



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2254**

**January 18, 2015**

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

Website  
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2013 Roster (updated!)  
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

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## *Remembering Howard Hensleigh*



Please extend my condolences to the Hensleigh Family. I only met him three times over time. The first time at the Savannah Reunion where I joined him for dinner on the cruise boat. I later conferred with him and Joanne Barrett dealing with the tax exempt organization issues with the I.R.S.

His persona impressed me as a unique "leader" both in his civilian and military careers, a compliment I have not made too often during my own long career.

I observed that Howard was the backbone of the 517th organization by providing his learned legal direction and his applied leadership to his fellow troopers in keeping the organization robust. His institutional knowledge and his combat history of the 517th was remarkable with his accuracy and factual explanation of events during the war to his very end.

I wish to offer a Flag that flew over the Pentagon where he served in his and my brother's memory to be given to the French Museum in my behalf, if you so wish, as my tribute to Mr. Hensleigh. I am trying to get some other acknowledgement for him if I can and will share with you if I am successful. Please advise how to get the Flag to someone.

Best

**Frank Ramos**

*[We are in contact with Howard's daughter about this. – BB]*



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Dear 517th Family,

Once again, we say "Hit the Door!" to another of the Greatest Generation. Just today I sat down to go back through Mail Calls (apparently I'm one of the "fairly active" 366 Bob will not drop) and read, with tears-in-my-eyes and heavy heart, that Our Family lost **Lt. Howard E. Hensleigh**.

I can't improve on the words used by others of Our Family to describe Trooper Hensleigh, but I wish to ponder the thought of the term, Legacy. How many of us think about The Legacy we are building in our lives...and what will we leave? What will those who survive our passing remember about us? Better yet, what do we want them to remember?

LEGACY! This is the one word I will think of when I think of Trooper Hensleigh. He came from a time when men and women went through The Great Depression. "Material things" were of ultimate importance to these folks. I believe it was important for my parents to leave "something of value" to me and my sister. Whether it be a home to sell, stocks, bonds, savings, family heirlooms, etc., this is what they treasured. And, they believed it would bring us happiness.

Howard left us WORDS. Ben left us WORDS. Dick left us WORDS. Lud left us WORDS.

These 517th Troopers (and others not mentioned here) left us their spoken, hand-written, and emailed WORDS. They lived what so many of us cherish to know more about. The Big Man Upstairs has a Plan for each of us. I have faith and believe this! His plan for Howard and the others, was to Return to America and spread the WORDS of the 517th.

Lt. H. E. Hensleigh took the time to write his WORDS to my Mother before she passed. He talked about her brother, my Uncle, and Howard also wrote to me about Floyd. Nobody, not even my Mother, spoke of Floyd in the late 40's and into the 50's. Was it too painful? Or were they merely trying to get-on with their lives...as those soldiers who served in WW II did when they returned Home?

If all you do this year, is tell ONE person about the 517th, then the WORDS of brave Troopers will not be in vain. We are a Proud Family...Lest We Forget Their Words!

### **Kenton "Kent" Immerfall**

Nephew of **1st Lt. Floyd A. Stott**  
Co. "I", 3rd Bat., 517th PRCT

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Here's an example of one of Howard's first-hand accounts, as included in [MailCall #492](#) in July 2003:

Ben: This is a message for **D. E. Compton**, LTC USA (Ret) regarding his boyhood friend **Willis A. Woodcock**, who was killed near Col de Braus on September 12, 1944. I did not know Willis well, but there must be many in I Company who did. We encourage them to contribute what they knew. I can tell you how he died on that September afternoon. I trust that you will be able to bear with me, because it was a significant day in the life of the 3rd Bn. of the 517th and needs telling in a comprehensive manner. Since it may be of interest to others, I will answer through Mail Call. We may not have been as forthright in earlier years, but now, we should say it like it was.



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Willis was a private in I Co. in **Lt. Reed Terrell's** platoon. G and H occupied ridge X to the right of Col de Braus. **Lt. Riddler** was killed and **Lt. Spencer** was wounded in the attack on Ridge X. At least a company of German infantry occupied a thousand yards or more to the right of Ridge X. I Co. was to the right of the enemy near Mt. Scandeous. We could reach G & H by the road that led to Col de Braus, but no roads led from our rear positions to I. They were out of rations, water and ammo. Some of my S-2 men and I took a jeep piled high with supplies through Menton to reach I. The last 500 yards were exposed to the enemy and they fired artillery at us, but we made it. We always feared we would hit a mine and called the jeep Minesweeper. **LTC Paxton** wanted the Bn. united and gave I an order to attack the intervening Germans to join G & H. **Captain Marty Fastia**, I Co. CO, apparently had had enough combat and went down into a cave. **Captain Joe McGeever** who had commanded Hq. 3rd from its inception had been promoted to 3rd Bn. Executive Officer, but had not yet received his major's leaves. He came up by foot to straighten things out. He went down into the cave for some time, but came out alone. What happened down in that cave died with Joe that afternoon. He said nothing about it to anyone when he came out. He and Marty had been company commanders in the battalion for a long time and it is quite possible that he was emotionally disturbed about what transpired in the cave.

Joe had taken a lot of risks, achieved spectacular results, and so far had gotten by with it. I had talked with the I men and told Joe that at least a company of enemy lay between I and ridge X, that they were well dug in and primed for a fight. He had assembled Terrell's platoon and said he would be over there in 30 minutes. We all had reservations, but Joe was the type of leader we would follow into the jaws of hell. The bazooka men were at the tail of the platoon. I had trained them in Italy, so for that reason and for other obvious ones, I went with them. There was no artillery or mortar preparation so bazookas could be used against the enemy bunkers. We had gone only two or three hundred yards when German machine guns and burp guns opened up and **Willis Woodcock** and **Joe McGeever** were dead. I think they both died instantly. Until our recent reunion at Oklahoma City, I had thought that Willis was a lead scout and that he and Joe were leading the platoon. I talked with the lead scout, (whose name I should remember) however, and learned that he was out ahead as he should have been. He had gone down a slight depression in the terrain. The shots that killed Joe and Willis went over his head. They also critically wounded **Reed Terrell** and **Sgt. Dan Brogdan**, who for a long time had been Joe's runner—since promoted.

We were pinned down with a hail of fire coming from well prepared dug in positions. There was an immediate call for "Medic!". Terrell had a cousin in the company who was a medic. Medics usually ran forward crouched to make a low profile. He came forward upright in the hail of lead waving a red cross emblem on a long pole. The Germans may have mistaken this for a white surrender flag. At any rate they stopped firing. We went forward to get the wounded and learned that Joe and Willis had been killed. **Lt. Maciag** who, as assistant platoon leader, was up front with Terrell told me years later at a reunion that Joe was looking through field glasses when he was hit. **Dan Brogdan**, who was wounded in both arms, was moved back into the German troops as a prisoner. The Germans somehow communicated that they were taking us all as prisoners. We responded with lowered M-1s that there would be lead flying at point blank range and they backed off.

I would like to end by encouraging you to give us some insight about **Willis A. Woodcock's** boyhood and what he was like as he grew up to be a paratrooper with the 517th and to encourage others in I company to give you more of what they knew about Willis, one of the names in the Southern France Memorial Service "In Memoriam". The story should not end with the death of Willis and **Joe McGeever**, the severely wounded **Reed Terrell**, and the wounded and captured **Dan Brogdan**. Reed along with **Bob Reber** were rehabilitated for spinal cord damage at VA hospitals. They were always good friends, but were in contact during Rehab, both married, raised families and attended our reunions. I have





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heard that Dan lived through his POW days and returned to the States. He told me on Tennessee maneuvers that after the war he would be down there in the valley making corn liquor. Maybe that is where he is today.

The next dawn after Joe and Willis were killed, six Germans came up to our lines and were preparing to strip the bodies of valuables when they were discovered by **Sgt. Frank Dallas** a sharp eyed I company noncom, later to become a LTC in the Special Forces. He emptied the clip in his M-1 and all six were dead.

It took about three days for **LTC Paxton** to prepare a coordinated attack on the enemy that separated his companies. We preceded it with G company night patrols that went right among the enemy bunkers. Artillery and mortars were zeroed in, including Naval guns from the nearby Mediterranean. When it let up we threw in bazooka rounds leaving the enemy with the impression that artillery was still falling. We caught them in their bunkers and holes with white phosphorous grenades. We killed or captured the entire company without losing a man. The German first sergeant went down the hill to Col de Braus with his bare buttock exposed, the seat of his pants burned off by a WP grenade. Some Air Corps officers had been sent up to observe how the infantry did things. They were all dolled up in pinks and greens, but wore steel helmets. The Germans were not happy about losing the last high ground above Sospel. In the counter attack that followed, we held, but **Lt. Hillard B. Thomas** was killed and the fly boys were knocked down by incoming artillery, not badly damaged, but enough for a purple heart something to talk about along with their dogfight stories.

If you or Willis' family have additional interest, I will be happy to provide additional details and a copy of the Memorial Service record that misspells Willis' name as Woodcock.

Sincerely yours, **Howard E. Hensleigh**



Back row: Lt. Dick Spence, Lt. Irving Pinkston, Lt. O.G. Garrett, Lt. Howard Hensleigh, Lt. Steve Maciag  
1st row: Lt. McKillop, Lt. Hilliard B. Thomas ( KIA Col De Braus), Lt. Edward Athey



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### MailCall News

While looking through the Service Company casualty reports compiled by **Clark Archer**, I see that on July 5, 1944, **John C. Wyatt**, Tech 5, of the Service Company is listed as "Accidental death". That is all I can find about him. But he has never been included on the 517<sup>th</sup> casualty list. He is also not even on the December 1944 memorial service booklet which listed all the KIAs up to that date.

[http://517prct.org/documents/dec44memorial/memorial44c\\_40pct.jpg](http://517prct.org/documents/dec44memorial/memorial44c_40pct.jpg)

I did find this note in an old MailCall from 2008:

**John C. Wyatt** had to be in Service Co. since he was a parachute rigger. Since he died in Italy and was a non-battle casualty some of the old timers in the 517 PIR Service Co. might have some info. Trouble is at this time of our lives it is difficult to go back that far. I did not realize that we had fatal non battle casualties at that time.

#### Tom Cross

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We did have fatal non battle casualties at that time.

**Patrick Michaels** 596 was one and is listed on 517 Honor Roll. I cannot find any information about **John Wyatt**

#### Ben Barrett



T/5 John C Wyatt  
517th PIR Svrc Co  
KIA 28 Jun 44

Can anyone explain why **John C. Wyatt** is not included in our KIA list? Unless anyone has any objections, I will add him to our "official" list at:

<http://517prct.org/kia.htm> His death did happen during wartime. -- BB

I did find this picture on [http://www.ww2-airborne.us/units/517/517\\_trp.html](http://www.ww2-airborne.us/units/517/517_trp.html)



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Every week I look forward to reading MailCall. My father **Lt. George M. Roseberry** was in Service Company with the 517th. I'm not sure what his duties were. Could someone give me some insight as to what he might have done? He would not talk to me about the war. He received a Purple Heart but I have no idea where he was injured.

Thank you so very much,  
**Carol Roseberry Dreesen**

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Hi Carol,

I'm not sure of all the responsibilities of the Service Company. Here is one quick overview from "*Paratroopers Odyssey*":

“At regiment there were headquarters and service companies.

“To free company and battalion commanders from administrative chores, personnel, food service, and supply were centralized in Service Company. This looked good on paper but did not work out well in practice, because the commanders lost control of factors that affected morale. In the 517th, Supply Sergeants were released to companies and clerks found their way into orderly rooms, but Service Company operated battalion messes throughout the war. Anyone who has tried to feed 600 people at one sitting can imagine the result. Out of necessity the troopers normally subsisted on the individual C and K rations in the field. These were intended only for emergencies, but became the steady diet.

The regiment was authorized only enough vehicles to meet garrison administrative needs. This was acceptable in airborne operations, but in prolonged ground combat -- which was the case most of the time for the 517th -- the shortage of vehicles was a constant headache and source of hardship.”

I think that the Service Company's duties included transportation and parachute rigging. I suspect that their duties also include whatever projects needed to get done at the time.

Here is one comment from a trooper:

“Upon arrival at Camp Mackall and the subsequent issuing of new vehicles, supplies, etc. **Service Company** was a very, very busy organization, lending support to the entire Combat Team. At one retreat ceremony, Service Company turned out the Company Commander, First Sergeant and three men. The remainder of the Company was pulling overtime duties.”

I'll post your note in the next MailCall and see what others know about the Service Company.  
Bob Barrett

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Thank you Bob, when I read about the men who were in Co. A or H Co taking this town or holding this area, I wonder what or where my Dad was. My guess is he was watching out for his men. My Dad was 28 & most of his men were 18 or 19. He had been on his own since he was 14 & the person who would give the shirt off his back to anyone who needed it.

Thank you again,

**Carol Dreesen**



Lt. Roseberry & Cpt. Ken  
Freund, Svc. Co. Cmdr.





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Hi Ben,

I found that one of the obits here in Sacramento was a Donald Wayne Branch. Didn't remember if he had been mentioned or not. He died on Jan 1st. Born in Pennsylvania on May 29, 1924 and was in 517th and 82nd Airborne AND the "Devil in Baggy Pants," whatever that is.

### Nila Gott

Hi Nila, I found that obit for Donald Wayne Branch. <http://www.eastlawn.com/obituary/Donald-Wayne-Branch/Sacramento-CA/1469919>

In the photo, he is wearing a uniform that does have the 517<sup>th</sup> oval -- blue and silver. Unfortunately, I have not located any records of him in my 517<sup>th</sup> files, but that is not uncommon. He could have been a replacement or transfer to/from the 517<sup>th</sup> at any time before, during or after the battles.

"Devil in Baggy Pants" is the nickname of the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, which was incorporated into the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne. But I have also heard people use "Devil in baggy pants" in describing any paratrooper.

### Bob Barrett



### Donald Wayne Branch

May 29, 1924 - January 1, 2015  
Resided in Sacramento, CA - See more at:

The old fisherman, passed away on January 1, 2015. Wayne was 90 years old and had bravely battled bladder cancer for over 20 years. Born on May 29, 1924 in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to Richard and Bessie Branch. He grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, with his younger brother, Richard Jr. and extended family. In 1943, Wayne volunteered for the U.S.

Army and was a Private First Class in the 517th Airborne Division.

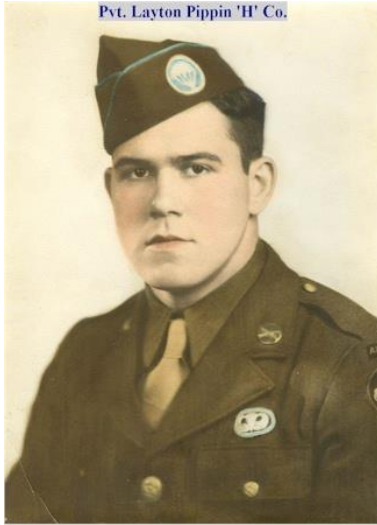
Wayne graduated from Penn State University in Forestry and spent the next summer in Yakima, WA, stuck in a lookout tower. He returned to college, Texas A&M University, graduated and pursued his next passion of Landscape Architect. He started the Averill & Branch landscape partnership in Phoenix, AZ. Wayne went on to work for FHD in Albuquerque, NM, and then retired in 1984, in Sacramento, CA. In retirement, Wayne lost his wife, Marcia of 26 years to breast cancer. After her death, Wayne started the nomad life of traveling to Cabo San Lucas to live the fisherman's life. He also traveled to Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. While at home, he was active in the SIRS 67 golf club, an avid reader, and a devoted grandfather to Haley and Austin.

Wayne was predeceased by his wife Marcia Branch, his brother Richard Jr. Branch, and parents Richard and Bessie Branch. He is survived by his son, Sean Branch, and his Wife Valerie; daughter, Kelley Murphy, and her Husband Mark; grandchildren, Haley and Austin

There will be a celebration of Wayne's life at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at the Pavilion at Haggin Oaks Golf Course, 3645 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. A reception immediately follows. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made online or mailed to: Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675



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Happy New Year 517 Family.' It has been many months since I have gotten on mail call, and I won't try and eulogize any more **Howard Hensleigh** or all of the other GREAT troopers that have passed in the last year. I am greatly saddened by so many losses, and pray that all will be well with the families that have lost so much.

Today is the 70th anniversary of the death of my Cousin **Pvt. Layton Pippin** of 1st Platoon 'H' Company. I placed a flag at his grave and saluted his grave for his sacrifice. I will always be thankful for all of our Veterans, but especially the Wonderful Men of The 517th P.R.C.T.

Airborne Always,

**Morris McDowell**

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**Layton Pippin** also played a heroic role as told in **Ed Athey's** story of the plane crash during Operation Dragoon take-off:

[http://www.517prct.org/documents/1944\\_august/aug\\_1944\\_glidern.htm](http://www.517prct.org/documents/1944_august/aug_1944_glidern.htm)

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**Pvt. Layton Pippin** was killed by the same shell that killed **Pvt. Richard Lynam** (right) and **PFC Corwin C. Clark**, and also wounded **Ben Barrett**, **Andy Lubic**, **Dan Chapin** and 13 other members of H Co. It was in Bergeval, Belgium, January 5, 1944, right after they moved out from Trois Ponts.



Note: I searched around the website for a picture of **Corwin C. Clark**, and surprisingly, there is a Corwin Clark listed on the 596<sup>th</sup> PCEC group picture at Camp MacKall (from **Steve Markle**).



[http://517prct.org/photos/596th\\_pcec.htm](http://517prct.org/photos/596th_pcec.htm)

Both the Christmas 1944 roster and the January 5 Morning report where he was KIA, have him listed with H Company. But **Clark Archer's** original KIA list also listed him with the 596<sup>th</sup>. So it appears to be the same person.

Could someone have been reassigned from the 596<sup>th</sup> to H Company? Or were there 2 Corwin Clark's?





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Dear Bob, as always, thanks for the newsletter. I will be sending off a check to you next week to keep this effort going, for printing, etc.

Some time ago, I was looking for a picture of Notre Dame during WWII on the internet, I had been looking on Amazon and E-bay. Just wanted to let everyone know, if they don't already, that there are so many pictures, being sold and many of them are the battalion, group pictures. Most of what I see are our troops in France, Italy, Belgium and Germany.

Here is just one example, but I have seen many different division pictures or groups of soldiers, in France Italy and Belgium, etc.

[http://www.ebay.com/itm/US-Soldiers-Posing-by-Arc-De-Triomphe-June-1945-Paris-France-Original-WW2-Photo-/231449946904?pt=LH\\_DefaultDomain\\_0&hash=item35e37deb18](http://www.ebay.com/itm/US-Soldiers-Posing-by-Arc-De-Triomphe-June-1945-Paris-France-Original-WW2-Photo-/231449946904?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item35e37deb18)

It just dawned on me today, perhaps this is a good avenue for so many who are researching their loved ones and trying to find pictures.

Just wanted to pass it on. Many blessings on this New Year. For whatever reason, I woke up thinking about Howard and reread fondly his notes. Then I opened the MailCall.

Thanks for everything,  
**Anne Justice**

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Hi Bob....I'm one of those guys that have to do something at the same time I think of it, or it's forgotten! I love your Mail Calls, and when I open my computer, I run thru to see what's there, and if a Mail Call is listed, it is the FIRST thing I open and read!!

Thanks so much for all your effort for this outstanding way of keeping all us 'old fogeys' up to date! Although I don't know many of the men mentioned, the area, the timing, the weather, etc. all bring back some memories...some good, some not so good, but we should not forget anything of that time. The term "I've got your back' must have originated back then.

Thanks again for all your work! airborne,  
**phil mcspadden**

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Attached is a copy of **Charles A Derbin's** Silver Star Citation for actions near Le Muy France on August 15, 1944. As noted as 'another man' in the following excerpt...

Regimental Adjutant **Pearce** broke his leg and suffered severe internal injuries on landing. **T/4 Van Cleave** and another man landed nearby. When a three-man German patrol came out to investigate, Van Cleave, still trying to get out of his parachute harness, killed one with a knife and the other two with a grenade. The two men hung on, refusing to leave Pearce; when the British attack on Le Muy began, they evacuated Captain Pearce and moved on to the CP.

Thank you,  
**Ed Derbin** -- **Charles "Chuck" A Derbin** was my first cousin, once removed (my dad's first cousin)



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HEADQUARTERS 1ST AIRBORNE TASK FORCE  
APO #758 U S ARMY

21 November 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 42 )

### III - AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men:

#### - E X T R A C T -

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CHARLES A. DERBIN, 16109003, Technician Fourth Grade, Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action near Le Muy, France, on 15 August 1944. Immediately following a parachute landing, Technician Derbin discovered an officer suffering great pain from internal injuries and a broken leg. He administered morphine and made the officer as comfortable as possible and then went to locate an aid man. Making a reconnaissance of an area covered by enemy machine gun fire, he discovered an enemy strong point firmly entrenched in a nearby house. Unwilling to leave the officer alone and in great danger, Technician Derbin returned to remain with him. Several hours later the supply of morphine was exhausted and Technician Derbin decided to risk going for more. At this time an English platoon came into the line of fire from the German strong point. Technician Derbin, exposing himself to the intense enemy fire, reached the English officer and explained to him the tactical situation. Acting on the information thus supplied, the English officer called for mortar fire on the position. Realizing the injured officer would suffer further wounds from the barrage, Technician Derbin, using great ingenuity, fashioned a rope from suspension lines, crawled forward to the injured officer, tied the suspension lines, under his arms, and pulled him to safety. Technician Derbin's gallant actions undoubtedly saved the life of the injured officer. Entered the military service from Detroit, Michigan.

By command of Major General FREDERICK:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,  
Colonel, GSC,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/T. R. MARTIN  
/t/T.R. MARTIN,  
Captain, AGD,  
Asst Adj Gen.

A CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

*Russell C. Johnson*  
RUSSELL C. JOHNSON,  
1st Lt., 517th Prcht. Inf.,  
Adjutant.





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Hi Ed,

Thanks for this document. I will add it to the 517<sup>th</sup> web site. I am glad that this adds a name and better details to the story. And I found that Charles Derbin's name was misspelled on our "Decorations" page, so I have corrected that.

I know that Charles attended many 517<sup>th</sup> reunions over the years and was a great friend with many of the troopers. See attached photo from the 1999 Columbus, GA reunion.

PS: If you have any photos of him in uniform, I would love to add them to the website, also.

Thanks,

Bob Barrett



**T/4 Charles E. Derbin** was with 517<sup>th</sup>'s Regimental HQ.

From 1998:

CHARLES DERBIN, born in April 1922 in Detroit, MI, volunteered and was accepted for parachute training and successfully completed Parachute Jump School at Ft. Benning, GA. He then joined the 517th PIR at Camp Mackall, NC in November 1943 he was assigned to Regimental HQ Co. S-3, Operations Section, an assignment he held until the end of WWII.



His European duty including jumping in the invasion of southern France as well as participating in five battle campaigns for which he was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star. He was honorably discharged as a master sergeant in August 1945.

In 1946 he reenlisted in the Army and served an additional 18 years, retiring in February 1963, having attained the rank of chief warrant officer. Overseas assignments during this period included extended tours in Paris, Athens, and Verona, (tough duty).

After retirement from the Army, he began a new career with the United Way which led to his working for 21 years for this community service organization. Upon retirement from the United Way as campaign director of the Aloha United Way Honolulu, HI, he returned to California. He and his wife of 53 years, Vera now reside in Roseville, CA. They have one daughter, Judith, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Charles remains active doing community service volunteering on a regular basis and he and Vera have maintained many of the close friendships they made during his active duty in the army.





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Bob I lost my wife Dec.the 30th. I miss her very much. Everywhere I look In the house, I see her. I go & visit with WWII veterans in Conroe ,TX every Wed. Morning. It helps to talk to them.

### Mel Trenary

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### Erma J Trenary

(June 20, 1928 - December 30, 2014)

Memorial services for Erma J. Trenary, 86, of Livingston, Texas, will be held Saturday, January 17, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Escapees Care Center in Livingston, Texas with Rev. Ray Gearing officiating.

Mrs. Trenary was born June 20, 1928 in Luling, Texas to parents, Emmitt Pooley and Veta Mae (Waldrip) Pooley, and passed away December 30, 2014 in Lufkin, Texas. She is preceded in death by her parents.



She is survived by her husband, Melvin Trenary of Livingston, Texas; sons, Ricky Trenary and Sidney Trenary both of Point Blank, Texas; daughters, Donna Harden of Porter, Texas, Lynda Baker of New York, and Celeste White of League City, Texas; 13 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; along with other relatives and friends.

Cochran Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Please sign our online guestbook at [www.cochranfh.com](http://www.cochranfh.com).

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Hi. My name is Carly Cooper, and I am **William T. Spencer's** great niece and caregiver. I apologize that I am just now notifying you of this but he passed away in April of 2014 so you may stop the Thunderbolt Newsletter being sent to his address.

Thank you. Carly

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Milton - **William T. Spencer** passed away on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at home. William was born in Milton, De, the son of the late Louis V. and Arzie (Walls) Spencer. He was a graduate of Milton High School, "Class of 1941". He was a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army. He was a paratrooper during World War II, with the 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Team and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He received the Silver Star Medal and two Purple Hearts for his excellent leadership and the outstanding acts of bravery displayed, which were far and beyond the call of duty. He retired as general manager of the Sussex Countian in Georgetown after 37 years. He was one of the original Board of Directors for the Sussex Pines Country Club. He was a founding father and life-member of V.F.W. Post # 6974, a member of the American Legion Post # 28, Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge # 2548 and the Milton Volunteer Fire Company for 69 years and a member of the Milton Wesleyan Church. He was also in the Eastern Shore Baseball Hall of Fame. He was one of the founders of Milton Little League. He was a Beebe Hospital Volunteer in the Milton office of Dr. Maribel Garcia and Dr. Maria Haldar. He was on the Cheer Board of Directors and a Gaming Board Chair member for 5 years. He is survived by his wife, Imogene Donovan Spencer, nephews, A. B. Schirmer and Lawrence Schirmer; sisters, Lila Jane Hoffman and husband, Larry and Norma Short and husband, Donald; and several nieces and nephews.





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

## *517<sup>th</sup> PRCT National Reunion – New Orleans*

### **517<sup>th</sup> PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM ASSOCIATION REUNION**

**JUNE 25 – 29, 2015**

#### **BEST WESTERN PLUS LANDMARK HOTEL**

#### **METAIRIE, LA (NEW ORLEANS)**

##### **Thursday, June 25**

3:00pm - 6:00pm

**Reunion Registration Open**

Hospitality Room will be open at various times during the reunion.

##### **Friday, June 26**

9:00am - 9:30am

**Reunion Registration Open**

10:00am - 2:00pm

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM (description follows)

2:30pm - 3:30pm

**Reunion Registration Open.**

Additional hours will be posted at the reunion if necessary.

##### **Saturday, June 27**

7:30am - 9:00am

Breakfast and business meeting

9:30am - 2:30pm

CITY TOUR (description follows)

##### **Sunday, June 28**

Free day to explore New Orleans on your own or spend time in the hospitality room.

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Cocktail Hour with Cash Bar

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Banquet

10:00pm -

Hospitality Room open

##### **Monday, June 29**

Farewells and Departures

[Program](#)

[Registration Form](#)

[Hotel Registration](#)

You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/517th2015](http://www.afr-reg.com/517th2015) (3% will be added to credit card charges).



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

## *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