on the page. Please let me know if you want any changes on the page. And I will include some of the photos in next week's MailCall.

I visited Sospel in 2009 with my Dad (shortly before he died), so I visited each and every one of those places with Roland and Patricia. They are such wonderful hosts and friends!

My Dad, who was in H Company with your father, always told this story about the Golf Hotel: "I was with the 3rd Bn when it had its headquarters in the Golf Hotel which was a target for German artillery. Howard Hensleigh recalls plaster falling on the officers on the first floor. Our platoon was on the third floor, where the plaster was coming from."

Thanks,

Bob Barrett

The Golf Hotel was our first stop with Roland in the jeep our first afternoon there. With the old photos in hand, the experience was kind of surreal, especially looking across the valley at the German-held ridge. A resident of the hotel showed us a GI mess kit knife, one of the many things found in the yard. He obviously considered it a prized possession.

Do you have a guess about what kind(s) of things might happen in southern France next summer for the 70th anniversary?

Merry Christmas to you, too.

Julie Black

Hi Julie,

I know there is talk about getting to southern France next August for the 70th annual ceremonies for Operation Dragoon. The Le Muy and Nice events generally start just before August 14th and continue for several days. **Allan Johnson, with Claire, and Leo Dean** make that trip every year, and I expect that there will be many other people in 2014. Although most of the troopers are now finding it hard to travel and cannot plan too far in advance, I expect that a number of the 517th families and friends will also go. I will be trying to go myself, since this just could be the last big trip for these troopers, and the 70th anniversary is bound to be a big one for that reason. There will be plenty of celebrations, US and British and French troopers, and plenty of friends including **J. Michael and Eric and Adrien** of the museum, **Ronald and Patricia, Frederick Brega, Nicholas Arnulf, Gilles G.**, and many more.

I don't have a schedule yet, but I know there will be a big push starting in the spring to get us all there.

I'm sure there will also be events in Belgium in 2014 for the Battle of the Bulge anniversary.

Bob Barrett



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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
- 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

Only 3 weeks until Kissimmee!

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