



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



**MailCall No. 2431**

January 12, 2020

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

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge

Hi Bob, I would like first sending to you, your family and all members of the 517th PIR all my Best Wishes for Christmas and for 2020. This new year bring all of you, Joy, Happiness and a Good Health.

2019 was incredible with many ceremonies across France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Hollande. So' for the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, we prepared a very big event, probably the bigger in Belgium with re-enactors shows, military vehicles including most of 12 tanks including the « Fury » Sherman who participate at the movie of Brad Pitt. The best of the best and more pretty and some meekness in this « war », we had the presence of the Manhattan Dolls from Tucson AZ. They singing music from 1940-45. It was a great moment of remembrances last week-end ! Here some more photos. Next celebration 11-12-13 December 2020 in MANHAY – Belgium ! Thanks,

**Eddy Monfort**







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



Manhay, Belgium







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RDV le week-end du 11 - 12 13 décembre 2020 pour de nouvelles aventures







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"Phony American troops" warning, from Ben Arnold via <https://www.instagram.com/foxcompany517thprct/>

24 Dec 44

### SECURITY DIRECTIVE # 7

TO: ALL UNIT COMMANDERS

1. Important in the enemy's present tactics is his all out effort to gain military successes by deceit. His desperation has driven him to risk everything, and finds him guilty of contractions of the rules of warfare and common decency which four years ago even Nazis would not have been guilty of.
2. Since launching his recent attack the Boche has repeatedly sent in by parachute and other means his agents dressed as civilians and in American uniforms, a great many of these have been captured, fifteen in this community. Their primary mission has been to create confusion, find weak spots in our lines to direct their pander effort to snipe and harass our troops and our rear installations and to ambush troops. Their secondary mission is to sabotage supply dumps and blow up C. P's. It is now believed that those still at large will undertake the secondary mission, the first having generally failed.
3. These phony American troops will be completely outfitted in our uniforms, carrying our equipment and even supplied with our ammunition and rations. They will have A. C. O. cards and dog tags, but the latter do not always correspond with the names they carry on their individual documents. Some of them will speak American fluently, even the slang. They will be captured in American vehicles, teams of four to a jeep, or in American half-tracks, T. D's., tanks and German armored vehicles made to look like our own. At this stage of the game, those in vehicles will be needing gasoline, so especial caution must be exercised to apprehend anyone suspiciously inquiring for gasoline or gasoline supply centers. Take no chances. These Germans are mean and they've got their backs to the wall. If you're outnumbered pretend to be taken in by their deception until you've got a drop on them, or where you can get reinforcements. But get 'em.
4. The present area our troops now occupy is better viewed as enemy than friendly territory. Before the last world war it was a part of Germany. It was regained to Nazidom by special decree when the enemy occupied it in 1939. A great many of the population are German, not Belgians. Many of them have husbands, sons, brothers fighting for Hitler. Look out. Regulations forbid our fraternizing with civilians in Germany. During the present enemy offensive it will be wise to consider EVERYONE whom you do not know as belonging to your own unit as unfriendly, especially civilians. Don't say who you are, where you came from, or what you've done. The enemy wants desperately to know just that. It will shape his plans, his plans to kill you just as ruthlessly as he killed 56 of your buddies in Battery "B" 285<sup>th</sup> obsn Bn at MALMEDY last week-defenseless, in cold blood. If you hear any of your comrades talking too much, even bragging a little about what he did, warn him. The enemy has agents here. Idle chatter will bring artillery fire on your position.
5. All guards will be militantly alert in challenging, making arrests on the slightest suspicion, or shooting fast when they've got an enemy to shoot at. All personnel will be warned to know the proper passwords, carry the correct identification, and respond smartly to any challenge.

C O N F I D E N T I A L



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### C O N F I D E N T I A L

6. The following manner of challenging will be used by all units. The guard will give the command "Halt," the person challenged will give the sign; for instance, "Billy," and then the guard will give the countersign, "the Kid," and have the man advance to be recognized. If the guard does not know the person challenged he should talk to him and ask a question pertinent to the 517<sup>th</sup> C.T. first (Remember that we have received many replacements since Camp Mackall and Italy). Suggested questions: "Where did you join the regiment?" or "Where is it that you lived in stone barracks?" or "What towns were you in during the Champagne Campaign?" If he can answer anyone of those he should be O.K. If not he might be from some other outfit. Then ask him some questions of general knowledge; for instance "Who won the Army-Navy football game and what was the score?" or "Where is the Rose Bowl?" A good question for all purposes is "What is the 7<sup>th</sup> General Order or the 5<sup>th</sup> General Order?" Even if he does not know the answers he might be bona-fide but he should be taken to the corporal of the guard or an officer for further check. Extreme caution should be used in such cases; enemy have been found with capsules of sulfuric acid which they can throw in the eyes of their captors when they make an attempt to escape.

7. The strictest decorum in personal behavior, your finest military manner and personal conduct, is enjoined to the end that no undue advantage will be given the Hun who had struck his last blow and is now groggy against the ropes. The best Nazis are dead Nazis.

8. Desired that this directive be brought to the attention of all personnel.

By Order Of COLONEL GRAVES

JOHN H. NEILER  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., 517<sup>th</sup> Prcht. Inf.  
Security Officer





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

Dear friends of America, the members of CADUSA (US AIRBORNE RECEPTION COMMITTEE) wishes you a Happy, healthy and soft New Year. We'll have special thoughts for you and the US soldiers who fought and died for our Liberty during the celebrations on January 11th in St Jacques, Trois-Ponts, Wanne... Take good care of yourselves. God Bless you, God Bless America.

With Love and gratitude; For CADUSA  
**Irma and Arnold TARGNION**, Trois-Ponts, Belgium

*Wanne*  
*et ses villages dans la tourmente*

Janvier 1945 après l'offensive von Rundstedt

EXPOSITION - HISTOIRE

**JANVIER 2020**  
Spineux 26, Trois-Ponts

<b><u>SAMEDI</u></b>	<b><u>DIMANCHE</u></b>
<b>4 &amp; 11</b>	<b>5 &amp; 12</b>
<b>De 14 à 18H</b>	<b>De 10 à 17H</b>

**\* DIMANCHE 12: Cérémonie à 11H au monument de Spineux**





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

January 5, 2020

Airborne Command detachment at RochelINVAL, 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and the terrible battle of RochelINVAL where the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion was so severely hit that it had to be disbanded.

Photos by Michael Wynants, Hugues Rougé, Seb Langlois.



Here is some info from *Paratroopers' Odyssey* about the contribution and sacrifices of the 551<sup>st</sup> PIB in the Bulge, especially in their final days:

The 504th Parachute Infantry had now closed along the Salm and was given responsibility for the entire sector, picking up 3/517 and the 551st in place. The only enemy force remaining west of the Salm was at RochelINVAL, a tiny village close to the river bank one and a half miles southeast of Bergeval. The 551st was given the job of cleaning out this pocket.

On January 7th the 551st attacked. Tree-bursting enemy artillery shells took a heavy toll, killing the widely-admired Battalion Commander Lt Colonel Wood Joerg. The left assault company was decimated by flanking machine gun fire while crossing an open field. Fighting almost to the last man, the 551st seized the village, killing an estimated 50 Germans and capturing over 200. Only 100 to 150 men remained out of over 600 that had crossed the line of departure four days before. It was a tragic finish for a fine Battalion. \*

\* Two weeks later the 551st was deactivated and surviving members were sent as individual replacements to other airborne units.





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### Other MailCall News

Greetings, Bob -

And thank you so much for a really in-depth Mail Call! I can't wait to share it with Dad - **Kaare Allan Johnson**, 596 - who never did get to Ben's level of computer skills! And I'm so glad to see that you included some photos from Belgium as they gathered for the 75th anniversary of the Bulge (evidently it's termed "Nuts Weekend!").

We are so grateful for the enduring friendships in Europe - **Irma and Arnold Targnion** and **Eddy Montfort** in Belgium, especially. It is because of them that the memory of the events of 75 years ago and the sacrifices of so many are still remembered and honored.

Dad continues to do well, and recovering reasonably well from a fall a couple of weeks ago. How, one might ask? Oh, slipping on ice on the way into his yoga class. Fractured nose, a few stitches and some lacerations all healing nicely, I'm happy to report.

Bob, thank you for the gift of Mail Call and facilitating enduring friendships. Happy New Year to all!

Best -

**Claire Johnson Giblin**  
daughter, **Kaare Allan Johnson**, 596

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I remember when my parents, Ben and Fran Barrett, made their first return trip to Belgium with the 517<sup>th</sup>, in 1995, I think. They talked about how wonderful all the people were and how all the towns came out to greet the soldiers. They met with the Belgium ambassador to the US. And I remember how excited he was to be meeting the author of a new book about the Battle of the Bulge -- *L'Offensive Des Ardennes* by **Eddy Montfort**. After he met Eddy for the first time, he said, "But he's so young." That was 25 years ago. – BB

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Thanks for all of the marvelous Mail Calls you have created and sent over the past few months. They are always so special, and we appreciate your time and effort on our behalf.

**John Krumm**

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

Dear mr Barrett,

It has been a long time since our last contact. I would like to let you know that we have made contact with the family of our fallen hero, **Pfc Leonard Dallas Stevens**. We had the honor to meet them last november in Ohio.

It is our honor to take care of the grave of a fallen hero and we will keep doing this forever.

I would like to wish you and your family a blessed and wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,

Pascal Prickartz

**Van:** Pascal Prickartz <[prickie@home.nl](mailto:prickie@home.nl)>

**Verzonden:** dinsdag 16 oktober 2012 19:03

**Aan:** Pascal Prickartz <[Pascal.Prickartz@intergarde.nl](mailto:Pascal.Prickartz@intergarde.nl)>

**Onderwerp:** FW: Wayne Caudill/Leonard D. Stevens

**Van:** MailCall [<mailto:MailCall@517prct.org>]

**Verzonden:** donderdag 11 oktober 2012 21:20

**Aan:** 'Pascal Prickartz'

**CC:** [lbwat7gc@frontier.com](mailto:lbwat7gc@frontier.com)

Hello Pascal,

Last April, you sent me a note looking for information about Leonard Stevens. See: <http://517prct.org/mailcall/2104.pdf>

I was never able to find Wayne Caudill's contact information, but here is a note from someone else who might be able to provide some info.

Please keep me posted on what you find!

Bob Barrett

[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2012 7:36 PM

**To:** [mailcall@517prct.org](mailto:mailcall@517prct.org)

**Subject:** Wayne Caudill/Leonard D. Stevens

I am not sure I am sending this message to the correct email address. but while searching for information about my husband's uncle Leonard Stevens I ran across a request by Wayne Caudill for information on Leonard Stevens. You can contact me at [lbwat7gc@frontier.com](mailto:lbwat7gc@frontier.com) and maybe I can provide some of the information that you want. Becky Watson





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From **Loïc Jankowiak** (<https://www.facebook.com/loicjackson.jankowiak>)

A few months ago, I published my book on the 517th prct, "the 517'S GANG" first part. I thought he was going to attract a lot of interest, but not to the point of creating cruff on dead people (what people love! ), although it already exists.

I'm told this morning a doctor helmet of a certain spros suckers I know well. I've been in touch with this family and I included the details of it unhappy dead on the first day of fighting of unity in Italy... I feel the scam, because before that, suckers was almost unknown, WE DON ' T Found the quote of this DSC on the internet.

Already in view of the photos, it is clear that it is a pump, in addition the 517 in Italy did not have a cross cross, but in addition, the type changed the "517" jugular [chin strap]. While these changes were made only a few days before the air operation on Provence (suckers died on June 18th! )

The funniest thing is the description. The Helmet was of course found on a farm! This is a proof of its authenticity!



This kind of fact has something to drive crazy. And there will probably be others. Be careful...

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/US-WW2-M1-HELMET-517-PIR-Named/2544465208269?hash=item3b3f4eefcd:g:ij0AAOSwIxFd7AY6>





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

Wishing you all a little late a Happy New Year, I just let you know that the English version of "The 517's Gang" is very nearly finished. Contact with the printer have been made and the book will be more than probably available between february & march of this year.

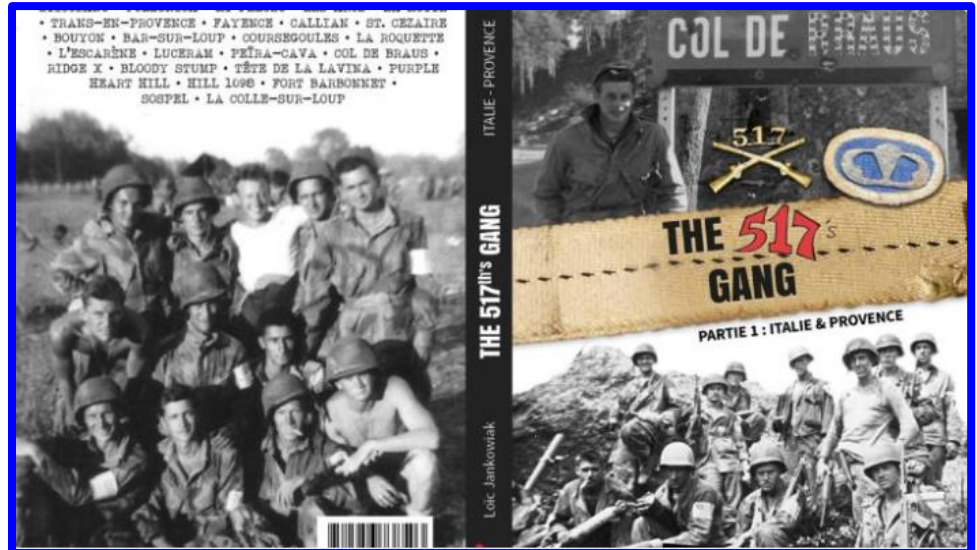
Will speak more about it when time permit. Just a big thought to all the peoples who helped me for the correction of the different chapters.

One year ago exactly, I launched the crowdfunding of the french version which worked well. If you still wish to help me to get the english version available you can still participate on:

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

Thank you all !

**Loïc Jankowiak**



From: [National Museum of the U.S. Army Campaign](#)

On January 9, 1936, the Army adopts the .30-caliber M-1 semi-automatic Garand (named for its inventor John Garand) as its standard rifle. This will be the principal weapon for the individual Soldier in the U.S. Army and the armies of many of its allies during and after World War II.



# 517<sup>th</sup> 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](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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Website	<a href="http://www.517prct.org">www.517prct.org</a>
Send MailCall news to	<a href="mailto:MailCall@517prct.org">MailCall@517prct.org</a>
MailCall Archives	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/archives">www.517prct.org/archives</a>
2018 Roster (updated!)	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf">www.517prct.org/roster.pdf</a>
Thunderbolt Archives	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/archives">www.517prct.org/archives</a>



Brrrr.

Original pen and ink drawing of Herky, c.1949-1952. **Dick Spencer III** collection of Herky drawings. RG30.0001.048. From [University of Iowa Special Collections & University Archives](http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/specialcollections/)