



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



MailCall No. 2432

January 19, 2020

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

75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge

2020 jan 11 CADUSA – ceremonies

Dear friends of America, we had a very special day of souvenir, with gratitude and respect to the US soldiers who liberated us from the enemy. After a Holy Mass in St Jacques church we honour the US monuments with flowers, national anthems, and homage. Here some pictures - some more later.

With our Love,

Arnold and Irma Targnion and members of CADUSA - Trois-Ponts – Belgium





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St. Jacques church



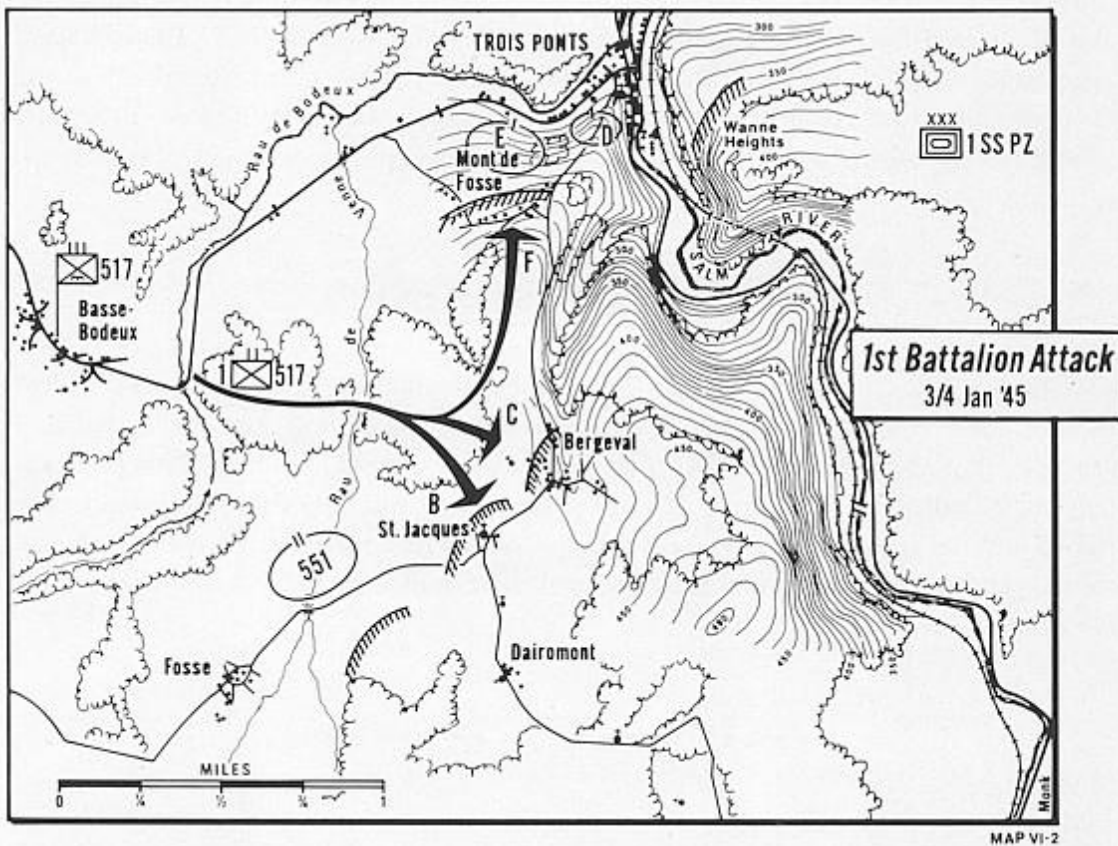
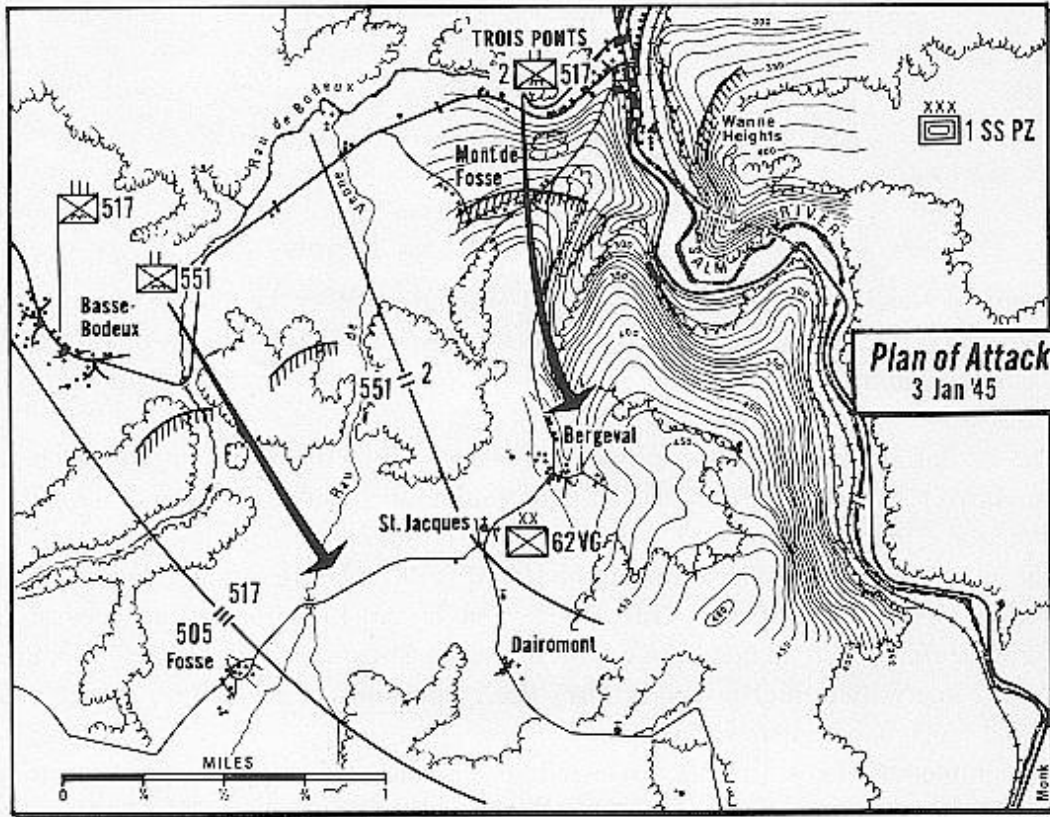
Wanne, monument to the 517th





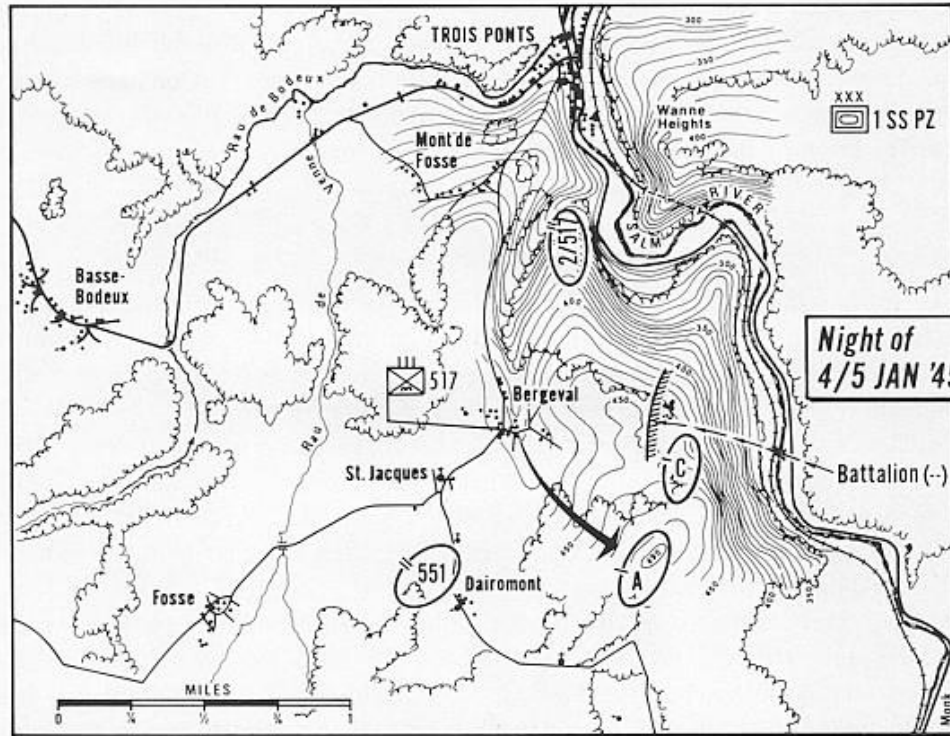
517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

From Paratroopers' Odyssey: [Chapter IV: The Ardennes – Counterattack - The Attack from Trois Ponts](#)





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Clark Archer

12 August 93

Col. Thomas R. Cross

Dear Tom,

While statistics are quite boring they can be used effectively to demonstrate 517 PIR combat efforts during Battle of the Bulge:

1. During the period 20 Dec 44 through 10 Feb 45 the 517 PIR had net losses of 63 Officers and 888 Enlisted Men. Our 9 rifle companies suffered 714 battle casualties and were reduced from an average strength of 156 to 77.

2. December and January operations near Soy, Manhay, Trois Ponts, Bergeval and Saint Vith resulted in a total of 698 battle casualties. The attrition rate was about 30 men per day.

3. During January 45 the Regimental Aid Station moved 5 times and treated a total of 1122 men. They treated 293 shell fragment, 104 bullet and 69 concussion wounds. Medical reports on these men can be located in records of 662nd, 331st, 105th and 307th Clearing Hospitals.

4. During February operations in Germany the percentage of men killed in relationship to total wounded rose dramatically from 12% to 20%.



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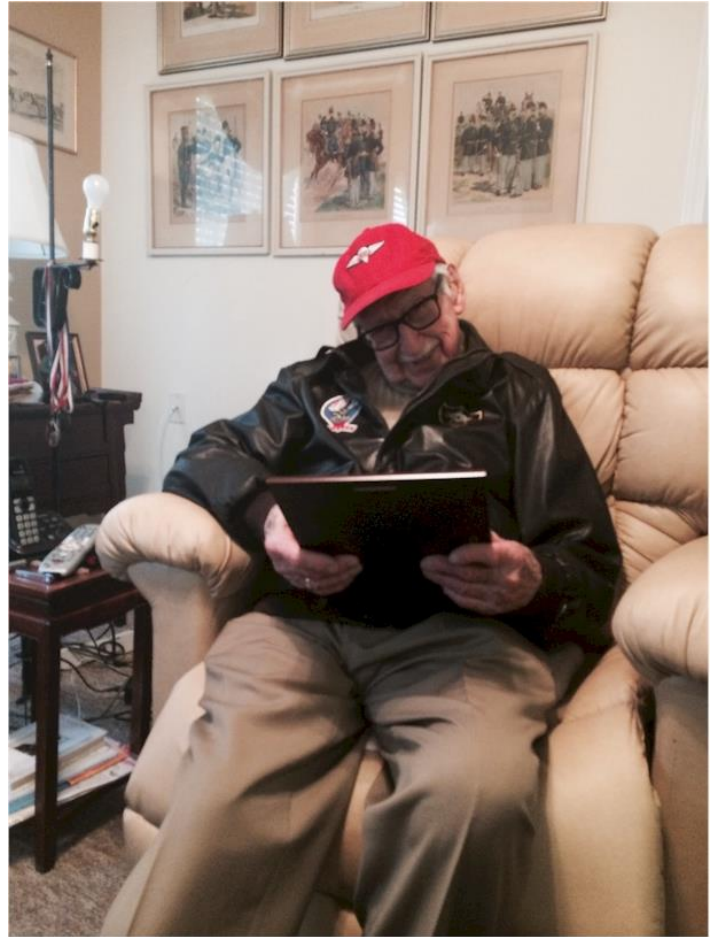
Other MailCall News

Col. Tom Cross is turning 101!

February 1st will be Tom Cross's 101st Birthday! Dad still enjoys his daily Guinees and can often be seen sporting his red Riggers Cap!

If you would like to send him greetings, please send to crosswc@aol.com and I will make sure he gets them!

Wayne Cross



From *Paratroopers' Odyssey*: [Chapter IV: The Ardennes – Counterattack - The Attack from Trois Ponts](#)

Major Tom Cross had never completely recovered from his broken right leg, incurred in the jump into Southern France. When the RCT moved to Belgium Cross had been on duty at an XVIII Airborne Corps rest center in Paris. He borrowed transportation, made his way to Belgium, and (after almost passing into German lines) found the 2nd Battalion in its blocking position near Mont Derrieux. The Battalion CP was in a farmhouse and smoke was curling cozily from the chimney.

Cross arrived immediately after movement orders had been received. Colonel Seitz told him to gather up an advance party and scout out an assembly area near Trois Ponts. He assembled Company guides in a courtyard behind the CP, but as he began briefing a high-velocity shell came through the building and exploded. One man was killed and all the others wounded, including Tom Cross -- this time in the left leg and head. All were evacuated and a new advance party was assembled and sent out.

Some considered Tom Cross the unluckiest man in the regiment -- others, the luckiest.



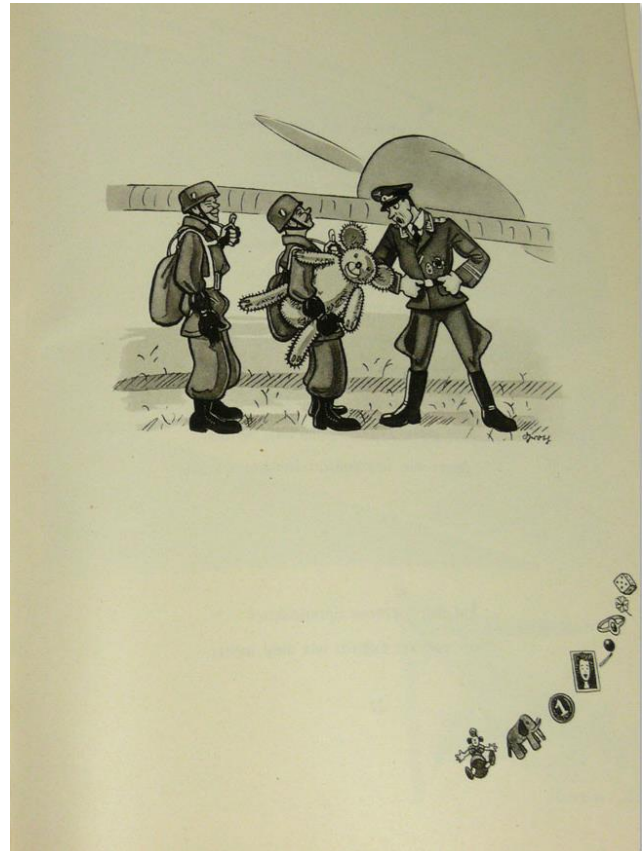
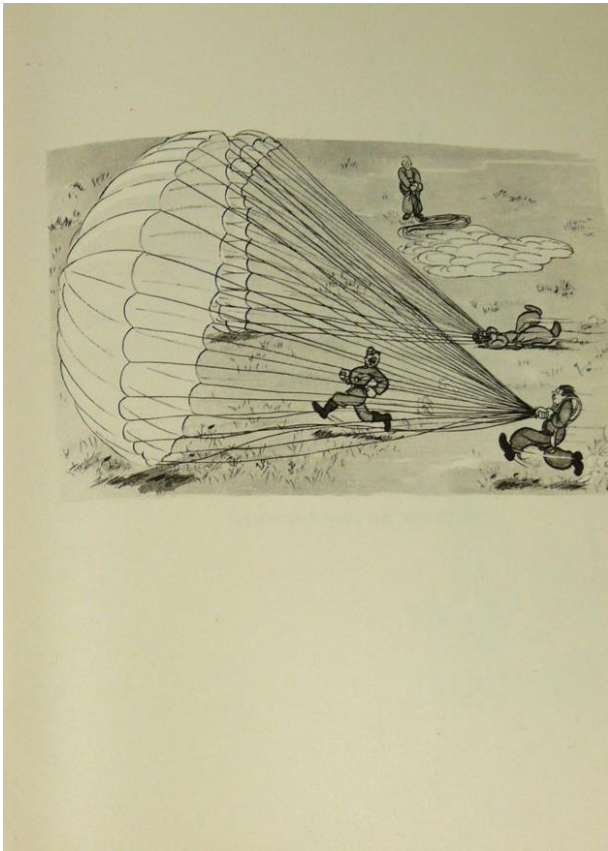
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I saw this book for sale online. A humorous account of becoming a paratrooper for Germany, written in 1941. Apparently, the Germans have a sense of humor not unlike American paratroopers.



“Thus one becomes a Paratrooper”

[Fallschirmjäger Paratrooper Wartime Comic Cartoon 1941 Germany WW2 Luftwaffe](#)





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Administrivia

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- 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.

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