



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2312

February 21, 2016

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

West Coast Mini-Reunion- Last Chance!

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

Karen Wallace
66295 Hwy 20
Bend, OR 97703
5419482486
karenwski@gmail.com



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

MailCall News



Adrian Soldi and Loic 'Jack' Jankowiak: Wonderful day on the track of **Jim Kitchin**, 517th Dday Pathfinder With his daughter Betsy — at Château Sainte Roseline.



Beautiful day with Betsy and Ramsey White, on the track of their father, **Jim Kitchin**, 517th Pathfinder

From “Sam MrSammos” on the 517th Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472895329686741/?fref=fb>



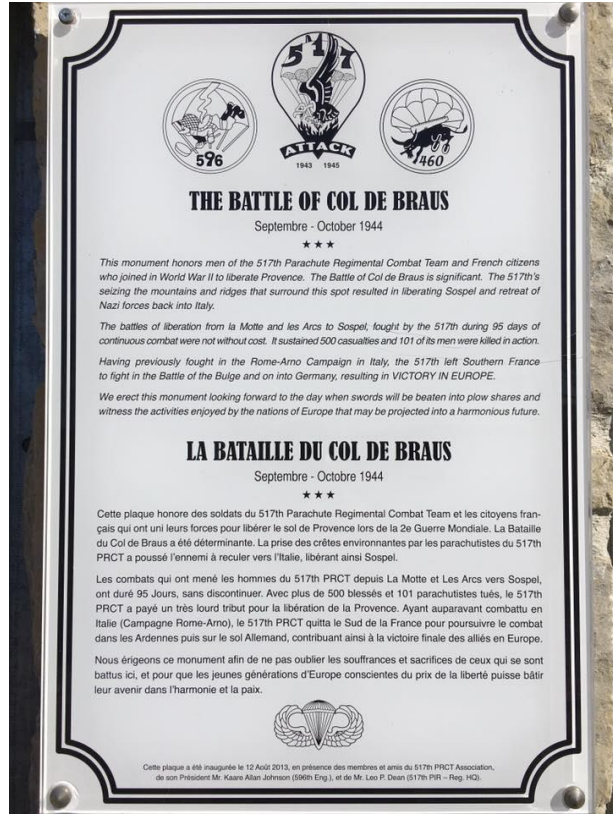
Sospel bridge





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

More from Sam MrSammos: Col De Braus plaques:





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE MY NAME. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING ALL THR 517 NEWS.
THANKS,
June Huffman

If you Bob Or Miriam send Jean-Loup Gassend my address I'll be glad to send him a copy of my history in the 517th RCT. It would be hard for me to talk on the telephone much less in person as I'm having hard time talking period! I guess its old age creeping up on me.

Mel Trenary

Hi Jean-loup,

See note from Mel Trenary.
But I think the history he is talking about is already on the website.

Bob Barrett

Mel was actually one of the vets I was hoping to talk to as he is active on mail call. I had not seen his story was online, and it is pretty detailed, so probably not much more would come out of an interview. Please say hi to him from me.

Jean-Loup

Although Willard Hill never served in the 517th, he was a big influence upon my Dad. In 1943, when my Dad was still 17, Willard Hill was a church where my Dad attended. He saw Willard in his Second Lieutenant Paratrooper uniform and my Dad thought that is the sharpest uniform I have ever seen in my entire life. He spoke with Willard about the paratroopers, and Willard told my Dad it was the greatest thing since the invention of sliced bread. My Dad hung on every word and seeing his jump wings and highly polished paratrooper boots was all it took for my Dad to say I am going to be a paratrooper. So when my Dad turned 18, he reported to the induction center and they asked my Dad which service he wanted to be in. He said Navy and the representative said go sit over there. My Dad said what have I done I want to be a paratrooper. He got back up and when back to the man who had asked him which service he wanted to be in and my Dad said I would like to change services. A Marine Sergeant was standing there and said he wants to be in the Marines, my Dad said "No, I want to be a paratrooper. They said are you crazy. My Dad insisted on being a paratrooper so off to Fort MacArthur in San Pedro he went and signed the waivers to become a paratrooper and in 10 days he found himself on a train bound for Camp Toccoa, GA. The rest is history. If it wasn't for Willard Hill my Dad probably would have gone in the Navy. Thank you Willard Hill for making my Dad become one of the best of the best!!!

Airborne All the Way!!

Lory Curtis, proud son of **Bud Curtis**, HQ, 1st Bn 517th



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

The 2nd Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and the Bulge

Interview with:

Major David H. Armstrong, executive officer
and **Lieutenant W. G. Irwin**, S-3.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard J Seitz is Commander

By Captain Robert C. Healey
Information & History Service

NARA documents (1945)



L to R = **Major David Armstrong**, Ex Of - **Lt Col Richard J Seitz**, Commander and **Tom Cross**

(Photo Website 517th PIR)

The 2nd Battalion was in regimental rest area at Soissons (France) when the breakthrough came. All weapons were taken from the Battalion and given to the 82nd Airborne Division. On December 18, 1944, regiment was alerted to move on two hours notice. On the afternoon of the 21st the still-weaponless Battalion was ordered to move with regiment to Namur (Belgium). New weapons were issued at 2025 hours and the Battalion entrucked at 2130 hours, riding all night and all day to one-half mile south of Aywaille. The 517th Regimental Combat Team was attached to the 30th Division on the 23rd December. In accordance with 30th Division orders the Regimental Combat Team moved by truck 50 miles to an assembly area two miles east of Xhoffraix. The next day, the 24th, the companies left the area and set up defensive positions in the vicinity of Chodes. Christmas Day they moved another 50 miles to Ferrieres and set up further defensive positions. During this time and through the next six days there was no contact with the enemy. On the 28th December the 2nd Battalion entrucked after dark for a forward assembly area one and one-half miles north of Manhay, where it bivouacked for the next three days. New Year's several rounds of heavy artillery fire fell in the vicinity of the Battalion CP. There was one direct hit on the CP, killing one and wounded eight. That night the 2nd Battalion entrucked again for another forward assembly area one and one-half miles northwest of Haute Bodeux.

For the attack – coordinated attack – which started at dawn January 3, 1945, the Battalion was operating on the extreme left flank of the 82nd Airborne Division, which had the mission of clearing the right bank of the Salm River and occupying the high ground along the river. The 30th Infantry Division



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

on the left flank was to keep pace along the left bank. Battalion objectives were Trois-Ponts (that part of the town lying along the right flank of the river) and the high ground at Mont de Fosse. Companies "D" and "E" were abreast for the attack, Company "D" moving in the left to Trois-Ponts, Company "E" on the right to Mont de Fosse. Company "F" was in reserve. The two companies met stiff resistance on the outskirts of Trois-Ponts. The enemy had good observation from across the river and from Mont de Fosse. Company "E" called for artillery support but could get only a battery – three rounds. Company "F" was committed at 0930 hours. It started to move around left behind Company "D" but was pulled back at 1430 hours to set up defensive positions along the road into Trois-Ponts covering Company "E" which was in difficulty from heavy mortar and machine guns fire from the high ground at Mont de Fosse. Company "D" took Trois-Ponts during the afternoon with losses of 12 enlisted men and two officers killed in action and 88 enlisted men and five officers wounded. It was relieved by a company from the 3rd Battalion.

During the night Company "E" withdrew under the cover of Company "F" and took up Company "F"s positions on the road. Company "F" reassembled and went on a wide sweep around the right flank and took the high ground at (666966), thus outflanking the troublesome resistance on Mont de Fosse. Companies "E" and "D" followed, at daybreak. Company "E" moved in on Mont de Fosse, capturing 137 prisoners with little resistance and moved into Trois-Ponts to relieve the 3rd Battalion's company.

For the next three days the positions were consolidated. There was much sniper fire in the area and the enemy still had plenty of good observation for fire from across the river. On the 4th January Company "F" lost six men and one officer killed. Company "E" took over cleaning out the town on the 5th January and lost two men by sniper fire. Companies "D" and "F" were in defensive positions north of Bergeval. Company "E" lost an officer killed by a sniper in Trois-Ponts.

On the 11th January 1945 the Battalion entrucked at 2230 hours and role all night to one mile west of Stavelot. The next day it was attached to the 7th Armored Division and bivouacked at Neuville.

From the 13th to 18th January, Battalion was on 1-hour alert to pass through 1st Division on attack plan which had to be called off because of foul weather.

On the 19th January trucked to Walk. The companies went into a forward assembly area north of Am Kreuz (864982). On the 20th command post was set up at Deidenberg (865955). Company "F" sent out a night patrol to reconnoiter the wood "Auf der Hard", south of Deidenberg.

For this position the Battalion was working with the CCA of the 7th Armored Division and had Company "B" of 17th Armored Infantry under Lieutenant Hardin to form Task Force Seitz. On the right flank CCB was to take Born and on the left the 1st Division would take Ambleve and work down toward Wallerode (880900). From a line of departure at Deidenberg Task Force Seitz would clear out woods at An der Hand and continue down to clear out resistance in the In der Eidt woods. Companies "D" and "E" led off the assault with Company "F" in reserve. They meet intense artillery and nebelwerfer fire throughout the attacks. It was snowing and the weather was wretched. Resistance from enemy infantry was moderate. They were on their first objective setting up defensive positions by nightfall with loss of six men killed and 30 wounded. There, they were relieved by the 508th Parachute Regiment and prepared to continue the Battalion attack to the south and southwest. Pushing out at midnight they secured the edge of the In der Eidt woods.

The Armored Infantry support was called into play for the continuation of the attack. Early in the morning orders came to move down through the woods and attack Hunnange (845899). One company was to mount on medium tanks, the next on half-tracks. Mounting was to be in position.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

At 0900 hours the 23rd January they started moving through the woods. There was no bridge over the railroad running into St Vith. The half-tracks couldn't get across the railroad and the infantry had to continue afoot. The tanks, however, got over. They reached the edge of the woods on the southwest. On their right flank Nieder Emmels (839908) which had been reported as taken by 30th Division still showed signs of resistance and four assault guns and 100 prisoners were cleaned out. Task Force Wimple (CCA 7th Armored) was supposed to have taken high ground to south of Hunnange, but two assault guns remained in the town. By 2100 hours defensive positions had been set up around Nieder Emmels and Hunnange.

The morning of the 25th January 1945, Battalion received orders to move to assembly area northeast corner of In der Eidt. The 106th Infantry (424th Regiment) was jumping off from the Auf der Hand woods at 0705 hours to take Medell (883923) while Task Forces Griffith and Rhea took Wallerode. When both were taken – schedule called for 1000 hours – Battalion to take high ground between them. The Battalion jumped off at 1000 hours, was held up for a time by machine guns and small arms fire but was on the objective at 1130 hours. The 106th (424th Regiment) on the left and Task Forces Rhea and Griffith were contacted on the right. Defensive positions set up. Relieved on the 26th January by the 424th Regiment and withdrawn to Stavelot.

From: <http://www.battleofthebulgememories.be/stories26/32-battle-of-the-bulge-us-army/488-the-2nd-battalion-517th-parachute-infantry-regiment.html>

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



One of the objectives of the 1/517th PIR is taking Roque Rouse, overlooking the valley of Les Arcs, where the Heavy Mortar Platoon and 1/517 settle here. The installation of 81mm mortars will be a great help for the elimination of the German counter-attack.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

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



Gunners from C Battery, 460th PFAB and elements of 1/517th PIR on Place des Arcs in the village center on the morning of August 15. Shortly after this photo, a counter attack will be carried out by an estimated force of a German battalion against what was called 'Bill Boyle alamo' reference to the battle of the Alamo, because Bill Boyle paratroopers will only fifty man, with 17 paratroopers of C/517, before being relieved by the 2/517th PIR arrived in the north of the village early morning of the 16th.



Found recently on eBay:

LEGO WWII Americans of 517th Airborne with M1 Garands & Parachutes

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/LEGO-3x-WWII-Americans-of-517th-Airborne-with-M1-Garands-Parachutes-/151975808167>



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
Send MailCall news to	MailCall@517prct.org
MailCall Archives	www.517prct.org/archives
2015 Roster (updated!)	www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
Thunderbolt Archives	www.517prct.org/archives



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM