



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

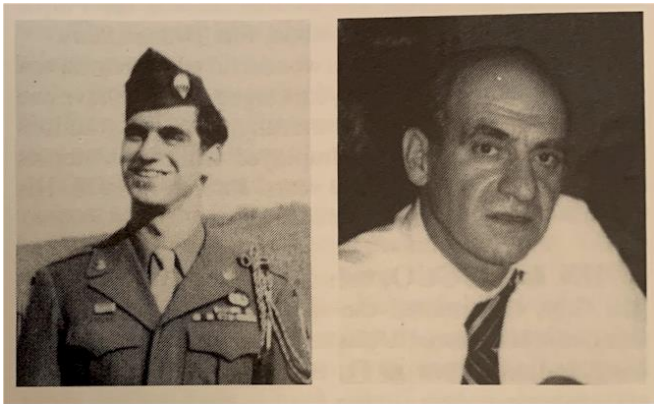


**MailCall No. 2438**

March 15, 2020

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

### *MailCall News*



RE: **Richard Kachalsky**

Hello.

My dad was member on 517th PRCT 460th PFA. [B Battery]

I clicked on the sign up box in the site.  
How can I get to Mail Call 2437?

Thanks.

**Lowell Kachalsky**

Hi Lowell,

Sorry to hear about your Dad's passing. Fewer and fewer of these heroes left.

Yes. I had a couple of notes about your Dad in that last mail call. I know he went to many of the reunions, most before I got involved with the the 517.

You can get to 2437 and all the old mail calls at <http://517prct.org/mailcall/index.htm>

You can also search within them. But I already checked that and could only find the notes that they (your dad and Mom) were registered to attend reunions. But I don't have any pictures or stories except the 2 in the 2437 mailcall. I'd love to have any more wartime stories or photos.

Ps: There are a lot of photos of B Battery at [http://517prct.org/photos/john\\_harte/john\\_harte\\_460\\_b\\_company1.htm](http://517prct.org/photos/john_harte/john_harte_460_b_company1.htm) . Many of them unlabeled. If you find your dad in any of those, let me know.

Regards,

Bob Barrett



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

Thank you for your response.

I attended the Savannah, Portland and Washington DC reunions with my parents.

I remember my dad telling me how terrible the Tennessee maneuvers were. Years later, at the (I think Savannah) a reunion **Dick Seitz** stated that of his entire WWII experience, the Tennessee maneuvers was the most miserable. It was incredible to hear that confirmation of what my dad had told me many times.

My dad also told me of the time they saw an engineering team trying to take down a shell the Germans hung on lines in fields to kill gilder crews. The shell exploded. He recalled that their medic, Koscio (spell?), a man who supposedly carried many knives on him) asked for permission to help. He was granted person and was told to hurry back and stay with his guys. My dad said he could never get anyone who recalled that incident. But at Savannah I recall someone recalled it exactly as my dad recalled.

Airborne all the way, Airborne every day!

Respectfully,

**Lowell Kachalsky**

---

There is a **PFC Frank Kociol** listed with B Battery on the 1994 Christmas roster. - BB

---

From *The 517<sup>th</sup>'s Gang*, page 105:

**K. Allan Johnson** was part of **Goodman's** group. He participated in this ambush by returning to La Motte: *"There was a Scottish Battalion, the British had dropped there also. The next day we take off and I'm with a group of about... 8 maybe, and there's two guys and one of them is a Scotsman. My sergeants, both of whom had hurt their legs could not walk so we were towing them, taking turns on a machine gun cart. It's a little cart, I don't know what a machine gun cart was doing there, but we were towing them. We stopped to have lunch and now we were well behind the main column. They already passed way.*

*We are going to have something to eat. We have these K rations and we're sitting there. There was a road that came on an angle and some French residents, farmers and such came running up the road yelling "Germany, Germany, Germany. " They were going to be coming down that road, so we ran up the hill. I don't know if it was 100 yards or 300 yards because that whole area which was all rock bed is now cork trees.*

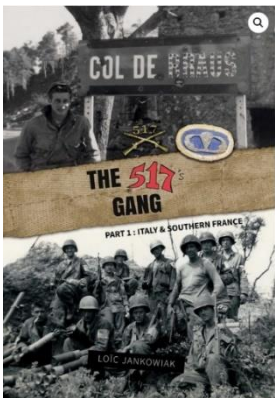


## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

*So we ran up the hill, and as they came around somebody, somehow or other threw a grenade at the first truck. He might've been the one I saw who was burned all over and dead. It was an American, but I don't know who. That slowed the convoy down a little. We fired at the convoy from up in the hills, not much, whenever we saw something. I remember I had a German dead center, I was going to hit him, I fired, he did not drop. Now, what the hell is wrong? I discovered only later that I had not run up the sites on my M1. It must have hit some rock in front of him.*

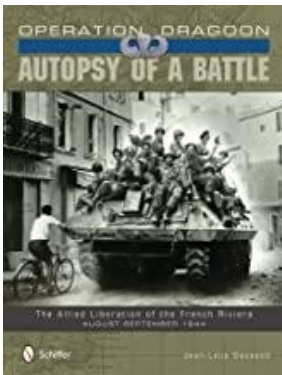
*I spent the 20 minutes to a half-hour, firing a few shots at the truck or one of the trucks. They had to come around, and they slowed down by the truck that was stopped. So when they had all gone, I came walking down. They had dropped and thrown away a lot of stuff on the side of the road, including a very young person. I don't remember now whether he was a German or a young Frenchman, but he was drunk and throwing up and had been hit by somebody. And I missed by three seconds or so, a Long Barrel Luger that was lying around, somebody else got to it first.*

*We were there looking things over, when, within a few minutes, a jeep arrives with a British officer in it and a stretcher. They put this young fellow, (I think it was a German soldier but he looked like a kid), they put him on the stretcher and I got to sit in back and got back to where we are supposed to be."*



Loic's new book is available and waiting for you order.

<https://1stabtf.com/en/boutique/the-517ths-gang-us-eng-version/>



BTW, **Jean-Loup Gassend's** book on Operation Dragoon is still available online as well. It's expensive, but if you have Amazon Prime, it's free delivery:

[Operation Dragoon: Autopsy of a Battle: The Allied Liberation of the French Riviera • August-September 1944](#)

by Jean-Loup Gassend | May 28, 2014

[4.7 out of 5 stars 24](#)

[Hardcover](#)

**\$74.68** ~~\$89.99~~

Get it as soon as Sat, Mar 21

FREE Shipping by Amazon



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

## 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.

---

Website	<a href="http://www.517prct.org">www.517prct.org</a>
Send MailCall news to	<a href="mailto:MailCall@517prct.org">MailCall@517prct.org</a>
MailCall Archives	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/archives">www.517prct.org/archives</a>
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>

---

From *The 517<sup>th</sup>'s Gang*:



### Twins in the 460th PFAB

Two parachutists from the 460th PFAB A Battery, Roger and Richard Tallakson, are absolutely identical twins. They had asked to jump from a different plane because their father and mother did not want to receive two bad news in a single telegram from the War Department in Washington DC. When the green light went on in their respective C-47s, they jumped in darkness. Roger lands about 40 km from his designated drop zone and Richard 48 km away. In the light of day, each of the twins begin to ask questions of other men to get information about their missing brother. Richard hears that Roger was killed, Roger also hears that his brother Richard is dead. Two days after the jump, Roger staggers into the staging area as he spots Richard sitting next to a freshly dug foxhole reading a letter from the house. Neither of them had been hurt.