



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2380

February 18, 2017

*517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment  
460<sup>th</sup> Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
596<sup>th</sup> Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

## MailCall News

### Naomi Parker Fraley, the Real Rosie the Riveter, Dies at 96

January 20, 2018



Naomi Parker Fraley used a picture of herself in a factory, which had been misidentified, to prove she was the inspiration for Rosie BETTMANN/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES

Naomi Parker Fraley (August 26, 1921 – January 20, 2018) was an American war worker and waitress, and considered the likely model for the iconic "We Can Do It!" poster. She was unaware that the poster had become famous and in the interim Geraldine Hoff Doyle was credited as the model. The poster is erroneously referred to as the Rosie the Riveter poster, having become associated with the cultural icon in the 1980s.



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### Early life

Naomi Fern Parker was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1921, as the third of eight children to Joseph Parker and Esther Leis. Her father was a mining engineer while her mother was a homemaker. The family moved across the country from New York to California, living in Alameda at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. She and her younger sister Ada went to work at the Naval Air station, where they were assigned to the machine shop for aircraft assembling duties.

### We Can Do It!

In 1942, Parker's photo was taken at a Pratt & Whitney vertical shaper and it appeared in local press including the Pittsburgh Press on July 5, 1942. The following year J. Howard Miller's "We Can Do It!" poster was one of a series that appeared in factories at Westinghouse in a worker morale campaign. Miller could have seen the picture of Parker, and it is presumed that the newspaper photo was the source of his image.

In 2011, Parker Fraley was at a reunion held at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park and there she spotted the 1942 photo of her operating a machine. She was surprised to find that the caption said that it was Geraldine Hoff Doyle and she wrote to the park to correct their mistake. They thanked her for telling them the correct name for the photo. Doyle had in innocence thought that the photo was of her and by extension she had decided that the poster was too. This misidentification then became well-established as sources repeated it – an example of the Woozle effect.

### Kimble investigation

Meanwhile Seton Hall University professor James J. Kimble had become interested in the poster which was now an icon of the feminist movement. He tracked down the original photo and found that it was credited to "Naomi Parker" in 1942. Doyle was still at school and she had only worked at the plant for a few weeks. He found Naomi in 2015 to show her the photo and she still had the cutting from 1942. Kimble was certain that she is the woman in the photo, and considers her to be the strongest candidate to be the inspiration for the poster but noted that Miller did not leave any writings which could identify his model.

In February 2015, Kimble interviewed the Parker sisters, now Naomi Fern Fraley, 93, and Ada Wyn Morford, 91, and found that they had known for five years about the incorrect identification of the photo, and had been rebuffed in their attempt to correct the historical record.

### Later life

After the war, Parker worked as a waitress at the Doll House, a restaurant in Palm Springs. She was married three times, first to Joseph Blankenship (divorced), second to John Muhlig, ended with his death in 1971, and third to Charles Fraley (d. 1988), whom she married in 1979.

On January 20, 2018, Parker died in Longview, Washington at the age of 96. The following month, her life was celebrated on BBC Radio 4's obituary programme Last Word.

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naomi\\_Parker\\_Fraley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naomi_Parker_Fraley)



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RE: **Willard Clay Nichols**, G Company

Willard Clay Nichols will be honored by induction into The North Carolina Veterans Hall Of Fame May 19<sup>th</sup> 2018. Induction will be at Charlotte NC.

Information provided by

Phillip Truitt

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336 469 6006



RE: **Richard Davis** – Minister, served with the 517<sup>th</sup>

sorry, this is my personal email and since I work sometimes don't check it every day. all i have is that Richard Davis lived through the war and became a Methodist Minister in Missouri until he retired. His son is my minister now and will soon retired as well. He is a huge history buff. I have spent the last ten years researching my father through web sites and even traveled to Belgium to retrace his war events. I was just hoping to surprise my minister with some information about his dad's outfit and maybe something surprising, etc. I double checked Rev. Richard Davis obituary from 2005 and it listed only that he served with the 517th during WWII. If he was a chaplain would he show up on records or did they have different status? also, did the 517th get swallowed by other groups near the end of the war or before? Maybe records are as you say kind of incomplete. I know I have struggled with my great grandfathers Civil War records as well. Thanks for your efforts and response.

Charles French





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Bob, Good to hear from you. I think we are getting there!!!

I'm attaching the spreadsheet for HQ Co 1st BN; let me know if you, or anybody else, finds any errors.

With this Company you should only have D company that is not complete; it has 10 months of MR's; from 1 June 44 to 31 March 45. I have a goal of having this project completed by the end of February 2018.

Once I've got all the companies completed, I intend to COMBINE all of them so it will be easy to look up any name, date, place, or status (KIA, MIA, DOW, AWOL, etc) Should ease your burden of providing information to all of those looking for information on relatives, friends, etc.

I also intend to attach the picture of each MR to the line of the Excel spreadsheets that contain the info from the MR; that way, with one click, you can review the actual MR to make sure I've transcribed correctly any particular item. That will be done at a later time.

I've also thought about providing this information to the Museum in Toccoa and the WWII museum in New Orleans; If they want them. Then anybody visiting can look up the information on the 517 and the activity of each person listed on the MR's.

These documents have been a source of GREAT information about the activities of the 517th. Did you know that a unit of the 517 conducted activities in Wyoming? Check out HQ Co 1st Bn, Sept 6 1944!

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!!!

## Mike WELLS

COMPANY	STATUS	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	RANK	DATE	CODE	S/N	MOS	LOCATION	NOTES
HQ Co 1st Bn		Brown	Fred	L	Tec/5	5-Sep-1944	50	6150046		Conn, France	fr duty to Abs skNBC to trfd to Det of Patients 7th Army.
HQ Co 1st Bn						5-Sep-1944				Conn, France	RECORD OF EVENTS Situation unchanged. Co less 2nd Sect of 81 MM Mortar, 2 LMG sqds and 3 bazooka teams remained in defensive position in Conn.
HQ Co 1st Bn	DOW	Cross	Lynwood	W	PVT	6-Sep-1944	1Q	34810300	675	Wyoming, France	MOS 675 frabs sk LWA Hosp unknown to DOW as of 17 Aug 44.
HQ Co 1st Bn		Rufener	Donald	K	PFC	6-Sep-1944	50	37555863	776	Wyoming, France	MOS 776 fr duty to abs sk NBC to trfd to 7th Army Det of Pat.
HQ Co 1st Bn		Steger	Charles	W	PVT	6-Sep-1944	50	35226761	504	Wyoming, France	MOS 504 fr duty to abs sk NBC to trfd to 7 Army Det of Pat.
HQ Co 1st Bn						6-Sep-1944				Wyoming, France	RECORD OF EVENTS Co entrucked fr Conn 1300 enroute to Wyoming. Distance traveled 25 miles by truck. Arr in Wyoming 1700. 1st Sect of 81 MM mortar, 2 LMG sds and 3 bazooka teams atchd to Co A. 2nd Section 81 MM Mortar 2 LMG sqds and 3 b\Bazookas teams ??? reld fr atchd to Co B and atchd to Co C.
HQ Co 1st Bn		Dietz	William	A	SGT	7-Sep-1944		37554308	821	???ne, France	MOS 821 atchd fr ab sk LIA to duty

Now that is interesting. Some troopers from HQ/3 rucked from Conn, France to Wyoming, France. But I cannot find any record of either town - Conn or Wyoming - in France. Does anyone know where this might be referring to? – BB

PS: Also on this page is **Pvt. Lynwood Cross**, Died of Wounds (DOW) on August 17, 1944



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I saw in a recent mail call that you now have several more morning report compilations retranscribed in excel. If they are available, could you send me the new ones that you did not send to me in the past, in other words those for B and D companies, as well as those for HQ1 and HQ3. If there are any other ones, I would also be interested.

Regards

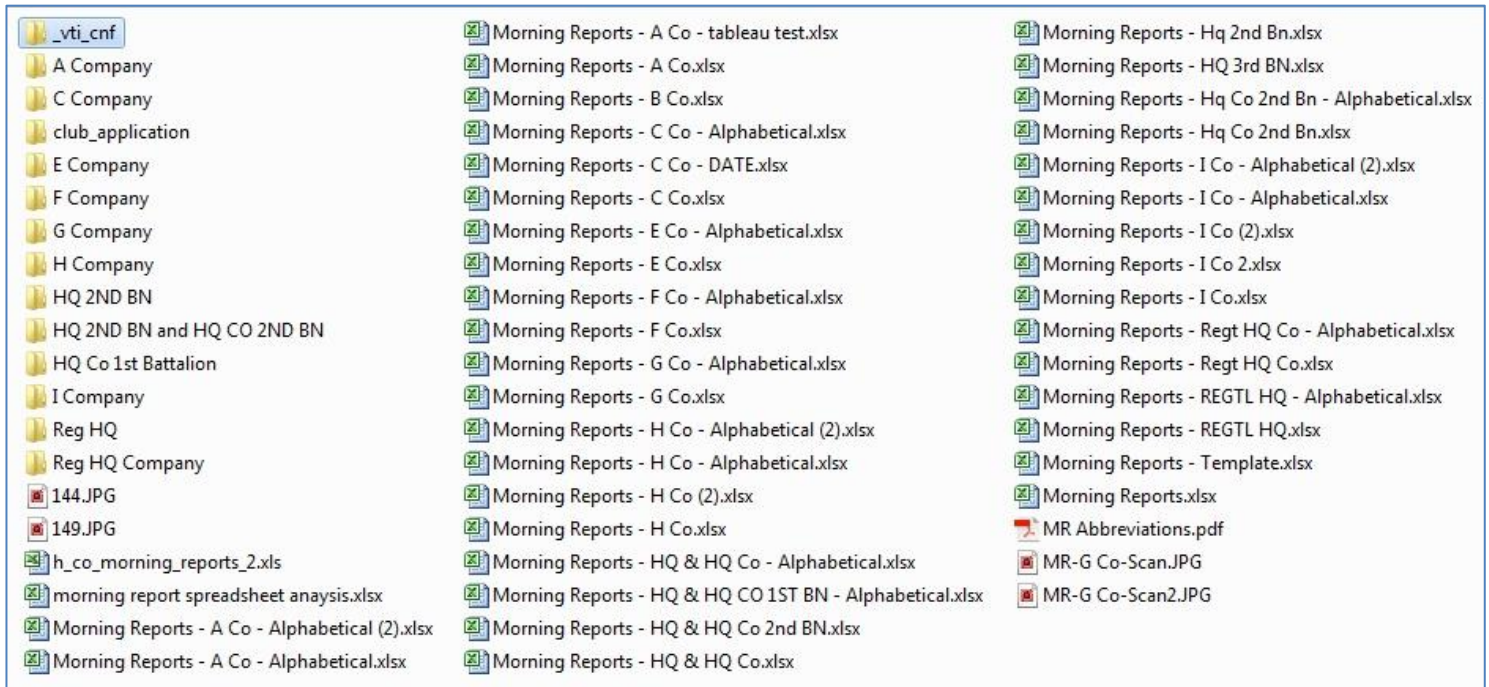
**Jean-Loup Gassend**

Bonjour Jean-Loup,

Attached are what I have for B Company HQ/1, and HQ/3. I do not have D Company. Also attached is a screenshot list of all the excel files that I do have. Let me know if there are others that you still want.

As you know, Mike Wells has transcribed all the Morning Reports into these spreadsheets, and he has a few more to work through. It's a slow process. As I get them, I will forward them to you.

Regards,  
Bob B.



Hi Mike. I have downloaded the new updates, and your note below is correct – those are the ones that I do have.

Thanks for all this. I know it's a lot of work. But as you know, this comes in very handy when people are looking confirmation or info about their family members, which happens all the time.

Bob B.



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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](mailto: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.

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2016 Roster (updated!)	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf">www.517prct.org/roster.pdf</a>
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