

Paradummy

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The dolls used for Operation Titanic were nicknamed Rupert by British troops and Oscar by American troops. The official name was "Device Camouflage No. 15". They were made of burlap and filled with straw or green waste. The dolls were immobile and about 85 cm tall, consequently smaller than a person, but on the ground during twilight it was difficult to discern the difference between them and real parachutists. The dummies contained explosives which detonated on impact with the ground, in order to confuse nearby defenders. In addition, real parachutists would hang motionless from their parachutes during the jump, so that the ground troops could not discern them from real jumpers or comrades who had been shot while airborne.

Some were found in a warehouse on a

n old British airfield in the 1980s. Some of the original dolls from this find are now exhibited in war museums.

See also

Dummy tank

Military deception

Military dummy

Quaker gun

References

Further reading

Jon Latimer, *Deception in War*, London: John Murray, 2001 ISBN 0-7195-5605-8