



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2395

September 9, 2018

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

MailCall News

RE: **William Goldsmith**

I am trying to find out more about my grandfather **William Goldsmith**. He was with HQ company and is mentioned in a book *From Hitler to Trujillo*. I also found a picture on the website of him with the entire company. His name is not marked and the excerpts mention another name but I am positive it is him. Between **Thompson** and **Garcia**.



The picture of the small group is him standing and **Jay Robertson** on the far left. They were good friends and you can tell they were talking to each other. **Alfred Vorahirm** is the author of [From Hitler to Trujillo](#), an autobiography of Alfred Vorshirm, a Belgian who joined the 517th in southern France as an interpreter. (See Chapter 5)

Thank you,

William Duff
Dudley Lures
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penetrate Germany. My emotions burst sky-high! My wildest dream was about to come true!

A convoy took us through an antitank mine field and through the massive defense of the famous Siegfried line, now mute, harmless and indifferent onlookers to our passage.

bed sheets hung from the houses. The inhabitants must have known we would act with less vengeance than the Soviet troops on the other side of the Reich, for the Germans had employed in Russia the scorched-earth policy and the Russians had *lost twenty million people!*

As the snow melted, we crawled through the woods of Hurtgen toward Bergstein. The mud was sucking us up, as it had during our advance through the Ruhr.



Rotgen was the first German village we entered. White flags and

The winding detours of the river between Bergstein and the nearby hills were defended by a series of blockhouses, whose approaches were protected by perimeters of explosive mines. They were finally taken, but at a high price in human lives on both sides.

Soon the resistance on the other side slackened. After having been thrown back several times, we attacked with grenades and flame-throwers. First the advance post of Zerkall and then Bergstein itself fell into our hands.

That was the last of the battles in which I participated. With my friends Jay Robertson and William Goldsmith, I had jumped from one foxhole to the other, among the bullets and the dead.

With the Germans' defeat in the Ardennes and the Allies piercing into the *Vaterland*, little resistance by the Germans was encountered. Cologne fell, the Rhine was crossed, and entire armies surrendered.



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Hi William,

I was confused, as you mention that **William Goldmith** was with HQ Company and Goldsmith and Robertson are indeed listed on the December 1944 Christmas roster with the HQ Company (<http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>) But the formal Company group picture you included is actually the HQ Company of the 3rd Battalion, so I'm thinking that picture might not be your grandfather. (No guarantees, as people did move around.)
http://517prct.org/photos/hq_co_3rd_btn.htm

Note: In another part of the Vorshrim bio, Vorshrim himself says that **Col. Graves** assigned him to HQ Co. 3rd Battalion:

A train took me to Nice, where I was going to join the American army. The war wasn't over yet.

I was sent from one officer to another, from one interrogation team to another, until they were convinced that I wasn't a spy, and I stood before General Frederick, Commander of the Airborne Forces in the region. I only intended to offer my services. I mentioned that I spoke English, German, French, Italian, Flemish, and Dutch, that I had fought with the partisans in Italy, and that I didn't expect any pay. The General made it clear, with a smile on his lips, that the US paratroopers didn't need my help to win the war but that he would be interested in my knowledge of the languages. I was taken to the 517th Parachute Combat Team, where Colonel Rupert Graves assigned me to Headquarters Company of the Third Battalion.

Then I did find some records in the Morning Reports, which do put Vorshrim in the Regimental HQ Co.

First "Lt. Benno (?) Vorshrim" did join Reg HQ In Sospel France, on Nov 14, 1944, from the Belgian Army. "Atchd to Co. per VOOG for Rat. Qtrs. Duty & Adm. From Belgian Army."

I did find some Morning Reports for William Goldsmith: He was MIA starting on August 22, 1944, on the north side of Callian, then returned to duty on September 3, in Levens, France. (MOS 675 = Messenger) He also was promoted from Private to PFC on Jan 12, 1945 in Stavelot, Belgium. (MOS 7667 = Paratrooper, Message Center Clerk)

I also see a note in an old MailCall from **Lou Holzwoth** of HQ Co, verifying the members of HQ Co, and points out that **Goldsmith** and **Robertson** were with commo (Communications)

From: MailCall No. 645, 517TH PRCT-FEBRUARY 17, 2004

Lou Holzwoth

A little more follow up on Alfredo's story. Writes a pretty fair tale... but to sell books you use a lot of imagination also. the names he bantered about were correct like Morgan-Wiickersheimer-Knerr- were in Reg't S-2 and Sturgeon-Childs-Globaker were part of Boom Boom troops and the other's mentioned were commo; Weiss-Goldsmith-Jay Robertson. will try and find out where the book is published. Hi boom boom... old sarge Holzwoth

Hope this little info helps.

Bob Barrett



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From a 2004 MailCall, as sent in by **Boom Boom Alicki**:

How many you old troopers recall every memorizing the following General Orders before going on Guard Duty?

1. Take charge of this post and all government property in view.
2. To walk my post in a military manner, keeping always on the alert and observing everything that take place within sight or hearing.
3. To report all violations of orders I am instructed to enforce.
4. To repeat all calls from post more distant from the guardhouse than my own.
5. To quit my post only when properly relieved.
6. To receive, obey, and pass on to the sentinel who relieves me, all order from the commanding officer, officer of the day, and officers and noncommissioned officers of the guard only.
7. To talk to no one except in line of duty.
8. To give alarm in case of fire or disorder.
9. To call the Corporal of the guard in any case not covered by instructions.
10. To salute all officers, and all colors and standards not cased.
11. To be especially watchful at night, and during the time for challenging to challenge all persons on or near my post, and allow no one to pass without proper authority.

Boom Boom



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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
- 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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