



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2309

January 31, 2016

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

MailCall News

2016 517th PRCT PALM SPRINGS REUNION

**March 7-11, 2016
Palm Springs, California**



Anahata Retreat/Lodge Hot Mineral Springs Pool and Spa here we come!

Held at Anahata Hot Springs, we take over the entire resort. It is very nice; all rooms open to pool side and hospitality room.

Cost will be low as usual, hard to predict until we know numbers, I would guess under \$250.00 for your room for the whole week, food usually \$150.00 for all meals at the resort, excluding when we go out.

To reserve a room please contact me before February 25

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517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team (PRCT)

517th Parachute Infantry Regiment
450th Parachute Field Artillery, 596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company

THE THUNDERBOLT

Published By The Men Of The 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment
Volume 1, Number 1, 1943

First Battalion Off To Benning

Basic Training Finished; Boots, Wings Await Men Who Finish Jump School



LAST THUNDERBOLT EVER! Serving the Men of the 517th PRCT since March 1943

This is the final issue of the Thunderbolt. The 517th PRCT Association is being dissolved. All of us through the many, many years who have published the Thunderbolt give our sincere thanks to the men who served with the 517th. Especially, today, Claire Giblin, and Lory V. Curtis, want to express our appreciation for being allowed to published the Thunderbolt over these past few years. It has been an honor for us to be a part of the greatest generation and this great newsletter. Thanks to all for all of your kindness and support.

Editors of the Thunderbolt 2016

Packed in this Chute

From the President	1
From The Publishers	2
Palm Springs Reunion	2
From the Webmaster	3
Foreign Friends	3
MailCall	4
Pictures	

The Final Edition of the Thunderbolt is on the mail. You can read It online [here](#).

Dear Bob,

Thanks so much for creating the page! I do have some small edits to make:

[Changes updated into **David Taylor's** bio at: http://517prct.org/bios/david_taylor/david_taylor.htm]

And that's it! I'm still hoping to find letters in the boxes my sister has of my grandmother's effects. But that will have to wait until I can make the trip to WVA this summer.

I truly appreciate this opportunity to honor in some small way my uncle's service and to do what I can to remember him with gratitude.

Best, Ellen O'Donnell



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Fwd: Old paratroopers and jump boots

These are my father's boots. He kept them until he passed. I took them to Toccoa and **Hal Beddow** wanted to hold them. He only got a hold of one. They were passed all around. Everyone wanted to touch them. They still are treasured in this home.

Rest in Peace, Daddy and Hal.

Heather Riley

Daughter of **Ian Cowan**, B Company





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi Merle,

I was so happy to see you mentioned Leo in this letter. Also, remembering me from the reunions. Those were the most wonderful days of our lives. I am so glad that I found the outfit for Leo and we went to the reunions whenever we could.

As you can see, I am still alive and still able to move around. Two of our daughters are taking me on a cruise next week. One coming from Rochester, NY and the other Florida. I will be 91 Feb. 9th. I feel lucky that I can still see and walk around. Other things not so great. Some memory loss. I really miss my darling Leo. We were lucky to have a good life together after the war.

One of my daughters moved in with me and we have a great time together. We take care of stray kitties and have adopted them. It is a pleasant way to spend our days since we do not go out much. I have lots of papers from the war. Some time I need to do something with them. Leo got some from another member years ago but I do not remember who he was. I love the News Letters and hope you will be able to keep them up.

Give my regards to all the members you may be in touch with.

Best wishes to all,

Joyce Turco widow of **Leo Turco**
A Battery 460-517th PRCT



Mike Wells and I had a mini,mini reunion last night as we and our wives meet for dinner. We discussed important issues of the 517th and talked about going to Toccoa, GA the first weekend in June for their fun run up Currahaee mountain. We did this back in 2013. **Mimsey Boyle Kelly** won first place in her division on the run. Anyway something to think about.

Lory Curtis

To whom it may concern,

My father, **Anthony Tejchman (*F Company)**, is deceased.

Thank you,

Tom Tejchman



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hello Bob,

I got everything i needed from your photos and Bens Bio was a big help too. Name, dates etc. are all good. I ordered a few more things for the shop patches etc. and some of the things will go into Bens Medal Print. It maybe take a few weeks to get the things made and then a few more weeks to get it to you. There's five days of coating and drying time. On morning reports on Bio I see rank of CPL, is that ok? We also need your mailing address. Other than that set back and wait to be amazed.....

Thanks

Johnny Privott

Hi Johnny,

Sorry for the late response. I've been very busy at work this past week.

As Ben said in his bio, "I turned down a 1st Sergeant's rank and volunteered to go overseas as a replacement". So although he was a Sergeant with the 515th, he was a Corporal during all his time with the 517th, which is where most of his friends are. We used the Corporal on his gravesite, so let's stick with that.

Thanks, Johnny. I can't wait.

Bob B.

Thanks!

Sent from my iPad. Thank you **Claire Giblin** for your encouragement, it helps!, but I still cry when I think her & how she must have suffered although the last 4 days she was in no pain. they put her in Hospice & kept her sedated. However watching this, I can't get it out of my mind. A friend of mine lost her husband & I told her I know what she went through. She says she does the same thing. Getting back to the 517th I agree with **Kent Floyd Immerfall** whoever did the biography of **Terry Sanford** did a good job, dates & things. I've included it with my travels of WWII as I didn't know where I was half the time. Terry was in my Co. A during training in basic.

Mel Trenary



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

RE: Interviewing More Veterans

Hi Bob

As you know, I have interviewed a lot of veterans from the 517th in the past when researching my book (Autopsy of Battle <http://www.amazon.com/Operation-Dragoon-Autopsy-Liberation-August-September/dp/076434580X>). In those days, there were still hundreds of surviving veterans, and I targeted specific people for interviews, based on precise information I had about them and their participation in events I was writing about.

We all sadly know that there are currently only a few dozen survivors of the 517th remaining. I have therefore decided to try to interview any 517th PRCT veterans who were involved in the southern France campaign, regardless of their company, etc.

I am therefore soliciting surviving veterans (or family members of surviving veterans who see this email) who are still in good enough health to remember the events in southern France to get in touch with me if they would like to be interviewed. Interviews are conducted over the phone and recorded; and are later transcribed into written form as time permits. All I need to perform my interviews is therefore a phone number, and all the veteran has to do is be able to speak over the phone.

Anybody who is interested can simply send me an email at jean-loup@gassend.com or express their interest in mailcall.

Here is a list of some of the people I had interviewed in the past and whose accounts are included in my book, and therefore remembered, although most have since passed away: **Edward Athey, Bill Bollin, Gene Brissey, Frank Dallas, Howard Hensleigh, Marvin Moles, Claude Rickards, Robert Dalrymple, Myrle Traver, Lou Holzworth, Lud Gibbons, Tom McAvoy, William Webb, Phil McSpadden, Jim Mortensen, Richard Hammel, Robert Vaught, Leslie Perkins, Bob Newberry, Richard Seitz, Melvin Biddle**, and many others...

Jean-Loup Gassend

Author of "*Operation Dragoon, Autopsy of a Battle, The Liberation of the French Riviera*"

jean-loup@gassend.com



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hello from Belgium,

I'm in Belgium and collect ww2 items from 30 year ago, when I was a young guy. For me, an helmet, a bayonet, ... has few interest without its story : it like is thousand others.

I recently purchased on an e-stand in Belgium a garrison cap, blue piping, with a silvered unmarked parachute wing badge on the right side (no round blue parachute patch sewn). Inside the cap, there is a name and a laundry number : 9292 Delaney. This 1943 dated cap, was found during of after the war in the Belgian Ardennes. This man from Lierneux is unfortunately passed away and his daughter sold now the cap.

I think this cap is the one of the sergeant **William H Delaney (517th PIR, C Company)**, KIA on 24th december 1944 at Lamormenil or Freyneux. In the fact, if there was another Delaney (James J), this one was in the 596th engineer (A Company). Then, for him, the piping would must be red.

I don't find the laundry 9292 in the NARA database (non complete). Do you have the number or a pic of the sergeant William H Delaney ?

Best regards.

Christophe
christophe vdl refugetarin@hotmail.com





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

1942 PICTURES OF THE HOME FRONT

Thought you'd find these old high quality photos interesting!

Back in the mid '70s someone was working at Hellers Camera in Bethesda MD and had a reference book with a color photo of the battleship Pennsylvania out in the Pacific, around 1944. The quality of the photo made it clear that it was shot with a large format camera, which is puzzling since most didn't think Kodachrome (the only modern color film of the time in the US) was available in sheet films.

An old Kodak hand (and WWII vet and radioman in Europe) revealed that they did have sheet Kodachrome, and that there was only one machine to process the film, located in Rochester.

Regarding these pictures, note the lack of basic safety equipment. I saw only one pair of safety glasses, and only a few of the workers were wearing gloves.

In viewing these pictures, note who the primary workers were that built the USA's WWII fighting machines. Also notice that most of the woman were wearing lipstick and nail polish. WWII could not have been won without the woman of America stepping up to build the equipment needed to defeat the Axis powers.

Some of these images are 70 years old, and look as fresh as ever.

You wonder if any of the subjects in these photos were told that we'd have such a clear look at them in the year 2015.

October 1942. Engine installers at Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach, California.

4x5 Kodachrome transparency by Alfred Palmer.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



February 1943. Working on the horizontal stabilizer of a "Vengeance" dive bomber at the Consolidated-Vultee plant in Nashville.

4x5 Kodachrome transparency by Alfred Palmer for the Office of War Information.

October 1942.
Inglewood, California.
"Young woman employee of North American Aviation working over the landing gear mechanism of a P-51 fighter plane."

4x5 Kodachrome transparency by Alfred Palmer.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



June 1942. Engine inspector for North American Aviation at Long Beach, California.

4x5 Kodachrome transparency by Alfred Palmer.

October 1942. Riveter at work on a bomber at the Consolidated Aircraft factory in Fort Worth.

4x5 Kodachrome transparency by Howard Hollem.



See more at: <http://pavel-kosenko.livejournal.com/303194.html?thread=22669914>



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

This is for a friend of mine, **Walter Eldridge**, whose dad served with the 2nd Chemical Battalion, which also fought in Operation Dragoon invasion of Southern France. – BB

I would appreciate your help in funding my documentary video “Dragons in the Box” about the Red Dragons of the 2nd Chemical Battalion. You can support the project through my Indiegogo campaign at this link <https://www.indiegogo.com/.../the-u-s-army-s-drag.../x/13166032...>

Short Summary

Someday America will be attacked with chemical agents, like those already used by Iraq, Syria and ISIS. Who will go in under hostile fire to detect and identify the chemicals and clean up the contamination? The Red Dragons of the 2nd Chemical Battalion, who are trained and equipped to go into the very heart of a chemical cloud and protect our warriors on the ground. In March 2016 the Red Dragons will enter “The Box” at Fort Polk, Louisiana to achieve their mission in rugged field conditions under attack from a smart, tough opposition force that doesn’t want them to succeed. This video will capture their training with its challenges, successes and failures and will tell the story of what it takes to be ready to protect America from chemicals in the hands of our enemies.

Why support this project?

This video, titled "Dragons in the Box" will educate both civilians and military personnel about how the U.S. Army will defend America against chemical attacks abroad or in the homeland. This is a danger so terrible that we would all rather not think about the possibility of mass casualties through lung damage, aggressive viruses, or nerve poisoning. The Red Dragons take on the responsibility of thinking about it and preparing to protect us. This story needs to be told because success requires money from Congress and support from the public.

What's the money for?

This is a bare-bones budget project. I will do the shooting, editing and marketing myself because frankly I don’t have any other resources. The funds will be used to get the professional level equipment that it takes to produce a quality project, and to help pay my lodging expenses during the project. I'm putting in a lot of my own money but if this campaign doesn’t make goal I will have to use cheaper equipment and my lodging may be a tent in a campground near Fort Polk.

Who am I and how do you know I can do this?

Even without resources I’m positive I can do a good job on this project. I've produced several short videos about the 2nd Chemical Battalion, marketing videos for my wife’s career as a clothing designer, and a proposal video for an invention she has patented. All these I’ve done on my own, the results have been effective and I’ve gained knowledge and experience that will make this project even better than the previous ones. I expect to run myself ragged but the result will be worth it.

How You Can Help

- Please contribute if at all possible
- Spread the word to others who may be interested.
- Use the Indiegogo share tools to inform your friends!

[CLICK HERE to support The U.S. Army's Dragon Soldiers](#)



517th 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
- 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	www.517prct.org
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PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM