



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2289

September 13, 2015

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

MailCall News

Subject:
Picture from Theoule-sur-Mer

To whom it may concern,

Attached is a picture from Mr. **Allan Johnson** with the chief of staff for Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Africa, Sixth Fleet, Rear Admiral (Sel) O'Connor. I am trying to find the address of Mr. Johnson so I can mail him the picture, but I thought it would be a good idea to go ahead and scan it and email it to the website. Please forward me the address of Mr. Johnson so I can mail it to him. Thank you beforehand.

Very Respectfully,

YN1(SW) Alfredo J. Barros
Flag Writer to RDML(Sel) Cathal S. O'Connor
Chief of Staff and Director Strategy, Resources, and Plans (N5) U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Africa



This photo is from the ceremonies this past August, celebrating Operation Dragoon and the 1944 liberation of southern France.

And in the unlikely case that some of you don't recognize her, that's Allan's daughter **Claire Giblin**, on the right. -- BB



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Greetings,

I am happy to report that **Leo Dean** was promoted to an Albany rehab facility this past week. This is wonderful progress as he now works on that leg he broke just about exactly a month ago in France. At rehab, he gets to dress in normal clothing - a stylish upgrade from the variety of hospital gowns he's endured across two countries!

Leo is looking forward to graduating and getting out of there, probably to stay with a friend first, before he heads home.

We continue to be grateful to so many people in France, from the doctors and nurses who took such good care of him to our friends who visited him as he recovered. **Dr. Diebold** visited even after Leo changed floors, and longtime 517 friend **Loic (aka Jack) Jankowiak** visited as well. I was able to find a picture of Loic, a frequent correspondent to Mail Call. This one is from Sainte Cezaire from last year, with our lovely **Helen Beddow**. Not only did Leo get hurt too early in the trip to get many pictures, but I haven't been able to unload my camera yet (missing cord; currently reordered) AND remember that Leo hardly ever poses happily without a pretty girl in the picture. **Eric Renoux** continues to monitor the situation from France, and we are grateful for his ongoing friendship. We are so lucky in so many ways.



I hope to see Leo in the next few days and provide an even fuller report.

Thank you to all who have kept Leo in your thoughts and prayers! He is making great progress!

AIRBORNE! All the way!

Claire Giblin

I'm glad Leo is doing ok. At our age it takes a little more time to get well.

Mel Trenary

Thank you, great newsletter !

-- **Ray Estrella** (Served under **Col Gene Frice** in Special Forces)



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Last Saturday I had the pleasure of visiting **Earl Boone** at the Arizona Veterans Home in Phoenix. Thanks to Jim (sorry did not catch last name), who we all got to know at the New Orleans reunion, I had found out Earl was in Phoenix and finally had a chance to stop in to say hello. Earl was a sergeant in F Co. 2nd Bn. Earl retired to the Tempe area in the 90's, and he told me his wife is still living there and doing well. Earl said he was one of the first to get the Palm Springs reunions organized. Earl has some issues with dementia, but when we talked about the exploits of the 517th, he had story after story to share with me and all with a big smile. Those days remain very strong in his

memory. Earl's room is decorated with Airborne memorabilia including the Silver Star, and was so happy to get a 517th hat to wear with pride and show the other vets in the home where he belonged. If you are in the Phoenix area stop by to say hi to Earl and the other vets at The Phoenix Veterans Home. It may tear at your heart, but we can't forget the respect and admiration these men deserve. I will look forward to my next visit.

Tim Curtis

Son of **Harland "Bud" Curtis**

Hello, I was wondering if you could help me. My entire life I was told my grandfather, **Chester Ogorek**, was in the 101st Airborne Division. He supposedly fought in Normandy, Market Garden and Belgium before getting gravely injured. He would tell me the stories when I was a child and he always said he was in the 101st and at Normandy. Recently I was able to get a copy of his discharge paperwork and it appears to list the 517 PIR as his unit and his date of injury as October 15, 1944, which would put it before the Bulge. I've enclosed a copy of the paperwork. It's not the best copy and I can probably make a better scan if needed. I know the 517 was never a part of the 101st and that they fought in different parts of Europe until the Bulge. He always told me he fought in Italy and then joined the 101st for Normandy. Is this possible? What does the paperwork say? Any way you can help me clarify some of this or maybe point me in the right direction? I really appreciate it. Thank you.

Dave Lesko

Sgt. David W Lesko #250
Elgin Police Department
Night Shift Patrol



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1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL Ogorek Chester S			4. GRADE SOCIAL NO 16 070 239			5. GRADE 1st Lt			6. TYPE OF SERVICE Inf			7. COMPONENT AMC		
2. ORGANIZATION HQ Co 517th Parachute Inf			8. DATE OF SEPARATION 27 Oct 45			9. TYPE OF SEPARATION Wakeman O H Op. Atterbury Ind			10. DATE OF BIRTH 16 Jul 1922			11. PLACE OF BIRTH Chicago Ill		
3. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 1452 W Cortez St Chicago Ill			12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE Sought See 9			13. GRADE AT TIME OF SEPARATION Blue 1 Lt			14. HEIGHT 5' 11"			15. WEIGHT 172 lbs		
16. SEX M			17. COLOR OF HAIR Blue			18. COLOR OF EYES Blue			19. U.S. CITIZEN Yes			20. U.S. RESIDENT REGISTERED FOR VOTING Yes		
MILITARY HISTORY												21. GRADE AT ENTRY INTO SERVICE Chicago Ill 1st Lt		
22. DATE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE 24 Apr 42			23. DATE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE 24 Apr 42			24. NAME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE See 9			25. NAME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE See 9			26. NAME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE See 9		
27. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Squad Leader 7 459			28. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS Rome-Arno Southern France Rhineland			29. WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT Combat Inf Badge Rifle M-1 (as) Carbine (as)			30. WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT 61 Mvmt (exp)			31. WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT (as)		
32. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS 3 Stars Good Conduc. Ribbon Purple Heart												33. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION Legs Face Arms Eye and Neck France 15 Oct 44		

Hi David, I did some research, but I am still stumped. On a quick search, I cannot find any records of Ogorek with the 517, but my records are very incomplete.

The discharge says 517th PIR, HQ Company, and Wounded in Action on Oct 15, 1944. The 517 did see some action in the maritime alps in mid-October but I do not have copies of those records. I only have the morning reports for HQ Co starting on October 24.

The discharge also says "Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland", which are the primary locations of the 517th action (although Belgium and the Bulge is left out). And the 517th wasn't in the Bulge or the Rhineland until after October 15. Maybe when they put in the 517, they just added the locations of the 517th without looking up Chester's actual records. That seems unusual, but I cannot explain it, no matter what unit he was with.

In summary, I cannot verify whether he was with the 101st or the 517th. But if he was wounded in October 44, he probably did not make it to the Rhineland with either unit unless his wounds were not serious. It sounds like the injuries were serious.

Sorry I cannot help more.

Bob Barrett

Bob, thank you very much for your help. His wounds were very serious, he was hospitalized for over a year. Told me it was a German grenade. When he flexed his forearms you could see and feel the shrapnel pieces still in there. Pretty large ones. Use to freak me out as a kid :). It's odd, the paperwork did not say what I anticipated. I've always read and followed the 101st because that's what he used to say, now I'll have to learn more about the Battling Buzzards. Not sure why he would make stuff up though, considering the fighting he was involved in and the wounds he suffered. Thank you very much for your help. Any ideas on other ways to research this?

Dave



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Back in July at the New Orleans reunion, **Carol (Roseberry) Dressen** had her father's photo scrapbook. (**Lt. George M. Roseberry** of the Service Company). I finally managed to get about 200 photos from the scrapbook posted onto the web site, with pictures from Italy, France, Germany, and stateside.

See all the photos at: <http://517prct.org/photos/photos.htm>

Here are a few samples:



Look what we found!



Playing cards



Jeep with skirts over the rear wheels, taken from an English Spitfire



The "Whopy", with added seats hanging out back to run around in



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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



Website
Send MailCall news to
MailCall Archives
2015 Roster (updated!)
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

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