



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM



**MailCall No. 2278**

**July 5, 2015**

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

## *517th PRCT 2015 Annual Reunion*

New Orleans, June 2015



John Jonientz (G), Gabriel Delsosio (460/C), Allan Johnson (596), Leo Dean (Reg HQ),  
Mel Trenary (A), Phil McSpadden (460/HQ), Tony Mandio (HQ/1), Merle McMorrow (460/C)





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

Here are some pictures from the reunion, more to come

**Lory Curtis**



At the WWII Museum



A WW2 Aircraft engineer and son drop by the reunion



Rick Sweet, Lory Curtis

From **Paul Abbene**:



one of my favorite moments at the reunion...**Virginia Jorgen** and myself having some laughs in a New Orleans cemetery. She spotted these symbols on the side of this crypt and called out " Mickey Mouse ! ".



Tim Curtis at the WWII Museum





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



At the cemetery



Our vets

### *Mail Call News*

hi bob, So good to see your picture at reunion! can you send me a clearer roseberry2.jpg. I believe that U.S. my dad standing left of center. did she share any other pictures? thank you.

clare erber

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Hi Clare,

You want a clearer picture of me? ... Oh, wait. You want a clearer picture of the Roseberry photos.

**Carol Dressen**, **George Roseberry's** daughter has a lot of photo scans that she will be sending me soon, so I should have clear copies of those and many more. But Roseberry was in the Service Company, and your Dad, I think, was in H Company. So it is probably not him in that photo. But you never know.

Bob B.

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Thanks for letting me join you at the WWII Museum Friday. It was just wonderful to be with people who served or have family who did so. You all could not have been more welcoming. I have talked with my sister and son about your stories. My father is **Coy F. Bush**, who was in HQ. Co. 1st Bn. He played sax with the "Jumpmasters."

Again, thanks.

**Heather and Joseph**, I hope the cake was delicious!

Take good care,

**Diane Bush Steckler**



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

Bob: you constantly amaze me and I'm sure everyone else. How did you manage to do this excellent Mail Call while you were in New Orleans actively participating in reunion activities? Awesome work and a wonderful reunion.

Thank you **Lory, Claire, Joanne, Karen, Robin, Nancy, Mimsey, Helen, Rick, and** all our vets (**Alan, Mel, Merle, Leo, Phil** to just name a few). Wish I could have stayed for the banquet. My husband Alan wishes he could have been there for the fun and comradeship (to say nothing about missing the WWII museum.

PS Am pleased to report he is almost back to 100%. Thank you Lord!

**Pat Seitz**

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My dad, **John Stonis** Company A and D (I think) is still alive. He is 91 but is in declining health.

Juliana Stonis

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My father **Robert J Amerlan** 517th HQ 2nd battalion is still with us. Please add him to your list of troopers. I'm able to read to him Mailcall on line so no need to send it to him. His eyesight is not good anymore. I can't tell you how wonderful it makes him feel to know these men are not forgotten. Thanks for all your work. He will be 92 this August.

Sincerely

**Bonnie Amerlan Nowinski**

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**Chet Kochersperger** (A Company) wrote me I assume he is still alive his address is  
912 Woodside Ave  
Secane, PA 19018

Lory

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A great time in New Orleans with old friends and new at the reunion. Thanks to all who worked so hard to put on a splendid time. The WWII museum was a fitting tribute to our 517th heroes. A special thanks to Bob for keeping everyone connected with MailCall. I know that can't be easy each week, but is so appreciated.

Until the next time!

**Tim Curtis**

Son of **H.L. "Bud" Curtis** and brother of Dr. Lory Curtis

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Just received a phone call from Mrs Walker. She said her husband **Donald Walker** died 23 august 2012. He was in B company. They live in Texas.

**Lory Curtis**



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More reunion photos from Carol and Lanny Dreesen:

[Lanny and Carol and family also just sent me copies of her Dad's photos from WW2, which I will be posting soon. -- BB]



The 2<sup>nd</sup> generation attendees



Mimsey Boyle and Merle McMorow



Mel and Rick Trenary





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



Merle and Capt. Daly



Leo Dean and Rick Seitz



Gabe, Tony and Merle



Leo's tattoo





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



We're up to 55 known 517/460/596<sup>th</sup> troopers still in communications with us. But we know there are lots more out there.

Robert J.	Amerlan	Chet	Kochersperger
Stephen J.	Armbruster	Harold G. (Sug)	Lawrence
Marshall W.	Baird	R.G. (Bob) "Doc"	Lecklider
Willard	Berdit	Anthony A.	Mandio
John	Bradovich	John T.	Marsinko
William	Brannan	Hunter	McDonald
Fred	Brown	Merle	McMorrow
Jack J.	Cason	Philip P.	McSpadden
Jay	Castello	Jim	McWilliams
Joseph L.	Clark	George E.	Meline
Thomas R.	Cross (USA Ret.)	Dick	Miller
Melvin J.	Dahlberg	Joe	Molina
Robert (Bob) W.	Dalrymple	James Frank	Morris
Leo P.	Dean	John M.	Pastalenic
Gabriel	Delesio	Leslie E.	Perkins
Erle E.	Ehly	Nolan L.	Powell
John L.	Garvey	Norman	Ross
Roger W.	Goodsell	Mike H.	Schlacter
Robert D.	Hart	Walter W.	Smith
Ray R.	Hess	Gene J. (Zoot)	Snyder
Ludwick (Lucky)	Hiers	John	Stonis
Keith	Hobson	John J.	Strojan
William S.	Hudson	Myrle E.	Traver
Kaare Allan	Johnson	Melvin C.	Trenary
John G.	Jonientz	Robert L.	Vaught
Richard	Kachalsky	Manuel	Ventoza
George W.	Kennedy	Earl	Whisenhunt
Robert W.	Kennedy		





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

Guestbook entry:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: <b>Brad Cole</b> From: Martinsburg, West Virginia E-mail: <a href="mailto:bradcole6nc@yahoo.com">bradcole6nc@yahoo.com</a>	Hello All. I am a World War II Airborne Uniform collector. I have recently added the Uniform grouping of 517th vet <b>Wilbur Ingram</b> of Company G. I was wondering if anyone had any information of him. There is a lot of stuff with this group. I was wondering if anyone had any info on the member of the 517th. Any info would be greatly appreciated.

Hi Brad,

I don't have a lot of info about Wilbur Ingram. We do know that he was a PFC with G Company in December 1944:

[http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas\\_1944\\_company\\_g1.jpg](http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_company_g1.jpg)

I did find this: Wilbur R Ingram was born on May 30, 1915 and died on April 22, 2010 at the age of 94. Wilbur last resided in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=ingram&GSfn=wilbur&GSmn=r&GSbyrel=all&GSdy=2010&GSdyrel=in&GSob=n&GRid=51536867&df=all&>

I do have copies of a few morning reports that mention Ingram:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	RANK	DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
Ingram	Wilbur	R	PFC	12-Sep-1944	Col de Braus, France	MOS 745 NBC fr duty to AB SK NBC to trfd t Det of Pat 7th Army as of 11 September 1944
Ingram	Wilbur	R	PFC	18-Sep-1944	1000 Yds S. W. Col de Braus, France	fr duty AB SK NBC to trfd to Det of Pat 7th Army. [NOTE: This entry was "lined out" on the MR]
Ingram	Wilbur	R	PFC	24-Sep-1944	Touet de L'Escarene, France	Reasgd & Jd Co fr Det of Pat 7th Army NBC to duty
Ingram	Wilbur	R	PFC	1-Feb-1945	Stavelot, Belgium 718 009	fr dy to TD Soissons France as of 21 December 1944
Ingram	Wilbur	R	PFC	12-Feb-1945	Laon, France	fr TD at Soissons, France to dy

I have some photos of G Company, but none that identify Wilbur Ingram by name.

I will include your request for info with the next email to the troopers.

Bob Barrett

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





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

Greetings, all -

What a wonderful time we all had in New Orleans! Lory Curtis put together yet another fantastic reunion, and a good time was had by all. **Rick Seitz** procured **Coast Guard Captain Daly** to address us at our final banquet, and he was an excellent speaker.

The trips were enjoyable and the company was even better. We really enjoyed our time together in the hospitality suite! What a beautiful city.

As those of you who follow Mail Call and the Thunderbolt know, the Association is faced with once again getting its corporate affairs in order. In the absence of increased manpower, it seems difficult if not impossible to keep the corporation viable. At the New Orleans reunion, the Board passed a resolution to take a proposal for dissolution to the membership.

This does not mean we can't get together for reunions. We can and we will, even if we close the corporation. The reunions are and always have been self-financing. The Frice team is planning Palm Springs '16, and I know that the Kissimmee team would like to get together in January as well.

It doesn't mean that the website and Mail Call will go anywhere. Bob Barrett, bless him, has vowed to keep both going as long as possible. Like his father before him, he is providing the glue. We report in to Bob, and we get our news from him.

It does mean that our biggest expense, publishing the Thunderbolt, probably needs to cease. As I'm told by the treasurer, we don't get as many donations as we used to. Although Lory Curtis has found a much cheaper printer, it is still a large expense.

It's sad to think about closing down the corporation, but it was explained to me as a type of estate planning. We need to be proactive to determine the course of action, decide what we're going to do and do it. We need to consider how best to continue to preserve the memory of the 517 and its contributions, and especially to honor those troopers who never came home.

As the volunteer attorney, Cody Thornton, completes his work and draws nearer to finalizing his recommendations to the Association, please be on the lookout for emails or mailings from the Association. This is important stuff, and we need to tend to it.

We had eight troopers at New Orleans: **John Jonientz, Gabe Delesio, Leo Dean, Merle McMorrow, Phil McSpadden, Tony Mandio, Mel Trenary and myself**. As the weekend progressed, it was great to see those friendships reignite and people connecting again.

For years, we've never known if this was the last reunion. We've said that it could be the last reunion going back to DC in 2007. But every year does bring the last one a bit closer, so even if it wasn't the last one, Lory arranged for a champagne toast to the troopers at the end of the banquet. The evening was filled with heartfelt, spontaneous toasts and was a very special time.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or any other board member with any questions.

Thank you -

**Kaare Allan Johnson, 596**



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



Happy Independence Day to all our US friends !

**Patricia and Roland Orengo**

### *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.
- 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 Miriam Boyle Kelly  
19 Oriole Court  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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>
2015 Roster (updated!)	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf">www.517prct.org/roster.pdf</a>
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/archives">www.517prct.org/archives</a>