



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2346

February 5, 2017

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

MailCall News

Bob -- Hard to take Mel's passing especially as I looked at the picture of our men at the 2015 reunion in New Orleans. The positive to counterbalance the sadness is provided by the pictures. They are a wonderful comfort and help me to focus on the fact that they are enjoying their reward for races extraordinarily well run. May they enjoy being with their brothers in arms once more. Thank you.

Pat Seitz

Dear Sirs;

My dad was **George Ross** of F Company. He passed away in 2007. Mom passed away last year. They attended many of the annual conventions. I have been in the process of sorting through their accumulated belongings and have quite a collection of photos from those conventions. Mom was very good at organizing these. They are in albums and individuals are named.

Is there an interest in preserving these? If so, is there a general collecting point to which I could send these?

Thank you.

Jeff Rossi

After three months of being off line I now have to start learning all over again. I moved for the final time. I now have all the services I anticipate I may need in the near future and they are readily available. The place I left provided only Independent Living. The place I am at now also provides Independent Living but just down hall a short way is Assisted Living. Get lost a few times and they restrict you to Memory Care, which I think is in the same building. I haven't been too adventurous in looking at what's available for fear I'll get into some facility and have a difficult time proving I am not a resident. Become a little too difficult in Memory Care and they give your wheel chair a shove down the hall and you end up coming into Nursing Home Care. You try to be on your best behavior there since by that time you're a lost cause and the only option they have is to open door and push you down the hill to the cemetery.

Happy New Year.

Merle McMorrow



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Hi Bob,

Thank you for your reply! I will send emails out to them.

Just an FYI, **Bob Vaught's** number has changed. I have his current phone number and recently talked to him on the phone. I also recently spoke on the phone to **John Strojan**. Very delightful conversations with both!

As for the I Co., 3rd BN, 517th photo... my dad (**Al Eckart**) and I with help from family members I have found and contacted have identified 32 of the 81 men pictured.

I will keep you updated on iD-ing the men. My and my dad's goal is to id ALL of them!
Again, thank you for the info.

My best to you,

Denise

Would you please convey to Irma and Arnold how much I and my family appreciate their leadership and the dedication of our Belgian friends not only in preserving the history of our parents, brothers, uncles effort to preserve freedom for all, but also that they celebrate a Mass in remembrance and pray for all in the mighty Band of Brothers who are at home with the Lord. As a Catholic, I can share with those who are not, that praying for our deceased loved ones is very important and to do so with a Mass in this fashion is a very special.

Also was sorry to read that **Sam Povich** is no longer with us. I am happy for him that he is at peace with his brothers in heaven, it is bittersweet for us left on earth as our opportunities for physical contact with our heroes is rapidly diminishing. We hope his family knows we send our love, sympathy and prayers that they may be comforted by the love of family and friends and the knowledge of lots of love going their way.

Finally, Kent and Denise's exchange about the picture identification effort was very interesting. I agree with Kent, Denise is very savvy technologically and has educated me not only about the paint feature but also about how the picture was made in the first place.

Thank you to you for how you keep us all together.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

I was so sorry to hear of the loss of **Sam Povich**. I really enjoyed being with Sam and Irene at the Kissimmee reunions.

My thoughts and prayers are with Irene.

Chris Lindner



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As you know, dad (**Al Eckart**) and I are trying to put a name to each of the faces for I Co., 3rd BN, 517th PRCT.

I have contacted many family members of our "Heroes" and a couple of the members as well.

I have had the chance to talk to **Bob Vaught**, **John Strojan**, and **John Rupozyk**. While talking to John Rupozyk today, 01/30/2017 he informed me of the passing of **LTC Frank Dallas** on 01/13/2017.

I am unsure if anyone has informed you or anyone from the 517th web site about this. Below is a link to his obituary.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?pid=183619837>

Please inform all on Mail Call of the passing Frank. Also, Please Pass on our sincere condolences to his family!

Best Regards,
Denise and (Al Eckart)

Subject: **James "Jim" Bacaloff**, I Co., 3rd BN

Hi Bob, Wondering if you can put me in touch with Daniel J Olson, great-grandson of **Jim Bacaloff**.

Daniel references his granddad in Mail Call #2295 on October 26, 2015.

Hoping that he can help in identifying his great granddad in the Company photo.

Regards,

Denise (niece of **William J Eckart, Jr**)

Hi Denise,

I am forwarding this message to Daniel Olson, from an email address from Dan's October 2015 email. I hope this connection works.

Bob Barrett
MailCall@517prct.org

Bob not sure what the question is on the Bronze Star Citation. When I found out that the 517th as a group was rewarded the medal in about 2002 or so I notified my congressman. I received the medal in less than 2 months. Two years ago I requested all dad's medals from the Army and again received the Bronze Star.

Dennis Sura
son of **Mike Sura** H Company



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LTC Frank J. Dallas, I Company



Lieutenant Colonel FRANK J. DALLAS (Ret.)

Of Clifton, Virginia died peacefully while sleeping on Friday, January 13, 2017, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease and other ailments. He was 92 years old.

Frank John Dallas was born on November 25, 1924, at Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania. His father was a coal miner and he was the oldest of six children. While still in high school, he enlisted in the Army during World War II and fought in Italy, France, Belgium and Germany, where he was awarded both the Silver and Bronze Stars for valor in combat. Frank served over 26 years in the Army and also was in combat infantry units in both the Korea and Vietnam

wars. As a young Captain, he completed Special Forces training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and remained in Special Forces throughout the rest of his Army career. After retiring from the Army, he worked as a draftsman and project designer for the Fayetteville City Engineer. He also enjoyed more time for his lifelong passions for hunting, fishing, woodworking, and square dancing.

Frank is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 70 years, Josephine (Jo) Tarone Dallas; son, Ed (Mary Jo); daughters, Nancy (Jim) and Patty (Ray); seven grandchildren who adored their Poppie; a brother, Dale; as well as, many nieces and nephews.

Lieutenant Colonel Dallas will be buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be determined. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated in Frank's name at Saint Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road on Saturday, January 21 at 12 p.m. The family will host a reception following Mass for family and friends at their home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Frank's name to the Clifton Lions Club, PO Box 41, Clifton, Virginia 20124 or to Camp Hometown Heroes:

www.hometownheroes.org.

Published in The Washington Post on Jan. 17, 2017

Bob, I have attached the obituary that I found online for **Bill Hudson**. I am sure that the family wants this included in the mailcall and the historical record for the 517th.

Thanks for all that you do.

Steve Markle



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William S. Hudson, 596th PCEC



William S. Hudson
September 22, 1924 –
December 30, 2016
Monterey, CA

William S. Hudson

Bill was born in St. Paul, Minnesota to William S. Hudson and Elizabeth O'Hanlon Hudson. Upon his parents' 1928 divorce, he moved with his mother to Los Angeles. After his mother's subsequent marriage to Donald Duncan, the three moved to the New York City area in 1933 where Bill graduated from Richmond Hill High School in 1942. His college education in Civil Engineering at the [University of Minnesota](#) was interrupted by [World War II](#).

He proudly served in the 596th Engineer Company of the 517th Parachute Combat Team from 1943 through 1945 in Italy, France, Belgium and Germany, including the parachute invasion of the French Riviera on August 15, 1944, and later the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded five campaign ribbons and an invasion arrowhead.

After returning and completing his civil engineering education, he joined the State of California where he progressed to heading a team designing freeways in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties in the 1950s, and later designed aqueducts for the State Department of Water Resources. He became a Registered Civil Engineer in 1959, and was a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Bill and Gloria met in Sacramento, married in 1965, and lived happily ever after.

In 1966 Bill became a Senior Engineer with the Department of Water Resources and was transferred to Southern California. They lived in Marina del Rey until retirement, and in 1994 moved to Santa Cruz. Bill volunteered 20 years for Meals on Wheels (1994 to 2014). In June of 2015 Bill and Gloria moved to The Park Lane in Monterey, California.

Bill is survived by his loving wife Gloria, his stepchildren Denise Righetti and Rick Righetti, granddaughters Abbie Hamilton and Mia Righetti, brothers James Hudson and Donald Duncan, nieces Cathy, Mary and Annie and nephews Paul and David.

The family will hold a private gathering. Bill requested that in lieu of any formal ceremony, donations be made to Meals on Wheels, Santa Cruz, CA, or the Airborne Museum in Le Muy, France.

[View the online memorial for William S. Hudson](#)

Published in Santa Cruz Sentinel on Jan. 22, 2017

From <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/santacruzsentinel/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=183665950>



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More MailCall News

A story from **Jean-Loup Gassend**, our French historian friend.

A victim of the 517th PIR identified

In the 2000s, myself and some friends had visited the village of La Roquette sur Var, that was liberated by the 517th PIR on 28 August 1944.

The locals told us that the bodies of all the Germans killed in the battle had been buried nearby; and then exhumed in 1958. We found a German ID tag that had been forgotten at the grave site at the time of the exhumation, so tried to find out more. It turned out that 11 bodies had been recovered by the Germans in 1958, but that four of the bodies remained unidentified to this day. We were therefore pretty sure the ID tag belonged to one of the unidentified men.



I send the information about my find to Berlin. It took ten years for them to deal with the case, but the answer was positive: the tag had belonged to an 18 year old Pole named Alois Gallus, reported missing in la Roquette sur Var.

I was able to contact the soldier's relatives in Poland. There was an article about the case published in their local newspaper, below is the google translation as well as some photos of Alois Gallus and of his surviving brother.

So more than 70 years after the war, one of the victims of the fighting against the 517th has been identified.

Family Alois Gallus for years did not know how and where he died as a young soldier. After the war, she got only a notification in writing from the lieutenant and company commander that was killed in the south of France, in the region of Nice, but without any information about the exact place of burial. If not for the passion and commitment of a man who wanted to discover the secret of those events, the story would still unexplained.



Alois Gallus was born on June 3, 1926 in Koselwitz - is today Kozłowice. He was the second son of Peter and Anna Gallusów. He came from a large family - he had eight siblings. At the age of eighteen, he was drafted into the 164 Division Supplementary German Army. In 1944, he fought in France in the region of Nice.

- The fate of our ancestor did not know practically nothing, until when we got a telephone notification from the Municipal Office in Gorzow Slaski - says Adam Gallus, a member of the family.

The only information the soldier was a letter he wrote to his mother 30 June 1944 year.



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- He mentioned to him about the war and about how there is - says Adam Gallus. - He said that the time of anxiety should end soon, homesick and could not wait to return to the family. Unfortunately, it never came back. And if not mysterious messages, you may never have learned about what happened to him ...

15 January 2016 Gallus received the first e-mail from Jean-Loup Gassend - French physician and passionate history of the Second World War.

- He wrote that he was able to identify the soldier's body and looking for surviving members of his family - says Adam Gallus.

Family Gallusów exchanged several messages with the Frenchman, who finally dispelled all ambiguity regarding Alois Gallus.

The young and the brave

Supplementary Division is a group of soldiers composed mainly of young men of different nationalities. In most they fought in the Silesians, but they were also Czechs and Germans from the areas belonging to Germany today.

Stationed in the south of France in the vicinity of Nice, where 15 August 1944, she was dropped American Division Parachute First Airborne Task Force, whose mission was to liberate areas of Nice and the shift towards Italy.

At that time, German troops were not strong enough to stop the Allied advance, so that their main task was to delay the march of Americans and "provide" additional time officers to prepare a better defense. August 26, 1944, the city was attacked from several sides by the Americans and Canadians. There were several wounded Germans. In the afternoon, as a result of the subsequent counterattack killed a dozen soldiers of the Wehrmacht.

August 28, 1944, in La Roquette-sur-Var killed eleven soldiers and others taken prisoner, because the German army did not know who survived and who died.

Witnesses that day said they saw the Poles in uniforms of the enemy to give up. Jean-Loup Gassend learned that running a Pole with a white flag in the side of the Allies was shot by the Germans. Many wanted to lay down their arms, but the officers of the Wehrmacht used all means to stop them.

determination Frenchman

Eleven bodies of German soldiers initially lay on the ground without burial, but it was very hot and began to decompose. The local people decided to bury the corpse in a field near la Roquette without any identification.

In 1958, employees of the League of German Nation came to la Roquette and exhumed the bodies of eleven. Because they were all buried in one grave, it was not known that the bones belong to whom. They discovered several rings and seven immortals, who was taken to identify, but four is not found. All the bones were transported to re-burial at the German military cemetery in Dagneux, near Lyon.

And those some of the unknowns did not give peace to the French pasjonatowi, so in 2000 he decided to go to la Roquette and on their own to carry out investigation into the German soldiers.



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He began by talking with residents, who initially approached him reluctantly. Patience paid off. Eventually, he learned about a place where less than 40 years earlier exhumed soldiers.

French doctor watched and studied the ground, and then together with your friends decided to once again penetrate the area. And then they made a breakthrough, because dug grave, and there were helmets, bullets, clothes and a dog tag.

During the previous exhumation in 1958 specialists did not have metal detectors, which limited the range and accuracy of work.

French doctor Gassend information found but unidentified Immortelle sent to the Office of affairs of informing the next of kin of the fallen members of the German Wehrmacht in Berlin. It took several years before receiving feedback, which indicated to whom it belonged. As it turned out it was missing a tag of one soldier killed in the eleven la Roquette on 28 August 1944 - and exactly Alois Gallus.

- Dog belonging to Alois Gallus is made of zinc and kept in good condition. Characterized by marking 164 Battalion, blood group B, and the identification number is still readable - writes Jean-Loup Gassend in his book "Autopsy of Battle."

- Office in Berlin decided to allow our uncle officially identified and confirmed that he is one of the eleven buried in Dagneux - says Adam Gallus. - The news of Aloisie came to light only in 2015.

Officially, the young soldier from Kozłowice is now buried in the grave 453-454 in block 33 to Dagneux in France. The monument was credited with his name.

Letters that changed everything

- This message shocked us, it's a strange feeling to know about the fate of an ancestor after more than sixty years - says Adam Gallus. - We thought it was impossible, because after the war siblings uncle tried to get more information about his death.

Sisters missing soldier living in Germany in the 80s went to Nice to find any references to it.

- Came back with nothing - says Adam Gallus.
- Alois Siblings and parents are never able to come to terms with the fact that so little knowledge of the circumstances of his death. They lamented that they could not give him a funeral, and lighting a candle at his grave was impossible.

When Gallus corresponded with the Frenchman still they lived two sisters and a brother Alois.

- I remember when I gave them a message, everyone speechless - says Adam Gallus. - Cheeks rolled down her tears. Siblings line said that worse than death is life in the





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unconscious, which lasted more than sixty years. Mr. Jean sent us some pictures of the place where he was buried uncle and the surrounding area, where he died. I have to admit that the views are beautiful, because it's the middle of the Côte d'Azur.

The family has plans to visit the burial place of the fallen years ago ancestor.

- I want to go to France, to light a candle and pray over the grave of his uncle - says Adam Gallus. - Finally doczekałby to visit someone from their close relatives. Then they have fulfilled the dreams of his parents, who wanted at least once in your life to see where their son was killed. They already have that chance, but we might be able to realize their dreams.

Adam Gallus more than a year corresponds to the French doctor. In addition to that, thanks to him was clarified mysterious death of an ancestor, also gained new knowledge.

- Although Mr Jean some time ago gave my family all about his uncle's death, it continues to maintain contact - says Adam Gallus. - We are full of admiration for this man, because fulfilling professionally, also realizes his passions. This is evidenced by even all the materials that we sent, prepared meticulously. Most importantly, despite numerous trips associated with the exploration, finds time to share his findings with others, regardless of the language barrier - as it did in our case. Family Gallusów wants to meet with the new French friends.

- Mr. Gassend is a very interesting person and I wish everyone to get to know the man who presents such an attitude - says Adam Gallus. - He mentioned that if we come to France to meet with us and show us the place of exhumation and take to the cemetery. I know that several times saw the families whose ancestors found. Sometimes I wonder where do these people have in the world today ...

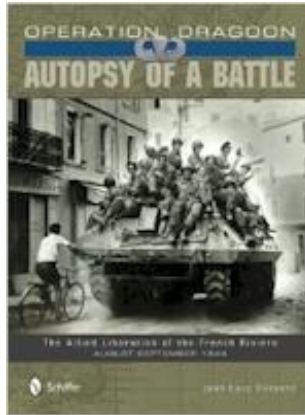
Karolina Zajac

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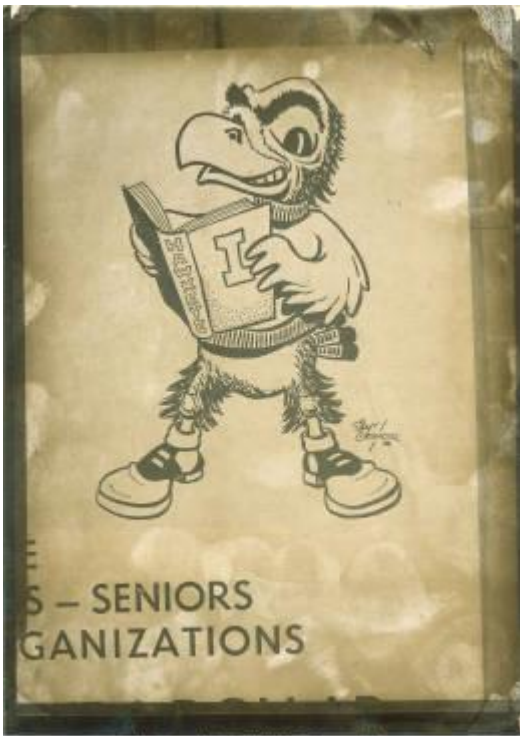


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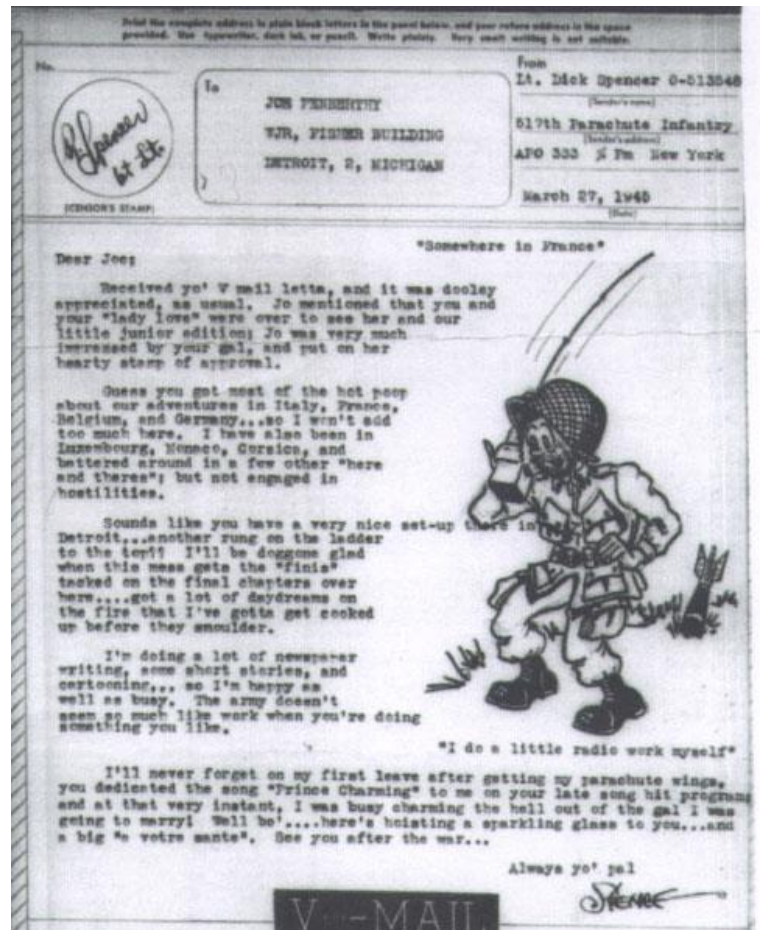
[Operation Dragoon - Autopsy of a Battle](#)
by Jean-Loup Gassend

As we all know, **Lt. Dick Spencer III** (I company) was a 1943 grad of the University of Iowa in 1943. He returned to Iowa after the war and was the creator of Herky the Hawk, the U of I mascot.



University of Iowa | digital.lib.uiowa.edu/ictcs

I was looking for Spencer's bio on the Iowa website, which has disappeared. But I did find an old copy, which included this v-mail written home by Dick on March 27, 1945.





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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.
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