



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2356

May 21, 2017

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

West Coast Mini-Reunion 2017 - June 2-8

Have contacted all the regular attendees of our reunion and have a few coming.

- Arrive June 2. Then very tentative schedule depending on interest. Red, White and Blue Ball and Mt Hood for sure.
- June 3 visit Erickson Aircraft Collection in Madras Oregon then attend the Red, White and Blue Ball at our Ranch (flyer attached)
- June 4 BBQ at our Ranch
- June 5 breakfast with the Band of Brothers in Bend then head to Mt Hood Resort for the night
- June 6 back to Bend to the High Desert Museum (has WWII exhibit and history of Camp Abbot)
- June 7 rest, sightsee Metolius River and fish hatchery
- June 8 depart
- Approximate cost: \$800 lodging, \$200 other activities

Sorry so late getting this out. Hope all is well!

Karen (Frice) Wallace

I didn't notice a phone number for Karen re the West Coast Mini-Reunion. Did I miss it, or do you have that info?

Thanks,
Julie (Athey) Black

I'm sorry I didn't give my phone number to give out. 541-948-2486 or email me at karenwski@gmail.com

Thanks,
Karen



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Karen Frice Wallace has done another outstanding job organizing the West Coast Mini. And you did a beautiful notice of the event. Hope everyone has a wonderful time at the reunion.

Kent Immerfall's email extolled the blessings that you provide to all of us with Mail Call, especially with the challenge of the loss of our remaining men. Thank you on behalf of all of us. Speaking of Europe, we are heading there today for a meeting and then vacation which will include stops in Fatima and Lourdes. We will pray for all our 517th men, those who are still with us and those who have rejoined their Band of Brothers in heaven.

Pat Seitz

MailCall News

Hello, We are Franck and Gilles, from France.

We are actually ending the writing of a movie, based on real facts which will be about the 517th, in the south of France, Provence 1944.

We'll make an independent movie, begin the crowdfunding campaign during summer, and hope to be ready for the 2018 Normandy ww2 film festival.

We have dreamt to interview one veteran, and if he accept, to be at the end of the movie. if you're interested by our adventure, than we'll be very glad.

thank you very much,
Franck and Gilles
hutsfx@free.fr

Heard from **Alex Sierra's** son this Morn. Vera passed away Monday, Apr. 10th. . Also, Roger **Goodsell** doing well, getting better every day, uses wheelchair and misses Gloria. He is 96 years old and In assisted living.

As for ourselves, **Bob & Kath Hart**, both still driving, Bob had to give up motorcycle two years ago due to fall in garage. Have survived 69 years marriage to each other. Still working on it. Have a good one!

Bob Hart
360 432 9524

I don't know if MailCall ever carried information on **Bill Hudson's** passing on December 30, 2016. Bill was born in St. Paul, MN on Sept. 22, 1924. He was in the 596th Engineers. He and Gloria lived in Monterey, CA.

Merle McMorrow

Hi Merle, Yes, we did hear about Bill. See: <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2348.pdf>



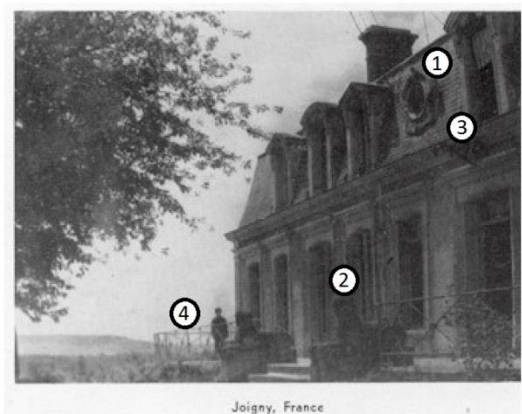
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Hello Bob,

I am still doing research on **Gen. John H. Neiler**, mostly now to be able to give more information to his wife about where he went while in Italy, France, Belgium, and Germany. Gen. Neiler never shared any photos of himself from the war, so Mrs. Neiler was very happy to see the photos that you directed me to. Those photos are from Howard Hensleigh's collection, submitted by Jean-Loup Gassend. I recently found another photo on the website that shows members of Hq with the description of "somewhere in France, 1944" and thought that the building was distinctive enough that I may be able to pin-point its location. I listed all of the French towns where the 517th stopped for extended periods (apparent based on dress individuals in the photo). The only two places that looked promising were in Soissons and Peira Cava. Using Google Maps and StreetView, I searched in Soissons for the building. Nothing. So then I searched in Peira Cava and quickly noticed that the architecture was way off. But then I noticed something familiar. Next to the two pictures of the then Lt. Neiler is a photo of Russ Johnson sitting on the hood of a Jeep. While looking at StreetView in Peira Cava, I noticed the same building profile. After comparing both photos, I identified several features that were common to both. After a few discussions with Mr. Gassend and further comparison to other photos of the building, I believe that the location that these three photos has been identified. The building behind Mr. Neiler and to the left of Mr. Johnson was the Grand Hotel Faraut. Please see the attached comparison.

Now, getting back to the group photo, I have asked other military enthusiasts if they recognized the building to no avail. I was about to give up when I stumbled on another discovery. While doing a google search (I can't even remember now what it was), I saw another photo of Lt. Neiler and other photos from a page in the 13th Airborne History book, which is also on the 517th website. I had never seen the other photos, so I was a little excited. I had never looked at the 13th Airborne Book as a source as I figured that the association was too brief. That was a mistake. Anyway, I scrolled through the remainder of the pages and got to the last one, when lo and behold, I see the same building, shot from a different angle, with the caption "Joigny, France". This appears to be the "small hotel" (as described in the Paratroopers' Odyssey book) where Hq used as their headquarters after Ardennes and before heading home. I still have not located the building on Google Maps or StreetView, but I am still looking.

Ben Arnold



- 1 Port Windows
- 2 Statues at stairs
- 3 Same wall bracket
- 4 Same handrail style

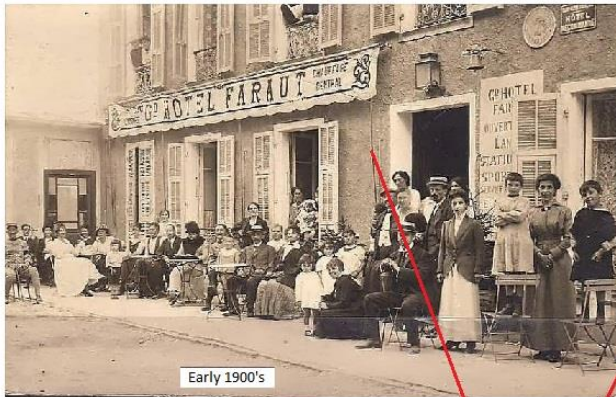
There are other similarities, same roof, tree is in same location, one floor below roof, etc.



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- second building has same shape
- Second building two windows on top
- Second building two windows and door on bottom
- Arched Doorway
- three windows past downspouts
- Two down spouts arched doorway



Early 1900's

- Awning Cords
- Same shutters
- same window proportions



1944



1944

Subject: Identified Locations in Photos

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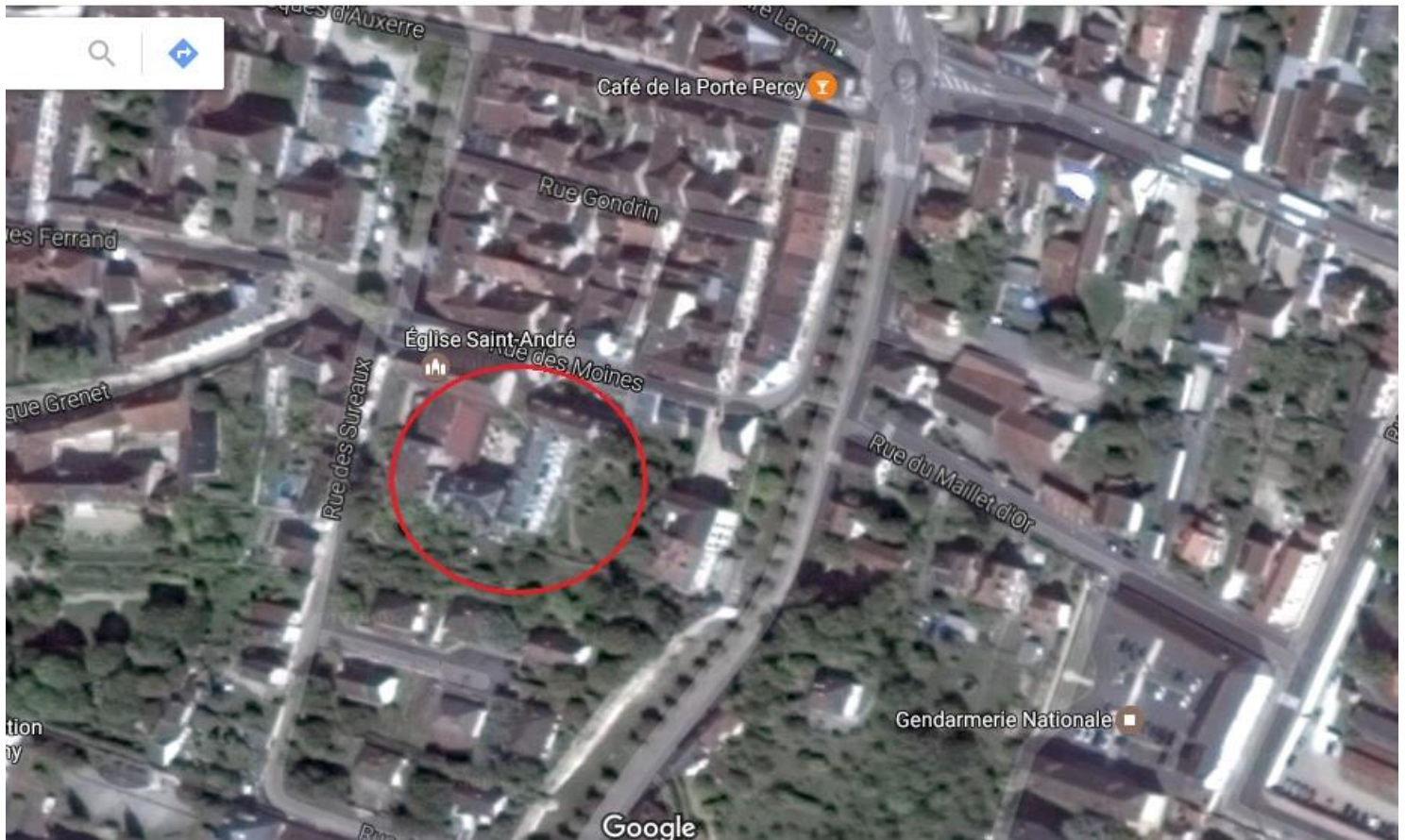
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Ben Arnold

updates built in



Hello Bob,

I have confirmed the location of the group photo. It is in Joigny, France. It seems that there is a recent movie called 'Les ronds-points de l'hiver' that was filmed in the house. See the attached photos.

Ben



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And here is a photo of Ben Arnold's display of John Neiler's uniforms, as posted on Facebook:



Ben Arnold ▶ 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team - Families & Friends

1 hr

Display of Lt. John Neiler's (517th Hq, 3rd Bat) uniforms and some gear.





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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
- 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
2016 Roster (updated!)	www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
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