

Missing:

Your replies to questions that we ask you... we need information!

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Camp Toccoa, Georgia

Capel July 2022

Post Battle for Carentan Pics!

With what started a conversation with Screaming Eagles at the Overlord show, then to other people asking if we would be attending we looked into booking at very short notice! This resulted in only a few of us being able to attend. I waited outside on my decking laying in the sun surrounded by piles and piles of kit... and a cat waiting for Pvt Abbey to arrive with his Dad and their van to ferry all the kit to the show. Once loaded it was a fairly easy and uneventful drive to the show, even if I had no idea what county it was even in at this point. We got to site, did the usual signing in, wristbands and were shown the way to the woods. Albeit it a very long and complicated way to the woods! Talk about going the long way around. Once at our allocated space, I picked where my foxhole would go and started digging, George was just off to my right. The first couple of inches or so was really soft.. then it got harder. Thank a god for pick mattocks... and more thanks to 1/Sgt Hale who appeared with a huge pick mattock tool that chewed through the ground and made very light work of it all. about 2 foot down I declared it was deep enough. With the spoil built up at the front and all hidden under the parachute; and with crates piled up at the back, it did look much deeper than it truly was. The parachute previously mentioned was unwrapped fresh from the packet moments ago, before being sliced into two giant more manageable pieces. The first went over my foxhole and then around some logs creating a covering over most of my, with an opening to get in and out. The second was tied over Pvt Abbey's foxhole and made a fairly large shelter/canopy. Pvt Gurman, currently with the 327th GIR appeared with PFC Borland and they went to work creating their own, with the assistance of our caring 1/Sgt. Talk about fulfilling your role in looking after the guys welfare! However, more on this 1/Sgt later in this edition. With everything set up ready for Saturdays public we went in search of food and beer! I must say that sausage & egg sticks were damn good, even if a little pricey! To say the public loved our display would put it mildly. The improvised parachute shelters were a huge hit and one punter (nicknamed Spears, after his resemblance to the character in BoB) even said about the photographs that we got the ideas from! So clear we did something right. This show I remembered the leaflets and they were placed in an open ammo can on a K rat-crate. People were helping themselves. We spoke with some potential recruits and fingers crossed they will send us a message and follow it up. If not, next year we need to keep an eye out for them! Especially that 'Spears'! On both days we did some rifle drill. PFC Borland's first attempt and him and

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I believe it was 1/Sgt Hale who first alerted me to the stunning photos of the 101st troopers utilizing camouflage parachutes for improvised shelters and vehicle coverings. This series of photographs is incredible, when you look closely you can see all sorts of amazing details. From the flexible plastic water carriers that resemble sand bags in shape, the US army tables, chairs, ladders, 10 in 1 rations, mess tins all sorts of other items. These photos have again altered the way we can display at events and gives us further options. For non combat displays we can go with huge parachutes and create improvised shelters.. or for combat displays we can use the Zelts (ZELT-GATE) and create an occupied German position. I will purchase the group more of the parachutes from QMi once I return from Wales. The stock of German ground litter is increasing and looked good at Capel. Which consists of three tunics, complete with artillery insignia and the NCOs tunic has the numbers 191 on the shoulder board, denoting that it is from the 91st Army Division that was around the area of Carentan.



Frauline Dropen-ze 44

The nicest 1/Sgts in the world.

What the hell!!! No we haven't lost our minds... well, not any more so than usual. The group has always considered alternatives to making it have more appeal, further reach, more content. We looked around for a German group to forms tied with and do some events together... however this just seems impossible, most groups don't like even talking to other groups, let alone doing things together! So we decided

that a couple of our members would kit up as Germans under the 91st Heer group. A Division, in particular the 191st Panzer Jaeger Company. With the possibility of getting a Pak36 in a future. Although restrictions had to be put in place that no member in the 502 other than S/Sgt Brown and Cpt Hunt would be permitted to change and head this project up and drive it forward. Just to be clear, it's

not going to be called the title of this piece and just comes under the Miss Drop 44 group. A separate set of signs has been created in the same format as the ones for the US unit, giving the same style of breakdown to help the public understand.

This German contingent will recruit its own members, but should they want to piece together a 502 PIR uniform, they will then be able to attend those events where the Axis forces are not allowed.

For anyone who has been in the hobby for more than 10 minutes will know, rank is usually the biggest problem in the hobby. It brings out the worst in people. Typically either everyone wants to have it and it's absurd. Or only one person gets to have it and declares themselves supreme leader and runs their group like a dictatorship, because spend £5 on some post war rank from Soldier of Fortune gives you the right to boss everyone else around?!?! Rank causes just so many problems... mainly as nobody uses the TO&E and it causes a complete jumble of nonsense. However, at Miss Drop 44 we do use the TO&E for the PIRs, and yet still I

found myself in an odd situation. The 1/Sgt we had, never made it to an event before getting ill. Quite seriously and due to this communicates faded away. The group was fairly certain that he would vanish like so many other 'members' who had joined but never actually made it to an event. So when another member joined who we felt was perfect for the 1/Sgt role we asked if he would accept it and he did. Then today I get asked by the original 1/Sgt which were the best stripes to sew on as he is getting his kit ready to join us at the next training event. **ARRGGHHH!** I think "shit, well done Mackay, you've done it again!" I message him back and explain the situation asking if there is either any other rank he would consider doing and I would also ask the current 1/Sgt the same question. The 1/Sgt role being unique in a company and there isn't anything even like it as a

close 2nd. Both messages sit unread... I wouldn't say I panicked, but I was concerned! I didn't want to upset either of them, but the both just couldn't be 1/Sgts! Then almost like magic they replied the same time. Both saying they don't mind not being 1/Sgt, both saying the other person could be it. Huh! What the hell is going on? These guys can't be re-enactors. I then remember when I suggested about rank restructuring in the old group and the drama it caused. Even just going from a 1st Lt to a 2nd was the end of the world. Let alone from 1/Sgt to Pvt! Yes, our temporary

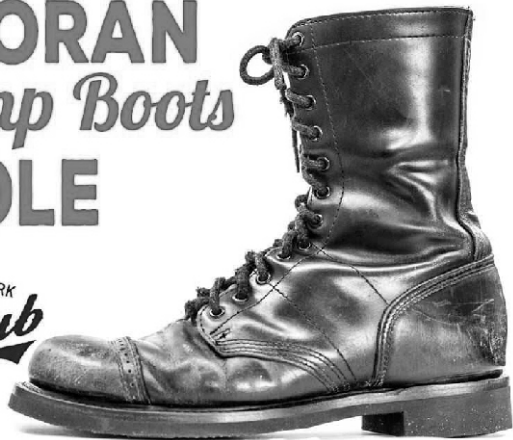
replacement 1/Sgt has busted himself to Pvt. Hopefully we can convince him to take something a little higher at some point. Our original 1/Sgt is still our 502 PIR, D Company 1/Sgt...

1/Sgt Hale, we are pleased to have you back. Pvt Gurman, thank you.

It is so refreshing to have guys that genuinely do this because they want to, not because they get more stripes/pips on their uniforms because they think it allows them to boss everyone else around. Talk about a breath of fresh air in the re-enacting world.

CORCORAN
Jump Boots
RESOLE

Pride
PRODUCES QUALITY WORK
Role Club



cont from page 1101st Normandy

paratrooper guide book

Pvt Abbey actually stared to click and certain commands done with almost precision timing. Others, not so much!!! The show still had a few hiccupps, but nothing drastic and nothing that the show organisers can't tackle for next years show. The biggest annoyance, asides from the dreadful karioke that could be heard all the way to our camp as clear as day. Was the shirtless man, who continually let of his blank firing sten, over and over and over again. If that wasn't annoying enough, either he or someone from his group had some sort of blank firing grenade... it would be loaded, thrown BANG... loaded, thrown BANG... loaded, thrown... collected, thrown, collected, thrown BANG... over and over and over. how

this would entertain anyone is almost baffling, however they seemed to love it; everyone else, not so much. Sadly the staff for the living history area never really seemed to be about when all this sort of nonsense was going on and so it just had no end to it.

The weather was hot, although as we were in the woods we only really discovered this when wondering out to go the toilets (another grim feature of this show at times) and there was always a queue. No rain overnight this time, which was nice as I'm not sure how well my improvised shelter would have held out in a downpour! I certainly wouldn't have suffered as much as Harry did at Overlord, but it still would have been a problem! Pvt Abbey's foxhole

was perfectly narrow and resembled a grave. In fact it fit him just like a coffin. He laid on his back and crossed his arms and looked like some sort of sleeping vampire. Which brought about the name Pvt Ghoul...

It was great to finally spend time in the field with both Pvt Gurman and I/Sgt Hale. It's been too long chatting with you both online and great to finally chat shit in person, sleep in dirt and complain about everyone else in person...

Capel will certainly be a show that we will attend again, we will always try and get the same spot as it suited us so well and plans in how to improve for next year are already in place!

Our Md44 signs got their first outing and looked great.

So the book came out, it sold out within a day of arriving with me, it went through a couple of quick edits and was reprinted again. Not really much changed from version 1 to version 2. However, as soon as it went into print Loz sent me a message and was not happy about what I wrote on the website (its gone, before you look for it) we sorted things out and I added an apology into version 3 and removed some content that included him. On top of that, some photos I used were from a medical website that I didn't have permission for, so they were removed also. This resulted in me finding replacements and in turn came across a really rare plastic Carlisle tin for sale! Result. Purchased that, asked the guy who had the online shop if I could use his photos in the book, he said yes. Sorted! book edited and new photos banged in place. Next issue... a certain author didn't like being referred to as the only other person who wrote books useful for re-enactors. Basically he didn't like being in 2nd place, despite the books written by the person in first place; he helped to write. So instead of me recommending his books, despite not being as good as another authors. I have simply removed all references to buying his books. So I guess there is only one author worthy of buying from; and I'm not on about our book! I mean real authors... not an

illiterate buffoon. Version 3 is also having lots of extra content added in, lots more photographs and also an amusing story of Zelt-Gate and the problem of discussing re-enacting on Facist-book with people who insist you do it their way... or no way. I am hoping to complete the version 3 edits by mid July and get it into print. I have completely run out again and already have people waiting for a copies.

Each version will have minor details; aside from the changes of content.

Version one has a red silk page marking ribbon with blue inside pages.

Version two has a grey silk page marking ribbon with blue inside pages.

Version three, although not printed, should have a black silk page marking ribbon with bright red inside page.

I'm sure there will be more versions in the future...

