

# The TMCA News

Volume 41 Issue II

October 2017

Editor: David Hoagey



## 2017 Fall/Winter Show

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**Where:** Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Conference Center / Hotel  
700 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin, TN 37067

**When:** **Friday, November 24th** - Dealer Set-up and  
**Members Only 8 AM- 12 Noon**      **Public Admitted 12 Noon - 6 PM**  
**Saturday, November 25th** - 8 AM - 3 PM

**Admission:** \$5. for Non-Members. **TMCA Members get in free - Wear badge**, Children under 12 free. Also admitted free, if in uniform: Members of US Military, Fire and Police, R.O.T.C. and Military Re-enactors.

**What Will Be There:** Uniforms, Medals, Insignia, Badges, Helmets, Weapons, Veterans, Re-enactors. Buy-Sell-Trade-Display.

**Table Reservations** '310' 6 FT. Tables ~ **Members only ~ Sale or Display Tables - \$45 each. SOLD OUT, call for waiting list**  
**Contact Ronnie Townes at 615-661-9379 or TMCA@comcast.net**

**Room Reservations at Hotel:** Call 615-261-6100 or 1-888-403-6772, and ask to receive the **TMCA discount rate of \$104**, plus tax (normal rate is \$209). **Deadline for this special rate is November 2, 2017**

## Club News

### WWI Display Spring/Summer Show 2017 Winner - Scott Gahimer



US Model 911 Pistols  
"The Great War"

**IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR A CASH PRIZE OF \$100 WILL BE AWARDED FOR BEST-OF-SHOW DISPLAY AT THE 2017 FALL/WINTER SHOW**

## “United States Military Combat Shotguns” by Jimmy Howell



Original Winchester Model 97 carried by Corporal Isaac Dixon, 83rd Inf. Div, 329th Inf. Rgt. in WW1. Corporal Dixon was author Jimmy Howell's grandfather. Authors collection

The combat shotgun is as American as apple pie. The purpose built combat shotgun was a uniquely American concept. Many countries have since followed suit and fielded such weapons but the United States military certainly pioneered its use in combat, often with great controversy. The Imperial German government protested the use of combat shotguns during World War One as being cruel and inhumane. They went so far as to publicly state that any soldier captured with such a weapon would be put to death. This is rather ironic as they pioneered the use of flame throwers and poison gas.

My interest in combat shotguns started years ago when my Uncle Carl Reed gave me my Grandfather's solid frame World War One Winchester Model 1897 Trench gun. I had helped him do some work at his house and he surprised me with this as a gift for all my hard work. My Grandfather had served with the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division during World War One as a Corporal in the 329<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment. The purpose built combat shotgun story begins with the Winchester Model 1897 solid frame Trench gun. The term Trench gun is not a military term. All U.S. military documentation refers to this as a riot gun with bayonet attachment. Yes we all know that shotguns were used by the U.S. military before in limited numbers before this, however, the 1897 Winchester Trench shotgun was purpose built for the trenches of World War One. The War Department had submitted a request for a combat shotgun with a 20 inch barrel capable of mounting a bayonet and having sling swivels for attachment of the 1907 sling. Winchester was first to answer the call. The biggest problem was that there were no bayonets with a muzzle ring large enough to fit around the muzzle. Also for any bayonet to be effective something would have to protect the users hand from the hot barrel of a shotgun. Winchester solved the problem by offsetting the bayonet attachment point and adding a ventilated metal handguard. Thus the Trench gun was born. Winchester was already producing the 1917 American Enfield rifle and bayonet in large numbers. It is not hard to figure out why they selected the Enfield style bayonet over the Model of 1905 bayonet. Remington would soon follow suit with their version of the Trench gun concept with the Remington Model 10. Their method of attaching the bayonet differed just enough as to not run afoul of Winchesters patented Type W ventilated handguard. Both the Winchester and Remington Trench guns are very hard to find today. The Remington Model 10 being the most elusive.

### Between the Wars

Winchester would continue production of their Model 1897 Trench gun after World War One for commercial and government sales. Many law enforcement agencies and other government agencies such as the U.S. Postal service purchased small numbers of Trench guns. Sales were limited and an enterprising Winchester modified the bayonet attachment to accept the 1895 Winchester bayonets that they had left over from an unfulfilled Russian contract that was never paid for after the Russian Revolution broke out.

### World War Two

America's entry into World War Two saw the demand for combat shotguns sky rocket. Winchester was unable to keep up with the demand for Trench guns with the Model 1897 and Model 12. Ithaca submitted their Model 37 Trench gun. Only about 1400 Ithaca Trench guns were produced before the War Department decided that they wanted Ithaca to focus the bulk of their production on the 1911-A1 .45 Automatic pistol. This low production number makes the Ithaca Model 37 Trench gun the rarest Trench gun of World War Two. Most collector books have the

serial number range incorrectly listed for this gun. Something I discovered after much research by yours truly. The serial number range does not end at 61,450 but it is slightly lower than 63,000. It pays to do your own research !

Stevens would enter the Trench gun market with their Stevens Model 520-30 and the Stevens Model 620. The Stevens 520-30 is the most commonly encountered Trench gun today. The Stevens 620 is more difficult to find today. Nice examples will be hard to find. Most World War Two Trench guns left the factory with a blued finish. The only exception is the late war Winchester Model 12 Trench gun. These can either be parkerized or a mix of parkerized and blued parts.

### Korea and Vietnam

Most models that were available in World War Two will be seen in the Korean War. New production was not needed as there were stockpiles of left over combat shotguns that lasted all the way up to the early days of the Vietnam War.

During Vietnam, the Winchester Model 1897 Trench gun was still in limited use. The Winchester Model 12 and the Stevens 520-30 and Stevens 620 were more commonly used as they were more modern designs. Supplies of Model 12 Trench guns ran low so some Model 12 aerial training and riot shotguns were arsenal converted to Trench Gun configuration. The bulk of these were converted at the Toole Arsenal. They were parkerized as part of the refinish and the buttstock will have a large TE stamped on it. Ithaca also re-introduced the Model 37 Trench gun in small numbers for Vietnam. Some were used by Special Forces. Commercial models were also available. So, do your research before purchasing a Vietnam era Model 37.

Winchester also started making the Model 1200 in Trench gun configuration around 1968. A new production bayonet was also manufactured. The 1917 Enfield pattern bayonet was retained. The 1200 would remain in service into the Gulf War era. Examples of this gun are rare due to low numbers of manufacture and the fact that the U.S. Government virtually stopped selling surplus arms to the public. Remington also produced some 870 Trench guns late in the war for the U.S. Navy and the Marine Corps. These are also very rare in civilian hands today.

### Gulf War Era and into the Future

The Winchester Model 1200 was retired during the Gulf War era. Some did make it overseas and saw use in combat. The Remington 870 was also used and saw combat use by the Navy and Marine Corps. The Mossberg 500 series would eventually replace most of these shotguns as the standard U.S. Military Trench shotgun along with the Benelli M1014 series.

### Collectors Notes

Military Trench guns and their accessories can be a fun field of collecting. Patience is a virtue as production figures were much lower for Trench guns and their accessories. Do your research as many fakes abound due to collector interest in this once ignored area of U.S. Military collecting.

Look at as many Trench guns as you can in person and at online auction houses. There are not many reference books available on this subject. The best would be Bruce Canfield's "Complete Guide to United States Military Combat Shotguns" and Joe Poyer's book about Winchester Trench guns. These will be a great help, but use your brain ! Like all books they have errors, I know as I have found some myself. Good luck and I will see you at the show.



**Original WW2 40mm Bofors is Donated to the TMCA, 501(c)**

**A few months ago, the TMCA received an original WW2 40mm Naval Bofors for display purposes only.**

The gun has been recovered and is in de-milled condition. The goal is to restore the gun in an non-firing state for display use only. We plan to mount it on a trailer in order to take to shows, parades, veterans affairs etc. in honor of our veterans from WW2. This gun does have WW2 history and is marked **LST 593 2** on its side. It was gun number 2 on the USS LST -593 which served in the Pacific in 1945. LST-593 gunners are credited with shooting down 1 Japanese plane.

We are looking for any volunteers who would love to help restore this gun. Life member Roy Chilson, is a skilled machinist and Airforce veteran. Roy has already made seats, crank handles, a flash hider and a few other missing parts for the gun. We are still seeking two "spider sights" which were Army style on this particular gun. We are also looking for about 40-50 brass (not steel) 40mm shells that are dated 1943-1945. We would like to fill in all the ammo racks. Projectiles would be a plus, but we can machine out dummies if needed.

The gun does elevate, however the lower traverse bearings are rusted up and will need lots of work. It is also missing the drive shaft to connect the crank handles to the traverse gearing.



We are still looking for two brass spider sights that look similar to this one.

We need club volunteers to help strip and repaint.

Wanted: 40mm WW2 dated Brass shell casings.

# USS LST-593, Landing Ship, Tank - *The ship that carried the TMCA's Gun*

Laid down 28 June 1944, at Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Co., Evansville, IN.

Launched, 9 August 1944

Commissioned **USS LST-593**, 5 September 1944, LT. Fairfield P. Day, USNR in command.

During World War II **USS LST-593** was assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and participated in the following campaign:



**Asiatic-Pacific Campaigns**

**Campaign and Dates**

**Consolidation and capture of Southern Philippines** Mindanao Island landings, 17 to 23 April and 10 to 15 May 1945. Credited with shooting down one Japanese plane. Was this the actual gun that hit it ???

Following the war **USS LST-593** was assigned to Occupation service in the Far East from 23 September to 25 October 1945.

Decommissioned, 18 march 1946

Struck from naval register, 8 May 1946

Sold, 28 May 1948 to Alexander Shipyards Inc., New Orleans.

Final Disposition, Fate unknown.

**USS LST-593** earned one battle star for World War II service.

**USS LST-593**

  
 International Radio Call Sign:  
 November - Echo - Yankee - Zulu  
**NEYZ**

**Awards, Citations and Campaign Ribbons**

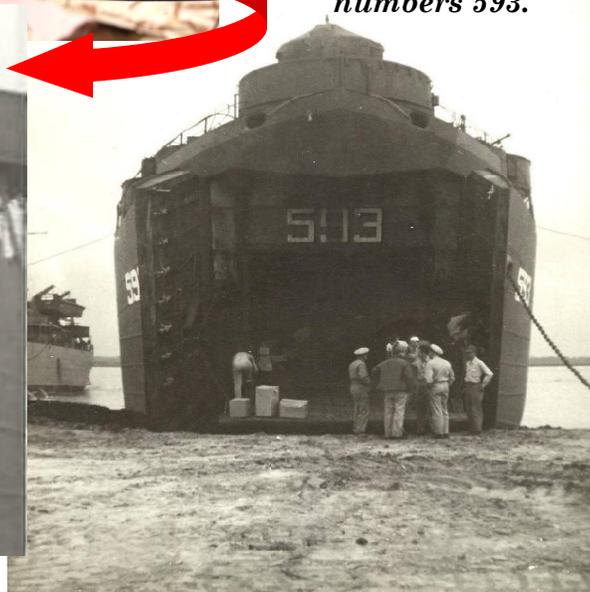
  
 Precedence of awards is from top to bottom, left to right  
 Top Row - American Campaign Medal - Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (1) - World War II Victory Medal  
 Bottom Row - Navy Occupation Medal (with Asia clasp) - Philippines Presidential Unit Citation - Philippine Liberation Medal (1)



*Original identification markings are stamped into the left side of the 40mm feed ramp on our gun.*

**LST 593 2 (Gun #2)**

*Our actual gun can be seen in this original 1945 photo. Port side (left) just above the numbers 593.*



## TMCA Members Experiencing History



Billy Fortner (Life Member #811) and his son LT Nathan Fortner who is attached to the 1st Carrier Group command, flag ship CVS Carl Vinson. In the background is the USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor, which was directly across the harbor from where the Carl Vinson was docked, just south of the memorial is the battleship USS Missouri, so plenty of history there with the beginning of the war at this location and the ending of the war with the surrender papers signed aboard the USS Missouri.

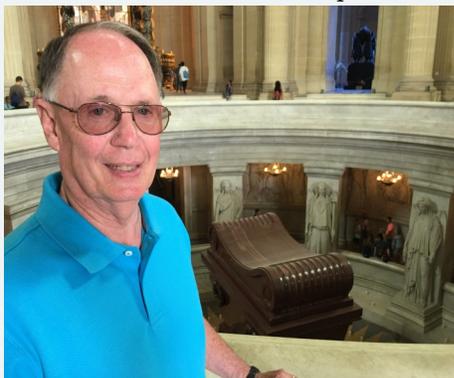


Bill Emerson (#1103) just prior to flying in a 1930s British training bi-plane at the Imperial Aviation War Museum, Duxford, England, September 2017.



Emily Townes (Life Member #7) visiting the grave of "Old Blood and Guts" Gen. George S. Patton at the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial in Hamm, Luxembourg July 2017.

David Eagan (#1110) at the most notable tomb at *Les Invalides* which is that of Napoleon Bonaparte (1769–1821) Paris, France July 2017.



Ronnie Townes (Life Member #48), August 2017, is in Vierville-sur-Mer, France, on Omaha Beach, visiting the National Guard Monument which sits on the spot where the 29th National Guard Division



broke through German defenses on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The monument and the original bunker which it sits atop are to preserve the legacy and pay honor to all National Guardsmen who have fought in the European theater.

The Tennessee Military Collectors Association is an organization who's members not only enjoy their hobby of collecting, but also enjoy visiting and studying the locations where historical events took place. If in the future you make such a pilgrimage, please send a photo and description to the club secretary. So, all may enjoy your experience!

**CLASSIFIED ADS** Ad's are **FREE** for all TMCA members – email: [dhoagey@comcast.net](mailto:dhoagey@comcast.net)

Colt M1873 SAA revolver Circa 1885 US Prop. marked with Colt factory letter \$4,500.00  
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 E German Makarov pistol, Ex. cond. w/2 mags and holster, \$675.00  
 8mm Ammo ,1970's Romanian Military Ammo 760 rds in unopened crate(2x380 rd spam cans) \$345.00  
 Polish AKM 7.62X39 Mint, Beautiful wood, \$850.00  
 US Model 1917 Trench Knife ,American Cutlery Company, \$385.00  
 WWII US Air Corps, Bancroft Fighter crusher style hat from 8th Air Corps vets estate, some nothing, \$95.00  
 WWII OD wool trousers SZ :Waist 44,Length 33 Ex. cond. with Ex waist belt marked :U.S. J.Q.M.Q. 1944 44. \$50.00  
 WWII German canteen w/cup \$65.00 WWII MG 42 bolt \$130.00  
 WWI/WWII MG08,08-/15.MG 13, MG34,MG42 AA sight \$50.00  
 WWII MG34,MG42 Leather Sling marked DVP 42 \$175.00  
 WWII MG42 Gunners presstoff pouch \$200.00  
 WWII MG42 late war canvas Gunners pouch \$75.00  
 WWII MG34/42 oil can \$25.00  
 WWII MG42 Broken Shell extractor \$110.00  
 WWII MG34 Screwdriver & Stuck Case Cartridge remover \$50.00  
 MG08/08/15 Wrench \$50.00  
 MG34/42 Gurttrommel \$200.00

**William Price — TMCA Life Member**  
 615-371-8027 [williamprice4@comcast.net](mailto:williamprice4@comcast.net)

**The Alabama Military Collectors Associations  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Military Show!**

**January 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
 Huntsville Jaycees Community Building  
 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville, AL 35801

200 / 6ft. Tables - Buy - Sell - Trade - Display - 24 hr. Security  
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**Friday, January 12th.**  
 Setup: Exhibitors ONLY, 9 a.m.  
 OPEN to LIFE Members at 11 a.m.  
 OPEN to the Public at 1p.m.  
 CLOSED at 5 p.m.

**Saturday, January 13th**  
 OPEN to Exhibitors & Members 8 a.m.  
 OPEN to the Public at 9 p.m.  
 CLOSED to Members & Public at 4 p.m.  
 CLOSED to Exhibitors at 6 p.m.

**Admission: \$5 per Adult\***

\* Children under 12, Military, Police, Fire & Rescue & Re-Enactors in Uniform admitted Free!

**\$CASH\$ Prizes for Winning Displays!**

Table Reservations

♣ Member Sales - \$45 / Display \$25      ♣ Non-Member Sales - \$55 / Display - \$35

For More Information: Visit us at [www.almilitarycollectors.org](http://www.almilitarycollectors.org) - By Email at: [amcahq@comcast.net](mailto:amcahq@comcast.net)  
 By phone at (256) 651-7302 or Just FOLLOW US ON

**No Refunds after January 5<sup>th</sup>.**  
 Compliance with all Federal, State & Local Laws is Mandatory!



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Vice President: Rick Moody  
Secretary: Emily Townes  
Treasurer: David Hoagey  
Sgt. at Arms: Ricky Taylor  
  
Show Director Ronnie Townes



**Tennessee Medal of Honor Recipient - Sgt. Edward R Talley**



Depending on the reference, Edward R. Talley was born on either September 6 or 8, 1890 in Russellville, Tennessee. He joined the United States Army from Russellville and after completing recruit training was sent to France where he distinguished himself in action near Ponchaux, France. He was a Sergeant, in Company L, 117th Infantry, 30th Division when he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on October 7, 1918.

**Talley died December 14, 1950 and is buried at Bent Creek Cemetery, Whitesburg, TN**

**Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company L, 117th Infantry, 30th Division. Place and date: Near Ponchaux, France, October 7, 1918. Entered service at: Russellville, Tenn. Born: September 8, 1890, Russellville, Tenn. G.O. No.: 50, W.D., 1919.**

**Medal of Honor citation:**

Undeterred by seeing several comrades killed in attempting to put a hostile machine gun nest out of action, Sgt. Talley attacked the position single-handed. Armed only with a rifle, he rushed the nest in the face of intense enemy fire, killed or wounded at least 6 of the crew, and silenced the gun. When the enemy attempted to bring forward another gun and ammunition he drove them back by effective fire from his rifle.

