



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2297**

**November 8, 2015**

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

*Veteran's Day – November 11, 2015*





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

Greetings and best wishes to the 517th Parachute Regiment Combat Team and the families and friends of the Regiment on this Veteran's Day.

All the Best,

**Paul Abbene**



Here's a great commercial from Barbasol, featuring "your great-grandad fighting for your freedom in World War II"

["Shave Like a Man"](#)







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During World War II, nearly 500,000 Purple Heart medals were manufactured in anticipation of the estimated casualties resulting from the planned Allied invasion of Japan. To the present date, total combined American military casualties of the seventy years following the end of World War II—including the Korean and Vietnam Wars—have not exceeded that number. In 2003, there remained 120,000 Purple Heart medals in stock.

The existing surplus allowed combat units in Iraq and Afghanistan to keep Purple Hearts on-hand for immediate award to soldiers wounded in the field.

From: War History Online

<https://www.facebook.com/wrhstol/?fref=nf>

## MailCall News

Short notice but - want to contribute to the last Thunderbolt?

Hello, party faithful - I have spent the last couple of days sifting through and planning, with Lory and Bob, the last Thunderbolt. As you all know, the vote is coming up on Tuesday, so this has to be done in the next few days so we can get it to the printer.

I know it's short notice, but either we feel like saying something or we don't.

If you'd like to send something for the last issue, please send it to me by Sunday morning.

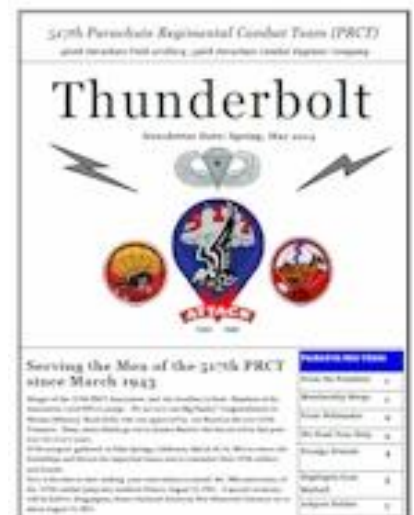
Please, forward to anyone you think might be interested. I am just hitting a few people, plus Mail Call, that come to mind during lunch. And while I think it's important to acknowledge that publication is ceasing after so many decades, that we are merely morphing with the times. Friendships, the website and Mail Call continue. Instead of raising a glass to the Thunderbolt, I think the better toast would be to Bob Barrett. But I digress.

If you'd like to send something, please do.

I hope this finds everyone well, healthy and happy.

hugs all the way around -

**Claire Giblin**





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

Please remove my husband's name from your mailing list. He passed away August 30, 2013. His name is **Grant E. Doherty**, 606 E. Royal Palm Square South, Phoenix, Arizona 85020-3638. Thank you.

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I see Dave's massive frustration as he tries to decipher his father's discharge papers.

My father served with the 17th Airborne (Company C of the 139th Engineer Battalion), the 517th, the 596th, was also attached to the 36th and lots of other outfits including the 82nd. There were even more during the months he was in the hospital. He closed out the war with the 13th Airborne, but his discharge papers, issued at Fort Dix on or about December 19, 1945, reflected a tank destroyer outfit.

He never even saw a tank destroyer outfit.

Dad tells me that at the time, they were taking whole bunches of guys leaving, putting them together into homeward-bound outfits in kind of temporary assignments.

Dad was told that it could have been corrected, but he didn't bother. Stupidly, he now tells me.

The point is that it's entirely possible that the discharge papers were done in similar fashion. Remember the massive effort to get as many guys as possible home for Christmas. Accuracy wasn't necessary the main goal.

Just throwing it in the pot.

**Claire**

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Dear Bob, thanks for you entry, in my behalf, in the newsletter.

Just wanted you to know that I finished my novel, looking for a publisher, but wanted to know if by chance, in your archives, can you give me any leads on the 'Thunderbolts' moving with the glider planes on the day of the invasion, August 15th.

I had written something about that off of the information that I found on this site:

[http://508pir.org/pdf\\_files/1944\\_0917\\_commemorative\\_03.pdf](http://508pir.org/pdf_files/1944_0917_commemorative_03.pdf)

I had made some of the detail as part of the book and referenced it. The main question here is this, this was the flight over Holland. It is mentioned about the German planes in the distance.

When the glider planes were dropped in France, do you know if there were german planes in the sky that saw them. It would seem that they would have engaged them, but didn't in Holland, so perhaps I am wrong.

I would like to add to this story, for it is worth telling, but if you have anything might you remember what archive it is in?

Thanks a bunch,

**Anne Justice**



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Three items: I am at work on the Thunderbolt and it should be going to the printer within a week or so.

Who is planning on coming to Kissimmee for the weekend of MLK birthday? We need a show of hands for the Florida mini-reunion!

And I had a lovely chat with **Virginia, aka Ginger, Walker, wife of Donald**. She looks forward to the Thunderbolt and will miss it; she also enjoyed so many of the reunions, from Niagara Falls to Oklahoma City. They especially enjoyed the Congress Hotel in Chicago. She lives at 2209 Shepard Street in Wichita Falls, TX 76309.

I've been looking over the lists of veterans and spouses coming in, and they are scattered! We should give the lists a look by state - who knows? You might find someone from the 517 right in your back yard!

Best to my favorite vets -

Claire

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Currently on sale on eBay.

ww2-517th-p-i-r-13th-airborne-jacket; \$375





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

What are you working on, Claire?:

Yes, I really was working on the Thunderbolt today! – Claire



(Found on Claire's Facebook page.)





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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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