



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2230

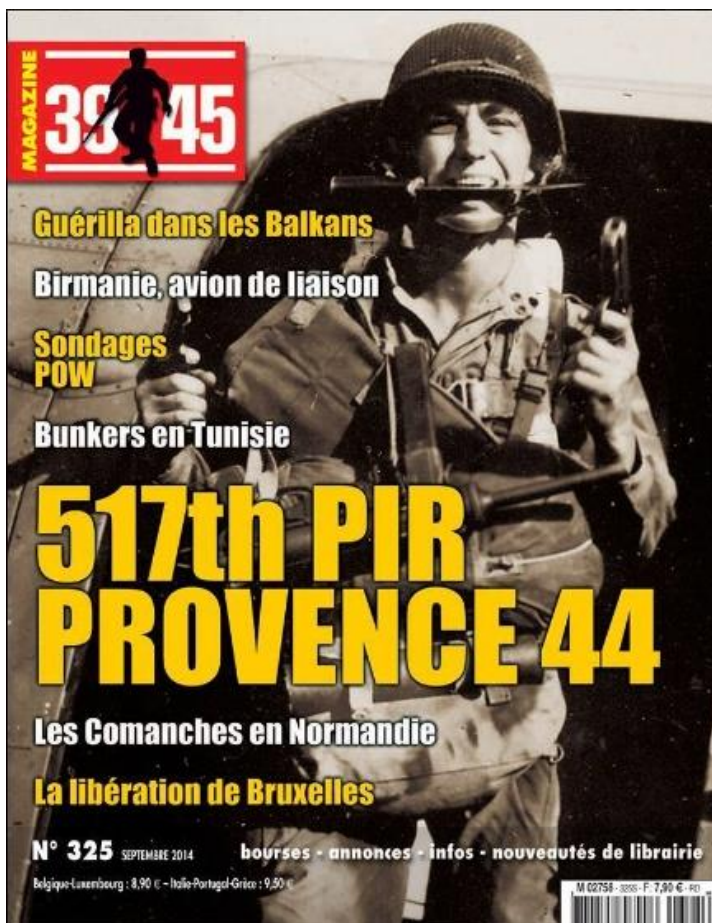
August 31, 2014

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

Website
Send MailCall news to
MailCall Archives
2013 Roster (updated!)
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

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

MailCall News



New issue of 39-45 Magazine, speaking of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team the Dday, 15 August 1944.

Loïc Jankowiak

Note: The article itself was written by Loïc. We're still hoping to get a copy.

The cover picture is of **Cpl. Virgil F. Dunlevy**, 1st platoon, A Company, at the airfield in Italy, preparing for Operation Dragoon.

- BB



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Bob-

Yes that is my grandfather! [on the cover of 39-45 Magazine] I cannot believe you saw this and got the information to me. I now have to find out how to get copies of this publication.

Thank you so very much.

Chris Walters
grandson of **Cpl. Virgil Dunlevy**

Chris,

Also, there is a similar picture of your grandfather, plus several more, in a large book issued in 1998, *First Airborne Task Force*, by Michel De Trez. Unfortunately it is now a very expensive reference book. In the book, the author identifies the weapons carried by your grandfather:

Armed to the teeth, Cpl. Virgil F. Dunlovy, 1st platoon, "A" Company, displays: M-1918 knuckle knife strapped to his right leg, M3 trench knife strapped to the left leg, M3 "grease gun" over chest, .45 cal. pistols in both hands, Bowie knife clenched between his teeth.



Armé jusqu'aux dents, le Cpl. Virgil F. Dunlovy, 1^{er} Platoon, "A" Company dispose de : un couteau de tranchée M-1918 saigné à la jambe droite, un couteau M3 saigné à la jambe gauche, une mitraillette M3 "grease gun" sur la poitrine, un Colt .45 dans chaque main et un couteau Bowie entre les dents.

Armed to the teeth, Cpl. Virgil F. Dunlovy, 1st platoon, "A" Company, displays : M-1918 knuckle knife strapped to his right leg, M3 trench knife strapped to the left leg, M3 "grease gun" over chest, .45 cal. pistols in both hands, Bowie knife clenched between his teeth.

Bob B.

Dear Bob,

I have some question to ask for the mail call.

Who was the Commander of the A Battery 460th PFAB for Dragoon Jump ?
Who was the replacement of **Maj. Thomas Cross** as XO for the 2/517 after his jump in Southern France ?

Thank you in advance.
Loïc.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Dear Howard,

I arrived home yesterday and enjoyed a long rest. I have many pictures to review and sort, so this is just a quick report. I will provide you with more details soon.

Due to scheduling challenges, I was only able to plan one full day exploring Belgium and we encountered a few routing challenges with some road closures due to a major Formula 1 Grand Prix Race near Stavelot. I did not anticipate this event and the effects on traffic.

First, let me say that your recollections were spot on. As we approached and crossed the bridge across the Ambleve River, your recall about the 400 yards and the ridge line was exactly correct. The ridge line you remember is now being developed into residential housing with some narrow, switch back roads leading to them.

Once across the bridge and up on the ridge on the South side of the river, I could see and imagine the opposite ridge above the town of Stavelot, where you may have been camped (as you described) prior to the attack. The town looked much as it must have been back in 1944-45. The cobblestone streets and sidewalks must be the same as they were then also.

It meant a great deal to me to walk the very same streets, alleys and sidewalks that my father and his brothers in arms walked on, seventy years ago. I had to try and imagine how this quaint, picturesque little village would have looked during one of the most brutal winters on record in Europe. I cannot imagine the conditions and level of challenges you endured, not only with the weather, but then having to fight a highly capable, determined yet desperate enemy.

Knowing that this is the area where my father took his last steps with two legs and on two feet, as a healthy 22 year old officer, looking for an Army career, was very moving. This was where his life changed, as so many did during the war. It also brought extraordinary perspective to the massacre in Stavelot of dozens and dozens of its citizens, by the Waffen SS.

I will share more with you as soon as I organize, review and edit my photos.

Thank you, Howard, for providing me with the missing details that really put what I saw, into perspective. Your comments were invaluable to me

Best Regards,

Tom Reber

Bob: what fabulous pictures of our 70th Anniversary delegation -- Allan, Merle and Leo are amazing and on top of it all, they look particularly handsome. If you have it, guess you should flaunt it! Our thanks to all who went and for the pictures as they helped those of us who couldn't attend in person to be there in spirit.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Bob: thank you for the additional pictures, especially the link to **Julien Harou's** photo album. What a team we have in the folks in France and Belgium who are so dedicated to preserving the history of the liberation plus our behind the scenes "can do" force of Helen, Joanne and Claire to say nothing of Lory, Mike and you. Thank you.

Pat and Alan

Dear Mail Call,

I was saddened to learn of **Gene Frice's** passing. My sincere condolences to his family.

I met Gene in FL during a mini reunion and found him to be a truly honorable and impressive man among men. His bearing and presence inspired respect and admiration.

His life's accomplishments were amazing and he raised an incredible family. We will all carry fantastic memories of a man who built his life from his values.

Best Regards,

Tom Reber

son of **Lt. Robt. J. Reber**, HQ 3rd

Aug 12, 2014

Hi Bob,

On August 15th it will be 70 years since the 517th PRCT took part in the invasion of Southern France. Actually, my commemoration won't be for a couple of more months when I reported to **Capt. Jim Birder** as a rifle replacement in Sospel. (I Co.) Enclosed is my check for my 2015 Association dues. I hope you can forward this to **Miriam Boyle Kelly**, the new treasurer. I don't have her address but I have yours. I didn't send in my ballot on the question of merging the Association and Auxiliary (no excuse), but I have in previous correspondence to you indicating how I felt about the uniting of work of the Auxiliary in keeping alive the memory of the 517th PRCT. Without people like you, Joanne, Claire, Helen, Brenda, Lory, Mike, the Frice's on and on, we would be history years ago.

I would like to know who the 11% who voted against the merger were. If this included any "old timers", they should be "drummed out" or I personally un-friend. (I retract that suggestion as I have few friends left.)

Best wishes to everyone in the 517th family, I treasure the memory of all of the troopers like your dad, Ben. God bless everyone.

John J. Stojan, I Co. – 3rd BN



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Hi Bob,

France has been great. Wish you could have made it this year. We were all talking about a 517 Facebook page and it looks like there is one but not sure if anyone is maintaining it. I would be more than happy to help if you know who currently is running it.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/517th-Parachute-Regimental-Combat-Team/104159482952460?rf=105834852789560>

Please let me know if I can help.

Best Regards,

Wade Gilbert

Wade,

I wish I could have made it to France (and Belgium) this year, but I just couldn't afford the time or money right now. Still hoping to do it one more time.

Yes, there should be a 517th Facebook page. I thought about this many times. When Ben died, I took over the MailCall on a temporary basis, thinking that as the audience got older and all the 517th troopers are gone – which sadly, will probably happen in the next 5 years – that the MailCall would no longer receive regular news. (So far, I've been wrong about that.) And at that point, I would discontinue the MailCall and create a Facebook or similar page. That is still the logical plan.

That existing 517th page looks like it is a "Community page", automatically generated by Facebook, with no official owner. I tried to create a new page that we can control, but the Facebook name "517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team" is already taken (by Facebook?), so it won't let me. I could create a Facebook page for "517PRCT", but it's a shame that Facebook already took our full name and won't let me or anyone else become the owner. I will continue to research that.

Bob B.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

You've probably all seen this pictures of **Lt. Milton "Chopper" Kienlen**, A Company jumpmaster, giving final instructions to his stick on the trip into southern France.

Here is an Operation Dragoon story about **Chopper Keinlen**, according to **Major Don Fraser**, and repeated in the Michel De Trez book.:

By daylight we had seventeen from Company A and one little British trooper. How he ever came to us I never figured out. In that first light there were white parachutes scattered over the hills as far as you could see. We picked up a Frenchman from the FFI on the road and headed for Chateau Ste Roseline, designated as the regimental CP.

On the way we engaged in several skirmishes. At the very first, the British trooper hit the ground with his finger on the trigger and by accident blew a string of bullets past Chopper Kienlen. Chopper picked him up with one hand and told him to lock the weapon on safety until he told him otherwise. That Britisher followed Chopper around all day saying he had never met anyone like him. He wanted to transfer to Kienlen's platoon and we were sorry when he went back to his own unit.





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Major Don Fraser and Chopper Kienlen

Maritime Alps, Fall 1944

Aug 12, 2014

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John J. Stojan, I Co. – 3rd BN



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Subject: PFC Richard R. Daley (39860891)

I just returned an exceptional piece, the helmet of Pfc Richard Daley served in Battery 460th PFAB (Parachute Field Artillery Battalion) and was killed in Southern France during Operation Dragoon. He is buried in Rhone American Cemetery and was from Arizona. I am looking for information about this paratrooper and his picture, can you help me? Thank you in advance



Awaiting a response from you
sincerely

Michel QUILEZ

Hello Michel,

That is a nice helmet, with the name engraved. I will include your photos in our MailCall newsletter.



I have looked through the books and materials that I have for the website, but have not found any pictures of PFC Daley. We do know that he was with Battery B of the 460th and is listed in the December Memorial

booklet: http://517prct.org/documents/dec44memorial/dec_1944_memorial_booklet.htm And I can see that you already know his Service Number and that he was from Arizona and received a Bronze Star.

http://www.abmc.gov/search-abmc-burials-and-memorializations/detail/WWII_76643#.VAOe_D90ziU

Here is his enlistment info: [http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=24&cat=WR26&tf=F&q=daley+richard&bc=,sl,sd&rpp=10&pg=2&rid=8165665&rlst=4413638,5062831,7481158,7650508,7966009,8092130,8165665,8211402,8307266,8439984)

[detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=24&cat=WR26&tf=F&q=daley+richard&bc=,sl,sd&rpp=10&pg=2&rid=8165665&rlst=4413638,5062831,7481158,7650508,7966009,8092130,8165665,8211402,8307266,8439984](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=24&cat=WR26&tf=F&q=daley+richard&bc=,sl,sd&rpp=10&pg=2&rid=8165665&rlst=4413638,5062831,7481158,7650508,7966009,8092130,8165665,8211402,8307266,8439984)

The only other mention of PFC Daley is in the 13th Airborne history:

THE 460th Parachute field Artillery Battalion was activated April 15, 1943, under the command of Lt. Col. James B. Anderson. During the months of April, May, June, July, and August, the battalion assumed shape at Camp Toccoa, Georgia. Rigorous exercises and never-to-be-forgotten runs up Mt. Currahee in the heat at Toccoa, weeded out those physically unfit and left a unit of young, eager men, rarin' to go. Early in August 1943 the 460th became a part of the 17th Airborne Division at Camp Mackall, North Carolina. Here the battalion had its first artillery training, along with the never-ending physical program. Transferring to Fort Benning, Georgia, the 460th won its boots and wings September 18. Richard Daley of Baker Battery won the distinctive award of a pair of golden wings, his third jump being the 200,000th to be made at Fort Benning.

Unfortunately, I have not found any pictures of Daley, or any specific mentions of how he was killed. I will include your request in the next newsletter, and see if anyone else remembers him.

Bob Barrett



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

A Few More Photos from the 517th Family Visits to Belgium and France

Roland Orenge from Sospel France, and Eddy Monfort accompanied the 517th visitors to Belgium:



Leo Dean was interviewed by French radio, arranged by **Stephane Hdj.**



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

And **Allan Johnson** was interviewed for the French TV news:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CB9QJDI6iws>



Roland's very own WWII museum



"my new boy friend!!" - Patricia



Saint-Cézaire, our last day and evening of official commemorations. Truly a lovely and heartfelt evening with such good friends.



Waiting to board for the trip home.



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



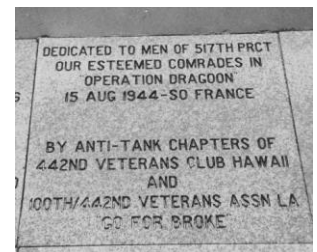
the weekend of October 25-26, 2014 for the anniversary of the liberation of Sospel is announced... well nice way! (see the flyer in the hands) - **Patricia Orengo**

I agree with Patou - see the flyer in his hand - what a great way to announce the events on 25-26 October in Sospel. - **Claire Giblin**

PS: And I see that he's holding one of the 517th souvenir cards in the same hand. – Bob B

We met Lynn Stuart Hirai, in July in Sospel. Great moment with 442 children.

Patricia and Roland Orengo



From **Eddy Lamberty**:

Two WWII veterans and an artillery gun. Seventy years after Operation Dragoon. — at Valbourgès Estate.

[Merle Mcmorrow is one of the vets.]

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10204796779949137&set=vb.1527301017&type=2&theater>





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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
- 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

Operation Dragoon Anniversary – August 15, 1944

This August was the 70th 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: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to:

517 PRCT Association, Inc.
c/o Miriam Boyle Kelly
19 Oriole Court
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866