



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

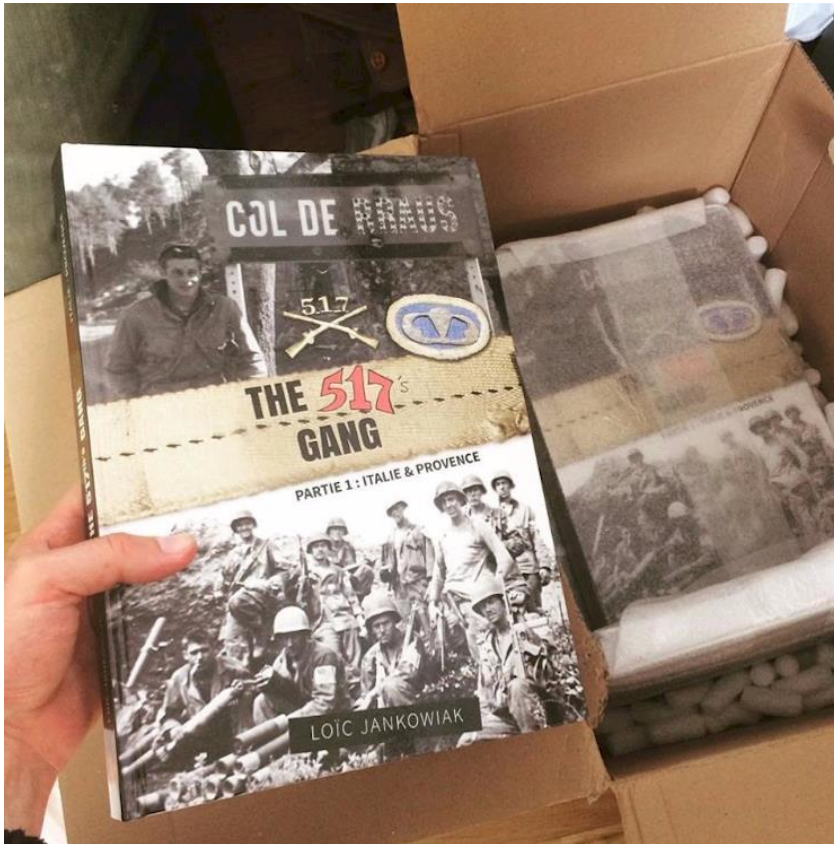
MailCall No. 2413

May 5, 2019

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

MailCall News

The French version is arriving soon:



From:

<https://www.facebook.com/The517Gang/>

The 517th's Gang
April 22

A very few arrived Friday. They are great! This is what I expected... I am very happy to present my very first book on the Independent Airborne unit of WWII.

#the517gang #book
#forgottenthings
#forgottenparatroopers

You can pre-order it now on <https://1stabtf.com/fr/accueil/>. You can also contact the author on this page for other means of payment.

Congratulations to **Loic Jankowiak!** – Bob Barrett



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

[The 517th's Gang](#)

April 23 at 1:53 PM ·

now in pre-order until may 6th where the book will be delivered to you!

Order book, receive it as soon as possible on may 6, 2019

<https://1stabtf.com/boutique/the-517ths-gang/?fbclid=IwAR1aMzdHE3PZUNbMAjFC1LZ4YhnNxplxs4XbDYTYgroKJqXKeLhfYhOp864>

(French version only)

RE: **PFC Joseph F. Van Ness**

I am trying to contact family members of the following Troopers of the 517

Major Donald W. Fraser

Lt. Ralph W. Emmons

PFC Robert Steele

Private James Marshall

The reason I am trying to contact any surviving family members of these men is that they were all were present on the day my Uncle was killed. Lt. Emmons was in the jeep and wounded in that same attack. I am assuming most of these men are now deceased due to the passage of time, however if by chance any of them are still alive and able to respond I would love to hear back from you.

Major Fraser, who was a Captain at the time, PFC Steele, and PVT Marshall were in the jeep behind them. They went forward and attempted to rescue the wounded. My uncle was KIA in a mortar barrage that day as witnessed by Captain Fraser. All three of these gentlemen earned the Silver Star that day for their actions.

LT. Emmons had to go back a few weeks later to identify my uncle's remains as his dog tags were missing.

I would like to thank you for what your relative tried to do for my Uncle and the other men in that jeep that day. It is greatly appreciated.

I have been able to contact the son of another Trooper that was present that day. His father was Hoyt Kelley. I found some email address's for Major Fraser's relatives on the Roster, but these may be wrong as I have never heard back from any of those contacts.

My email address is vnness54@gmail.com . Thank you so much for your time and help in this matter. I hope to hear back soon.

Regards
Robert Van Ness

Robert wrote his story about the search for his uncle back in [MailCall 2405](#) in February.



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Hi Robert.

Unfortunately, I do not have contact info for any of these four. I don't see that any of them have been on our old mailing roster since at least 2008. **Fraser, Steele** and **Marshall** were all with HQ Company 1st Battalion, and **Lt. Emmons** with B Company in the December 1944 roster.

I do see one note looking unsuccessfully for **Bob Steele**, back in [MailCall 951](#) in 2005:

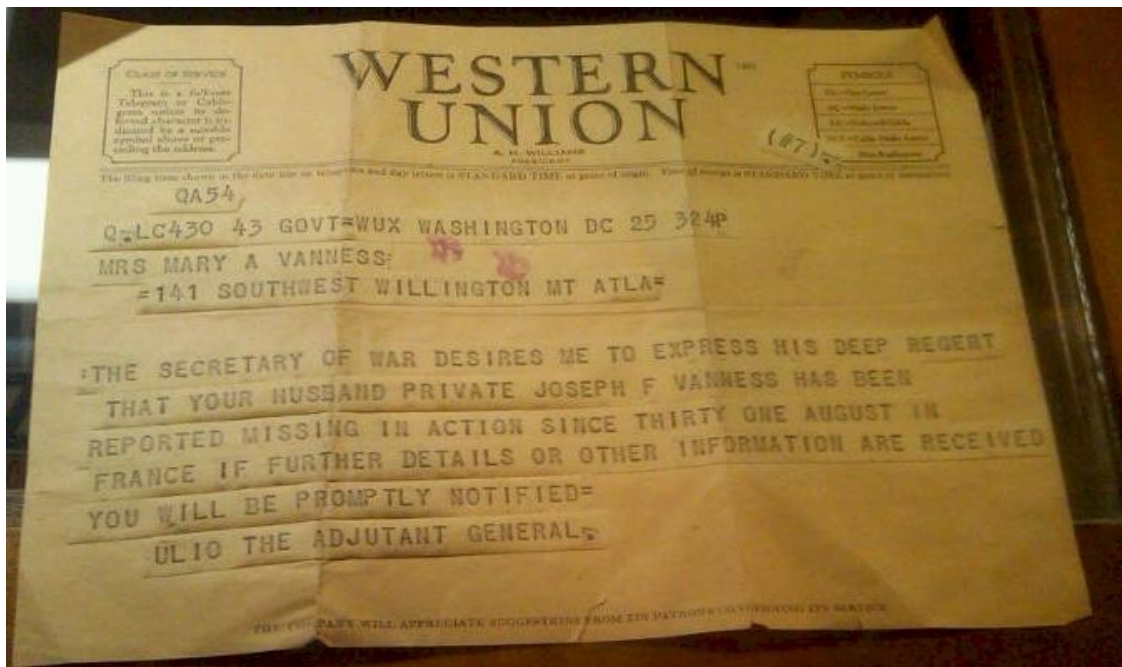
Hi Ben. There was a Bob Steel in "A" Company from our origin until he was commissioned in South France and moved to headquarters. Have been trying to contact him for years. He was from the southern California area and I did hear that he was in South America as a mining engineer. A smart guy. Seems he had a brother named Stirling who lived in this area but that was some years ago. Do not know any more than that

Barney Hekkala

I will put a note in the next MailCall to ask for friends and relatives.

Bob Barrett

PFC Joseph Van Ness was KIA on August 31. He is buried in the Rhone American Cemetery.



Dear Bob: What a full of news Mail Call. I regret that Alan and I won't be able to be with the group going back for the 75th Anniversary. God bless **Claire and Allan Johnson** for leading the delegation. We will be with everyone in spirit.

Pat Seitz



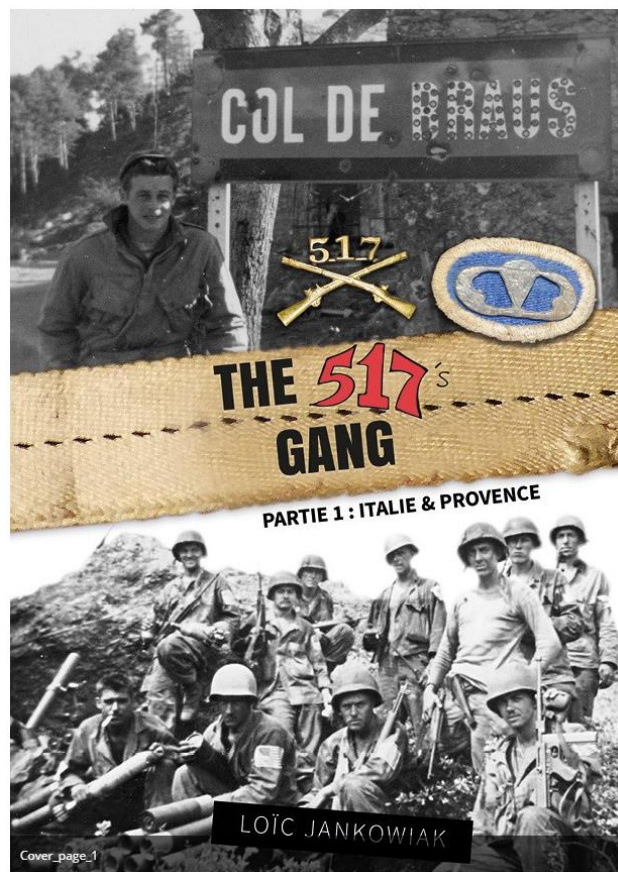
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Administrivia

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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