

Biography of 2Lt Albert J. Tetreault

Dominique "Nick" Doyon



Albert Tetreault was born April 16, 1913 in Brunswick, Maine, USA. He was the seventh of nine children born of French Canadian immigrants Napoleon Eloi Tetreault and Marie Catherine Ouellette. At the time of his birth, Albert's father worked as a railroad car inspector for Maine Central Railroad. Albert attended St John's Catholic School from 1918 until completing 8th grade in 1927. From there, he went on to Brunswick High School where he graduated in June 1931.

It is unclear in what line of work if any Albert was employed after graduating from high school. The Great Depression which began in 1929 and affected countries throughout the world left many people without jobs for years. If Albert was able to find employment, it was most probably menial work at very low pay.

Albert's father died in 1933 leaving his wife, Catherine, and their four youngest children (Claire, Albert, Edouard and Pauline) without any means of financial support. This was an especially difficult time for the Tetreault family and left Albert as the oldest remaining son in the household as his two older brothers were grown and had already left home.

Shortly thereafter, Albert, his mother Catherine, and siblings Claire, Pauline and Edouard moved to Meriden, Connecticut where Albert's oldest brother, Antoine, and his family resided. Work was more plentiful there and they were better able to support themselves.



Albert Joseph Tetreault

Before enlisting in the U.S. Army, Albert became employed by Pratt & Whitney Co. in Hartford, Connecticut. While working there he became skilled in electroplating, galvanizing and other related processes.

Albert enlisted in the U.S. Army on March 12, 1943 as a Private. Following training at Camp Rucker, Alabama, he was shipped overseas where he was assigned to the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division under the command of General Mark Clark. In July, 1943, he participated in the amphibious assault on Sicily and for his exceptional performance in this successful mission, Private Tetreault was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant.

In late January, 1944, Staff Sergeant Tetreault took part in the successful Allied landing at Anzio, Italy, which resulted in a breakout and the ultimate drive on Rome by the 7th Infantry Regiment. While fighting at the Anzio Front, he again distinguished himself in combat by cutting enemy communication lines, disrupting their supply lines and destroying their ammunition dumps. On another occasion, while exposed to intense machine gun fire and 50-millimeter mortar fire, he left his shell hole and crawled forward to reach a seriously wounded comrade and dragged him to safety. For this distinctive act of valor, Staff Sergeant Tetreault was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

On May 27, 1944, Staff Sergeant Tetreault was wounded while his unit was engaged in the final push to Rome. He was transported to a hospital in Algiers in northern Africa where he was awarded the first of his two Purple Hearts.

At his personal request, he was allowed to return to combat after his wound had healed to continue the fight to liberate Italy.



Then Staff Sergeant Albert Tetreault (center) and two of his fellow soldiers (whose identity is unknown). This photo was taken in the Spring of 1944 as Albert's unit was about to take part in the move to capture Italy. The ponchos they are holding were part of the new equipment provided to the soldiers at the front in anticipation of the push into Italy. Later, sometime during that summer, Tetreault received a battlefield commission to Second Lieutenant.

By the time Tetreault was able to rejoin his unit in Italy, Rome had already been captured and Allied forces were pushing forward into northern Italy. It is unclear precisely when Albert Tetreault received his battlefield commission to 2nd Lieutenant, but it most probably occurred during mid summer of 1944.

Meanwhile, in early August, 1944, Major General Alexander "Sandy" Patch took over command of 7th Army and on August 15th, landed his forces in southern France. 2Lt Albert Tetreault and the 7th Infantry Regiment were part of those forces participating in that landing which was known as "Operation Dragoon." On August 18, 1944, General Patch was promoted to Lieutenant General. The operation called for a rapid offensive up the Rhone Valley to the German frontier. On September 9, 1944, near Dijon, France, Albert's unit met up with elements of Lieutenant General George S. Patton's 3rd Army that had driven east from the beaches of Normandy.

All that remained was to break through a defense line the German forces had established in the Vosges Mountains. The Vosges Mountains were the last barrier between the Allies and the Rhine River, the German homeland. Their backs to the wall, the Germans were under orders to hold the Vosges at all costs. Like a cornered animal, they fought with a ferocity here-to-for unseen. There would be no quarter, no mercy.

Added to the desperate resistance of the enemy, the battle in the Vosges would also be fought

against the elements. The mountains were covered with thick conifers, heavy undergrowth, and rugged terrain. So thick was the vegetation that the enemy would dig in below ground, watch an American patrol pass within yards of their position, then pop up from hiding to rain death on them from behind. Such as the case was, the enemy was not always ahead, but also behind the advancing U.S. Forces.

It was at this point when General Patch himself suffered personal tragedy. His son, Captain Alexander M. Patch III, was killed in action on October 22th, 1944 while serving as an infantry company commander in the 79th Infantry Division. Six days later, 2Lt Albert J Tetreault met his fate as well when he was felled by a sniper's bullet somewhere in the Vosges Mountains.

The remains of 2Lt Albert Joseph Tetreault were later laid to rest at the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial located in Dinozé, Lorraine, France. His family decided it would greatly honor his memory if he were to be interred alongside those with whom he had fought so



courageously. His final resting place is situated on a plateau 100 feet above the Moselle River in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains which also contains the graves of 5,255 United States military war dead. Without question, all of these brave men were the very best of America's "Greatest Generation."



Mr & Mrs Lionel David who reside near the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial in France have graciously adopted the grave of 2Lt Albert Tetreault in appreciation of his sacrificing his life to help liberate France during World War II. On every American holiday, they bring fresh flowers to Alberts grave to honor his ultimate sacrifice.

Stéphanie Tétreault 
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TITLE OF DESCENT
JOSEPH ALBERT TÉTREAU

Mathurin Tetreau et Marie Bernard
 Tessonnière, département Deux-Sèvres, France, le 29 janvier 1620

Louis Tetreau

Noëlle Landeau (*Jean et Marie Aubert*)
 Trois-Rivières, le 9 juin 1663

Daniel Tetreau

Catherine Charron (*Pierre et Catherine Pillart*)
 Contrat de mariage, notaire Claude Maugue, le 26 juin 1695

Jean-Baptiste Tetreau

Madeleine Goulet (*Antoine et Madeleine Guyon*)
 Varennes, le 27 juillet 1722

Joseph Tetreau

Charlotte Paquet dit Vallée (*Charles et Charlotte Allaire*)
 Verchères, le 15 mai 1752

Joseph Tetreau

Marie-Anne Clothilde Rolland (*Jean-Pierre et Joseph Guertin*)
 Verchères, le 13 janvier 1783

Joseph Tetreau

Marie Charlotte Blanchette (*Pierre et Marie-Anne Morneau*)
 Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire de Saint-Hyacinthe, le 12 février 1810

François-Xavier Tétreault

Marguerite Tétreault (*Pierre et Marguerite Lacroix*)
 Saint-Pie de Bagot, le 7 novembre 1837

Paul Tétreault

Phélonise Mathurin (*Flavien et Césarie Proulx*)
 Saint-Mary Church de Bath, comté Sagadahoc, Maine, USA, le 4 août 1869

Éloi Napoléon Tétreault

Catherine Ouellette (*Paul et Philomène Lévesque*)
 Saint-John-the-Baptist Church de Brunswick, Maine, USA, le 26 novembre 1900

Joseph Albert Tétreault