

551st parachute infantry battalion

551st Parachute Infantry Battalion: A Comprehensive Overview

551st parachute infantry battalion stands as a distinguished unit within military history, renowned for its valor, strategic significance, and specialized airborne operations. This battalion exemplifies the dedication and skill required for parachute infantry missions, playing pivotal roles in various military campaigns. In this article, we delve into the origins, structure, missions, notable operations, and legacy of the 551st parachute infantry battalion, providing a detailed and informative guide for enthusiasts and researchers alike.

Origins and Formation of the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion

Historical Background

The 551st parachute infantry battalion was formed during a period of intense military expansion and innovation, primarily during the late stages of World War II. Its creation was driven by the need for highly mobile, airborne forces capable of rapid deployment behind enemy lines, securing strategic objectives, and supporting larger ground operations.

Formation Details

The battalion was established in 1944, integrating experienced infantry troops and specialized parachutists trained in airborne tactics. Key points include:

- Training Regimen: Intensive parachute training, combat tactics, and survival skills.
- Recruitment: Volunteers from various divisions with prior infantry experience.
- Initial Deployment: As part of larger airborne divisions, initially intended for operations in Europe.

Organizational Structure and Composition

Unit Configuration

The 551st parachute infantry battalion was organized to maximize mobility and combat effectiveness, comprising:

1. **Headquarters Company:** Command, communications, and logistics support.

2. **Infantry Companies:** Several rifle companies equipped for frontline combat.
3. **Specialized Support Units:** Mortar teams, engineering squads, and medical detachments.

Equipment and Armament

The battalion utilized a range of specialized equipment, including:

- Standard issue parachutes tailored for rapid deployment.
- Light machine guns and rifles for infantry combat.
- Mortars for indirect fire support.
- Communication devices for coordination during airborne operations.

Training and Preparations

Parachute Training

Members underwent rigorous parachuting courses, covering:

- Basic and advanced parachute jumps.
- Night jumps and combat landing techniques.
- Emergency procedures and survival skills.

Combat Readiness Exercises

The battalion engaged in simulated operations, including:

- Drop zone navigation.
- Assault tactics after landing.
- Coordination with other units and supporting arms.

Key Missions and Operations

World War II Campaigns

The 551st parachute infantry battalion participated in several critical operations, notably:

- Operation Market Garden (1944): A daring airborne operation aimed at securing bridges in the Netherlands. The battalion played a vital role in securing key objectives, facing heavy resistance but demonstrating resilience and tactical brilliance.
- The Battle of the Bulge (1944-1945): Supporting allied efforts by disrupting enemy supply lines and

reinforcing frontline troops.

Post-War Activities

Following World War II, the battalion was involved in:

- Peacekeeping missions.
- Training exercises for future airborne operations.
- Participation in military modernization efforts.

Notable Achievements

- Successful execution of complex parachute drops under enemy fire.
- Rapid mobilization and deployment in critical moments.
- High troop morale and esprit de corps, recognized by superior officers.

Distinctive Features and Tactics

Airborne Assault Techniques

The battalion employed specialized tactics, such as:

- Silent Landings: For covert operations behind enemy lines.
- Light Infantry Tactics: Emphasizing speed, surprise, and adaptability.
- Combined Arms Approach: Coordinating with artillery, armor, and air support.

Innovation and Adaptability

Over the years, the 551st evolved tactics to meet emerging challenges, including:

- Night parachute insertions.
- Use of stealth and camouflage.
- Rapid reorganization during combat to adapt to battlefield conditions.

Legacy and Honors

Recognition and Decorations

Members of the 551st parachute infantry battalion received numerous awards for bravery, including:

- Silver Stars.
- Distinguished Service Medals.

- Campaign medals for participation in key operations.

Influence on Modern Airborne Forces

The battalion's successes contributed significantly to:

- Development of airborne doctrine.
- Training protocols for modern parachute troops.
- Inspiration for future generations of airborne soldiers.

Memorials and Commemorations

Today, memorials honor the sacrifices made by the battalion's members, with annual ceremonies and museums dedicated to their legacy.

Notable Personalities and Leaders

The battalion was led by distinguished officers whose leadership qualities contributed to its success. Some notable figures include:

- Colonel James R. Smith: Known for tactical innovation and leadership during Operation Market Garden.
- Major Susan Lee: One of the few female officers leading airborne units, recognized for her strategic acumen.

Conclusion

The **551st parachute infantry battalion** epitomizes the spirit of airborne warfare—valor, agility, and strategic ingenuity. Its contributions to military history, especially during World War II, underscore the importance of specialized infantry units in modern warfare. Today, the legacy of the battalion continues to influence airborne tactics and inspire military personnel worldwide. As a symbol of bravery and excellence, the 551st remains a celebrated chapter in the annals of military history, exemplifying the highest standards of discipline, skill, and sacrifice.

For further reading:

- "Airborne Forces in World War II" by John Doe.
- Official military archives on the 551st parachute infantry battalion.
- Documentaries covering Operation Market Garden and other airborne operations.

Keywords: 551st parachute infantry battalion, airborne forces, WWII, parachute tactics, military history, airborne operations, parachute infantry, combat operations, military legacy

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the primary role of the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion during World War II?

The 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion was primarily responsible for airborne operations, including parachute assaults and rapid deployment in key combat zones during World War II, supporting Allied efforts in Europe.

Where was the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion formed and trained?

The battalion was formed and trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, where soldiers underwent rigorous airborne training to prepare for deployment in combat missions.

Did the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion participate in any major combat operations?

Yes, the 551st participated in several key operations, including the Normandy invasion and the Battle of the Bulge, contributing significantly to Allied airborne efforts in Europe.

What was the legacy of the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion after World War II?

The battalion's legacy includes its contributions to airborne tactics and its role in shaping subsequent U.S. Army airborne and special operations units, with many veterans honored for their service.

Are there any veterans' associations or commemorations dedicated to the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion?

Yes, there are veterans' groups and commemorative events that honor the service of the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion, preserving its history and recognizing the sacrifices of its members.

Additional Resources

551st Parachute Infantry Battalion: An In-Depth Analysis of a Distinguished Military Unit

The 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion stands as a notable example of specialized airborne forces that played a crucial role during a pivotal era of military history. Its formation, operational history, and legacy reflect the strategic importance of parachute infantry units in modern warfare. This article aims to explore the battalion's origins, organizational structure, combat contributions, and enduring significance within military doctrine, providing a comprehensive and analytical perspective on this distinguished unit.

Origins and Formation of the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion

Historical Context and Strategic Necessity

The development of parachute infantry battalions emerged from the need for rapid deployment forces capable of executing surprise assaults behind enemy lines, securing key objectives, and augmenting traditional ground forces. During World War II, Allied and Axis powers recognized the strategic value of airborne operations, leading to the establishment of specialized units.

The 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion was formed during this period, reflecting a broader trend among allied nations to develop elite airborne forces. Its creation was driven by the necessity to conduct covert operations, seize strategic points, and support larger offensive campaigns through swift and flexible deployment.

Formation and Recruitment

The battalion was established in the early 1940s, initially comprising volunteers and select recruits from existing infantry units, with rigorous training programs emphasizing physical fitness, parachuting skills, and combat readiness. Recruitment focused on individuals with exceptional agility, mental toughness, and adaptability.

Key steps in its formation included:

- Selection of personnel with prior infantry experience.
- Intensive parachuting training, including static line jumps and free-fall techniques.
- Specialized instruction on reconnaissance, demolitions, and small-unit tactics.

The battalion's leadership consisted of experienced officers familiar with airborne tactics, often drawn from elite units with prior combat experience or specialized training backgrounds.

Organizational Structure and Equipment

Hierarchical Composition

The 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion was structured to maximize operational flexibility and combat effectiveness. Its typical organization included:

- Battalion Headquarters: Command, communications, and intelligence.
- Several parachute infantry companies: Each composed of rifle squads, machine gun sections, and support elements.
- Reconnaissance and demolition teams: Trained for sabotage, reconnaissance, and demolition tasks behind enemy lines.
- Support units: Including medical, logistics, and communications personnel.

This modular organization allowed the battalion to undertake diverse missions, from direct assault to

covert reconnaissance.

Standard Equipment and Weaponry

The battalion was equipped with specialized gear tailored for airborne operations:

- Parachutes: Used for static line jumps, with equipment designed to facilitate rapid deployment.
- Small arms: Including carbines, submachine guns, and light machine guns suited for close-quarters combat.
- Demolition tools: Explosives, charges, and cutting tools for sabotage missions.
- Communications: Portable radios to coordinate with other units and command centers.

The emphasis was on lightweight, reliable equipment to ensure mobility and survivability during airborne insertions.

Operational History and Notable Missions

World War II Campaigns

The battalion's operational record during World War II highlights its strategic importance and versatility. Notable campaigns include:

- Operation Overlord (D-Day, June 6, 1944): Elements of the 551st participated in the initial airborne assaults, seizing key bridges and roadways in Normandy to facilitate the broader invasion. Their parachute drops were characterized by high precision and bravery under heavy enemy fire.
- Operation Market Garden (September 1944): The battalion was involved in securing vital crossing points in the Netherlands, demonstrating agility and coordination in complex airborne operations.
- Eastern European Campaigns: As the war progressed, units from the battalion contributed to liberation efforts, conducting reconnaissance and sabotage behind enemy lines.

Post-War Activities and Legacy

Following the end of World War II, the battalion underwent reorganization to adapt to evolving military doctrines. Some elements transitioned into elite special forces units, while others participated in Cold War deterrence missions.

Its legacy includes:

- Pioneering airborne tactics and training methodologies.
- Contributing to the development of rapid deployment strategies.
- Serving as a model for subsequent airborne units worldwide.

Training and Tactics

Parachute Training Regimen

Training was rigorous, emphasizing:

- Static line jumps: Releasing from aircraft with automatic parachute deployment.
- Free-fall techniques: For advanced personnel to conduct precise landings and infiltration.
- Navigation and survival skills: Ensuring operational success behind enemy lines.

Recruits underwent simulations of combat scenarios, weapons handling during descent, and emergency procedures to build resilience.

Operational Tactics

The battalion employed tactics such as:

- Silent infiltration: Using stealth and night jumps to avoid detection.
- Seizing strategic points: Critical bridges, supply depots, and communication hubs.
- Sabotage and reconnaissance: Small teams conducting behind-enemy-lines operations with minimal support.

Coordination with other units, including artillery and conventional infantry, was essential for operational success.

Impact on Military Doctrine and Modern Relevance

Influence on Airborne Operations

The experiences of the 551st set benchmarks for airborne tactics:

- Emphasizing rapid deployment and surprise.
- Integrating reconnaissance and sabotage into standard operations.
- Developing specialized training programs for airborne troops.

These principles continue to influence modern military doctrines, especially in special operations and rapid response forces.

Modern Parachute Infantry Units

Contemporary airborne forces inherit much from units like the 551st, emphasizing:

- Multi-domain operations involving airborne, air assault, and special forces.
- Advanced technology such as precision-guided parachutes and drone reconnaissance.
- Integration with joint and multinational operations for broader strategic objectives.

The battalion's legacy persists in the ethos of agility, adaptability, and elite professionalism.

Legacy and Recognition

Honors and Commemorations

Members of the 551st received numerous commendations for bravery, tactical innovation, and unit cohesion. Memorials and commemorative events honor their sacrifices and achievements.

Influence on Military Culture and Training

The battalion's rigorous standards and pioneering spirit fostered a culture of excellence that persists in modern airborne and special forces units worldwide. Its training doctrines and operational philosophies continue to shape military education.

Conclusion

The 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion exemplifies the evolution of airborne warfare and the importance of specialized military units in modern conflicts. Its formation during a transformative period of military history, its operational successes in key campaigns, and its enduring influence on tactical and doctrinal development underscore its significance. As military technology and strategies continue to evolve, the legacy of units like the 551st remains a testament to the valor, innovation, and adaptability of airborne forces. Recognizing their contributions not only honors their sacrifices but also provides valuable insights into the strategic importance of rapid deployment and elite infantry operations in contemporary and future military endeavors.

551st Parachute Infantry Battalion

551st parachute infantry battalion: The Left Corner of My Heart Dan Morgan, 2019-07-25

551st parachute infantry battalion: The Operations of the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion (attached to the 82nd Airborne Division and the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment) in the Attack, in the Vicinity of "Trois Ponts," Belgium, 2-7 January 1945 (Ardennes Campaign) Bill G. Smith, 1950

551st parachute infantry battalion: Messengers of the Lost Battalion Gregory Orfalea, 2010-05-11 The author of *Before the Flames* and the son of a member of the ill-fated infantry battalion discusses America's 551st Battalion and their heroic, little-known role during World War II's Battle of the Bulge.

551st parachute infantry battalion: U.S.A. Airborne Bart Hagerman, 1990

551st parachute infantry battalion: US World War II Parachute Infantry Regiments Gordon L. Rottman, 2014-01-20 The parachute infantry regiments were among the most highly decorated US Army units of World War II, and between them they saw action right across the world. The elite nature of these units led to them being committed to action not only in the way that had been intended; their quality tempted commanders to keep them in the line longer than their light armament justified, and they were tested to the limit. This engaging study traces the story of each of the 17 regiments, from their creation and training in the USA, through their deployments overseas,

to their combat jumps and all their battles. The book is illustrated with wartime photographs, many previously unpublished, and eight full-colour plates detailing the specifics of their uniforms, insignia, and equipment practices, which often differed from unit to unit.

551st parachute infantry battalion: *Infantry* , 2008

551st parachute infantry battalion: The Ardennes, 1944-1945 Christer Bergström, 2014-12-19 A comprehensive, photo-filled account of the six-week-long Battle of the Bulge, when panzers slipped through the forest and took the Allies by surprise. In December 1944, just as World War II appeared to be winding down, Hitler shocked the world with a powerful German counteroffensive that cracked the center of the American front. The attack came through the Ardennes, the hilly and forested area in eastern Belgium and Luxembourg that the Allies had considered a “quiet” sector. Instead, for the second time in the war, the Germans used it as a stealthy avenue of approach for their panzers. Much of US First Army was overrun, and thousands of prisoners were taken as the Germans forged a fifty-mile “bulge” into the Allied front. But in one small town, Bastogne, American paratroopers, together with remnants of tank units, offered dogged resistance. Meanwhile, the rest of Eisenhower’s “broad front” strategy came to a halt as Patton, from the south, and Hodges, from the north, converged on the enemy incursion. Yet it would take an epic, six-week-long winter battle, the bloodiest in the history of the US Army, before the Germans were finally pushed back. Christer Bergström has interviewed veterans, gone through huge amounts of archive material, and performed on-the-spot research in the area. The result is a large amount of previously unpublished material and new findings, including reevaluations of tank and personnel casualties and the most accurate picture yet of what really transpired from the perspectives of both sides. With nearly four hundred photos, numerous maps, and thirty-two superb color profiles of combat vehicles and aircraft, it provides perhaps the most comprehensive look at the battle yet published.

551st parachute infantry battalion: The Airborne in World War II Michael E. Haskew, 2017-08-01 With one hundred and sixty photographs, maps, and illustrations, Michael E. Haskew's *The Airborne in World War II* is an accessible account of remarkable men and the battles that they fought. D-Day, Operation Market Garden, Battle of the Bulge—the US Airborne divisions were integral at all these major points in World War II. But they also played a significant role in North Africa, where they first saw action, and in Italy in 1943. Right on the tail of these planes, this expert history follows the airborne divisions from the redesignation and initial training of the 82nd in 1942 through to their final, momentous missions in the Pacific. Featuring the equipment, division structure, and uniforms, as well as first-hand accounts, this book is the true history popularized by such titles as *Band of Brothers*, *A Bridge Too Far*, and *The Dirty Dozen*.

551st parachute infantry battalion: The Daring Dozen Gavin Mortimer, 2012-06-20 Gavin Mortimer reveals the 12 legendary Special Forces commanders of World War II. Prior to the war, the concept of 'special forces' simply didn't exist, but thanks to visionary leaders like David Stirling and Charles Hunter, our very concept of how wars can be fought and won has totally changed. These 12 men not only reshaped military policy, but they led from the front, accompanying their troops into battle, from the sands of North Africa to jumping on D-Day and infiltrating behind enemy lines. Mortimer also offers a skilful analysis of their qualities as military commanders and the true impact that their own personal actions, as well as those of their units, had on the eventual outcome of the war.

551st parachute infantry battalion: Professional Journal of the United States Army , 1981

551st parachute infantry battalion: Blocking Kampfgruppe Peiper Frank van Lunteren, 2015-09-19 The account of these elite paratroopers’ encounter with the Germans is “a story of raw courage in the face of seemingly impossible odds . . . a great read” (World War II). In December 1944, an enormous German army group crashed through the thin American line in the Ardennes forest. Caught by surprise, the Allies were initially only able to throw two divisions of paratroopers to buttress the collapse—the 82nd Airborne, which was rushed to the area of St. Vith, and the 101st, which was trucked to Bastogne. After their successful campaign in Holland, Col. Reuben Tucker’s

elite 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment was resting and refitting in France when news came of the German breakthrough. Most dangerous to the Allies was the German spearhead of the 1st SS Panzer Division led by Jochen Peiper, which aimed to sever the Allied front. The 504th was committed to block the SS advance, and within forty-eight hours of their arrival, Col. Tucker's paratroopers were attacking the SS-Panzergrrenadiers of Peiper's battlegroup, eventually forcing them to withdraw. More ferocious fighting ensued as follow-up German units forced a US retreat from St. Vith. In adverse weather conditions against the German 9th SS Panzer and 3rd Fallschirmjäger Divisions, the 504th lived up to its regimental motto: Strike and Hold. Although some rifle companies were whittled down to less than fifty paratroopers, the Americans doggedly fought on until victory was achieved. This work provides a fascinating, up-close view of the 504th PIR during the Battle of the Bulge, as well as its gallant sacrifice. Using never-before-published diaries, letters, battle reports, and interviews with over a hundred veterans, a comprehensive account is painted of a triumphant US regiment in one of the fiercest-fought campaigns in the history of the US Army.

551st parachute infantry battalion: *The Army Lineage Book* United States. Department of the Army. Office of Military History, 1953

551st parachute infantry battalion: The Killing Fields of Provence James Bourhill, 2021-04-01 A history of the German occupation of France during World War II, the French resistance, and ultimately the nation's liberation. In the south of France, the most memorable event of World War II was the sea and airborne invasion of August 15, 1944. Perhaps because it went relatively smoothly, this Second D-Day was soon relegated to the back pages of history. Operation Dragoon and the liberation are, however, only a small part of the story. The arrival of the Allies was preceded by years of suffering and sacrifice under Hitléro-Vichyssois oppression. Provençale people still struggle to come to terms with the painful past of split-allegiances and empty stomachs that epitomize les années noirs (the dark years). Deportations, requisitions, forced labor, and hunger provoked resistance by a courageous minority. Many actively colluded with the enemy, but most just waited for better days. By sea and air, Allied agents and special forces were infiltrated to fan the flames, but wherever the Resistance arose prematurely, the reprisals from the Nazis and their auxiliaries were ferocious. In every corner of Provence, one can find words chipped into stone: Passant, souviens-toi (passer-by, remember). It is hard to imagine such cruelty could have existed here less than one generation ago. These memories here tell a story of duplicity, defiance, and ultimately, deliverance. Whether the stuff of legends, or the experiences of everyday humans, humanity is used to explain the Franco-American experience of wartime Provence, as seen through an Anglo-Saxon prism. A complete and well-researched study of the French Resistance groups, Allied agents and Special Forces operating against the Germans in the South of France. —Firetrench

551st parachute infantry battalion: US Airborne Units in the Mediterranean Theater 1942-44 Gordon L. Rottman, 2013-07-20 This book is the first of three to examine the genesis, organization and operational deployment of the US airborne divisions in World War II. It discusses early airborne units, detailing how and why they were formed. Task organization for combat, details of attached units, tactics, and weapons and equipment are examined, together with command relationships. The units discussed in this book include the 82d Airborne Division, 1st Special Service Force, 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team and 1st Airborne Task Force, and the operations in North Africa, Sicily, the Italian mainland, and in southern France are covered.

551st parachute infantry battalion: Report of Operations United States. Army. Army, 7th, 1946

551st parachute infantry battalion: All American, All the Way Phil Nordyke, 2010-11-10 On Sunday, September 17, 1944, the 82nd Airborne Division jumped into history with the First Allied Airborne Army in a daring daylight parachute and glider-borne assault to capture key bridges at the start of Operation Market Garden. Following weeks of heavy combat in Holland, the All Americans (the name of the division in World War I when Sgt. Alvin York was one of its soldiers) were withdrawn from the frontlines for a well-deserved rest, which was almost immediately interrupted by the Battle of the Bulge, where they once again found themselves in the thick of the action, a position

that remained familiar to them for the rest of the war. Following VE Day, the 82nd became part of the Allied forces occupying Berlin.

551st parachute infantry battalion: Destination Berchtesgaden John Frayn Turner, Robert Jackson, 2012-09-20 The actions of General Patch's Seventh Army are analysed and assessed in this detailed history of their advance across Europe in 1943-45. Of the US Armies fighting in Europe at the end of World War II, General Patch's Seventh Army has received the least attention from historians. Although over-shadowed by the performance of General Patton and the actions of his US Third Army (breaking out of the Normandy bridgehead, liberating Paris and seizing Remagen bridge), the Seventh Army made a considerable contribution to the Allied victory, particularly their rapid advance through southern Germany and Austria. The Seventh Army landed in Sicily in 1943, and then took part in Operation Anvil in 1944 before advancing across the Rhine and reaching Berchtesgaden itself. Both the successes and setbacks of the Seventh Army are discussed in this volume, as well as discussing the tactical victories and defeats that contributed to the Allied campaign.

551st parachute infantry battalion: *Retreat to the Reich* Samuel W. Mitcham, 2007-01-23 The story of Western Front from a German perspective ranges from the collapse of the Normandy line in the summer of 1944 until the Germans were able to bring the Allied juggernaut to a halt on the borders of the Reich itself.

551st parachute infantry battalion: **Operation 'Dragoon' and Beyond** Jean Paul Pallud, 2024-02-22 The photographs from the invasion, contrasted with modern pictures of the same locations provide a fascinating interpretation of the battlefields. The text and accompanying maps complement the photos, making the overall volume an outstanding introduction to the campaign.—ARGunners.com From the Riviera, to the Rhine and on to the Colmar pocket, all three operations are covered in this volume by Jean Paul Pallud, and each show the action and locations in our unique 'then and now' style. The project of a landing operation in southern France was debated between American and British Allies from mid-1943, the Americans favoring the idea, the British expressing doubts on the value of such an operation. The Russians intervened in November when, at the 'Eureka' conference at Teheran Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviet state, declared he was much interested in an operation in southern France. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill agreed to launch Operation 'Anvil' in southern France at the same time as Operation 'Overlord', the Normandy landings. Convinced that the Allied forces in the Mediterranean would better be used in the Italian campaign, Churchill appealed directly to Roosevelt in June to cancel 'Anvil' but Roosevelt answered that he was definitely for 'Anvil'. On July 2, the Combined Chiefs-of-Staff directed General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, the C-in-C Mediterranean Theater, to launch Operation 'Dragoon', a three-division assault against the coast of southern France by August 14. Under the shield of a large naval task force the US VI Corps and French forces landed on the beaches of the Riviera on August 15. Opposition from scattered German forces was weak. As the swiftly defeated German forces withdrew to the north through the Rhône valley, pressed by the leaders of VI Corps, the French captured the ports of Marseille and Toulon, soon bringing them into operation. Troops from Operation 'Dragoon' met with the Allied units from Operation 'Overlord' on September 15. At the same time Headquarters of the US 6th Army Group, under Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers, became operational taking command of the US Seventh Army and the French 1ère Armée. The swift campaign soon came to a stop at the Vosges mountains, where Armeegruppe G was able to establish a stable defense line. The leaders of the 6th Army Group reached the Rhine in mid-November but there would be no crossing. Eisenhower ordered Devers to use whatever force necessary to clear the area between the Vosges and the Rhine and to turn the Seventh Army north as quickly as possible, attacking west and east of the Low Vosges. In spite of its uncertain antecedents, the well-planned Operation 'Dragoon' and the forces involved — along with German unpreparedness and disarray — contributed to a surprisingly rapid success that liberated most of southern France in just four weeks.

551st parachute infantry battalion: Eisenhower's Lieutenants: The Campaigns of France and

Germany, 1944-1945 Russell F. Weigley, 2019-07-31 Jointly published by Plunkett Lake Press and Indiana University Press This study of the American-led campaign in Europe in World War II analyzes command decisions at both the strategic and tactical levels. All the complex ingredients of armies at war — the burdens of history, the impact of technology, the roles of personalities, the confusions of the battlefield — are presented based on extensive scholarship. Field Marshal Montgomery and Ike's lieutenants, Generals Omar N. Bradley, Jacob L. Devers, Courtney H. Hodges, George S. Patton, Jr., Alexander M. Patch, William H. Simpson, Leonard T. Gerow, J. Lawton Collins, and Matthew B. Ridgway, and others appear in the book. All major strategic and tactical decisions in the battles of the American offensive against Nazi Germany are covered, with descriptions of key terrain features and many personal insights drawn from various diaries. The book provides an assessment of the leadership and fighting capabilities of the Allied forces in the key European battles of World War II. "The publication of Eisenhower's Lieutenants is an event of significance in American military writing... admirable... clearly the product of exhaustive, painstaking research." — Drew Middleton, The New York Times "Eisenhower's Lieutenants is an outstanding and highly recommended work. It offers the wealth of information, superb research and presentation, comprehensive treatment, and challenging reinterpretation one has come to expect from Weigley. It also points out once again that his reputation as one of our outstanding military historians is well deserved." — Mark A. Stoler, Journal of American History "... outstanding book... highly professional study of command and operations in northwest Europe, 1944-45... the best account we have of the World War II campaigns from Normandy to the Elbe." — Forrest C. Pogue, American Historical Review "The fullest account yet of the climactic campaign in northwestern Europe, from the planning of D-Day through the German surrender, with an interesting focus on the personalities involved in shaping the Allied forces, plans, and operations... precisely informative and broadly rewarding." — Kirkus Reviews "... an excellent book." — Calvin B. Peters, Journal of Political and Military Sociology "... by the dean of American military historians..." — Washington Post "I had thought I knew everything about World War II that I would ever want to know. I was wrong. Reading Eisenhower's Lieutenants was a wonderfully enriching experience. I learned more than I ever would have thought possible. This will unquestionably become one of the great classics of American military history." —Stephen E. Ambrose

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List of Rugrats characters - Wikipedia Philip Richard William "Phil" DeVille and Lillian Marie Jill "Lil" DeVille (both voiced by Kath Soucie) are the children of Howard and Betty DeVille. They live next door to Tommy and are fraternal

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