

Lost:
Reenacting Season -
if found please return
to Miss Drop.

The Toccoa Times

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Camp Toccoa, Georgia

Miss drop 44! What the hell was going on? Small group - big dreams



Miss
Drop

Welcome to our first edition of the Toccoa Times, the news letter to cover all the goings on; focussing not only around our beloved living history group and its members, but also the original units history, its members, its equipment and everything else that can in any way be connected to what we will be doing.

group should be? Who are we? What do we want to do? Are we just another farby as hell 101st group, or did we want to be different? rank and what weapons they are equipped with. The literally building bocks to any group formation. A perfect place to start, we looked about and saw we had 6 people. Platoon H Q has 7 members. Lets start there then.

The answers to all those questions we very easy for everyone to answers. No, we didn't want to just be another group. We would be as accurate as we can be. Starting with who actually are we? group went through some very rapid changes in ranks, layouts a n d improvements. Resulting in the group being formed over Company Hq, platoon HQ and 1st rifle squad.

I had seen the new term being thrown around by the usual Farb-bashers online... that's not in the TO&E. Wait what? A TO&E... So a few searches and I found these tables of organisation and equipment. They show who should be what

weapon crews, and EVERYONE else was to have a M1 Garand. That'll upset a few farbs I'm sure... but in this photo I saw a Thompson... yes you did, but just because you saw one photo of a guy either doing something he shouldn't or something from a completely different unit, doesn't mean you should do it, just because you want a pretty gun. Lets stick to facts and what they were supposed to have, supposed to wear. Sure we can find a 100 photos of guys doing odd things, that look 'cool'. How inaccurate would a
cont page 2

I blame Max... something we all are getting used to... this time however he's been a good boy. What started with Sam complaining that nobody is recruiting and literally saying "Max go recruit someone". What lead amazed all of us, probably Max too! Just like Alice tumbling down the rabbit hole, spiralling as she fell, gathering momentum... the recruiting seems to be doing the same thing.

Max suddenly says in chat, "Do we want a Nurse?" Well you can only imagine the response asking a group of guys if they want a nurse! It was just a barrage of stupid and frankly inappropriate comments that I was also a part of (Sorry Bob) the conclusion to this question eventually

was no. Then he suddenly exclaims "I got a recruit!". I got a pm telling me to add this guy to the group. Thanks Max, but at least tell me his name. Mike... Welcome Mike... turns out he lives really close, well when he's not out playing soldiers for real that is. Mike comes to visit me a day after and we have a chat about the group, what we do, our high standards, our aims and we go over all the kit and stuff littering my office.

He was instantly taken with the group, clearly my naturally charismatic charming persona helped massively. He was on board, he spoke about how best he could fit in and we decided he would be best to take the Cpl position in 1st Squad. He just needed to kit up... that never ending

task. He also mention that he was in the same chat as the 'nurse' that Max had c o m i c a l l y mentioned. I asked if he had spoken with her and asked if she wanted to do anything different. He said he would, jumping ahead a little, I found my self having a chat with Sam about women pretending to be men, involving all sorts of queries and we decided that if we can pretend to be super fit paratroopers as long as we look the part, then why couldn't a women, same rules apply. Same standards apply. Look the part of you don't do it. Mike spoke with the 'nurse' and then she passed over me to chat with. Oxford... are you kidding me, my home town. We put the vote to the group, do we allow women, vote passes
continues page 3

Impressions, how far do you go?

c o n t f r o m p a g e 1

I'm sure you're probably thinking, what is he on about now? The average reenactor probably doesn't have much in the way of an impression, other than the kit the wear and the weapon they carry. They probably haven't ever considered that their own name might not even be a great match for a US WW2 soldier. So here comes the impression, everything asked here to

get your mind thinking (I know, you didn't sign up to do any thinking!) What's your name? Where are you from? Your date of birth? Siblings and do they serve? Parents? Do you have photos of your family them in your kit? Your serial number, can you remember it? What was your occupation before the Army and where? There are a hundred questions you could write yourself to

fine tune who bits and bobs from you 'now' are. home. Id card On top of that, from your old there are work, a payslip plenty of items and bus ticket. that you may This is all up to have with you, you. Just make it such as the all match and do photographs of your best to loved ones. If remember it all! you have a wartime wallet, include

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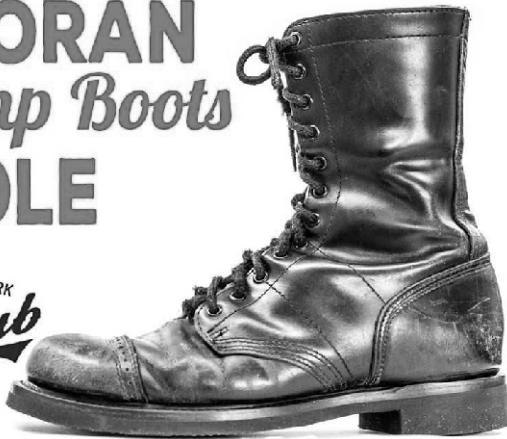
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group be, if each person just did one of these 'cool' things. Utter nonsense. If you don't look the same as the person next to you, then one of you; or both of you are doing something wrong. This is now the ethos of the group. Do it right, or don't do it.

To give new members a fighting chance to get into the hobby, we decided that a minimum kit list needed to be decided upon. From here, the new recruit can obtain the other items as and when the could. Items that are not up to standard would simply not allowed to be brought to events. "Buy right - buy once" was heard continuously for weeks after we decided upon all this. Of course everyone of us had items that needed to be replaced, that didn't match the TO&E. It was a little frustrating for all, to change weapons, webbing, pouches, but to get it 'right', these things had to be done. Everything wrong was stripped away. So guys had only minimal changes... others almost a complete overhaul. We all knew that from now on, it would be correct, and on our way to being the most authentic.

The group has started growing rather rapidly recently

and lots of exciting things are popping up. I won't reveal them all in this article, but our growth has kick started us to create the newsletter and hopefully with all of your input from time to time it will be interesting for all.

Submissions on almost any topic are welcome! Send them to the editor via the website, (if its too long or you can't send it) contact me through the sire and I will reply, or use my email if you already know it.

This is far from a professional newsletter, I am about as far from being a writer as you can get... despite all the crazy things I have written about, so it will have spelling mistakes, errors and poor grammar. Just put up with it.

In future issues, I will cover all the usual topics that are discussed in the group chat, on Facebook pages, in YouTube videos and all relevant things that we spot for sale, including reviews on items and what's new and important.

If you wish to submit articles, please get writing, I can't do everything on my own!



cont from page 1 Harrison Tent Company

unanimously, Ayla 'Bob' was in. I met with her in Oxford at Costa, had a length chat with her about everything. Read her the riot act about not corrupting all our troopers; no I didn't really. Two recruits...

Meanwhile another Mike is added to the group. Mike 1 and Mike 2... that just won't do. Mike 1 becomes Dobbers, after being annoyed that we already have a Dobbo!

Then things just got weird... Ayla

turned out to be 17 and Dobbers is a serving soldier who frankly should know better. What can only be described as grooming started. Not in private but open and for all who was unlucky enough to witness to hear and see. Comments like "just wait until you turn 18!" were frequent and made everyone except Ayla and Dobbers cringe and made to feel dirty.

The one event that they made it too was in the summer, a scorching

hot weekend only made the more unbearable with those to being as cringy as it's possible to be! We managed one evening... after waking up, one look at Sam's face said it all... we couldn't go on. We took a vote. Sam, Harry, Harvey and myself said lets go home (albeit a lot closer for me than others) and so we did. Never before have we packed up early and I doubt we ever will again... but those two could ruin winning the lottery!

Good riddance!

Yeah I know, I know, who? I hear all the new folks ask. Well, these are the only company that makes those 'rigger' pouches we all need. Everyone of us, regardless of rank in the 502 will have several of them. Of course other companies make them... and all of them are worthy of going on a bonfire. Leave them in stock in places like SOF for the farbiest of the farbs... if they even know what a rigger pouch is of course. Most still think wearing a cartridge belt is correct and acceptable!

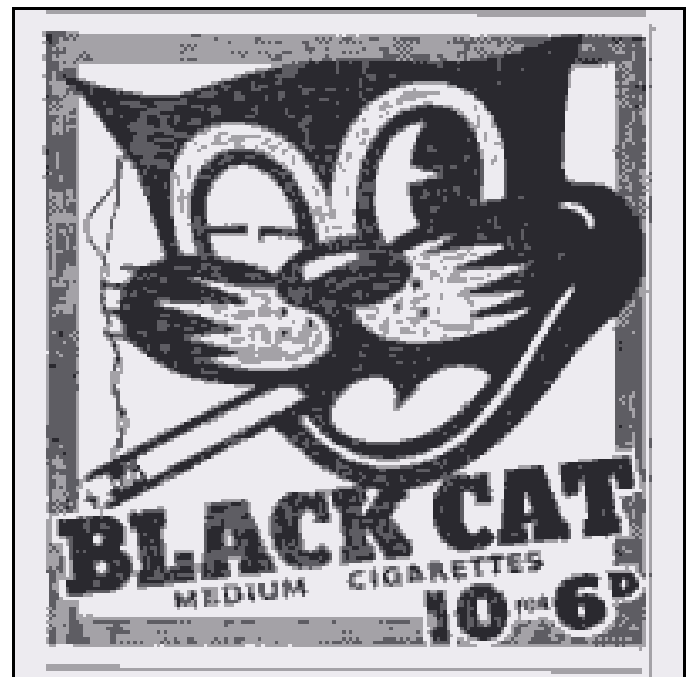
HTC are the only companies rigger pouches that are acceptable in Md44. This isn't because we are difficult, mean or we get a commission. They just are the best. Also, because they are all custom made upon request they all look exactly the same. Giving the unit the uniform look that

it should have. There was only one size, they whole small medium nonsense is down to companies who produce riggers making them in a variety because they have no idea what they are doing. Examine some photos if you don't believe me. Start with all the 502 being looked over by Ike. Oh yeah... they are all dark green, all the same size... how amazing is that. Yes, there were other types of special rigger items, for radios, Thompson mags and all sorts. The standard rigger pouch was one size, a copy of the one the USAAF had. They didn't have enough, so the riggers got to work making their own.

So buy HTC, it really is your only choice! Yes, you'll have to wait while they are made. They are £10 each but perfect in every way! Why anyone would buy elsewhere, is beyond me?



Eisenhower's visit to the 502nd 5th June 1944. He was so worried that almost none of the paratroopers would survive, almost considering it a suicide mission that he went out to speak with them. Asking them questions like "where you from Son?", "what did you do for a living before the Army" and "Who's the toughest guy in the unit" to which was answered with, "we'll let you know when we get back!"



What do we need? Thirsty? How the US soldiers Work as a team! carried the basic of all human needs

After a group has been around a while they accumulate a vast amount of bits and bobs for the displays at events. At present, we have us and our own small display items. What we don't have is the communal items, such as fake barbed wire for a perimeter fence, trust me when I say we need to limit the way the public walks around, even if only in a minimal way. Does anyone want to make some? Or when we charge our first bunch of subs next year is this the sort of unexciting thing we will purchase right away. Or do we have other things we want/need to put the money towards. As with most things in this hobby, there are thousands of things we can make and use. I spoke with a friend of mine who is keeping an eye out for pallets that have suitable wood to take apart and make more ration crates and such like. I can make stencils for anything, so please nobody buy

any! I can just email you them as a pdf and you can print it and cut the parts out with a scalpel. Hence my delivery today of new scalpel blades and another new scalpel. Remember, we're a unit and we should all pool our resources as such. If you have any such talents that you can offer, please let me know and I will include it in the next issue.

Getting back on with what we need, I think the consensus is that we are right in the middle of it all. So no luxury huge tents, even the pup tents are pushing it for the first few days of the Normandy campaign, but we have to have something to sleep under... Zeltbahns may be the answers. There was no pup tents in Normandy D+2. There were no small wall tents... There were German positions, like Holdy Battery that the 502 helped capture...; but much more on that later!

Any man without water doesn't survive long, even more so when asserting himself to physical and mental strains such as combat. Water has almost always been individually carried by soldiers. Pre World War I lead to the creating of the M1910 new webbing system and with it came the M1910 water-bottle, a metal bottle that was dated and featured manufacturers names. This bottle remained the same shape right until after Ww2. Ww2 saw the bottle being made in different ways; ww1 bottles were made of two halves with a vertical welded seam, later ww2 bottles saw the folding and joining around the middle of the bottle, horizontally. Like every item in the US Quartermaster catalogue, they were also subjected to improvements, new versions were trialed and tested. The main problem with these bottles were that they were either steel or aluminium. An essential material during war time

conditions. So the search to find alternatives began, in 1941/42 the first of these bottles were made and tests, these were cheap iron bottles that had been enamelled in black or sometimes blue. Almost all of which are dated 1942. Although the idea was sound, the problem soon arose that when banged the enamelling would chip away and the bottle started to rust and the water would turn for the worst. I'm unsure if they saw front line usage, but the production was stopped when the problems were highlighted. With advance being made with early types of plastic, they experimented with a plastic and a bottle was made, know as the Ethocell bottle. No metal at all, so a giant step forwards in water-bottles as we know now. Sadly however, these were also tested and almost all the soldier who used them complained that the water soon started to taste foul and was

undrinkable. These bottles are really hard to find and even I don't have one in my collection, although I haven't tried that hard...

E. C. WASHINGTON, The Tailor

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January 2022 The list of the items I make photoshoot continues to grow! What's next?

Not long now until an important event in Miss Drop 44 evolution. The photographer is booked courtesy of the Grizzle Squad FMX team; or 'those crazy guys on dirtbikes' as we lovingly know them as. These photos will be used on the website (yes you can all get nice new profile photos for the website), one of the big reasons is to get all the photographs we need for our book and there is quiet a selection to pose for a recreate. I have tried to rope some extra guys into help and act as human props that we can dress up and utilise for the project.

The highlight will be the appearance of our very own mascot 'Miss Drop' who will be posing for a load of photographs that will be used on the website, in the book and on our promotional material. If this doesn't get us noticed, I don't know what will!!! I had an interesting conversation about lingerie with other night that made me smile! Questions like "so what do you want me to do?" only made me giggle like a stupid child! However, after doing some 'interesting' drawing and thinking to myself whilst

doing them, is this too much and is this a crazy idea?!?! After showing them to Miss Drop, she assured me that I had some great ideas and now she knows what she has to do! So that will all be down to here and the photographer! No, you can't watch the magic in action... yes I'm sure we can all have a photograph taken with her. I know bloody well will...

So what do we need for the event...

Bring everything relevant for Normandy. .30 cal ammo cans, M1 Garands, helmets, spare webbing etc.

Ben please bring your Browning .30 as we need to get some specific LMG team pics. So that would be fantastic! If anyone knows anyone who wants to come and help, let me know.

It might be cold, so the stables might be our beds for the night, of course that won't stop us from having a good warm fire in the usual place before a chilly walk back! I have a stack of invasion currency ready for a good poker sessions, lets see if you can remember how to play!

As some of you will have seen in the Whatsapp chat, I discovered that some members of the 502 had cloth jump wings made whilst in England and had them sown to their shirts. There seems to be two types, one sewn with standard cotton and the other with a thicker, almost string but not really bullion. Both are sewn on a nice royal blue felt type cloth. After a comical chat with a chap in India who I probably insulted when I asked him "is there any payment you accept that isn't only used by scammers?" However, it did just seem crazy and unreal, however, we've seen what he has made and they are currently being shipped. Of course, not many of the 502 would have had these, but as they are to be worn on a shirt, there will be very few occasions that anyone would ever see it. We will be the only place to get these, unless anyone is crazy enough to do this sort of thing. Sam and I said that it would be a nice idea to award them to members after a certain amount of time in the group. How long

or if its a certain amount of events to attend we haven't thought about yet, however we can bring this up in January.

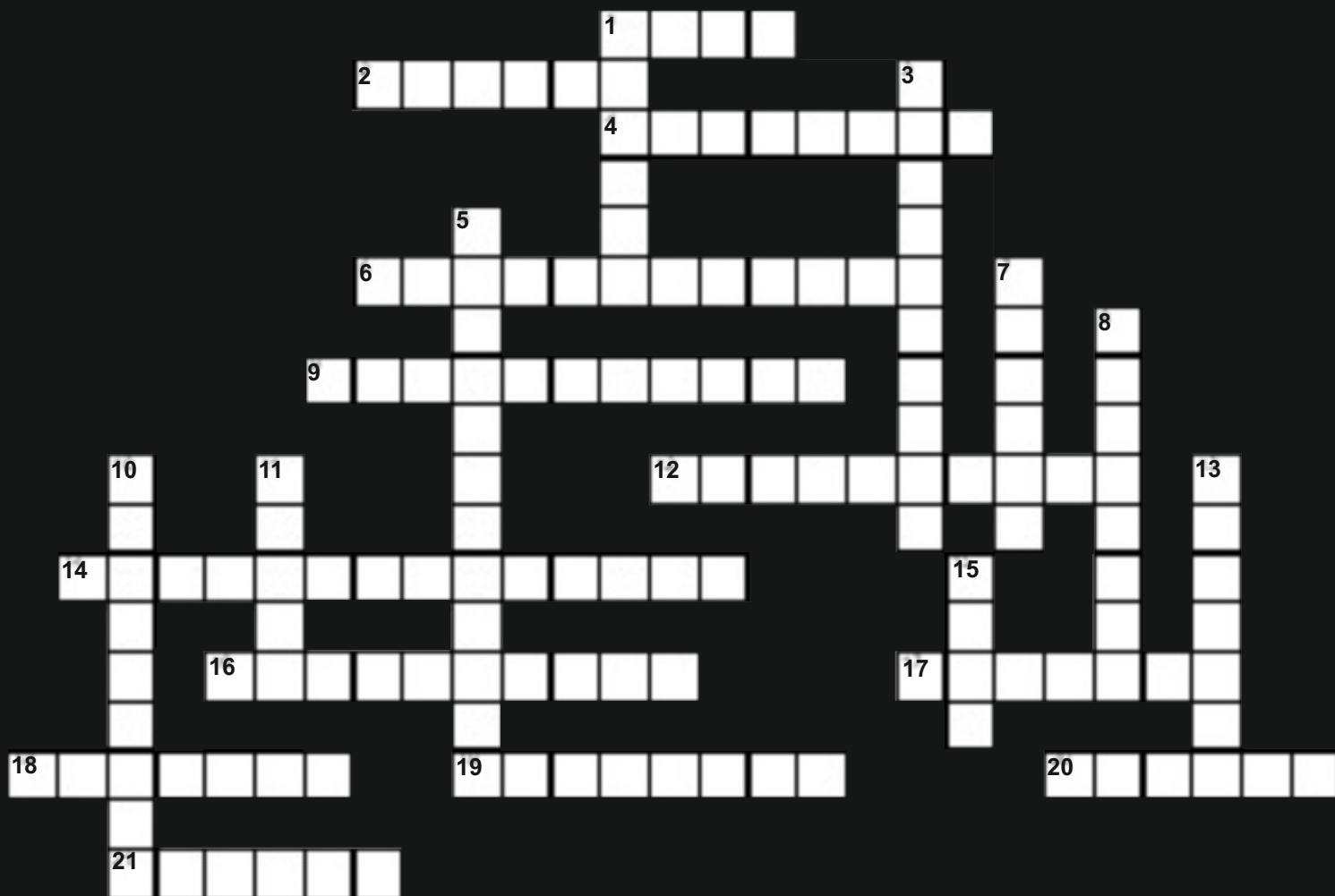
I also add OD huck towels to my list of items, as currently it cost £10 for one from SOF and that just didn't sit right with me. So I bulk ordered a huge lot from a catering supplier that matched mine from SOF and got he Dylon out again! At the same time, I ordered piles of white hankies and dyed those also. Each member of the US Army was issued 4 hankies along with their kit. So if you need 4 hankies and a huck towel... let me know.

Previous to starting Miss Drop 44 you lot, I had always concentrated my impression with an aspect of S2 (intelligence) officer about it. I have scanned in and redrew some of the training posters onto CoralDraw so that I could resize them. As well as creating a lot of training items to teach German Military identification. As we have a few members of the HQ who are responsible for

intelligence (S2), I thought this would be something that I could look a bit more into. So I had these training posters professionally printed (all 13 of them) and some sets will be sold, at least one set will be utilised by us and if here in time for January we can do some training in the stables and put them on the wall.

Of course lots of you by now will have seen the maps that I had made earlier in the year. 6 different that are all commonly carried by paratroopers. Carentan and St Mere Eglise being the most popular ones. As well as an overall map of France in a larger less detailed scale.

Leg ties... so with all that 'faff' we had last year, I have found the same cotton tape that matches the ones Daz supplied us and I believe that I have the two dyes sorted to get the cloth tape to the right colour... fingers crossed. It'll work out less £2.50 per set. I need about 8 sets myself... hence why its worth doing myself!



Crossword # 1

1 across, The A in PIAT

1 down, dressing to impress

2, John's rifle's magazine system

3, Colours of Service (German)

4, The first man onto French soil during Operation Overlord

5, Our brothers in arms/competative rivals

6, German Navy

7, Hitler expected the invasion

8, Wooden box with a banging finish

9, always in search of thoroughfares

10, ____ & Matterhorn Company that supplied us with the very best!

11, Disney's aquatic fuel carrier

12, German anti tank device

13, replaced the Doughboy pack

14, Black tips!

15, State of Invasion

16, Secure shipping crates for the soul (soles)

17, US Film star giving all of 'us' the big busted look

18, Looks like chocolate, consistency of concrete and tastes like sawdust

19, WW1 US Soldiers

20, Rebecca likes to listen to this

21, Bowling term on the DI

Answers in next issue. First to complete it with correct answers gets a prize!