



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2459**

January 3, 2021

*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

**Subject:** new email address for **Ed Henzl**

I just sent a request to you via 517prct website link to add my dad to your email list. He is currently on the 517 roster with old email address. He is **Edward Henzl**, 517 PRCT, HQ Company, 1st battalion. He trained at Toccoa and was a member of the 1st Airborne Task Force. My dad and mom attended several of the Florida reunions and attended the Savannah reunion several years ago. My dad is 97 years old and lives in Spring Hill FL. He would love to get back on the 517 Mail Call email list.

[edhenzl517@gmail.com](mailto:edhenzl517@gmail.com)

Have a safe, healthy and happy new year.

Best regards,

**Karen Henzl Reece**



Ed Henzl in Nice 1944

Hi Karen,

Looks like he's signed up now. I know we have a page for Ed on the website, <http://www.517prct.org/photos/henzl.htm>, but I'd love to hear any more news or photos from Ed.

Thanks,  
Bob Barrett



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

Good morning,

My name is Tyler Eltringham. I am the grandson of Private **George Eltringham Jr**, from B Company of the 517th. His name appears in the 1944 Christmas roster for verification purposes, and I also attached a photograph.

I was going through your website and came across a picture in the "Charles F. Masterson, B Company" file. It's the thumbnail picture used, or the second one down once you open the file. The picture is of 5 men, 4 kneeling and 1 standing in the middle. I read that many of the pictures came with descriptions and was curious if that one had. I'm not sure, but I was curious if the man standing in the middle was my grandfather.

Thank you for all your outstanding efforts in devising and maintaining the website. It has been a source of great intrigue and comfort to me.

Sincerely,

Tyler Eltringham



I do see two morning reports than mention Pvt. Eltringham -- BB

COMPANY	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	RANK	DATE	ASN	MOS	LOCATION	NOTES
B	Eltringham, Jr	George	PVT	25-Dec-1944	33875131	7745	Soy, Belgium 41.5-89.7	Above (4) EM fr dy to TD at Soissons, France per VOCO as of 21 Dec 44
B	Eltringham, Jr	George	PVT	12-Feb-1945	33875131	7745	Laon, France 030160	MOS7745 Above 4 EM fr DS at Soissons today.





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Does anyone know any of these men? They are my Fathers pictures he was in the 517th Company F!  
I think he ended up with the 504th company H in Berlin! At end of war!

**Dan Higgins**, son of **Edward T Higgins**, F Company

Posted on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472895329686741>

It looks like these were probably all alter in the war, with 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne patches. Probably in Germany?  
– Bob Barrett





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

As some of you may know, Rod Serling, writer of *The Twilight Zone* TV series, was trained as a paratrooper in Camp Toccoa from '43 to '44 with the 511<sup>th</sup> PIR. He served in a demolition platoon in the Philippines during the war. After the war, he went to college on the GI Bill.

For extra money in his college years, Serling worked part-time testing parachutes for the United States Army Air Forces. According to his radio station coworkers, he received \$50 for each successful jump and had once been paid \$500 (half before and half if he survived) for a hazardous test. His last test jump was a few weeks before his wedding. In one instance, he earned \$1,000 for testing a jet ejection seat that had killed the previous three testers.

From: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod\\_Serling#Military\\_service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_Serling#Military_service)



For a variety of reasons, Serling was transferred to the 511th's demolition platoon, nicknamed "The Death Squad" for its high casualty rate. According to Sergeant Frank Lewis, leader of the demolitions squad, "He screwed up somewhere along the line. Apparently, he got on someone's nerves." Lewis also judged that Serling was not suited to be a field soldier: "he didn't have the wits or aggressiveness required for combat." At one point, Lewis, Serling, and others were in a firefight, trapped in a foxhole. As they waited for darkness, Lewis noticed that Serling had not reloaded any of his extra magazines. Serling sometimes went exploring on his own, against orders, and got lost.

Serling's time in Leyte shaped his writing and political views for the rest of his life. He saw death every day while in the Philippines, at the hands of his enemies and his allies, and through freak accidents such as that which killed another Jewish private, Melvin Levy. Levy was delivering a comic monologue for the platoon as it rested under a palm tree when a food crate was dropped from a plane above, decapitating him. Serling led the funeral services for Levy and placed a Star of David over his grave. Serling later set several of his scripts in the Philippines and used the unpredictability of death as a theme in much of his writing.

Here is the synopsis of one episode of *The Twilight Zone*, "The Purple Testament", about an infantry soldier in the Philippines who can foresee the death of other soldiers:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Purple\\_Testament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Purple_Testament)







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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](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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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>



“Hardly any of them have trouble reading that chart.”

from *The Saturday Evening Post* January 17, 1942