



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2145

February 10, 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

MailCall News

Hi Bob,

Here are the photos from my father **Lt Warren Caulfield**. I'll add notes where possible with the pictures-I'll be sending 3 groups of Photos-hope you can use some of them.

Thanks,

Shelly Caulfield Azeff

Last group. the war Pictures are Aug 15, 1944 3:30am jumped into France and landed in the mountains 20 miles from the drop zone. Landed in a tree-was injured and a priest helped him into a home and treated quite a few of the 517th. Pictures of English Paratroopers and Gliders coming in to help. Drying of Chutes. Village and rest time. Parade in Nice and girls giving us wine. Prisoners and girls with shaved heads for fraternizing with the Germans. Using prisoners to carry our wounded.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Same picture as **Lt. Rosenberry** (left of me in picture) with 2 who worked in the motor pool and the other is a medical noncom in regiment on our night out.

He wrote: "November 2 after 90 days on the line in South France, we were returning to St. Sossoin, France for the holidays. After arriving and getting everything for a good Christmas party. In December, the Battle of the Bulge, we were put in trucks and attached to the 82nd Airborne Division. We were broken up into different battalions to fight with other organizations. Some went to St. Vith, etc and when finished we were in Bergstein, Germany and involved in the largest minefield in the war. At this time, I was a liaison officer with **Lt Clark** between the 517 corp and the 18 corp. **Gen'l Ridgeway** was the commander. I had requested to get back to the line through **Colonel Seitz**. He had me assigned to H Company 3rd Battalion (his old battalion).

Within 24 hours I went from Platoon leader to company commander from 90 to 150 men. We met German Paratroopers-they were tough. Feb 7th I was wounded and received Bronze star citation. then we were sent to a staging area to jump over the Rhine but Gen'l Patton beat us to this area. April the war ended and I was sent to Joigny and they started breaking up the 517th. I came home with the 13th Airborne and landed in Camp Devons, Mass."



See more photos at http://517prct.org/photos/warren_caulfield/warren_caulfield.htm



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Dear Bob, dear friends of the 517th,
It is with a great sadness that we heard that **Marv Tetrick** and **Wayne Ervine** passed away, they were both great supporter of action of memory here in southern France, and we spend some wonderful time together at many reunion, Marv and Rickie came back for the first time in 1994, Wayne never been able to come back but we stayed in touch by mail since the first time we met him in 2000. they always host a special place in our hearts and in the Southern France Airborne Museum

association, Eric, my son Adrien and myself are working hard since the terrible 2010 flood to recover, we are working on a Virtual Museum Website to have every friends not able to come back able to visit the exhibit. We will let you know when it will be on line, and as many of you, Marv and Wayne will have a special page dedicated. Please transmit to, Rickie, Dave, Donna , Owen and the Tetrick and Ervine family our sincere condolences .

Attached are some pics of Marv and Rickie, when they came in Les Arcs 1994, one with Marv and myself in Portland Oregon Reunion, and the other is one of great men of the demo platoon at the 2000 Georgia reunion. left to right, **Wayne ERVINE**, **John "Boom boom" Alicki**, (unfortunately we forgot the 3rd one, sorry)

Rest in Peace "mes Amis" you never been forgotten.

Eric , Jean Michel & son Adrien,
Airborne Task Force Museum Association
Letter box 79
Le MUY FRANCE. 83490.
anvil-dragon@hotmail.com



The demo platoon at the 2000 Georgia reunion. left to right, **Wayne ERVINE**, **John "Boom boom" Alicki**, (unfortunately we forgot the 3rd one, sorry) and **Jean Michael Soldi**



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

"Hey Buddy! It's your great granddad here. In case you haven't noticed, I'm kind of busy fighting for your freedom in a little thing called the Second World War..."

Hey Bob, hope all is well with you and yours. I caught this recently, got a kick out of it, and thought it would play well on mail call. Enjoy.

All the best,
Paul Abbene

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwuujqGL1Xo>



My name is Andy Hill, my grandfather was **Harry Hill** from A Company, and I'm working on a very important project which I'm hoping members of the 517th and their families might like to help with. I am a 40-year-old graduate student about to graduate with a master's degree in social work. I'm starting a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation called Fishabilities. The goal of Fishabilities will be to assist individuals with disabilities and give them the opportunity to enjoy fishing and the outdoors regardless of their level of disability, age, or sex. Currently there is only one organization doing this kind of work in Montana and it is limited strictly to helping military veterans. Fishabilities will be for anyone, not just veterans. The Fishabilities staff will consist of trained volunteers and professionals (social workers, therapists, and fishing guides).

The status of the organization right now is that a Board of Directors has been organized, a web site is in the works, a logo is being created, and Fishabilities is incorporated in Montana. I'm currently working on creating the organizing documents and the filing for 501(c)(3) status with the IRS.

This process isn't cheap so I'm in need of donations to help cover the costs. The filing fee for the 501(c)(3) status alone is \$400. Also, any additional money will be applied to purchasing supplies and insurance once the applications have all been submitted. As the organization is not yet a 501(c)(3), these donations cannot be used as tax deductions. You can make donations here: <http://www.gofundme.com/1thar8>

Thanks, and let me know if you have any questions!

Andy

ps - Please pass this information along to anyone you know.

Submitted by

Name: **jan desso Bridge**
From: san diego ca
E-mail: [Janice am Bridge@gmail.com](mailto:Janice_am_Bridge@gmail.com)

Comments:

I was thrilled to find this website. It gives me memories and a closeness of my dear departed father, **Paul Desso**. The 517th Was so brave and I am grateful.

Added: February 3, 2013





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

We just completed our Winter jump school with a public open hanger day on January the 26th and a local TV station covered the last jump that day with a great story that you can see here...

<http://www.kswo.com/global/story.asp?s=20714774#.UQUluBkxgKE.facebook>

I am the guy toward the rear of the stick wearing glasses.

Also a group of university students put together a well-made video covering the mission of the Airborne Demonstration Team, just go to Youtube and search "Remember Honor Serve" and it will be the first choice. And yes, Command Sergeant Major Herrington is 81 years old and he does jump.

Thank you for all that you do with the 517th webpage and Mail Call!

Steve Gomez

Son of **CPL Ben Gomez, B battery 460th**



Parachuters Jump in Honor of WWII Vets

FREDERICK, Okla_ On Saturday dozens of men and women took to the skies and plummeted to the ground below during Frederick's annual WWII Airborne Open Hanger Day. Hundreds gathered at the Frederick Army Airfield to check out the jumpers for themselves.

Twice a year the foundation holds a jump school to show World War II enthusiasts how to perform parachute jumps in the style of a World War II Airborne soldier.

It takes a special kind of person to want to jump out of a perfectly good plane.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

But for the living historians in the World War II Airborne Demonstration Team, all the motivation they need can be found right inside our history books.

"Freedom isn't free. And that's the way we feel about it, so we keep their spirits alive in what we do here. People can come in, and you walk in the hangar and it's like walking back into the 1940s, " said Mel Tilley, Senior Parachute Rigger.

The men and women who sign up for the special class aren't just thrill seekers or your run of the mill sky-divers. These folks have a passion for our nation's history and a deep commitment to honoring our veterans.

"This was the greatest generation, " said Tilley. "There'll never be anything like it ever again as far as we know it. These men went and did a job, they went and did it without, you know, complaining so to speak. They knew what had to be done they went and did it."

So one by one, they launched themselves out of a C-47. A plane that's just as much a veteran as the men and women they're honoring. It's nearly 70 years old and flew through battles from London to Cairo to Italy and everywhere in between.

Many World War II veterans were present for the jumps and on hand to pin the newly graduated parachuters with their wings. It's an experience these vets look forward to and hold dear.

"I enjoy it, " said veteran, George E. Wilson. "I meet a lot of these good boys and ladies around here. And I got to go back to Europe in '09. And if it hadn't been for this World War II Demo Team, I'd have never made that trip. And it was one of the greatest trips of my life."

George Wilson is a Duncan resident. He's a member of the 101st Airborne Division. He was one of the first men on the ground after the D-Day attacks. Wilson is a hero, like so many other men from his generation, the one many call 'The Greatest Generation' , but don't tell him that.

"I tell them the heroes are the ones that didn't make it back. That's just the way I feel, " Wilson said.

Many of the jumpers are vets themselves and if not, they've made it a point to visit Normandy and the beaches where so many men were lost.

As they packed their chutes, rode in the plane, breathed in the crisp air and soared over the ground below, they remembered those experiences and never forget the price of their freedom.

"You look down, especially from the aircraft, that was what really got me. We put these guys out like this over in Normandy, and I'm in the door after everybody's gone and I'm looking out five or six miles out there at all those beaches that those guys died on. It's....pretty awesome. But anyway, that's, that's stuff that really gets to you." said Tilley.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Private SNAFU - Booby Traps (1944)



Private Snafu learns about the hazards of enemy booby traps the hard way.

This is one of 26 Private SNAFU (Situation Normal, All F***ed Up) cartoons made by the US Army Signal Corps to educate and boost the morale the troops. Originally created by Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) and Phil Eastman, most of the cartoons were produced by Warner Brothers Animation Studios - employing their animators, voice actors (primarily Mel Blanc) and Carl Stalling's music.

Production Company: U.S. Army Signal Corps / Warner Brothers

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