



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2288**

**September 8, 2015**

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

### *MailCall News*

I am happy to share that **Leo Dean** is back on US soil! He arrived last night and proceeded to Albany, where he is awaiting a bed in a rehab facility to work the leg he broke last month.

So many of our French friends visited Leo in the hospital, including the Thompson family of La Motte (Felicia, Graham, and little Iona), friends from Ste. Cezaire Elisabeth and Jean Marc Atlan, as well as Guy Tassin and Louis Limonet, friends from Sospel **Patou and Roland Orengo**, and Bertrand **Prudhonne** of Salernes. Re-enactors Jonathan and his wife, **Fred Hermann** and **Adrian Soldi** visited, drawing lots of looks in their WWII clothing. There are probably more that I don't even know about. David Fouan visited frequently, bringing eclairs and English-language newspapers. But no one did more than the longtime friend to the 517, **Eric Renoux**. Eric helped us at the hospital, called the doctors and the nurses daily, visited as much as possible, and even met with the nurse who arrived to escort Leo on his trip home. He and his wife Laurence did more than humanly possible for Leo and for me during my stay with them.

Times like these really show us the goodness of people. A new friend had me for several nights in her home. The Consul General, Monique Casada, put me in touch with her special assistant for citizen services; they offered to help with translation if necessary, as well as anything else Leo might have needed. The staff at the boulangerie would ask about Leo's progress as I bought his daily eclairs. A waiter, remembering Allan and Leo from two weeks prior, gave me a break on the bill. Stefane, a friend of Eric's, accompanied me for a day and literally didn't leave my side. Leo's doctor treated me as family, making sure to spend time with me as well. Friends and family were encouraging despite the distance, messaging and emailing. There were acts of kindness, large and small, every day. Every one was appreciated.

This was a trip different from all the others, to be sure. But it was one that showed us again, in a different way, the strength of the friendship between the United States and France. That friendship isn't just about policies and politics; it's about friendships between our citizens. Thank you to all our friends in France. Once again, I was shown the strength of this historic relationship.

Welcome home, Leo!! Glad you are back on US terra firma!

**Claire Johnson Giblin**



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

Claire,

Thank you for keeping me posted on Leo's progress and return home. You did a phenomenal job with managing his care. As a caregiver, I empathize with the amount of details that must be attended to and the stress. Most importantly I thank you for staying with Leo in France and in the true spirit of the 517PRCT "leaving no man behind"

high regards

Joanne Barrett

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Claire: thank you for the good news and the inspiring and up lifting message. I ditto Joanne's email--you were outstanding and God bless all of our fabulous French friends.

**Pat Seitz**

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Another amazing Mail Call. Thanks for your efforts. Sorry to hear about Leo Dean's accident. Hope he has a quick and full recovery.

**John Krumm**

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I first read **Niia Gott's** piece regarding Corporal Voytek with interest, enjoyment and amazement at the ingenuity of soldiers. However, I was awestruck watching the interview with Captain Jerry Yellin. Thank you to Niia for finding the interview and sharing it with you so that the rest of the 517th family could see it. What a stellar representative of the greatest generation. He is an inspiration to all of us of humble self-sacrifice for the common good and may each of us re-dedicate our efforts to promote peace and justice in this world. Thank you to you and Nila.

**Pat Seitz**

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Since my mother passed away in April my brother in California has been organizing things he knew I would like to have. Attached is a letter from the 517th about the reunion in New Orleans in 1973. I thought everyone would like to read it, since we just had our National Reunion there in June.

**Lory Curtis**



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



July 12, 1973

Once again, HELLO THERE, Troopers and Families,

The 517th Parachute Combat Team Reunion in New Orleans is less than a month away! Registration fees and hotel confirmations are rolling in by the day, and it looks like another great Reunion!

If you have not sent your \$20 per trooper registration fee, covering general expenses of the Reunion, to E. M. Jolly, Reunion Chairman, 1055 Louisiana Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, do so NOW! Make checks payable to 517th Parachute Combat Team Reunion.

The Royal Sonesta Hotel, in the Heart of the French Quarter - a hotel with luxury and all that jazz - needs your reservations 15 days prior to August 12, in order to assure you of a room. The special rates for our reunion are \$34 for two persons (Queen or Twin) and \$27 for one person. Rollaway beds are complimentary and there will be no charge for children, regardless of age, when occupying the same room with parents.

So, if you have not made your hotel reservation, do so IMMEDIATELY! The address is Royal Sonesta, 300 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70140. Be sure to identify yourself with the 517th Parachute Combat Team Reunion to be held August 12 thru 15, 1973.

Tickets for the big event - the Banquet and Dance - will be issued at the reunion registration table. The price is \$10 per person.

As mentioned in the first letter, we are leaving much free time for you to go and see the places of your choice. All types of tours may be arranged at the hotel throughout the reunion, and much information will be available when you register.

But since "The War" must be won again, bull sessions with old buddies are a must, and getting folks together is what it's all about, we have this planned!



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

517th Reunion (Con't.)

July 12, 1973

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Monday, August 13

- 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. - Registration at the Royal Sonesta  
10 A.M. - 5 P.M. - Mustering, Briefing, Hospitality, or you name it, in the Evangeline Suite, set up with a cash bar.  
12 Noon - 2 P.M. - Social gathering for the "off springs" of the 517th at the hotel swimming pool.  
5 P.M. - Til - You're on your own! (Oyster bars, famous restaurants, Top of the Mart, and Pat O'Brians are a few of our suggestions. But be sure to end your evening with coffee at the French Market!)

### Tuesday, August 14

- 10 A.M. - 12 Noon - Reveille and First Aid - Evangeline Suite.  
ALL DAY - Free time for sight seeing.  
6 P.M. - 7 P.M. - Cocktail Hour - Evangeline Foyer.  
7 P.M. - 9 P.M. - Banquet and Program - Grand Ball Room.  
10 P.M. - 12 P.M. - Dance for everybody - young and old - to a genuine New Orleans Dixie Land Band.

### Wednesday, August 15

- 10 A.M. - 12 Noon - Final Briefing and Sand Tabling - Ball Room North

General Seitz is scheduled to speak to us at the banquet. The Pathfinders Quartet, headed up by George F. Correa, a former 517th Trooper from Co. "G" 3rd Bn., will entertain during the banquet with some familiar songs. This group has scheduled a special 11-stop tour and has included our Reunion.

Regimental Headquarters (somewhere near the hospitality room) will have a place for posting notices relative to special group gatherings, lost or found persons, and for displaying of prized photographs! So if you have some good memos, bring them along!

New Orleans is ready and waiting! And with your presence, this will make our 517th Reunion the best yet!

So Y'all come,

  
Ed Jolly,  
Reunion Chairman

(318) 631-0045 Home Phone  
(318) 425-7452 Office Phone



# 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



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2015 Roster (updated!)  
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