



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2434

February 2, 2020

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

MailCall News

We reported last week that **Bob Amerlan** (Reg HQ Co.) passed away on January 20, at age 96. A few years back, he was interviewed by **Loïc Jankowiak** for his book about the 517th.



From **Loïc's** Facebook page in 2016::

Robert Amerlan, veteran of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team during a skype meeting with me in early march 2016.

And in April 2018, **Bob Amerlan** did a little social experiment on Loïc's First Airborne Task Force Facebook page). He received 2300 "Likes" and 341 comments.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Date: January 27, 2020 at 10:09:17 AM EST
Subject: Jump Training - Remembering the 517

Bob:

Attached you'll find a photo of a young man, from my Neighborhood, who is currently at Ft Benning.

His name is **Jordan Cornett**; PFC

Take a close look at the Challenge Coin he is holding and you'll see it is for the 517. I gave him the coin before he left for Basic and he has kept it throughout his training; AND plans to jump with it during the 5 jumps he'll make this week to qualify.

I gave him the coin and a oral history of the 517th and asked him to review the website and remember those who "Set the standard" for others to follow.

He graduates on Friday, the 31st, and does not have anyone "special" to pin his wings on. I remembered when we were there and the 517 vets were able to pin wings on some graduates; that was a special occasion!

I am wondering if you know of any 517th Vets living in the Ft Benning area, or any children of such vets, that I might reach out to and see if they would want to pin his wings?

If not, I think it still makes a good story for the Web Page; I've asked him for any photos he has so I can put together a more detailed story.



THANKS for all you do to preserve the 517th's legacy!

Mike Wells (son of **Chester Wells**, H Company)

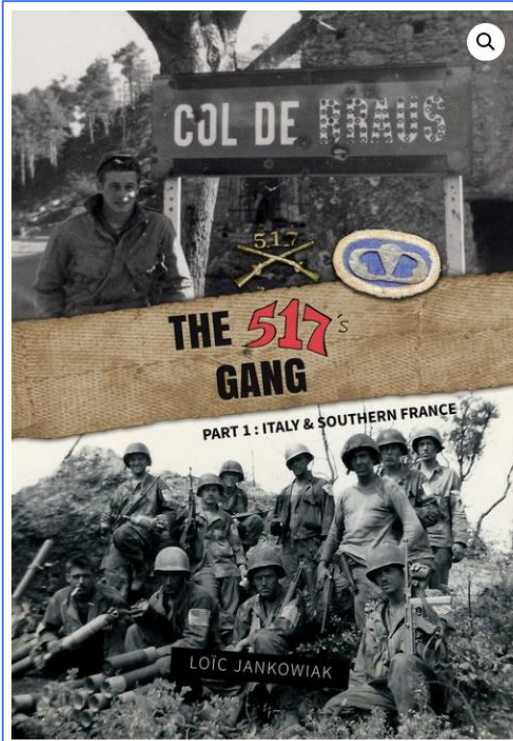
Mike (and Jordan),

I'm sorry but I just opened the email today. In any case, I don't know who might live near FT. Benning.

But yes, this is a good story for the 517th family. Congratulations to **Mike Well's** neighbor (Utah?), **PFC Jordan Cornett**.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



The 517th's Gang [US & ENG]

45,00€

The History of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team as told by the veterans, from Italy, Operation Dragoon, until the end of the campaign of Southern France.

Book release : February 2020

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Category: Livre

The 517's Gang - new book on the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Dear American and English-speaking friends,

During a few years, I asked your help to write a book on the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team. Without you, this project would have never happened. During all these years, I interviewed many veterans, collected diaries, recollections and many military documents. **I am still looking for documents, histories and pictures for all my ongoing projects about the airborne troops in the Mediterranean Theater of Operation.**

This book which was published in French in May 2019 is now available to pre-order in English in my website. This is a self-publishing, so you will not find this book in any bookstore, only on the link below.

After long months to translate the texts and captions of the book, the English version of 'The 517's Gang' Part I is now finished. The book will be available in the third week of February 2020. You can do a pre-order right now to be sure to get a copy. Many books can be shipped in one time so don't hesitate to combine shipping.

There is an English translation on the website to order your book(s) so you don't get it wrong. Remember to fill in your address correctly in the online form. There is no registration required.

Thank you very much to have waited until now and thank you again to have taken time to answer me and shared with me your relatives' pictures and histories.

Loïc, author of the 517's Gang.

<https://1stabtf.com/en/boutique/the-517ths-gang-us-eng-version/>



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Here is a map of the movements of the units of the First Airborne Task force, with the 517th routes highlighted. These maps are from a 2006 online history of *"The 112th (Special Operations) Signal Battalion in World War II"*.

https://www.soc.mil/ARSOF_History/articles/v2n1_airborne_signal_page_1.html

This document chronicles a good summary of the actions of Operation Dragoon.



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The same document includes this picture, which they identify (incorrectly) as “glidermen”. But we know from previous discussions that these 4 troopers are actually from the 596th PCEC.

As reported in MailCalls [2409](#) and [2225](#)

SGT. Martin Costello, PFC Bill Christian, PFC Al Kunzer and PFC Owen Dorman all with the 596 ENGR's



At the top of the same page is another picture with road signs for Le Muy and La Motte. It looks like the trooper with the signs is the same trooper on the left of the 4 soldiers above, **Sgt.. Martin Costello**. Exact same equipment, including the cord on his left leg.

https://www.soc.mil/ARSOF_History/articles/v2n1_airborne_signal_page_1.html





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From: Michelle Kern <makern6@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 9:47 PM
To: webmaster@517prct.org

Subject: Looking for my father

Aubrey Dale Darnell

"Dale" was with 517th signal company upon discharge after the war. He entered service In August, 1943.

Don darnell

Hi Michelle/Don,

It looks like your father was part of the 517th Airborne Signal Company, not the 51th Parachute Infantry Regiment. I don't have too much info on the 517 Signal Company, but they were under the 17th Airborne Division. Here are a couple of references:

https://www.ww2-airborne.us/units/517s/517sig_honor.html

And there is book with the history of the 17th Airborne, with full text at:

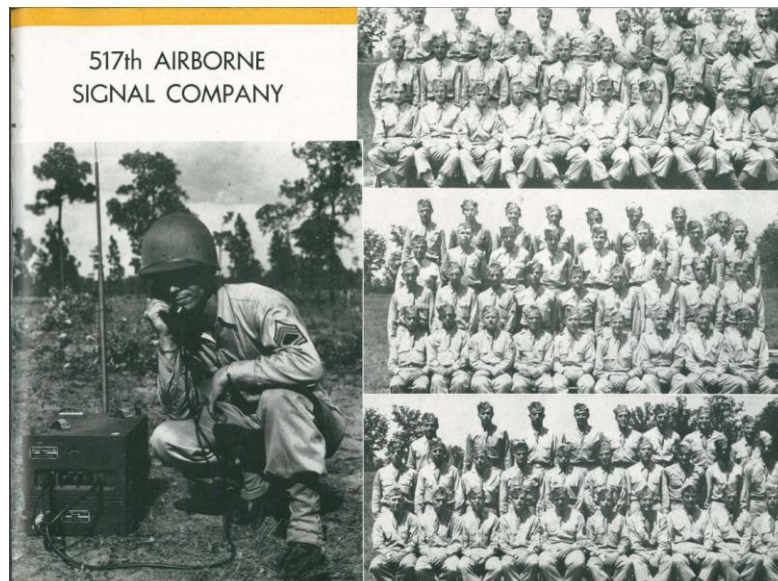
https://digicom.bpl.lib.me.us/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1102&context=ww_reg_his

I see some pictures of the 517th Signal Company on page 82!

Hope this helps a little.

Bob Barrett

webmaster@517prct.org





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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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