



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

eLee HUe



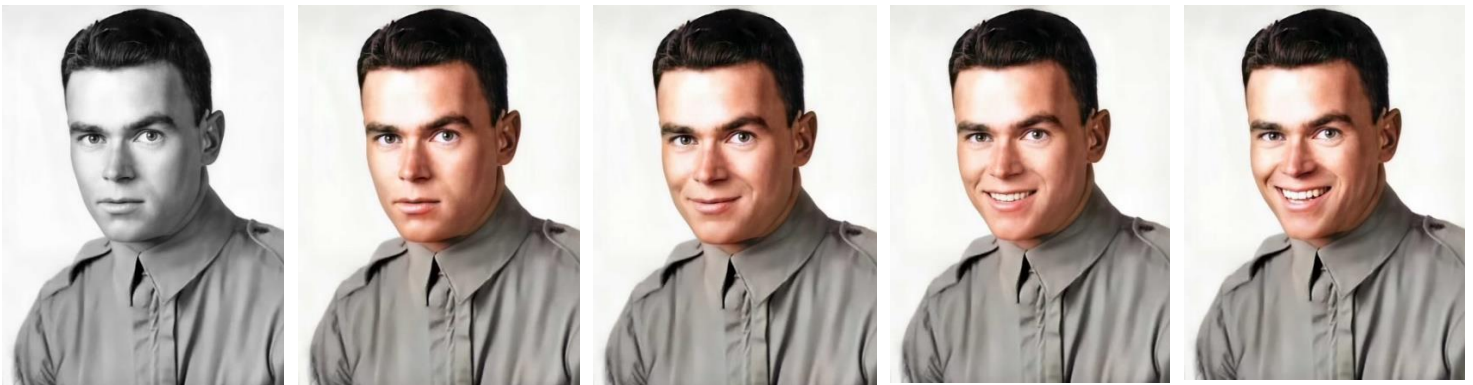
## MailCall No. 2468

March 28, 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

Well, this is interesting. My daughter found this person, apparently on TikToc, who will take an old black and white pictures and turn them into a video or set of pictures that morphs into a colorized smiling version. Here two WWII pictures of my Dad, **Ben Barrett** (H Company):



Here are the links to the video versions:

[http://517prct.org/mailcall/2468/ben\\_morph\\_1.mov](http://517prct.org/mailcall/2468/ben_morph_1.mov) [http://517prct.org/mailcall/2468/ben\\_morph\\_2.mov](http://517prct.org/mailcall/2468/ben_morph_2.mov)



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

RE: 517 on Facebook

I was looking on Facebook for any pages dedicated to the 517<sup>th</sup> and only found one.

### [517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team – Families & Friends](#)

I apologize if my question is a redundant one for you, but are you aware of it? It's hosted by **Jean Mi Soldi**, who lives in France and is involved with publication of the book, *The 517<sup>th</sup> Gang*, which I believe is also listed on your website.

There's another couple of WWII Facebook sites that I've been getting a lot of inbox material on, mostly about the 506<sup>th</sup> and other Army units, but nothing I've yet seen on the 517<sup>th</sup>.

- [Friends of the National World War II Memorial](#)
- [WWII uncovered](#)

I realize that I'm late to the party, but is there any interest on your part to utilize those two Facebook pages or start up a 517<sup>th</sup> FB page? It would be nice to share the 517<sup>th</sup> story on FB for people who are unaware.

I would be happy to create a site but would want to share admin with someone. Got a lot going on right now.

Best,  
**Robert Lofthouse** |  
Author of *Honor Through Sacrifice*  
Writing *CPA: Back to Back Championships*  
Writing *SV: Historic Run to the Title*  
Writing *Divine Action Physics*

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Hi Robert,

Yes, I am well aware of **J. Michel Soldi's** Facebook page:

### [517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team – Families & Friends](#)

J. Michel is a close friend of the 517<sup>th</sup>. He and **Eric Renoux** (and **Adrien Soldi** and many others) used to manage an Operation Dragoon museum in Le Muy, and regularly held events in Southern France to welcome the the American and British troopers who liberated Southern France in of Operation Dragoon. That facebook page It has been around for at least a few years and gets slow but regular posts.

I also know of 2 other 517 Facebook pages:

### [F Company, 517th PRCT - American Military Historical Company](#)

This site is a tribute site and news from the Fox Company 517 Living History/Reenactment group. I believe it is managed by **Matt Holmgren**. This unit can be seen at many WWII reenactments in Pennsylvania and Eastern US. More info at: <http://battlingbuzzards.org/>



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

And **Loic Jankowiak** (author of the 517<sup>th</sup> Gang) also has a web page:

[About · First Airborne Task Force - The Forgotten Paratroopers \(1stabtf.com\)](#)

There is one other placeholder Facebook page:

[517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team - Auxiliary](#)

This one was set up many years ago as a place-holder (by me, I think), but has not been used.

My thought at the time was that as the 517<sup>th</sup> troopers decreased, eventually the reunions would stop, the Thunderbolt paper newsletter would no longer be published, and the 517<sup>th</sup> Association would have to dissolve – and all those things have happened a few years back. I would continue the MailCall for a short while, but eventually people would lose interest and I would stop getting questions and inquires. So I did think about starting a Facebook page, which could live on forever and not need an active moderator/editor. Anyone could publish their own material. But to my surprise, there is still enough news and stories to keep MailCall going. I send it only when there is news to send, but so far, there is some news or something to say almost every week. When we (my Dad and I) started MailCall, it was for the 517<sup>th</sup> family and friends as a casual newsletter, partly for for the older troopers who could manage email, but didn't spend too much time on Facebook or searching the Web. That's also why I sent it in a PDF format, so that people could always print it out and deliver or read it to the non-digital troopers.

So Robert, that is a long response to your question. Yes, we should probably have a Facebook page and MailCall will eventually stop. And most people now are capable of posting their own photos, or ask and answer questions on a Facebook page. For now, I don't have time to take on another project, and I've always thought that J. Michel's [517<sup>th</sup> Family and Friends](#) page serves that purpose just fine.

Bob Barrett

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Based on the sample page that you posted, **Mark Landreth's** compilation is remarkable, outstanding chronology. Many thank-you's to Mark for sharing it with you and the 517th family.,

**Pat Seitz**

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Mark's chronology is still a work in progress, but I will get it published on the web page very soon. I'm sure that will come in very useful to any WWII researchers and 517<sup>th</sup> historians. -- BB

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



My Dad, (Kenneth Baker Tucker, F Company)

**Glenn Tucker**

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Good morning again Bob,

Hope all is well with you and yours.

I found some more info on my Dad (rip) via his obituary:

Athens, GA - **Kenneth Baker Tucker**, 83, passed away Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

A native of Irwin County, Ga., Mr. Tucker was the son of the late Lyte R. Tucker Sr. and Lorena Baker Tucker. He graduated from the Ocilla High School and attended the University of Georgia, where he obtained a B.A. Degree and a Master's Degree in Education. He furthered his education at Emory University in Atlanta, where he received a Doctor of Law Degree.

A veteran of WWII, he served in the European Theater with the 517th Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team from 1943-1946.

In 1952, Ken accepted a position with the former Panama Canal Zone Government in The Republic of Panama, to teach Social Sciences. He taught US Government and US History. An avid tennis player, he also enjoyed coaching the Panama Canal College's boys and girls tennis teams. He retired in 1992 from the Panama Canal College and returned to live in Athens, GA with his family.



# 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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## INFANTRY HEAVEN

Aaaand of course it's a long walk and mostly uphill...

mematic.net