



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2358

June 4, 2017

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

Memorial Day 2017



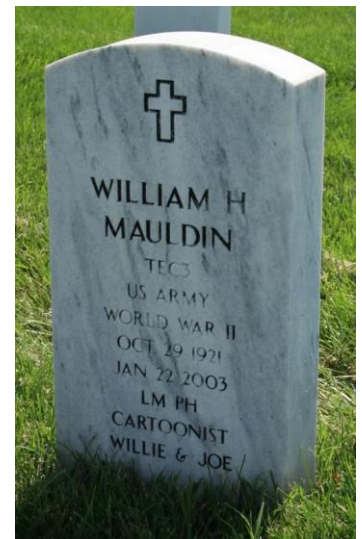
"Just give me the aspirin. I already got a Purple Heart."

I was not able to get down to Washington DC to visit my Dad's grave site this spring. But I did find something interesting. When Ben wrote the MailCall he often included WW2 Willie and Joe Cartoons from Bill Mauldin. Mauldin's cartoons hit very close to the truth, from the eyes of the men in the front lines. It turns out that Bill Mauldin, who died in 2003, is also buried in Arlington National Cemetery, and only about 50 feet from Ben's gravesite. I'm sure Ben would be thrilled. I'll have to visit both next time I get to DC.

- BB



64 6585



64 6874



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Memorial Day MailCall is excellent!

While decorating grave sites today I noticed this "mural" and thought it expresses the right tone for this day.

Let us never be weary in remembering those who gave all while serving "the field."

Mike Wells

I now make it my earnest prayer that God would incline the hearts of the citizens to entertain a brotherly love for one another for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who served the field.

-- George Washington



Thank you so much Bob, for your graciousness in your inclusion of me with your newspaper. I had spent the morning looking at the events in our country, and we hung our flag at half-mast and did the moment of silence that the president asked for.

Then I opened your email, and the story of the Dodgeridge soldier hit my heart. Hoping to get the book published soon. Finished my 5th edit. And I think it is good to go.

Keep the faith and thanks again,

Anne Justice, AZ



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Here is a link to a story that I thought was a really good activity, by a small community in Utah, for Memorial Day. I thought others on MailCall would like to know what other communities around the country did to remember those died serving their country.

Mike Wells

Wayne County unveils monument honoring WWII Airmen

<https://www.ksl.com/?sid=44438673>

By Sam Penrod | Posted May 29th, 2017 @ 9:28pm

LOA, Wayne County — From an Air Force flyover to a 21-gun salute, a community paid tribute Monday to the six lives lost when an Air Force plane broke apart mid-flight while en route to a base in Colorado.



In July of 1943, the plane went down in a remote area of Wayne County. The aircraft was missing for months, until ranchers living near Loa came upon the wreckage.

"It's everybody's history in Wayne County. Everybody knows the story. Their family members were cowboys, they were a part of it. The story has gone from generation to generation," said Debra Young, whose grandfather was one of the ranchers who found the plane.

Three years ago, Kade Brown, also a descendant of one of the ranchers, began a project to preserve the story for future generations. On Monday, a monument built in remembrance of the lost Airmen was unveiled in Loa.

"Our goal was just to inspire the community, and anybody who read the story of our freedom and the sacrifices that have been made for us, and to not forget that," Brown said.

Rick Lindsay etched the history into the monument that now stands along Loa's Main Street. "It is why they put things in stone, so the information will last there for a long time," he said.

Emily Stables was just nine months old when her father, the pilot of the ill-fated aircraft, Maj. Paul Spence, was killed. She traveled from Maine to attend the unveiling ceremony.

"It's kind of a wonderful story of soldiers and pilots and cowboys working together and getting to know one another in the course of a tragic mission," Stables said.

"I come from a very small family, and I feel like I inherited a very large family today," she said.

Even though 74 years have passed, Monday was a time of reflection, helping Wayne County residents to remember when World War II hit close to home.

"This has been wonderful to experience this ... and it's given me a greater sense of pride in my community and those who served," said Burke Torgerson, a resident of Wayne County.



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MailCall News

Hi Allan,

It was good to hear from you today. Say hello to Claire. I have listed some facts to back up Robert Webber's WW2 record of events. If you can print out the attachments, or just forward them to the French consulate, these should help support his case.

To repeat you question, you have to call the French consulate on behalf of the 517th and somehow vouch for Robert Webber, that he was with the 517th during WW2 and helped to liberate France. I would just let them know that we have records of him with his unit, the mortar platoon of HQ Company, 1st Battalion, including Operation Dragoon and fighting all the way to the maritime alps. I think that story of the 517th is clear and documented in many books, including the *Paratroopers' Odyssey*, which is the official record of the 517th.

If the French consulate is looking for proof that Robert Webber was indeed with the 517th at that time (and the army probably cannot supply the official records which might have been destroyed in the St. Louis fire in 1975 fire), then let me submit the following:

- Attached is Robert Webber's story and pictures which I included in [MailCall #2264](#). On pages 7-8 is his story, reprinted from the Stillwater, MN Gazette in November 2014. The places and events that he described in the story including his training at Camp Toccoa in 1943 under Col. Walsh, training and Camp Mackall, the Tennessee maneuvers, the August 14-15 jump into Southern France, and fighting for 51 straight days until he was wounded and returned home on Oct 23 1944. All of these events and locations reflect what is recorded in the Paratrooper's Odyssey,
- I am also attaching a copy of [MailCall #2069](#), which includes a copy of the "short snorter" a dollar bill signed by 44 members of HQ/1. Bob Webber's signature is front and center on the back side. So we know he was with HQ/1 and the 517th.





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- I have attached a summary of the morning reports casualty records for HQ/1 for October 1944, as compiled by Clark Archer, the 517th's historian. This record shows that Pvt. Robert Webber was WIA on October 25, 1944. Clark Archer compiled this from copies of the actual morning reports. (I am trying to find if anyone still has a copy of the morning report for that date and place.

| 517th PARACHUTE COMBAT TEAM | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------------|-----------|-----|-----|-------|
| CASUALTY SUMMARY | | MONTH/YEAR | COMPANY | | | |
| | | OCT/44 | 1 BN/4 Co | | | |
| NAME/RANK | DAY | KIA | WIA | MIA | NBC | RTD |
| BEHREND, GEORGE | PT 02 | | | | * | 10/17 |
| KLISE, KENNETH | T/4 02 | | | | | * |
| SMATHERS, ROBERT | PFC 03 | | | | * | 10/15 |
| TAYLOR, LLOYD | PFC 03 | | | | * | |
| DOMBOS, LOWELL | PFC 04 | | | | * | 10/13 |
| LYNCH, ROBERT | 1LT 05 | | | | * | 10/19 |
| COX, ROBERT | PFC 06 | | | | * | |
| SEXTON, EVEL | T/5 07 | | | | | * |
| CLIFFORD, WILLIAM | PT 10 | | | | * | 10/14 |
| MORROW, ROBERT | PT 10 | | | | * | 10/15 |
| STOVER, WILMER | PFC 14 | | | | * | 10/13 |
| JAMS, CLYDE | PFC 14 | | | | * | |
| TANNER, JAMES | T/5 14 | | | | * | 10/18 |
| BLACK, JAMES | PT 16 | | | | * | 10/22 |
| ARNOLD, GEORGE | PT 17 | | | | * | 10/18 |
| JOHNSON, RAYMOND | PFC 21 | | | | * | 10/27 |
| EMMONS, RALPH | 2LT 21 | | | | | * |
| MEYER, GEORGE | PT 25 | | * | | | 10/28 |
| WEBBER, ROBERT | PT 25 | | * | | | |
| BEARD, JOHN L. | CPL 26 | | | | * | 11/04 |
| KNOECHELMAN, DAN | PT 26 | | | | * | 11/01 |
| SEEGAR, HAROLD | PT 27 | * | | | | |
| HAUSEN, JOE | PT 27 | | | | | * |
| THOMPSON, PAUL | PT 28 | | | | * | 11/22 |
| HERNANDEZ, ARMANDO | PFC 30 | | | | * | 11/11 |
| MAVRACICH, JOSEPH | PT 30 | | | | * | 11/04 |

- Last, but not least, I have attached a photo of the mortar platoon, HQ Company, 1st Battalion, 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team on D-Day of Operation Dragoon. The Roche Rousse is a hill overlooking Les Arcs, and was the objective of the 1st Battalion for D-Day. Robert Webber is the third person in the front row. This photograph was taken from Michel De Trez's authoritative book, "First Airborne Task Force".

I think this documentation supports Robert Webber's story of his service in 1944 in Southern France.

I hope this helps.

Bob Barrett



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Warriors" of the 81 mm Heavy Mortar Platoon, Headquarters Co., 1st Bn., ready for trouble at Roche Rousse.



Après-midi du Jour-J, objectif atteint. Le Mortar Platoon, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 51st PRCT sur les hauteurs dominant Les Arcs. Debout, de gauche à droite : Pvt. Curtis Williams, Cpl. Joe L. Kelly, Cpl. Troy Egans, Pfc. John Kallen, Pfc. Armando Hernandez, Pvt. Garn A. Whatcott, Pfc. Robert L. Cox, Pvt. Louis A. Berrena. A genoux, de gauche à droite : Pvt. George Arnold, Pvt. Norman C. Reeves, Pvt. Robert B. Webbers, Pvt. Joseph P. Sliakis.

D-Day afternoon, objective reached. The Mortar Platoon, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 51st PRCT on the highground overlooking Les Arcs. Standing from left to right : Pvt. Curtis Williams, Cpl. Joe L. Kelly, Cpl. Troy Egans, Pfc. John Kallen, Pfc. Armando Hernandez, Pvt. Garn A. Whatcott, Pfc. Robert L. Cox, Pvt. Louis A. Berrena. Kneeling left to right : Pvt. George Arnold, Pvt. Norman C. Reeves, Pvt. Robert B. Webber, Pvt. Joseph P. Sliakis.

COMPANY MORNING REPORT 5 Nov 44

Station: 741-382 Hospel, France
 Organization: Hq Co 1st Bn 517th Parachute Inf.

36368086 Rice, Glen L. 71607 Pvt
 Fr asgd to Co to atch unassgd hosp LD NBC

18085284 VanEvary, Rennie W. 7874 Sgt
 33849728 Auker, Fred A. 7645 Cpl
 37553528 Vedura, Henry J. 7804 Cpl
 35009674 Simler, Layne E. 7604 Pfc
 34454136 Hallon, Richard M. 7804 Pvt
 38201485 Hoag, James G. 7187 Pvt
 37553328 Weber, Robert W. 1807 Pvt
 above 7 enlisted men fr asgd to Co to atch unassgd hosp LD NBC.

RECORD OF EVENTS
 No change in situation. Morale excellent weather fair

| OFFICER | PLD | CAPT | 1LT | 2LT | WO | PLT |
|-------------------------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|
| PRESENT | ABST | PRESENT | ABST | PRESENT | ABST | PRESENT |
| ASSIGNED | 1 | 3 | 2 | | | |
| ATTACHED TO OTHER UNITS | | | 1 | | | |
| ATTACHED TO OTHER UNITS | | | 1 | | | |
| TOTAL | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | |

UNASSIGNED: 145, 1, 146
 ATTACHED TO OTHER UNITS: 6, 8, 9
 TOTAL: 151, 1, 9, 161

Signature: [Signature]
 T. J. SCHAFER, CWO-3

COMPANY MORNING REPORT 6 Nov 44

Station: Hospel, France 741-98.2
 Organization: Hq Co 1st Bn 517th Parachute Inf

36368086 Rice, Glen L. 71607 Pvt
 Fr atchd unassgd to hosp LD NBC LD
 to reasgd to Jd Co

39564760 Clifford, William C. 7604 Pvt
 Fr asgd to Co to atchd unassgd hosp LD NBC LD as of 5 Nov 44.

35289527 Skaryd, Charles W. T/4 7060
 Fr asgd to Co to atchd unassgd hosp LD NBC LD

RECORD OF EVENTS
 No change in situation.
 One Second Lieutenant error carried in atchd unassgd pres for dy column. Should be carried atchd unassgd at column corrected this date

| OFFICER | PLD | CAPT | 1LT | 2LT | WO | PLT |
|-------------------------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|
| PRESENT | ABST | PRESENT | ABST | PRESENT | ABST | PRESENT |
| ASSIGNED | 1 | 3 | 2 | | | |
| ATTACHED TO OTHER UNITS | | | 1 | | | |
| TOTAL | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | | |

UNASSIGNED: 144, 1, 145
 ATTACHED TO OTHER UNITS: 6, 10, 10
 TOTAL: 150, 1, 10, 161

Signature: [Signature]
 T. J. SCHAFER, CWO-3



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

| RESTRICTED | | 23 March 45 | | of 5 | |
|--|---------------|-------------|-------|------|--|
| MORNING REPORT | | | | | |
| ORGANIZATION: Hq & Hq Co 1st Bn 517th Para INR | | | | | |
| STATION OR LOCATION: JOigny France | | | | | |
| NAME | SERIAL NUMBER | GRADE | MOD | CODE | |
| Broudy, Joseph | 0-1013873 | Capt | 0001 | AR | |
| Hereby asgd to Co fr Co A this Reg | | | | | |
| per par 1 SO 52 dtd 21 Mar 45, no | | | | | |
| princ dy asgd | | | | | |
| Boyle, William J. | 0-21953 | Lt Col | | Q3 | |
| Fr abs sk LWA BC hosp basic status | | | | | |
| atchd unassd. to trfd to the right | | | | | |
| Regt Regt Front Sch Ft. Benning Ga. | | | | | |
| Per SO 56 Has 98th US Gen hosp Com | | | | | |
| 2 ETO APO 205 dtd 1 Mar 45. | | | | | |
| Gornick, James L. | 3704806 | Pfc | 7657 | | |
| Gasto, Donald G. | 359175 | Pvt | 7657 | | |
| Reid fr atchd to Co. fr Med Det | | | | | |
| this West. | | | | | |
| Webber, Robert B. | 37543926 | Pfc | 71607 | | |
| Fr abs sk 28th Field hosp NBC ID | | | | | |
| to dy | | | | | |
| Haring, Donald E. | 36687987 | Pvt | 71607 | | |
| Chandler, Letus W. | 34267263 | Pvt | 7669 | | |
| ATCHD to Sv Co this Regt for rat gr | | | | | |
| dy & adm SO 53 Par 5 dtd 22 Mar 45 | | | | | |
| LIMITED ASSIGNMENT PERSONNEL NONE | | | | | |

| MORNING REPORT | | 23 March 45 | | of 5 | |
|--|---------------|-------------|-------|------|--|
| ORGANIZATION: Hq & Hq Co 1st Bn 517th Para INR | | | | | |
| STATION OR LOCATION: JOigny France | | | | | |
| NAME | SERIAL NUMBER | GRADE | MOD | CODE | |
| Lanser, Carl G. | 36583117 | Pfc | 7604 | | |
| Tully, John R. | 36813508 | Pfc | 7761 | | |
| above two (2) EM fr abs sk 28th | | | | | |
| Field hosp NBC ID to dy. | | | | | |
| CORRECTION 1 FEB 45 | | | | | |
| Clink, Ralph K. | 35550758 | Cpl | 7604 | A1 | |
| Fr atchd unassd hosp NBC ID to trfd | | | | | |
| to the Front rapl cen TPS Ft. Benning | | | | | |
| Ga. as of 23 Jan 45. ERROR ENTERED | | | | | |
| Clink, Ralph K. | 35550758 | Cpl | 7604 | | |
| Fr abs sk hosp NBC ID to dy basic | | | | | |
| status changed fr atchd unassd to asgd | | | | | |
| Kasabnicki, Leon A. 6978344 S/Sgt 7604 | | | | | |
| Teague, Willis L. | 36895277 | Pvt | 7604 | | |
| above two (2) EM fr err in grs to | | | | | |
| dy | | | | | |
| Ready, Jr., James H. | 39696691 | Pfc | 71607 | | |
| Fr dy to abs sk 28 Field hosp NBC | | | | | |
| ID | | | | | |
| Baltran, Gilbert T. | 39860827 | Pvt | 71607 | | |
| Fr conf Rest'l stockade to duty | | | | | |

Note the status changes for **Robert Webber** and also **Joe Broudy** and **Bill Boyle** - BB



Seventy-four years ago we knew a young 26 year old Captain who was Commanding Officer of the 596th Engineers. Now in just nine days that young officer will be a centenarian.

I talked to **Bob Dalrymple** today and he sounds great. He has a hearing problem but who doesn't. The discussion was primarily about the 517th, the great guys we had the opportunity to meet and wonderful memories that were created. As a result of the 31 reunions held between 1949 and 2015 we also got to meet family members. On June 10th raise your glass of wine to Bob and wish him **HAPPY BIRTHDAY.**

Merle McMorrow



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



Here's why the American flag is reversed on military uniforms

<http://a.msn.com/09/en-us/BBBgWCz?ocid=se>

Hi Bob

Regarding **James Walton**, you will note the telegram does not say he was killed in action, but simply that he was "killed".

This is because he is not a battle casualty. He was killed in the Levens area by a gunshot wound to the head in what the army called a non-combat situation. When I was writing my book I tried to find out from men in his company in what circumstances he had been shot through the head but nobody remembered him. It was probably some sort of accident as was and still is common when a bunch of young men handle loaded weapons all day.

Attached is the page from my book.

Jean-Loup Gassend

Chapter 12

All three were awarded a posthumous Silver Star, the citations of which were almost identical. **Howard Jaynes'** was slightly more detailed because of his Sergeant rank and read:

After Sergeant Jaynes and his squad had successfully cleared a path through an enemy anti-airborne minefield which consisted of booby-trapped enemy one hundred fifty-five millimeter artillery shells, Sergeant Jaynes, together with two other soldiers, requested permission to remove the remainder of the booby-trapped shells in the area. Thinking that by doing so he could prevent injury or death to military or civilian personnel who might wander from the cleared path, Sergeant Jaynes removed sixteen of the booby-trapped shells under conditions requiring great skill and the coolest of nerves, as detonation would result in death to all. Although Sergeant Jaynes was mortally wounded while removing a seventeenth mine, his unselfish act was an inspiration to all with whom he served. His actions bespeak of the highest traditions of the American soldier.⁵¹

Sgt Allan Goodman, of the 596th PCEC, tells us how the three men died and of the gruesome scene that ensued:

Howard Jaynes and I were battle promoted to sergeant together and given squads to lead. When I heard of Howie,

that one would "embrace" the shell and raise it a fraction of an inch while a second would reach up and insert the safety pin in the detonator, then the third trooper knelt to help catch the shell's weight after the first man cut the hang wire. Mathis was probably the one kneeling, and he was decapitated! Howie was holding the shell I think... his upper torso was missing. Coffelt was inserting the safety pin and only his legs were left. I stayed with the remains of my buddies... alone... for several hours until the Grave Registration team arrived. Only Mathis still had dog tags. Howie was my closest personal friend.⁵²

Two days after the tragic death of the engineers, on September 1st, another American soldier, **Pvt James L. Walton**, of the 2nd Battalion Headquarters of the 517th PIR, was killed near Levens when he was accidentally shot through the head. The exact details of the incident are not known, but the army ruled his death as being "non-battle." Such accidents were unfortunately quite common, as we will see in the conclusion chapter of this book.

Conclusion

Upon hearing of the Allied invasion, the Resistance descended from the mountains and took control of the area of Levens and its strategic roads and bridges August 16th. The German forces at first



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Hi Bob, a man from Europe has what he says is a 517th helmet and he's trying to find out who the owner is. I can't make out the name inside the helmet.

Rick Sweet



Hi Rick,

I can't tell for sure. But just coincidentally, in today's MailCall, I am including a copy of a Morning Report for Robert Webber from March 1945. (See page 7) In this Morning Report of HQ Company, 1st Battalion, it also lists a **PFC James L. Cornick**. Could it be Cornick? Do we know where it was found?

Bob Barrett

517th website guestbook entry:

| Submitted by | Comments: |
|---|---|
| Name: Robert Paduck From: California E-mail: thesolarpad@aol.com | My Dad was a private in the 460th PFAB Does anyone remember Martin L Paduck from Wilkes-Barre Pa ? Added: June 2, 2017 |



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

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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|------------------------|--|
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