



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2262

March 15, 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/archives

www.517prct.org

MailCall@517prct.org

www.517prct.org/archives

www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Greetings from the 517th PRCT West Coast Party

Manuel Ventoza (596th)
Allan Johnson (596th)
Gene (Zoot) Snyder (A Co.)
Anthony Mandio (HQ/1)
Leo Dean (Reg HQ)
John Jonientz (F Co.)



More Photos on Page 5.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

2015 National 517th Reunion

Just wanted to let everyone know I have my airline ticket purchased and I will be arriving in New Orleans on the evening of June 24th. I would encourage all who are planning on going to complete the registration forms listed on mailcall and the website. I called the World War II museum yesterday and they no longer just have one building, but 4 large building with artifacts in them. I think we are going to have a wonderful time visiting the facility. I think they do not have a lot of paratrooper stuff so if you have anything you would like to donate to the museum, I am sure they would be very happy to get it.

Hope to see everyone on June 25th thru the 28th leaving for home on the morning of Monday June 29th.

Airborne all the Way!!!

Lory Curtis, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st Bn



2015 National Reunion

New Orleans, LA
June 25-28, 2015

[Program](#)

[Registration Form](#)

[Hotel Registration](#)





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

517th 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

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

Register and pay online at www.afr-reg.com/517th2015



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

517th PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM ASSOCIATION REUNION Tour Descriptions

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM

Friday, June 26

Dedicated in 2000 as the National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as the country's official WWII Museum, this remarkable attraction illuminates the American experience during the WWII era. From the Normandy invasion to the sands of the Pacific Islands and the Home Front, you will see the courage, teamwork and sacrifice of the men and women who won *the war that changed the world*. Explore moving personal stories and powerful interactive displays. New in 2013, visit the U.S. Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, which tells the story of our nation's unprecedented industrial capability during the war years. For an additional cost view the powerfully authentic 4-D cinematic experience, *Beyond All Boundaries*, narrated and produced by Tom Hanks, in the Solomon Victory Theater. Visit the Soda Shop or Chef John Besh's The American Sector Restaurant for lunch on your own. WWII Vets do not have to pay the Museum admission price – see Vet's price below.

10:00am board bus, 2:00pm back at hotel

\$51/Person includes bus, escort, and admission. Movies and lunch are on your own.

- or -

\$31/WWII VETERAN'S price includes bus and escort. Movies and lunch are on your own

CITY TOUR

Saturday, June 27

Your tour of the Crescent City begins with a trip down historical St. Charles Avenue complete with universities, parks, old oaks, stately charm, and an operational streetcar line. View the lovely antebellum homes and Lake Pontchartrain, where some of New Orleans' finest newer homes are located, and stop at one of the city's unique above-ground cemeteries. Hear the stories of Hurricane Katrina and see first-hand the long-lasting effect it has had on New Orleans. Continue to the French Quarter (the "Vieux Carre"), where a blend of French and Spanish cultures intermingles with a modern lifestyle. Also witness the bustling seaport activities, which are such an important aspect of the city's economy. Enjoy free time at Jackson Square, the focal point of activity in the French Quarter and explore the area with its gracious iron balconies and lovely courtyards. Lunch is on your own in Jax Brewery, an old landmark transformed into a modern complex of shops and eateries, or at one of the many fine restaurants in the Quarter.

9:30am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel

\$37/Person includes bus and guide. Lunch on your own.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled time.

All trips require a minimum of thirty-five people, unless otherwise stated.

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/armedforcesreunions



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

More from the 517th PRCT West Coast Party

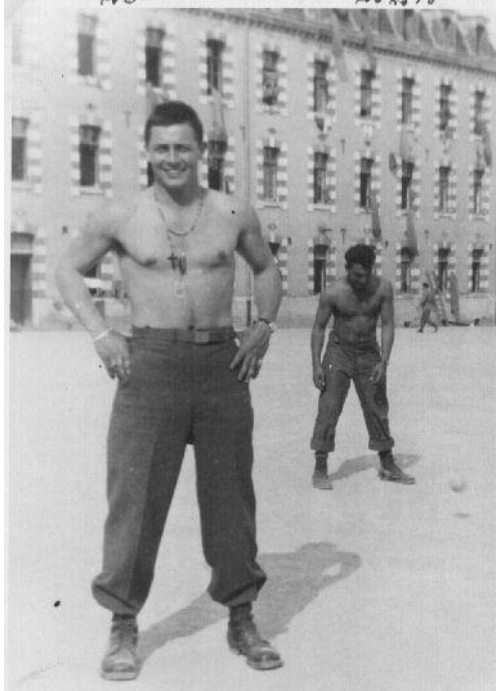




517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



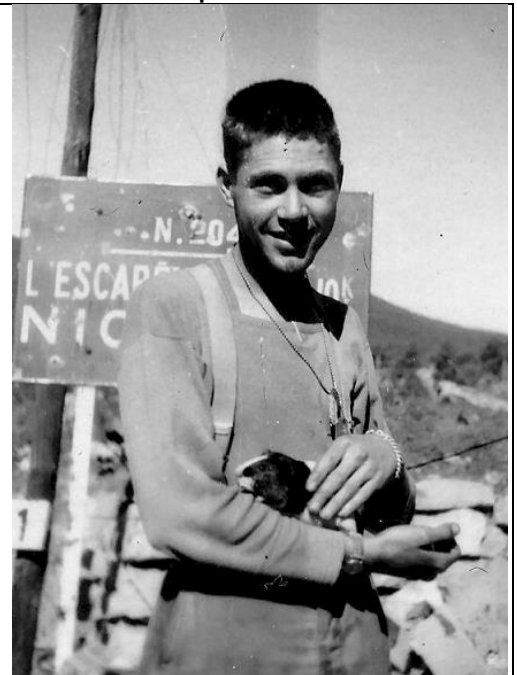
And just for nostalgia, here are “before” photos of some of the 517th troopers who attended:



Jul Talarico and Anthony Mandio playing football in Berlin



John Jonientz (F Co.)



Zoot Snyder



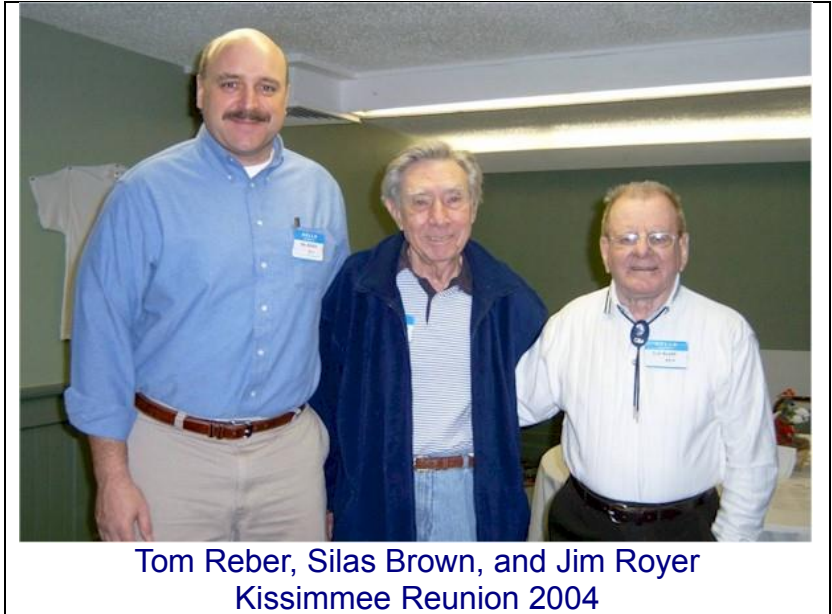
517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

In Memorium – James S. Royer, HQ/3

My grandfather **James S. Royer Jr.**, better known as Jim, passed away Monday March 2nd at 90 years old. He was a member of the 517th in WWII and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, earning multiple bronze stars and a silver star decades later. I know he and his wife June attended many reunions and that he was fairly active on 517PRCT.org, so I wanted to share this news with you all. Thank you for sharing. I'd also be interested in communicating with anyone who may have served with him, or their relatives.

Below is his obituary as published in The Baltimore Sun.

Thank you,
Casey Royer, granddaughter
caseyaroyer@gmail.com



Tom Reber, Silas Brown, and Jim Royer
Kissimmee Reunion 2004

James S. Royer Jr., a retired Baltimore public school educator and passionate Orioles fan, died Monday at Lorien Mays Chapel of pneumonia. He was 90.

The son of the Rev. James S. Royer Sr., a United Methodist minister, and Helen Royer, a church organist, James Saylor Royer Jr. was born and raised in Wyomissing, Pa., near Reading.

After graduating in 1943 from Wyomissing High School, he was drafted into the Army and volunteered for the paratroopers. After completing jump school, he joined the 517th Parachute Combat Team and served in five major battles in Europe, including the invasion of southern France and the Battle of the Bulge.

After being discharged in 1945, he enrolled at what was then the Drexel Institute of Technology, earning a degree in 1949. He earned a master's degree in 1954 in education from Temple University.

In 1949, he joined the faculty of City College, teaching business courses. He became supervisor of cooperative education in 1960 for city public schools. When he retired in 1977, he was the specialist in program development for the system's vocational education division. Mr. Royer received the Retired Teacher Award in 1978 from the Maryland Vocational Association. He had served as treasurer of the Retired Teachers of Baltimore City.

A resident of Lutherville-Timonium since 1949, Mr. Royer was active in the community. He had been president of the Lutherville Elementary School PTA, and had held several positions with the Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council. He also volunteered with the Maryland Fuel Fund.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

He was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1995, of which he had also been treasurer, and into the City College Hall of Fame in 1998.

Because of his 43 years of volunteer service, including treasurer for more than 30 years of the Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council, he received their lifetime friend award, and a playing field in Lutherville was named Jim Royer Field.

Mr. Royer and his wife of 68 years, the former June Albrecht, were Orioles fans and for 44 years had season tickets behind home plate. "They made two trips to Cooperstown, for the induction of Brooks Robinson and Jim Palmer into the Baseball Hall of Fame," said a son, Corry Royer of Hamilton.

He was a longtime active member of Timonium United Methodist Church, 2300 Pot Spring Road, Timonium, where a memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday.

In addition to his wife and son, Mr. Royer is survived by another son, Randy Royer of St. Michaels; a daughter, Denise Duvall of Finksburg; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

In Memorium – David G. Spayer, G Company

I was thinking about various of the fellows my David served with in the 517th & I don't recall hearing that Spayer had passed on. So I looked him up & found the obit. I used to get Christmas cards yearly from he & Shelley, but not in some time. Now I know why. Don't know if this was in the Thunderbolt or not.

Are ya dug out of the snow yet?

Lyn Vickers

Widow of **David Vickers**, G Company

DAVID G. SPAYER 87, of Boynton Beach, died May 11, 2012, at the VA Medical Center. He was born July 24, 1924 in Cleveland, OH. Dave was in the United States Army from April 1943 to December 1945, during which time he served in the 17th Airborne (Gliders), 517th PRCT., Ft. Benning, GA. He went overseas on the Madagascar to Italy, later to southern France for the invasion and then back for D-Day. Most significant of events was the Battle of the Bulge, with the loss of many lives, very cold conditions and frozen feet. Dave also supervised the 60 mm Motor Squad which was attached to the 82nd Airborne. Dave was preceded in death by his daughter, Cathy Reust; former wife, Wanda Spayer, and his brother, Leonard (Marie) Spayer. He is survived by his loving wife, Celestia "Shelley" Spayer; his sons, James (Patricia) Spayer of Maple Heights, OH, and David Spayer of Wagener, SC; his step-son, Michael N. Williams of Lake Worth; two granddaughters; three great-grandchildren; his sisters, Helen (Russell) Horne and Mildred Soucek, both of Cleveland, OH, and many nieces and nephews. According to Dave's wishes, there will be no services. NORTHWOOD FUNERAL HOME FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED To express condolences and/or make donations Visit PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries

Published in The Palm Beach Post from May 17 to May 24, 2012



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

MailCall News

I was so sorry to hear that **Bill Webb** passed away. My thoughts and prayers are with Lelia and her family at this time.

Chris Lindner

Hi Bob and **Melanie Davis-Hanson**,

In regards of my honorable mention about donating **LT Richard Spencer's** poker set to **Jean Mikael Soldi** and **Eric Renoux's**, Musee de la Liberation museum, I felt it was the right thing to do. I purchased the set on EBay from **BJ Spencer**, Lt Spencer's daughter. After enjoying it for a while and showing it off to friends and family I wanted to share it with even more people and a museum is where it belonged. It was used in France during the war so what place was more appropriate to send it to? I also was thinking about the Toccoa museum in Georgia but France won out in my mind. I would like to encourage people to also consider the Toccoa Museum to anyone considering donating their WWII collections. They are also in need of donations and artifacts from the war. **Howard Hensleigh** who was very close to Dick Spencer sent me a thank you too. After that, I knew I did the right thing. It is an honor to support the 517th's history and be a part of it.

My dad was PFC **Odas Sweet**, 517 PRCT "H" company 3rd battalion and served under Lt's Hensleigh and Spencer. He was transferred from the 504 PIR "A" company to the 517th on Oct 9th 1944 and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He won a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster after being wounded twice by shrapnel. His records were burned in the St. Louis Fire where so many other military records were lost. We don't know how he earned the Bronze Star. My dad suffered from PTSD and drank heavily after the war. In February of 1959 he drank anti-freeze which ended his life the next morning on February 6 1959. I was four at the time. After finding the 517th website in 2007 I attended my first National Reunion and became part of the 517th family, made new friends and stayed in touch. It was an honor to meet the 517th soldiers, officers and their families. I have found out much more information about my dad and it has helped me heal in my own way and think about my dad in a much more honorable fashion than before. I will forever be grateful.

Rick Sweet





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Quiz time:

1. Can you identify where this picture was taken?



2. What's this? Who can identify what this is?





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Military Humor

Sent to me from a friend who is ex-Navy:

Subject: Rules

Marine Corps Rules:

1. Be courteous to everyone, friendly to no one.
2. Decide to be aggressive enough, quickly enough.
3. Have a plan.
4. Have a back-up plan, because the first one probably won't work.
5. Be polite. Be professional. But have a plan to kill everyone you meet.
6. Do not attend a gunfight with a handgun whose caliber does not start with a '4.'
7. Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice. Ammo is cheap. Life is expensive.
8. Move away from your attacker. Distance is your friend. (Lateral and diagonal preferred.)
9. Use cover or concealment as much as possible.
10. Flank your adversary. When possible, protect yours.
11. Always cheat; always win. The only unfair fight is the one you lose.
12. In ten years, nobody will remember the details of caliber, stance, or tactics. They will only remember who lived.
13. If you are not shooting, you should be communicating your intention to shoot.

Navy SEAL Rules:

1. Look very cool in sunglasses.
2. Kill every living thing in sight.
3. Adjust Speedo.
4. Check hair in mirror.

US Army Rangers' Rules:

1. Walk in 50 miles wearing 75 pound rucksack while starving.
2. Locate individuals requiring killing.
3. Request permission via radio from 'Higher' to perform killing.
4. Curse bitterly when mission is aborted.
5. Walk out 50 miles wearing a 75 pound rucksack while starving.

US Army Rules:

1. Curse bitterly when receiving operational order.
2. Make sure there is extra ammo and extra coffee.
3. Curse bitterly.
4. Curse bitterly.
5. Do not listen to 2nd LT's; it can get you killed.
6. Curse bitterly.

US Air Force Rules:

1. Have a cocktail.
2. Adjust temperature on air-conditioner.
3. See what's on HBO.
4. Ask 'What is a gunfight?'
5. Request more funding from Congress with a 'killer' Power Point presentation.
6. Wine and dine "key" Congressmen, invite DOD and defense industry executives.
7. Receive funding, set up new command and assemble assets.
8. Declare the assets 'strategic' and never deploy them operationally.
9. Hurry to make 13:45 tee-time.
10. Make sure the base is as far as possible from the conflict, but close enough to have tax exemption.
11. Always have ICE CREAM.

US Navy Rules:

1. Go to Sea.
2. Drink Coffee.
3. Insert SEALS.
4. Deploy Marines.
5. Launch Aircraft and Missiles 350 miles away from fighting.
6. Drink more Coffee.

Go Navy!



517th 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
- 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



Jim Royer (center) at the Savannah Reunion 2005