



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2410

March 17, 2019

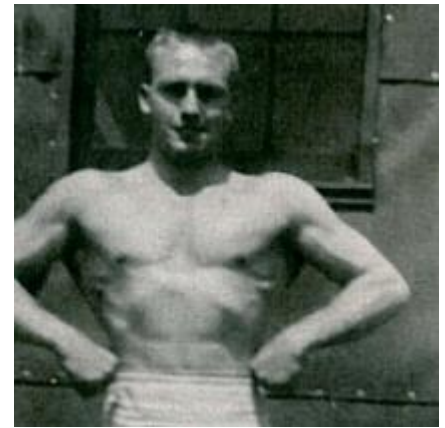
*517th Parachute Infantry Regiment
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

Sgt. David T. Hines (KIA) – E Company

Subject: Frank Marqua Request

I would be happy to talk with Mr. Marqua regarding his inquiry about **Sgt. Hines**. It is quite a story.

My mother, Dorisse Thomassen was engaged to David (she was also from San Jose and fell in love with him while attending San Jose State), when he joined the Paratroopers. David served with my father, **Hoyt Kelley**, who was **Col. Boyle's** Staff Sgt. They apparently became good friends from Training camp on. During the Bulge, it was my father who brought in the body of his friend Sgt. Hines - he later wrote to the Hines family as well as David's fiancé, Dorisse, who at the time of David's death was a violinist performing with the USO.



After returning from Europe, my father traveled to San Jose - he had heard that Mrs. Hines, a widow, was not doing well and felt the need to comfort her. He also said he met with David's wrestling coach, who had considered David to be a "son" and could not accept that he was really dead, apparently believing he was only missing in action. He insisted that my Dad sit down with him and recount exactly where and how David had died. On that trip, my father reconnected with Dorisse Thomassen and began dating her. They were married shortly thereafter and settled in San Jose where they had two children, my sister Kathleen and me.

Obviously, both my parents knew the Hines family well and remained close to them. And, of course, my father was with David when he died. Were it not for the Bulge, I presume my last name might now be Hines rather than Kelley - who knows? It was quite a time.

Loved all the photos of David Hines - it brought back a lot of family memories.

Please forward this to Mr. Marqua or let me know how to contact him.

Thanks,
Brian H. Kelley
BHK ASSOCIATES, INC.
23872 Marmara Bay
Dana Point, CA 92629



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Hi Frank,

Well here is an interesting connection that I did not expect. Feel free to reach out to **Brian Kelley**. Brian's dad, Hoyt Kelley was with David Hines when he was KIA and identified the body.

Please keep us posted. I would love to hear more stories about David Hines. Do you have any pictures of him? And who was the friend at SJSU that you are writing about?

Bob Barrett

Bob,

I'm sorry that I may have sandbagged you there. I do know quite a bit about David Hines' life, just not necessarily the military part. I know how and when he died, of course, and I know about Hoyt Kelley. In fact, I spoke with Mr. Kelley over the phone back in 2013 or 2014, before he passed away. He was from Utah and he told me about having gone with Dorisse to the 1947 Raisin Bowl, a football game in Fresno between San Jose State (Dorisse and Dave Hines' alma mater) and Utah State (Kelley's alma mater). I know quite a bit about Dave's wrestling coach, Sam Della Maggiore, who was noted as next of kin on Dave Hines' enlistment papers.

Thank you for passing along the info from Brian Kelley. Yes, I would like to speak with him about his father, and anything he might recall either of his parents saying about Dave Hines.

The fellow I am writing about is a wrestling teammate of Dave Hines named Hans Wiedenhoefer. He was in the Marines and fought in Iwo Jima, among other Pacific battles. I have a photo of the 1941 San Jose State wrestling team that shows Hans standing between Dave and another wrestler named Kenneth Bailey, who was killed in the Luftwaffe ambush at Bari, Italy in late 1943. It was called "Little Pearl Harbor" for its resemblance to the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack on US installations in Hawaii, including Pearl Harbor.

Thank you again for your help, and your interest.

Frank Marqua

Hi Frank,

You didn't sandbag me at all. You were very clear that you knew all about David Hine's college years. But I had never heard his story, so I went and did a little research myself from the SJSU archives. It's a very sad story that such a young man with such obvious skills, maturity, and potential would die so young. And I hadn't heard the connection with **Hoyt Kelley**. Quite a story.

I did include some of my research in the last MailCall newsletter: <http://517prct.org/mailcall/2409.pdf>

I wouldn't mind having that photo of the wrestling team, or any of David Hine's college years to include in our 517th newsletter.

Bob Barrett



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In looking for info on **David Hines** in **Hoyt Kelley's** journal, I found this section interesting (page 55):

It was on the last day of battle **Dave Hines** was killed. Dave was a Sergeant in D Company in charge of operations for his company. After being mortally wounded by a piece of shrapnel in the chest, he waved his men back to take cover and died. I was called out that night to identify the dead. They had all come in on trucks loaded with corpses intertwined with American and German bodies. They laid them out in a tent, and I identified Dave Hines and another man from my squad. The man from my squad had worn a dog tag that belonged to one of our fellows previously killed, because he said if he were killed he wanted his mother to think he was missing in action, as he worried about her heart condition.³ I left the tag on him in accordance with his wishes and I presume his mother died thinking her son was missing in action. I do not wish to moralize on the advisability this action or my almost killing **Lieutenant Allingham**-- those were different times.

³ During World War II, if the dog tags were not found on a dead body, a soldier would be reported as Missing in Action. Thus, but taking the dog tags off his dying friend, the soldier would prevent word from reaching the mother's soldier that he had died – rather, it would be reported that he was missing in action.

So, did I understand this correctly? – A soldier in D Company had been previously killed, but another trooper removed his dog-tags so that he would be reported as MIA rather than KIA. Does that mean there is another KIA trooper that might have never been reported as KIA on the 517th Honor Roll? -- BB

Here is more about David Hines and his family from Hoyt Kelley's journal:

There were ten million soldiers who came home and a half-million who would not be coming back. As I previously mentioned, Dave Hines was killed in the last day of combat in Belgium. As soon as I could, I wrote a letter to his Mother, Wilma Hines. I had told him once that I would do so if anything happened to him. I had once met his sister Millie and Dorisse Thomassen on the train from Ogden to Denver. My Brother Charles met me in Denver and we visited with Dad's associate Frank Norberg. Millie and Dorisse had noticed that I was wearing the same uniform as Dorisse's fiancé Dave wore, and they were meeting him in Chicago. Dorisse's father worked for the railroad so they had free passes for the trip. I visited with them and detrained with them in Denver. I remember Charles kidding me about the two attractive girls who got off the train with me. I saw Dave after getting back from the furlough and remember he had a picture of Dorisse in a silk blouse she had made from part of a parachute he had sent her. After writing them about Dave's death, numerous letters followed from Dorisse, Wilma and her mother, Millie Hines. When I got out of Camp Shanks, I immediately headed home, which took about three full 24-hour days by train. Arriving in Providence, I told my Mother that I wanted to visit Dorisse in Los Angeles, where she was staying with her friend, Ruth Ellen Athay and family. My Mother was a little unhappy because the city of Providence had planned on a ceremony to honor the returning veterans. I have carefully avoided such ceremonies most of my life, and I went to Los Angeles, I



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believe by bus, got there in the morning at the Athay's home by taxi, and was about 12 hours early, as our communication was faulty. Dorisse had planned on meeting me at the bus depot in the afternoon. The Athays were wonderful hosts, taking me to Lake Arrowhead for an overnight trip. Dorisse and I knew each other by letter, probably better than most young people do. We had some things in common: religion, a love of music and the arts. I think we probably had more in common than she and Dave Hines did, as he had little interest in music, and mostly his life had been sports. Millie, who was devoted to her brother, once said she thought we made a better pair.

When I got out of Camp Shanks, I immediately headed home, which took about three full 24-hour days by train. Arriving in Providence, I told my Mother that I wanted to visit Dorisse in Los Angeles, where she was staying with her friend, Ruth Ellen Athay and family. My Mother was a little unhappy because the city of Providence had planned on a ceremony to honor the returning veterans. I have carefully avoided such ceremonies most of my life, and I went to Los Angeles, I believe by bus, got there in the morning at the Athay's home by taxi, and was about 12 hours early, as our communication was faulty. Dorisse had planned on meeting me at the bus depot in the afternoon. The Athays were wonderful hosts, taking me to Lake Arrowhead for an overnight trip. Dorisse and I knew each other by letter, probably better than most young people do. We had some things in common: religion, a love of music and the arts. I think we probably had more in common than she and Dave Hines did, as he had little interest in music, and mostly his life had been sports. Millie, who was devoted to her brother, once said she thought we made a better pair. 1

After a week or so we went up to San Jose to see her folks. They also were very nice to me, especially her mother Beth. While there I got a call, almost a summons to meet Sam Dela Magorie at San Jose State. I knew Sam was the wrestling coach. Sam, in his rough Italian way demanded to know why I thought Dave Hines was dead. He said that before Dave left, he had given him a St. Christopher Medal and he knew that it had protected him, and was sure Dave was only missing in action. I told him that I had seen Dave dead when they brought him in. Sam said Dave was like a son to him, as he had taken a father's interest in him, because he didn't have a father. He seemed convinced, but not happy with my explanation. Dorisse and I decided to get married in the Logan Temple. Her Father, Mother and Ruth Ellen were to come up in two weeks, during which time I had to get my discharge at Fort Douglas, buy a car, find a job and locate a place to rent. I did – it's amazing what you can do when you are young.



Sgt. Hoyt F. Kelley
Age 20
1943, before deployment

Hoyt Kelley's full journal is at:

http://517prct.org/bios/hoyt_kelley/hoyt_kelley_journal_updated_04_17_2013.pdf



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Other MailCall News

Bob, every time I get your newsletter, it brings tears and smiles to my eyes, as I age more and more. Thank you so much for sharing. I couple of weeks ago, I went to the grocery store and there in the 'milk' aisle was an older guy who seemed lost. I stopped to see if he needed some help or information and immediately noticed his t-shirt. He was a WWII Veteran. I asked him his name and he said that it was 'Don'. I put my arm around his shoulder and thanked him for his service. He cried when I did this and then told me that he had lost his brother in France, in the war. He said no one would ever remember what they did. There were some young people in the aisles and he said that they would never remember 'a damn thing', and the sacrifices that he, and especially his brother had made for their freedom. I am not one who tells anyone about my novel that takes place during that time and the invasion on the Riviera coast, but I felt the need to tell him that he was wrong. I told him about the book I was trying to publish that takes place during that venue. I also told him that there were others like me, and people from the 517th, that I know don't forget. I told him about your newsletter. His eyes teared up again. He seemed somewhat disoriented, so I asked if I could walk him to his car, and he said no, someone was waiting for him outside. I thanked him for his service and that of his brother's. I wanted to leave him happier than I found him, and I felt the impulse to stay with him just a bit longer. I asked him all about his brother, who died in France. I wish I would have gotten his brother's name, but unfortunately, I failed to do so as he would not finish some sentences and seemed a little disoriented keeping his thoughts in order, then he would try to remember. I knew that he was struggling a bit. Nonetheless, I promised him, that with God's help, *I would do what I could so that others would remember.* I was lucky to meet Don that day. *They are one of our greatest legacies, our greatest generation.*

blessings to you,

Anne Justice

Bob:

Attached are two commemorative bricks honoring **Pvt. Gruwell** and Operation Dragoon. They have been installed in the Soldier's Walk in front of the Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA. As you know, 2019 marks the 75th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon and the death of Pvt. Gruwell.

The bricks have been very graciously and very generously placed by Mrs. Nancy McCarthy Piotter [pie-otter], the daughter of Retired Brigadier General Joseph McCarthy. In 1946, in occupied Japan, then Lieutenant McCarthy was assigned to be the Quartermaster for the 408th Quartermaster Company, 11th Airborne Division. Pvt. Gruwell was a member of the 511th PIR, 11th Airborne Division before being transferred to the 517th PIR in 1944.

In 1997, BGen McCarthy established the Army Heritage and Education Center and was the first president of the Army Heritage Center both in Carlisle, PA. BGen McCarthy passed away in 2010, and his daughter Nancy is an Associate Member of the 11th Airborne Division Association.

Joe Figueiredo



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Operation Dragoon 75th Anniversary

Hello Bob,

I have been keeping my eye on Mail Call regarding any group plans/activities in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon. I found that the 551st has an itinerary laid out for this year.

I would expect that the 551st will likely visit some points of interest differing from that of the 517th's actions, but I thought that their itinerary would be of interest.

Best regards,

Martin Neaman
(Earl Mangello, Co E)



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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION DRAGOON (551ST PIB) AUGUST 2019

Join us in Southern France and celebrate the 75th anniversary of Operation Dragoon! We have a travel agent who has organized a group trip for us to make planning easier. Tim and Stacy can easily coordinate your air travel, airport transfers and book you at the hotel we've selected to be our HQ. Please email us at info@551pib.us and we will connect you directly to the travel agent. This is going to be a celebration you won't want to miss! GOYA!



The hotel is where the Dillard family stayed last August. It was very nice; located close to all events and within walking distance of stores, restaurants, etc.

Dragoon 75th Anniversary Schedule

Day 1 – Saturday, August 10 th	Depart the US for Nice
Day 2 – Sunday, August 11 th	Arrive Nice, France Transfer to Draguignan Check into the Hotel du Parc
Day 3 – Monday, August 12 th	TBD – Local Museums
Day 4 – Tuesday, August 13 th	10:00 a.m. Le Muy (paratrooper jump) 6:00 p.m. BBQ/Party in LeMuy
Day 5 – Wednesday, August 14 th	10:00 a.m. Le Mitan ceremonies 2:00 p.m. Memorial service at Chateau Valbourges 6:00 p.m. Mock combat attack at Le Muy 8:00 p.m. Town square party at La Motte
Day 6 – Thursday, August 15 th	Dragoon 75 th anniversary day 8:30 a.m. St. Tropez – 509 th monument ceremonies 11:00 a.m. St. Maxime beachfront road parade 1:00 p.m. St. Maxime lunch party 6:00 p.m. Les Arcs ceremonies 8:00 p.m. Les Arcs concert/party
Day 7 – Friday, August 16 th	8:30 a.m. Chateau Valbourges ceremony 9:30 a.m. Draguignan us military cemetery ceremonies 11:00 a.m. Valbourges lunch party 5:00 p.m. Trans en Provence ceremonies 6:00 p.m. Trans en Provence town square party 9:00 p.m. Le Muy fireworks party, ABC combat demonstration
Day 8 – Saturday, August 17 th	St. Martin Vestubie (in the Maritime Alps) for a memorial ceremony
Day 9 – Sunday, August 18 th	Depart for NCE and flight to US
Event Location Hotel du Parc 21 Boulevard de la Liberte Draguignan, France	



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Administrivia

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- 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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