



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2293

October 11, 2015

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

MailCall News

Happy Birthday , Claire !

Sirs,

I live in Provence in the village of LES ARCS, Department of VAR

For the Municipality of Les Arcs we are writing the story of the village during World War II, and the events of Opération Dragoon.

During the liberation of our village four américain soldiers where killed in our village.

In the Rhone American cemetery and memorial situated at DRAGUIGNAN, I have found four soldiers killed the 17-August 1944, but I want to be shure that these soldiers where killed in LES ARCS.

May be can you help me to obtain these informations near the military administration of the US.

Their names are

CLARK JOHN W - PVT – N° 19074696 517 PRCHT INF RCT - WA

HENDERSON LOWELL JR - PFC - N° 35551738 517 PRCHT INF RCT - OH

ROBINSON ALBERT M JR - 2LT – N° O1325520 517 PRCHT INF RCT - NJ

SALMON CARL G - PVT – N° 39912080 517 PRCHT INF RCT - NV

If they where killed in les Arcs it could be very interesting for our book to have their pictures

I hope you can hel us in these researchs

Sincerelly your's

Franck DUGAS
330 Route du cimetière
83460 LES ARCS
FRANCE



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Hello Franck,

I can tell you a little. I may need to research more. There are 42 members of the 517th buried in Draguignan, plus many others who died in the area who are buried elsewhere. May I ask what you know about these 4 and why you think they were killed in Les Arcs? It might help with my research.

We do know that **Clark, Henderson and Salmon** were with C Company, part of the 1st Battalion, while Robertson was with HQ Co, 2nd Battalion. In one record **Clark** is also listed as with HQ/2. Unfortunately, I do not have the complete morning reports for HQ/2 on those dates. Attached is the Morning report for C Company on Aug 17 which lists **Henderson** as KIA.

I also know that other units of the 517th also fought in Les Arcs. I think that much of the 1st Battalion under **Major Boyle** were the first to fight in Les Arcs. See:

http://517prct.org/documents/odyssey/paratroopers_odyssey.htm#3_dragoon and
http://www.517prct.org/documents/draagoon/a_co.htm

Private **Albert Ernst** was also killed there, according to the A Company report.

Clark is mentioned in this "after Action report" of HQ/2.

http://www.517prct.org/documents/draagoon/hq_co_2bn.htm

It is a short description, but it sounds like he might have been killed on D-Day, before the unit entered Les Arcs on D+1. It does not mention Robinson being killed. I have conflicting information on Robinson, but I think that he was killed on August 17, 1944.

I see that **Henderson** and **Salmon** were KIA on August 17: http://www.517prct.org/records/aug44_c.jpg

I have not found any pictures of these soldiers yet.

Bob Barrett
MailCall@517prct.org

From **Walter Smith**, <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/1555.htm>

By the description, names and other things, it was not my incident in recollections. The names are not familiar. The incident in my story was the next day after our drop. We had entered Les Arcs the evening before and this was day 2 and two of us were stationed at the end of the bridge over the railroad track. As the day wore on it became rather hot with grenades and rifle fire. Some officer, which I think was Col Boyle, directed us to a vineyard. I do not know who led the column but my memory was that I was about eighth in line. We were headed for a house near the vineyard. Shorten the story here. Enemy machine gunner at the end of the row on an embankment. At the sudden firing, I dived into the left adjacent row. It so happened we back pedaled to the rear, only to discover the man whose name I have never learned had fallen directly in front of where I had been. Knowing that I crawled back into my original row. Some one followed me to help. I picked up this downed man and whomever followed carried his legs (The gunner had fled we learned.) This fallen man was taken over by two other men who fashioned a makeshift carrier from wire mesh and two poles. To this day I never knew the fallen trooper nor if he lived. The end.....(this sent to granddaughter)



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Bob: may I echo **Frank Ramos'** compliment on Mail Call. Enjoyed this one especially the insert of **Leo Dean** and the piece on **Col Graves**. Dad admired him very much as a leader and human being and used to say because of Col. Graves many more members of the 517th survived the war than if their earlier commander (as good as he was) had been in command when they were in Europe. I treasure the wedding party picture of **Dad, Mama, Tom Cross and Col. Graves**. Thanks for running it. Pat



Tom Cross Alice Gould Bob Betty Col. Graves

June 23, 1945, Joigny, France

For more pictures of the wedding, see: http://www.517prct.org/photos/dick_seitz/seitz.htm

Just watched the Boogie video. What fabulous moves! It made my day. Thanks for sharing it.

Pat Seitz

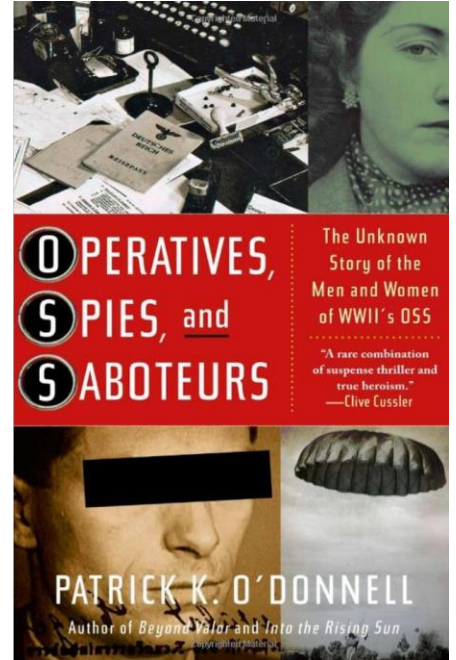
See: <http://www.reshareworthy.com/old-man-boogies-at-airport/#wUvikmuaEvxDfzD2.99>



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The Wall Street Journal just named **Patrick O'Donnell's** book, *Operatives, Spies, and Saboteurs* as one of the top five books ever written on World War II Espionage



Loïc 'Jack' Jankowiak recently created a Facebook group "for families, friends & relatives of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team (1943-1945) who fought from Italy to the Hürtgen Forrest."

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472895329686741/>

Here is a photo that he recently posted:

Me: Who? Where? When?

Loïc: Who ? I don't know (but A/517) Where ? Italy, on Canino airfield. When ? Prior to the big jump

Me: I found it in **George Sullivan's** A Company photos, but this is a much better copy.



http://www.517prct.org/photos/george_sullivan/george_sullivan.htm



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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



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Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

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