



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2336**

October 9, 2016

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

### *Discovery of Photos of the 517<sup>th</sup> PIR*

From **Loïc Jankowiak** on First Airborne Task Force on Facebook:

<http://1stabtf.com/decouverte-photos-517th-pir/>

A few weeks ago a dozen of unpublished pictures of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment were found in the stuff of an octogenarian who has lived in Touët-de-l'Escaren in the Maritime Alps, battle zone of the 517th PIR in the fall of 1944.

Surprisingly, photographs discovery have not been taken in the battle zone area but in Italy few days before the landing in Southern France. After checking identification of ore of the men, the paratroopers are part of the Communication Platoon, HQ-1/517th PIR and were probably took in Frascati area, southeast of Rome, which was the staging area of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team before moving on departure airfield for Provence.

The pictures developed in Rome which were discovered were given to a young man living in Touët by a paratrooper named **Frank X. Stegert** present in the photos.



1

Frank X. Stegert knew a young man during the war and would probably give him these pictures during a visit several years after the conflict ended. Auzias collection.

The webmaster and the members of the family of this woman want to know who are the other paratroopers. Do not hesitate to contact the webmaster.

I thank my friend Gabrielle, granddaughter of the man which knew these paratroopers and have shared these pictures photos with me and allow me to put them online.

**Loïc Jankowiak**

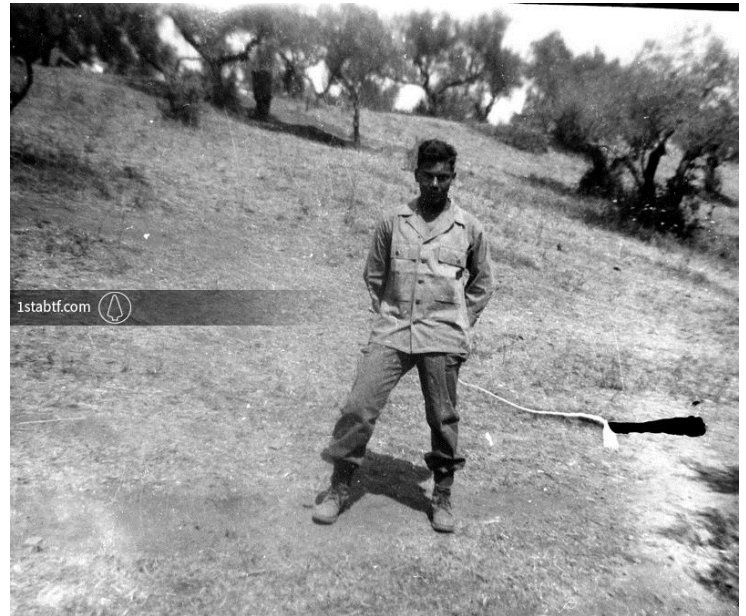


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Can anyone identify these troopers?



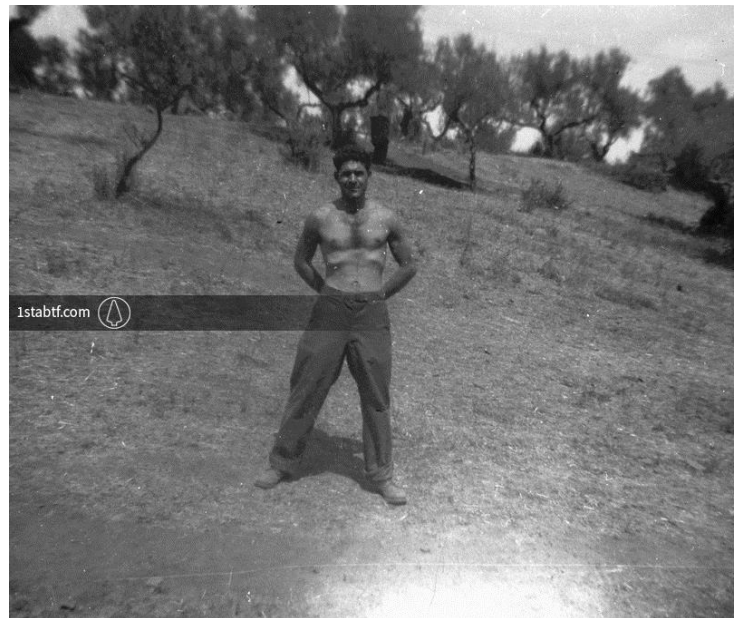
2



3



4



5





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7



8



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Loïc: Steggert was with the mortar platoon, HQ Company, 1st Battalion. There is a picture of this unit in Astor's "Battling Buzzards" book, with the men identified. It looks like some of the same men. -- BB



August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1944 at Canino airfield, Italy. The men belong to Mortar Platoon, Hq. Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, in front of the C-47 that will take them to Southern France. Standing left to right: 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. John Forrest, Pvt. Francis X Steggert, Pvt. Carl G. Larsen, Pvt. Marvin J. Connors, Pvt. Glen E. Bice, Pvt. Robert A. Morrow Jr., T/4 Thomas E. Hunter, Pfc. William L. Finley. Front row, left to right: Pfc. Joseph H. Anderson, Pfc. Walter S. Duzinski, Pvt. Joe E. Hausen, Pvt. Daniel Knoechelman, Pfc. Charles A. Lytton, Cpl. George Jones.





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And there's another photo of the group from HQ/1 in the de Trez book, First Airborne Task Force:



Sgt. Edward M. Jolly. Pfc. Donald K. Rufener, Pvt. Napoli, T/4 Walter W. Smith, T/4 William J. Sanford and Pvt. Francis X. Steggert, all from Hq. Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, at Peira Cava. Jolly, Sanford and Steggert wear modified O.D. wool trousers. A set of pockets taken from the M—1942 jump trousers has been stitched, in the field on regular issue M-1937 O.D. wool serge trousers.

Based on these last two pictures, I'm guessing that the blond crew-cut trooper in Pictures 2, 6, 7, 8 is **Pvt. Carl Larsen**. Can anyone else help identify the Steggert pictures? -- BB



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### Other MailCall News

As I was looking through the De Trez book, I ran across a photo of our god friend **Lt. Col. Hal Beddow**. I never noticed this before as it was in the chapter for the First Airborne Task Force Headquarters (Hal's unit), not the 517<sup>th</sup>.



**Pfc. Harold G. Beddow**, G-2 Section, FABTF Hq. and one of the Jeeps that survived the glide: landings. The Jeep was used to make many trips between the forward units and the 15' ABTI Headquarters. A steel cable cutter bar was welded vertically to the bumper. This was to catch and break any wire that might have been stretched across the road by the enemy. This nasty trap caused many Jeep and motorcycle front line drivers to be decapitated.

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Bob -- please tell **Merle** that I would like to ditto **Barbara Gavin's** comments in her 2001 letter to him about his summary of the battle plan for the invasion of Japan in WWII that did not have to be effectuated because of Japan's surrender on Sept 2, 1945. Another wonderful Mail Call. Thank you.

**Pat Seitz**

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Good morning.

My Father, **Hobart H Marks**, was a Member of the 517 Infantry Combat Team in WWII and I am looking for all the information I can find on him. My Son is an Army Ranger, active duty, and has dedicated a wall in his home to honor his Grandpa.

Can you please help me with my research.

Dawn West





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## 7 Surprising Facts about the US Army

From: <http://www.businessinsider.com/7-surprising-facts-you-probably-dont-know-about-the-us-army-2015-8>



### 1. The army is older than the country it serves

Americans celebrate the birth of their nation as July 4, 1776, but the Army is actually the country's "big brother." That makes sense, considering the Continental Army of 1775 — led by future President George Washington — needed to start beating the British in the colonies so Thomas Jefferson could finally get some time to write.

Before the Army was established, colonists were organized into rag-tag militias with no real structure or unified chain of command. But in spring 1775, most

wanted to attack the British near Boston but knew they needed more structure to confront the professional soldiers on the other side. That's where the official birth of the Army came in, on June 14, 1775, through a resolution from the Continental Congress.

The next day, George Washington was appointed as commander-in-chief of the new Army, and he took command of his troops in Boston on July 3, 1775, according to the Army History Division.



### 2. If the US Army were a city, it would be the 10th largest in the United States.

Just over 1 million soldiers are serving in the Army. About half of that number is on active duty and serving full time, while the rest make up the reserve components of the National Guard and Army Reserve. To put it in perspective, a city filled with soldiers would have more people in it than San Jose, California; Austin, Texas; Jacksonville, Florida; and San Francisco.



### 3. It is also the second-largest employer.

With 2.2 million people on the payroll, Walmart is America's largest employer. But the Army maintains the second spot with more than 1 million active-duty and reserve soldiers. While budget cuts will bring the number of soldiers in uniform down substantially in 2015 to about 1,042,200, the Army still beats the next-largest employer of Yum Brands, which has 523,000 total employees.



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corporals, who are also E-4s, the specialist rank isn't considered a non-commissioned officer, which is probably why some are very good at earning their "sham shield."

### 4. Specialist is the most prevalent rank among soldiers — by far.

There's a reason many soldiers joke about the existence of an "E-4 Mafia." That's because if you want anything done in the Army, you'll probably need a specialist (or three) to get it done. Across active-duty and reserve ranks in 2015, there are 264,890 specialists, making up more than one-quarter of the US Army.

Though the Army used to have specialist ranks that had grades from Spec-4 to Spec-9, it eliminated that system in 1985, setting aside Specialist-4 as a junior-enlisted rank called just "Specialist" from then on. Unlike



### 5. The service burns through nearly 1 billion gallons of fuel every year.

Just like any other large organization that needs energy to sustain operations, the Army needs fuel. A lot of fuel. A 2011 Army fact sheet estimated the Army used more than 22 gallons every day, per soldier — much more than only one gallon required per soldier during World War II.

A 2008 Army report said the service purchased approximately 880 million gallons of fuel for mobility operations. The report is a little dated though, and the Army — along with the rest of the DoD — has been working hard to bring down its energy usage, citing a

reliance on fossil fuels as a major national-security risk and logistical problem for troops in the field.



### 6. Among US Presidents with military service, most served in the Army.

Of the 44 men who have served as president of the US, [31](#) had military service. Twenty-four of them served in the Army, or in state militias (our modern-day National Guard). Though being in the military is not a requirement for the presidency, President George Washington started a trend that saw future presidents in some cases making their name as war heroes: Theodore Roosevelt received the Medal of Honor for his famous charge up San Juan Hill, and George H.W. Bush received the Distinguished Flying Cross during World War II and barely escaped after his plane was shot down.





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**7. The Army owns so much land that if it were a state, it would be larger than Hawaii and Massachusetts combined.**

Not surprisingly, the Army has a ton of infrastructure. Soldiers serve at 158 installations around the world, and the service owns more than 15 million acres of land across the US, which totals up to roughly 24,000 square miles. That would make the "State of Army" larger than smaller states like Maryland, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Vermont.

Soldiers attending the US Army Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, Vermont, climbing Smugglers' Notch as part of their final phase of the Basic Military Mountaineering Course, in Jeffersonville, Vermont in February.



### *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](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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