



NOVEMBER ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

The Monthly Feature for November is the original Prop Blast Mug used by the 503rd Parachute Infantry Battalion.

The first prop blast mug from WWII era was used by the 503rd Parachute Infantry Battalion. It was made from a 75mm shell casing with parachute ripcord handles welded on the side. Engraved on the mug are the names of all the participants, most notably Major R.F. Sink (later Lieutenant Colonel Sink, Commanding General XVIII Airborne Corps), Captain Yarborough (later Lieutenant General Yarborough, Commanding General, 1st Corps who designed and patented the U.S. Army parachute wings) and CPT James Gavin (later Lieutenant General Gavin, Commander of the 82d Airborne Division).

The first prop blast ceremony was conceived by Captain William P. Yarborough and First Lieutenant William T. Ryder for the 501st Parachute Infantry Battalion in 1940 as a rite of passage for new Airborne Officers. As part of the prop blast ceremony officers were required to drink a special mixture from a ceremonial mug. This tradition continues today, as newly assigned Officers are initiated into their units by way of the Prop Blast Ceremony.



The front side of the First Prop Blast for the 503rd Parachute Battalion.

The words on the front of the Prop Blast Mug:

503rd PARACHUTE BATTALION

"GO"



ACTIVATED

August 22, 1941

The names on the back of the Prop Blast Mug:

MAJORS

R.F. SINK J.M. GAVIN

CAPTAINS

G.J. HIGGINS W.P. YARBOROUGH
A.F. GORHAM J.S. LAWRIE
D.E. THOMAS W.S. RYAN
E.R. KELLY

LIEUTENANTS

J.L. ERICKSON J.J. NILAN
E.R. COL B.A. BACHE
J.G. CORNETT J.W. BRITTEN
C. KNOX M.B. GALL
C.H. ALLEN R.C. CARROLL
J.C. IVINS W.E. LEHMANN
J.C. HITE R.T. SHELBY
C.S. GALBREATH R.J. SEITZ
R.H. WOODS J.L. ALMEIDA
R.S. JONES F.X. DONOVAN
J.B. PRATT J.W. GORDON
R.M. ATKINS R.R. ELLIS
T.G. PEARSON P.J. GIBBONS
E.H. THOMAS W. COOPER
L.E. BYRD F.E. WILSON



The back of the first 503rd Prop Blast. Engraved are the names of the first participants.

Airborne & Special Operations Museum Foundation
100 Bragg Blvd.
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301
(910) 643-2778
info@asomf.org

Museum Hours
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 12pm-5pm
Closed Mondays and Federal Holidays
Open Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veteran's Day

The Airborne & Special Operations Museum Foundation supports the museum with marketing, advertising and financial support for its programs and exhibits. Opening the doors on August 16th, 2000, the 60th anniversary of the original United States Army's Test Platoon's first parachute jump, the museum offers free admission, a main exhibit gallery, temporary gallery, four-story tall theater, video theater and a motion simulator ride. It is located in Historic Downtown Fayetteville on the corner of Bragg Boulevard and Hay Street, adjacent to the city's Freedom Memorial Park and the recently built North Carolina Veteran's Park. The main gallery is designed as a self-guiding tour, in chronological order, through the history of the airborne and special operations soldiers, from 1940 to the present. The temporary gallery changes throughout the year and displays a myriad of exhibits pertaining to the United States Army, airborne and special operation units through their history and conflicts from World War II to the present. For a nominal fee visitors can ride the 24 seat motion simulator. Find our [privacy policy here](#).





503RD

INTERNATIONAL

GO



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