



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2292

October 4, 2015

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

MailCall News



The “Andrew Sisters” who inspired that absolutely wonderful dance by a WWII veteran at the airport (in [MailCall #2291](#)) were indeed the Liberty Belles, but not necessarily all of the same young women who were such a delight in Kissimmee. The composition of the group, which can be contacted through the World War II Museum in New Orleans, changes from time to time as transition in and out occurs. But they are all quite wonderful and so committed. We were so very pleased to have them with us, but THEY felt very privileged to be there.

Brenda Mortensen





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Bob: Thank you for keeping Mail Call robust even though we continue to lose our "Troopers".

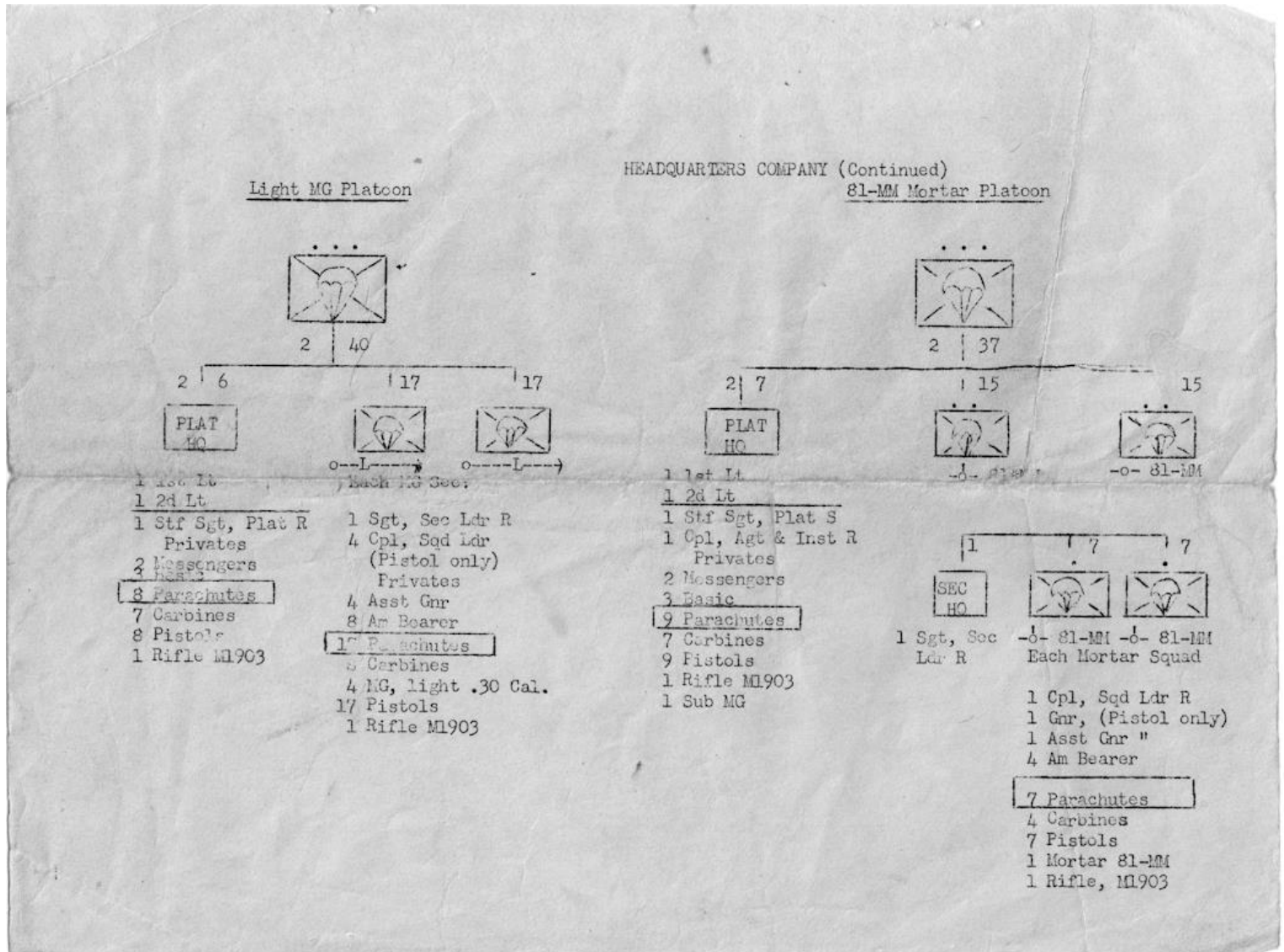
For the 517th archives:

1. I found a Christmas Card sent to our sister Hope Montanez from **Ishmael Ramos** from "somewhere in France". She was a WW II widow whose Staff Sargent husband was killed in action leading the recapture invasion of the island of Attu, Alaska from the Japanese Forces occupying forces. Attu, Alaska was the only U.S. land captured during WW II since the British occupied Washington, D.C. during the Colonial Wars.

2. I also came across two pages from a handout staffing and weapons organizational chart of the parachute "Infantry Rifle Company, Parachute" of my brother Ishmael Ramos during his training as a 517th Paratrooper.

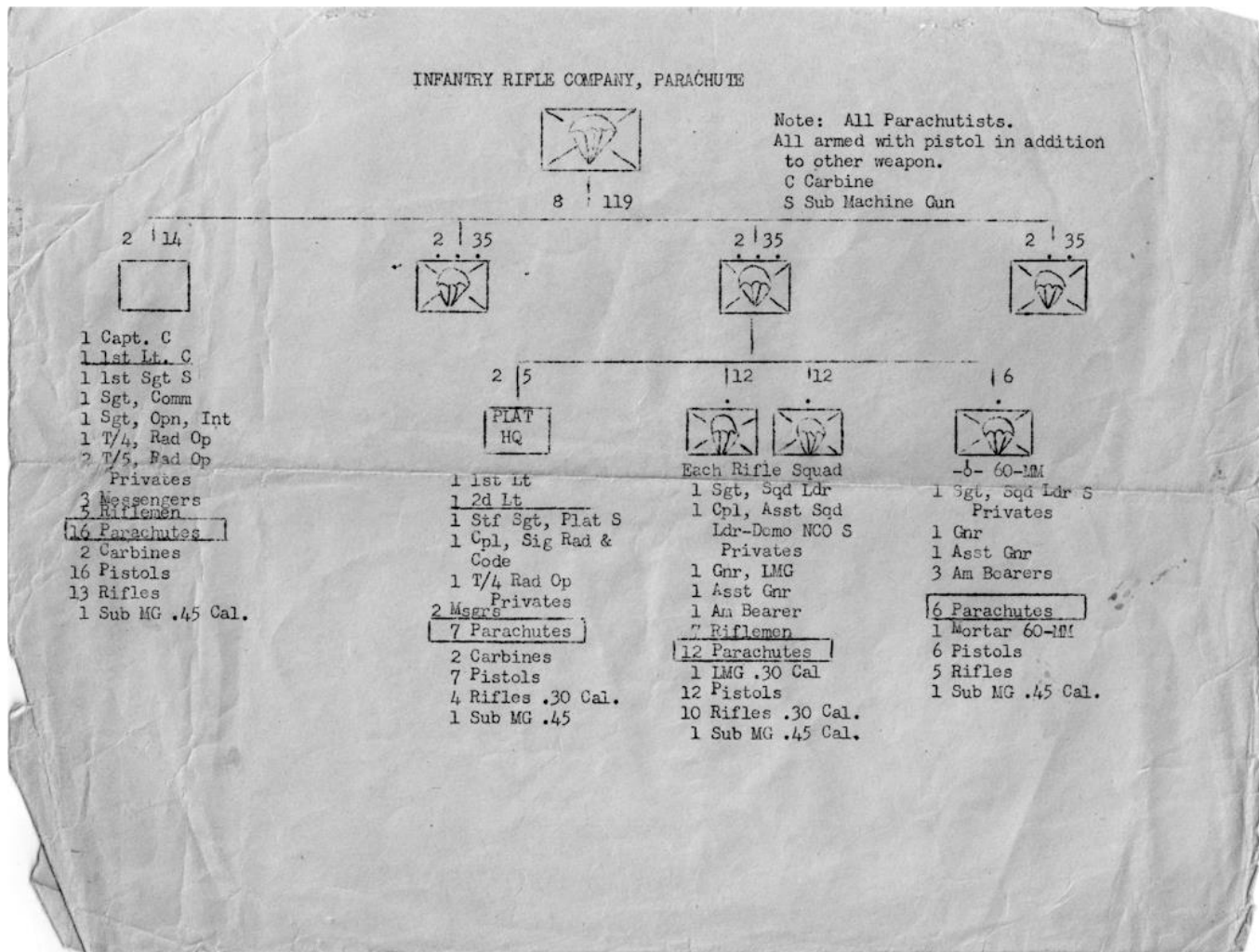
Best

Frank Ramos





517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



I'm going to save the Christmas notes until we get closer to Christmas. Stay tuned. – BB



Photo from <https://www.facebook.com/FirstAirborneTaskForceTheForgottenFront>

Quiz: Can you identify the person in the green insert picture used on FATF's Facebook pages?

Answer: That's **Leo Dean**. Early September 1944 in Bouyon, Maritime Alps



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I remember **Richard H. Wheeler** saying that he was in a small combat unit and they were shoved here and there wherever help was needed.

He said the 101st as well as the 82nd Airborne. I no longer have his displays cases; they went to his grandson. Richard the patches of different units he had been "attached to."

Katherine Wheeler

RE: William Wayland Brannan, A Company

Marshal W Baird was in Co. A 1st Btl. Also. I'll never forget what Bill said to me after our first jump. I was the first one to jump out of the plane for our squad. He said if you froze at the door, I probably would have done the same thing. Of course it never happened. After what we went through, training & all, I wasn't about to quit. I was proud to be a Paratrooper. The average person wouldn't do it.

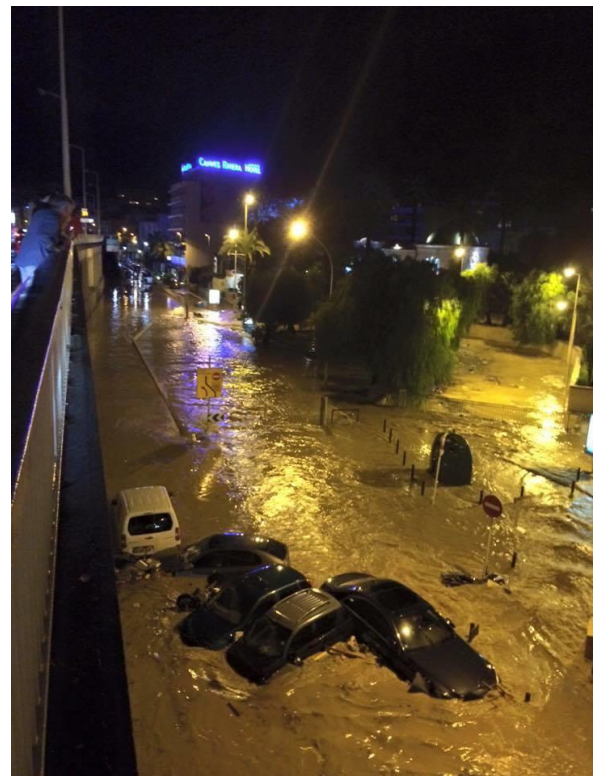
By the way, Bill's last name was Waylan or Wayland during the war.

Mel Trenary

Bill is on the 1944 Christmas roster as **PFC William S. Wayland**. – BB

See: http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas_1944_company_a1.jpg

A lot of rain last week in Côte d'Azur! Nice (left), Cannes, (right)



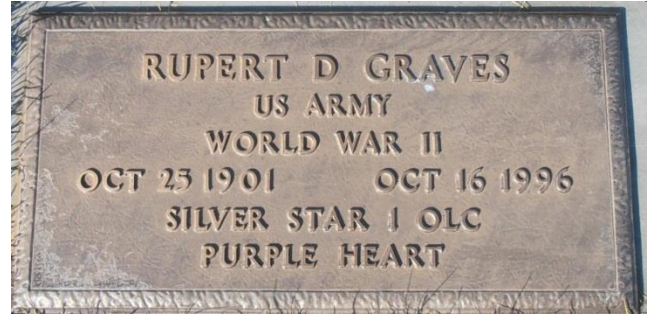


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Found on the internet at [Find A Grave](#)

Birth: Oct. 25, 1901
 Peabody
 Essex County
 Massachusetts, USA

Death: Oct. 16, 1996
 Stuart
 Martin County
 Florida, USA



Col. Rupert Graves graduated from West Point Academy and served at several points in the United States as well as the Philippines and China before World War II. He won his jumper's wings in early 1943 and in 1944 he took command of the 517th Parachute Infantry Division, which saw service through the battles of Naples, Rome, into France and the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Croix de Guerre, the Silver Star and the Bronze Star. Before retiring in 1954, he was assigned to ROTC duty at the Georgia Military Academy.

*Colonel
Rupert D. Graves*

BORN (you can't start much earlier) in Peabody, Mass., in 1901. Attended the public schools, suffered the usual childhood diseases and was appointed to the U. S. Military Academy, graduating in 1924. First station was Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where in addition to a reputation for not being overly assiduous, also garnered one wife whose nickname was and still is "Chief." Service in the Philippines with the 31st Infantry also brought a trip to Shanghai, China, in 1932. Whether we succeeded in filling with awe the fourteen Jap divisions there, I don't know, but it was a nice trip.

After a tour with the tanks and then in Hawaii returned to duty with the 1st Armored Division at Fort Knox and then with the 10th Armored at Fort Benning. After maneuvers in Louisiana, Tennessee and North Carolina, grew allergic to same and transferred to Airborne and was sent to take the course in mass mayhem at the Parachute School. Being now at the ripe old age of forty, well advanced senility for a paratrooper, astounded my friends not to mention myself, by qualifying easily, that is to say all in one piece. Then commanded the 551st Parachute Battalion and later was assigned the job of conducting the 517th Regimental Combat Team (Parachute) on its journey overseas. This I believe is where I came in.

"Combat Team" is supposed to be a simple story of the adventures of a separate Regimental Combat Team, Parachute. It was thought at first it might be appropriate to name the article, "You *Would* Be a Separate Regiment!"

Colonel Rupert D. Graves

ment!" Brigadier General Ralph Eaton, chief of staff of the 18th Airborne Corps, when we arrived in Soissons in December, 1944, after moving up from southern France, asked how we liked being a separate regiment. I replied that we sort of liked it, although it had some disadvantages. Seeing us later on near Malmedy, Belgium, after we had been pretty well beaten down in the Battle of the Bulge, he remarked: "You *would* be a separate regiment!"

Philip Ketchum

I WAS born in Colorado in 1902 and attended various elementary schools all over the State, finishing up at Denver University, which I attended for four years without graduating. I married a Denver girl twenty years ago and am still married to her. We have an eighteen-year-old son who is six inches taller than I am, and who wishes I

Colonel Graves, a man well-respected by his Airborne soldiers and anyone else who had the pleasure to meet him. I am proud my father served under him in the 517th. I count myself lucky to have met him in 1997.

- Thomas Finley

Added: May. 24, 2014

From the [Blue Book Magazine](#) articles, 1947-1948 -->



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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
- 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.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to our new Association Treasurer: Identify the purpose of any donation (Annual Donations, In Memory of... etc.) and make all checks payable to:

517 PRCT Association, Inc.
c/o Miriam Boyle Kelly
19 Oriole Court
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



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