



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2425

November 3, 2019

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

MailCall News

75th anniversary of the liberation of Sospel

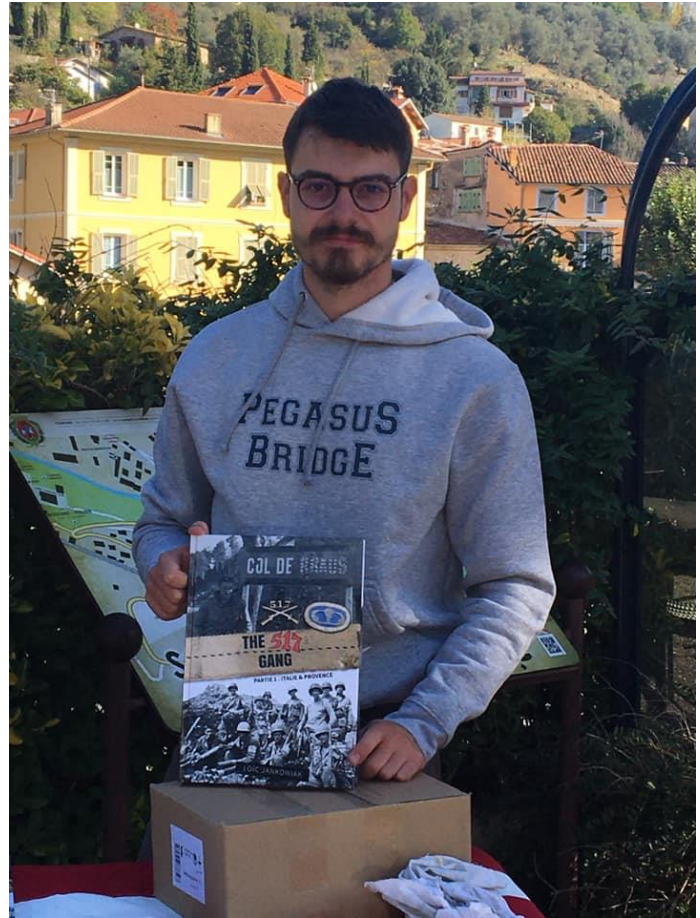
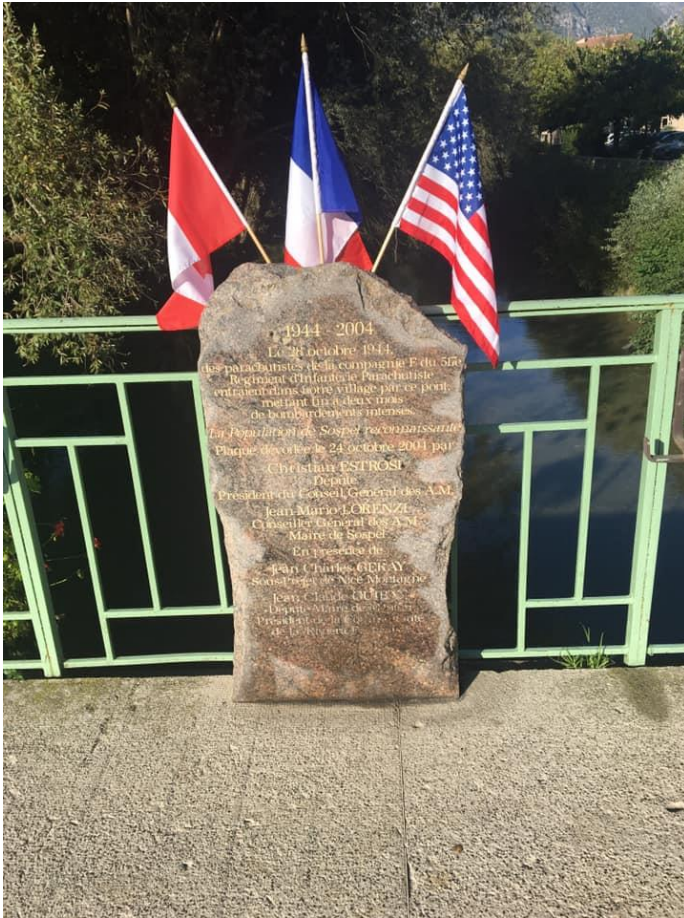


Our association *FRANCE UNITED STATES - Delegation French Riviera & Monaco* - participated today in the ceremony on the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Sospel. Sospel, like the surrounding communes furrowing the scene of violent fights and many losses for the US forces of the 517th Infantry Regiment and the 1st Special Service Force confronted with a German army particularly experienced, as we had told many Veterans during of their coming in May-June 2016.

For us, it was the occasion to gather in memory of those who fell for our Freedom and in this day, the news makes that we cannot forget that Freedom is never acquired.



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Patricia and Roland Orenge sent me some videos of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Sospel. I will get these posted soon. – Bob Barrett

I saw the note from **Heather Riley** in the last Mail Call and noticed she said no one from the 517th were in Toccoa for the 75th tribute. In fact, **Mimsey** and her cousin **Joe Boyle** were there as was myself. Mimsey and I made it up Currahee. I won't tell you my time, but I didn't come in last. I plan on going again next year so I can celebrate the boys who trained there and beat my time up that hill. You may give her my email address. I hope to see more 517th people in Toccoa next year.

Jim Kraus

Fabulous pictures from the 75th anniversary in Sospel. Thank you for sharing them with all of us. **Patricia and Roland Orenge** are outstanding in their dedication to preserving the 5/17th history of heroism and liberation.

Also the article about the hospital ship named for the first nurse killed in World War II was moving. An excellent Mail Call. Thank you.

Pat Seitz



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I did not forget you, I am still working on the English version of my book.

This is a long and hard process so be patient.

I wished that the English version would be available for Christmas but this will be not the case.

Otherwise, I hope that it will be available very early next year.

The GoFundMe page is not yet closed, so if you wish to give some for a kick starter for this version, please do so.

Thank you again for all those who support this project since the beginning.

Loïc, author of The 517th's Gang.

<https://fr.gofundme.com/f/the-517th039s-gang-the-book>

From Simple History, a [history of US WW2 Paratroopers](#):



This is a fun little quick history of US paratroopers in WW2. Unfortunately, it skips over Camp Toccoa, Operation Dragoon, and never mentions the 517th.



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Subject: N California Wild Fires.

Just got back into my apartment 10 minutes ago. My daughter and her family, including her mother who is visiting, all went to Tahoe for the mandatory evacuation...just got back yesterday. I remained here in Santa Rosa with my son and his family. The 56 retirees from Windsor arrived here on Saturday, packed into vacant apartments and were ready to stay...but, Sunday AM, my son woke me up about 5 AM and said we were mandatory evacuation orders as well, so, while the 56 from Windsor and all the occupants here were loaded onto buses where they finally ended up in Citrus Heights, a suburb of Sacramento in a commercial hotel for the duration...as I write this they are returning here.

My son's home never lost power and we were in a good location, next to the Fairgrounds, which was a designated Evacuation Center for people as well as 'large animals' which were placed in the many horse stalls permanently located there for the fairs and horse racing. The parking lot was taken over by the firefighters where huge trailers, configured to provide sleeping bunks for the off-duty firefighters. One corner of the lot was set off for the prisoners who had volunteered for this hazardous duty. The off-duty heroes were provided food, drinks and showers before getting their much-needed rest.

We watched the T V which provided up to date fire reports and on site coverage of the fires...there were many different areas on fire at the same time. While we watching, a TV helicopter spotted a grass fire near a bridge I 80 coming from San Francisco to Sacramento, as we watched the fire suddenly spread to both side of the highway, in half a dozen different places at once....less than 15 minutesthen the T V camera turned to I 80 showing police diverting a packed 4 lane highway onto a one lane exit to go...where??? With 180,000 residents ordered to evacuate at one time, where do they go? And all leaving in one direction...You could see cars lined up, bumper to bumper, miles long. We have lots of homeless in Sonoma County, and my thoughts were with them/ All of Healdsburg and Windsor had to be evacuated, photos of the deserted towns looked like a movie set.

The fire is still burning to the north and will continue to for some time, mostly wooded area, home to many wild animals of all sizes. Casualties were not as severe as in the past two years, nor was the loss of homes and businesses as severe, although several wineries were destroyed.

All in all we were inconvenienced, but my family are well and safe. We can still celebrate my son's 54th birthday and his mother's 80th birthday as scheduled on Nov 3. Chris was a birthday package that was 9 months in the planning! And, his cancer is still a dark cloud.

All for now...Airborne,

Phil McSpadden (460-HQ)

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An excellent Mail Call. Thank you.

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I ran across this web site, [International Military Antiques](http://www.ima-usa.com), a couple of years ago. It's a website for militaria collectors. I see that they have several original uniforms and gear from 517th troopers.

<https://www.ima-usa.com/pages/search-results?q=517th>



SOLD OUT

Original U.S. WWII 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Tee...
\$2,795.00



SOLD OUT

Original U.S. WWII 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Tee...
\$1,995.00



SOLD OUT

Original U.S. WWII 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment...
\$6,995.00



SOLD OUT

Original U.S. WWII Unissued M1942 Paratrooper Uniform - ...
\$3,495.00



SOLD OUT

Original U.S. WWII Named 82nd Airborne 460th Artillery Groupin...
\$3,995.00

This includes uniforms from:

- PFC Burton A Ebert (HQ/1)
- PFC Edmund H. Jordan Jr (B Co.)
- Pvt. James Vincent Florentine (B Co.)
- Colonel William Park Hickman (HQ Service Co.)
- PFC Ray W. Wilson (460th A Battery)

I found a note in the Q2 1996 Thunderbolt from **Edmund Jordan**:

“The mayor of Lourgues, France, sent me a medal for setting up the defense of his village, August 15, 1944”



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Charmers Two



Assisted Divisional Commander, General Whitelaw, compares notes with Frances Langford in the Officers' Mess. That man eavesdropping is Lt. Frank Stone.

From the [August 1943 Thunderbolt](#):

Frances Langford was a well-known movie actress in the 30's, 40's and beyond. She appeared in *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942) with James Cagney, in which (portraying Nora Bayes) she performed the popular song "Over There".

From Wikipedia:

From 1941, Langford was a regular singer on Bob Hope's *The Pepsodent Show* when he held his first military entertainment program at March Field in Riverside, California in 1941. The show was so positive, he continued broadcasting from training bases around the country and asked Langford to join him. During World War II, she joined Hope, Jerry Colonna, guitarist Tony Romano, and other performers on USO tours through Europe, North Africa, and the South Pacific, entertaining thousands of GIs throughout the world. During a USO tour in the Pacific theater she was invited to take a ride in a P-38 fighter plane. During the flight, a Japanese ship was spotted and the joy ride was postponed until the pilot finished strafing the ship.

In his memoir, *Don't Shoot! It's Only Me!*, Bob Hope recalled how Frances Langford got the biggest laugh he had ever heard. At a USO show in the South Pacific, Langford stood up on a stage to sing before a huge crowd of GIs. When Langford sang the first line of her signature song, "I'm in the Mood for Love," a soldier in the audience stood up and shouted, "You've come to the right place, honey!"

Also, during the war, Langford wrote the weekly "Purple Heart Diary" column for *Hearst Newspapers*, in which she described her visits to military hospitals to entertain wounded GIs. She used the weekly column as a means of allowing the recovering troops to voice their complaints, and to ask for public support for making sure that the wounded troops received all the supplies and comforts they needed.

Her association with Hope continued into the 1980s. In 1989 she joined him for a USO tour to entertain troops in the Persian Gulf.



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Administrivia

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- 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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