



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2423

October 13, 2019

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

MailCall News



I will be present at Sospel on Sunday, October 27, 2019 for the commemorations of the liberation of the village.

The men of the 3rd platoon of the f co. From The 517th PIR were the first elements to enter the town on the morning of October 28, 1944.

Want to know more about the history of the 517th parachute regimental combat team from Italy South of France? The book "the 517th's gang" costs 45 euros and contains more than 400 Photos, most of which are unreleased.

To Order (and it's almost christmas 📺) you can order the book here: <http://bit.do/517sGang>

From **Löic Jankowitz** at: <https://www.facebook.com/ForgottenParatroopers/>



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

October 8, 2019 from northern California

Two years ago today, we were awakened with warnings of voluntary evacuations from this area. I was awakened by my daughter, Maya, and her family, at 2 AM telling me to get up and get ready to move out. I packed what I could think of, and away we went. We stopped at my son's house, and I stayed there that day and Maya went on to Lake Tahoe where she had managed to get a week-end house of a neighbor to stay until they had to move out under a mandatory evacuation. The retirement home I lived in was evacuated for 9 days before they could return. The fire came within 2 blocks of the compound.

Staying at my son, Chris's house for a day, the smoke was so black you couldn't see the sun. My daughter in law drove me to Sacramento the following day so I could keep a medical appointment, staying overnight in a hotel, with Maya picking me up the following day for the appointment. The Tubbs and other fires were the worst California had seen until the disaster last year at Paradise. Of the hundreds of homes burned 2 years ago, less than 20% have even started rebuilding, and many homeowners cannot afford to rebuild.

Now, 2 years later all precautions possible are being taken. Our power will go off at midnight and may be off for 5-7 days. The area is dry and winds in excess of 65 miles per hour are predicted over the next 48 hours, even worse than 2 years ago. We all have been advised to keep water and dry food, medicines, first aid kits and flashlights handy and pack ready to evacuate.

I hope it will be only a scratch with the power off, and not a wound with fires around us. 800,000 people will be affected by the power outage. Red Cross is already setting up cots, etc in pre-arranged locations for potential evacuations.

With the power off, no more internet or phone service...

'til next time....

Phil McSpadden (460/HQ)

Dear Bob,

This was a very interesting meal call. Thank you for introducing us to **Mike Hebert**. He's a great addition to the 517th family. I love his Jeep and I'm so pleased that he put the 517th on it. The history about the name G I Joe was fascinating. I had no idea that it was so unpopular when the press first used it back during World War II.

Thank you, Bob, for being the glue that continues to hold the 517th family together.

Pat Seitz



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



It's already getting ready for December! Welcome! – **Eddy Monfort**

The CADUSA (US AIRBORNE RECEPTION COMMITTEE - Trois-Ponts) would like to welcome you to its commemorations in memory of the US soldiers who fought and died for our Liberty, this annual memorial dedication will be held on **January 11th - 2020**

BATTLE OF THE BULGE - CELEBRATION 75 YEARS

- 10.00 h - Church of St Jacques (Trois-Ponts) Holy Mass in memory of the US soldiers**
- 10.50 h - 517th - 505th monuments St Jacques - homage - Laying of wreaths - National Anthems (B - US)**
- 11.30 h - 505 th - 80 th AA monuments - Trois-Ponts - homage - Laying of wreaths " "**
- 12.00 h - 551 st monuments - Rochelival - homage - Laying wreaths - National Anthems (B - US)**
- 12.30 h - 517 th monument - Wanne - homage - Laying of wreaths - National Anthems (B - US)**
- 13.00 h - Wanne Castle - Reception and Lunch**

With gratitude and respect,

Irma and Arnold Targnion, CADUSA



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From Nov 8, 2018 (Veterans Day services)

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/8931446-181/tribute-to-military-veterans-in?artslide=1&sba=AAS>

Tribute to military veterans in Santa Rosa examines toll of war

The Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, CA

Three combat veterans of twice that many wars sat before a large luncheon crowd in Santa Rosa on Thursday and spoke of some of the historic constants to being a human being in battle, and some of the changes over time.

World War II vet **Phil McSpadden** told about 550 veterans, Rotary and Kiwanis members and other guests of the service clubs' 18th Tribute to Our Veterans that he volunteered to jump from airplanes into the great and hostile unknown in Nazi-occupied Europe for the pay: Army paratroopers earned double the \$50-per-month paid to earthbound privates.

Recalling a massive, aerial invasion of southern France prior to Battle of the Bulge in late 1944, McSpadden said from the stage of the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building that as he and waves of fellow paratroopers leaped from 318 transport planes, just about everything that could go wrong did go wrong: the weather, the coordination, the communications.

"We had a lot of casualties," said the vet, who would go on to serve in Korea, survive a bayonet wound inflicted by a Chinese soldier and later complete two tours in Vietnam.

A twice-wounded Vietnam veteran, former Army officer Philip Gioia, sat at a table on the vets building stage between McSpadden and David Scott, who joined the Marines at 17 and at 21 was a squad leader in the invasion of Iraq.

Scott said the history of warfare dictated to him and his fellow Marines that "we did not want to make enemies of the Iraqi people." He said it was clear to him that the Iraqi citizens who were cooperative and the Iraqi soldiers who dumped their weapons and uniforms believed they could trust the Marines to treat them fairly.

Scott revealed to the balloon- and flag-bedecked pre-Veterans Day celebration that as he led his squad toward Baghdad, "my biggest concern was I didn't want to be on CNN for doing something stupid." And, he said, he reminded himself all along to strive with each order and action to bring honor to his unit and to the Marine Corps.

The trio's pride at having served their country played well with a patriotic audience that savored also the sack lunches, the color guard from the Coast Guard's training center at Two Rock and rousing music from the Elsie Allen High School marching band and drum line.

As the band played the official songs of each branch of the military, the veterans of that arm of the service stood to spirited applause.

The event's master of ceremonies, retired Sonoma County judge and Army general Gary Medvigy, noted that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and the 50th anniversary of the bloody Tet Offensive by North Vietnam that was not victorious militarily but even so turned many Americans against the war.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

The luncheon's three speakers took just 10 minutes each but shared with the crowd memories of combat that spanned from 1942 in Italy to 2002 in Iraq.

McSpadden, the veteran of three wars, declared that despite all that he suffered and witnessed, "I'm a paratrooper for life."

Gioia, who earned two Purple Hearts in Vietnam and appears in Ken Burns' documentary on the war, recalled that many of his fellow soldiers carried Bibles, talismans and all manner of good luck charms.

"I did hear a lot of pleas and promises to God under fire," he said.

Gioia said many Vietnam veterans have reflected the past 50 or so years on what they were fighting for and many have concluded: each other.

"They were terrific," he said. "America should be proud of every one of them."

Scott, who served in the post-9/11 war on terror and in the invasion of Iraq, told the Tribute to Our Veterans it's expected of every generation of vets to recall the good old days to younger vets.

"The truth," he said, "is the United States military is getting better and better and better."

You can reach reporter Chris Smith at 707 521-5211 and chris.smith@pressdemocrat.com.

From [Toccoa History Museum Store](#):



Can't or haven't run Currahee, but you have been to the top, we got you covered. This shirt covers all the options, walk, run, hike, or drive. If you did it then your deserve the shirt. The artwork is the design of local artist Carl Fennel. Carl has captured several of our historic landmarks and buildings in his art and has also designed several of the Currahee Military Weekend t-shirts over the years. This design is the same that was used for the CMW 2019 shirt and the mountain is also the artwork our our fist Christmas ornament in 2019.

This shirt is a Jerzees Dri-Power available in Gray or White, sizes S M L XL XXL

Also available:



WW II U.S. PARATROOP T-SHIRT
from \$20.00



WW II U.S. PARATROOP T-SHIRT LONGSLEEVE
from \$24.00



WW II U.S. PARATROOP SWEATSHIRT
from \$26.00



I RAN CURRAHEE T-SHIRT
from \$20.00



75^{ème} Anniversaire de la Bataille des Ardennes
13/14/15 DECEMBRE 2019
MANHAY
 (Belgique)




Rassemblement de Véhicules Militaires WW2
Reconstitutions & Bourse de militaria

Entrée gratuite
Free entrance

Avec la présence des
Manhattan Dolls
Arizona - USA




follow us on
www.ardennes-history-remember.be
 Ardennes history remember 44/45



<http://www.ardennes-history-remember.be/>



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

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.

Website	www.517prct.org
Send MailCall news to	MailCall@517prct.org
MailCall Archives	www.517prct.org/archives
2018 Roster (updated!)	www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
Thunderbolt Archives	www.517prct.org/archives

October 1941:

