



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2237

October 19, 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](http://www.517prct.org)

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## MailCall News

Bob--**President Allan** is amazing, but then he was a paratrooper. But still to be flying over the Pond so shortly after his last trip is a testament to his passion, dedication and impressive stamina. Am so glad that Howard's granddaughter Allison is going too. What an incredible experience awaits her. Also enjoyed the War Correspondent's article and to see the new connections Mail Call is making with descendants of the extraordinary men of the 517th. Thank you for all that you do to continue your Dad's legacy.

**Pat Seitz**

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Regarding the location where the ambush **Allan Johnson** remembers occurred:

I stopped the study for my book west of the Callian area, so have not looked into this in detail. In my experience, the best way to find out exactly where such an event occurred is to interview locals, or try to find a trace of the Germans who were killed in the ambush. In this case however, I have not tried to interview the locals, and so many German died in the general vicinity of Draguignan without their exact location of death being recorded, that no proper reconstruction of events can be made.

So in short, I do not know where this ambush that Allan Johnson remembers occurred.

**Jean-Loup**



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

From: Mark Baird

Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2010 12:10 AM <-- ??

Bob, The PDF format is working great for me so far. I have trouble getting things out of there once in a while, but just one click and that's all it takes for this program. For a computer duffer, it works !!!!!

Another matter: I have been trying to get compensation for my "wounds", but since all records were burned (where have you heard this before?) and all my buddies that might know the particulars in my case are either gone or can't be located.. If the daily reports of Co. 1st Plt. (probable dates of evacuation, 3rd, 4th, 5th. of Jan. 1945) and the latter part of June 1945 when I got back to the outfit in Joigny could be located it would be a big help in my case. Anyone know where these documents can be retrieved ?? and how can I get a copy ?

I have to add my AIRBORNE THANKS to you Bob for carrying on with Mail Call.. From all reports I've been privy to, the 517th is unique in Airborne Regiment Assn.s because of it.

**Marshall Baird** (Co. A, 1st Platoon)  
PO Box 887  
Oracle, AZ 85623  
[abnvaquero@yahoo.com](mailto:abnvaquero@yahoo.com)

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Hi Marshall, I took a look for morning reports, but all I have for Company A is June 1944 through October 1944. I don't have the records for 1945.

Bob Barrett

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Bob, I received this email from you and have looked through the MR's for Company A in January 1945. Attached you'll find a MR from Jan 8, 1945, showing Baird, Marshall W (ASN 38441144) and indicating he and "above (11) EM fr duty to ab sk in Hosp NBC LD basic status changed fr asgd to atchd unasgd." For some reason the reports from 1945 are not in the Excel spreadsheet; I'll get that fixed someday. The MR's for Company A (And almost all the other companies) stop in March 1945.

If this document is what he is looking for, and wants to use the information for any "official" requests, I suggest he request a copy from the National Archives. However, when I tried to look up the listed ASN, 38441144, shown for Marshall, the NARA-AAD-Fielded search did not return any information.

I am plugging away at the MR's, but I am finding that I will need to revamp some of the naming protocols; I've got the individual MR's named in several different ways. I am also finding that there are some dates of several company MR's that have not been transcribed into the spreadsheets. Don't know how that happened but that's why we "double check" the data, eh?

If there is anything else, let me know. Also, I didn't look past Jan 8-9, 1945, for any other entries for Marshall Baird. Let me know if I need to look further.

-- Mike Wells



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

Hi Marshall,

Here is a note from Mike Wells, who went through the morning reports and did find an entry for you from January 8, 1945 (attached). I can never figure out all the abbreviations, but something happened then to send 11 enlisted men to the hospital for "NBC LD". Here are some definitions: <http://www.327engineer.com/morningreports/MorningRportsIntro.htm>

Mike is also correct in that your questions to me look like they are from an email that you sent to me in 2010. I don't know why I just got it. So my apologies for being so late in responding.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

A Company Morning Report

January 8, 1945.

Arbrefontaine, Belgium

Present for Duty: 71

Absent: 99

"Morale Good"

**COMPANY MORNING REPORT** ENLISTED 9 Jan 1945

STATION Arbrefontaine, Belgium 650,910  
 ORGANIZATION Co A 517th Para Inf Regt Inf.

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
3564289	Belmont, Albert A.	7642	Pvt
fr sk sk in Hosp. No. 10 to duty.			
3564290	Byland, William S.	7745	PPC
3564291	Chase, Louis	7745	Pvt
3564292	Distr, Samuel R. Jr.	7745	PPC
3564293	Haid, Marshall W.	7745	Pvt
3564294	Hick, Mason F.	7745	Pvt
3564297	Smith, Edward J.	7812	S/Sgt
3564299	Kocher, Frank, Chester R.	7745	PPC
3564304	Castello, Jesse F. Jr.	7745	Pvt
3564305	Elliger, George H.	7745	Pvt
3564306	Barger, Henry	7745	Pvt
3564308	Cracker, John W.	7804	Pvt
above (11) fr duty to sk sk in Hosp. NBC LD basic status changed fr segd to atchd unassd.			
01500000 Burkhard, John D. 1510-9 1st Lt fr sk sk in Hosp. NBC LD to duty basic status changed fr atchd unassd to segd.			

**RECORD OF EVENTS.**  
 No change weather snow and Cold Morale Good.

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	WO	PLT O
ASSIGNED		4	1	1	
ATTACHED					
UNASSIGNED	1	2		4	
ATTACHED TO OTHER COMP					
TOTAL	1	4	1	4	

AVN CADET & ENLISTED STRENGTH	PRESENT	ABSENT	ENLISTED MEN	PRESENT	ABSENT
ASSIGNED	66	1	17	96	
ATTACHED			91	91	
UNASSIGNED	3	1	4		
ATTACHED TO OTHER COMP					
TOTAL	71	1	99	171	

R I ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DAY OF WEEK RATIONS REQUIRED FOR DATE

A T MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT TOTAL AVERAGE

C BREAKFAST DINNER SUPPER

O MEN AUTHORIZED TO MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS

N III MEN ATCHD TO OTHER MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS

S MEN ATCHD TO OTHER MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS

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W.D. COPY THREE BRU OR SCU

**COMPANY MORNING REPORT** ENLISTED 9 Jan 1945

STATION Arbrefontaine, Belgium 650,910  
 ORGANIZATION Co A 517th Para Inf Regt Inf.

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
6-1044883	Jolley, Gran B.	151-9	1st Lt
above Off sent to and Jd Co trfd fr 22nd Co 001 Replacement Bn VCCC XVIII Corps (AF) as of 8 Jan 45.			

**RECORD OF EVENTS.**  
 Co moved fr woods adjoining town and occupied building in town. Weather clean and Cold Morale Good.

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	WO	PLT O
ASSIGNED		5	1	1	
ATTACHED					
UNASSIGNED	1	2		4	
ATTACHED TO OTHER COMP					
TOTAL	1	5	1	4	

AVN CADET & ENLISTED STRENGTH	PRESENT	ABSENT	ENLISTED MEN	PRESENT	ABSENT
ASSIGNED	56	1	17	86	
ATTACHED			91	91	
UNASSIGNED	3	1	4		
ATTACHED TO OTHER COMP					
TOTAL	71	1	99	171	

R I ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DAY OF WEEK RATIONS REQUIRED FOR DATE

A T MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT TOTAL AVERAGE

C BREAKFAST DINNER SUPPER

O MEN AUTHORIZED TO MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS

N III MEN ATCHD TO OTHER MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS

S MEN ATCHD TO OTHER MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

W.D. COPY THREE BRU OR SCU



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

**Bruce Malone** is the Superintendent of the Rhone American Cemetery in Draguignan, France. Many of the 517<sup>th</sup> members who visited France in recent years have met with Bruce when they tour the cemetery and at various memorial services. We noticed a recent post on Bruce's Facebook page he reported: "Came back from lunch today and met former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, **Admiral Mike Mullen** and his wife Deborah out in the cemetery. I spent about 45 minutes talking military history with them." When asked why the Admiral was at the cemetery, the Admiral responded that he was "following in his uncle's footsteps with the 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Team." Admiral Mullens is the nephew of **Charles Boyer** HQ/3, who fought with the 517<sup>th</sup> in the area.



**Leo Dean and Allan Johnson with Bruce Malone**, Superintendent of the Rhone American Cemetery in Draguignan, France. August 14, 2012

**Dick Seitz** at Kansas State University presents a copy of *Paratroopers Odyssey* to Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Admiral Mullen's uncle **Chuck Boyer** served with the 517th during WWII. Chuck was in the 3rd Battalion. 2009



Found on eBay:



Pin's Militaire PARA 517TH PARACHUTE Airbone REGIMENT  
Débarquement PROVENCE WW2

\$12.63

From France

Buy It Now

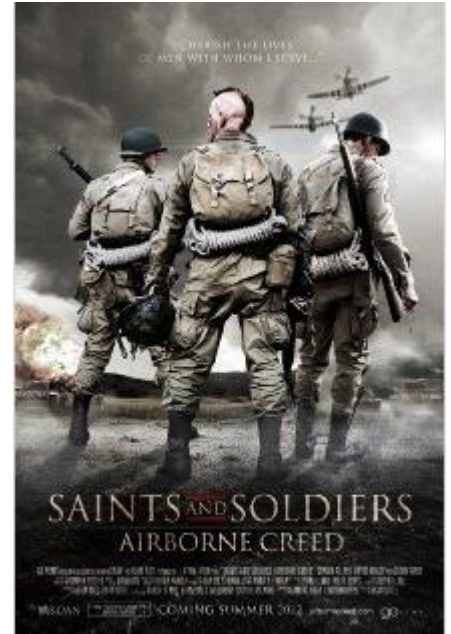
Claire, Helen, or I probably put the pin on this card in the hotel lobby in Trans-en-Provence 2009. – BB



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

A while back, we had a discussion about the *Saints and Soldiers – Airborne Creed* movie and poster, where **Lory Curtis** mentioned that the Mohawk haircut sported by the lead character was not really part of the 517<sup>th</sup> tradition, but it was borrowed from some soldiers in the 82nd Airborne. However, I did find a photo or two of 517<sup>th</sup> troopers with Mohawks. [http://www.517prct.org/photos/burton\\_stadler2.htm](http://www.517prct.org/photos/burton_stadler2.htm)

Here is some more evidence: I just realized that in the photos from **Cameron Gauthier** that I recently added to the website, that **Stanley Kolczynski** (460<sup>th</sup> PFAB) is already sporting a Mohawk in one of the “laundry” photos at Camp Toccoa, in 1943.



### *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](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 Miriam Boyle Kelly  
19 Oriole Court  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866