



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2197

January 19, 2014

*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)

## *This Week in 517<sup>th</sup> History - 1945*

CAMOUFLAGING BIG GUNS, NEAR GRAND HALLEUX, BELGIUM ; SHELL BURSTS: GERMAN "K" BRIDGE, NEAR LAVAUX (?), BELGIUM ; **517TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, LOGBIERNE (?), BELGIUM, 01/16/1945** ARC Identifier 16928 / Local Identifier 111-ADC-3125

Item from Record Group 111: Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, 1860 -1985- Copied by Thomas Gideon



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= SXJRF1czxs> (517 PIR starts at minute 6:30)

If anyone recognizes the places or people in the video, please let us know.



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From morning reports, as described by **Nolan Powell, C Company**:

1/14 - 1/20/45 -Logbierme, Belgium. Left Stavelot early on the 14th attacked toward Logbierme, Belgium less than 10 km distance. In a two day battle in Logbierme, "C" Co had 5 paratroopers killed, William S. Spears one of the replacements that joined the outfit with your Uncle (Stephen R. Stepek), two other earlier replacements, and two others who had been with us since the outfits activation in Toccoa, Georgia in March of 1943. Seven paratroopers were wounded, including myself. I was in five Army hospitals from Jan 15 1945 to January 1946. Since I never returned to the outfit, the remainder of the events are from "C Co. Morning Reports. I assume your Uncle was with the 517th from January 8 to March 31, 1945, and maybe he was still with the 517th when the outfit returned to the U.S. in August of 1945.

## MailCall News

Hello. I am john van der steen and i have adopted the grave of **henry a woehrer** 517th h company serial number 36827313 at henri chapelle in belgium.

you have a great site bud i can not find anything of henry a woehrer if you have information please share it with me

with friendly regards  
**john van der steen**  
[nagelhuys@home.nl](mailto:nagelhuys@home.nl)

lest we forget

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BB: This only info I can find on **Henry Woehrer** (other than being listed in our KIA Honor Roll) is the following Guestbook entry from 2004. Does anyone have any more info?

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Entry of Aug 21, 2004 at 15:13 [EST]

**Name:** Charles

**Email:** [bronson451457@yahoo.com](mailto:bronson451457@yahoo.com)

**How I found the 517th page:** From a search engine

**Comments:** Thank you all for protecting our freedom. I have a relative **Henry Woehrer** who was in H company and died in the Battle of the Bulge. If the site operators are interested I can scan some photos of him at boot camp and send them to you. If anyone remembers him on this site, I would love to hear any stories you may have.

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And we have the following records from the H Company morning reports from Jan 12-14, 1945:

KIA	Killed in Action:	4	KIA:
MIA	Missing in Action:	2	<b>Pvt Henry A. Woehrer</b>
LWA	Lightly Wounded in Action	13	<b>Pvt Raul R. Dominquez</b>
NBC	Non-Battle Casualty	10	<b>PFC Mertz W. Lampella</b>
			<b>Pvt Jack L Hitchcock</b>



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### *Taps – Jesse K. Davis, B Company*

[January 14, 2014] My father, **Jesse K Davis, B Company**, passed away peacefully. He was 96. He was surrounded by his family who loved him dearly.

Kathy McIntosh



**Jesse K. Davis,**  
B Company

Jesse in Le Muy,  
2004



**Leo Dean, Gene Frice, Allan Johnson, Jesse Davis, and Merle McMorrow**  
at the community dinner the last night in Le Muy.. (2004)



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### *Taps – Robert Russell Reeves, H Company*



*In Memory of*

## Robert Russell Reeves

March 12, 1924 - November 30, 2012

**Robert Russell Reeves**, 88, passed away November 30, 2012 in his residence. He served in World War II in the Army as a Paratrooper, CO H 517th PCHT Inf. and was the recipient of a Purple Heart during his service. He belonged to Magnolia Lodge #238 in Ragley, LA and served as Past Master and Treasurer. He was a 32nd degree Mason. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Gillis his entire life. He was a farmer in Gillis over 51 years and worked as an Ironworker during his younger years. He was a member of the Bridge, Structural, Ornamented and Reinforcing Iron Workers Local Union #623. He is survived by his wife, Berna Dean Mathis.

### *More MailCall News*

In talking about **bob steele**. I remember as one of the officers gave us a lecture about something & bob contradicting him & proceeding to say how it is. He did this twice. Officer got chapped & dismissed the class. I often wonder where bob is. i never seen him at any of the reunions.

#### **Mel Trenary**

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Bob: great Mail Call. Thank you and Lory for collecting the memories.

#### **Pat Seitz**

PS Was the speaker last night at the 82nd Airborne Div. So. Fla. Chapter's officer installation, was asked to speak about Dad; included two 517th stories -- his and Mama's wedding with the 517th in attendance in France, and Dad's answer the question of what was his worse day-- his immediate answer was January 3, 1945 and the battle at Monte Fos where he lost 21 of his men; he thought of that day every day since wondering what he could have done differently. The question and answer was after a speech a few years ago out at Southern Command, where Dad was asked to inaugurate the new auditorium at the conference center. His answer made me flash back to the day Alan and I walked that battlefield with him in 2005 -- he walked off by himself and spent some time just staring (his back to us) at the area that looked like a billiard table on the incline. When he rejoined Alan and me and the Belgians who were our guides, he didn't say anything but his face had a tortured expression that I had never seen before. In hearing him speak to that room of 400 combat veterans, for the first time I had a tiny glimmer of understanding of what the men in the 517th went through. Freedom is not free. How blessed we are to be related to such outstanding individuals as the men of the 517th.

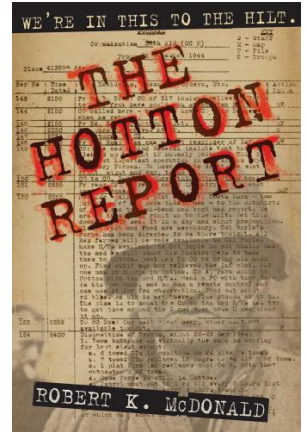




## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Dear friends of the 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team,

Having read Mailcall 2196, I would like to add a few comments to the article about the Soy-Hotton battle. For over seven years now I have been researching the events of the Battle of the Bulge in this particular region. Within this great passion, I had the honor of assisting Bob McDonald with the revision of his book, "**The Hotton Report**". I would highly recommend this book, as it is the most accurate résumé of these particular days. Today I am writing my own book about the Dec 44 and Jan 45 events, also covering the 517th PRCT, in this Ardennes region (Hotton-Erezee-Samree-LaRoche).



The actions of the first battalion in this region are unmistakably of a big importance on pushing back the German advance of the 116. Panzer-Division along with the 560. Volksgrenadier-Division. To achieve a most comprehensive image, I would like to put out a **request for information** to all members of the 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team. Even the smallest detail in your remembrances, letters, reports, diaries... might be of vital importance to my research. Please feel free to contact me at [dieter.laes@gmail.com](mailto:dieter.laes@gmail.com)

*My comments to the **Bill Boyle – Bud Curtis** letter:*

"This is to Lory Curtis, I Bill Boyle remember, but would change a few details. It was troops from a regiment of the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Not the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. There Germans had not taken back Soy and Hotton, but **[parts of]** two battalion of this regiment (517th) **[290<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment]** were unable to take the hill, Laremolier **[La Roumière]**. Colonel Howze of 3rd Armored Division ordered me to take the hill. At the time C Company was off on another mission. B Company was on a line from just south of Hotton to just south of Quatre Bras. I gave A Company the job of going down a streambed to attack the hill from the flank **[25 Dec 1944, took off from Soy around 1430]**. One platoon of C Company that was not on that C Company mission was in reserve. A Company swept the hill although having been fired on by one battalion of the 75th Infantry Division troops **[part of F company 290<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg.]**. Just before dark I was ordered to take command of all our troops in the area and organize for a defense. I gave A Company an area to defend and then placed elements of about seven companies in position. As daylight came I heard an observer incorrectly directing fire and tried to correct it. It came in directly on part of A Company. It turned out to be from the cannon company of the regiment of the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Yes, I raised hell about that as well as with the only battalion commander of that unit that I could locate. Our versions vary somewhat, but after all it is almost 60 years ago, and we saw it from different viewpoints."

Thank you for your service, interest and devotion,

Sincerely yours,

**Dieter Laes** from Belgium



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

Hi Bob... again, the Mail Call is a fantastic recap of the men and times of the 517<sup>th</sup>.. thanks for putting it together and including me in the mailing.

The Army has decided to no longer support retirees with the server as of 31 Jan, so we're having to move over to other email providers... my new address is [82jumpmaster@gmail.com](mailto:82jumpmaster@gmail.com) Thanks again for including me Bob, and I look forward to seeing the 517family next weekend.

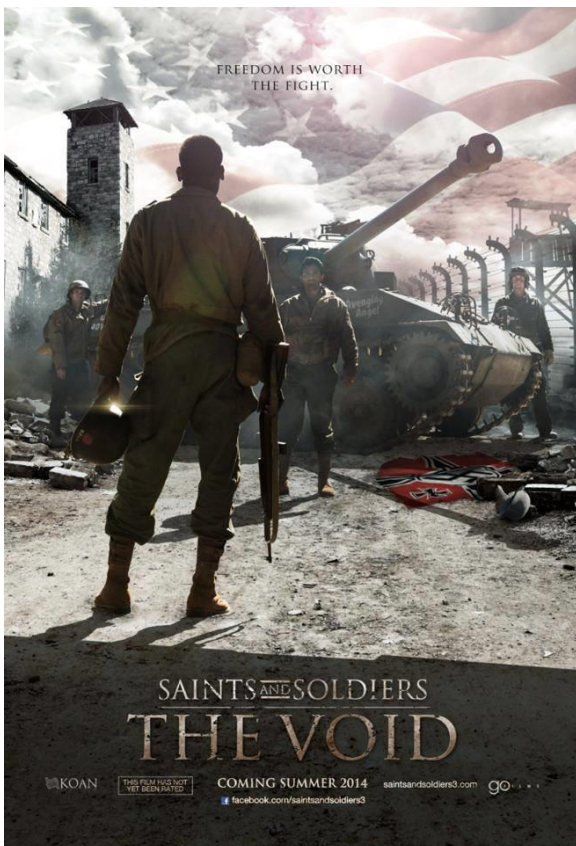
*Earl Tingle*

The 2014 Florida mini-reunion of the 517/596/460 troopers is happening now!

I'm expecting the attendees to send reports and pictures.

Florida mini-reunion  
January 18-20, 2014  
Kissimmee, FL

Does anyone have info on the West Coats reunion in April?



[Saints And Soldiers: Airborne Creed](#) shared [Saints and Soldiers: The Void](#)'s photo:

[Saints and Soldiers: The Void](#) has a poster now.

Here is the movie trailer: <https://chill.com/saintsandsoldiers3>

April 1945. On a fateful mission through the Harz Mountains of Germany, a M18 Hellcat crew is ambushed by three German Panzers.



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



From the History Channel:

[World War II from Space](#)

### *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