



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2381

February 25, 2017

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

MailCall News

RE: Morning Reports

Hi Bob. Thanks for sending all these over. It seems there are multiple names for each file, as well as incomplete version, which doesn't make sorting through them easy.

Could you please send me those for A company, C Company, and HQ 2. I have versions that seem very old.

Thanks

Jean-Loup Gassend

bless **Mike Wells** for his dedication and you for the ease of reference on the 517th website. It would be great if Toccoa could use it as it make it a wonderful resource center for all of your and Mike's work. I'm copying Rick to see if this would work.

Thank you also for the great piece on Rosie the Riveter. I plan to add her passing in a speech I am giving to the National Association Of Women Lawyers March 1st, (the first day of Women's History Month). My theme is passing the torch to the next generation with the challenge to keep the flame burning brightly to promote justice and inclusion. Most women recognize the poster, and it is important to remind the attendees she was a real person who has become an ageless icon of the WWII generation of women who did their part for their country, freedom and justice.

Pat Seitz

My name is Aniston. Just recently I have started researching my grandfather and trying to find some information on him. His name is **Jay Robertson**. I was hoping if anyone had any stories that they could pass them along. He was part of the 517th Parachute Regiment. I know he has been linked to **William Goldsmith** in a book before. My grandfather unfortunately passed before I was ever born so I never got the chance to meet him but I am hoping to learn more about him!

Thank you so much!

Aniston Cheung



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John Bradovich - HQ Company, Demolition Platoon



John Bradovich, 93, passed away peacefully on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018, at Grand Village in Grand Rapids.

He was born on Oct. 1, 1924, to Chisholm pioneers Nick and Martha (Badovinac) Bradovich and was a lifelong Chisholm resident.

After graduation from Chisholm High School in 1942, John volunteered for the legendary 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team, enduring the same rigorous training as the Band of Brothers. The 517th helped break the rout at Anzio and fought from Rome to Civitavecchia. The unit was then trained for Operation Dragoon, the invasion of Southern France, where they jumped behind enemy lines at 3 a.m. on Aug. 15, 1944. Wounded twice in France, John rejoined his unit in Belgium for the Battle of the Bulge and later crossed the Rhine into Germany.

After the war, John went to work for the Oliver Mining Company/U.S. Steel. In 1947, John married the love of his life, Rose Tobak, and they were blessed with four children. John was elected president of Steelworkers Local 1663 and negotiated miners' contracts. In 1959, he met then-candidate John F. Kennedy and convinced JFK to campaign in Hibbing. Active in DFL politics, John helped organize a packed rally for the presidential hopeful. In the early 1960s, when iron ore production decreased, he was instrumental in passing the Taconite Amendment.

When John was in his early 40s, he juggled college studies with his mining job. In 1966, he received his A.A. degree from Hibbing Junior College, where he was awarded top scholar and top honor student, graduating as class valedictorian. He completed his degree at University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) and began work as a speech therapist. During his university training, he was taught never to get close or personal with his students, but John said, "I did just the opposite." He coined special nicknames for them and developed creative and effective approaches to speech therapy.

He taught at the Mid-Range Special Education Cooperative and the Hibbing and Chisholm Schools. "Mr. B." was a beloved teacher, and he was fondly remembered by former students and their parents.

John's interests ranged from poetry and art to geology and physics. He was unfailingly gracious, kind, patient and nonjudgmental. He loved animals and fed wildlife in his backyard. He set a sterling example for his four children, who regarded him as their hero. The most important facet of John's life was his wife and family. A devoted friend to many, he regularly visited people in area hospitals and nursing homes. He will be missed by many.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Rose (Tobak) Bradovich; his four children: Tom (Penny) Bradovich of Grand Marais, Minn., Connie (Michael Pennock) Van Blarcum of Las Vegas, Lea (Angus Lawson) Bradovich of Santa Fe, N.M., and Bob (Susan Babcock) Bradovich of Eau Claire, Wis.; grandchildren: Sunnie (Travis) McQueen of Layton, Utah, Nikki (Landon) Hampshire of Clearfield, Utah, and Tyler (Whitney Francis) Bradovich of Clearfield, Utah; four great-grandchildren: Alex Johnson of Ann Arbor, Mich., Halle Johnson of Clearfield, Utah, Gage Cassell of Clearfield, Utah, and Ada Rose Bradovich of Clearfield, Utah. John was preceded in death by his parents, Nick and Martha Bradovich, and his sister, Mary (Frank) Kochevar.



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More MailCall News

Hi Aniston,

It sounds like you already found the manuscript of "From Hitler to Trujillo" by Alfredo F. Vorshirm: http://517prct.org/documents/hitlertrujillo_exceprt.pdf

That is where the reference to **Jay Robertson** and **William Goldsmith** is.

I see William Goldsmith is listed on the Regimental HQ Company in the December 1944 roster, but I cannot find Robertson there. He must have been wounded or transferred before December.

Do you have any more info about your grandfather? Do you know which Company he was in?

Bob Barrett

Thanks. I see that more Morning Reports are coming on line. I look forward to examining them as they, I hope, may be very helpful in verifying my family information. Thank you for your help.

Harris Johnson

Administrivia

If you miss any MailCalls, they are all available online at <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/>

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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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