



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2286

August 23, 2015

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

MailCall News

This weekend was the 71st anniversary of the liberation of Trans-en-Provence, the people here will always appreciate the sacrifices made on their behalves. There was a memorial service, a convoy of American military vehicles and dancing in the square!

I took the attached photo yesterday in the village after the memorial service.

Best wishes to all,

Justin Spooner



We have a lot of information about **Harry Moore** and **Phil Kennamer** in MailCalls [2274](#) 1nd [2275](#).



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As long as we are posting pictures of the ceremonies and memorials of Operation Dragoon in recent MailCalls, I don't want to forget that in Draguignan, there is also a boulevard named for **Albert M. Robinson Jr.**, KIA August 17, 1944. All I have is this sing from Google Maps streetview.



And these plaques to the 596th at the Nice Airport:



In memory of the brave paratroopers of the 596th Parachute Engineer Company 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army

who parachuted into the South of France on August 15, 1944, took part in the release of the town of Nice.

These valiant parachutists sacrificed their lives in de-mining the airport of Nice so that it is usable for the liberation of France and it is for them that this plaque is dedicated:

Sergeant Wallace P. Englert
PFC William F. Boggan
PFC Herbert B. McLamb
PFC Alois J. Siewierski
Private Vestal A. Lucas
Private Harold H. Miller



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Thanks to its courageous resistance, the town of Nice was liberated on August 28, 1944. The following day, these valiant resistance fighters began the de-mining of this airfield to allow its usage by the grateful town of Nice.

RE: Operation Dragoon

Sent from my iPad. I sent some money to the h.e.a.r.t.s. Veterans museum in Huntsville,tx.so I get a paper from them that tells me how things are going. In it they had a column showing what happened in August in the past & in history. The operation dragoon wasn't even in there.i drove to Huntsville,tx. To see the director on Saturday our anniversary date, but he wasn't there. I gave the cashier the info. About our invasion & gave him a copy of the forgotten D-Day that came out in the newspaper some time ago. He won't forget it now. I had given them a copy of my war years. Apparently he didn't read it.

Mel Trenary

Submitted by

Name: **SCHMITZ Sabine**
From: Malmedy,BELGIUM
E-mail:
sabineschmitz1977@hotmail.com

Comments:

In January 44, you have freed my village. Hénumont (Trois- Ponts) with the 404 th Infantry Regiment. I would like to thank you and respect.

Do you have some pictures of the town , the names with a history , meetings with villagers ...
Tell me.
Thank you very much.
Sabine.

Added: August 17, 2015

Click here to open ["Why would you want to dissolve the 517th Association?" - Questions and Answers"](#)

And don't forget to vote: [Special 517th Thunderbolt and voting ballot](#)



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Greetings from **Tom Cross**

I moved recently and had the pleasure of discovering and meeting a new neighbor: Tom Cross. A true delight for me. He is planning to get to the next reunion and what a treat that will be. He certainly has some great stories to tell.

We talked a bit about the dissolution of the 517th organization and his primary concern is that all historical materials held by the organization go to the Army War College Museum where they will be kept as a permanent record and also used for teaching. But I suspect he'll shortly be telling you this himself. (**Rick Seitz** take note).

If you want to contact him his address is:

Col. Thomas R. Cross
Leeward Manor 776
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

904-270-1272

Brenda Verbeck Mortensen





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In Memorium – Lucky Hiers – 460 PFAB, HQ Company

This RE; **Lucky Hiers**

Well friends, we've lost another WWII 517th member. Lucky prayed to live until August 8th (to be like his Grandfather). He lived until the evening of August 9th. He had multiple health issues over the past several years, with issues increasing in volume and intensity. He was told by a doctor in the mountains of Colorado in 2008 that he MUST leave the mountains we loved. We didn't even put our home on the market there on the mountain. One day the next week we had a call from a good friend who wanted to know how soon we could leave. We scurried with family and friends and a cherished home, family, friends, and our church home in almost no time at all with top \$\$\$\$. Those we left, especially a realtor friend, said the whistle blew as we left town and the market went flat. (That was true for our Country in 2008.)

Approximately five months ago, five doctors sat together discussing his case. Lucky's primary doctor gave us their decision that there was nothing more that could be done for him. His heart and kidneys failed rapidly. He was a trooper, kept his laughter and spirit alive until a few days before he died. We who loved him are so proud of the man he was. He never stopped telling everyone he met just how important Jesus is and how good Jesus was treating him.

He said he was just a farmer, planting seeds for Jesus. I thought about buying him a pair of overalls to wear into the presence of our Lord. He thought that would be fine. The service to honor him will be Saturday, August 29th @ 9:30 AM, with a military send off. Please pray for me. If you remember anything about him, funny or whatever, I would love to have you write a little about your memory. It will help me cope when family members travel back to their widely spread homes. My address is: 18304 Gulf Blvd., #103; Redington Shores, FL 33708

AS TO OUR VOTE ABOUT THE 517th PRCT Association: There seems to be a good core of workers who have kept it going in spite of their fatigue, and in spite of the dwindling numbers who could attend. We haven't been able to attend. We "felt good" that it was still continuing. But we were not the ones paying the price. We admire you people!!!! We have read your names and discussed all of you. We love you for what you have done for so long. We didn't, and I don't think so few should ASK for you to continue. You are HUGE in my eyes, as you were in Lucky's eyes.

God bless each and every one of you.

Mrs. Lucky (Billie Hiers)





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In Memory of

Ludwick H. "Lucky" Hiers Sr.

August 8, 1922 - August 9, 2015



LUDWICK H. "LUCKY" HIERS, SR., celebrated his 93rd birthday on 08-08-2015, and moved to his Heavenly home on Sunday, 08-09-2015, with keen anticipation of meeting his Saviour, Jesus, face-to-face. Born in Savannah, GA he graduated from Plant HS in Tampa and then joined the Army, serving in the 517th Combat Team as a Paratrooper. At the end of his service in WWII, he was attached to the 82nd Airborne Unit in Berlin. When he came from the war he began working for what is now the CSX Railroad and was there for 45 years



He also was looking forward to once again being with his family who preceded him in death. His parents, Robert J. Hiers and Lila Downs Hiers, his brother, Robert J. Hiers, Jr, and wife Evelyn, his sister, Margie and her husband Dwight Satterwhite. Lastly, but definitely not least, was Lucky's beloved and devoted wife, Glenn [Thompson] Hiers, and their son, Earl Maurice Hiers at age 17.

Survivors are Billie Sharon Hiers, who had the privilege and joy of being his wife for the last 22 years; his son, Ludwick Hiers, II [Margaret], daughter, Lane Martin [Dan] and their daughter, Lindsey Wilt [Travis] and their son, Malcolm, his only great-grandson.

Additional survivors are the children Billie Sharon brought to him. Four children, Robin Oda [Scott], Jennifer Hill [Mark], Richard Foster, and David Foster [Maryann], who collectively presented Lucky with twelve grandchildren whom he delighted to share with Billie Sharon. These twelve children lighted up his latter years; Dr. Kelli Spellman [Dr. Joseph], Maggie Lyon [Alex], Tyler Oda, Spenser Hill, Elliott Hill, Clayton Foster, Maria Foster, Joshua Foster, Zoe Foster, Nadia Foster, Gabriel Foster and Shane Foster. Lucky was "Grampy" to all of these children.

We are left with memories of his laughter, whether at himself or one of his endless jokes or a story from the past. He taught Elyut to prepare the shrimp that we all enjoyed eating with Grampy. He always knew when one of them was hurting or rejoicing.

He shared at random his wisdom and knowledge, his curiosity, his love of travel and reading, including the Holy Bible. He never knew a stranger, and would strike up a conversation with anyone who would listen.

We have loved him... we will miss him...



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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
- 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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Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

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