



# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2394

August 19, 2018

*517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment  
460<sup>th</sup> Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
596<sup>th</sup> Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

## Operation Dragoon Ceremonies - 2018



Allan Johnson at Draguignan cemetery, August 15, 2018



Allan with David Fouan



Le Muy

Photos from Claire Giblin



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Draguignan ceremonies August 16, 2018



<http://canal-d.tv/videos/liberation-de-draguignan-toutes-les-celebrations-du-16-aout/>



The commemorations were better than expected this year ! And even if we could not put a foot at the Rhone American Cemetery, we made an excellent ceremony in the courtyard of the Valbourgès estate, which was - surprisingly - better if we had been to the cemetery.

Thanks to the organization, thanks to the veterans and families who supported us !

We are on a very good start for next year's commemorations. Come and bring all your friends to those wonderful commemorations of the Forgotten D-day !

**Loïc Jankowiak**



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See full video of the ceremonies in Valbourgès:

<https://www.facebook.com/lamottelibere/videos/670987886627434/>

## 517<sup>th</sup> PRCT KIAs during Operation Dragoon August 15-18, 1944



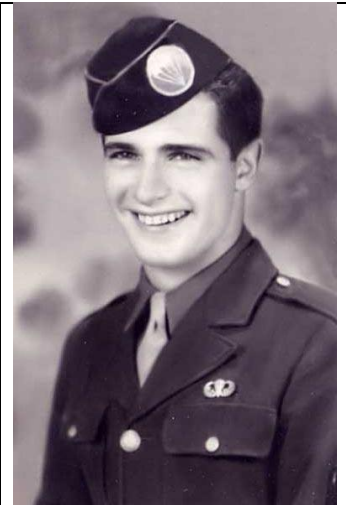
**PFC Elmer J. Anderson**  
Regimental  
Headquarters, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Southern France



**PFC Henry A. Ciner**  
Regimental  
Headquarters  
517<sup>th</sup> PIR  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Southern France



**Pvt John W. Clark**  
HQ 2nd Battalion, 517th  
PIR  
Killed in Action  
17 August 1944  
Les Arcs Region



**Cpl Daniel A. Fisher**  
HQ 1st Battalion, 517th  
PIR  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Trans en Provence



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**Pvt Robert R. Gruwell**  
G Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Southern France



**Pvt. Frederick M. John**  
D Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Southern France



**PFC Philip M. Kenamer**  
Battery C, 460th PFAB  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Trans-en-Provence



**Pvt Charles C. Lemen**  
E Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Les Arcs Region



**2nd Lt Maurice J. Miley**  
HQ 2nd Battalion, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Le Muy/La Motte Region



**2nd Lt. Harry F. Moore**  
Battery C, 460th PFAB  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Trans-en-Provence



**Pvt Joseph E. O'Brien**  
F Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Le Muy Area



**T/4 Alton L. Shaneyfelt**  
F Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
La Motte



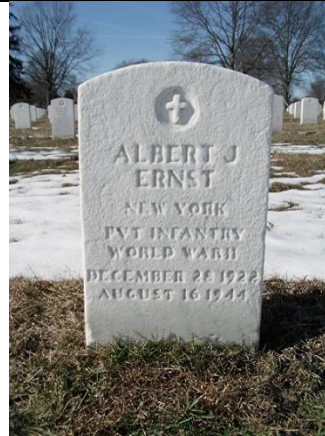
# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



**Pvt. Henry Wikins(ki)**  
596<sup>th</sup> PCEC  
Killed in Action  
15 August 1944  
Southern France



**T/5 William F. Baldwin**  
HQ 1st Battalion, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
16 August 1944  
Southern France



**Pvt Albert J. Ernst**  
A Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
16 August 1944  
Les Arcs



**2nd Lt Harold M. Freeman**  
H Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
16 August 1944  
Les Arcs



**1st Sgt John E. Gaunce**  
H Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
16 August 1944  
Les Arc



**Pvt Robert R. Hathorne**  
B Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
16 August 1944  
Les Arcs Region



**Pvt Wallace A. Montgomery**  
B Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
16 August 1944  
Southern France



**Pvt George J. Scecina**  
A Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
16 August 1944  
Southern France



# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

**Pvt. Lynwood W. Cross**  
HQ 1st Battalion, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
17 August 1944  
Southern France



**PFC Lowell Henderson, Jr**  
C Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
17 August 1944  
Southern France



**2nd Lt Albert M. Robinson, Jr.**  
HQ 2nd Battalion, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
17 August 1944  
Le Muy/La Motte Region



**Pvt Carl G. Salmon**  
C Company, 517th PIR  
Killed in Action  
17 August 1944  
Les Arcs Region



**Pvt. John J, Campbell**  
H Company, 517<sup>th</sup> PIR  
Killed in Action  
18 August 1944  
Southern France



**Pvt. Vernon D. Dirkson**  
H Company, 517<sup>th</sup> PIR  
Killed in Action  
18 August 1944  
Southern France

This list includes all 26 of the 517<sup>th</sup>, 460<sup>th</sup>, and 596<sup>th</sup> troopers who were killed during Operation Dragoon from August 15 to August 18, 1944. I included photos where I could find them and included gravestones when I could not locate a photo. Note that some dead are reported from almost every Company of the 517<sup>th</sup>, as well as the 460<sup>th</sup> PFAB and 596<sup>th</sup> PCEC.

The information and photos come from a number of sources, but for the definitive list, I used **Jean-Loup Gassend's** compilation as reported in his book, "*Operation Dragoon: Autopsy of a Battle: The Allied Liberation of the French Riviera August-September 1944*". That is the most researched and definitive source of info for the battles, troopers, and casualties.

I also used Jean-Loup's definition and dates for KIA. He notes that the records are often incomplete and inconsistent. In many cases these men may have been reported as KIA or dead at different dates, but I have been consistent with his methodology here – reporting the date of the casualty, even if the actual death (Died of Wounds) might have occurred on a later date.  
– BB



## *517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team*

### *Operation Dragoon 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 2019*

Hello, this is **Melanie Hanson**, daughter of **Gary Davis**, 517th F Company.

To some of the people wondering about 75th Anniversary in 2019, yes I will be coming with my husband Scott Hanson and friend **Steve Coyner**, son of **Al Coyner**, 517th F company and his wife Linda.

We are excited to return and to share with our friends that have never been to this area. Looking forward to seeing our "French family"

Please keep us informed of any other 517th families that will be planning to go for the 75th Anniversary.

Thank you,

Melanie Hanson (Davis)

### *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](mailto: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.

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2018 Roster (updated!)	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf">www.517prct.org/roster.pdf</a>
Thunderbolt Archives	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/archives">www.517prct.org/archives</a>