



## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2370**

October 29, 2017

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

### *MailCall News*

10/20/2017 - This terrible fire had its effects on everyone in the area, but fortunately all my family make it okay....lots of worry and fear, however.

To start with, my daughter, Maya, who is a Physician Assistant at the Kaiser Hospital, woke me up about 2:30 AM, telling me "Dad, get packed, we're having to evacuate from the fire". This was the first I knew about it, but I quickly packed a suitcase, my meds, and toilet articles and we were ready to go out the door, when a member of the staff here at Brookdale knocked on my door telling us to get ready. We told him we were going out the back door.

Went to my son's (Chris) house and awakened him, and I stayed there while Maya and her family headed toward Lake Tahoe. Later, went back to Brookdale to get any perishables to take to Chris and his family. Remained there overnight, sleeping on a couch that had dividers between the cushions that seem to find my ribs every way I turned! Later, that afternoon (Tuesday) Valerie drove me to the USDavis Hospital area to a hotel and she returned back to Santa Rosa. Maya came up from her place in Lake Tahoe area and took me to my appointment with my doctor who had performed the heart valve procedure on me a month before. Everything looked okay, so I went with Maya to Tahoe, where she was staying in a house of a friend who lived in her neighborhood.

Later in the week, this neighbor called and said there was a mandatory evacuation of the area and she was coming to use the house with her family. Getting on the phone, Maya was able to rent another house in the Tahoe area for two nights (\$750!!!) but because of the mandatory evacuation no one was allowed back in, so the landlord said stay as long as you have to at no charge!

Well, on Wednesday, Oct 18, the evacuation order was lifted and we were able to get back home. But, believe me, John and Maya were on pins and needles for this period as the fire kept shifting and it was so close it could have wiped out their house in a minute. But, everything was okay for both of my children...Chris never left the area...and we all survived.

More than 100 doctors lost their homes, including my PC from the VA and my Cardiologist....and there was a housing shortage in Santa Rosa before the fire, and with over 3,000 homes lost in this area, it's going to be a mess getting back to an orderly life for many people.

Thank God! love to all, **phil mc spadden** (460/HQ)



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10/26/2017

Yesterday was the first time I had a chance to see any of the results of the most devastating fire in the history of California.

I had been to cardiac Physical Training and my daughter, Valery McSpadden drove me back a different way so I could see some of the fire damage. The fire spared the Kaiser Hospital, but jumped the road and destroyed a trailer park (manufactured homes), then jumped across highway 101 to my side of this busy highway. I destroyed a big Kmart, most of the business on that side of the street, another trailer park just north of the intersection of Range (my street) and Piner Ave. It jumped across Piner, and destroyed most of the buildings in that block, but fortunately the wind must have changed directions and the fire was stopped there. Had it blown across this road, it would have been a different story, as this is only two blocks from my retirement complex. There was nothing but wooden structures between the end of the fire there and my place, so it would have been a fireball that would have kept going. I wasn't aware the fire was that close to my place until yesterday. Was more worried about my daughter, Maya's house, but fortunately everyone in my family here escaped okay.

Can't say the same for other areas where million dollar homes went up in flames. Maya works at the Kaiser Hospital, and she reports 70 doctors and 120 other employees of Kaiser lost their homes, and we already had a housing shortage. Over 5,000 homes were lost and a total of 7100 structures(including the homes).. You must have a pass to go to your old home spot to sift thru the ruins.

Haven't seen any of the major areas, but yesterday's jaunt was enough for me.

I'm sure your prayers would be appreciated by all those affected by this tragedy.

All best wishes....phil

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A couple of pictures from local newspapers near Santa Rosa, CA:



Coffey Park homes burn early Monday Oct. 9, 2017 in Santa Rosa. (Kent Porter / The Press Democrat)



An aerial view shows the devastation of the Coffey Park neighborhood after a wildfire swept through Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017, in Santa Rosa, Calif. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)



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Bob, Thanks again for all of your time and effort on keeping the Mail Calls Online. It certainly is greatly appreciated. I am wondering if there could be an address for you to which readers could send a gratuity for your tireless work on their behalf and on behalf of the 517th. If that is a possibility, let us know. Thanks.

**John Krumm** (E Co,)

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Thanks, John, but we're fine. The 517<sup>th</sup> website fees are paid up for a year or two. Everything else is just my time. This is great for me to keep up with lots of old friends. – BB

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**RE: Sgt. Howard E. Miller**

On the Christmas list 1st page

company G my father Howard E Miller sgt. is listed I'm just checking to see if there is anybody from company G that remembers him, if so please respond. Thanks Sent from my iPhone

JV Miller

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Both Rick and I so enjoyed being with him (**K. Allan Johnson** - 596<sup>th</sup> PCEC) last Saturday. His presence made the evening extra special. And your wonderful son and his girlfriend were delightful company. We loved your Dad's special touch of the gifts of bottles of wine from the French vineyard that was a 517th headquarters. He was looking outstanding; his usual spry, debonair and charming self. Please keep us posted on how he's doing and please give him our love and hugs.

**Pat Seitz**

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RE: Charles R. Fedel (F Co.)

Bob,

Thank you for your expeditious reply; I greatly appreciate what information you were able to provide. Unfortunately, I do not have the citation for his Silver Star, or his other awards. I suspect his record was lost in the National Archives fire; however, I will submit a request nonetheless. At this time, I really only have his medals, SN, the newspaper clipping (attached) and a photo of him in uniform in France. My grandmother may have additional photos of him, but she states that she does not have any additional documentation; including his death certificate, which is unfortunate since that will make it difficult to obtain his records if they exist. The handwriting in the margin of the attached article is my grandmother's. Should I be able to obtain any additional information, I'd be happy to provide it; also, if you would like me to submit his photo, I am happy to do so.

Tom (Great grandson)

Hi Tom,

Just catching up on emails. Yes, please, send me the photo of Charles Fedel for the website.

And yes, her was most certainly party of F Company of the 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team, from at least August 1944 to March 1945. I would expect that he was with the 517<sup>th</sup> earlier than that to be part of the drop, so he most likely served in Italy, France, Belgium, and Germany.

Bob Barrett

Keep Your RED CROSS at His Side  
GIVE NOW—GIVE MORE!

5c HOME DELIVERED — 2c AT NEWSSTANDS

## Paratrooper Blown Astray; Joins Free French Forces

The strange tale of a paratrooper who was lost making a jump has been told in part through a recent letter received by his wife. Mrs. Jean Fedel, of 3000 Quinn street, had been notified that her husband Pfc. Charles R. Fedel, 23 years old, was missing in action in France in September. After a month of anxiety she received word that he was in a hospital in England, and now his latest letter relates this unusual story.

While making a jump, Charles was blown astray and reported as missing. All that time he was fighting with the Free French. It was during that time that he was wounded in action and sent to a hospital in France. From there he went to a rest home and then to a hospital in England, where he is now. He has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for gallantry and bravery.

Charles has been in service 22 months and has spent 15 months overseas. He received his basic training in North Carolina. Prior to his induction he was employed as an inspector and attended Hokden elementary school and Tilden Technical High school. Charles and Jean have two children, Charlotte, three years old, and Charles Jr., two years old. Charles' mother, Mrs. Emily Simmons, also resides with them.

*Clipping about your grandfather from the Bridgeport News 4-1945*



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## Administrivia

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- 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.

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