



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2040**

**February 27, 2011**

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

Website

[www.517prct.org](http://www.517prct.org)

Mail Call

[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)

Mail Call Archives

[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)

Roster

[www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)

### *Looking for I Company Families*

To all troopers and their families of the 517th. I still have it in-my-head that I want to try locating any family member of a trooper who was KIA, along with my Uncle **Lt. Floyd A. Stott**, outside Manhay, Belgium 27Dec1944. Using the National Archives (AAD) idea from Mail Call #2039 and the 1944 Christmas Roster, I was able to find some county and state information on most of the sixteen. If Howard, or others with Great Memories, can cast any light on these troopers, I'd appreciate it. If there is another site I can visit that would possibly give me parent names and hometowns, I'd appreciate that information too. I plan to start calling names in the phone book from those I was able to secure an anchor point, just to see if anyone recognizes these fellows. If you recall where any of these troopers were from, that would help a lot.

**Pvt. John S. Penn** (MS? CA?);

**Pvt. Frank O. Scott** (PA? NY?);

**Pfc. Shannon F. Smith** (MS? PA? SC? IL? CA?);

**Pvt. Albert J. Vasquez** (TX? IA?);

**Pfc. Edward G. Walsh** (NY? WV? MI? IN? CA?);

**Pvt. Edward W. Weimer** (NY? WV? PA?);

**Pfc. Clyde Whittington** (TX? MS? OH? NE?) and

**Pvt. Robert L. Williams** (393 Partial Records - so anywhere in the U. S. would help).

Also, there was NO listing for **Pfc. Paul A. Rzonca** but twelve listings for the Rzonca surname. Help?

And No listing for **Sgt. Wendell J. Tinger** but an Alfred J. Tinger came up. Help?

It is my intention to locate relatives and inform them of the 517th Reunions as well as the Auxiliary. **Thank you!**

**Kenton Floyd Immerfall**

Nephew of 1st Lt. Floyd A. Stott



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Belated Happy Birthday to Dick Seitz. I refer to this wonderful man as "Dick" because he told me to call him by his first name. May God's Blessings shine down on you each and every day!

Kenton Floyd Immerfall  
Nephew of 1st Lt. Floyd A. Stott

### *MailCall News*

To BB: In the picture from the Crater [[MailCall #2039](#)]. This picture is on my wall at home. My dad **Mike Sura** is bent over with arm on his shoulder. Believe one on the guys is **Manfred Seeberger** and the blond guy at the top left was **Dick Huggler** from Alpina, MI.

**Dennis Sura**

hope to see you all in Atlanta in July '11

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Dear Friends of the 517th,

The video of **George Cavnar** on Vimeo is very touching, thank you. I particularly enjoyed the scene at 05:42 with the 50's car, T-Shirt, Blue Jeans and boy on his back.

For Dennis Sura, and the H Company "Grape" incident; I was able to pinpoint the exact whereabouts of the H Company attack with the assistance of Howard Hensleigh. I have pictures of the vineyards, the railroad embankment & underpass if it is of interest. Its a very special place for me - Lt Freeman and 1st Sgt Gaunce were KIA there. 1st Sgt Gaunce is buried at the Draguignan American cemetery in Southern France. I always stop to visit his grave when I am in the area.

Kind regards,  
Gilles  
[dogface44@gmail.com](mailto:dogface44@gmail.com)

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RE: Photo of **George Cavnar** driving the jeep in MailCall #2039

Very good Bob, maybe someone will see themselves in one of the photos or perhaps a loved one. We are from a large family and maybe I can drum up some interest in them to join us to pay tribute to him in July for the last ever 517th National reunion in Atlanta. Uncle George was one who didn't mind sharing his war experiences with others if asked. Much of his monthly Army pay was sent home each month to help his family of 11 brothers and sisters during those hard times. That is the kind of person he was. May he rest in peace.

"NEPHEW OF A BUZZARD"



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Who is the one who wants this to be the final reunion? What reason is there to stop having national reunions? Do you really have to beg people to come by threatening that this is the last one? If we're healthy, we'll come. If you want to dissolve the 517th Assn. by not having Associates to carry on, then maybe this is the first step. I've figured out that the Auxiliary has no authority to carry on.

There was some talk in Mail Calls last year about having the Auxiliary Members become Associate Members with the idea that they will carry on, take office, arrange reunions. Will that topic come up in the Business Meetings of the Veterans and Auxiliary Members? Will the wishes of the Auxiliary actually count?

Mini Reunion are fine, but San Diego is too far away; Florida is in the middle of winter, when driving could be prohibitive. Flying is out of the question - too much hassle and very tiring!

### **Richard H. Wheeler**

Service from Camp Toccoa, GA 15June1943 until we left Germany  
460th Prcht FA Btn, Bty B

I'm the only one who has been at the last 2 reunions, but I came anyway. I'm still ready to go to National Reunions.

Richard H. Wheeler & Katherine

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Hi Bob,

I too did some checking to see if I could track down this individual since I grew up about 3 miles from the address of his Next of Kin, Mrs. Nancy Parisi. I know that area of Camden well. I assumed Mrs. Parisi was probably his mother though it could have been his wife of course.

I thought I hit the jackpot in the 1930 US Census when I found two families named Parisi living at the same address on a street near the address of Mrs. Parisi. Both families had a son named Samuel, one of whom was 6 years old in 1930, so he would have been born in 1923 or 1924, which, as you note is the year the military record shows **Samuel G. Parisi** was born. His mother was named "Annunciata", and since a lot of Italian Americans took on English sounding names back then, I thought "Annunciata" could be "Nancy"

I found an individual who said his is the son of the younger Samuel (actually named Salvatore) at that address. He said his father had a cousin Samuel but he served in the navy, I am not sure if the person I found is related to "Samuel Parisi" in the 1930 census. I have several Italian American friends who grew up in Camden. It was a very close knit Italian community until the early 70's so maybe one of them can give me a lead. I'll keep trying.

All the best,

**Mike Kane**



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

Hi Bob....thank you so much for continuing to try to find this soldier's relatives....It would be a real treat to provide them with the tags.

They'll continue to be safe and sound with me.

Dino

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To Helen Beddows and the Auxiliary:

My brother George and I would like to inquire as to how we may become honored memories of the 517th auxiliary and to become subscribers to "The Thunderbolt". Our Dad served in the 517th, and was proud to serve in B Company. Sadly, he passed away in June 2009. Our only regret is that we have not made this request sooner. We met so many fantastic people in Washington D.C. in June 2007.

Respectfully. **Peter and George Jansson**

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Bob I thought you would enjoy this. You are doing more than your part to keep the memories alive as you will hear in her speech.

Thanks, **Darrell**

### **Jimmy Doolittle's granddaughter speaks**

She wrote a book about her grandfather called *Calculated Risk* which is a good read.

Note also she does this without notes and teleprompters.

Simply outstanding....would he ever be proud of her... as we all are

[Jonna Doolittle Hoppes "Jimmy Doolittle Raid" presentation at Historic Flight Foundation](#)

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*Quiz: Can you explain what this WWII photo is about? -- BB*





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

***Palm Springs – April 2011***

# **517<sup>th</sup> PRCT West Coast Party 2011**



Ready for some fun in Palm Springs? Here we go again! Always a good time when we are together!

**April 11-** Official Registration

Hospitality Suite open 10 am-10pm

**April 12-** Bar-b-que Buffet for troopers and families. Hawaiian attire.

**April 13-** Social Day

**April 14-** Mens business meeting 1000-1130

Canyon Country Club 7 pm-1000 pm Farewell Banquet, dinner and dancing

**April 15-** Checkout, travel home safely.

Rooms 84.00 + 15.5 % tax

1800 East Palm Canyon Drive

Make reservations by calling Holiday Inn

1 800 315 2621

**Be sure to mention 517<sup>th</sup> PCT**

Registration is 70.00 per person, includes bar-b-que, and farewell banquet.

Mail registration checks to:

Karen Wallace

66295 Hwy 20

Bend, OR 97701

541 318 5919

Email [karenwski@gmail.com](mailto:karenwski@gmail.com)

Name of

Guests \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle the extra activities you would be interested in attending if available**

- Elks Club for dinner and karaoke
  - Indian Casino for lunch
  - Follies
- Ride on the Palm Springs Tram to 8516 ft above the city



## *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.
- 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.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to our treasurer:

Leo Dean  
14 Stonehenge Lane  
Albany, NY 12203

### **Annual 517th Reunion (Probably the Last)**

July 13-18, 2011, Atlanta, GA

with visits to

Camp Toccoa and Fort Benning

