



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2338

October 23, 2016

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

MailCall News

Dear Sir,

I am hoping to obtain some information concerning an event in or near Trois Pontois, Belgium. My father, **Elam J Cronquist**, received a Bronze Star for heroic action, on January 3, 1945. It was upgraded to include a "V" Device and Oakleaf Cluster in 2004, when I obtained his duplicate medals. The citation reads;

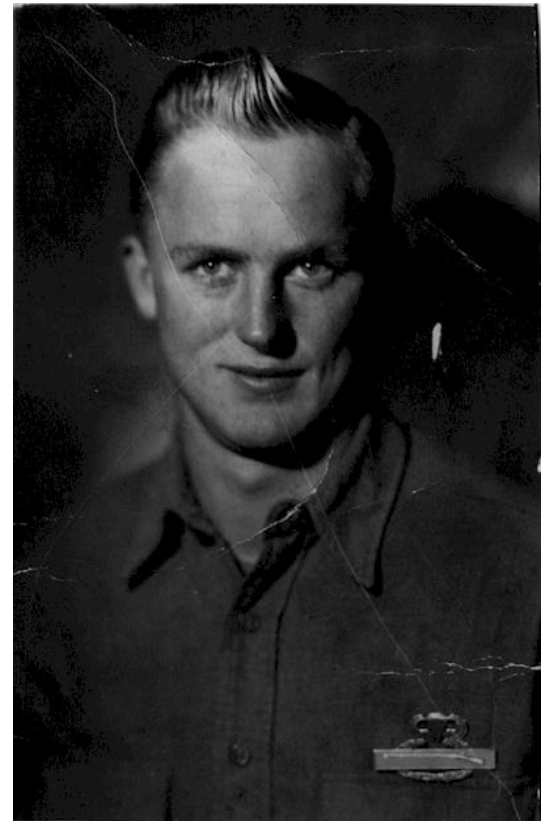
For heroic achievement in action near Trois Pontois, Belgium, on 3 January 1945. During an attack, Private First Class Cronquist rushed forward through intense machine gun and mortar fire to the aid of a wounded comrade. After dragging the man to cover and administering first aid, he received permission to assist the wounded and blinded Soldier to the battalion aid station. Private First Class Cronquist was also wounded and over his protests, was given aid, but only after he was sure that his comrade was in a safe position. His quick thinking undoubtedly saved his comrade's life. Private First Class Cronquist's exemplary performance of duty in active ground combat was in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and the United States Army.

I have two questions. First is there any way of finding the name of the soldier my Dad risked his life for? I know that there were quite a few casualties during this attack. And secondly, I know my Dad was wounded, and I'm hoping to find out when he was returned to duty.

Thank you in advance for any information you can find regarding my Dad.

Sincerely

Shanna Cronquist-Denson





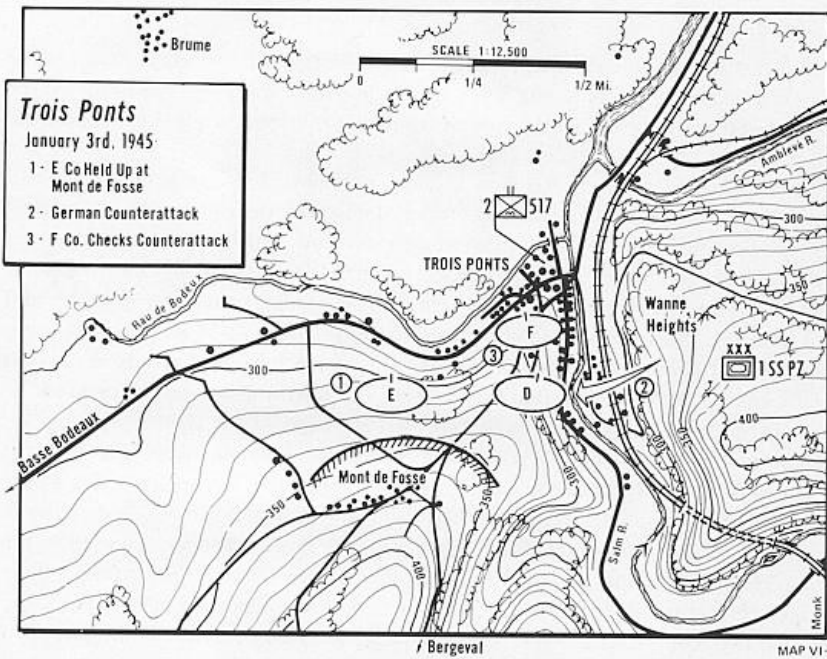
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Elam Cronquist was with D Company.

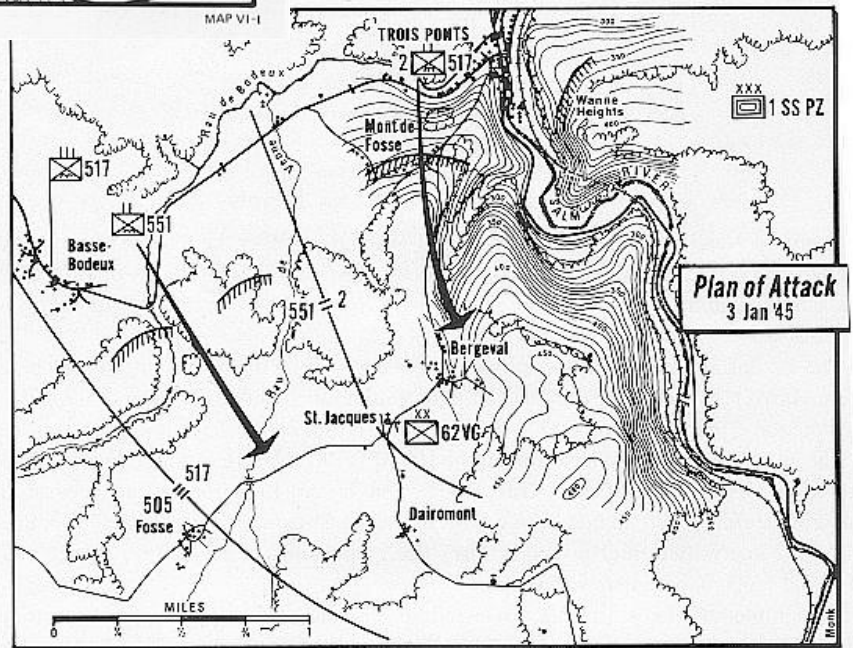


Army – the "V" is worn solely to denote "participation in acts of heroism involving conflict with an armed enemy"

The bronze "V" is positioned to the right of any bronze or silver oak leaf clusters from the wearer's perspective, or positioned in center of the service ribbon if worn alone. The following examples depict decorations that were awarded with the "V" Device in at least one instance:



Maps of the attacks on January 3rd, 1945.





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Hi Shanna,

I dig some digging around and found some info for you about the Trois Pont battles, but not the exact answer. There are several account of the battles around Trois Ponts in early January. The most complete are in the following:

[Paratrooper's Odyssey - A History of the 517th Parachute Combat Team](#)

[The Operations of the 551st PIB \(attached to the 82nd and the 517th\), in the Attack on Trois Ponts, Belgium, 2-7 January 1945](#)

['Battling Buzzards' : The Odyssey of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team 1943-1945](#)

Unfortunately, these accounts are from various units but not directly from D Company witnesses. Battling Buzzards recounts the story from some of the 2nd Battalion including **Dick Seitz**. And **Bill Boyle's** 1st Battalion joined the battle and that is where **Bill Boyle** was seriously wounded. And my Dad, Ben Barrett and 16 others of H Company were also wounded in nearby Bergeval on January 5th, but there are few details of their participation either.

Needless to say, this was one of the toughest and costliest battles for the 517th. **Dick Seitz**, Commander of the 2nd Battalion said, "There was a shortage of ammo and we never had an opportunity to make daylight reconnaissance. We arrived so late in the day we were only able to draw a map plan, after talking to the 505th. That day at Trois Ponts was the second worst day of the war for me and the second Battalion."

The one item I did manage to find, thanks to Mike Wells, is the Morning Report for D Company on January 3, 1945, which is attached. You can see from the report that 17 men were wounded in that battle with your Dad. So one of those men is probably the one that your Dad saved. Surprisingly, despite the casualties, none of D Company were KIA that day.

Also, you should look at the [Mike Kane photos of D Company](#). Several of the men in these photos are also listed as wounded on the D Company 03-Jan Morning report with your Dad, including **James McWilliams, Robert Davis, Lloyd Henry, John Sarti**. Maybe you can find your Dad in some of those photos.

Bob B.

Dear Bob,

Thank you so much for your research. I do have a copy of the books you've mentioned, with the exception of The Operations of the 551st. It's good to know that none were KIA, which tells me the person I'm looking for, most likely survived. The morning report should help further my research. I did look through **Mike Kane's** photos at one point, but will look again more intently. I just want you to know, that I have so enjoyed the website, and very much appreciate all the work and dedication that you, and others have put into this project.

Sincerely

Shanna Denson



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-COMPANY MORNING REPORT ENDING DATE 2 January YEAR 5

STATION 1 MI NE of Hants, Belgium
ORGANIZATION Co D 517th Para Inf Regt Inf.

SERIAL NUMBER NAME GRADE CODE

RECORD OF EVENTS
Company moved approx 10 miles by truck to forward assembly area.

OFFICER STATION	PLD O & CAPT		1ST LT		2D LT		SIO		PLT O	
	PRESEN	ABSENT	PRESEN	ABSENT	PRESEN	ABSENT	PRESEN	ABSENT	PRESEN	ABSENT
ASSIGNED	1		4		3		1			
ATTACHED UNASSIGNED ATTACHED TO OTHER ORGN				2						
TOTAL	1		4	2	3		1			

AVIATION CADETS & ENLISTED STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN		TOTAL
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	ABSENT NOT FOR DUTY	
ASSIGNED			126	2	128
ATTACHED UNASSIGNED ATTACHED TO OTHER ORGN			3	1	4
TOTAL			129	2	131

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 SIGNATURE: *Walter J. ...*
 MAJOR ... REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

COMPANY MORNING REPORT ENDING DATE 3 Jan YEAR 5

STATION Erume, Belgium
ORGANIZATION Co D 517th Para Inf Regt Inf.

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
6544854	Shipman, Clarence E.	1st S. Lt	
35057560	Kadio, Alex	7745	Pvt
39913225	Cronquist, Elam J.	7604	PFC
10600398	Hayter, Walter G.	7745	Pvt
38404506	Henry, Lloyd H.	7740	T/5
36902481	Johns, Calvin E.	7745	Pvt
34658910	Hewitt, Marvin J. Jr.	7745	PFC
38593087	Haley, Jimmie R.	7745	Pvt
36320092	Hartung, Daniel O.	7745	PFC
39239361	McWilliams, James R.	7745	Pvt
36590780	Simmons, Robert J.	7745	Pvt
36902385	Murphy, Phillip C.	7745	Pvt
19162000	Day, Joseph L.	7745	Pvt
39205769	Barti, John V.	7745	PFC
36594379	Tilton, Edward W.	7604	PFC
34848156	Gilchrist, James J.	7745	Pvt
32931206	Davis, Robert M.	7745	Pvt

Above (17) PM fr duty to ab sk in Hosp. IWA (BC) basic status changed fr asgd to atchd unangd.

OFFICER STATION	PLD O & CAPT		1ST LT		2D LT		SIO		PLT O	
	PRESEN	ABSENT	PRESEN	ABSENT	PRESEN	ABSENT	PRESEN	ABSENT	PRESEN	ABSENT
ASSIGNED										
ATTACHED UNASSIGNED ATTACHED TO OTHER ORGN										
TOTAL										

AVIATION CADETS & ENLISTED STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN		TOTAL
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	ABSENT NOT FOR DUTY	
ASSIGNED					
ATTACHED UNASSIGNED ATTACHED TO OTHER ORGN					
TOTAL					

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 SIGNATURE: _____
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For sale on eBay – 517th Airborne August 1944 Lego men!

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/LEGO-6x-WWII-Allies-3x-American-517th-Airborne-1944-3x-British-Hampshire-Regt-/152268232716?hash=item2373e4d80c:g:up8AAOSwuzRXfDhF>





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Also for sale on eBay: \$325

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/13th-Airborne-Division-517th-H-T-Inf-Regt-Sterling-Bracelet-J-D-/371744930052?hash=item568db97904:g:rJwAAOSwZ8ZXCvSD>

Didn't someone of our group lose one of these not long ago?



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

Website www.517prct.org
Send MailCall news to MailCall@517prct.org
MailCall Archives www.517prct.org/archives
2016 Roster (updated!) www.517prct.org/roster.pdf
Thunderbolt Archives www.517prct.org/archives