



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2143

January 27, 2013

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

Website

www.517prct.org

Send Mail Call news to

MailCall@517prct.org

Mail Call Archives

www.517prct.org/archives

2013 Roster (updated!)

www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Thunderbolt (Winter 2013)

www.517prct.org/archives

Greetings from Kissimmee



Got home from Kissimmee yesterday. Wow, what a great time that all of us had. **Brenda Mortensen** and all her helpers put on one of the best Reunions ever. By the way she has agreed to chair it again next year. We had about 40 people at the Banquet, ten more than last year. I'm sure she will send a roster of the people that attended. For the most part the weather was great, not up to our Florida standards but close.

The high note of Banquet was the Victory Belles. Three great singers that work for the World War Museum in New Orleans. Brenda met them on a Mississippi river cruise. The sing songs from WW-II and I don't think there was a dry eye in the place. They not only sing they mingle with the crowd and they also put on a great show. In fact they were so good that there was talk about another National Reunion in New Orleans next year. Are there any brave souls that want to take the job on? If so please contact our President **Alan Johnson**. By the way these girls put on shows all over the country.

I would also like to thank Bob Barrett, **Lory Curtis** and **Claire** for all the work they do to put on the best Mail Call and

Thunderbolt ever. Lory through his connections was able to cut the cost of publishing the Thunderbolt in half I am told. If anyone wants to receive the T'Bolt hard copy pay your dues and let Lory know. Your dues can be paid anytime but the date was set by the board of directors as August, the anniversary of our jump in Operation Dragoon. Almost forgot there were 9 Veterans at this Reunion. I'm sure someone will send pictures of the group to Mail Call and the Thunderbolt.

Darrell Egner



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

We just had a mini reunion of my WWII unit...the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team...in Kissimmee this past week-end. We were entertained by the Victory Belles, a trio dressed as the Andrews Sisters, who sang all the old WWII songs we remembered from those days. The Victory Belles are full time entertainers at the Stage Door Canteen of the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, and have traveled all over the world entertaining. You might notice all the lipstick kisses on my face in tis photo....what can I say....when you got it, you got it! Needless to say, the 9 old geezers were well entertained by these three young ladies, and will long remember this reunion.



Phil McSpadden



Hey Bob - sending a few photos from last week. My first time to a local reunion and it was a blast!

Kudos to **Brenda Mortenson** and her minions (munchkens?) for a fabulous setup and time. Her arranging the Victory Belles from the WWII Museum to attend was an awesome highlight. Never seen the Troopers smile so much!!

Tom Copsey





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Leila Webb (Bill), former WWII munitions factory worker, at the Kissimmee reunion with three other Liberty Belles.



What a fantastic time we had last weekend in Kissimmee at the Florida Mini! It was just great to see everyone again, many of whom were unable to make it last year. It is always a wonderful to get caught up with old friends and make new ones.

Brenda Verbeck Mortenson hosted us in wonderful style, with a warm and inviting hospitality suite with too many tempting offerings.

I just checked last year's Mail Call and we had 6 veterans at the reunion in 2012, and 23 at the banquet. This year we had 9 veterans at the reunion and 39 at the banquet. Many people were unable to attend in 2012 due to serious situations at home, and it was lovely to see attendance back up.

We had: **Leo Dean** (recovered from that fall with multiple fractures last year), **Leroy Johnson** (aka The Bad Johnson and possibly the oldest of the guys at 93), **Ray Hess** (now relocated to Florida), **Bill Webb**, **Allan Johnson**, **Hunter McDonald**, **Darrell Egner**, **Phil McSpadden** and **Hal Beddow**.

We also had the pleasure of an expanded Team Boyle, led by **Bill Boyle's wife Babbie**, along with Joe, Pat, Frank, Becky, Mimsey (her first Florida reunion), Babsie, Finley, and I'm sure I'm forgetting someone. Fin is 6, in first grade this year, and it's at least her second reunion.

At least six people were attending their first Florida reunion, including **Nancy Fraser Armand** (Don's daughter), National Reunion regular **Tom Copsey**, Hunter McDonald's daughter Cornelia and nephew Rob, Ray Hess's grandson Joshua. Leroy Johnson's friend and driver, **Earl Tingle**, turned out to be retired Col. Tingle, an airborne veteran himself.

Since **Darrell** has set a goal of 50 for next year, everyone needs to start planning now for 2014 - your 70th reunion year. What are you waiting for? Bring new people - bring guests - bring family. This year's new friends are next year's old friends.

In the meantime, there is no national reunion this year, so get out to Palm Springs for March 11-15 for the Palm Springs Party. Look into flights - my dad got a great one on Virgin America.

Airborne all the way - **Claire**



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi, Bob -

I forgot....Leo stayed with friends after the reunion and did....wait for it....jump #155!

Aside from the fact that they make him go tandem since he hit his mid-80's, he really had a blast.

All the best –

Claire





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

MailCall News

My name is Shelly Caulfield Azeff, I am **Lt Warren Caulfield's** daughter and I would like to be added to the mailcall list. My email address is shellyazeff@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Shelly Azeff

Hi Bob,

Thank you so much. We have a lot of pictures of the 517th from my father. My son compiled them into a book and when he returns from the Orient in a couple of weeks, I'll see if he can send them on. Do you suggest I send them to you or to the 517th web page and do you know to whom I should send them? It's sad, for me, that my father spoke so little about the war until his last years and I wish I had known more-he had so much to be proud of, but I believe it's uniform throughout the 517th

Thanks,
Shelly Caulfield Azeff

Hi Shelly, Yes, that's a common story with WWII and other vets. I don't know why, but with my Dad I think he just did his duty and moved on. He wasn't upset or anything, he just didn't have reason to bring it up and we didn't ask much. (Then again, he did have a hole in his back from the mortar wound, which we thought was interesting/cool, but we never asked the details.)

You can send anything you have to me. I also manage the web site. I can take pretty much any format you send. We'd all like to see more photos and history.

Thanks, Bob Barrett

Bob... I attended the reunion this past weekend in Kissimmee and Claire suggested that I write to you and you'd add me to the mail call mailings..

If you have any questions, I can be reached at the email address below..

Thanks,

Earl

Super Bob.... I'm sure you'll have a lot of input from the reunion in Kissimmee... it was fantastic thanks to the ladies who made it all happen,...

Airborne,

Earl

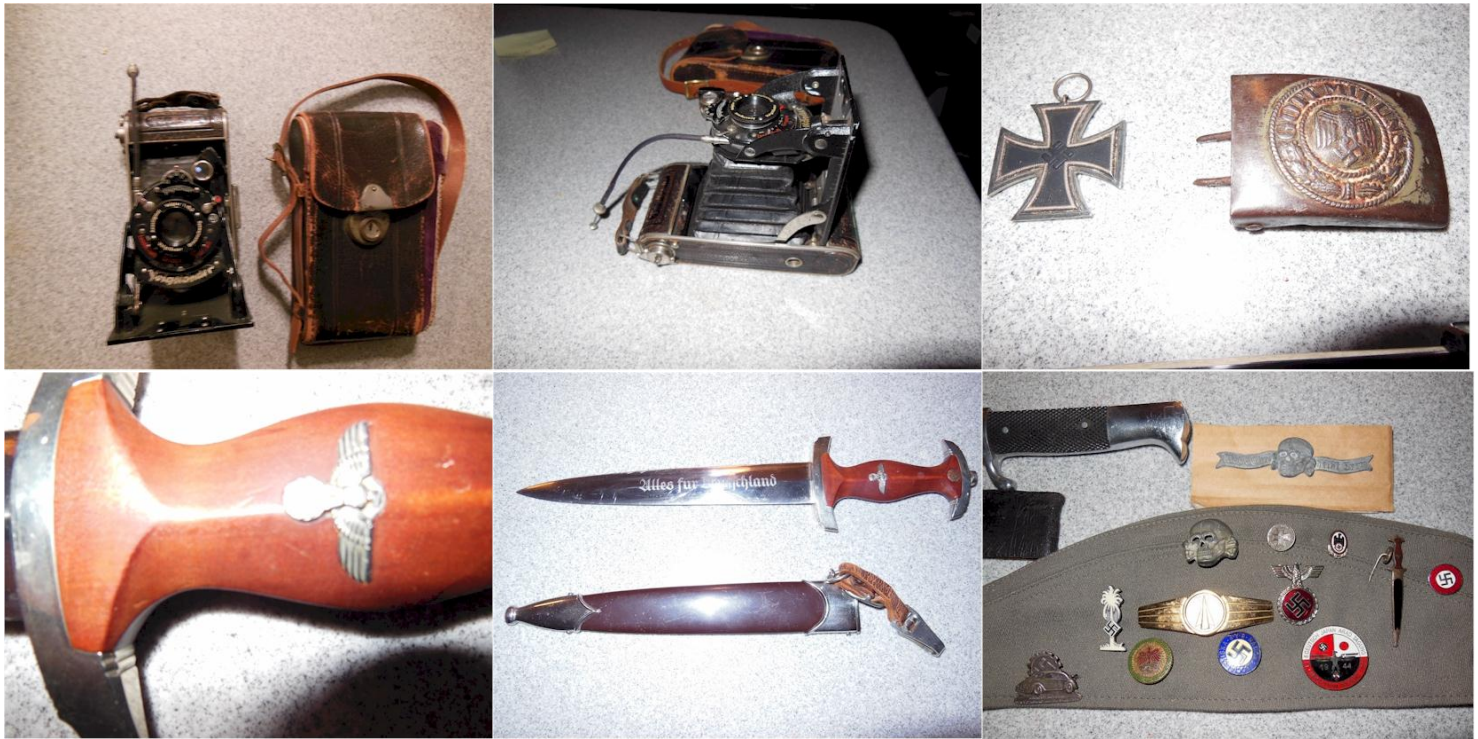


517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi 517th family,

In response to the cameras used during WWII, I am sending in a couple of pictures of the camera that my dad **Odas**, used. He received this camera from a woman who I think was a close friend (wink wink) in France or Germany. In many of the pictures submitted to the 517th, he has the camera case hanging over his shoulder on his side. It is a German camera called a Voigtländer and takes nice pictures. The viewfinder is terrible though. My dad had a picture taken with his lady friend but somehow the side of the picture with her image was cut off with a pair of scissors. Must have happened when my mom was sewing.....I have also added a few pictures of my Nazi collection. Hope you enjoy it. (Dad didn't marry my mom until after the war in 1946, by the way..)

Rick Sweet



Note: Voigtländer cameras, one of the oldest names in cameras, were made in Vienna, Austria. -- BB





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Bob,

I received this email from **Monica Stoy** inviting all of our members to the Ceremony in Washington, D.C. to commemorate Operation Dragoon. I know **General Seitz** and **Darrel Egner** both received their French Legion of Honor Medals at this ceremony in years past. It looks like a great experience. Please let our folks know through mail call they are setting this up again, and invited to attend.

Lory Curtis

See the brochure on [MailCall 2141](#) August 8-11, 2013 Arlington, VA

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



Operation Dragoon - The "Forgotten D-Day"
The Allied Landings in Southern France and the Southern France Campaign
15 August 1944-14 September 1944

Hosted by

Outpost Europe, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, the Army Historical Foundation, and the Embassy of France



When: 8-11 August 2013 (Thursday-Sunday)

Where: Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

Who: Please join us in honoring the veterans of the 6th Army Group; 7th Army; 6th Corps; 3rd, 36th, and 45th Infantry Divisions; 1st Allied Airborne Task Force - 517th Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team (including AT CO/442nd Infantry Regiment, 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion, 4463rd Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, 550th Airborne Infantry Battalion, 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion, and the 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade (UK); 1st Special Service Force; US Army Air Corps; US Navy, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines; the OSS; and from the participant allied nations of France, Poland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Greece, and Canada; family members, friends, and anyone interested in WWII history.



What:

- 8 August: 1 to 3 PM - registration; 5 to 8 PM - historical seminar
- 9 August: 9 AM to 5 PM - historical seminars and veterans' remembrances
- 10 August: 8:30 to 1200 AM - ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery with presentation of French Legion of Honor in Amphitheater
5 to 9:30 PM - Banquet
- 11 August: 8:30 to 11 AM - historical seminars

Why: To honor the veterans of the Forgotten D-Day, to preserve history, to educate the public, and to pass on the torch of their proud legacy.

Room Reservations: Price - \$95 per night, one day prior to event and one day after. Reservations: 1-800-325-3535
Reservation Group Name: Operation Dragoon
Cut off date for reservations: Friday, 21 July 2012

Point of Contact: Monica Stoy, President, Outpost Europe, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division
timmonil5@yahoo.com, PH: 703 912 4218
6531 Milva Lane, Springfield, VA. 22150 USA
RSVP by 30 June 2012

Registration: Event registration - \$30. Banquet - \$40. (Free for Dragoon Veterans)

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Guestbook Entry:

Submitted by

Name: **Greg Peters**
From: Mansfield, Oh
E-mail:
gmpeters17@gmail.com

Comments:

My grandfather **Robert L Brown** passed away on 23 JAN 2013. I've researched his unit hoping to find pictures or anything that i could. He was a part of H co.

Added: January 23, 2013



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Bob this picture is my dad's (**Mike Sura**) squad. He is the guy in the middle with the trooper leaning on his shoulder. I believe that the guy in front of him is **Manfred Seeburger** from New York. I am copying **Dorothy Pastalenic** and she might share this with John. I was wondering if John was the guy that accompanied my dad to transport a prisoner across Europe on special orders after the war ended??

Dennis Sura



Sgt. Robert P. Price and 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, H Company

Top row: Dick Huggler, John Pastalenic, Wally Vincent, unknown, unknown, last with helmet: Sowicki (sp.?)

Middle, bending over with hand on shoulder: Mike Sura

2nd row, unknown, unknown, Manfred Seeburger, unknown, kneeling with cigarette: George R. Monkhouse

Bottom row, Sgt. Robert P. Price; next to him: SSgt. James S. Wilson

These pictures of H Company 3rd platoon were taken by **Cecil Doty** in the Crater Area in Italy in 1944.

Hello Eddy,

I had a phone call yesterday with **John Pastalenic**. He was in H Company, same as my dad.

If you remember, you exchanged emails or notes with him about his dog tags that you found in Belgium. (<http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/1672.htm>)

If I traced the notes correctly, you lost contact with him, probably when his email address changed. John does not read email or MailCall, but his wife has an email address, and I have his home address and phone number below.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

He was wondering if you still have the dog tags, and if so, if he could have one of them sent to him.

He also mentioned that the tags were found in Belgium, even though he was wounded in Southern France and did not make it to Belgium. Unfortunately, he cannot explain it either. Perhaps someone else or medical staff carried them into the Bulge and dropped them there.

Let me know if you still have access to the dog tags.

Best Regards,

Bob Barrett

Dear Bob,

I indeed remember well the contact I had with Mr. Pastalenic and the strange fact that I got his dog tag while he never came to Belgium due to his wounds in Southern France.

In fact, my team leader, when I worked in 2009, knew my interest in the WWII and more particularly in the Battle of the Bulge. He then explained to me that his boy who was around 15 years old at that time, had taken a dog tag in the house of his grandmother who lived in Basse-Bodeux.

I asked him if he wanted to know more about the owner and I made researches. I was lucky enough to find that Mr. Pastalenic survived the war and was still alive.

So, I contacted him and I've explained how I got his dog tag. Such a strange finding is quite more interesting to me and I would have loved to get a WWII picture of Mr. Pastalenic and a picture of today.

Then, I indeed lost contact with him and I really thought that Mr. Pastalenic maybe thought that I had try to contact him by a strange means.

Bob, I'm interested in the Battle of the Bulge for nearly 24 years now and I know that some people try to contact the veterans to get their stuffs. I do respect the veterans and I'll be forever thankful to them for my liberties, I'll do my very best to perpetuate their memories.

In 24 years, 3 veterans sent to me something from their wartime because no members in their family took interest in their service. Every time, I replied them that I didn't want to get those items because their families surely would love them and every time that despite sent a thing to me.

Mr. Hubbard (75th Inf Div) sent me back an Iron Cross he took on a German body around Manhay area. He thought that this item should go back in the area and I still have it with the letter of Mr. Hubbard.

Mr. Hank M Stairs (117th IR, 30th ID) sent me a little box used for his cigarettes.

And my dear friend, Malcom NEEL (now deceased) send his Jacket that he was wearing at the 1946 Parade in New-York. He was a member of the 80th AABn and he had defended my native village, Grand-Halleux, in December 1944 and I've loaned the jacket to a museum because I did want to honor the memory of my dear friend and not only to keep his jacket only for myself.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

I also send back a Gas Mask Bag to a nephew of a soldier of the 117th IR, KIA on Christmas day 1944. This bag came from the grandfather of my former girlfriend in 1999. I made researches and I located the namesake of Leonard BYRNE. I kept in touch for several months. I also got in touch with the brother of this soldier. He wrote to me they he was a Mosquito pilot in the Pacific Theater of Operation. But I lost contact with both of them.

I'll write more later and I'll contact Mr. Pastalenic again after the weekend because I have my son with me. I only see my son only every other weekend.

I'll do my very best with the dog tag because I would be happy to send it back to him.

With my warmest regards,

Eddy Lamberty

Hello. I just bumped into this site and first of all: Congratulations on your work. It's moving to see these pictures.

I'm writing to add a bit of information. When looking at the photographs about **Harry A. Hill** of the 517th, I noticed there were two epaulettes of a german uniform with the inscription RFV. The comment stated that you didn't know what this meant. http://www.517prct.org/photos/harry_a_hill/harry_hill.htm



RFV stands for ReichsFinanzVerwaltung (Customs service). The type of epaulette leads me to believe it belonged to an officer of the German Military Customs Service.

Hope I could help.

I'll have a look around the other photographs. If you need any present day photos of Belgium (Ardennes...), Northern France or any other location around the borders of Belgium, let me know. As a history teacher, I'd be more than happy to help out with your superb site.

Kind regards,

Simon S.

Morning Bob,

Received a phone message from the son of the above Trooper Thursday evening. He was calling from CT. I called him (**Myron Gadoury**) back and we visited for over an hour. Myron said he got my phone number from a Mail Call when I was apparently trying to reach Trooper **Elsworth Harger**. My memory did not recognize this name but I'll search the 517th site to see if the Mail Call shows up. Myron had been in touch with Elsworth but lost contact with him. Myron wondered if Elsworth (Co. G) has passed. I know Elsworth was on the Roster in 1998, but that was a LONG time ago.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Myron also mentioned another trooper, **Dave Vickers** (Co. G), he had been in touch with but lost contact info. Trooper Vickers supposedly married a lady (Lynn) about 30 years his younger. Lynn was also military and at the time was a Sgt. Myron has no idea if Dave or Lynn are alive. I'll do some looking to see what I can find.

Lastly, Myron mentioned **Capt. Hooper (Grant A. Hooper)** and Myron has a letter Capt. Hooper sent to Sgt. Gadoury after he was wounded (near Sospel). Myron sent the contents of that letter to me. There seems to be some "mystery" as to what ever happened to Capt. Hooper. Myron heard that Capt. Hooper was not exactly appreciated by his own men. Hmmm.

Myron told me he has a lot of photos and other mementos of his father. Irving NEVER talked about the war to his son. I suggested Myron contact you and learn how to Scan and Send the information he has to the 517th site. Not sure why Myron doesn't want to Send the material to you directly, but said he'd accumulate what he has, Send it to me and then I could pass, whatever, along to you. Seems like a tedious job but whatever works.

I wish Myron would offer a Bio for the **Meet The Troopers** tab on the 517th site. Maybe I can get him to do this soon.

Sgt. Irving Gadoury died in 1970. He had gone in for some sort of surgery but died. An autopsy showed that Sgt. Gadoury died from shrapnel (apparently from Sospel) cutting off circulation to vital organs. Don't quote me on this. I was hastily taking notes as Myron talked on the phone.

Hope you're staying warm,

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

Dear Sir

I would like to be in touch with other 517th members/families. I have some information that I could post as well as photos but not sure how to do it.

My Dad **Irving Edward Gadoury** enlisted July 24, 1942 in the 517th and was a platoon leader SSGT. SN 11070445 3rd Battalion 3rd Platoon Company G
He was hit on the ridge near Col de Braus overlooking Sospel France
He was separated Aug 21, 1945 from Convalescent hospital, Camp Edwards Massachusetts.
In 1970 the shrapnel finally killed him.

Myron Gadoury
53 Gibson Lane
Sterling, CT 06377
Phone 860 564 1000
Email mig@ct.metrocast.net

I thank you for your service. You were of the Greatest Generation and there will never be another as great.

Myron Gadoury



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Bob:

I have been informed by **Pat Houston** that **John Kocan** (Btry C- 460th) fell in October 2012, fractured his head, broke his neck, had a heart attack and died. Please inform the appropriate people.

Merle

517/460/596 Roster Review

Help us update the roster! Check your address and contact info on the new roster at www.517prct.org/roster.pdf. Send any corrections to MailCall@517prct.org.

Note that only people marked with a green **Y** will receive the Thunderbolt newsletter in a paper version. But if you receive weekly MailCalls, you don't need to receive the paper copy since we will be posting all future Thunderbolts on the website and in future MailCalls. See: [Winter 2013](#)

West Coast Mini Reunion

West Coast Mini
Palm Springs, CA
March 11-15, 2013
[Registration Info](#)

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: Identify the purpose of any donation (Annual Donations, In Memory of... etc.) and make all checks payable to:

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