



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2065

August 24, 2011

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

Website
Mail Call
Mail Call Archives
Roster (from 2008)

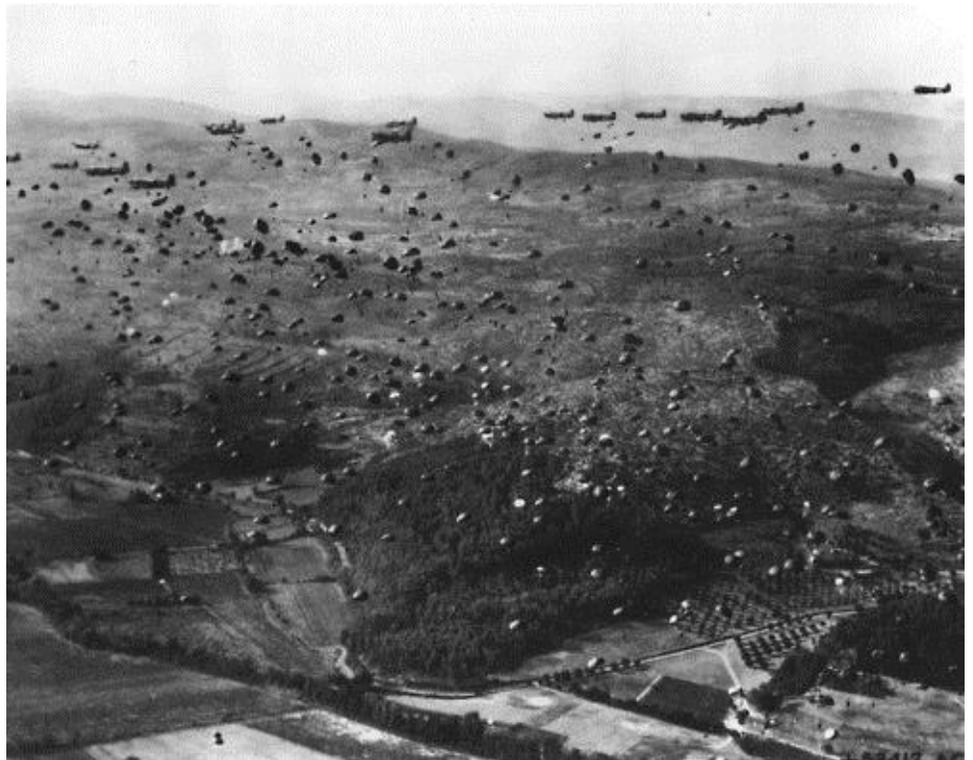
www.517prct.org
MailCall@517prct.org
www.517prct.org/archives
www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

August 15, 1944 – D-Day

Bob,

Today is August 15, and the sixty-seventh anniversary of the 517th combat jump into Southern France. My, has time gone by fast. I am so proud to know and associate with the courageous, brave paratroopers of this Magnificent organization. Thank you for your service to our country. Below is an excerpt from a newspaper article about the invasion. Also the official after action report of the invasion written by Colonel Tom Cross of the 517th is available to read at

<http://517prct.org/documents.htm>





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Lory Curtis, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st Bn

. In a Associate Press release in the newspapers nation wide on May 16, 2004, Mort Robenblum reported, "250,000 allied soldiers stormed France's Mediterranean shores on August 15, 1944. 70 days after the D-Day landings at Normandy, catching German troops in a pincer so tight that Hilter muttered to aides, "This is the darkest day of my life." Operation Dragoon was to have coincided with the June 6, Normandy assault, but there were no landing craft to spare. When it finally happen Paratroopers bore much of the brunt. Breuer (1997) reported, "It was a complete blackout as the gigantic sky train carrying initial elements of General Bob Frederick's First Airborne Task Force barrowed through the calm Mediterranean night. Hanging in majestic aloofness in the black heavens was a sliver of a crescent moon."

Someone has just signed your guestbook!

Name: **Jim Miller**
From: Citrus Heights CA,
E-mail: coachmiller2028@yahoo.com

One hell of a day 67 years later!

Visit the below URL to view your guestbook:
<http://517prct.org/gbook/gbook.php>

Sent: Monday, August 15, 2011 11:14 AM

Hi Bob,
Just wanted to send a hello to the 517th and say a big thank you for today. Wish we could be in LeMuys. Dad is doing great at 95.

Kathy McIntosh and Jesse K. Davis, B Co.

MailCall News

Note from the Editor: Sorry about the lateness of this MailCall. I know that a few of you know the routine and start to send me notes if you don't receive a weekly MailCall by late Sunday night – sometimes very late. I was on a short vacation with the family to Martha's Vineyard and trying to stay "off the net". For those of you wondering, yes we did run into the President, but from a great distance. You always know where he is on the Vineyard since the roads are generally blocked by a couple of police cars. At least once a day, we'd run into his security caravan. He must have been following us.



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If I get this out, it will be the first one from this new computer, so you know that I'm back up and running. As you can imagine, there were a lot of files to move in the 12-year-old website and 2064 MailCalls. Anyway, thanks again for your patience. – Bob Barrett

Betty, thanks for the good report on Myrle. Best wishes for continued good reports. Airborne!

Dick Seitz

Hi Bob ~

I know Scott is already on the mail call email list, but can you add me as well? Thanks so much.

Deana Ross

*[Scott and Deana were with **Norman Ross, I Company** at the Atlanta reunion]*

Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2011 1:47 PM

To: 517 Mail Call

Subject: Live from Sospel

Hello Bob

We (Leo Dean and my father Allan Johnson) are in Sospel now with friends Patricia and Roland, along with Gilles from Switzerland, having finished up our time in the Var area of Le Muy, Les Arcs, Salernes, Varages, Trans en Provence and those surrounding areas.

We are happy to report that Eric Renoux and Jean Michel Soldi are both fine and although the museum collection is still without a home they are looking. The events they coordinated this year were wonderful and heartfelt and the 517 is fortunate to have such good friends helping perpetuate the memory of the unit, the job they did, and the sacrifice of those who did not come home.

A full report will follow after our return, with photos I hope.

Claire Giblin

Are the dues still the same this year, **Tom McAvoy**

Hi Bobby,

I asked a few people and no one has gotten back to me regarding an increase in membership fees. Allan Johnson told me the renewal date is Aug 16. So maybe you could put near my address to please pay the annual membership fee of \$30 due Aug 16. I'm sure if the info is not correct someone will bring it to my attention



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thanks

J

[**Joanne Barrett**, 517th Treasurer]

Hi Joanne ~

I hope you have received our letter and checks to renew our auxiliary membership and Norm Ross's 517th dues. I wasn't sure if the vet's dues were still \$20.00 or if they went up to \$30.00 like the auxiliary. Since the groups had merged, I wasn't sure if the dues increased to the auxiliary amount.

Since I only paid \$20.00 for Norm, please let me know if I owe more for him and I will send you off another check.

Thanks – **Deana Ross**

Bob: Happy New computer! **Pat and Alan**
Hope Joanne got our dues check.

Hi Bob,

I'm sorry to hear about your father.

I found the testimony you mentioned, according to that book, he was in the 517th but ran into the 509th, that's why he's mentioned.

Lt. Shore with the G Co 517th PIB had been dispatched to find what had happen to a unit in vicinity of Parker Crossroads ran into the 509th and an old friend Lt. Frank Souto. Lt. Shore recalls the following about the 509th "We were fed and spent the night and part of the next morning with the 509th. With daylight a German light tank or weapons carrier came down the road (north) toward us and stopped about 300 yards ahead of us. A 509th three man .50 MG squad, emplaced across the road. opened fire. The German vehicle returned the fire and for a while the two units fired continuously. I saw a trooper calmly hop out in the middle of the road and empty his rifle into the tank, then just as calmly return to his position. It took a lot of guts to do it, but he stopped the tank long enough.' 'A US backup tank opened up and soon put the enemy vehicle on fire. An enemy tank sent a shot toward our own tank and before long many tanks on both sides were firing away. The battle developed into a full scale tank encounter, with the CP right in the middle. The CP drew no fire because Lt. Livingston kept everybody from firing. The enemy tanks were too far away to shoot at with bazookas they had."

Thanks a lot for your help, hope someone answers in the mail call!

All the best,

Daniel

Subject: This is a REAL Commander in Chief

Click your mouse here: [July 4 2011](#) [George Bush with wounded troops in Texas.]

I'd just bet ya never saw this on any news report!

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=8TiGYDvc4IU&sns=fb



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God Bless America
Katherine Kramer

Trish,

Unfortunately, I do not know of any flags available from the 517th, but I will pass your request on to them. Was your father with the 517? What is his name?

Bob Barrett
webmaster@517prct.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnson, Patricia B, CIV Navy Cyber Forces, N1211
[mailto:patricia.b.johnson@navy.mil]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2011 2:24 PM
To: mailcall@517prct.org
Subject: Flag

I am hoping this is the correct email and if not can you please direct me to it.
I would like to buy a 517th flag for my father. He passed away last July and I would love to have a flag to fly above his burial site.
I thank you so much.
Looking forward to hearing from you.

Very respectfully,
Trish Johnson
CYBERFOR/NETWARCOM
Joint Expeditionary Base, Bldg 1265/2
2465 Guadalcanal Rd
Virginia Beach, VA 23459
Telephone: (757)417-7935/DSN 537-7935X3

From: Don Gentry

Subject: Francisco Soto Enlistment Record and Gravesite Information

Hello Bob, these two records seem to agree and provide a bit more on T/4 Soto.

[NARA Access to Archival Databases \(AAD\)](#)

File Unit: Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, ca. 1938 - 1946 (*Enlistment Records*)
in the Series: World War II Army Enlistment Records, created 6/1/2002 - 9/30/2002, documenting the period ca. 1938 - 1946. - *Record Group 64* ([info](#))



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Brief Scope: This series contains records of approximately nine million men and women who enlisted in the United States Army, including the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Field Title	Value	Meaning
ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	39332647	39332647
NAME	SOTO#FRANCISCO##	SOTO#FRANCISCO###
RESIDENCE: STATE	23	NEW YORK
RESIDENCE: COUNTY	061	NEW YORK
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	9580	PORTLAND OREGON
DATE OF ENLISTMENT DAY	21	21
DATE OF ENLISTMENT MONTH	05	05
DATE OF ENLISTMENT YEAR	43	43
GRADE: ALPHA DESIGNATION	PVT#	Private
GRADE: CODE	8	Private
BRANCH: ALPHA DESIGNATION	NO#	No branch assignment
BRANCH: CODE	02	No branch assignment
FIELD USE AS DESIRED	#	#
TERM OF ENLISTMENT	5	Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law
LONGEVITY	###	###
SOURCE OF ARMY PERSONNEL	0	Civil Life
NATIVITY	J1	COLOMBIA
YEAR OF BIRTH	21	21
RACE AND CITIZENSHIP	J	White, not yet a citizen
EDUCATION	5	1 year of college
CIVILIAN OCCUPATION	500	Skilled occupations in manufacture of miscellaneous electrical equipment, n.e.c.
MARITAL STATUS	6	Single, without dependents
COMPONENT OF THE ARMY	7	Selectees (Enlisted Men)
CARD NUMBER	#	#
BOX NUMBER	1423	1423
FILM REEL NUMBER	6.189	6.189

From US Veterans Gravesites from Ancestry.com

Name: Francisco Soto
Service Info.: T/4 US Army
Death Date: 29 May 1944
Interment Date: 21 Jun 1944
Cemetery: Hampton National Cemetery

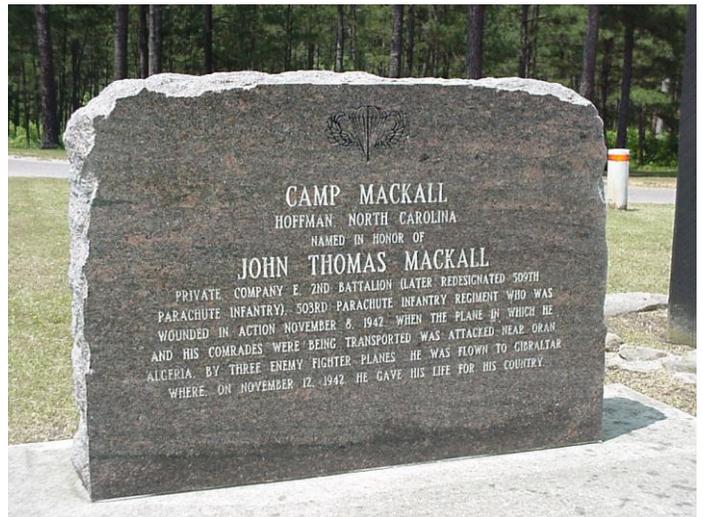


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Cemetery Address: Cemetery Road At Marshall Avenue Hampton , VA 23669
Buried At: Section F Site 312

In doing some research for a friend whose Uncle was in the 509 PIR, I found some interesting items to me I thought I would share. Camp MacKall was name for a trooper that was wounded in Algeria and died in Gibraltar. The troopers name was Pvt. John Thomas MacKall. Attached are a couple of pictures, the first, left to right: Col. Olsmith Camp Commander, Gen. Chapman Commander airborne Command, MacKall's Mother, June MacKall Sister, Pvt Gerald MacKall Brother KIA 7 July 1944 Near St. Lo France and Pvt. Robert MacKall Brother. The second is a monument to the 509 PIR. The camp was dedicated to MacKall 8 Feb. 1943. Many of you probably already knew this, but I have not been to MacKall and did not know.

Morris McDowell.



Dear Sir,

I'm a team member and researcher of www.adoptiegraven.nl. On this website we try to collect information about the fallen American soldiers, who are buried or listed on the Walls of Missing at the overseas American War Cemeteries Ardennes, Henri-Chapelle and Margraten. With this database we want to keep the memories alive to the soldiers, who gave their lives for our freedom. On your website <http://www.517prct.org/site.htm> I found the name of Robert P. Woodhull and other soldiers who are still buried in the Netherlands or Belgium and I would like to publish their stories and pictures, of course with your permission. If you agree I also would like to add a link of your website as well.

Kind regards,

Astrid

Astrid van Erp avanerp69@hotmail.com

Astrid,



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Thank you for your note. I will include it in the next newsletter to the 517th. Yes, you may include a link to our website, and any materials that you may find about the soldiers. We have some short biographies of some members, including Capt. Woodhull (See: <http://www.517prct.org/bios/woodhull.htm>). But if you uncover any additional information, please let us know.

I have copied this email to Ronald Stassen, a good friend who helps to maintain Robert Woodhull's grave site.

Thank you for your tributes to our men.

Bob Barrett
MailCall@517prct.org

You can see the pages for some of the 517th members at Astrid's website here:

[ACKERMAN, Lincoln W](#)

[BLOOM, Francis A](#)

[HAYES, Frank W](#)

[BANEY, James L](#)

[MILLS, George](#)

[DONNELLY, Richard E](#)

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
- 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 new Association Treasurer: Please make all checks payable to the

517 PRCT Association, Inc.
c/o Joanne Barrett
70 Pleasant Street
Cohasset, MA 02025



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It is now just past August 15, the 67th anniversary of Operation Dragoon. It is a good time of year to remember to pay your annual membership dues.

Suggested donation: \$30

Enclosed is my annual dues contribution towards the 517 PRCT Association.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to: **517 PRCT Association, Inc.**
 c/o Joanne Barrett
 70 Pleasant Street
 Cohasset, MA 02025