



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2175

September 1, 2013

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

Website  
Send Mail Call news to  
Mail Call Archives  
2013 Roster (updated!)  
Thunderbolt (Spring 2013)

[www.517prct.org](http://www.517prct.org)  
[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)  
[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)  
[www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)  
[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)

## *Hoyt Kelley at the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Dragoon*

### **Le ve'te'ran Hoyt KELLEY en pe'lerinage sur les lieux de ses combats**

Lors d'une correspondance avec Monsieur le Prsident du 517 Parachute Rgimental Combat Team au sujet du 69<sup>me</sup> Anniversaire. Nous avons voulu partager avec les vtrants amricains le souvenir de ces moments glorieux. Et avons donc propos de faire venir l'un d'entre eux dans le Sud de la France pour le mois d'Aot 2013

### **The veteran Hoyt KELLEY on a pilgrimage to the scene of his fights**

In a correspondence with Mr. President 517 Parachute Regimental Combat Team about 69<sup>me</sup> Birthday. We wanted to share with the American oldtimers the memory of those moments glorious. And have proposed to bring one of them in the South of France for the month of August 2013.



Col du Braus



au TOUT de L'ESCARENE





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

Alain FINE  
Vice-Président du M.V.C.G.S.E.C.A  
2 avenue Charles Baudelaire  
06340 LA TRINITÉ  
Tel : 06 15 26 73 56

hello,

you will find some photo Hoyt Kelley places of his fights.

[http://mvcgseca.free.fr/mvcgseca/Nos\\_albums\\_photo/Nos\\_albums\\_photo.html](http://mvcgseca.free.fr/mvcgseca/Nos_albums_photo/Nos_albums_photo.html)

Regards,

Alain and christophe FINE



Peira-Cava



L'ESCARENE Mausolée de la 1er DFL



Hoyt Kelley and son in Cannes



Sospel



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

Facebook posting from **Jean Michel Soldi**:

Nice.france. 28th of august 2013.

Congratulation **Hoyt Kelley** for your legion of honor my friend Happy that my president remember the sacrifice of our heros and proud of my loved Son **Adrien Jolagourde** official 517th flag in Southern France..! you are a real heritage of the Airborne Spirit..i love you



The **Legion of Honour**, or in full the **National Order of the Legion of Honour** (French: *Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur*) is a French order established by Napoleon Bonaparte on 19 May 1802. The Order is the highest decoration in France and is divided into five degrees: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), Grand Officier (Grand Officer) and Grand Croix (Grand Cross).





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

### Veterans Return to Col de Braus

Unbelievably, this was a front page story in the Nice-Matin. Good friends in Provence, led by **Frederic Brega** and **Roland Orengo**, recognized that there was no permanent outside marker observing the historic fighting and loss of life there at Col de Braus. This was a small and informal ceremony between friends, so we were surprised to see that it got any coverage at all, much less the front page.

Howard Hensleigh, past president of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team, worked with Frederic to develop the text, which Frederic had translated. The plaque was unveiled by Leo Dean and **Allan Johnson**, and we were joined there by **Liz and Bruce Broudy** and **Eileen Shaw** (nee Broudy), representing their father. **Nicolas Blancarda (Arnulf)** and **Julien Des Prats** helped as well. Elizabeth, the restaurant owner, ended the occasion with wonderful food and drink.

I have photos that I will post soon (we just got home and my photos are on the camera card).

We are grateful to friends who work to honor the sacrifices made by these soldiers so long ago. Thank you to all who made this day so special. If you live nearby or are able to visit, please stop by (and try to make it at time that the restaurant is open!).

**Claire Giblin**

## 69 years later, veterans returning to Col de Braus

Published Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 07h07

[Automatic translation provided by Google] from:

<http://www.nicematin.com/nice/69-ans-apres-les-veterans-de-retour-au-col-de-braus.1391822.html>



Surrounded by loved ones, Alan Johnson (driving) and Leo Dean regained yesterday Col de Braus and the famous Jeep liberators. **Eric Dulière**

With the 517th paratrooper regiment U.S., Alan Leo and resumed in the septembre44 colconstituant a lock between l'Escarène and Sospel. They revisited the scene of the last battle

Certainly, they are stainless! In great shape, casual as being only know the Americans. Alan Johnson and Dean Leo, two veterans of the 517th Parachute Regiment, returned yesterday with family in the theater of fighting the Col de Braus, between l'Escarène and Sospel. These young people from almost 90



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

years retain an intact memory of those days of September 44. They were not much fun. Seventeen of their comrades lost their lives on the slopes of these mountains, 1000 meters and more where they came dislodge the Germans entrenched in fortress.

### **"A wonderful welcome"**

*"I had to be parachuted in Le Muy, but I landed by mistake at about 3: 30 am near Callian, without knowing at all where I was. It took me a day and a half's walk down to the meeting point of my regiment, "said Alan, president of the Alumni Association of the 517th. "We were 5,000 paratroopers, but the release has scattered us in the plain Var. So that 15,000 Germans on the ground have thought we were a lot more because it was everywhere and nowhere at once, " says Leo, who is making his home on the East Coast of the United States, its 159th ... skydiving jump!*

Both veterans remember the home "exceptional" that people reserve their villages. *"People do not know how we will be enjoyable. After the release of the Col de Braus, they exchanged our helmets against their berets. That's how my whole regiment or almost ended up with this symbol of France on the head"* jokes Alan. But before the corks - *"it was called the Champagne Campaign"* remembers the son of Captain Broudy, who commanded Company A of the 517th - they had to deal with serious matters.

### **An eagle's nest almost impregnable**

And they were: *"The Americans were faced with very seasoned German troops, not at all decided to go"* comments Frédéric Brega, Nice history buff, who has forged a friendship with the veterans that guide when he returned to Provence. *"Occupiers had taken refuge on the peaks in the positions of the Maginot Line. They were well armed, determined to fight. It was very difficult to bring down" position.*

Failing to surrender them by attacking them in a "classic", the Allies used to great lengths to get them out of the eagle's nest: a warship anchored in the bay of Menton has watered shells Navy. *"A deluge of fire. At the first shot, the Germans were not killed were already deaf sounded. The 517th finished the job. At least two days were necessary".*

Yesterday, Alan and Leo have found these places almost unchanged operations. The Arnulf brothers, Julien and Nicolas, and Roland Orengo had released their Jeep collection, Elisabeth of the bar and restaurant of the Col de Braus pissaladière, its fried zucchini flowers, stuffed and its coast Provence rosé. On the front of the property, both veterans unveiled a simple plaque. She recalled these historical moments and concludes with these words: *"In order not to forget the suffering and sacrifices of those who fought here for the younger generations in Europe, aware of the price of freedom, can build their future harmony of peace".*



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



## THE BATTLE OF COL DE BRAUS

September - October 1944

★ ★ ★

*This monument honors men of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team and French citizens who joined in World War II to liberate Provence. The Battle of Col de Braus is significant. The 517th's seizing the mountains and ridges that surround this spot resulted in liberating Sospel and retreat of Nazi forces back into Italy.*

*The battles of liberation from la Motte and les Arcs to Sospel, fought by the 517th during 95 days of continuous combat were not without cost. It sustained 500 casualties and 101 of its men were killed in action.*

*Having previously fought in the Rome-Arno Campaign in Italy, the 517th left Southern France to fight in the Battle of the Bulge and on into Germany, resulting in VICTORY IN EUROPE.*

*We erect this monument looking forward to the day when swords will be beaten into plow shares and witness the activities enjoyed by the nations of Europe that may be projected into a harmonious future.*

## LA BATAILLE DU COL DE BRAUS

Septembre - Octobre 1944

★ ★ ★

*Cette plaque honore des soldats du 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team et les citoyens français qui ont uni leurs forces pour libérer le sol de Provence lors de la 2e Guerre Mondiale. La Bataille du Col de Braus a été déterminante. La prise des crêtes environnantes par les parachutistes du 517th PRCT a poussé l'ennemi à reculer vers l'Italie, libérant ainsi Sospel.*

*Les combats qui ont mené les hommes du 517th PRCT depuis La Motte et Les Arcs vers Sospel, ont duré 95 Jours, sans discontinuer. Avec plus de 500 blessés et 101 parachutistes tués, le 517th PRCT a payé un très lourd tribut pour la libération de la Provence. Ayant auparavant combattu en Italie (Campagne Rome-Arno), le 517th PRCT quitta le Sud de la France pour poursuivre le combat dans les Ardennes puis sur le sol Allemand, contribuant ainsi à la victoire finale des alliés en Europe.*

*Nous érigeons ce monument afin de ne pas oublier les souffrances et sacrifices de ceux qui se sont battus ici, et pour que les jeunes générations d'Europe conscientes du prix de la liberté puisse bâtir leur avenir dans l'harmonie et la paix.*



Cette plaque a été inaugurée le 12 Août 2013, en présence des membres et amis du 517th PRCT Association, de son Président Mr. Kaare Allan Johnson (596th Eng.), et de Mr. Leo P. Dean (517th PIR - Reg. HQ).





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

### *And More from the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Dragoon*

The evening of the static line jump in Provence. Teams of French and US parachutistes, including current US paratroopers, joined together for a very impressive twilight static line jump. Especially moving these evenings were the ceremonies in which the US veterans were presented with the French Croix de Guerre. Thank you to all who made this possible, especially **Stephane Hadjadje**.

**Claire Giblin**



<---- That's **Stephane Hadjadje** on the right in this photo.



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



Sailors from the USS Mount Whitney, based in Gaeta, Italy, visited Rhone American Cemetery on August 15. As part of the visit, these sailors placed American and French flags at the base of each headstone in preparation for the August 16 liberation ceremonies that were held at the cemetery.

Just after sunrise on August 16, the staff at Rhone American Cemetery prepare for the day's ceremonies to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the liberation of Draguignan.







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

### Other MailCall News

Two photos currently for sale on eBay:

A column of American paratroopers from the 17th Airborne Division's 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment. These men were attached to elements of the 7th Armored Division during the drive on St. Vith, Belgium during the final stages of the Battle of the Bulge. January 20, 1945. The photo was taken just outside Iveldingen, Belgium.



**PVT Joseph Locke** of Van Nuys, California as he kneels next to a sled full of gear near Henumont, Belgium during the final stages of the Battle of the Bulge. Locke belonged to Company B, 1st Battalion 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division. At the time, the 1-517th had been attached to the remains of the 106th Infantry Division. The photo was taken on January 16, 1945.



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

### PFC James J. Pacey, F Company - KIA

I recently found this note on the U.S. Militaria Forum:

From: <http://www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?/topic/106295-jj-pacey-517th-parachute-infantry-regimental-combat-team-kia>

Posted 06 April 2011 - 11:40 AM

I've bought medal this week and I still don't have it at home so I can show you only photo from seller. I found out (by name) that it was member 517th Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team, company F, and he died 12-Sep-44 so it should be during operation Dragoon.

I tried to find something about him on net but I've found only this records in Nara and Abmc. I don't have many experiences and I don't know where to find it so I'd like to ask you (somebody) who is interested in 517PIR if he could gave me any information about Pacey.

In records was that he was only 19 years old. I've also searched on 517PIR pages but I've found only that he is KIA 12th September 1944, nothing else. So I'd like to ask you if you know where to find anything about J. J. Pacey just let me know, please.

Pacey was one from 17 KIA of company F who died during WW2 and one of 252 KIA - 517 PIR. So I hope that somewhere shout be any kind of record or information about him.

Thank you

Lubos



#### PFC James J. Pacey

Private, U.S. Army  
Service # 35218224

517th Parachute  
Infantry Regimental  
Combat Team

Entered the Service  
from: Ohio  
Died: 12-Sep-44  
Buried at: Plot D Row 1  
Grave 16  
Rhone American  
Cemetery  
Draguignan, France  
Awards: Purple Heart







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

Reference MailCall # 903 and Howard Hensleigh's response to Fred Bayer about the coastal guns.

Yes, in that portion of Southern France, above Sospel, we did receive naval support. We received little on the way from the valleys and hills from LeMuy to Levens and Luceram. In the area before (and above Sospel) we were close enough to the coast to receive that support. That was the area around Col de Braus, which was about 10-20m from the coast (an effective range for the naval guns). On a number of occasions, on the ridge above Col de Braus, and later on hill 1098, we heard the shells passing overhead, and on several occasions I actually saw the shells as they passed over. They sounded like bath tubs passing over with both faucets on and the drain pulled. The shells were not directed at the enemy immediately to our front, but to the several forts on the hills before us, and above Sospel. It was most fortunate that at least on that occasion there were no short rounds as they passed nearly overhead.

However, on the receiving end the heavy artillery and mortars of the forts took a toll on our company on 1098. I had heard that we received no casualties on 1098-wrong. **Pvt's J.J. Pacey, Sherman, Shanefelt** and **Thomas** were all KIA's on and the vicinity of 1098.

We have visited the forts several times in recent years. On the sides of the forts we saw the efforts of the naval fire and the P-51's to damage the forts. I saw no damage and bombs and naval fire likely only woke our enemy up from a nap. Craters exist today on the side of the forts and it appeared that there was no penetration. Those forts were well built. It was the wrong generation of weapons that were deployed.

That must have been pretty good duty for those krauts. It was most interesting to go the many stories down into the system to see how well they were constructed.

**Gene Frice**

### *Col de Braus Reenactment October 2013*

#### **517th PRCT Battlefield place Reenactment 2013**

**October 19**

**Col de Braus**

Purpose: On-site reenactment in tribute to the 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

VENEZ NOMBREUX !!!!!!! d'ici septembre le programme sera publié !

weekend des 19 et 20 octobre 2013

reconstitution Terrain - Col de Braus - Alpes maritimes

COME! the programme will be published by September!

weekend of 19 and 20 October 2013

reconstruction field - Col de Braus - Alpes-maritimes

(See schedule on next page)



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



## BATTLE OF COL DE BRAUS

Chez M. Nicolas Arnulf  
2418 chemin de Montagnac  
06440 L'Escarène



A l'Escarène,  
Le jeudi 30 août 2013

Objet : Reconstitution sur le terrain en mémoire du 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

### PROGRAMME

#### **Samedi 19 octobre 2013 (tenue 517th Dragoon, fin août début septembre) :**

- 09H00 – RDV donné aux participants sur le parking du Col de Braus
- 10H00 – Installation du campement sur le Pas de l'Agree
- 11H00 – 1ere séance photos « reconstitution »
- 12H00 – Repas tous ensemble (lieu à définir)
- 13H00 – Départ du convoi en direction de Touët de l'Escarène
- 13H30 – Les éléments participants à la marche historique sont déposés à la Gare de Touët

Le groupe à pied réalise la marche commémorative sur le thème du 3<sup>ème</sup> bataillon jusqu'à la Baisse du Pape, remontant par la forêt du farghet (commune de l'Escarène).

Le groupe de véhicule réalisera lui un circuit commémoratif sur l'ensemble de la zone (à définir avec Gilles Gauberti).

- 16H00 – RDV des deux groupes sur la Baisse du Pape
- 2<sup>nde</sup> séance photo sur le thème de l'assaut de la tête de la Lavina
- 17H00 – Retour au campement
- Repas & nuit passée sur les positions historiques

#### **Dimanche 20 octobre 2013 (tenue 517th automnale) :**

- 08H00 – Petit déj' suivi du démontage du camp
- 09H30 – Cérémonie officielle sur la Tête de la Lavina (ou Ventabrun à définir)
- 10H00 – Départ du convoi en direction de Sospel (piste stratégique du pas de l'agree)
- 11H00 – Arrivée au Fort de Mont Agaisen à Sospel, visite du Fort
- 12H00 – Repas tous ensemble devant le Fort
- 14H00 – Retour au Col de Braus, fin du week-end





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

## *Just for Laughs*



# AIRBORNE AGENDA

Jump School Week 1: Separate the men from the boys.  
Jump School Week 2: Separate the men from the fools.  
Jump School Week 3: The fools jump.



# ATTITUDE

Being Airborne means never having to miss an opportunity to remind people that you're better than they are.



# 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 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

## Operation Dragoon Anniversary – August, 1944

This ends the month of August and the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Dragoon. It is a good time of year to remember to pay your annual membership donation (only if you can afford it). Suggested donation: \$30

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to receive the Thunderbolt magazine sent to my address above

No, I do not need the Thunderbolt mailed to me, I can just read it online

Make checks payable to: **517 PRCT Association, Inc.**

c/o Joanne Barrett  
 70 Pleasant Street  
 Cohasset, MA 02025