



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



**MailCall No. 2442**

April 26, 2020

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

### *MailCall News*

RE: Battery B 460<sup>th</sup>

Hi Bob,

I'd like to send information to MailCall about my grandfather-in-law who was in the 460th Battery B from Camp Mackall, Toccoa and over to Italy before he was separated from the unit to set up a switchboard in Naples. He did not make the jump into France or re-join the unit later. What's the best way to do that?

Thanks,  
Gene Ott

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You found the right place. Send me any stories and pictures you have. Send me his name and info and I'll start a little research myself. We're always looking for trooper stories for the MailCall and the website.

Bob Barrett

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Thanks so much! I've got a number of pictures and information. I'll get that out to you soon.

His info is **PFC. Steven J. Fanizzi**. Enlisted and was assigned to the 460th PFAB B Battery. His responsibility was setting up fire control switchboards. He completed jump training on September 18, 1943 at Camp Mackall.

I don't have a scanner. How should I get pictures to you?

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Gene, If you don't have a scanner (or a friend with one) you could try to take photos of the pictures and email them to me. Try to get the photos from directly above so they are squared. I can receive any format or size. If you like, just send me one or two and I can advise you after that.

Bob Barrett



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

Craig, [**Craig Myrle**]

I have reviewed all of the photos that you sent me. Except for two or three they are all on the previously mentioned website. I'm pretty sure that Price is pictured in the photo with the name Bill. BTW is Helen Crawford still living? If so, would she be interested in corresponding?

**Bruce Broudy**

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Dear Bob:

Thank you for another rich, fascinating and joyful Mail Call this beautiful Easter Day. I love the way you provided a place and encourage 517th descendants to share the details they have learned directly and from their research. It keeps the history alive and robust.

A special thank you to **Wayne Cross** for great details he recounted, about his dad's first and second woundings. If my memory serves me right, I believe **Colonel Cross** is the senior surviving officer of the 5/17. Am I right? What a privilege to know the man. What an extraordinary blessing for Wayne and his siblings to be related to him.

With great respect and admiration,

**Pat Seitz**

PS Bob: My brother Rick is receiving Mail Call only on a hit or miss basis. Would you please add him to your list serve using the email address above? That email address is his personal email address which will not encounter the spam filters that his Coast Guard email has. Rick misses seeing Mail Call.

FYI, Rick is completing his training to become a docent at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum. This Mail Call with Wayne Cross' details about the gliders and their trigger-happy pilots are the types of details Rick can share with museum visitors. Thank you again and blessings on you and your family.

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Hello, I am in the process of researching my grandfather **Glen E Whitaker**, I have reached out to **Loïc [Jankowiak]** and talked with a few relatives of other troopers. He passed away in 1987, a year before I was born and didn't talk about his experiences much. So my knowledge is fairly limited. I do know he was in HQ and was a radio operator. NCO technical Sargent. Some of his items were stolen many years back in a move, although I do have some items including his European service ribbon and the arrow head, a silver star and a bronze star. I know he was rotated into the 504th on points and sent to Berlin and then home in 1945. Any and all information you might be able to tell me would be amazing, I have sent for his DD-214 form and device records from the national archives and have not heard back from them yet. Please let me know if I can provide you with any other information that may help, eagerly awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,

**Thomas Glen Whitaker**



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

I send you this message hoping that you can help me in my research on a Laundry Number S6305  
It is a room with this Laundry which leaves the town of Montauroux in the Var (place of 517 during the  
Dragoon operation)

Do you have a paratrooper with this Laundry in your records?

thanks in advance

Best regards  
**Michel QUILEZ**

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Hi Michel,

**Martin Neaman** sent me this last August:

Here is the search page for U.S. Laundry numbers:

<http://wwii-enlistment.com/search/>

Best,  
Martin Neaman

I took a quick look but did not recognize any of the 90 names. (But I don't know all of the 2000+ names  
in the 517<sup>th</sup>.)

Bob Barrett

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I see a couple of 517<sup>th</sup> items posted by **John T. Szymkowicz** on the [517th Parachute Regimental  
Combat Team - Families & Friends](#) Facebook page:



<--- First, what is this? Doesn't quite look like a patch.

Second, here is a  
Reunion Belt Buckle  
specially made for  
517 RCT Reunion  
circa 80s -90s.





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

Glad to find out the actual Company that my dad's photo is in! And yes, Darrell was wrong on the smoke stack part; that is a statue, or a person, as you so aptly noted in circling the image on the photo.

I have corrected this photo's information in my history files; again, THANKS to those who were able to provide the "provenance" on the picture!

That dialogue also pushed me to do some more work on photo's from my Dad that I'll soon send over to update his "Meet the Troopers" file.

I know you've heard THANKS a "bazillion" times from those who appreciate your work; but be assured it is ALWAYS said because WE are thankful you're doing it!!

Mike Wells

I see that **Adrien Soldi** published some new info on his website at <https://www.operation-dragon.com/2020/04/23/jewell-john-517th-f-company/> including a couple of pictures and info about John Jewell of F Company.

**John Jewell** was at many of the 517<sup>th</sup> reunions. He died in 2004.

Here is a picture with **John Jewell** during early Operation Dragoon, from Michel De Trez' book *First Airborne Task Force*.

étions retrouvés à une infirmerie de campagne établie par les Anglais et dès que nous eûmes rassemblé suffisamment de monde, nous progressâmes vers notre objectif. Nous étions commandés par le Lt. Mc Collum qui avait fonction d'officier de liaison avec les Britanniques. Peu après, nous assistâmes à l'atterrissage des premiers planeurs. Il y avait de nombreux blessés. Je tentais d'extraire le pilote en brisant le plexiglas avec ma baïonnette, mais je ne pus y arriver et il finit par succomber. J'avais déposé mon fusil sur le côté du planeur et quelqu'un le prit. Je dus donc me contenter d'une Thompson cassée, trouvée dans l'épave d'un planeur." (Souvenirs du Pfc. John L. Jewell, "F" Company, 517<sup>th</sup> PIR).

other at a British ... We moved toward our objective. We got together under Lt. Mc Collum who jumped as liaison with the British. Later we saw the first glider coming in. A lot of them crash landed and we started helping the injured. I was trying to get the pilot out of the glider by breaking the plexiglas with the bayonet but it didn't work and the guy finally died. I had put my rifle on the side of the glider and someone took it so I had to take a broken Thompson that I found in the wrecked glider." (Pfc. John L. Jewell recollections. "F" Company, 517<sup>th</sup> PIR).



"F" Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. déployés le long d'une route près de La Motte. De g à d : Lt. Clarence McCollum, Pfc. John L. Jewell, un para anglais, Pvt. Melvin J. Dahlberg.

"F" Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. in road deployment near la Motte. Left to right : Lt. Clarence E. McCollum, Pfc. John L. Jewell, a British paratrooper, Pvt. Melvin J. Dahlberg.



# 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>

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**THE 517's GANG** 

T/SGT. Wilford C. Anderson

T/SGT. WILFORD ANDERSON IS ONE OF THE FIRST TWO MEN OF THE 517TH TO BE AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.

ON JUNE 18, DURING THE REGIMENT'S FIRST DAY OF COMBAT, NORTH OF GROSSETO, HIS BATTALION WAS PINNED DOWN.

ANDERSON TAKES AN ENEMY MACHINE GUN NEST AND MORTAR POSITION WITH PFC. NOLAN POWELL AND TAKE FIVE PRISONERS.

RETURNING WITH THE PRISONERS, HIS GROUP IS AGAIN PINNED DOWN. ANDERSON RETURNS TO THE ENEMY MACHINE GUN POSITION HE HAD JUST CAPTURED AND TURNS THE WEAPON ON HIS ATTACKERS.

BY THE END OF THE DAY, HE WILL HAVE TAKEN 19 PRISONERS.

[www.1stabtf.com](http://www.1stabtf.com)

The 517th's Gang is available at: <https://1stabtf.com/en/boutique/the-517ths-gang-us-eng-version/>