



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2337

October 16, 2016

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

MailCall News

Good morning Mr. Barrett.

Thank you so much for getting back with me.

My Dad, **PFC Hobart H Marks**, was in Co "C" 517th Prcht Inf Reg 13 Div. I was able to find him on the 1944 Christmas Roster of the 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Team in France.

I am also trying to get replacements of all the medals he earned detailed on his DD214. I was told I could get them through the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis MO. All I have are his WWII jump wings. One without the mustard stain and one with the mustard stain. Everything else on his DD214 has never been found.



I found this picture of a WWII 517 Parachute Infantry Soldier and would love to know the identity of the man in the photo. When compared to photos that we have, the similarities are unbelievable. But without knowing for certain we don't want to assume that it is him in the photo.

I am deeply grateful for your help to research such an important piece of history for me and my Son.

If it would help research efforts I could send you a copy of his DD214

Thank you for your service and thanks again for getting in touch with me.

Have a wonderful day.

Dawn West



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi Dawn,

OK, I found him in the Christmas '44 roster with C Company. Don't know how I missed him the first time. And I found him listed in the 13th Airborne book.

I did search my records, but did not find any more specific records of PFC Marks, but there is plenty about C Company. Take a look in [History and Archival Documents](#) and you'll see near the top, "[A Record of Company C](#)"

On the photos page, there are a number of collection of C Company troopers, including the entire [C Company photo at Camp Toccoa](#).

PS: I do have fairly complete Morning Report records of C Company, but do not see Marks listed there either, which makes him pretty lucky, not being wounded throughout the war. Let me know if you know otherwise.

Regarding the photo with the knives, yes we had some info on that photo back in our MailCall newsletter: <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2311.pdf>

I'll have to do some more research on how to best get replacement medals. You can always get replicas yourself from local Army-Navy stores. My Dad was able to get his but contacting our state senator's office. Most of the senators have staff that works on such requests, and I've been told that this is quicker than through the normal bureaucracy. However, my Dad might have been a bit unique because he was wounded and spent 6 month in a hospital in England and never returned to the 517th, so that he never received any of his medals in the first place, not even a purple heart.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

From: https://www.reddit.com/r/HistoryPorn/comments/1vecl/an_american_soldier_of_the_517th_parachute/?sort=old

Sgt. Joe Lobit, a 13th Airborne Paratrooper and veteran of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment with his collection of German knives that he had acquired while serving in Germany during the final months of the war. The photo was taken in August 1945 at Camp Pittsburg, an embarkation camp in France prior to the Soldier's departure for home.

Gilles G





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I'm not sure where Gilles found this photo, and unfortunately it does not list which Company that **Joe Lobit** was with. I cannot find any record of him either in my December 1944 rosters. – BB

I did a little more digging and found a copy of a 2008 Veteran's Project interview with Joe Lobit. Also known as Joseph E. Kelley – Lobit was his adoptive father's name.

<http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.64506/transcript?ID=sr0001>

In this interview, he talks about Camp MacKall and Fort Benning, but doesn't specifically mention the 517th. It appears that he joined the 13th Airborne in Germany at the end of the war and was a bodyguard of sorts for Major Sam Kale who was killed in action. -- BB

This Presidential Campaign has opened up discussions again on who can be trusted with the nuclear button. Back in the 1960s thousands of ICBMs were constructed throughout the area of North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, & South Dakota. About half have been destroyed. Of the 1,000 constructed in ND over 500 remain. The "locals" have lived with them for more than 50 years. The Minuteman Missiles are not obvious to the outsider since they only require less than an acre of space and have a chain - fence surrounding them. Early on we were taught to ignore them as though they didn't exist. If a thistle so much as blows against the fence a vehicle shows up to investigate what is touching it. All missiles in ND are under the command of the Minot Air Force Base 91st Missile Wing. Each Command Station has 40 missiles under its jurisdiction.

The missiles are buried in round silos 100 feet in the ground and have a payload of 1.2 megaton nuclear warhead that travels 15,000 MPH. It can be on target in less than 30 minutes. Each missile has hundreds of times the destructive force of the nuclear bombs dropped on Japan during World War II. The reason I bring this up is to make you aware that Mardy and I had an opportunity in 2012 to go down in one of the Command Station. It was manned by two people; a 27 year old woman and a young fellow. What an awesome responsibility. Each had half the code needed to turn the key to fire the missiles.

We got on the elevator that would take us down 100 feet. It was operated by the only above ground individual at the Station. As the 5-foot thick concrete doors overhead begin to close, I looked at the 60 year old rust hinges. What if the doors failed to open for some reason or the power which operated them had a circuit breaker trip. Who and how would we contact someone, We were briefed on all the safeguards that were in place to prevent an accidental firing of the missiles. My mind was more on what safeguards were in place to insure those thick doors would open and the elevator would reverse, The Cold War has ended but now things are beginning to heat up again. Let us hope we have a backup to this aging system I have been living in the middle of for almost 60 years,

Merle Mc Morrow



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hello, I am Jim Troche and I have been doing research on my father, **Vincent Troche Jr's** military career. The task has been very difficult because I could never get the whole story and sometimes received conflicting facts. He usually said he was in the 517th PIR attached to the 82nd but had also mentioned he was in the 505th. I found his enlistment date as June 6th 1944, Army serial number 42136558. I then stumbled upon the book "13th Airborne Div." and I found his name in the roster of the 517th Parachute Regiment and that is about all I have.

He had often said he didn't see much action because Patton always beat them there. I was wondering if you could provide any additional information from your resources.. He once asked "What, are you writing a book?" I cracked up and replied, "Maybe!". I really want to ask him everything but I don't want him to feel like I am invading his privacy.

Thanks in advance

Jim Troche

Hi Jim,

I cannot find a specific record of Vincent Troche in my records, but they are very incomplete. I don't see him on the 1944 Christmas roster, but that only means that he was probably not with the unit in December 1944, but many soldiers were transferred into the 517th from other units as replacements after that.

On the 13th Airborne book, was Company is he listed with?

Bob Barrett

Hey Bob,

God bless you, LOL! I looked through that roster a couple years ago and it was sooo long and tedious!!! I can't find any information about what company he may have been in but he said he was in theater during Christmas. Who knows maybe he was attached to another unit at the time or he got it confused with Korea.

I may look on the Christmas roster to see if the other individuals above and below his name are on there.

Thanks again for the hard work!

Jim

I do have the 13th Airborne book, and I do see Vincent Troche, Jr. in there on the 2nd page of the 517th. It does not list the Companies. And I checked an number of the names before and after Troche and I do not see many of them on the December 44 roster either. I do recognize a couple – Stim, Horvath – but they were not in the same Companies as each other, so these names are all mixed up.

Bob Barrett



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From **Nila Gott**:

Time Travel ...70 Years **D-Day (and July 4) celebrated here...!**

Directions:

Just click on the photo anywhere and it will become 2014. Click again and you are back to 1944.

<http://interactive.guim.co.uk/embed/2014/apr/image-opacity-slider-master/index.html?ww2-dday>

Bob: very interesting facts about the Army. It takes a lot of personnel training, equipment and keen logistics to have an effective, prepared fighting force particularly in the changing world we are in. Thank you for pulling the information together.

Pat Seitz

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:

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