

Incident Summary Page for the Smokejumper Line of Duty Death

Name of Smokejumper LODD: Malvin L. Brown (PNOR-46)	Incident Name: Lemon Butte
	Incident Date & Time: August 6, 1945
Smokejumper Base: Pendleton	Incident Location: Near Lemon Butte, Umpqua National Forest, Oregon,
Personal Information	
<p>A volunteer member of the newly formed all black 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion - Triple Nickles. Malvin took paratrooper training at Fort Benning, Georgia and later was trained as an Army medic. In May 1945 the 555th reported for duty in Pendleton, Oregon, assigned to combat wildfires - Operation Firefly.</p> <p>Following his death his body was escorted back to his family in Narberth, Pennsylvania. He was survived by his wife Edna, his parents and family and is buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Baltimore Maryland.</p>	
Brief description	
<p>A lightning bust in early August resulted in the Cave Junction Smokejumper Base being jumped out. With many fires still unstaffed a request was made for 15 military smokejumpers. The medic normally assigned to this group was ill, Malvin volunteered to take his place despite not fully completing all his smokejumper training.</p> <p>Upon arrival in the Medford Oregon area this group of smokejumpers was sent north to the Umpqua NF, where six jumped two fires near the crest of the Cascade Mountains. The planeload with the remaining nine smokejumpers then headed to a much lower elevation fire in the tall timber country of western Oregon.</p> <p>The fire was located south of the summit of Lemon Butte on a small side ridge. Although some timber jump training had been provided, it is unknown whether these smokejumpers carried the necessary length of let-down ropes needed for the 150 to 200 foot tall old growth timber. What is known is that Malvin hung up in one of these tall leaning trees and was killed while attempting to reach the ground.</p> <p>His fellow smokejumpers carried his body out to a trailhead, arriving on the morning of August 8th, two days after he had jumped. Reports note Malvin fell approximately 150 feet into a rocky creek bed far below. Death was believed to be instantaneous, the cause officially listed as basal skull fracture and cerebral hemorrhage.</p> <p>He was the first smokejumper to die in the line of duty.</p>	
Links to more information on this incident:	
<p> http://triplenickle.com/malvinbrown.htm https://wlfalwaysremember.net/1945/08/06/malvin-brown/ https://lessons.wildfire.gov/incident/lemon-butte-fire-smokejumping-accident-fatality-1945 https://hungryhorsenews.com/news/2014/mar/21/smokejumper-story-was-more-mythmaking-10/ </p>	

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