



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2273**

**May 31, 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](#)

I just read **Don Harte's** kind offer in Mail Call - offering to make a donation to keep the buses running in NOLA for the reunion.

We are almost there, and I really hope we don't have to take you up on your offer!

Register now! I heard that **Steve Armbruster** couldn't make it, but just got a call from **Merle** today, indicating that he was having trouble with getting a room but planning on coming.

It is not too late! Do it now!

Hugs to all my favorite vets on Memorial Day.

**Claire Giblin**

Good idea about non-attendees helping with the bus.

I could do up to \$50 - is hate the thought of unit veterans not having a ride.

**Roger Sullivan**



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### MailCall News

# Memorial Day



All Gave Some - Some Gave All

Thank you to ALL of our military and service men and woman. God bless our Troops, All Of Them!  
All my hope and love to the 517th Families.

**Claire Erber**  
(daughter of **Ricard Mltacek**, H Co.)

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RE: **Joseph J. Richardson**, D Battery, 460<sup>th</sup>

Thank you both. I have not been able to identify my father Joseph J in any of the photos. I did go back to some of my notes and files for the following. Dad graduated Airborne School in 1943 after volunteering for paratroops while at Fort Lewis Washington. He talked **John Maletrich** who I believe is C Battery in the Christmas rooster to join him. Discharge shows transit to MTO 4/21/1944 to 5/11/1944 so he arrived before the 460th which I believe arrived 5/31/1944. In his papers was a hand written note on a short history of the 551st PIB that the was attached to the 551 from 6/1/1944 to 8/10/1944. 8/10 happens to be the date the 460th was sealed off before Southern France. Discharge states departed MTO 8/15/1944 arrived ETO 8/15/1944 with arrowhead. Was listed in Christmas rooster. Went on to Berlin I believe transferred to 82nd. Left ETO for USA 11/24/1945 arrived 11/30/1945. Discharge shows last unit Battery D 460th.

**Joe Richardson, Jr.**

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Greetings Bob, saw this article in the NY Times and thought it would be of interest to the 517th. Looking forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

All the best,

**Paul Abbene**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/28/books/hugh-ambrose-historian-who-wrote-the-pacific-dies-at-48.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/28/books/hugh-ambrose-historian-who-wrote-the-pacific-dies-at-48.html?_r=0)

Hugh Ambrose, the author of the award-winning "The Pacific", and was also a vice president of the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, and a historical consultant on "Price for Peace," a 2002 documentary about the Pacific theater produced by Stephen Ambrose and Mr. Spielberg. He was the son of Stephen E. Ambrose, the military historian and biographer whose books recounting the combat feats of American soldiers and airmen fueled a national fascination with the generation that fought World War II. Stephen Ambrose authored "Citizen Soldiers" and "Band of Brothers".

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I'm glad you are going to be at the reunion as I'm bringing my history ww11 to give to you. **Merle McMorrow** would like a copy. I remember him asking for it.

**Mel Trenary**

Sent from my iPad

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Hi Mel,

Funny, but your name came up just yesterday. **Steve Markle** just sent me an updated copy of A Company and Camp Toccoa, with troopers identified by you, **Roger Sullivan** and **Gene Snyder**. It will be in the next MailCall, so maybe you can come up with a few more names.

I am looking forward to New Orleans and catching up with you.

PS: It sounds like Merle will be coming to NOLA after all as well.

I'll see you and your iPad in June!

Bob Barrett





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From **Arnold and Irma Targnion**, Trois Pots, Belgium:

2015 - MAY 24th - **Theresa PUGH** with **MARIA GASPAR** - visit in Stavelot



WANNE TROIS-PONTS MAY 8th -ceremony - 517th monument





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**Subject:** Company A at Camp Toccoa

In reviewing the 517 site on this memorial day, I came across some discussion on the photo for Company A at Camp Toccoa.

The link ([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)) included the image forwarded by Roger Sullivan in 2011 with some referenced names by **Mel Trenary** of the unit.

This jogged a memory of a similar project that I worked with **Gene "Zoot" Snyder** of A Company at the 2010 Palm Springs Reunion involving scanning and stitching a marked up image with many of the names listed. The original source was credited to **Jack Smothers**. I "thought" I sent this on at the time, but it looks like it never was processed.

As an item of note, Roger has his dad as the 7th from the left, but the image lists him as the 7th from the right.

I will also go through some of the other scanning projects I was involved in at the time and make sure that you have copies.

So in memory of all of these guys from the greatest generation, enjoy! We all owe a great deal of gratitude to them.

## Steve Markle

Here is a sample of the annotated A Company photo, just the left side. For the entire readable photo, see:





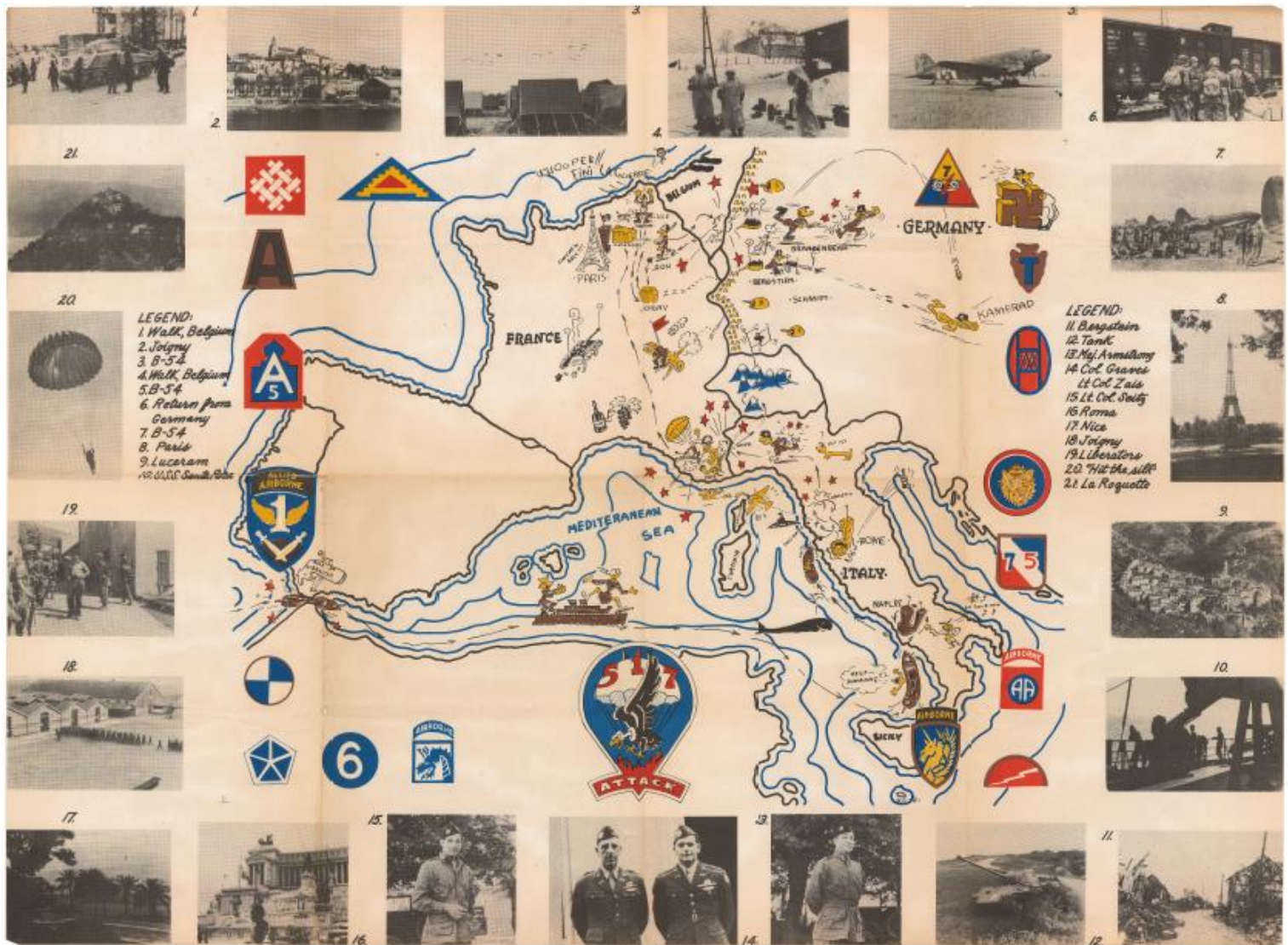


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Here is the file with the photo of the map of what I believe my uncle **Ralph Bajczyk** who was I think based on this find, a parachuter with the 517th, traveled in Europe during WWII. It lists the paths taken, Joigny, Bergstein, Paris, Luceran, Roma, Nice, La Roquette. It has caricatures as well as photos. I paid to get a digital scan made of it.

Can you take a peak and let me know if it should be preserved, my cousin is in possession of it now, her mother, sister to Ralph, had kept it in a box. It had not been opened or remembered for some time until I had genealogy questions and found my 2nd cousin to question.

**Mary Bajczyk Fennig**  
New Berlin, WI



Thanks, Mary. I think I have seen this map before somewhere, but I don't remember where, and not in this good a resolution. I think it might have been in a reunion booklet handout, but I'm not sure and cannot find a reference to it. I will include this map in the next MailCall and add it to the website. I don't know if it's worth a lot except maybe to a collector, but I certainly wouldn't destroy it. – Bob Barrett



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Here is what I know, **Ralph (Moose) Bajczyk** was born October 26, 1914, he passed September 25, 1978. He is buried at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Ancestry calls him my grand uncle, he was uncle to my father. The story passed down is that he was parachuted behind enemy lines on or about D-Day. When he returned he was not the same man, a little 'off'. This I have heard from my Dads Cousin, Shirley Gerhard (the one in possession of the map) and an aunt still living.

I did send you a photo a while back of this map, but you had asked for a better one, it took some time but I got it to a shop that was able to scan it and put it on a memory stick for me - I contacted you through facebook. The actual map is about 3 foot by 2 foot., if it was in a reunion book it would have been smaller (?)

If you know where to send it to preserve it, I think I may be able to ask my cousin to part with it. Her children are not very interested in genealogy and she had been discarding photos and such when I found her. There are very few Bajczyks' left out there and I am trying to preserve what I can find.

Mary Bajczyk Fennig

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Hello Thierry and Bob Barrett,

My name is Kristopher Bryce... I live in Bryan, Ohio. I have some information about **Sgt. Albert Wise**.

As a reference I copy and pasted this stuff from your website.

SERGEANT WISE, ALBERT R.

CALIFORNIA ,517 PRCHT INF REGT compagny A

sérial number :37343354

Died , friday , january 05/1945

Buried at Henri Chapel Américan Cemetery Belgium He received the Bronze star, Purple heart .

I have been looking for information on Sgt. Albert Wise for some time now. He was married to my grandmother Beverly Ruth McMillion. I think they lived in Colorado Springs, CO. He died on January 5, 1945. The crazy thing is I was born on Jan 5 1977.... We have a few of his military honers and my goal has been to find his family and return them to them. I also have a telegram that Bev was sent about his death. That is really all the info I have. Until, today I have never seen a picture of him. I also knew that he was from California.

My grandmothers brothers was Dayton and Clarence McMillon. I've never had the chance to ask what they remember about Albert. I was hoping they could give me a lead on if he had any brothers or sisters. Beverly went on after Alberts death to marry my grandfather John "Jack" Bryce of Grand Ledge, Michigan. Jack just died last week. He was 93 years old. He was in the 100th bombardier. He flew in 35 missions in WWII.

I always think about this story because if Albert did not die at the Battle of the Bulge I would not be here today. History is a crazy thing....

My number is 419-xxx-xxxx or my email is ..... if you would like to share notes on this....

Thanks, **Kristopher Bryce**



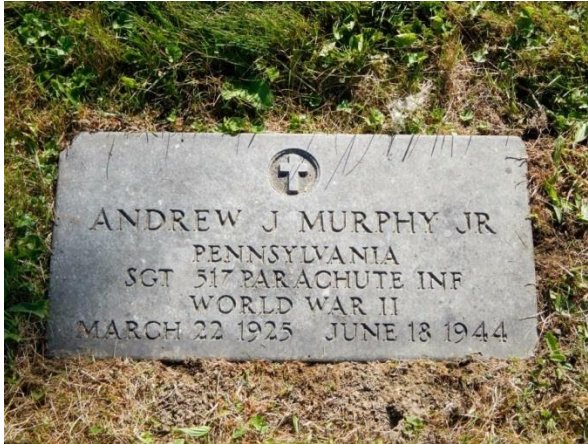


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Good afternoon!

The family of **Sgt. Andrew Murphy** has been posting a lot in the last year. He was initial KIA of 517th on June 18, 1944 near the town of Istia de Ambrone, near Grosseto, Italy.

Here are some of the recent postings remembering "Bud" I thought your site would enjoy.



SGT. ANDREW J. MURPHY

Sgt. Andrew J. Murphy, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Murphy, 19 Westminster street, city, was killed in action in Italy on June 18, according to notification received by his parents from the War Department. Murphy was a paratrooper and was jump master of his squad. He enlisted two years ago and had been overseas since May of this year. Sgt. Murphy received his basic training at Camp Coccoa, Fort Benning, Ga., and Camp Mackall, N. C. He was a graduate of Meyers High School and served as treasurer of his class. His father is a letter carrier at the Wilkes-Barre Post Office and a veteran of World War I. Besides his parents, Sgt. Murphy is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Frank, James, Clara & Gary Ellen.



About to head overseas, a group of 1st Battalion troopers faced the camera. From left to right in the back row are Armando Cobos, Stedman, Needham, Sgt. Andrew Murphy with rifle, the first KIA of the 517th, Davis, Hartnett and Setness. In the front row are Reese, Clark Archer, Kellogg, Stompro and Bolin. (Courtesy Charles Keen)



My wife and I visited Tuscany in 2013, using information in the Battling Buzzards book and various online reports of the battle and we believe we found where the attack occurred.

Will forward in near future the photos from the trip.

Many thanks for keeping the memories alive!

**Brendan Monaghan**





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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



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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>