



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2203

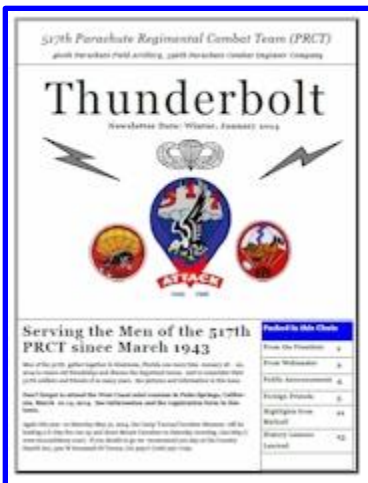
March 2, 2014

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

Website
Send MailCall news to
MailCall Archives
2013 Roster (updated!)
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

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

The Thunderbolt is Out



The Winter 2014 edition of the **Thunderbolt** has been published, and is in the mail. But MailCall readers do not have to wait to read it – It is available online now.

Click [here](#) to download and read it.

FYI, there are 300+ people who receive MailCalls weekly. But there are another 275 people (troopers, widows, family members) who are not online, so they receive a printed copy sent to their homes. If you know any 517th troopers who are not getting their Thunderbolt, let us know.

MailCall News

I was the 2 Bn clerk from just after the Bulge until we went to area for shipping back to the states. I typed and retyped paper work that was to go to the 13th because it could have no typing mistakes or corrections. Col (Dick) was very unhappy about the Division's treatment of his recommendations for awards.

Received the Legion of Honor award last Thursday at the state capital building in Raleigh. French Council General presented the award and our governor.

Dick Hammel



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

This is for **Chris Linder**,

Chris you are absolutely correct about the 13th Airborne Division and the 517th. There was no love lost between these two organizations. My Dad always said they were a NON combat division and the 517th was nothing but hardened combat veterans, and the 13th resented that fact. My Dad wrote letters to his Mom stating that he was being put in for the Bronze Star, but as you mentioned, it never got approved through the 13th AB Division. Here is what **Howard Hensleigh** said on Feb 12, 2007 in MailCall #1265 about the 13th AB Division. Howard if you read this, please correct any mistakes.

Lory Curtis

Howard Hensleigh remarked on "MailCall" # 1265, February 12, 2007,

"The 517th started out as the parachute infantry regiment of the 17th Airborne Division under General Miley. We wore that patch. We were pulled out and made a Parachute Regimental Combat Team for Italy, Southern France and all of our fighting in the Bulge and Germany which ended at Bergstein. We never did have an official patch of our own although Dick Spencer's Battling Buzzard has followed us all these years. In Southern France we were the largest element in the First Airborne Task Force, but we did not wear its patch if it had one. When we reached Northern France we became 18th Airborne Corps troops under Mat Ridgeway and wore its patch. Before the war ended in Europe we were transferred to the 13th Division where we had several missions such as the Rhine crossing that were canceled because of rapid Allied advances. We wore the 13th Division patch, most of us reluctantly. The 13th Division that did not see combat resented us almost as much as we resented them. We went with the 13th to the States on our way to Japan. The trip to Japan was cut short while we were in the middle of the Atlantic by the Japanese surrender which ended the War. Before we left France, at Joigny (south of Paris), high point men were given the opportunity to leave the outfit and go to other units. Some went to the 82nd, and some I'm sure to the 101st."

Thank you for the history of the 517th in February '45. I had not focused on the fact that the dissolution was in February! So soon after all of the sacrifices of the Bulge. When I did focus, I felt a great sense of sadness and unfairness in the way that the 13th Airborne Division treated the battle weary veterans.

Please tell **Chris Linder** thanks for sharing.

Pat Seitz

Interesting article from Stars and Stripes:

[French lab identifies US soldier's remains after JPAC refuses to investigate](#)

THE WIDDAH LYN, THE GOOD DR RUTH, & the somewhat finicky ABBE VON DACHSHUND
(**Lyn Vickers**)



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

DEAR FRIEND BOB

PLEASE I HAVE NO TIME TO CHECK EVERY MAIL CALL AS I AM VERY VERY BUZY AT WORK AND FOR THE 70th , SO PLEASE FORWARD ME ALL REAL MAIL OF PEOPLE PLANNING TO COME AND NEED HELP.

all my very BEST

J. Mickael

Bonjour, J. Mickael !

I do not expect you to check all MailCalls. MailCall is not the "official" place for people to plan their trips to France. I only report the news from people as I hear it. But I will send you any notes, such as the recent email from Melanie Hanson, when I receive them.

As we get closer to August, I am sure that someone (maybe Claire?) will be trying to keep track of who is going and to coordinate some of the activities. If anyone is looking for info or assistance (e.g. lodging advice, schedule) I will make sure that I forward those requests directly to you.

I am still hoping that I might be able to travel there myself, but it is too early to know for sure.

Thank you,

Bob Barrett

Bonjour, all –

Bob, I am sorry I didn't get back to you before.

Most summers, we do kind of try to informally get at least a jump list going - it was Gene's suggestion back in 09.

So far, we are:

Team Frice

Melanie Hanson, husband and daughter

Probably Team **Hoyt Kelley**

Leo Dean and Renee!

Allan Johnson

Jim and Claire; Chris and his wife Jacquie. We hope Tim, too.

Helen Beddow and her son Paul are pretty much certain.

We are so happy and so looking forward to seeing you all this summer!

Big hugs and love –

Claire



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Ben in Rome 1944

It was 4 years ago this week that **Ben Barrett** sent out his last MailCall.

For those who think that I run the MailCall, I have now sent out 233 MailCalls in the past few years. Ben started the MailCall and sent out 1,970 MailCalls over 10 years.

Après que nous ayons demandé des nouvelles de Mardy sa femme malade, Merle, un vétéran américain du 517th PRCT qui a participé à la libération de Sospel (et bien d'autres endroits du Var où ils ont débarqué pour aller jusqu'en Belgique) nous a dit qu'il n'aurait pas peur de se battre à nouveau en sachant qu'une telle amitié entre nous se développerait !!! Notre coeur s'est serré d'émotion devant tant de bonté et d'amour. Nous leur devons notre liberté au prix de leurs vies et eux nous remercient de notre amitié.... Chapeau bas Messieurs. Nous vous aimons et resterons à jamais vos amis à travers les générations qui nous suivent.

After we have asked news about **Mardy**, his sick wife, **Merle**, a veteran American of the 517th PRCT who participated in the liberation of Sospel (and many other places in the Var where they landed to go until Belgium) told us that he would not be afraid to fight again, knowing that such friendship between us would grow! Our heart is tight with emotion so much goodness and love. We owe them our freedom at the cost of their lives and them thanking us for our friendship... Hat low gentlemen. We love you and will forever remain your friends through the generations that follow us.

Patricia Orengo (from Facebook)



[Friends of the National World War II Memorial](#)

SAVE THE DATE: National World War II Memorial 10th Anniversary Commemoration ~
Saturday, May 24, 2014

Join the hundreds of World War II veterans who will once again gather at the Memorial to celebrate its 10th anniversary in what will be, most likely, the last large gathering of our World War II veterans at their Memorial. The National World War II Memorial 10th Anniversary Commemoration, like the Memorial itself, will honor those who served and pay tribute to the spirit of unity and shared purpose, which defined the character of our country during the war years.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From: [First Airborne Task Force ; The Forgotten Paratroopers](#)

Le Brigadier General Richard J. Eaton servait en tant que simple soldat dans la A Company du 517th PIR. Il combattit en Italie, sud de la France et Belgique avant d'atteindre le rang de S/Sgt à la fin de la guerre. Il porte sur son brevet une étoile symbolisant le saut dans le sud de la France.

Brigadier General **Richard J. Eaton** served as a private in Company A of the 517th PIR. He fought in Italy, Southern France and Belgium before reaching the rank of S/Sgt. at the end of the war. He wears a star on his wing symbolizing the jump in Southern France.



Heart warming

Nlia Gott

www.nilajgott.com

See my ebooks on Amazon Kindle, Google, and Smashwords

This is a remarkable part of history, worth knowing. Christmas has long past, but this is the spirit that truly defines the American people.

OK Ladies and Gentlemen. Turn your volume up and enjoy a piece of History from the Greatest Generation. This is shared with the intent of all of us passing this on. This is one of te Great Stories shared in the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force in photo form.

A piece of history you may not know and shouldn't be forgotten . . . definitely worth the watch.



THE CANDY BOMBER

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vR2wqg0ZMc>



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

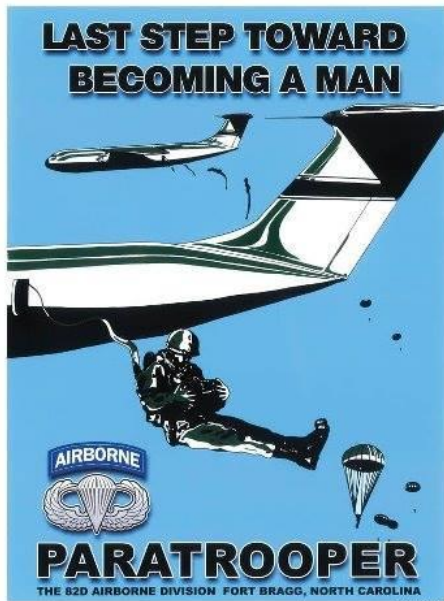
Now available, WWII Airborne action figures:
This Soldier Story 1/6 scale 12-inch WWII US Army 101st Airborne: Jake McNiece (506th Filthy 13) military action figure comes LOADED with all the gear imaginable, including the parachute rig with Mae West life vest for him to jump out of the C-47 to completing his mission on the ground.

Also a "Bastogne 1944"
101st Airborne action figure:

And an 82nd Airborne:



The site "[Pissed Off Old Paratroopers](#)" on Facebook has posted a lot of old (and some new) paratrooper posters. Here are a couple.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Military Humor

Here are some great clips of Bob Hope entertaining the troops:

<http://biggeekdad.com/2011/02/bob-hope-christmas/>

Bob Hope at Camp Toccoa, 1943 -->



THE NCO

A balloonist in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a man below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be a NCO," said the balloonist.

I am, "replied the NCO, "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is, technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip.

The NCO below responded, "you must be an officer".

"I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

Well, said the NCO, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is, you're in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, its my fault.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

West Coast Mini-Reunion

Palm Springs, CA mini-reunion

March 10-14, 2014

[Registration Form](#)

Please Register by March 1

Current Association Members: Remember to Vote

All 517th Association active members (all troopers who served with the 517th/460th/596th in WWII):

Please remember to vote regarding the future of the Association, using either the form attached to the end of this MailCall (Page 9) or print out and use this one-page version:

[http://www.517prct.org/association_business/Solicitation for Votes of Active Members of the 517th PRCT.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/association_business/Solicitation_for_Votes_of_Active_Members_of_the_517th_PRCT.pdf)

Or you may also vote by sending an email to MailCall by clicking one of the links below. Please read the voting documentation carefully. Please include your name and unit in the email.

[I vote YES: Merge the 517th Association and Auxiliary](#)

[I vote NO: Do Not Merge the 517th Association and Auxiliary](#)

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, or just click on the unsubscribe link on the email.
- 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



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Vote to Merge the 517th Association and Auxiliary

Solicitation for Votes of Active Members of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team Association, Inc. to Merge the 517th PRCT Association and Auxiliary

Background: At the annual 517th PRCT Reunion in Atlanta in 2011, the members voted to merge the 517th PRCT Association (troopers and veterans only) with the 517th PRCT Auxiliary Association (family). The purpose of this action was to ensure that the next generation is included and can officially participate in various committees and be voted in as officers of the Association, in order for the heritage of the 517th to continue even after all the troopers are gone. This merger was approved on the condition that it did not affect our ability to deduct donations to the Association on our individual income tax returns.

It turns out that the IRS does require us to lose the ability to deduct donations once we admit non-veterans; therefore that merger never took place. The officers and board members of the 517th PRCT Association now recommend that we remove the condition enabling a merger of the two memberships.

Current members of the 517th Association are asked to complete this form and send it to us.

Note: In order for your vote to be effective, it must be received no later than April 1, 2014. The vote and merger will take effect on May 30, 2014.

Please vote by placing an "X" in one of the boxes below:

I vote that 517th PRCT Auxiliary members will become Active Members of the 517th PRCT Association, Inc. with all the attending obligations and privileges, including the right to vote and hold office. This will allow wives, widows, descendants, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews of Members to continue to fulfill the objectives of the Association. Donors to the Association will be able to deduct their donations on their 2014 tax returns if the donation is made on or before May 30, 2014, but will not be able to do so thereafter.

I vote that the 517 PRCT Association and Auxiliary group memberships will NOT merge and donations to the Association will continue to be deductible after May 30, 2014.

Note: Only current Active Members of the 517th PRCT Association (i.e. troopers who served with the 517/596/460 in WW2) are eligible to vote on this matter.

Name: _____ Which Battalion, Battery or Company were you with during WW2? _____

Please send you completed form to: 517th Association
c/o Bob Barrett
27 Fuller Meadow Road
North Andover, MA 01845

You can also vote by sending an email to MailCall by clicking one of the links below. Please include your name and unit.

[I vote YES: Merge the 517th Association and Auxiliary](#)

[I vote NO: Do Not Merge the 517th Association and Auxiliary](#)