



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2333**

September 4, 2016

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

## MailCall News

Here's a short video from the Navy of the official ceremonies at the Rhone this year.



### RHONE AMERICAN CEMETERY WWII MEMORIAL

August 29, 2016

The American Battle Monuments Commission hosted a memorial ceremony at Rhone American Cemetery for World War II veterans who fought in Operation Dragoon.

- Download Video
- Transcript

<http://www.navy.mil/viewVideo.asp?id=21683>

Enjoy the Labor Day weekend -

**Claire Giblin**

I don't remember a hospital in France or Belgium. They took me to a hospital ship & operated on me there & then took me to a hospital in Naples, Italy. Then they found they hadn't got all the shrapnel out of my foot, so they operated again. Later when I got frozen feet I remember an old substation they had us in. It wasn't very far from an airport as they took us to it to fly us to England. It took us twice to get off the ground as a German flyer was giving us a problem. He finely gave up flew off as the machine gunners around the airport gave him a fit. Sent from my iPad.

**Mel Trenary, A Company**

Really appreciated the recent wonderful mail call thanks to Claire, Irma and Arnold, Maria, and, of course, you Bob. It was so nice to see the pictures and read the captions and narratives. It was another remarkable trip, that's for sure.

**John Krumm**



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

This is one fabulous Mail Call. Thank you Claire for such a great report of the trip walking the 517th's battlefields in Southern France and the Battle of the Bulge. God bless your Dad, Bob Webber and all our 517th friends in France and Belgium. The pictures were priceless, they were so wonderful

**Pat Seitz & Alan Greer**

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Cody:

Outstanding what you and Joanne are doing including the history of the 517th. Not only does this preserve the history in the court records, it will probably be one of the most inspiring things that the judge gets to read. In short you will have made the judge's day. Thank you.

**Pat Seitz**

On Monday, August 22, 2016, Cody Thornton <[codythornton@gmail.com](mailto:codythornton@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Judge:

The pleasure remains mine. I feel honored to represent the Combat Team. The process has taken a bit longer than I anticipated, but we should have everything in place now for a prompt resolution.

I have been following the MailCall each week, and it saddens me that we don't have even more time with these heroes. So much of their contributions will live on. The history that Joanne and I have included in the filing is meant to provide some guideposts for future researchers, as I believe the courts are very much a repository of our histories—as much as our libraries and universities.

All the best,

Cody

> On Aug 19, 2016, at 6:16 PM, Patricia Seitz <[seitzpatricia46@gmail.com](mailto:seitzpatricia46@gmail.com)> wrote:

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> Cody -- Rick shared your recent email with me and Alan and I just wanted to say thank you again for all that you are doing. As Bob has probably shared with you, the wonderful Band of Brothers in the 517th dwindles weekly it seems. You are helping to give peace of mind to their kids and helping to support a place where their history will be preserved. Thank you.

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> Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

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

Dear 517th Webmaster,

I'm compiling a family history on the WWII service of my grandfather and his brothers, one of whom was **Pvt. Robert W. Morancy**. As of Dec. 1944, he was with A Co., 1st Bn of the 517. He was wounded Jan. 15, 1945.

I'm hoping to speak or communicate with anyone from his unit who may remember him or be able to provide information on the circumstances/events of his WWII service for his family. Unfortunately, Bob passed away on 4/14/2014.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide,

Sincerely,

**Chris Moloney**

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Hi Chris,

I have been looking through my records on our website, but have not yet found much on Robert Morancy. As you know he is listed on the Company A roster in December 1944. I have most of the morning reports for company A, but I do not have January '45. How do you know he was wounded on then?

I can find an enlistment info (Robert W. Morancy, Rutland VT, 4-23-1943 ) on the NARA public records. <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=1&cat=WR26&tf=F&q=morancy+robert&bc=sl&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=2520034>

Can you verify that this is him? If so, it is interesting that it shows a birth year of 1925 which would make him 18 years old. But according to his obituary, he was born in 1927, which means that he was really only 16 when he enlisted. So officially, he was too young to enlist.

I will include your note in the next MailCall, in case anyone remembers him.

I would love to include any info or pictures of Pvt. Morancy on our website if you have anything.

Thanks,

Bob Barrett

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### Robert Weston Morancy

(May 21, 1927 - April 14, 2014)

**Hartland, VT**—Robert Weston Morancy, Sr., 86, died Monday, April 14, 2014 at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in White River Junction, VT. He was the fourth son and seventh of eight children born to Verginand Joseph and Lorna Bertha (Weston) Morancy on May 21, 1927 in Morrisville, VT.

Employment opportunity brought him to White River Junction in the early 1940s. He served in the US Army as a machine gunner during World War II. Four bronze stars were awarded to him for serving in the Ardennes-Alsace, Rhineland, Rome-Arno and Southern France campaigns during the European Theater of Operations while assigned to the 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds received in action during the Battle of the Bulge.

In 1980, he retired following 33 years of employment by the Veterans Administration. Robert married Lucille Antoinette Hill on

December 1, 1945, in White River Junction. They were later divorced. On March 21, 1975, he married Rosemary Barbara (Howard) Spear in Hartland. He served on the Executive Board, as President of Vermont Federation of Chapters, National Association of Retired Federal Employees; Hartford Civil Defense Director 1973 – 1977; Hartford Volunteer Firefighter and EMT; and Hartland Deputy Health Officer. He was a member of the Sierra Club, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans.

He was a sociable, inquisitive being who enjoyed people in general. He enjoyed what most considered work. Depending upon seasonal beckoning, a good day was to split and stack firewood, mow the lawn, lend a hand in the hayfield, clear snow, and when nature interfered, window washing sufficed. Above all, he took pleasure in the company of family and friends. Survivors include his wife , Rosemary of Hartland, two sons from his first marriage, Robert Weston Morancy, Jr. and wife Julianne (Rohanik) of Croydon, NH and Timothy Edward Morancy and wife Maryhelen (Gibson) of East Waterboro, ME; a son from his second marriage, Daniel Howard Morancy and wife Mandi Potter of Hartland; a step-daughter, Barbara Brooks Spear (Gary Coolidge) of Claremont, NH, a brother, Walter Oliver Morancy of White River Junction; a sister, Mildred 'Joan' Kowalski and husband, Frank of Pennsylvania. Grandchildren: Robert Weston Morancy III, Ryan Morancy, Thomas Morancy, Tye Morancy, Derek Morancy, Alexandra Morancy, Dominick Morancy, Cole Morancy, Bryce Morancy, Ava Morancy, Julie Morse, Courtney Coolidge, Kyle Coolidge. Great-grandchildren: Robert Weston Morancy IV, Hannah Rose Morancy, Madison Morancy, Weston Kyle Gunnip, Emma Sofia Dematteo; and many nieces and nephews. Two brothers, Albert Ferdinand Morancy and Raymond Norris Morancy, and three sisters, Pearl Dorothy Laraway Coan, Elsie May Beal, and Helen Rose Maillioux predeceased him. A granddaughter, Kimberly Dawn Morancy and great-grandson, Elijah James Gunnip also predeceased him.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 11:00 AM at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph Center, VT. Knight Funeral Home in White River Junction has been entrusted with arrangements.



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Some photos from Michel De Trez' *First Airborne Task Force*:



D-Day, Chateau Ste Roseline: **"Doc" Lecklider** and medical assistant **Pvt. Harold D. Seegar**, both were 517<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment aidmen, attached to A Company. "Doc" was to be awarded a Silver Star for outstanding performance in the field. Pvt. Seegar was to be killed in action at Col de Braus, a few weeks after this photograph was taken, while on his way to pick up a wounded man. Seegar's mother was French and he had never met his grandparents who still lived in France. Seegar had saved all of his chocolate rations for them – unfortunately he never got to live long enough to meet them!



Suzanne Walker and Shirley Cobb; the Red Cross gals! Their assignment was to stick around the 517<sup>th</sup> PRCT to distribute doughnuts, coffee, comfort items and provide entertainment to front-line troops. Their presence was great morale booster, and their appearance was always appreciated by all.



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Suzanne Walker and Shirley Cobb, both American Red Cross volunteers, are pictured here with men of the 460<sup>th</sup> Parachute Field Artillery Battalion near L'Escarene, September 7<sup>th</sup>. They were certainly the only two "Donut Dollies" to wear the jump suits!



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



First week of August 1944, north of Frascati, Olive Grove.

Lt. Col. Richard J. Seitz, C.O. Headquarters Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and staff, planning for the invasion.

Left to right: **Lt. Col. Richard J. Seitz, Capt. Lewis F. Rees (Rgtl. Dental Surgeon), Maj. Thomas R. Cross (X.O.), Lt. John H. Weddle, Lt. Ferdinand E. Peche, Capt. Robert H. Newbury, Lt. Maurice J. Miley (KIA).**

Less than an hour after decent, Lt. Miley was electrocuted while cutting wires which he thought to be used for communication.



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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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