



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2448

July 19, 2020

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

MailCall News

Thanks for another fascinating Mail Call. I was sorry to read that we lost another valued 517th member in the passing of **COL (Ret.) Thomas R. Cross**, another amazing veteran. That complaint on behalf of the Manhay Museum was kind of strange, but you certainly handled it well. As usual, we appreciate your time and efforts very much on these mail calls.

John Krumm (E Company)

How fitting that this Mail Call begins with **Tom Cross**' passing and ends with a squib on our Dad, Dick Seitz, who joined his Band of Brothers in heaven in 2013. I say fitting because our Dad and Tom Cross were the closest of friends for life. So here they are like bookends—reminds me of the picture I see every day of Dad and Tom standing outside I think a "command center" (some farmer's building) during the war.

Dad loved Tom like a dear brother so much so Tom was Dad's best man at our parents' wedding on June 23, 1945 in France. Tom was such a man of integrity, honor, valor and incredible kindness. He was so integral in our family's story he was like an adopted uncle. He and his wife Bette were the salt of the earth with the Airborne maverick "can do", unsinkable and big hearts. They were a great couple and so very special to be around.

While it is indeed very sad for us that Tom is no longer with us—he is the last of the 517th's commanding officers I believe, and for the Seitz clan we have had severed our last living link to our Dad and Mom, I can only imagine the great reunion and celebration now that Tom is reunited with Bette and his Band of Brothers especially our Dad who so admired, respected and loved Tom.

God is so good that He gave us such great men of character who were so selfless that they put their country and its welfare before themselves as outstanding leaders, commanders devoted to the well-being of their troops and contributors to the well-being of their families and communities after their service. How extraordinarily blessed we were to know these men and other members of the 517th (and especially to be their kids) and to have them touch our lives in the most loving and generous of ways. I miss my Dad, I will miss Tom very much but I am comforted by the thought that they are enjoying their eternal reward. They certainly earned their crowns. Airborne All the Way.

Pat Seitz



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Subject: RE: 517th MailCall - July 5, 2020

Hi Bob,

I don't understand people who are negative when you advertise their site. I always fall from my chair when I see this ... For a simple photo of a museum which at the time was not yet open to the public. We can still see the workbench in front of the museum which was used to cut the panels.

Despite everything, the museum is magnificent. It has its own website and facebook page. The owner is happy to discover that there is talk of his museum in the United States. Several front house were rebuilt as identical and one is the grand hotel in Manhay. I will sending you ain a few days a photo from the museum. You will can see a large photo of 1,5mt square including 3 paratroopers of the 517th pose in front of this building. If you need any photo, any information, don't hesitate to come to me. It would be with great pleasure.

Eddy Monfort from Manhay

<http://www.mhm44.be/>

Hello Bob, **Ray Estrella** here. (Son In Law of **Elbert G. Duran** - A Co. I had also served under then **Capt. Gene Frice**, in 12th SFG). I have a long and proud association with the 517th. When we founded our Special Forces Chapter here in Southern California in 1999, we name our Chapter #78 after a 517th man, **Lt Col Frank J. Dallas**. One of my fondest memories is of our chapter members taking Col Dallas to a 517th Reunion in Palm Springs, CA. It was an amazing evening being able to spend time with so many brave, and patriotic members of the 517th, all members of The Greatest Generation. Thank you for letting me share these personal, and fond memories with you Bob, and my deepest gratitude for your tremendous effort and dedication in keeping the memory, and legacy of the 517th PRCT , and its proud members. –

J.R."Ray" Estrella - D-1495-L - Special Forces Association

Hi Ray, Great to hear from you.

I've heard stories about each and every one of those men that you mentioned. Any chance you have any pictures of those reunions? I'll look around as well.

Bob Barrett

I will look thru my old archives Bob, let's see what I find. My best regards to you, and yours. **Ray Estrella**

From <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2076.pdf>, October 2011

from **Lee Hekkala** (wife of the late **Barney Hekkala**, Co. A) Bob: The trooper who attended the Palm Spring Mini Reunions in a zoot suit was **Burt Duran**, Company A, deceased. His son's name is Rueben and the address I have for him is Corona, Ca. 91720.





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Subject: Info on **Harold Harms**

My grandfather was **Harold Eugene Harms** and from what his obituary told me was that he was in A company 517th PIR but I couldn't find his name anywhere on the 1944 France Christmas roster but he served with 517th from July 1944 to August 1946 was just curious if anyone had any information on him.

Damian Griffin

Hi Damian,

On some quick research, I found some old MailCall notes (below) that mention Gene Harms. Most from Ron Robinson in 2006. Since I do not see Gene on the December 1944 roster, my best guess is that he joined soon after during the Battle of the Bulge.

And I did find PFC Harold E Harms listed on the passenger manifest list of the Madawaska Victory ship - Pg 64

http://517prct.org/documents/madawaska_victory/Madawaska_Victory_August_20_1945.pdf

Bob Barrett
MailCall@517prct.org

<http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/1094.htm>

Ben: Been trying to find out information about my brother in law Harold Eugene Harms who served in the 517th from late summer 1944 through the end of the war in Europe. He is still living. According to him he arrived in Europe and was based just north of Paris. Jumps were planned but not completed because Allied forces kept overrunning the drop targets. In the end he saw no action and was then targeted for Pacific duty. While crossing the US on the way to the west coast the war ended in the Pacific. I have found no reference to him or any action that follows his comments about being based north of Paris.

Would love to get his info out to see if others remember him.

Ron Robinson
Greenville, Texas

<http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/1095.htm>

Ben: Note to Ron Robinson re his brother in law Harold Harms. Late summer 1944 we were still on the lines in S. France until about Thanksgiving. Later we were stationed in Joigny south of Paris. Harold must have come home with the outfit. We were on the Atlantic on the way to the US and Japan when the War ended.

Howard Hensleigh



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<http://517prct.org/mailcall/1107.htm> (May 2006)

Ben: Please add Gene Harms to the 517 Mail Call. Gene is still living in Girard Illinois. He made it to Europe in early 1945 but did not see a combat jump. The following is the information that will get Mail call to him.

Gene Harms (his formal name is Harold Eugene Harms but he went by Gene during the war so list him as Gene).

I tried to look up some pictures or info of the SS Madawaska Victory. Not much luck – there were a lot of Victory ships). I did find this one note from the Boston Globe Sept 8, 1945 announcing that the Madawaska would be arriving Monday and included Members of 3rd B., 157th Infantry Regiment
-- BB



DUE TODAY	DUE MONDAY
Boston	Boston
<p>E. S. JOSEPH H. MARTIN: Air Force Mobile Training Unit No. 182. Personnel for reassignment. Miscellaneous Air Force personnel.</p> <p>E. S. FELIPO MAZZEI: All miscellaneous personnel.</p> <p>E. S. DANIEL DRAKE: All miscellaneous personnel.</p> <p>E. S. JOHN IRELAND: Security Detachment, 1898th Engineer Battalion (Aviation). High point personnel.</p>	<p>S. S. SEA OWL: 2d Bn., 157th Inf. Regt., 45 Inf. Div. 1st Bn., 157th Inf. Regt., 45 Inf. Div.</p> <p>Hq. and Hq. Det., 45th Inf. Div., 45th Inf. Div. Band, 195th Photo Interpreter Team, High score personnel.</p> <p>S. S. MARINE DEVIL: Hqs. special troops, 45th Inf. Div., 700th Ord. Light Maintenance Co., 45th QM Co. Regimental Hq., 157th Inf. Regt. Service Co., 157th Inf. Regt. Antitank Co., 157th Inf. Regt. Cannon Co., 157th Inf. Regt. Medical Det., 157th Inf. Regt. 45th Recon. Troops.</p>
DUE TOMORROW	DUE TUESDAY
Boston	Boston
<p>E. S. MARINE ROBIN: Hq. and Hq. Co., 1167th Eng. Combat Grp. Rear Det., 1268th Eng. Combat Bn. 1476th Eng. Maint. Co. 1360th M. P. Co. (Aviation), 1926th Ord. Ammunition Co. (Aviation). Rear Det., 461st Amphib. Truck Co. Rear Det., 580th Port Co., Transportation Corps. Hq. and Hq. Det., 190th QM Bn. 3694th, 3696th QM Truck Cos. 3282d Ord. Base Depot Co. Rear Det., 15th Port, Transportation Corps. Hq. and Hq. Det., 512th Port Bn., Transportation Corps. 559th, 560th, 561st and 556th Port Transportation Corps. 70th M. P. Co.</p>	<p>S. S. CHARLES AYCOCK.</p> <p>DUE WEDNESDAY Boston</p> <p>S. S. MADAWASKA VICTORY: 45th Signal Co., 45th Div. 3d Bn., 157th Inf. Regt. High point personnel. Casuals. Merchant seaman.</p> <p>S. S. LACROSSE VICTORY: Military Police Platoon, 91st Inf. Div.</p>



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From: USARMY Pentagon HQDA ANC OSA Mailbox SAAC DSU-QA <usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anc-osa.mbx.saac-dsu-qa@mail.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:04 PM
To: MailCall@517prct.org
Subject: Arlington National Cemetery, Ticket #347346

Hello,

Thank you for contacting Arlington National Cemetery regarding **Gordon J. Lippman**'s record on the public website. I regret the error and thank you for bringing it to our attention. The correct information is now visible on ANC Explorer. Please contact us if you have any additional questions, or if there is anything else that we can help you with today.

This is a notification that we are closing ticket #347346

Very Respectfully,

Quality Assurance Team
Arlington National Cemetery
Email: arlingtoncemetery.isb@mail.mil
www.arlingtoncemetery.mil
Photos of markers:
<https://ancexplorer.army.mil/publicwmv/>
HONOR - REMEMBER - EXPLORE



TR: Gilles Danniau

Dear friends of America,

We are so sad to let you know that our dear Gilles, Vice-President of CADUSA died last Week. He was only 48 and suffered a lot because of a cancer (pancréas). He was so kind, so devoted for the US AIRBORNE COMMITTEE – God bless you, Gilles and his family.

Arnold and Irma TARGNION

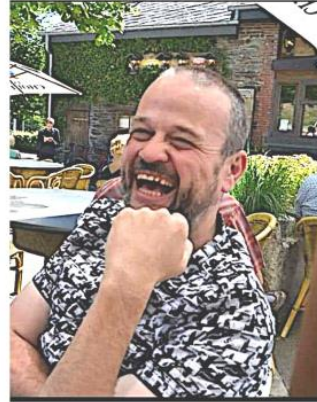


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*Ce qui compte, c'est l'intensité d'une vie, pas sa durée.
Jacques Brel.*

Monsieur Gilles DANNIAU **époux de Florence ODDING**

né à Rocourt le 23 avril 1972
et décédé à Liège le 9 juillet 2020.



Vous en font part avec une immense tristesse:

Florence ODDING, *son épouse;*
Raphaël, *son fiston;*
Germaine DENIS et Paja, *sa maman et son beau-père;*
Frédérique DANNIAU, *sa sœur;*
Émeline, Juliane, *ses filleules;*
Constance et Georges (†) ROWET - DENIS,
Andrée et Jean-Paul (†) (*son parrain*) FAWAY - VANLIMBERGHEN, *ses tantes et son oncle;*
ses amis et amies,
Les familles DANNIAU, ODDING et apparentées.

*La famille remercie chaleureusement le personnel du service 3C oncologie du C.H.U. de Liège
qui se sont occupés de lui avec dévouement et gentillesse.*

**Gilles repose au funérarium Titeux-Lecoq, Avenue de la Salm 148,
4980 Trois-Ponts où la famille recevra les visites
à partir du samedi 11 de 17 à 19 heures.**

**La cérémonie des funérailles sera célébrée en l'église de
TROIS-PONTS le MARDI 14 JUILLET à 11 heures.
Elle sera suivie de la crémation dans l'intimité familiale.**

Un registre de condoléances est ouvert sur www.enaos.net (accès direct: 398)

P.-F., funérarium, faire part, caveaux, monuments, articles funéraires TITEUX - LECOQ, (G. BEAUPAIN-LERUSSE)
Trois-Ponts, Lierneux, Hébronval, Grand-Halleux - 080/31.94.42 - 080/41.88.31 .



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Dear friends of AMERICA, I hope you received the information about the so sad new. We lost our dear Vice-Président, **Gilles DNNIAU** (48) the family wished that we lay flowers at the US monuments. Here Logbiermé, Wanne and Stavelot. Other pictures later. Our Love to all of you.

Irma and Arnold Targnion



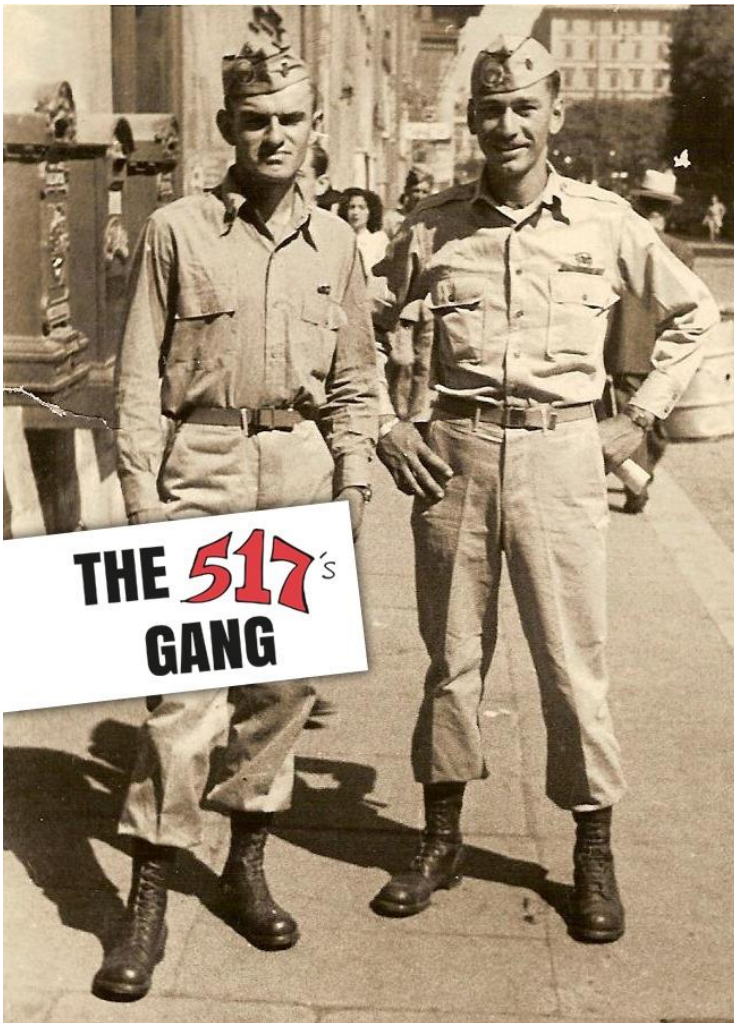


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If you miss any MailCalls, they are all available online at <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/>

- 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



During much of July and early August [1944], the paras of the 517th PRCT take advantage of the permissions to visit the eternal city in Rome. Others also go to visit Pompeii and Naples, like here, the **1st Lt. Murray A. Jones** (E / 517) on the left, accompanied by **1st Lt. Harry E. Riddle** (F / 517)

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