



Website	www.517prct.org
Mail Call	MailCall@517prct.org
Mail Call Archives	www.517prct.org/archives
Roster	www.517prct.org/roster.pdf

Recent website additions:

[Don Fraser's CP near Col de Braus then and now](#)
[Warbird Magazine article](#) about the 2008 St. Louis Reunion

MailCall News

Leo Dean recently sent me a copy of a recent MailCall email that he printed out. Like a lot of people, Leo likes to print out the email and read it on paper. I have heard that many people like to do this, and that's often what they do to pass it on to others.

When Leo printed out the email, this one (#2003, as well as many others in the past) printed too wide. The margins were off enough that many words ran off the right side of the page and could not be read. And some of the larger photos also were cut off and caused quite a few blank pages to print. Because the formatting of emails varies for every different email service, I cannot always control the way emails might look on screen or on print.

It occurred to me that one way that I can control the way that email will look is to deliver it in a pdf format. So that's what you are getting here. This format always prints exactly as it looks. And for those who need it, it is fairly easy to zoom in. So for those with poor eyesight (and I'm getting close to that age myself), just zoom in and make the page as big as you need it to be. When you zoom in (see the instructions below), it maintains a high clarity.

I am concerned that not everyone has the Adobe Reader pdf viewer on their PC. I hope so, as it is a fairly standard format, and we have been using that for many of the attachments on the website. I included a note and link in the email on how to load the software for people who do not have it.

So here it is. The first MailCall newsletter delivered in pdf format. Please give me your feedback.
– Bob Barrett

Hi Bob,

Just a quick thank you for keeping Mail Call going. I know there are many family members like myself out there who look forward to news and updates about the great men of the 517th. July 18 MC brought joy to my heart as I was able to reflect upon some of the wonderful people I have met since attending reunions. Hearing about a man I respect and admire General Seitz giving a keynote address, hearing from Irma and Arnold who I was fortunate enough to spend a day with, and any note from Darrell can't help but make you smile and laugh are all the type of news I greatly appreciate. I also really enjoy "Name That Trooper." Jerry is doing a great job with that. I'm sure it can be tough finding time to keep Mail Call going, but just wanted to let you know there are many of us out there who still care and want the memory of the 517th to go on forever. Thanks so much. It is a great honor to your Dad.

Tim Curtis
Son of "Bud" Curtis

Dear Bob:

Excellent Mail Call. Thank you. Re the 1947 photo, Tom Cross is in the second row center and Dad (Dick Seitz) is is the third row left (you can see half his face). Dad mentioned that Ray Cato, Bob McMahn and Penzack (sp?) are in the photo, but he should probably tell you directly as I am not certain as to correct spellings of everyone's name.

Pat Seitz



http://www.517prct.org/photos/honshu_1948.htm

Can you tell me anything about the \$10,000 life insurance policies for WWII privates? Did they end after the war ended or were they in place after the soldier returned home? My father served in the Army.

Thanks for any info,

Sincerely,

Diane Bush Steckler
ubooks@hotmail.com

In the last mail call you indicated that not a lot of news input was coming in for Mail Call so I sent in a couple of extra items. If it gets really slow on your end you will at least have something to fill space with.

Although I research the story lines pertaining to publications that I use for research on the 517th, I know that some authors have taken liberties with historical facts. If you see that I have taken a wrong road factually in relaying accounts from the writings of others please edit the story line and align it with what you know to be factual. What really pisses me off is when authors have given credit to combat units that were not even in the fight. Ex: 82nd AB, 13th AB, & 17th AB have been credited for combat that the 517th undertook alone as an Independent AB unit.

I know that Ben had problems with slow input for Mail Call from time to time but it was always the lull before the storm. You've got the bull by the horn Bob so stay with it. JW

[Jerry – It must have been a long time ago that I said I didn't have much incoming mail. That hasn't been the case for a while. I do remember Ben having some dry spells frequently, usually in mid-season between reunion news. That hasn't been the case since I took over. I still have a backlog of items for MailCall and also for the website. But thanks for the offer and the help. I will keep it in mind. And "Name that Trooper" certainly helps. – Bob B.]

Bob:

The French I learned during World War II does not seem to have any practical application for use in today's conversations and writings..

Can someone interpret it for me?

Merle

See letter from the Mayor of Draguignan on the next page. Can someone do a good interpretation for Merle? – BB

DÉPARTEMENT DU VAR



Le Maire
Vice-Président du Conseil Général,

MP/GC n°2010-

Ville de Draguignan

Draguignan, le 6 juillet 2010

à

Président Merle W. Mc Morrow
517th Parachute Regimental Combat
Team Association
4035 32nd St. South
Fargo, ND 58104

Monsieur le Président,

Dans le drame qui vient de frapper Draguignan et la Dracénie, vous avez bien voulu m'adresser un message de soutien et de sympathie, sachez que j'y ai été très sensible.

Il est en effet important dans de telles circonstances de se sentir soutenu et encouragé.

Aujourd'hui Draguignan panse ses plaies, mais Draguignan résiste et croit plus que jamais en son avenir pour lequel elle est déjà entrain de renaître.

Je vous prie de croire, **Monsieur le Président**, en l'assurance de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

Max PISELLI

MAIRE DE DRAGUIGNAN
VICE-PRESIDENT DU
CONSEIL GENERAL DU VAR
OFFICIER DE LA LEGION D'HONNEUR

Subject: Dragoon Commemoration

Hi Monica,

Please let me, the 517th community, and my good friend Larry Bowman (emails cc'd) know about the plans for this year's commemoration. I understand it is Aug 8-10?

Larry and I attended last year - my Pop was in the 517th PRCT, Company I. We were honored to be with General Seitz, Darrel Enger, Allan Johnson, Hal Beddow, and Leo Dean of the 1st Airborne Task Force/517th and all the other Veterans of Dragoon.

Larry (101st Airborne, 506th 1st battalion Viet Nam) bumped into LTGEN Grange (517th WWII, 101st 506th 2nd Battalion CO Vietnam) at last years commemoration and he owes the General a beer. (They may hook up at the 101st reunion later this month at Harrisburg PA.)

In addition to the Washington DC celebration, I was with nine (9) 517th Vets and about 30 family members who visited Southern France last year to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Dragoon Jump with the adulating French. During this visit the 517th Vets received the Legion of Honor medal in the company of the Brits , Canadians and other Dragoon allies. A trip of a life time!

Monica, God bless you and your team on what you are doing for all the vets of Dragoon!

R, Tom Copsey
Son of John Copsey, 517th PRCT, Company I
Larry Bowman,
506th, 101st Airborne

You will not believe this.....**the T'bolt is at the printer!!!** Yahoo!! It should be leaving the Savannah Post Office this coming week. Working with all of the pictures of the France trip brought back many, many good times and also having the privilege of being with our guys from the 517th. It was the trip of my lifetime.

I was wondering if anyone from the group that went to France last summer happened to get a photo of the plaque that is at the Nice Airport. That is one thing that I really wanted to see, and in all of the excitement, I missed it. It would be nice to have a print for the next T"Bolt. The next issue will have the Belgium pictures and also the Cannes parade and banquet. Again, what wonderful memories!

Helen Beddows

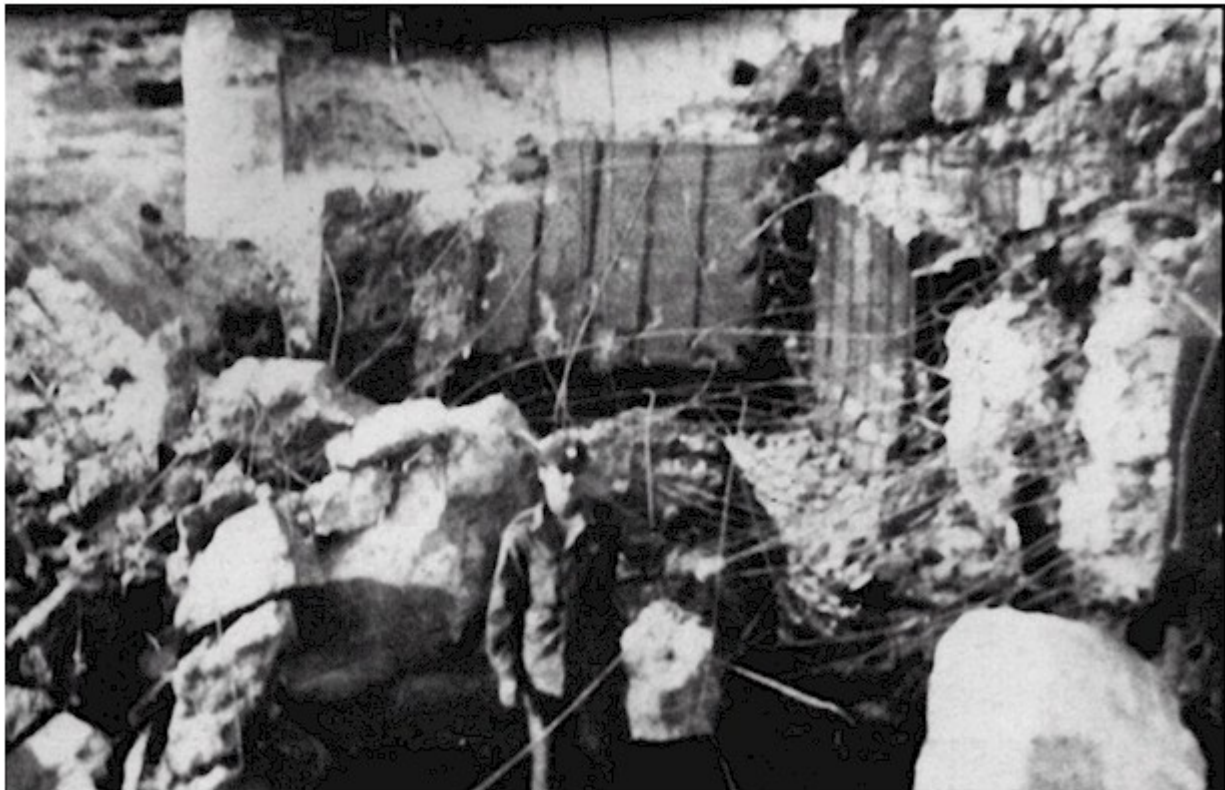
Helen,

I'm not sure if anyone got any pictures of the airport plaque during the last trip. But we did get some pictures in 2006 from Gene Frice.



For full-size photos, see: http://www.517prct.org/nice_airport_plaque.htm

And here's a photo of the Nice airport from the war:



from: http://www.517prct.org/photos/596th_photos_markle/596th_portraits.htm

Subject: Re: MailCall Test

Bob,

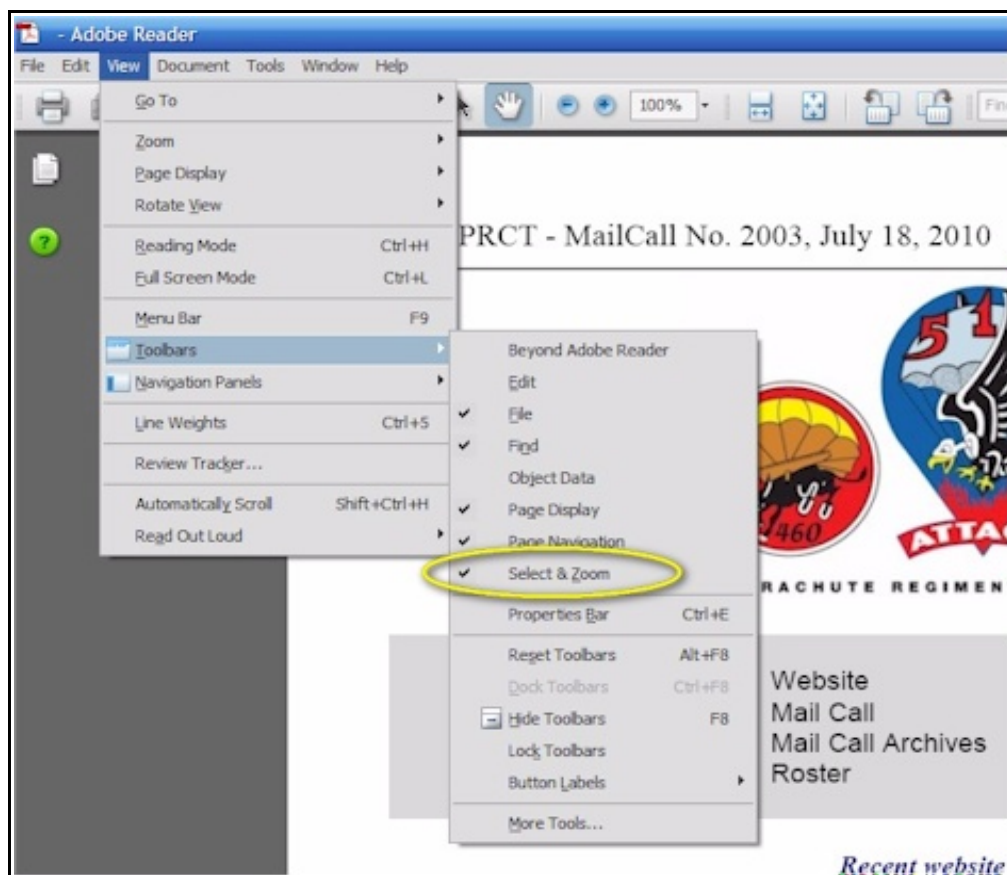
This test [\[of the pdf MailCall\]](#) was just as good as the last one. Clear as can be and no "over flow". I'm on High speed Comcast and I don't have Adobe Reader bar on my computer to zoom in or out. I do have Adobe something on my desk top but I am afraid to try it as I am hot very sharp in the computer world.

My cabinet of movie disks was filling up so this weekend I decided to clean it up. I have no idea where I got it but I found a VHS disk that showed the 101'st AB fighting in Holland. I don't think it's a movie, I believe it is actual pictures of their battle. I have no idea where I got it. Did you ever hear of such a thing?

Regards,
Darrell

Darrell,

If you want the zoom buttons, (the zoom and the "grabbing hand"), use the Menu bar, Select "View", then "Toolbars", and check the "Select and Zoom" item.



If your menu is different and doesn't have these options, you might need to upgrade to a newer version of the Adobe Reader program. Go to 'Help', then "Check for Upgrade"

Bob Barrett

Name that Trooper

Quiz answer from MailCall #2004: Lt. Howard Hensleigh, 3rd Bn. 517th PIR



L- Lt Pinkston Ctr- Lt Hensleigh R- Lt Spencer

http://www.517prct.org/photos/howard_hensleigh/spence_pank_hensleigh.jpg

RE: Battle in Bergstein, Germany

My dad Mike Sura was taken off the field with two wounds in the battle described in the Mystery Trooper. Along with Dick Huggler they didn't make it back to their unit until the war had ended. He had vivid memories of this battle and didn't think he would survive. As a kid he described the machine gun and mortar fire and how the medics got the wounded through the mine field crawling in between gauze tape paths laid by the engineers. He said he believed he slept for 3 days and remembered eating cracker out of a musette bag when he awoke.

The 517th PRCT fighting strength, I believe, was reduced to the size of a company that day..
Dennis Sura - son of a buzzard.

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.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to our treasurer Leo Dean at 14 Stonehenge Lane, Albany NY 12203.
- New address for MailCall: 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.

Save the date!

Annual 517th Reunion (probably the last one)

**July 13-18, 2011
Atlanta, GA**

with visits to Camp Toccoa and Fort Benning

