

2020

In Memory of PFC Elisée "Frenchy" A. Dutil

Denis Mailhot MPS

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*In Memory of PFC Elisée "Frenchy" A. Dutil, ASN 31116655
7th Infantry, 3rd Division, U.S. Army*

Family

- Son of Alphonse & Odile (Cote) Dutil.
- Born in Lewiston on November 24, 1919.
- Attended St. Peter's School & Lewiston High School.
- *His mother, Odile, died February 11, 1945, Elisee died March 18, 1945, and "some say his mother, Odile, came to get her son, who had suffered so much for such a long time during the war."*

Community

- Worked at Bates Manufacturing Co. before his military induction.

Faith

- Catholic, parishioner at SS Peter & Paul Parish (Basilica of St. Peter & St. Paul) aka Prince of Peace Parish.
- Member of St. Peter & Paul Parish Choir and member of the "Orpheon" (a French male choral society).
- Member of "The Defenseurs," and "Cadets of the Catholic Order of Foresters."

WWII

- Charter member of the Normand Dionne Post VFW
- 7th Infantry, 3rd Division; awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for combat while serving on the Fifth Army front in Italy
- Inducted into the U.S. Army June 9, 1942 (SJ photo)
- Trained at Fort George Meade, MD.
- Sent overseas January 1943 by ship, landed in England.
- Participated in the invasion and campaigns of:
 - ❖ North Africa
 - ❖ Sicily
 - ❖ Italy
- Wounded three times, once in Sicily and at the battle of Anzio on October 15th, "PFC Dutil" fatally wounded a 3rd time, March 18, 1945 in Germany.
- Fought in France wounded a second time (evacuated to a North African hospital)

- KIA near Zweibrucken, Germany; “The body of PFC Elisee Dutil, who was killed in action in Germany in 1945, will arrive here at 8:10 Thursday morning.” “A delegation from various military organizations will be at the Maine Central Railroad station when the body of PFC Dutil arrives. It will be escorted to the Pinette Funeral Home. Libera services will be held at SS Peter & Paul Church At 9A.M. Saturday morning.” (SJ)
- Fought in Germany where he was fatally wounded, March 18, 1945, buried in France, body later unearthed by father, (Alphonse) to bring his son back home to be buried at St. Peter Cemetery in the family gravesite.
- Awarded the “Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.”
- Fr. Mitchell Koprowski was his Chaplain and remained in touch with Elisee’s sister, Leona A. (Dutil) Mailhot, for decades (see Fr. Mike’s note) until her death at the age of 97. “Fr. Mike” was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1941. He served in the Grand Island, Diocese as a mission priest in the Sand Hills of Nebraska and also as Pastor at St. Mary's Parish in Mullen, until retiring in 1987. He served as Chaplain of the American Legion post in Mullen. He served in the US Army as a Chaplain during World War II from 1943 to 1946, with the Third Infantry Division and was at the Anzio beachhead during the invasion of Southern France. Fr. Mike passed away on December 10, 2010.
- The L/A Veterans Council will add Elisee’s name to the 32nd monument at the Veterans Memorial Park on Memorial Day Weekend, 2020.