



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2269**

**May 3, 2015**

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

## 517th PRCT 2015 Annual Reunion



**2015 National Reunion**

**New Orleans, LA June 25-28, 2015**

[Program Info](#) [Hotel Information](#)

[Event Registration](#) [Hotel Reservation](#)

**Registration Cut-off date: May 22**

## MailCall News



D Battery

460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
Montaldo airfield, Italy  
August 1944.

Captain George A. Schnebli,  
Commanding



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

Thank you for including my work and the kind words.

Yes, I do have some selected Morning Reports for HQ Battery, 460th, but not all the batteries. Anything you are looking for in particular? You may recall that **Phil McSpadden** was the morning report clerk and he is very much with us still. He relates a good story about how the admin warrant officer responsible for the report, Duey, was not jump qualified prior to the jump into France. Duey remained in Italy taking training. Whether he qualified I am not sure. Phil kept on turning out reports with Duey's signature until Duey arrived in country. Phil said Duey was quite impressed with Phil's forgery of his signature. He asked Phil promise to let him know when Phil was in the same town as he so he could freeze his bank account. When I was a 2nd LT, we dreaded the morning report every day, but my opinion changed later when I realized what it could reveal.

### **Tom Finley**

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The picture in my opinion is of D Battery taken in Friscoti Italy where we camped among the olive trees just before the Aug. 15th jump into S. France.

The tall commander is **Geo.Schnebli** and i believe i recognize several other men in the picture.

### **Steve Armbruster**

Cpl.460-D  
50 Cal. Machine Gun  
Squad Leader

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George Ardell Schnebli (1919-2010)

Col. Schnebli died in Arlington VA. at 91 years of age.

He was the son of Fred & Clara Schnebli.

A native of Grand Forks, ND., Col. Schnebli spent most of his adult life in the Army, leaving Grand Forks in 1941 with Battery FOC the National Guard. He went on to join the Airborne and was in the European Invasion. After WWII he served in the Korean War and other assignments. Later he was assigned to work at the Pentagon until his retirement.

Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery.

[Add info from turner publishing]

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

The photo on Page 6 of the April 26th Mail Call #2268 was taken in an olive grove in Frascati. The town is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Rome. From August 10, 1944 on we were restricted to the area until we left for the various airfields prior to the jump in Southern France.

The area was not too conducive to insure a good night's sleep. The ground was covered with small stones and olives. The temperature was in the 90s.

All the Batteries had photos taken at this location and have been included in earlier MailCalls.

I have been back to the area a couple of times in the past 10 years and it has been converted to businesses and housing. Those sleeping there now are doing so on Comfort Kings.

### **Merle Mc Morrow**

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I found a package that I received a few months ago from Mel Trenary. He included the A Company group photo from Toccoa, in which he identified a number of the troopers in the picture.

See: [http://517prct.org/photos/a\\_co\\_toccoa/a\\_company\\_camp\\_toccoa\\_1943.htm](http://517prct.org/photos/a_co_toccoa/a_company_camp_toccoa_1943.htm)



I recognize a lot of Company A, but can't remember the names. At least I remember a few. Maybe someone else can help. A lot of us are gone now. I remember someone had this picture and got everyone to sign it to that person in the picture. Hekkala had it for a while. He passed away a few years ago, so I don't know who has it now..

### **Mel Trenary**

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Also in Mel's note he said that his wife, Emma, was in the hospital and very sick. Sadly, I just found out that **Emma Trenary** passed away this past January. My condolences to Mel and his family. - BB

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Bob -- another enjoyable MailCall. Thank you. Alan and I will be out of the country starting May 7 thru May 24, so will have very limited ability to check for MailCalls. Are you going to the New Orleans reunion?

### **Pat Seitz**



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

**From:** jnturco@aol.com [mailto:jnturco@aol.com]  
**Subject:** Re: 517th MailCall - February 8, 2015

This was the last letter I received from 517th Mail Call. I wonder what happened as I see I have not been dropped as a member. I can't remember when it is time to pay dues but will still pay them when it is time! I miss the letters so if I could be getting them again I would appreciate it.

Best wishes,

**Joyce Turco** widow of **Leo Turco**!

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Hi Joyce,

Nice to hear from you. One of the nice things about using the MailChimp delivery service for MailCalls is that I can check on who has subscribed or unsubscribed from MailCall. And yes, I can see that you were unsubscribed on February 13<sup>th</sup>:

***This person unsubscribed on Feb 13, 2015 09:55 am***

After receiving "MailCall #2257"

Reason: Spammy content

From that info, it appears that you must have hit the "unsubscribe" button at the bottom of the email either deliberately or accidentally. Or your email system decided for itself that MailCalls looked like spam and unsubscribed for you. Unfortunately, the system will not let me re-add you myself:

**"jnturco@..... has unsubscribed, and cannot be resubscribed by you. To prevent false spam complaints, they'll need to resubscribe of their own free will."**

But you should be able to sign up again yourself. Go to this page: <http://517prct.org/mailcall.htm> and just put in your name and email. It should be automatic after that.

Let me know if that works.

PS: You can read the MailCalls that you missed at: <http://517prct.org/mailcall/index.htm>

Hope this helps.  
Bob B

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

**Brenda Carlin**, the director of the Stephens Currahee Military museum is making a request that the 517th send representatives to Toccoa, GA to represent our regiment. You can see by her email they need help with the run up and down Currahee mountain. If anyone living in the Georgia area can go and represent us it would be wonderful. Please put this out on mailcall for all to see

Thanks so much, and the Currahee Military museum does a lot for the 517th, they have a wonderful display of our regiment in their museum, so if anyone can go and help out I would greatly appreciate it.

**Lory Curtis**, 1st Vice President, 517th PRCT Association

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Hi Lory,

I hope you and family are doing well and enjoying some warmer weather. We are getting ready for the D-Day Run and Events and hoping the 517<sup>th</sup> will support the event and project this year. We will have a memorial service recognizing each of the regiments. We would love to have someone here to represent the regiment, if possible.

Do something new this year, we are inviting groups and each of the regiments to have a table on display dictated to their specific veterans, such as the 517<sup>th</sup> PRCT.

Also will have a groundbreaking for the new pavilion that day. When the pavilion is ready we will have a donor plaque for contributions. There will also be a plaque for each of the regiments with the list of individuals that donated specially to a certain regiment. We are hoping to get the men and their families to help support this project.

The museum downtown will stay as is, but we will also have displays in the HQ building. The is the one building left on the site from WWII, will house exhibits as well.

The deadline for artwork for the shirts and media information is May 8<sup>th</sup>, we hope the 517<sup>th</sup> will support this event and project. Please let us know if you can find someone to have an display for the 517<sup>th</sup>, and thanks for all you do.

If you have questions please call or email. I am out of the office today and should be back tomorrow.

Thanks Lory,

**Brenda Carlin**



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[Join  
D-Day Run & Memorial Service and  
Ground Breaking for the New Pavilion](#)

Saturday, June 6 at 7:00am  
Currahee Toccoa at Currahee



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

So proud of it !  
Patricia et Roland Orengo

## Les Orengo décorés par le congrès américain

Hébergés chez Patricia et Roland Orengo, les amis de l'Association du 442<sup>th</sup> RCT ont clôturé leur visite au village en remettant au couple sospellois une médaille. Et pas des moindres, puisqu'il s'agit de l'Or du Congrès, la plus haute distinction civile qui puisse être accordée par le parlement des États-Unis ! Cette récompense salue « la constante assistance aux soldats Nisei et à leurs familles ; et à d'autres « Combat Team » alliées qui ont servi dans le sud de la France pendant l'opération « Anvil Dragoon » et la « Champagne Campaign »

d'août 1944 à mars 1945 ». En effet, le couple, passionné depuis toujours par l'histoire militaire, a construit avec le temps de forts liens d'amitié avec d'anciens vétérans libérateurs de Sospel et leurs enfants : rencontres aux États-Unis, invitations à Sospel, correspondances, recherches historiques... Roland Orengo avait été d'ailleurs l'un des organisateurs du 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Libération en octobre dernier, mettant à profit ses savoirs et son réseau de connaissances de la région et d'Outre-Atlantique.



Lors de la remise de médaille.

(Photo J.A.)



The visit of the sansei ends. The American Sansei are of Japanese Descent (the 3<sup>th</sup> generation). Their fathers, the nisei fought in the U.s. Army during the second world war and participated in issue France and especially our village (with the 517<sup>th</sup> prct).

We still have a lot of fun to help the us veterans and their families in their stay in sospel.

Today a presentation of this moment of history has been carried out at the school of sospel with a class of primary and a secondary. Very beautiful time of

sharing. Thank you to the teachers who have helped us in this task.

Then, Roland and I have had the immense pleasure of receiving from the hands of David Nishitani and Stuart Hirai, the gold medal of the congress. What intense moment of emotion.

The Gold Medal of the Congress is the highest civilian honour that can be granted by the Congress of the United States. The decoration is granted to any individual who realizes an action or service for the safety, prosperity, or the national interest of the United States. The winner did not need to be an American citizen.





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After the presentation at Sospel Middle School, we gave a Congressional Gold Medal to Patricia and Roland Orengo. This couple have generously given their time to welcome veterans and their families that fought in southern France during Operation Dragoon/Anvil and the Champagne Campaign. They have been host to the First Special Service Force, (Black Devils/Devil's Brigade), the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment (the 442nd RCT Anti-tank Company was attached to the 517th), and the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team after the fighting in the Vosges Mountains. They work hard to promote the legacy of the allied soldiers that fought in this region.

Picture of Patricia and Roland after the presentation at the Middle School in Sospel.

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From Nila Gott:

**Subject:** Vietnam POWs - 40 years later

This is a great video of our military guys who were held in North Vietnam prisons. I had never seen this before and I had no idea how these guys felt all these years about Nixon.

Why not share this magnificent video with your friends.

**Vietnam POWs - 40 years later**

No matter what one may think of Nixon now - watch this!

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=LemllfcAY8A&sns=em](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=LemllfcAY8A&sns=em)

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



A real honor for me to have received this week the flag of the 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion offered by Walter Eldredge, 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion historian (WW2 & Korea) have for years accompanied the veterans of the unit through their reunions.

Thank you for all, Walter !

**Loïc 'Jack' Jankowiak**

I have to include this photo because, as you all know, Loïc is a good friend, historian, and reenactor of the 517<sup>th</sup> PRCT. Second, the 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion was part of Operation Dragoon on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1944. One of their companies actually landed in the gliders with the 550<sup>th</sup> Infantry. And lastly, this flag was given to Loïc by Walter Eldredge, the son of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Chemical Mortar Battalion trooper. I just realized about a year ago that Walter, who wrote a biography of his father in WWII, was the same Walter Eldredge who was a member of my fraternity house, Lambda Chi Alpha in Boston. Walter was just a couple of years ahead of me at the fraternity and MIT. - BB

N'hésitez pas à partager l'évènement !

Feel free to share the event !

**Dragoon Historical March**  
**13 août 2015**

Inscriptions et informations :  
loicjankowiak@hotmail.fr  
Facebook : DRAGOON HISTORICAL MARCH 2015





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

### *In Memorium – Ann Pugh*

I am sorry to send this e mail. Ann Pugh died on Sat April 18 in Alexandria VA. She had a very long and happy life. My brother and sister in law were here with me and we had many wonderful discussions of her rather remarkable life before her death. She had the capacity to thank all her caregivers before her death for their kindness and patience. Her mind was sharp up until 36 hours before her death.

While most knew of my father's great achievements, some might not have know that she was a pioneer in early television where she was both on screen live talent as well as producer and managed all her show's advertising for a 6 day a week live show on NBC. She also acted in NY, taught college after WWII, wrote industrial shows and plays and was active in politics. She had a masters from University of Southern California and recalls celebrating VJ Day at the beach.

In her materials there are three handwritten letters from Ronald Reagan from 1965-1970 thanking her for driving her around Dallas and persuading him to fly on a plane for the first time. Regardless of what you think of Reagan she was right in recognizing that he had greater potential than doing NBC or GE TV narration and soap commercials.

During WWII she wore a uniform as a volunteer for V12 soldiers at Texas Christian University picking up aluminum, paper, glass, rubber and other reusable materials. She also produced shows for soldiers. Later in the 1960s she recycled items from our house long before it was fashionable. We used to tease her that she wasted more fuel driving the materials in a gas guzzling car to the industrial center some 15 miles from our house than it saved society. But she knew it was right and did it weekly despite our teasing. In her 90s she washed out food baggies after storing food. No doubt that special Baggie bacteria kept her alive 92 years.

Her plays were published and one was produced as recently as 2011. Two of her children's books are still used in schools in Colorado and Texas.

She was proudest of being a mother of three, a very happy wife of a man who was her best friend for almost 49 years and grandmother of 6, great grandmother of 9.

She was in her last TV commercial for WRC in Washington DC in 2005 where she memorized her lines and got the commercial done in only 3 takes. The commercial camera team and producer were surprised at her skill at age 82. She just turned to me and winked. After doing a 60 minute live show six days a week for 6 years a commercial about Medicare was a breeze.

Her ashes will be placed with my father's ashes at the church courtyard where they were married in Ft Worth, Texas. A small service will be held on June 20th there.

My mother appreciated your friendship.

I thank you also. Please let me know if you will be in the Washington DC area. Please note this is my correct e mail address. Please remove my mindspring e mail from your records.

Thanks,  
Theresa Pugh





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I was so sad to hear of the death of **Ann Pugh**. we lived near them in Fort Worth for many years and loved being with them. In 1985 she Charley, my husband Frank and I hosted the 517 REUNION in San Antonio, Texas. It was a wonderful time working, visiting etc with them during the planning and executing the week there. Please express my condolences to Teresa and the family. Thank you for the 517 news.

**June Huffman**

### *In Memorium – William T. Webb*

I received this from **Leila Webb** a few days ago.

Bill and Lella lived near Kissimmee and were regulars at those reunions. I am certain that she would be pleased if you could reproduce the funeral program in MailCall.

Hope that all is well with you and yours,

Regards,  
**Allan Johnson**



23rd Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths  
of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me; thy rod and  
thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the  
presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my  
head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all  
the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of  
the Lord for ever.

### In Loving Memory Of

### *William T. Webb*

DATE OF BIRTH  
March 8, 1925  
Port Huron, Michigan

ENTERED INTO REST  
March 5, 2015  
St. Cloud, Florida

FUNERAL SERVICE  
Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 2:00 P.M.  
Fisk Funeral Home  
St. Cloud, Florida

OFFICIATING  
Rev. Dr. Leonard Thompson

INTERMENT  
Rose Hill Cemetery  
Kissimmee, Florida

*Fisk Funeral Home & Crematory  
St. Cloud, Florida*

Does anyone have a copy of Bill Webb's autobiography of the war, called "Escapades". I would love to be able to include it on our [Meet the Troopers](#) page. -- BB



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## 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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

Website	<a href="http://www.517prct.org">www.517prct.org</a>
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MailCall Archives	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/archives">www.517prct.org/archives</a>
2015 Roster (updated!)	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf">www.517prct.org/roster.pdf</a>
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/archives">www.517prct.org/archives</a>