

The TMCA News

Spring 2025



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2025 Spring Show

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

When: Friday, **April 18** - Life Members Only 8AM-9AM
Members Only 9AM - Noon Public Admitted 12 Noon - 5PM
Saturday, **April 19** - 8AM - 3PM

Admission: \$5. for Non-Members. **TMCA Members get in free early - Wear Badge**, Children under 15 free. Also admitted free Members of US Military, Fire, Police, and if in uniform R.O.T.C. and J.R.O.T.C members.

What Will Be There: Uniforms, Medals, Insignia, Badges, Helmets, Photos Weapons, Books and much more! **Buy-Sell-Trade-Display-Appraisals.**

Table Reservations '320" 6 FT. Tables ~ Members Only ~
Sale and Display Tables - \$55 each. **SOLD OUT, call for waiting list**
To reserve contact Ronnie Townes @ 615-661-9379 - tmca@comcast.net

Room Reservations at Hotel: Call 1-888-403-6772 or 615-261-6100 and ask to receive the TMCA discount rate of \$125 (king/queen), plus tax (normal rate is \$289). April 10th last day to reserve at this rate.

Club News

TMCA Change of Command

The TMCA Show Director and Secretary, Ronnie and Emily Townes will be passing the torch off to:

Jim and Jill Nester

Starting in November, Jim and Jill will be running the Show. They will be assisting with the membership and Spring Show. Ronnie and Emily will be facilitating and still helping out.

We all welcome Jim and Jill and we have no doubt that they will do an excellent job.

We can not thank Ronnie and Emily (Spring 2009—Spring 2025) enough for the super job and support they had given to the TMCA over many years. It will be hard to follow in their footsteps!



Visit to the Queensland Museum and Mephisto

In April of 2024 I was fortunate to take a trip with my wife to visit our son who was conducting missionary work in Australia. As we were on our way to depart, we were able to go to the Queensland Museum in Brisbane and visit their World War One exhibit which featured the only surviving German A7V tank from the war.

History of the A7V

The German Army started designing their own armored fighting vehicle, the A7V Sturmpanzerwagen after the British fielded their own tanks in 1916. 20 of the A7V's were manufactured before the end of the war. They saw limited service on the Western Front in 1918. Number 506, "Mephisto" is the only surviving vehicle of the 20 manufactured.

Number 506 was part of the first German army "Sturmpanzerkraftwagen" detachment (Unit 1). Most of the tanks in this unit, bore a white skull-and-crossbones on the front armor plating beneath the main gun. The tanks were often named by their crews and the names were painted on their hulls.

Tank 506 was painted with the figure of Mephistopheles, the red, smiling Faustian demon, on the upper front left armor plate. Tucked under the demon's arm was a rhomboid-shaped British tank. The original skull-and-crossbones was overpainted with a single cross pattée, or German cross. This same black and white cross was repeated prominently on both sides of the tank. It was named Mephisto, in honor of its demon decoration.

Mephisto participated in its first ever battle at St Quentin on 21 March 1918. Its second battle came at Villers-Bretonneux on 24 April 1918. In that attack it became stranded in a shell crater, and was later recovered from the battlefield by men of the Australian Infantry Forces and members of the Royal Army.

Brought to Australia in 1919 as a war trophy, Mephisto has been housed at the Queensland Museum in Brisbane ever since. Mephisto's current paint scheme was applied by the Queensland Museum in 1988. Eighteen of the original 20 A7Vs produced by Germany survived the war more or less intact. However, most were scrapped in the years immediately following the Armistice. No. 506, Mephisto is the world's only remaining example.

Crew – 18 members.

Weight - 30 Tons.

Speed - 10 kph

Armament – one 57mm Nordenfelt Cannon, six Maxim water cooled machineguns.



Our Visit to the Queensland Museum and Mephisto

We spent our last day in Australia in Brisbane going to the Queensland Museum, mainly to see Mephisto. It was definitely worth the effort. This is probably the most impressive and rare piece of WW1 history that I have ever seen.

The museum has an excellent large screen interactive presentation which shows overall views of the whole vehicle plus interior details. It also shows the crew and their stations. The whole experience around the tank is great with additional displays of Queenslanders in the war in the same area. If you are ever in Brisbane, please spend a few hours and go see the only surviving German tank from World War 1.

One final suggestion, if you visit the museum, go to the gift shop. There are several books on Mephisto including an excellent 350+ page history of the A7V tank. They also have magnets, toys, postcards, and T-shirts featuring the Mephisto mascot painting on the front.



TMCA White House Inn and Museum Display

Greetings from your club president Jimmy Howell, to all TMCA members!

Some of our members recently participated in a *Military & Munitions* display at the White House Inn and Museum located at 412 TN-76, White House, TN 37188. One of our members, Terry Palmer, reached out to me requesting some military displays and vehicles for the event.

TMCA Vice President Rick Moody did a great U.S. World War One display which included a Chauchat machine gun. Member Roy Chilson did a very nice Vietnam War U.S. Military display highlighting weapons and gear. Member Jim Nester and his Young Marines contingent did a World War II German anti-aircraft machine gun display. Members Eric and Hunter Neumair brought World War II machine guns and a WW2 Ford Jeep. Johnny Christianson brought his WW2 White Scout Car. Yours Truly did a local veterans WW2 Combat Medics display.

The weather was not our friend (rain), but we had good attendance from the public. We hope to partner with the museum in the future and invite more members to participate as space permits.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all at the Spring TMCA Show.





Up Coming Shows and Events

April 18-19 Nashville/Franklin TN TMCA Tennessee Military Collectors Association

April 25-26 Huntsville, AL Alabama Military Collectors Show ACMA

May 3 Carthage, TN Tennessee Maneuvers Remembered

Ohio Civil War Show - Mansfield, Ohio May 3-4, 2025

OVMS Show - Wilmington Ohio - June 6-7, 2025 Ohio Valley Military Society

The MAX Show - York, PA - Sept. 18-21, 2025 Ohio Valley Military Society



Fall 2024 Display Winner

David Rogers



Member of the Year

Dr. Ted Wylie

Show Theme for Displays

Spring 2025 Show

Anything WW1 related.



The Alabama Military Collectors Association
37th Military Show!

April 25th & 26th, 2025

Huntsville Jaycees Community Bldg.
2180 Jaycee Way SW, Huntsville, AL 35801

200 / 6ft. Tables - Buy - Sell - Trade - Display - 24 hr. Security

★ Table Reservation Forms may be found on our Website! ★

2-Day Pass
\$8.00



\$CASH\$ Prizes for
Winning Displays!

Militaria & Collectibles e.g., Uniforms, Caps, Visors & Helmets, Field Gear
& Equipment, Medals, Badges & Buckles, Insignia, Flags, Pennants
& Banners, Documents, Photos/Albums, Books and More....

Friday, April 25th

Setup: Exhibitors ONLY, 9 am.
OPEN to LIFE & Charter Members at 10 am.
OPEN to the Members & Public at 12pm.
CLOSED at 5 pm.

Saturday, April 26th

OPEN to Members & Exhibitors at 8 am.
OPEN to the Public at 9 am.
CLOSED to the Public at 4 pm.
CLOSED to Members & Exhibitors at 6 pm.

Admission: \$5 per Adult*

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

Table Reservations ♦ Member Sales - \$50 / Display \$25 ♦ Non-Member Sales - \$60 / Display / \$40

No Refunds After April 17th

Facebook



Website



**No LIVE Ammunition Permitted
for Sale, Trade or Display!**

For More Information: Use these QR Codes to reach our Facebook & Website. By Email at:
amcagh15@gmail.com or Contact us by phone at (256) 651-7302.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Ad's are **FREE** for all TMCA members – email: dhoagey@comcast.net



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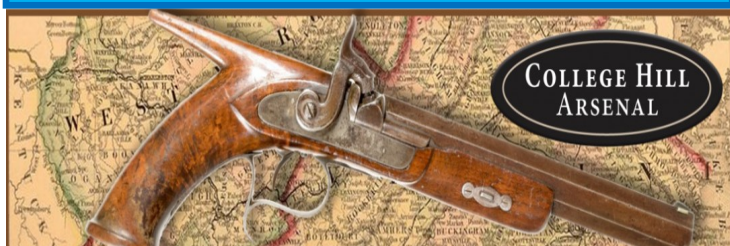
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All Time Periods
Singles, Groups, Collections

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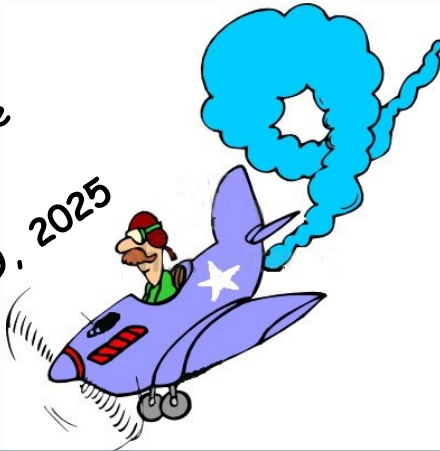
**TENNESSEE MILITARY
COLLECTORS
ASSOCIATION**

**PO Box 1006
Brentwood, TN 37024**

**Phone: 615-661-9379
www.tmcaonline.org
TMCA@comcast.net**

President: Jimmy Howell
Vice President: Rick Moody
Secretary: Emily Townes / Jill Nester
Treasurer: David Hoagey
Sgt. at Arms: Roy Chilson
Chaplin: Bob Dulop
Communications: Woody McMillin
Show Director: Ronnie Townes / Jim Nester

**It's showtime
again !!
April 18-19, 2025**



The TMCA (501C4) Donates over \$2,500 to local JrROTC Schools and Veterans Organizations

***Hendersonville High School JrROTC, Page High School JrROTC, Honor Flight,
Ravenwood High School JrROTC, Operation Stand Down, American Legion Post 215***

