

Oregon Newspaper Reports on Death of PFC Malvin L. Brown

Roseburg News Review Wed. August 8th, 1945 Located 40 miles NW(Roseburg)

Front Page Lead story

“Paratrooper Dies in Forest Fire Fight Another Hurt During Action In Forest Area”

Front Page Follow up story

“Hiroshima Made Into Inferno as Atom Bomb Hits”

Content of article

One Army Negro paratrooper was killed and another critically injured Tuesday when 16 men jumped into remote forest areas north of Diamond Lake and at the head of Steamboat creek near the Douglas-Lane county line to combat fires set by electrical storms Monday, it was announced here today from the forest headquarters.

The injured man was reported en route to Roseburg and will be flown by army ambulance plane to Walla Walla. A stretcher party which started from Lemon Butte Tuesday became exhausted and a relief party was sent in today to help carry the injured man over 15 miles of mountain trail. The original stretcher party was forced to travel two miles through heavy timber and brush through which no trails have been built. An Army medic arrived in Roseburg by plane today and will go to the end of the road, 50 miles east of Roseburg, to meet the stretcher party. An ambulance also has been dispatched to the end of the road. Arrival in Roseburg late tonight was expected.

Army officers and forest service officials here had only meager details concerning the accident.

The paratrooper who was killed was one of a group of 16 colored men and officers dispatched from Camp Pendleton. He was said to have landed in the top of a tall fir tree. Each jumper is equipped with 200 feet of rope to be attached to the parachute harness to permit descent from trees. The man who was killed was reported to have slipped while making the descent and to have fallen approximately 140 feet into a rocky creek bed.

No details have been learned regarding how the injured man who is being brought to Roseburg was hurt.

Army officers at Roseburg report they have not learned the identity of either of the men.

Ten additional paratroopers were dropped on the Umpqua forest today to combat three fires reported last night at Twin Lakes. These three fires were among 11 new outbreaks discovered Tuesday afternoon and night to bring the total from Monday's electric storm to 56.

Nearly all are under control, it was reported from forest headquarters. The paratroopers who were dropped Tuesday were highly complimented by “Red” Nelson, who is in charge of the local office...Excellent cooperation from the Army was reported. Officers from Camp White were at Roseburg forest headquarters to coordinate the work of paratroopers with that of forest crews...

The Oregonian Wed. August 8th, 1945 Located 142 miles N (Portland)

Front Page Lead story

“Bomb Smashes 60 Per Cent of Hiroshima”

Front Page Follow up story

“Oregon Fires Add 2 to Toll of Lives Lost”

Content of article

...At the same time it was revealed that a Negro paratrooper, one of a unit rushed to the Umpqua national forest in southwestern Oregon from the Pendleton air base, was killed shortly after reaching the fire scene. Details were lacking...

Grants Pass Daily Courier Wed. August 8th, 1945 Located 78 miles S. (Grants Pass)

“Forest Fires Take 5 Lives”

Content of article

The death toll in Oregon forest fires was five today as armies of fighters reported control of most recent lightning set blazes in scattered sections of the state...A few hours previously an unidentified Negro paratrooper flown into the Umpqua forest in southern Oregon from Pendleton airbase was killed. He was not identified pending notification of next of kin. Army sources said he was one of 10 dropped on the fire. Another was injured.

Umpqua National Forest headquarters said the paratrooper, dropped in the Steamboat area near the Lane-Douglas county line, landed in a treetop, then slipped and fell more than 100 feet to a rocky creek bed.

Another suffered a serious back injury. He was brought out part way by a stretcher party but they became exhausted and a second one is being sent in 17 miles.

An additional 16 men were jumped into Diamond Lake and Steamboat areas this afternoon apparently without injury, headquarters said...

Eugene Register Guard Wed. August 8th, 1945 Located 45 miles N.W. (Eugene)

Front Page Lead story

“Atomic Bomb Demolishes City’s Center”

Front Page Follow up story

“Oregon Fires Add 2 to Toll of Lives Lost”

Content of article

Oregon’s forest fire death toll rose to five today...a paratroop fire jumper died in the Umpqua National Forest...Details on the death of a negro member of a unit that jumped a lightning fire in the Umpqua forest were lacking but the ninth service command headquarters said he had been flown into the area from Pendleton.

The Oregon Statesman Wed. August 8th, 1945

Located 102 miles N.

Front Page Lead story

“Missing-An Atomized City”

Front Page Follow up story

“Two Die In Battle On Fires”

Content of article

Two soldiers were killed today fighting forest fires in Oregon...a Negro paratrooper fire jumper died in the Umpqua national forest...Details of the fatality in the Umpqua forest were lacking tonight but reports indicated the trooper was one of ten men flown from Pendleton to fight lightning set fires.