



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2384**

April 22, 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*

While instructing a group of people I asked if there were any Vets in the class. I then asked if anybody had a relative who had served in the 517th during WWII; nobody responded. I explained why I asked that question and left it at that.

After the class a young man, Matt Anderson, came up to me and told me his Grandfather, **Ray L. Anderson**, had been in the 517th. It only took a few questions to satisfy me that he knew what he was talking about in regards to the 517th; he had been to the Website and enjoyed learning more about the unit. Matthew did not know what Company his Grandfather was with.

I informed him about the MR's and told him I'd check to see if I could locate anything on his Grandfather. It didn't take long to find him on A Company. I sent Matthew the information I had found; MR's and info from the NARA. I've copied Matthew's response below.

I have always felt that one way to keep the 517th Memory alive is to MAKE opportunities to tell others about the unit; in any format we can. And, if we have the opportunity to speak to a group, we should be able to find an appropriate way to "slip in" info about the 517th. 😊

Hope it has warmed up at your house and that Summer is right around the corner!

**Mike Wells**

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Mike,

This is information is so great, thank you for sharing it with me! I'm positive you have the right person. My grandfather definitely enlisted in Salt Lake City UT. I'm sure my dad is going to be really excited to learn more about his father's service as well. It was really fun for me to hear you give a tribute to your father and the 517th the day of our work training. It actually made me really emotional. My grandfather has always been a hero to me. I never met him and I guess he didn't ever really talk about his time in the military. Thanks again for taking the time to do this for me and my family.

Sincerely,

Matt Anderson



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

Hi Mike,

Do you still have contact info for Matt Anderson? I found this photo in "First Airborne Task Force" by Michel De Trey.

Bob Barrett



**T/5 Joseph C. "Spider" Morton Jr., and S/Sgt Ray Anderson. Hq Co., 1st Bn.**

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Yes, I do. That photo will be well received, I'm sure!

I'll forward it to him and ask him to respond to you.

Mike Wells



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

Bob: hope your computer is on the way to recovery. This was a most enjoyable Mail Call —pictures of the Toccoa barracks' restoration progress, pictures of Tom Cross and Dad which is always a joy to see (and one's I haven't seen before); and the information on Billy Dean. Thank you so much.

**Pat Seitz**

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To: All MailCall members:

Just after I sent Bob Barrett the **Pvt. Gruwell** paper, I got information from **Jean-Loup [Gassend]** that prompted me to rewrite the "There is hope" paragraph. This information most likely explains why Pvt. Gruwell's body was never found. Here is the rewritten paragraph:

**Joe Figueiredo**

### **There is Hope:**

In June 2017, acting on information provided by Jean-Loup Gassend, author of *Operation Dragoon, Autopsy of a Battle, The Allied Liberation of the French Riviera, August-September 1944*, members of the Department of Defense's POW/MIA Accounting Agency ([www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil)), went to Montauroux, France to search for Pvt. Gruwell's remains. The information provided by Mr. Gassend was that Pvt. Gruwell had been killed about two kilometers south of Callian but within its town limits. French civilians took Pvt. Gruwell's body to Montauroux, about two kilometers away from Callian, most likely because there was an American Army aid station there. The civilians buried Pvt. Gruwell in one of six family graves in the Montauroux Cemetery. After the war, investigators of the U.S. Army's Graves Registration Command did not search Montauroux for Pvt. Gruwell since they had no information his body had been moved away from where he was killed. Hence, no civilian witnesses were interviewed about a possible American Soldier being buried there. None of the French civilians who took part in the burial are alive today. The "fog of war" continues. Hopefully Pvt. Gruwell's remains were found and his family and the remaining Veterans of the 517th PRCT will have closure.

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Subject: Morning Reports - Master List

Bob:

I don't know if you noticed but at the end of the Master List are about 100 names that don't have their Company listed; looks like I failed to list their company when I was entering their data.

I have been working to correct this and I'll send corrected copies when I'm done.

**Mike Wells**



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

Hey Bob, thanks for responding and thanks for including my dad.

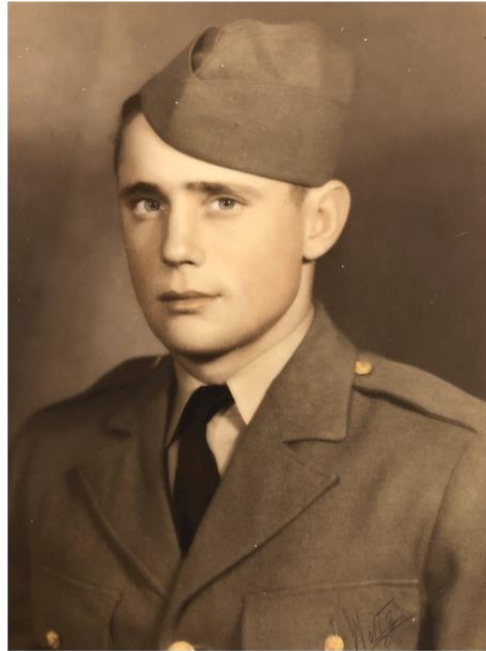
The picture I think you're referring to are the 2 brothers Billy and Harold. My dad Billy is on the left and his brother Harold was KIA just a few Months later, is in the darker uniform on the right.

Thanks again

## Billy Dean



Robert Lloyd Dean  
b. 02 Mar 1919  
Gadsden Co. Florida  
d. 14 Mar 1943  
North Africa



Harold Mason Dean  
b. 24 Nov 1922  
Gadsden Co. Florida  
d. 30 Sep 1944  
South France

### Local Boy Dies In France

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Dean of Quincy, have been notified by the War Department that their son, Harold, has been killed in action in France. Harold is the second of the four Dean brothers serving in the armed forces to give his life for his country and for humanity. Robert L. Dean lost his life in the North African campaign on March 14, 1943 in the battle of Tunisia.



**Billy**                      **Harold**  
(Snapshot taken during their reunion in Italy)

The Deans have two other sons still serving in the army. Billy is a paratrooper, fighting in Italy, while Maston is serving with the Army Air Forces at Bainbridge.





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Bob here are some more photos

Don't mean to bombard you but mainly for the benefit of someone else maybe spotting a relative here. Don't know when or where this was but my dad is 6 man from left just off center

### **Billy Dean**



**Billy Dean, D Company**

Thanks, Billy. I will include these in the next MailCall, which I'm hoping to get out today, and eventually, I will build a page on the website for you Dad.

Harold M. Dean was killed in South France. I do have some books (and friends) in Southern France, but have not found any record of him yet. Do you know what unit he was with?

Bob Barrett



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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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