



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

### MailCall No. 2260

March 1, 2015

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

Website  
Send MailCall news to  
MailCall Archives  
2015 Roster (updated!)  
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

[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)

### *517th PRCT West Coast Party – Last Chance!*

West Coast Party  
**March 9-13, 2015**  
[Registration Form](#)

**As the West Coast Party is coming up soon, I have attached the info and Registration form at the end of this MailCall**

### *MailCall News*

I received a letter dated February 19 from Lori Gelen (3976 Pier St. NE, Bemidji MN 56601) informing me that her dad, **Louie Gelen** of the 596th's second platoon passed away on January 28, 2015 (Three months after the death of his wife, Vera). They lived in Crookston, MN. He had been a long-time Minnesota State Highway patrolman. Alas, the 596th survivors are now eight.

Sometimes I wonder if those 596ers that are now gone are reliving that great party the company had in Saint Paul de Vence over 70 years ago, while we're down here suffering with our old-age aches and pains.

**Bill Hudson**



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

Subject: PIR or PRCT?

Hey Bob,

This doesn't have to be placed on Mail Call, but I don't believe I've ever truly understood when and why the change took place.

On **Uncle Floyd Stott's** cross, in Henri Chapelle, it states 517th PIR. Why wouldn't it be 517th PRCT?

No big hurry...just my own curiosity.

**Kenton "Kent" Floyd Immerfall**

Nephew of **Floyd A. Stott**

1st Lt. Co. "I.", 3rd Bat., 517th PRCT

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Hi Kent,

You are not the first to ask. The short answer is that the 517<sup>th</sup> PIR was one of the 4 original PIRs formed at Camp Toccoa as Paratroopers were first formally trained for WW2. (501, 506, 511, 517) The 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team (PRCT) was created when 517th PIR was merged with the 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion and Company C, 139th Airborne Engineer Battalion (which became the 596<sup>th</sup> PCEC). The 517th PIR was at Camp Toccoa, Georgia; the 460th and C/139 were at Camp Mackall, North Carolina. The idea is that by including engineers, artillery, plus medical and service companies, the PRCT could be a self-contained, rapid response, independent unit.

There were many Parachute Infantry Regiments (PIR's). The 501<sup>st</sup>, 502<sup>nd</sup>, 503<sup>rd</sup>, and 504<sup>th</sup> were formed even before Camp Toccoa. Others were the 506<sup>th</sup>, 507<sup>th</sup>, 508<sup>th</sup>, 511<sup>th</sup>, 513<sup>th</sup>, and 515<sup>th</sup>. There might be others. Most of these were formed in around 1942 as the paratroopers were created for WW2. I don't know how many are still active. Even the 506<sup>th</sup> was incorporated into the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in 2014.

Most of the PIRs were attached to different Divisions, as needed, similar to the 517<sup>th</sup>. However, to my knowledge, and I could be wrong, besides the 517<sup>th</sup> PRCT, the only other combined Parachute Regimental Combat Team that I am aware of was the 503<sup>rd</sup> PRCT, consisting of the 503<sup>rd</sup> PIR combined with the 462d Parachute Artillery Battalion and the 161st Parachute Engineer Company. The 503<sup>rd</sup> PRCT fought in the Pacific during WW2. The 503<sup>rd</sup> PIR (not the full PRCT) was also reactivated later and fought in Korea, Vietnam, and even recently in Afghanistan.

Too much info?

Bob B.





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

Hi Bob,

My mother sent this card to me this week. It is a Christmas card that my uncle **Vernon (Bud) Carroll** sent to his brother Marion Carroll during the war. I'm wondering if you would be able to shed some light on it.

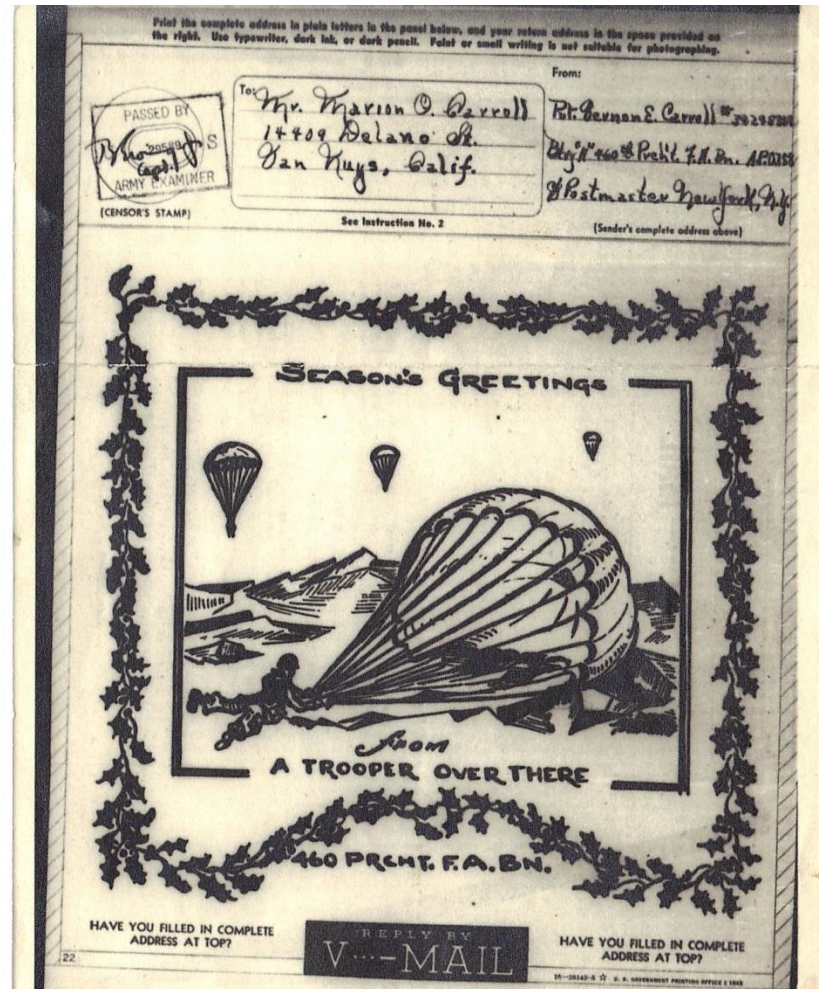
The card that I have is definitely a photocopy and is relatively small. It measures approximately 4 1/4" X 5 3/16". My uncle Marion says that it is the actual one that he received in the mail in 1944. It appears to have been photocopied and reduced in size from the original.

What I don't understand is who (the army maybe) would have photocopied it and reduced it...and why?

Feel free to post the scan on your website and your newsletter. Also if you are still in contact with anyone from the 460th Company A that may have known Vernon (Bud) Carroll, please feel free to give them my email address.

Thank you

**David Sturzenegger**



Hi David,

I have not seen that V-Card before. We have a couple of Christmas V-Cards drawn up by **Dick Spencer** for the 517<sup>th</sup>, but I have not seen this 460<sup>th</sup> version.

I have no idea why they would deliver a photo-copied version rather than the original. I will ask.

Thanks,

Bob B.





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

This is a photo of Battery C, 460th PFA Bn, 517th Regimental Combat Team. San Mateo, CA Reunion



Back Row (L-R): **Westbrook, Moody, Rutherford, Mc Morrow Thomas, Gauthier and Janes**

Middle Row: **Houston, Compas, de Lesio, Crank, Gordy, Fidge and Hupman**

Front Row: **Schneider, Bucher, Whitson, Capt. Vogel, Dunn, Mertz and Axtman**

In those days every battery and company would each have as many as 20 representatives and many times the infantry companies had many more than that. The 596th Engineers usually had a separate mini-reunion headed up by **Dr. Charles Pugh**. Between reunions Pugh published a Newsletter for the Engineers which resulted in a close nit Unit.

So many wonderful memories come into focus when you look back at such photos. It was a great bunch of fellows and about all that is left are the memories.

**Merle Mc Morrow**

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



We also have a copy of the entire 1983 reunion booklet at:  
[http://517prct.org/reunions/1983\\_san\\_mateo/1983\\_san\\_mateo.htm](http://517prct.org/reunions/1983_san_mateo/1983_san_mateo.htm)



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

An old letter received after one of our visits to Europe. You may already have it somewhere on your site.

Merle

DAHIN JEAN-FRANCOIS  
Al Maison, Nr I  
6082 HARRE - BANHAY  
BELGIE.

Harre - Manhay, October 8, 1989.

*Merle A. McManus*

Dear American's Veterans,  
Dear Friends of America,

It's a great honor for us to meet you at Manhay's area,  
because our peoples have not forget Christmas 1944.

During Christmas night 1944, the Head Quater from XVIIIth.  
Airbornes Corps told to take "Cost to cost" Manhay's crossroads, and during these hard  
and cold night, the 2th. PZ SS Div. " Das Reich " was stopped.

It was the 517th. R.C.T. who was there in the morning with only  
13 survivors!

How forget all soldiers of your Regiment dead for our Freedom!  
Welcome at Manhay, with all respect and friendship we must send  
you.

Now at Manhay, we have a little "Historic Fondation", since two  
years, when Veterans come in our area, we ask them about remembers and memories from  
their " war experiences in our area.

It will be a great honor for us to receive a picture, a letter  
of you, and if it's not too much trouble a badge or insignia; your memories will have  
a honor place here, and it will be interesting for yought people, later to discover  
a page of our history written by all of you

Dear American's Veterans, it was a great honor for us to meet  
you, and for old people, to meet you " again"; also we hope your trip in Belgium and  
espacially in our area will be a nice remember for you.

Friendship is a money that,  
Enrichies who him spends it.

*Merle A. McManus*

Sincerely yours



# *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





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



### **2015 517th PCT PALM SPRINGS REUNION**

**March 9-13, 2015  
Palm Springs, California**

Anahata Retreat/Lodge Hot Mineral Springs Pool and Spa here we come!

We have reserved the entire resort for our group.

We will provide breakfast, lunch and dinner while you sit soaking your feet in the warm springs.

There will be options for each meal and snacks all day so you won't go hungry.

Your 150.00 registration fee will cover all meals at the resort. We may go out for our banquet this year, will keep you updated.

**Rate:** Rooms will run from 120.00 to 200.00 per person for the ENTIRE stay, not per night, including all taxes and resort fees. This fee will be based on how many sign ups we get.

**Registration fee:** \$ 150.00

Your registration fee will cover all meals at the resort including the banquet which will be at the lodge.

We may leave the lodge for ribs, museum, follies or ??, which would be additional charge.

Please mail registration form (next page) as soon as possible to lock in rate.

Karen Wallace  
66295 Highway 20  
Bend, OR 97701  
541 948 2486

Please join the Frice Team, (the gals), and our many friends for another great 517<sup>th</sup> event!

Questions?

Karen 541 948 2486

Wayne 541 948 2484

**Please confirm by February 25<sup>th</sup>, we will take registration after that if you need.**





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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## 2015 517th PCT PALM SPRINGS REUNION

March 9-13, 2014  
Palm Springs, California

Please provide the following information before February 25th:

Date and time of arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

(We will arrange transportation from airport and return if needed)

Names of participants:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Extra person(s) for banquet (at \$20.00 per person)

\_\_\_\_\_

Any special activities you would like to do?

Please send this registration form and \$150.00 registration fee per person to:

Karen Wallace  
66295 Hwy 20  
Bend, OR 97701