



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2231

September 7, 2014

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

Website

www.517prct.org

Send MailCall news to

MailCall@517prct.org

MailCall Archives

www.517prct.org/archives

2013 Roster (updated!)

www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

www.517prct.org/archives

Darrell C. Egner, 2nd Battalion HQ



Our Father Darrell Carl Egner, 90 peacefully passed away September 1, 2014, in Jacksonville, Florida.

Darrell was born in Wausau, Wisconsin on October 2nd, 1923 to Carl Egner of Wisconsin and Minnie Kolateck of Minnesota and grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota.

At the advent of World War II Dad joined the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment in May of 1943. In his life our Dad had innumerable, significant, accomplishments and may have been most fiercely proud of his participation and fellowship with the other 517th Paratroopers. During the war, they accumulated over 150 combat days during five battlefield campaigns in Italy, France, Belgium and Germany. In that time, the 517th went 94 days without relief on the front lines, a record that still stands today. Darrell was awarded many medals, awards, and citations that include the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, among many others. Our Father also stayed very active in the 517th PRCT Organization with the surviving Troopers, and was the 517th PRCT Organization's President for 2 years and was also made the 517th Man of the Year in 2010. In 2011 President Sarkozy of France decreed Darrell a Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honor which is France's highest honor for his participation in the liberation of France during World War II.

One of Darrell's fondest memories was after he was discharged from the Army on December 20th, 1945, he arrived home to his Mother just in time for Christmas. Later, he received his B.S. in Engineering from the University of Minnesota which then led to a series of jobs. Our Father was an accomplished businessman and an avid pilot. His love of travel took him all over the United States for work from California to New York. He eventually settled in Florida in the 1950s, by which he ended up in his adopted city of Jacksonville by 1960. Darrell, in his retirement, was very active in various charitable organizations such as professional women's tennis as an Umpire for several years.

Darrell was greatly loved and admired by his friends and extended family. As our Father, he was a great



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teacher, example of virtue, and always very passionate about his children and their children. He will be eternally missed by all of us. He is on his way to Heaven to join his beloved Mother, Sister, and Father.

A memorial will be held Monday, September 8, 2014 at 10:00am at All Saints Episcopal Church, 4171 Hendricks Ave. Jacksonville, Florida 32207. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations may be made in Darrell's name to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, 4266 Sunbeam Rd. Jacksonville, Florida 32257.

Published in the Florida Times-Union on Sept. 4, 2014 -

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesunion/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=172354552#sthash.eWVAtR23.dpuf>



Darrel Egner with the 2nd Battalion, Communications, Mortar and Machine Gunnery, taken in Joigny, France, June 27, 1945,



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MailCall News

Subject: About **Virgil Donlevy**

I was in the 1st platoon Co. A from the beginning, but don't remember Virgil. He must have been a replacement. He must have added a lot of stuff to take the picture as we didn't carry all of that stuff into battle. We only carried what was necessary to do our job.

Mel Trenary

We know that these pictures were taken in Italy in preparation for Operation Dragoon. If Donley was a replacement, he joined in Italy. He was still with A Company on the Christmas 1944 roster.

And yes, he did seem to have a lot of "extra" weapons in the photo. I found the "M-1918 knuckle knife strapped to his right leg" to be an interesting addition. – BB



Found on the Facebook page of the Currahee Military Museum, shared by Andy Van Der Plaats and the Friends of the 506 th P.I.R 101 Airborne:

In Belgium, we have the opportunity to request a personalized license plate with maximum 8 characters for our car, here is a picture of the license plate of Sven de Vlieghe's car! What a good idea Sven!



En Belgique, nous avons la possibilité de demander une plaque d'immatriculation personnalisée de 8 caractères maximale pour notre voiture, ici une photo de la plaque de voiture de Sven de Vlieghe !
Quelle bonne idée Sven !

Photo Sven de Vlieghe



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Hello,

I am seeking information about the 70th anniversary for the 517th in October in Sospel France. Is there anything being planned? I see there was a reunion in August so perhaps that was the formal event for this year? Let me know if anything is planned and if so the time of the events the weekend of Oct 25,26. Any help or recommendations for accommodations would be helpful too if available.

Thank you. **Nancy Hensleigh** (daughter of **Howard Hensleigh**)

Hello Nancy,

Let me put you in touch with **Patricia and Roland Orengo**, our unofficial ambassadors in Sospel. Are you planning to be in that area in October? It would be wonderful to have someone there to represent the 517th for the celebration, especially a member of Howard's family. Howard is a great friend and our own first-hand historian especially about the events in southern France. I did hear that Roger Sullivan whose father was in A Company might also be trying to attend.

Hello Patou! Can you help Nancy? Is there an official schedule of events? Is there anyone she should contact?

Bob Barrett

Hello friends,

we are very happy to welcome a 517th representant in Sospel. **Alan Jonhson** has the idea to come but for the moment we don't know if he will.

Here's the schedule

saturday

all the day : military stock exchange and military camp

15:00 : Testimonies and discuss

15:00 - 17:00 : Maginots forts visits

21:00 : Ball Glenn Miller

Dimanche

10:00 Parade of WWII vehicles

Mass

11:00 Official ceremonies and cocktail

You can tell us if you want accommodations or anything else to help you for your stay in Sospel.

Dear Howard.... bonjour !

have you the mornings report of liberation of Sospel (october 28th) ?

we'd like to know the "real" number of patrols who entered in Sospel... because we heard about differents stories.... thanks for your help.

I (Roland) will lead the debate and I will appreciate to have the real story.

Thanks a lot.

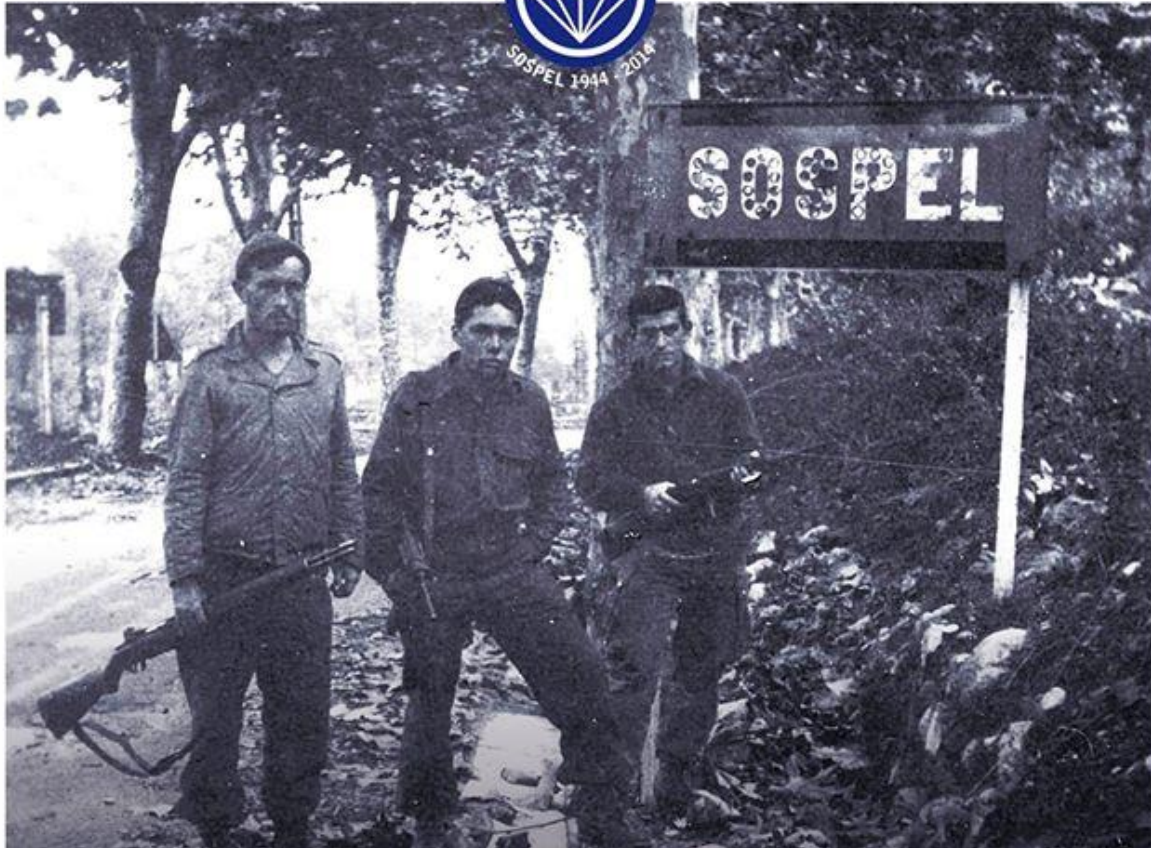
Klisses and hugs from Sospel

Patricia and Roland Orengo



LIBERATION DE SOSPEL

70^e ANNIVERSAIRE - 1944 - 2014



**SAMEDI 25
OCTOBRE 2014**

9h à 17h : *Bourse Militaria*
(Gymnase - Entrée 3 €)
Camp américain (Pré Tardivo)

15h : *Témoignages et débats*
(Salle Multimédias)

15h à 17h : *Visite des Forts Maginot*
Agaisen, St Roch, Barbonnet

21h : *Bal d'époque « Glenn Miller »*

**DIMANCHE 26
OCTOBRE 2014**

10h : *Messe à la cathédrale.*
*Bénédiction des véhicules Place
Cabraïa*

11h : *Dépôt de Gerbe Pont de
la Libération et Défilé*

11h30 : *Cérémonie au Monument
aux Morts*

12h : *Cocktail Place des Platanes*

Informations et réservations bourse :
sospel1944@hotmail.com ou 06 11 57 21 75 (le soir).





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dear friends of America. Some pictures from the so welcome visit of **Merle MC MORROW, Joanne BARRETT, Mimsey BOYLE** and **Nancy FRASER** in Trois-Ponts. We were so happy and so proud to spend this time with them (too short) they made us a great honour to come from France to stay with us. The pictures were taken in Bergeval, ST Jacques, Logbiermé, Wanne and at the City Hall of Trois-Ponts with the Mayor and "Echevins". We do hope you are OK and we think of you with gratitude and Love.

Arnold and Irma TARNION and members of CADUSA (US AIRBORNE RECEPTION COMMITTEE)



18/08/2014 12:12



18/08/2014 11:49



18/08/2014 11:23



17/08/2014 17:17



17/08/2014 16:02



18/08/2014 14:43



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LOGBIERME (TROIS-PONTS) 2014 august 18th



In my Tacoma News Tribune today, I read in the obituary column that **Harold Roberts** had passed away at the age of 92. I did not know him personally, but it said he was a member of the 517P.R.C.T. Since I was in D. CO 517 thought you could find his background. Funeral services Sept. 5 at Discovery Bapbtist church and burial at Tahoma Natiional Cemetary.

Bob Hart



Hal Roberts lived a life that few will ever live again--from his family farm in the Dakotas to limping west in the family jalopy, from trumpet in jazz bands to fighting the Battle of the Bulge in the 517th prct. His was a life they write books about, although he'd never admit it. Hal passed on August 12, 2014, at the age of 92. He leaves his loving wife Jeanne. Services September 5, memorial 10:30am Discovery Baptist Church, burial 1:30pm Tahoma National Cemetery.

Published in News Tribune (Tacoma) on Sept. 3, 2014

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tribnet/obituary.aspx?pid=172340161#sth.ash.dPXe0hdg.dpuf>



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Hi, Cynthia -

My lovely friend **Dominique Potier** told me you were looking for the 517! We are online at www.517prct.org You can sign up for our weekly Mail Call as well - I am copying Bob Barrett, our webmaster.

As Dom told you, I just returned from France last Sunday. I traveled with my dad, age 90. Some photos were already incorporated into Mail Call from my fb feed, but I still owe Bob a trip report and more pictures. You can use Mail Call to see if anyone is around who might remember your grandfather.

My dad and another vet, **Leo Dean**, really try to go every year while they are still able, so I envision going next year as well. Good friends to the 517 veterans and their families include:

Patou and **Roland Orengo** in Sospel, on the Italian border.

Eric Renoux and **Jean Michel Soldi**, in the Trans-en-Provence/Draguinan area. They are the founders of the museum association. The museum, devastated by the deadly flooding of June 2010, never reopened but the association is still very much active and I hope that the museum is able to find a new home.

Jean-Marc and **Elisabeth** Atlan in Ste. Cezaire.

As you start investigating and deciding where you want to go, we can start to develop your itinerary. Feel free to call me, though I do work during the day, on my cell at 908 963 3528.

All the best and welcome -

Claire Giblin

Claire:

It looks like you hail from NJ. Thank you so much for your kind note. I will try to call you over lunch today. My Uncle was the one who was in 517. I have already found some information about his memorial and a request for information about him on Mail Call.

I am very keen to find someone who might have known him or fought with him.

And also very interested in meeting people like yourself who share this heritage with me.

Kind regards,
Cindy

Cynthia A. Karst



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Cynthia,

What is your uncle's name?

Hi, Cynthia -

Great to talk to you today. Perhaps you've already seen the first search result for your uncle, **2nd Lt. Albert M. Robinson?**

<http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/2151.pdf>

There's a street sign in his honor in Draguinan? I do wish I'd known!
But we have friends there who could check and confirm.

Bob? Thoughts? I know you can search better than I -

Wow.

Claire

Albert M. Robinson.

I just saw a casualty report that listed him as RTD but he died. And I am not sure what the asterisk next to his info with the number 14 means.

CASUALTY SUMMARY		MONTH/YEAR	COMPANY				
		AUG/44	2 HQ				
NAME/RANK	DAY	KIA	WIA	MIA	NBC	RTD	
CARLESON, EDWARD M. A1	02					*	
CLARK, JOHN W. A1	02					*	
WEEKS, MELVIN V. CR	05					*	
SETTER, HARDIN J A1	10				*		
ROBINSON, ALBERT M. 2LT	11				*	* 14	

Be really happy if you can help me decipher.

Thanks

Kind regards,
Cindy

Thanks. Bob and Claire. Just finished watching "A Cut Above". It is compelling.

Well done and deserving of wider circulation. Thank you for helping me find this part of my family tapestry.

Looking forward to learning more and connecting with everyone.

Kind regards,
Cindy



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Hi Cindy,

Claire already pointed you to a past MailCall which shows the dedication of a street for "Boulevard Albert M. Robinson Jr" in Draguignan. Using Google Maps, I could find that street, and even see a couple of the street signs with his name on them:

<https://www.google.com/maps/@43.53526,6.472248,3a,30y,290.29h,77.2t/data=!3m4!1e1!3m2!1sL-mu6vPoXSw2tJRGux5Oog!2e0!6m1!1e1>



I am still doing some research, but I don't have all the morning reports. I can tell you that listing you have shows Lt. Robinson as a Non-Battle Casualty (NBC) on August 11, 1944, and then Returned-to-Duty (RTD) on the 14th. I don't know why that listing for August does not show that he was KIA on August 17th, but our records are incomplete.

We do know that he was KIA on August 17th, but I have not found any details. There is one mention of Albert in the book, *Battling Buzzards*, although it doesn't give the details of the battles. But it does explain the RTD story:

"Throughout the combat period, troopers, who like Sullivan could have delayed their exposure to the perils of battle, demonstrated time and again their loyalty to the outfit, going to extremes in order to rejoin their comrades. After the crash of their C-47 at Orbetello, Ed Athey and the four able-bodied troopers from his stick immediately sought out transportation to the fighting. Indeed, Lt. Albert Robinson of 2nd Battalion Headquarters Co., had gone AWOL from a hospital in Italy to participate in Dragoon and lost his life as a consequence."

Bob Barrett

thank you so much for sending this I just breezed through it
I'm at an all day meeting and will look more tonight
you cannot imagine what the details you and Clair are providing mean to all of us
thank you again

Cindy K (niece of **Albert M Robinson**)



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From MailCall 2151:

Lt. Albert M. Robinson memorial

I ran across the photo on the right in an old 596th Wings newsletter. I was unaware that there is another dedication in Draguignan to a member of the 517th, **Lt. Albert M. Robinson, Jr.**, who was killed August 17th, 1944. Does anyone remember Lt. Robinson? This street is still named after him. I believe that's **Charles Pugh** in the photo.



Albert M. Robinson, Jr.

Entered the Service From: New Jersey
Rank: Second Lieutenant
Service: U.S. Army, 517th Parachute Infantry
Regimental Combat Team
Died: Thursday, August 17, 1944
Buried at: Rhone American Cemetery
Location: Draguignan (Var), France
Plot: B Row: 4 Grave: 8



Dedication of street in Draguignan named in honor of Lt. Albert N. Robinson (KIA-1944).



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Good Morning Bob,

It's taken me well over a year to figure out HOW to scan this photo and get it off to you and **Scott Ross**. The last 517th Reunion we attended, in KC, I mentioned to Scott that I had a copy. He asked if I could get him one and I said, "Sure." Of course, I had No Idea how I would do that...and not damage the actual photo that used to hang in a frame on the wall in grandpa and grandma's home.

I purchased a cheap Hip Street, Handi-Scan a long time ago and could NEVER get the darn thing to work. After MANY calls and emails to the company, they agreed to send me a new device if I'd send them the "dead" one back. This I did.

Then, the "new" once sat and sat on a shelf, right where I had the "I" Co. photo laid-out flat and covered with a large towel.

Guilt set in, again, when I saw the photo of Scott Ross, his child, and Trooper Ross (Scott's grandfather) in a recent Mail Call. Finally, this morning, I opened the Hip Street box, took the device out, carefully read the instructions (because I SUCK at tech-stuff) and the attached photos are what I ended up with.

No, I don't know if the 517th website has a copy already. Haven't ever bothered to look. Just happy that I could figure out how to work this darn scanner.

I believe **Marvin Moles** and **Robert Vaughn** told me they are not in this photo because they had been assigned duties elsewhere that day. Makes me wonder how many other Troopers missed-out on this piece of history. My uncle, **Floyd A. Stott**, is right in the middle of the front row with the light-colored trousers. Sadly, I don't know others in the photo but I'm pretty sure Howard might remember some.

Were these photos taken in NC, right before the shipped out to Italy?

Took one scan right-to-left and the other is the same photo scanned in the opposite direction. If you have a better idea of how to scan this large photo, I'm all ears.

If you already have this photo on the site, THANKS! It's taken way-too-long to accomplish this. I apologize!

Sincerely,

Kenton "Kent" Floyd Immerfall

Nephew of Floyd A. Stott

1st Lt. 3rd Bat. "I" Co. 517th PRCT



http://517prct.org/photos/3rd_battalion_I_Co/i_co_mackall.htm



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Kent, you don't know how much of a treasure this is to my family!

My grandfather Norman is in the picture. He is in the third row, 11th from the left.

This is perfect timing. I will make a copy of this and frame it for him for his 90th birthday party later this month.

Thanks so much for sharing, Kent, and for the work with merging them together, Bob.

Scott Ross, grandson of **Norman Ross**, I Company

Regarding the Daley helmet

Richard Daley was KIA on Hill 1098 on September 12th 1944.

I do not know where this helmet is from, but depending on the source, I would be very careful. Indeed, original 517th helmets are worth a lot of money. Many fakes have been made in the past years. One was made to an E Company soldier named Lemen, KIA on August 15th 1944. The fakers like naming helmets to killed soldiers, because this makes them more desirable, and gives the fakers easy access to the full name and serial number, as this is listed at the Draguignan cemetery and on many online lists. The condition of this helmet, that seems burned, is strange, and makes it hard to authenticate. I would be very careful with this helmet if it does not come from a very solid source.

Jean-Loup Gassend

Note: **Tom Reber** sent in a report and photos from his recent trip to Staveleot, Belgium, but I was not able to get to it this week. (Computer issues.) I should be able to get it into next week's MailCal.

I also have a 70-page journal of **Phil DiStanislao's** trip to the Ardennes in 1985 with **Charlie Keen** and **Earl Price**. Irma, Arnold and Marie will remember this. Also for next week.

BB

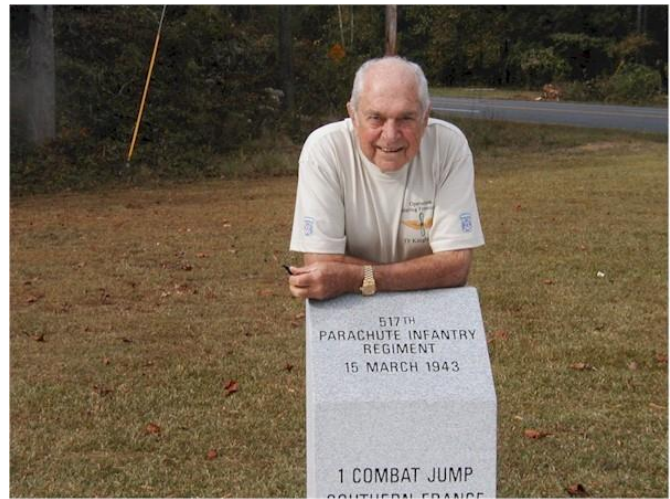


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Administrivia

- 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



Darrell Carl Enger
1923 - 2014

517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion HQ
517th PRCT Association President 2008-2009