



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:

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

Notes from the Editor

OK, so I'm not sure I can call myself the Editor. I don't really edit very much. Occasionally I might correct a spelling error or typo if I see it. And I suppose I do follow Ben's lead, in that I don't include anything that might be too religious, political, or offensive. But I mostly just include your news exactly as you send it. I cannot improve it, and I wouldn't want to remove any of the wonderful personalities that come through loud and clear. I can't just call myself the Organizer. Or the Typesetter. Editor sounds better. Let's go with that for now.

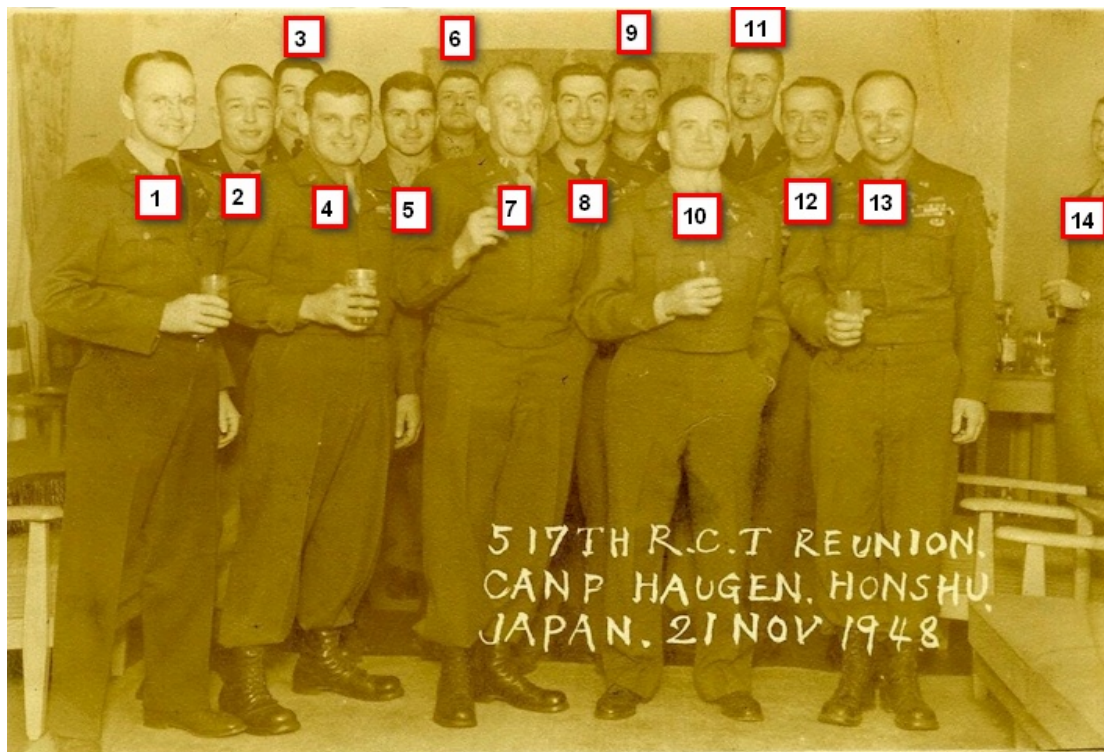
The feedback so far is that the pdf format that I started in the last newsletter (No. 2005) seems to be working OK. Unfortunately, anyone who can't read a pdf probably couldn't open it, and therefore is unable to give me feedback. Catch 22. So I'm not gonna declare victory yet. Keep that feedback coming. – Bob Barrett

Bob, I guess once you read mail call in the PDF format, you have to click back into email to respond, is that correct, like I am doing now?

Lory Curtis

When I publish in the new format, I tried to keep the links working. So if you need to send me any news or comments, you can do it by clicking anywhere you see my email address: MailCall@517prct.org In theory the program will open your email for you. – BB

MailCall News



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

1: David K. Brooks 3: Dick Seitz 6: Bill Pencak? 8: Tom Cross 10: Raymond Cato

Bob -

Two things:

1) I really like the .pdf format and agree it's a far better way to send Mail Call. It's really helpful for those troopers, or their kids, who print them to share with their fathers and others. You might want to put into the next Mail Call a tutorial on how to download the software just in case someone needs help.

2) If Bill Pencak is in the photo of the celebration in Japan, as Pat Seitz said, then he has to be the sixth guy from the left (he's in the back row). I got to know COL Pencak later on, after he retired, when he and his wife would come to visit my parents. He and my dad got to be great friends over the course of their careers. And, the guy in the back row is the only guy in the photo who looks even slightly like "Pancake."

Many thanks for picking up the Mail Call baton from your dad, you haven't skipped a beat in the transition.

Be well,
mark [Landreth]

Well, we know Bill Pencak is in the picture, since he's the person who gave the photo to Tom Reber in 2004. But I was thinking that Trooper #6 looked a little like Bill Boyle to me. – BB

Hi Bob! Keep up the good work!. The last Mail Call was just fine in all respects.

Regarding the photo submitted by Pat Seitz of the the group of officers in Camp Haugen, Japan, Raymond L Cato, CO, 460th Prcht FA Bn is the second from the RIGHT in the photo in the first line. He was a little shorter than the rest, so I guess he'd have to be in the front row. Short or not, he was the best CO I served under during my 27 years of service!

phil mc spadden

Hi Bob,

I was so pleased to see Mail Call in my In box tonight! I thought it might have stopped or I had been removed from the list. I am happy to see you are continuing the tradition. I know how much the members and friends of the 517th relish the news and memories it carries. It is a great legacy that lives on.

(Not sure why it has reappeared in my email but thrilled it has...Did get a new computer a while back and in entering new and previous info, some things have been inadvertently blocked by the new program or are sent to random folders. I am still working out the kinks and maybe this is another I can cross off my list.)

I hope you will keep me on the mailing list. The bond I feel with this group is meaningful and deep and I treasure the various times I was privileged to spend with Ben.

I am not fluent in French(though studied it for many years ...I should be better at it!!) but did look over the letter sent to Merle. I can offer an attempt at its contents:

"In the heartbreak that has struck Draguignan and the Dracinie, I send kindly a message of support and sympathy as I am sensitive to this. In such circumstances it is indeed important to receive support and encouragement. Today Draguignan heals its wounds ,but resisting Draguignan believes more than ever that a spirit is reborn.

I ask you to be assured of my thoughts and good wishes."

Hopefully this is close or someone will be perfectly fluent. And can correct me. I think it is the gist though Anyway, I am happy to make the attempt.

Again, wonderful to reconnect and hope to stay in touch.

Mary Jane Hanron

RE: Translation of the letter of the Mayor for Mr McMorrow.

I received four different translations of the letter from the Major of Draguignan. Two from France (Denis and Patricia), one from Switzerland (Gilles), and two attempts via many years of high school French (me and Mary Jane Hanron). Funny thing, though – The words supplied by all versions had similar thoughts, but the exact words and phrases used were very different. So we'll do this by committee – I merged all the versions into words that sound the most natural to me. Thanks Denis, Gilles, Mary Jane, and Patricia/Roland for the translations. – BB

Dear Mr President

Following the tragedy that struck Draguignan and the Dracénie Region, you were kind enough to send me a message of sympathy and support. Let it be known how much I appreciated it.

It is indeed very important in such circumstances to feel supported and encouraged.

Today, Draguignan is in a recovery process. Draguignan hangs tough, and believes more than ever in the future she's building for herself.

Please accept, Dear Mr President, my very best regards.

Max Piselli

Mayor of Draguignan

Vice-President of the General Council

Officer of the Legion of Honour

Bob,

Received this video clip from a friend. I think it shows why we will never let the legacy of the 517th ever fade away. We have to make sure our kids, grand-kids, and great grand-kids remember what our fathers did for us, America, and the world.

Lory Curtis, son of Bud Curtis, HQ, 1st Bn

[YouTube - I Fought For You, By The Sound Tank](#)

Bob:

superb job. Thank you. Also thank you for the little tutorial on adobe and zooming for those of us who are just learning how to use all the gadgets.

Pat Seitz and Alan Greer

Subject: 517th Reenactors from Southern France representing the 517th in Normandy

Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Dear Friends of the 517th,

Some of the 517th Reenactors from Southern France drove all the way to Normandy in a 517th marked GMC truck to attend the 66th anniversary of D-Day.

We were all very proud to have the 517th markings on the truck.

Here are a few pictures, I am the guy with the ww2 jumpsuit.

Kind regards, Gilles







Utah Beach



Meet the Troopers

This story comes from the "517th P I R website under "Meet The Troopers". This is but one of many episodes submitted by the late Sgt. Randolph Coleman. It centers around he and his group of buddies from "F" Company while training at Camp Mackall in 1944.

It was the week-end and the guys had a pass so they ventured into Rockingham which was very close by. There was a carnival in town that weekend with all sorts of fun stuff going on like the Ferris Wheel, and bumper cars etc. There was a stand where you throw a baseball at the stack of milk bottles and if you knock them all down you win a prize. It was a challenge that a cocky group of paratroopers just couldn't pass up. They asked "how many bottles to win that new radio there on display". The carnival guy told him how many and the guys got their heads together and formed a battle plan. The delegated thrower was "F" company's own Hal Jeffcoat, who had left his minor league pro baseball team to join the war effort. After the war Jeffcoat would return to play several years in the majors for the Chicago Cubs. He was a pitcher. He had a cannon for an arm and the velocity behind his pitches all but singed the paint off those jugs as the ball exploded into them. The pitching skills and ball speed amazed the carnival people. After knocking down the required number of jugs, the booth operator handed the troopers a box with "radio" printed on it. As they were walking away the box was opened and found to be empty. There was an angry confrontation between the troopers and the carny guy. Heated words were exchanged and the carnival guy panicked and shouted for them to get away or the M.P.'s would be called. The group reluctantly left the carnival and returned to their company area in a huff minus the radio.

Lt Murray was pulling Executive duty that night and asked why they were back so quick. Trooper Coleman told the Lt. the whole story and Murray asked, " what did you do about it"? The trooper said we don't know what we can do about it, if anything. At this point in the conversation Murray said to Trooper Coleman, "I am not going to tell you anything, but when I come back with something I don't want you to ask any questions, just take it and handle it very carefully and use your imagination." The Lt. excused himself and left for a few minutes and returned with a couple of small blocks of something and sat it carefully on the counter in the office. Our Trooper picked it up and left the office without saying a word. He began putting two and two together and remembered that this officer was their demolitions expert and he had just been given an unknown substance that needed to be "handled very carefully". "Holy Cow", he was holding a hand full of explosives. He went to his barracks and gingerly put the item in his footlocker. The "F" company guys re-organized after mulling the situation over and headed back to the carnival grounds later that night. It was pay-back time for the 517th. Some how during night that carnival tent was blown sky high, and a brief fire resulted. Luckily no one was hurt. Investigators determined that the mystery blast was caused by a "Compound-C" charge. FBI agents showed up the following week and were nosing around Mackall and asking questions. Of course our guys in "F" company knew nothing about the incident. 66 years have passed since and the "statute of limitations" has been invoked. The moral of the story is "don't tease the bull or you may get the horn." AIRBORNE!

NephewOfABuzzard

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.
- 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.

Save the date!

Annual 517th Reunion (probably the last one)

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

with visits to Camp Toccoa and Fort Benning

