



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2318
April 3, 2016

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

MailCall News



After seeing the great shadow box in MailCall, I thought I'd send a photo of the one my folks (**Lieutenant Edward Athey** and June Athey) made for me about 20 years ago. On the back, they put a photo of the box with each ribbon, pin, and patch identified.

Dad's 517th "family" was such a treasured part of his life. Mom and dad attended every reunion from Anaheim to New Orleans to Bismark, and everywhere in between, until they could no longer travel. Dad's last reunion was Portland with my husband, Mike, when Mom wasn't able to be there.

Thank you for your passion and your energy to keep MailCall going for all. I'm always amazed at the help you're able to provide when family members write in with questions or unidentified photos.

Take care,

Julie Black



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi Julie, I'm pretty sure that I met your Dad at one of the reunions. It sounds like he stopped going just about the time that I started going with my Dad. I certainly remember my Dad, Ben Barrett, mentioning Lt. Athey, since they were both with H Company.

Bob Barrett

I just watched Angelin's videos. They were so good! My dad jumped into Southern France so it was nice to learn something about that. I was very interested in the uniforms. thanks for the info, Angelin.

Juliana Stonis

As much as I treasure all the details about the 517th that you find and put together, the pictures of your grandson and Mimsey's were over the top and stole my heart. WOW, what cute kids. Every joy and congratulations to you both. It's amazing to see the legacies of the men of the 517th.

Happy Easter to all.

Pat Seitz

I was looking through the B Company casualty reports, and just happened to notice that Clark Archer was wounded on 4 separate times. I wonder if that's the record for the 517th? - BB

Sgt. Clark L. Archer, B Company, WIA 4 times:

<i>WIA</i>	<i>RTD</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Notes from B Company records</i>
Sunday, June 18, 1944	Saturday, July 15, 1944	Italy	Jun 18 1944: 10 WIA, 2 KIA - Sgt. Andrew J. Murphy, PFC. James F. Slaten Jr.
Thursday, September 28, 1944	Friday, October 06, 1944	France	
Wednesday, January 17, 1945	Monday, January 29, 1945	Belgium	Jan 13-21 1945: 7 WIA
Friday, February 09, 1945	Sunday, March 11, 1945	Belgium	Feb 8-9 1945: 6 WIA, 4 KIA - Cpl. Frank W. Hayes, Pvt. Clarence Dougherty, PFC Ferdinand E. Gauer, PFC Michael Hreben (Died of wounds Feb 23 '45)

The most Purple Hearts awarded to a single individual is nine. Marine Sgt. Albert L. Ireland holds that distinction, being awarded five Purple Heart Medals in World War II and four more in the Korean War. Seven soldiers, including two Medal of Honor recipients, were awarded eight Purple Hearts.



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In Memorium – Richard T. Huggler, H Company



March 13, 1921 - March 20, 2015

Richard T. Huggler, 94, of 244 N. Ripley Blvd., Alpena, MI passed away at Tendercare Alpena on Friday, March 20, 2015.

Richard was born on March 13, 1921 in Alpena to the late Arnold and Ann (Garant) Huggler. On May 9, 1942 he married the former Beatrice B. Idalski, and she preceded him in death July 30, 2008. Mr. Huggler served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper during WW II receiving both a Purple Heart Medal and a Bronze Star Medal. He later was employed at Huron Portland Cement Company, retiring in 1981, and also was a wallpaper hanger. Richard will be remembered for the beautiful roses in his yard on Ripley Blvd.

Mr. Huggler was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, VFW Alpena Post 2496, DAV, and the Knights of Columbus.

Surviving are 4 sons, Wayne (Nyla) Huggler of Alpena, John (Patricia) Huggler of Florida, Michael (Spi) Huggler of Okemos, Paul (Cynthia) Huggler of Ossineke; 8 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Huggler was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter, Alana; and a sister, Margaret Talleau.

From February 2005:

Dear Webmaster,

I received this photo from **Fred Harmon**, 'H' Co. Platoon Sgt. I would like for you to post on your web site. From left to right, Unknown soldier, **Richard Huggler**, Unknown, **Howard Hughes**. Obviously there is something unusual about the dress of Richard Huggler. I turned the picture over and the writing was: "The fish we got with hand-grenades". Mr. Huggler was the apparent retriever of the fish. The picture was made in France. I hope everyone enjoys the picture.

Respectfully, **Morris McDowell**

<http://www.517prct.org/photos/huggler.htm>





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



From:

http://www.517prct.org/photos/jay_sutcliffe/jay_sutcliffe.htm

Richard Huggler (middle), **Mike Sura** (right), H Company



Richard Huggler H Company on right. I thought that the man with the cigar could possibly be **Chester Wells??**



Michael Sura and **Richard Huggler** on the Riviera 1944

From:

http://www.517prct.org/bios/michael_sura/michael_sura.htm



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JUST A COMMON SOLDIER
(A Soldier Died Today)
by A. Lawrence Vaincourt

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.



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Just A Common Soldier, also known as A Soldier Died Today, is one of the most popular poems on the Internet. Written and published in 1987 by Canadian veteran and columnist A. Lawrence Vaincourt, it now appears in numerous anthologies, on thousands of websites and on July 4, 2008 it was carved into a marble monument at West Point, New York. This year marks the poem's 25th anniversary.

Please enjoy this tribute to the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen who have given so much for our country.



https://www.youtube.com/embed/eEs4ke7cdNQ?feature=player_detailpage

Administrivia

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- 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

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