



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2334

September 11 2016

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

MailCall News



Suzanne Walker and Shirley Cobb; the Red Cross gals!

In last week's MailCall #2333, I included a couple of pictures of two Red Cross volunteers who were with the 517th in southern France. The photos were from Michel De Tres' *First Airborne Task Force*.

Just out of curiosity, I did a web search on the two ladies, and found some interesting information.

Shirley Cobb, it turns out, was the daughter of Ty Cobb, the very famous baseball player. Many still consider him to be the greatest baseball player of all time, and he still holds the record for best lifetime batting average. I wonder if any of the 460th or 517th troopers in France made the connection at the time. The name Cobb probably raised some questions. Ty Cobb was also a veteran of WW1, spending 67 days in France.



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Ty and wife Charlie: Late 1918. L-R: daughter Shirley, baby Herschel, son Ty Jr.



Palo Alto Times (CA), Tuesday, February 5, 1991.

PALO ALTO TIMES, Tuesday, February 5, 1991—

Shirley Cobb Beckworth, Palo Alto bookstore owner, dies

ANNE STEIN / STAFF

Shirley Cobb Beckworth, daughter of baseball great Ty Cobb and owner of Shirley Cobb Books on University Avenue in downtown Palo Alto for more than 40 years, died Jan. 19 at Stanford University Hospital. She was 80.

Mrs. Cobb, a native of Georgia, had been living in Portola Valley.

Mrs. Cobb opened Shirley Cobb Books, next to the Varsity Theater, in 1938. She was known for her independence, feisty attitude and unique collection of books. Her clerks were known for their politeness and extensive knowledge of literature.

Book lovers in the area mourned when she closed the shop in 1985, realizing they were losing a last bastion of personalized book selling.

Mrs. Cobb was the eldest daughter of Ty Cobb, who had retired to live in Atherton. She seldom mentioned her father.

She regretted her father's retirement from baseball to play golf, believing he should have stayed in the game longer, perhaps as coach.

"His mind was too good to let it lie fallow," she said at the time of her own retirement in 1985. "I think it's time for me to retire but I don't think it was time for him."

After her father's retirement, Mrs. Cobb also quit the sport and stopped attending games.

Mrs. Cobb took a leave of absence from the bookstore to become a Red Cross volunteer during and after World War II.

She served in Italy, Japan and France. In 1946, she was awarded the highest military award a civilian can receive, the Medal of

Freedom.

According to news stories from that time, Cobb received the award for her "high standards of moral conduct and devotion to duty ... in elevating the morale of the troops" in France and Italy.

"Although the areas in which she worked were often subjected to enemy shelling, bombing and strafing attacks," the medal proclamation said, "she worked unstintingly under the most discouraging and tiring conditions to bring periods of comfort and relaxation to tired, wet and hungry men."

She met her future husband, Dixie Beckworth, in Japan.

She is survived by a sister, Beverly McLaren of Sharon Heights; a brother, James Cobb of Santa Maria; and many nieces and nephews.



Shirley Cobb Beckworth with a friend at her bookstore.



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Ty Cobb

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Tyrus Raymond "Ty" Cobb (December 18, 1886 – July 17, 1961), nicknamed "The Georgia Peach", was an American Major League Baseball (MLB) outfielder. He was born in rural Narrows, Georgia. Cobb spent 22 seasons with the Detroit Tigers, the last six as the team's player-manager, and finished his career with the Philadelphia Athletics. In 1936 Cobb received the most votes of any player on the inaugural Baseball Hall of Fame ballot, receiving 222 out of a possible 226 votes (98.2%); no other player received a higher percentage of votes until 1992. In 1999, editors at the Sporting News ranked Ty Cobb 3rd on their list of "Baseball's 100 Greatest Players".



Cobb is widely credited with setting 90 MLB records during his career. He still holds several records as of the end of the 2014 season, including the highest career batting average (.366 or .367, depending on source) and most career batting titles with 11 (or 12, depending on source). He retained many other records for almost a half century or more, including most career hits until 1985 (4,189 or 4,191, depending on source), most career runs (2,245 or 2,246 depending on source) until 2001, most career games played (3,035) and at bats (11,429 or 11,434 depending on source) until 1974, and the modern record for most career stolen bases (892) until 1977. He still holds the career record for stealing home (54 times) and for stealing second base, third base, and home in succession (5 times), and as the youngest player ever to compile 4,000 hits and score 2,000 runs. Cobb ranks fifth all-time in number of games played and committed 271 errors, the most by any American League (AL) outfielder.

Cobb's legacy as an athlete has sometimes been overshadowed by his surly temperament and aggressive playing style, which was described by the Detroit Free Press as "daring to the point of dementia." Cobb himself wrote shortly before his death, "In legend I am a sadistic, slashing, swashbuckling despot who waged war in the guise of sport." Cobb was notorious for sliding into bases feet first, with his spikes high.

Cobb's legacy, which includes a large college scholarship fund for Georgia residents financed by his early investments in Coca-Cola and General Motors, has been tarnished by allegations of racism and violence, largely stemming from a couple of biographies that were released following his death. Cobb's reputation as an extremely violent man was fanned by his first biographer, sportswriter Al Stump, whose stories about Cobb have been discredited as sensationalized, and in some part proven to be entirely fictional, while Cobb's views on race evolved and mellowed after his retirement from baseball.



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And I found this brief note about Shirley Walker:

This is a newspaper article from the Claremont paper dated August 3, 1943:

Second Lieutenant Suzanne Walker of Claremont enlisted through the Red Cross with the American Nursing Corps of the U S Army on February 19, 1943. She is a graduate of the Children's Hospital in Boston, MA. She was born in New Orleans, LA on December 18, 1920 the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Walker of 32 Sullivan Street, Claremont and lived also in Biloxi, MS before coming here where she entered Stevens High School. Following her graduation in 1936, she went to Boston, and after completing three years of training in the Children's hospital in the spring of 1942, she remained on duty in the operating room there. Inducted into the service on March 1 of this year, she was stationed at Ft. Devens, MA for about three months. She has recently arrived at Camp Stoneman, CA where she is attached to the medical hospital's ship platoon. While at Ft. Devens, she served as morale officer and was also news reporter for the nursing corps, for the bi-weekly paper. She is a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church here

Bob: Attached you will find a copy of the 15 JAN 1945 MR for A Co. Morancy is listed on this document. I did not find him in any more MR's for A Co. You would think that there could be at least one more for when he either rejoined the outfit or was assigned to another one.

I have NOT entered JAN, FEB, MAR 1945 of A Co. MR's into the Excel spreadsheet. I'll make that a priority as it will complete this Co.

I can send you all the MR copies if you do not have them.

Mike Wells

And, by the way, the last several MailCalls have been fantastic! Enjoyed the report Claire gave on the France trip; and other information you've put in them.

THANKS

Hi Bob I did get this in an earlier email. By the way, I've tried replying to the mail call email when you've sent me things and it says that the mailbox is full and my message can't be delivered.

I got your other email about the 1992 update Bob wrote. I don't have a clue where he was before Cols de Braus or why he didn't rejoin a unit after Jan '45. Still searching...thanks!

Chris Moloney

Hi Chris,

Yes, my MailCall address filled up (after 10 years or so). I did some housekeeping and it should be OK now.

BB



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COMPANY MORNING REPORT ENGINEER **14 January** 1945 **5**

STATION Coulee, Belgium (73.8-95.4)
 ORGANIZATION Co. A, 517th Provt Inf-Inf

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
5945018	Hopkins, George W.	1st Sgt	
MOS 71812 fr duty to LWA (BC) (Not Evacuated)			
33251684	Boyer, Albert E.	Tec 4AG	
MOS 7745 fr duty to Ab Sk in Hoop LWA (BC) basic status changed fr asgd to atchd unassgd.			
36464264	Backus, Eugene E.	Pvt	
MOS 7745 fr duty to Ab Sk in Hoop LWA (BC) basic at tms changed fr asgd to atchd unassgd.			

RECORDS OF EVENTS
 Company left Stavelot on foot 0630 hr. Advanced to & occupied Hermyant 1230 hr. No opposition. Company left Hermyant 1530 hr & advanced to & occupied Coulee 1700 hr. Sniper & artillery fire encountered with three casualties. Weather clear and cold. Morale good.

OFFICER STRENGTH	PLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	WO	PLT O
	PRESEN	ABSEN	PRESEN	ABSEN	PRESEN
ASSIGNED		5	1	1	
ATTACHED					
UNASSIGNED	1		2		4
ATTACHED FR OTHER ORGN					
TOTAL	1	5	3	1	4

AVN CADET & ENLISTED STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN			
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PRESENT NOT FOR DUTY	ABSENT	PRESENT AND ABSENT
ASSIGNED			70	1	17	88
ATTACHED					81	81
UNASSIGNED						
ATTACHED FR OTHER ORGN			3		1	4
TOTAL			73	1	99	173

ATTENDANCE

R I ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DAY OF WEEK RATIONS REQUIRED FOR DATE

A I MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT

MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT			TOTAL	AVERAGE
BREAKFAST	DINNER	SUPPER		

O MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY

N III MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS

S MEN PRESENT

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

Martin J. Pastala
 SIGNATURE
 M. J. PASTALA, CAPT, INF

COMPANY MORNING REPORT ENGINEER **15 January** 1945 **3**

STATION Coulee, Belgium (73.8-95.4)
 ORGANIZATION Co. A, 517th Provt Inf-Inf

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
38441054	Marala, Malquiades P.	Pvt	
MOS 7745 fr duty to LWA (BC) (Not Evacuated)			
31340381	Marancy, Robert W.	Pvt	76
MOS 7604			
36463799	Parsons, Harold E.	Pvt	
MOS 7607 Above 2 EM fr duty to Ab Sk in Hoop LWA (BC) basic status changed fr asgd to atchd unassgd.			

RECORDS OF EVENTS
 Company in same position. Weather clear and cold. Morale good. Light mortar & sniper fire. Three casualties.

OFFICER STRENGTH	PLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	WO	PLT O
	PRESEN	ABSEN	PRESEN	ABSEN	PRESEN
ASSIGNED		5	1	1	
ATTACHED					
UNASSIGNED	1		2		4
ATTACHED FR OTHER ORGN					
TOTAL	1	5	3	1	4

AVN CADET & ENLISTED STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN			
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PRESENT NOT FOR DUTY	ABSENT	PRESENT AND ABSENT
ASSIGNED			68	1	17	86
ATTACHED					83	83
UNASSIGNED						
ATTACHED FR OTHER ORGN			3		1	4
TOTAL			71	1	101	173

ATTENDANCE

R I ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DAY OF WEEK RATIONS REQUIRED FOR DATE

A I MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT

MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT			TOTAL	AVERAGE
BREAKFAST	DINNER	SUPPER		

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N III MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS

S MEN PRESENT

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

Martin J. Pastala
 SIGNATURE
 M. J. PASTALA, CAPT, INF



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RE: Looking for info on **Pvt. Robert Morancy**, Co A.

Hi Chris,

I did get one response in the mail from the wife of an A Company vet who was nice enough to dig through her records. Here is the note and the 1992 note from Robert Morancy.

From Lee Hekkala, wife of Barney Hekkala:

September 6, 2016

Hi Bob,

RE: Looking for info on Pvt. Robert Morancy, Co A.

Barney Hekkala of Co A was editor of Co A newsletter (published monthly to the Co A paratroopers group) & I found this letter, which was written by R. W> Moraney.. 1992.. Hopefully it will be a help to you. The address at that time was: 203 Mace Hill Rd. Harland, VT 05048 Ph: 802-436-2307

Sincerely,
Lee Hekkala

Text of note from Robert Morancy:

From Vermont:

I caught up with the 517th at Col De Braus. Was later wounded on January 15 and evacuated to England Was eventually sent back to the states and discharged in May, 1945 at Camp Edwards, Mass. I went to work at the VA Hospital in White River Junction, Vermont and stayed there until 1977 When I was transferred to the new VA Hospital in Loma Linda in Southern California. After retirement I returned to Vermont where my wife Rosemary and I started a antique business which we still have. Several years ago, my son and I started to do gun and knife shows along the east coast.

Sell custom made and production knives and gun books. Do not earn much but it is a fun thing to do. It is funny to see some dealers trying to sell airborne items but not really knowing much about it Original jump jackets and pants in good condition bring big prices so if you find any out there, get in touch with me.

Robert W. Morancy ...1992



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11 Sep 44

RCT received new defensive order. All three Bns were placed on line with 1st Bn. on left flank, 2nd Bn. in center, and 3rd Bn. on the right flank. 3rd Bn. attacked and took COL DE BRAUS but was unable to take TETE DE LAVINA due to heavy small arms and mortar fire from enemy emplacements on TETE DE LAVINA.

An American soldier, serving in World War II, had just returned from several weeks of intense action on the German front lines. He had finally been granted R&R and was on a train bound for London. The train was very crowded, so the soldier walked the length of the train, looking for an empty seat. The only unoccupied seat was directly adjacent to a well-dressed middle aged lady and was being used by her little dog.

The war weary soldier asked, "Please, ma'am, may I sit in that seat?" The English woman looked down her nose at the soldier, sniffed and said, "You Americans. You are such a rude class of people. Can't you see my Little Fifi is using that seat?"

The soldier walked away, determined to find a place to rest, but after another, "trip down to the end of the train, found himself again facing the woman with the dog. Again he asked, "Please, lady. May I sit there? I'm very tired."

The English woman wrinkled her nose and snorted, "You Americans! Not only are you rude, you are also arrogant. Imagine!"

The soldier didn't say anything else: he leaned over, picked up the little dog, tossed it out the window of the train and sat down in the empty seat. The woman shrieked and railed, and demanded that someone defend her and chastise the soldier.

An English gentleman sitting across the aisle spoke up, "You know, sir, you Americans do seem to have a penchant for doing the wrong thing. You eat holding the fork in the wrong hand. You drive your autos on the wrong side of the road. And now, sir, you've thrown the wrong bitch out the window."



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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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