



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2396**

September 30, 2018

*517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment  
460<sup>th</sup> Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
596<sup>th</sup> Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

## MailCall News

Hi Bob,

I just returned a complete brélage of a 517 paratrooper found in Cogolin (83) in the south of France. This typical camo operation Dragoon bangle at bay number F9439

So I'm looking for a paratrooper of 517 who made Operation Dragoon and having the laundry number cited.

Can you help me ?

thanks in advance

Best regards

**Michel Quilez**





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Bonjour Michel,

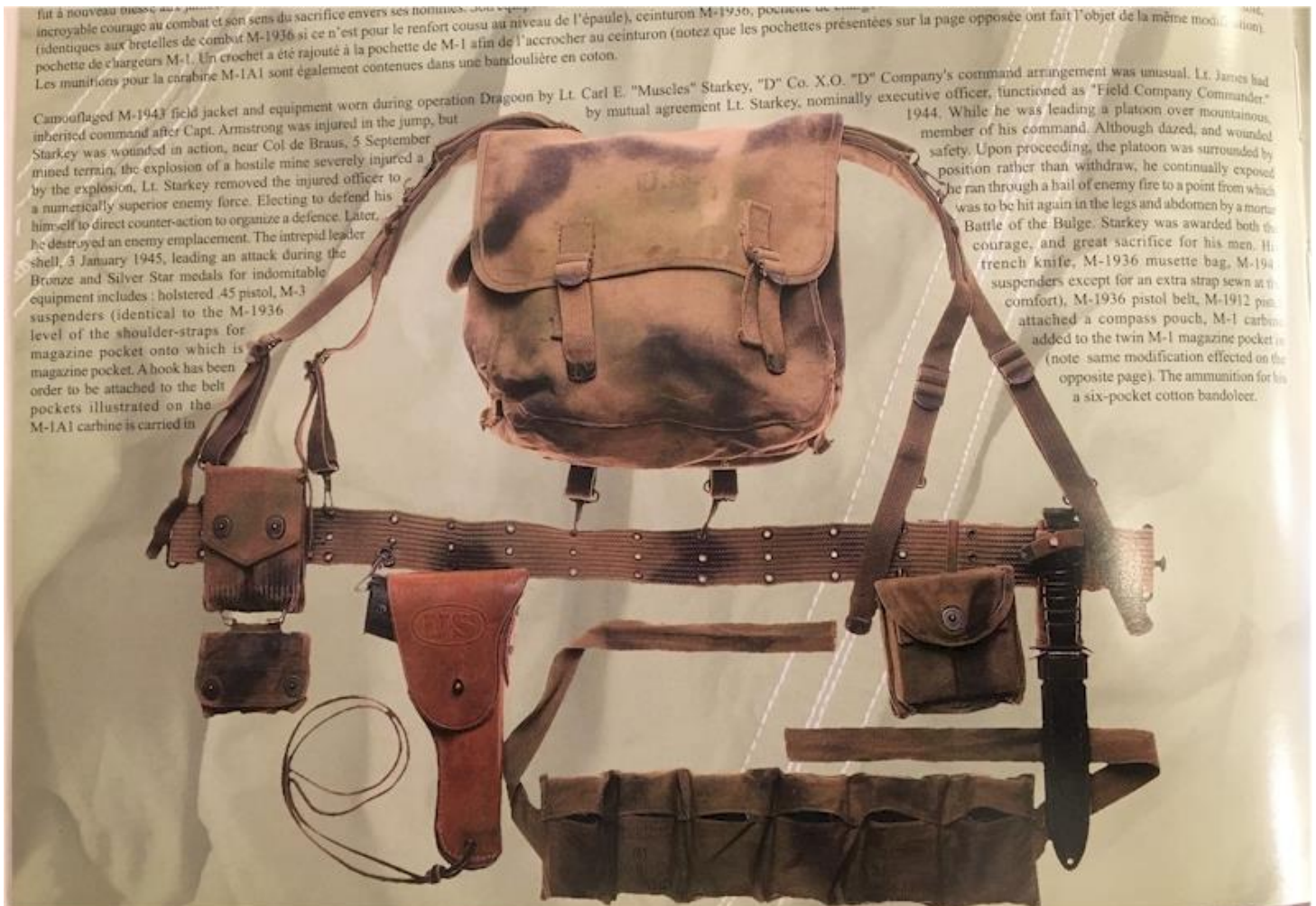
First, I had to look up the word brêlage. It is not a common word in English, but from the pictures I figured out that it means lashing, strapping or belt in English. I am not familiar with the paratrooper's equipment, but this looks like knife and ammo carrier?

Unfortunately, I have never heard of anyone labeling their equipment with a laundry number or with anything except their army serial number which is usually an 8-digit number. But, of course, I will include your request and photos in the next MailCall. Hopefully some of the soldiers can educate me and have some ideas about how to track this down.

Regards,

Bob Barrett

I did consult the "bible" about Operation dragoon uniforms and equipment, which is Michel De Trez's *First Airborne Task Force*. It has a few pictures of similar looking belts and bags:





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Bob: Thank you for a couple of things in this Mail Call ([#2390](#) - June 21, '18)

First, thank you for publishing **Bob Dalrymple's** letter to wives and mothers. Bob was an outstanding leader and his ability to inspire hope and confidence was on impressive display in the letter. What a privilege it was to have known him. May the Good Lord shower his family with wonderful memories of the life of service to others before self that he led to counter their sorrow. Rest in Peace, Bob, with your mighty band of marvelous brothers who went before you.

Thank you also for sharing the inquiry and interesting information from the Frascati Museum about their efforts to preserve the history of the American WWII fighting men and the information about where **Zalik's** dog tags were found. I do not know any details about the 517th's Italian preparations for Operation Dragoon. So the information about a mansion and the olive grove provides some details.

I only now realized I hadn't looked at this June Mail Call. Hope you and Joanne are doing well. I wonder if the Frascati museum knows about the Toccoa, Georgia museum as a possible resource.

**Pat Seitz**



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

**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 5:29 AM

**Subject:** Morning Reports & Thunderbolt

Hello Ben,

I would like to know if you have a link with all the morning reports of all the companies to share with me/us. I am looking for them but there is not all the MR on the 517<sup>th</sup> website. I am looking for them for my research and my book project on the 517<sup>th</sup>.

Another thing. I would like to know if there is a way to get scan of the 517<sup>th</sup> Thunderbolt from 1943 to our days. I am looking for the WWII stories of veterans. Do you have some of them, Would you be able to send me scan or photoshoot?

Thank you very much for your help.

Best regards,

**Loïc Jankowiak**

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Hello Loïc,

Sorry for the delay. Attached is the combined index for all the morning reports that we have. As you know, Mike Wells transcribed all the data from the morning reports, one at a time, into spreadsheets for each company. And now, he combined all those spreadsheets in to single file, which I have attached. If you know Excel, you can do a filter and that makes it easy to select individual units, dates, or people. Usually when looking for info about a specific soldier, I just turn on the filter and select by the last names.

Mike did his best to read and transcribe each MR, but there are some that even he had a little trouble deciphering the writing. He included all that data that he could make out, so this should help with any research. It does not include all the units, but it is all the ones that we found from Clark Archers old files after he died. There may be more units somewhere in the Army records. I don't know how Clark managed to make copies of all the MRs.

I did not include all the original scanned MRs, but both Mike and I do have scans for all that are in the spreadsheet, so I could send you any that you need. Most of those files are large and there are many. Up 200 MRs, about 1 to 4 MB each, some in jpg and some pdf formats. If you do want all the originals, let me know and I could zip them up and send them to you somehow. For now, just let me know whenever you want to look at some.

For the Thunderbolts, I do have some paper copies from Merle McMorrow, but have not had the time to make electronic copies. I did put the newer ones since 1999 on the page with the MailCall index: <http://517prct.org/mailcall/index.htm> And there are a couple of the oldest ones from 1943 and 1944, plus a few pages of one from 1973, on the Historical Archives page: <http://517prct.org/documents.htm>

I also have a small pile of paper Thunderbolts that I got from Merle McMorrow, maybe 10 issues or so probably from the 90's, but I have not had the time to scan these. That will take some time, page by page.

Regards,

Bob Barrett



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RE: Bullying

Last night I watched a program on bullying and wondered why we didn't do that. The more I thought about it, the more I realized our generation was not so innocent. An overweight girl would hear such things as "Fatty, Fatty, 2 X 4, Can't get through the kitchen door. or such things as Two, Four, Six,. Eight, Who do we really hate.

This continued on into the early days of military training. The infantry troops remained at Camp Toccoa and the glider, artillery and engineer troops were sent to Camp Mackall. A street going down the middle of the camp separated the glider troops from the rest. The worst name you could call someone was "Glider Rider" Because of the boots, wings, and extra pay we felt superior. That all changed for me after my first glider ride in an experimental exercise. After that I would have gladly gone into combat 10 times by parachute to eliminate going into combat once by glider,

I know 75 years have passed, but if I made any disparaging remarks about glider troops, I am truly sorry.

**Merle McMorrow**

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Dear Bob,

find attached some picture of the exposition organized for the 75th anniversary of Frascati aerial bombing. Part of exposition was also reserved to 517th CT.

all items have been found by us during our field excavation using metal detectors and include US, German and English items.

regards

**Goffredo Danna**





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Giugno-Agosto 1944 - 1 Mappa percorso 517th in Italia; 2 pose con nuove divise all'uliveto di Vincenzo Benedetti; 3 foto in tenda; 4 piastrina John Zelik; 5 logo reggimento; 6 foto di un soldato da Benedetti; 7 e 11 prima del riequipaggiamento; 8 in partenza per la Francia 15 agosto 1944; 9 speciale trasporto jeep con allianti; 10 un reduce vivo.





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RE: Co. I 3d Bat. 517th pir photo

Hi Bob, Hope all is well with you and your family. Dad (**Al Eckart**) and I are still working on identifying those members of the 517th, Co I.

We have identified 36 of the 81 men in the photo. I was wondering if you could possibly re-post the photo in hopes of someone being interested in helping us out.

I believe that I had posted a numbered copy at one point on the 517th page, or sent a copy to you.

Thanks in advance.

**Denise Angelo**

(niece of **William J Eckart, Jr**)

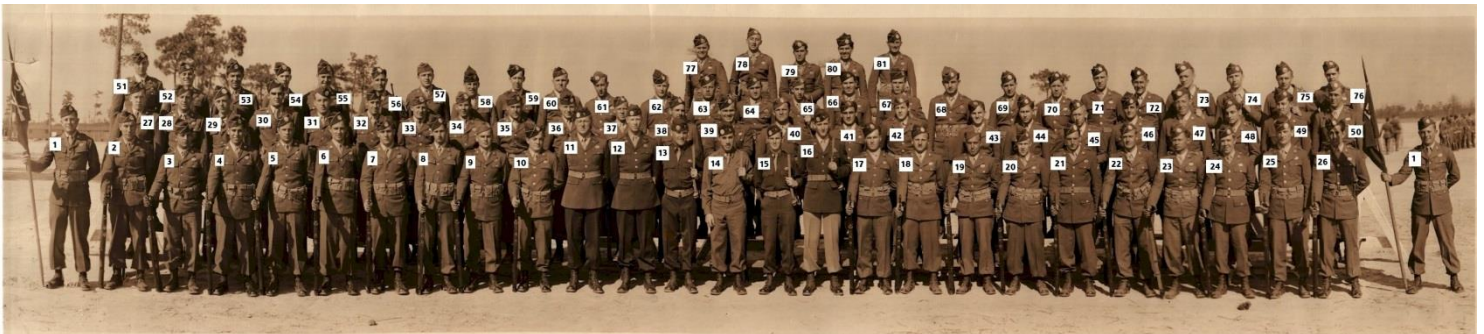
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Hi Denise,

I will repost the request again in today's MailCall. I may have lost track, but I only remember a few being identified by **Kent Immerall** in <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2343.pdf> (January 2017). You say that you've identified 36 of the men? Wow! Let me know when you're ready, and please send me the list so that I can add it to the photo's page.

Thanks,

Bob Barrett



Can anyone identify any more in this photo of I Company? See a large version at:

[http://www.517prct.org/photos/3rd\\_battalion\\_I\\_Co/i\\_co\\_mackall.htm](http://www.517prct.org/photos/3rd_battalion_I_Co/i_co_mackall.htm)



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

From <https://www.facebook.com/TheirFinalChapter/>

The WW2 Legacy Keepers fundraiser for the [National Museum of the U.S. Army Campaign](#) is stalled at 66% of the goal and your help is needed to push on and complete the mission. Never before has there been a National Museum of the U.S. Army. That will all change in 2019 when this amazing facility will open its doors and immediately become one of the most important museums in America. You can be a part of this momentous event by contributing to the cause at the link below.

<https://armyhistory.causevox.com/ww2-legacy-keeper>

The museum construction phase is nearing completion. I urge you to do some research, check out the museum at [armyhistory.org](http://armyhistory.org) or on their Facebook page (above). There you will see the construction progress at Fort Belvoir, VA where the museum is located. You will also see that this fundraiser is being run directly through the museum so you know it is safe and secure. Thank you, Jim Oliveri, WW2 Legacy Keepers







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Here is part of a tribute page to **PFC Gale Swarhout** (HQ/2)

See: <https://www.operation-dragon.com/2018/09/18/swarhout-gale-517th-2nd-bn-hqco/>

HOME BLOG HISTORY IN MEMORIAM VÉTÉRANS VIRTUAL MUSEUM GLIDER CG4A PROJECT  
BATTLEFIELDS TODAY CONTACT ABOUT US

VETERANS · 18 septembre 2018

SWARTHOUT Gale. 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd battalion, HQ company



Gale SWARTHOUT was born in Bath, Steuben county, New York on the 15th of february 1925. He enlisted the US army for duration of the war on the 22 of april 1943 in Rochester N.Y. army serial number 32845505.

After infantry school he volunteer for paratroopers and joined the 517th parachute infantry Regiment. Attached to the Head-quarter company of the second battalion under command of Colonel Richard J. SEITZ.

Sent in Europe spring 1944 his Regiment took part of the second D day. On the 15th of august 1944. He moved to Ombrone airfield near Grosseto. The company enplaned at 2.h00 and departed at 2h35. The first man who touch the ground in the company was the battalion commander Richard Seitz first to drop at 4h35. The HQ company landed between the villages of La Motte and Les Arcs. Exactly on their pre designated drop Zone. Alfa.

Following is the journal that private first Class Swarhout wrote from D day to D +8 then he was evacuated to Italy by hospital ship after being

wounded at the hand and one eye.



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*"D day and following. ..*

*Got five letters on the 13th of august . We got our stuff ready for the jump which came on August the 15th 1944...*

*- "D" day : was'nt a bad day...*

*- D + one was the day we got the hell shot out of us. Lt. Robinson and Clark killed. Both from my plane .*

*Lemen walked across the road after machine gun and an 88mm hit him direct in the head. Gone from the chest up.*

*Went on outpost with Dobbs. We could hear Jerries talking and passing us all night. Could'nt shot any of them because they had us largely out numbered.*

*D + 3 : Captain Clan sent me and a few other fellows into Le Muy on sniper duty.*

*I saw then thought i was going blind in the right eye. My right hand is starting to swell...*

*D + 4 : We are with the 141st - 36th division and i had my fingers fixed and dramichel eye is getting worse.*

*D + 5 : taken prisoner . can't write today to circumstance behind my patrol. Only for a gun.*

*D + 6 : Jerry is getting nervous today and the way they talk they are going to move. I hope so.. Americans shelled them all night with 155mm ...10 jerries killed.*

*T.S. : They have left now and we can get the wounded to a Hospital. Five with broken legs and three shot. At aid station i whowed them my hand and now i am goind back in a hospital ship.*

*D + 8 : Back to Italy in hospital. That is all...*

*PFC Gale Swarhout. HQ. Co. 2nd bn. 517th.*

*Swarhout was awarded from the bronze star for his action. He joined back his outfit late in december 44 during the battle of the Bulge.*

*He died in a car accident aged of 25 , on the 26 of august 1950 in Fredericksburg. Virginia ,while he was sleeping in the back seat and his friend was driving..*



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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.

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