Wolleat, Walter Arden    39711520    PVT    U.S. Army

Walter was born on July 13th, 1925, in Minnesota and was living in that state at least up until 1940 as records show he was baptized in Wadena in that year and according to the national census he and his family resided at 614 F Street, Brainerd, Crow Wing, Minnesota. They must have moved to the East Los Angeles area sometime right after that, living at 1069 South Calzona Street. Walter would graduate from Garfield High School with the Summer Class of 1943. His family is listed below:

- Lyle Wolleet (Father)
- Elva Wolleet (Mother)
- Walter Wolleet
- Gerald Wolleet (Brother)

He enlisted September 27, in Los Angeles, California with the U.S. Army, eventually being made part of the 314th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Division.

From the Garfield Log, February 16, 1944, In the Armed Service by Josephine Ortega:

Dancing was his specialty and now instead he is up early at five in the morning and ready for the routine of the day, Walter Wolleet, private in the army, is in the Anti-tank division. He went to Fort MacArthur for his training and he is now at Camp Roberts, but will soon be changed to another camp or there may be possibilities of his going overseas.
From the Garfield Log, March 15, 1944, page 3, In the Armed Service by Elma Baiocchi:

“Another visiting serviceman was Walter Wolleat, Private in the Anti Tank Division from Fort Meade, Maryland. He likes the Army pretty well and soon expects to have advanced training in his division but as yet doesn’t know where or when the training will take place. He only hopes it won’t be too far from home.

Walter, A Football Team, at Garfield

In December of 1943, his unit was moved to Camp Phillips, Kansas to prepare to be sent overseas. The number 6002 was stenciled onto all sea bags including Walter’s. That number was the code for deployment to Europe. His unit, the 314th, left March 22nd, moving from Camp Phillips to Camp Miles Standish, the Boston Port of Embarkation, to load onto two ships; The USS Cristobal and HMS Strathmore. Cristobal carried the 1st and 3rd Battalions, Regimental Headquarters (HQ), Anti-tank, and the Service Companies. Strathmore took 2nd Battalion and the Cannon Company. Most likely Walter was on the USS Cristobal, sailing on April 7th, 1944.

The shipping convoy split up off the coast of Ireland with the Strathmore landing at Glasgow on April 16th, and the Cristobal docking in Liverpool on April 17th.

On June 13th, 1944 the 79th division shipped out from Southampton en route to the area around Carentan. As his group landed, the debris from the D-Day invasion was still spread all over the channel, and Utah Beach was a mess. On June 15th, the 314th headed towards Cherbourg from Utah Beach and once they were 10 miles in, the units assembled at Blosville, near St. Mere Eglise. Two days later, they moved to Picaville, relieving the 90th Division on approach to Cherbourg. On June 19th, the 314th got orders to attack from the north. They moved at night to an area near Binneville and at about 6 am, pushed to take its objective, capturing the ridge at Croix Jacob, outside Negreville. They took it with little trouble.

The 314th was on the outer perimeter of Cherbourg on June 21st, and artillery fire from the enemy was extreme as these were the main defense forces around the town of Cherbourg. Allied radio broadcasts went out to the Germans setting a deadline to surrender by June 22nd, 12 noon. Of course the Germans did not heed
the warning, so the 314th pulled back 1200 yards to be safe from the upcoming bombing. Walter and the others watched as the Allied bombers dropped their payload for almost an hour and a half on the enemy, who suffered many casualties. The 314th moved onward towards Cherbourg with 1st's B Company leading, C Company going to the left through Tollevast, and A Company on the right. All units came under heavy fire and took numerous casualties. It was decided to bypass the strong point and create a hole elsewhere in the German lines, which they did.

On the morning of June 23rd, they ran into intense artillery and arms fire and had to withdraw because of the mounting casualties. They finally took their objectives and were now able to look upon the city of Cherbourg. Air support was called in and 1st BN wasn't far enough away from the drop line, G2 sources noted two main obstacles to the 314th's advance - two German strong points of considerable strength. 2nd BN was assigned to one, 3rd BN the other, and by 0800, 24 June, air strikes hit the positions. By 1000, both were secured.

Fort du Roule was the key to Cherbourg. The Germans had fortified it with Anti-Aircraft guns (AA's), concrete emplacements, pill boxes, anti-tank ditches and barbed wire. 3rd BN made three attempts for heights adjacent to the fort. All were unsuccessful and resulted in heavy casualties. The next day's attack (25 June) 2nd BN took off for "Point 46" - an area of AA guns and concrete shelters on the edge of a cliff overlooking Cherbourg, with 3rd BN providing covering fire. Two hours of fighting, destroying the German machine guns and securing pill boxes ensued, and over 100 POW's were taken. The remaining enemy held on through two more attacks by the 2nd BN before finally surrendering late in the evening. By midnight, 2nd was on the lid of Fort du Roule, 1st at Point 46, and 3rd in reserve.

By the end of the day, June 26th, they took Cherbourg after house to house fighting and taking out the German guns mounted in the cliffs. 314th's 2nd and 3rd Battalions received a Presidential Unit Citation and two Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded, as well.

On June 27th, the Division left Cherbourg and headed south to relieve the 90th Infantry Division, to just outside of Bricquebec (the troops called it "Bricabrac.") Walter and his unit entered an area of farms, small towns, and the dreaded, deadly hedgerows. Two day later On June 29th, the 2nd Battalion took over a defense line near La Picoterie. There they waited through July 2nd for orders.

**The Breakthrough at St-Lo (France)**

Orders came down to take the ground about 1000 yards just southeast of the area known as Hill 84. The G2 (Army Intelligence) had reported that they were to take on one of the best Panzergrenadier Regiments, "Das Reich" SS Panzer Division. This German unit was known to have just massacred the adult population of the villages of Tulle and Oradour-sur-Glane and so therefore were considered to be very
ruthless. The 3rd Battalion started things off and by night no one else but the 314th Regiment had reached the objective. The 1st Battalion then relocated holding onto the forward slopes of Hill 84, just to the rear of the 3rd. On July 11th, there was a southward push to take another 1200 yards past what they had captured already. C Company met stiff German resistance that slowed their advance for the whole day. Tired and dirty, Walter had been in action the past several days, sleeping in foxholes every night. By this time he probably had an abundant amount of beard growth and his clothes caked with dirt and sweat.

It was probably in this area that Walter was killed, during the severe fighting through the hedgerows on July 12, 1944. Walter would have been 19 years old the next day. He is buried in the Liberty Section of Forest Lawn Memorial Park, in Glendale, California.

From the Daily Dispatch of September 1, 1944, Brainerd, Minnesota