



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2389

June 3, 2017

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

MailCall News

Bob, what a great Mail Call you just sent out! Loved your Memorial Day missive, and especially your extended coverage of the mini-reunion in Fargo last month. Merle looks great, as do those lovely daughters of the 517!

Dad, **Kaare Allan Johnson**, 596, turned 94 last week. I am happy to report that he is doing well and actually reported to work on his birthday, since he always works Mondays!

We have made our arrangements to travel to France in August, and plan to see **Roland and Patou Orengo** during our time there!

Bob, as always, thanks so much for Mail Call. It keeps us together and connected to our 517 family!

Hugs and love -

Claire

Clairej Giblin

· May 19 at 10:09pm ·

Springtime in Paris with the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey. They sang **Happy Birthday to Allan, who is 94 on Monday!** Gary Pate, who has been with the Metropolitan Opera for 20 years, sang Music of the Night, from Phantom of the Opera, literally 15 feet in front of me, and I am still a puddle of tears.





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A beautiful Mail Call on this Memorial Day! Thank you. How blessed we are to be related the men of the 517th. While they may have seen themselves as ordinary human beings they were extraordinary, willing to give their all—their very lives—so that our country would be free and we their descendants could live in peace. May we honor them by actively following their example of service to others before self and continuing the effort to form a more perfect union with liberty and justice for all. We thank God for them and ask that He keep them next to His loving heart.

Joanne's description of her, Mimsey's and Karen's surprise visit to Merle to celebrate his 95th Birthday truly touched me. She allowed me the vicarious joy of being there for the celebratory trip with Merle. What a fabulous plan perfectly executed. Joanne, Mimsey and Karen, you are awesome and outstanding! Thank you.

And Merle —You look so sharp! What is your secret? But then the 517th men were an extraordinary and good looking band of brothers in every way. Happy Birthday.

Pat Seitz

Regarding **Paul Craig**, he is mentioned in my book (from the Lt Irving report), as having been involved in shooting the German motorcycle trying to drive into la Roquette sur Var on 28 August 1944. I would not be surprised if this is why he got one Bronze Star. I tried contacting him years ago to get his version on la Roquette, only to find him on the lists of dead a few months later...

Family members wishing to know technical medical details about the cause of death can get a copy of the Individual Personnel Deceased File. However these can contain very graphic details, so caveat emptor.

They are now stocked in the St Louis Archives, and copies can be ordered for a few dozen dollars.

The only real way to find out exactly how a person was killed is to ask his army buddies, but it is about 10 years to late for that now, except in lucky cases.

Jean-Loup Gassend

Hi Tom,

A little more info about **S/Sgt. Paul Craig**.

First see the note below from **Jean-Loup Gassend**, who wrote the definitive book on Operation Dragoon. I have attached photo copies of some of the pages he mentions.

Also, there is an account of the 2nd Battalion battles of January 6th 1945 in a paperback book *Battling Buzzards*, by **Gerald Astor**. (available on Amazon or eBay)

If you like, I can get you better scans of either or both books.

Bob Barrett



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Thank you. This is all fantastic. I've been writing and calling and emailing the government and the Veterans' administration for years trying to find out something, and they have been unable to tell me anything. You would think that they would at least have a file on why my uncle received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, but they don't. You've shared more with me in two emails than they have in five years. Thank you!

We have the book *Battling Buzzards*. We have the full citation for Paul's Silver Star. In fact, that's what started this whole thing; Paul received the medal (posthumously) for saving the lives of three soldiers and a medic, and I was trying to find out their names. I still don't know them.

We also have details on Paul's death at Trois Ponts; one of his friends wrote my mother about the whole thing back in 1945, and she still has the letter. Paul was originally buried in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Welkenraedt, Belgium, but later disinterred and removed to Arlington in 1947 (maybe 1949 — I'd have to check). I've been to his grave there.

I used to correspond with **Gene Brissey**! I wish I had thought to ask him these questions when he was still alive. He sent me this photo (attached) of some of the troops. Paul is sitting in the front row, absolute center. If you don't already have this shot, I can send you a higher resolution copy (this one is 300 dpi). I can also identify everyone for you, if you need that as well.

Could you send me scans of those Morning Reports? My mother — Paul's sister — is now 91 years old, and remembers receiving a telegram about the October 1944 casualty. I think she would love to know a little more about that (the telegram went to Paul's wife, who was living with his family at the time). I believe he spent some time in an army hospital because of this. Also, anything more from a Morning Report about his promotion to Lieutenant would make her very happy. And AWOL? That doesn't sound like him! Anyway, whatever you can send me would be wonderful.

Thank you again!

Thomas Hertzl

Nephew of **Lt. Paul
Craig**, E Company





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I'm attaching a very, very light copy of the photograph of **Paul Craig** and some of his troops, with all their names written in red. I think this is the best way to identify each soldier, but if you have any issues with this, please let me know, and I'll come up with something else. Also, I apologize if I misspelled any of their names (if I did, please correct me!). I know the photo was taken in 1944 in southern France. My mother says they parachuted in, between Nice and Cannes, and worked their way north to La Roquette-sur-Var. It's possible it was taken there. I think we can date this fairly accurately, as Paul Craig is wearing his Staff Sergeant stripes, so the photo was taken after they parachuted into France, but before Paul's field promotion to Second Lieutenant.

I have the full citation for the Silver Star, date, etc., but I'll have to get that to you later today.

Could you please send along those Morning Reports? Thanks!

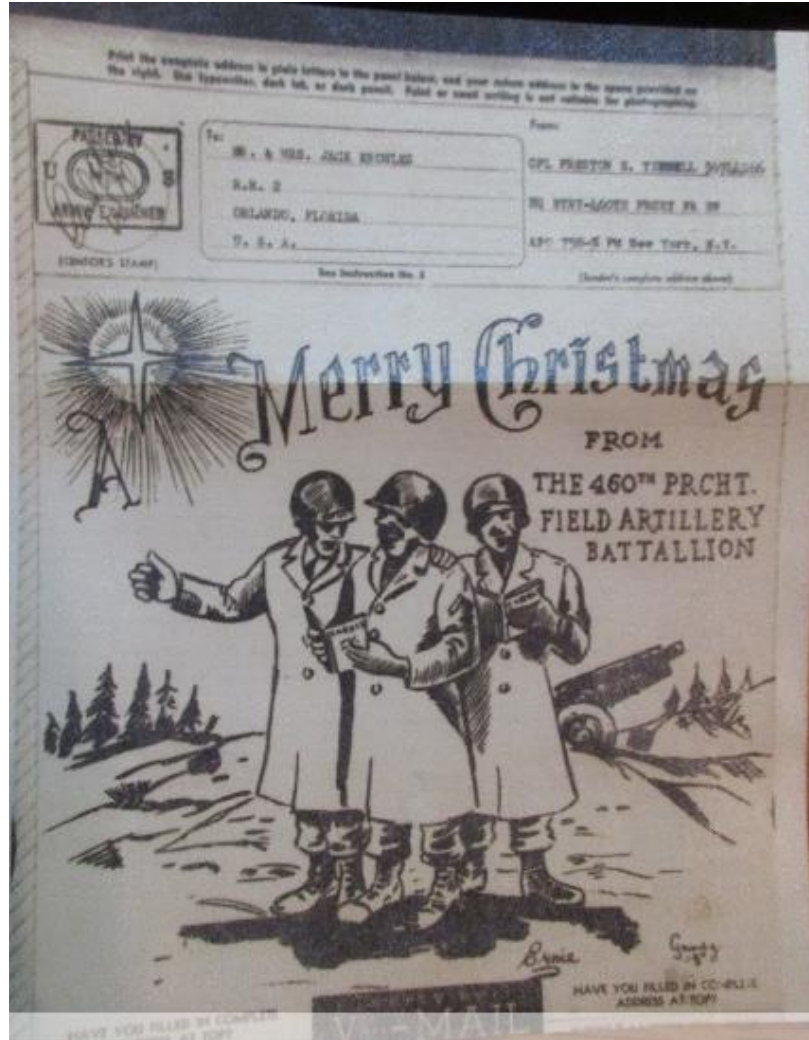
Thomas





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Recently seen for sale on eBay, here is another Christmas card V-Mail that I haven't seen before. Not sure if this is a **Dick Spencer** drawing. It looks different. The name on the card is **Pvt. Preston Tinnell**, who was from HQ Battalion of the 460th.



Name: **Cindy Robinson-Karst**

From: Pequannock, NJ - Washington DC

E-

mail: karstc@netzero.com

Thanks to all of the members who have provided information about the 517th PRCT and our Uncle. You brought my Uncle, **Albert M. Robinson**, who died during Operation Dragoon; to life for those of us who never knew Uncle Sunny(Uncle Al). How can we ever show our appreciation? God bless you all.

Added: May 30, 2018



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Thanks for getting back with me so quick!

Here is the re-enactment's information. They do it every year the weekend after Memorial Day.

<https://www.centralilww2.com/>

I will share the short film with you once it's done.

Thanks,

Jason Boyer

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June 2 & 3, 2018 at Sommer Park, Peoria, IL

Directions :
Sommer Park is off Rt 150 just west of the Shoppes of Grande Prairie. Turn left onto Koerner Rd just past Weaver Ridge Golf Course. Watch for signs! The park address is 6329 N. Koerner Rd, Edwards, IL. Call 309-340-3268 or [email](#) for more info.

Public Hours :
Times are approximate.
10:00-4:00 Saturday, Battles : 11:00 & 2:00.
10:00-3:00 Sunday. Battles : 11:00 & 1:00.

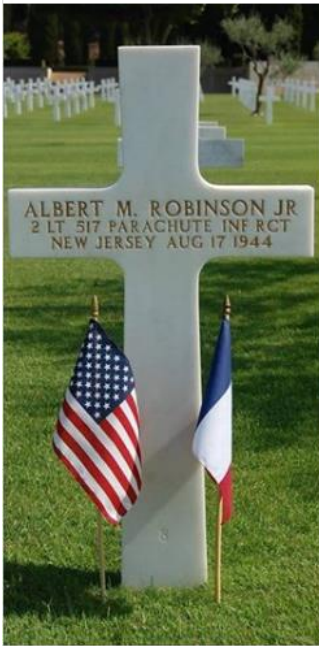
Admission :
\$10 Adults. \$5 Kids 5-17. Under age 5 are FREE. Max rate of \$25/family. *Prices subject to change without notice.*

Also... German Hospital skits after battles, WWII Veterans Panel at 12:30 Saturday.



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Our Uncle Al. I am going to see his grave next year



Cindy Robinson-Karst

Another D-Day event is in the books. Today we dedicated the first of our four barracks buildings. We had a great race turnout and everyone is excited about the new additions to Camp Toccoa.

Keith Hornick via Facebook





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Norman Ross, I Company



I wanted to let you know that my grandfather, **Norman L. Ross, Jr.** of I Company, passed away today, May 31st. He was preceded in death by his first wife Dorothy, 1 sister and 2 brothers, and is survived by his second wife Betty, 1 sister, 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

I will be sure to forward his obituary when it is available.

Scott Ross

Scott, I am so sorry to hear this. I enjoyed meeting Normal and his family at the reunions. He was another great hero and a very good man.

Bob Barrett

Thank you, Bob. I forgot one more great grandchild that was born late last year. That would bring the total to 11.

Scott Ross



Norman L. Ross, Jr., grandson Scott Ross, and great-granddaughter Dorothy Ross. (Sept 2016)



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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.

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"Let B Comp'ny go in. They ain't been kissed yet."