

TENNESSEE MILITARY COLLECTORS

Volume 47 Issue 11

The TMCA News

November 2023



2023 Fall Show

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

When: Friday, Nov. 24th - Life Members Only 8AM-9AM
Members Only 9AM - Noon Public Admitted 12 Noon - 5PM
Saturday, Nov. 25th - 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 \$119 (king/queen), plus tax
(normal rate is \$289). Call Emily if you have any problems booking a room.

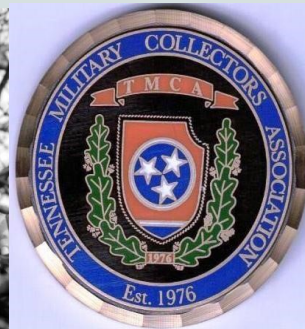
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Club News

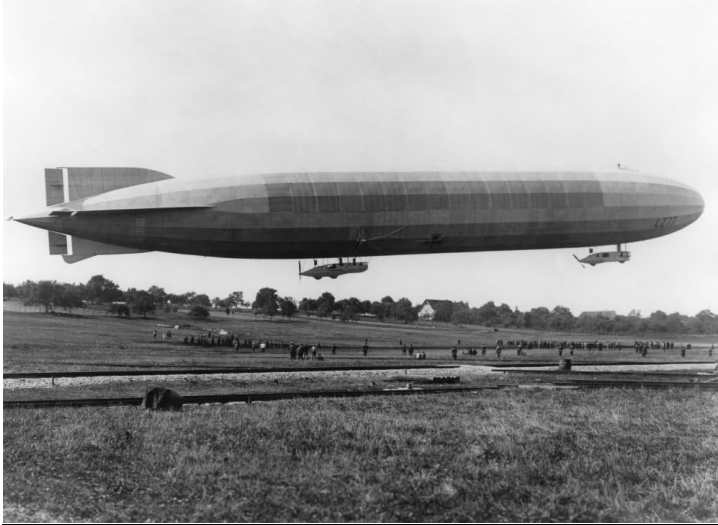
Display award theme will be "BLADES"

Enter any type of blade display

\$100 Cash prize and a TMCA Challenge Coin



WW1 German Navel Zeppelin Badge Found in Old Canadian House



Zeppelin LZ77 in 1915. Shot down 21 February 1916



Original Zeppelin (Airship) crew badge from estate.

A few years back, I was contacted by a young lady who purchased a fixer-upper house in Quebec, Canada. The house was sold to her by a gentleman who was moving into a nursing home. Unable to take much with him, he had no choice but to abandon many unneeded family items when he moved.

While cleaning out the house, the lady found some WW1 and WW2 German medals as well as a photo album from the 1950's. It became obvious that the photo album belong to a Karl Diehl, the former owner of the house, who is now deceased. The medals most likely belong to his father or some other relative. The veterans name still remains unknown to me at this time. Karl was born in Germany in the 1930's and later immigrated to Canada. These medals are not war trophy's brought back by a allied soldier. These are family heirlooms that have been left behind by a relative who could no longer care for them.

Included in the grouping, is an extremely rare WW1 German Navy Zeppelin (airship) crewman's badge.

All the items found show the veterans service in the Imperial German Navel Marinekorps and his Police service in Nazi Germany.

Also included is a sailor's cap-tally from the German training ship *Prinzess Eitel Friedrich*. This ship was launched in 1909 as a full-rigged sailing ship. The ship has survived two wars and still exist today in Poland. It is currently named the *Dar Pomorza*.

The veteran of these medals most likely trained on the *Prinzess Eitel Friedrich* around 1913 or 1914.

Looking at the medals, it's easy to get an idea of this Marine's interesting career. The bars (clasp) on the Flanders Cross (Marine Korps 1914/18) shows his Imperial Navel campaign service. He fought in the siege on Antwerp in 1914, the Battle of the Yser in 1914 and the 1st or 2nd Battle of Flanders 1914-1915.

The Hanseatic Cross from the city of Hamburg shows that he must have been from that area and had been decorated for valor.



Marine Korps items, all from same estate.

The Gold 25 year Police long service medal indicates that following WW1, the veteran joined the German Police service and served for at least 25 years. His WW1 military service would have counted towards that 25 year award.

The 1936 Olympic medal shows that he most likely served as policeman with security details during the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games.

The rarest and most unusual item is the airship crewman's cloth badge. These badges were worn by qualified airship crewman and not by ground support personnel . They were worn on the left sleeve of the tunic.

Aircrews for the Zeppelins were recruited from other areas of the Navy, particularly from the navel Marine Korps.

Many of the smaller medals are from the NSDMB or National Sozialistische Deutscher Marine Bund. The NSDMB was a German Navy Veterans League, most of whom were from WW1. He was obviously very proud and an active member of several navel veterans organizations.

The search is still on for the exact identity of the veteran who owned these medals. The research and hunt is what makes part of this hobby so interesting.



1. Prussian Iron Cross 2nd Class
2. Hanseatic Cross "Hamburg"
3. Hindenburg Cross 1914-1918
4. Prussian Red Cross 3rd Class
5. 25 Year Police Long Service
6. 1936 Olympic Service Medal
7. Hungarian War Service 1914-18
8. Bulgarian War Service 1914-18



Prinzess Eitel Friedrich 1915
Imperial German Navel Training Ship



Prinzess Eitel Friedrich in 2008
as the Polish ship *Dar Pomorza*



Imperial German Flanders Cross
1914-18.

In honor of the men who fought
with the Marine Korps.

Bars indicate battles that the
veteran fought in.



25 year membership pin in the NSDMB
"National Sozialistische Deutscher Marine Bund"

Souvenir Hunting in Ukraine - Russian SU-25SM Shot down 2 March 2022.



SU-25 RF-91961 before being shot-down on 2 March 2022

On 2 March 2022, a Russian Air Force Sukhoi Su-25SM s/n RF-91961, code 07 red, from the 18th Attack Aviation Regiment, was shot down by Ukrainians using MANPADS and



RF-91961 tail is currently on display in Kyiv

crashed near the village of Vyshehrad, Bucha Raion, Kyiv Oblast. The pilot, Major Igor Redkokashin, was injured, but fortunately he managed to eject and escape back to Russian lines.

Initial photos taken at the crash site, show the Russian Red Star on the left side of the stabilizer is still intact. Later pictures show Ukrainians troops pulling off souvenirs and the Red Star has been very neatly cut away.



Initial crash photo showing Red Star on left Stabilizer still intact

That tail section is now displayed in the centre of Kyiv as a war trophy.

The rest of the jet was recovered and broken up into spare parts (that be

reused) on Ukrainian SU-25's. The rest is being broken up into smaller pieces that have been documented and are being sold on eBay as novelty souvenirs.

Ukrainian entrepreneurs have been laser engraving the history into these small parts and making them



Ukrainian soldier cutting souvenirs. Note: Red Star has been skillfully removed already

into key chains, bottle openers necklaces and many other items.

This practice is very similar to the French artisans at the end of WW1. The French gathered up empty shell casings and made them into decorative items to sell back to foreign troops as souvenirs. Yes, most of the "Trench Art" from WW1 was not made in the trenches. It was actually made by local French civilians and sold to doughboys as souvenirs.



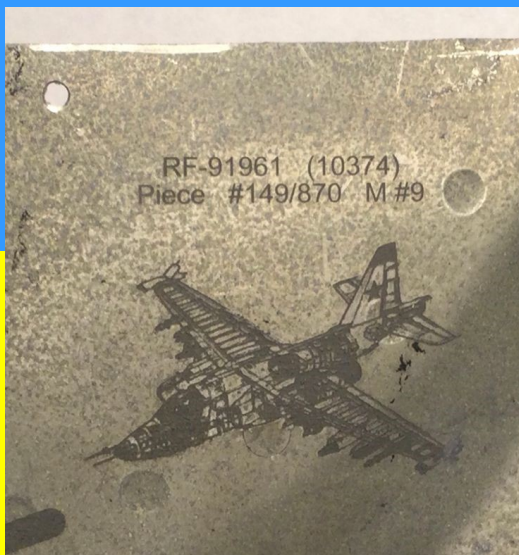
.I realize that most collectors shy away for dealing with any former Eastern bloc county on eBay. I shy away myself most of the time. When I saw these items from RF-91961 and how well they were documented in photos before being cut-up, I said to myself, what the heck. If I loose my money or if it's a scam, I can live with that loss.

I made an offer (less than 1/2 the asking price). In my offer, I mentioned my interest in aviation history back as far as WW1 and WW2. My offer was accepted and my order was shipped fast. It arrived within weeks. The seller has over 500 reviews with 100% of them being positive.

When item was received, there was an added shoulder patch (used) from a Ukrainian Air defense unit, as well as a WW2 cap pin for Ukrainian Volunteers in the German army.



In the fist days of the war from February 24,2022 7 aircrafts were shot down in 11 minutes during the capture of the Kyiv region.



RF-91961 (10374)
Piece #149/870 M #9



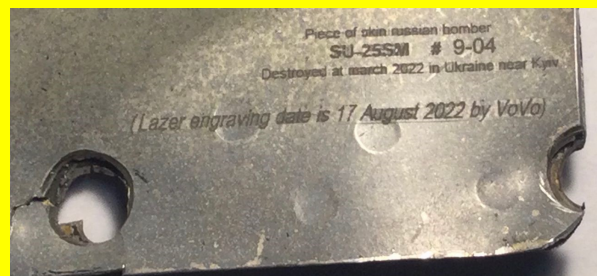
Shipping stamps from Ukraine with Air Defense patch and WW2 German made Ukrainian volunteer cap badge.
Shipping was fast and efficient.



Back Side



Coat of arms of Ukraine
Adopted
19 Feb 1992



Piece of Skin Russian Bomber SU-25SM #9-04 Destroyed at March 2022 in Ukraine near Kyiv

Up Coming Shows and Events

November 18	Murfreesboro, TN	Plastic Modeling Show	ipmsmiddletennessee.com
November 24-25	Franklin, TN	Tennessee Military Collectors Show	tmcaonline.org
December 2-3	Franklin, TN	Civil War Show	mkshows.com
December 8-9	Gallatin, TN	Coin Show, Civic Center Gym	CoinShows-USA.com
December 16-17	Dickson, TN	VFW Post 4641 Gun Show	More Info Call 970-302-6378
February 21-25	Louisville, KY	OVMS Militaria SOS Show	sosovms.com

**SPRING 2023 - BEST DISPLAY
JIM NESTER**

**STEVEN TROUT WINNER
\$100 CASH SATURDAY 3:PM DEALER
SETUP DRAWING**

**AUTHOR
BUD ALLEY**



Ofc. Stephanie Cisco of the Franklin Police Department received a Life-Membership for her service to the TMCA. She retired from the Department in August with 25 years service.

At the Spring 2024 Show on Saturday, March 30th the TMCA would like to honor our members who have served in the Armed Forces, since the Vietnam War. If you would like to be recognized, please send your Branch of Military Service, Dates of Active Service, and any conflict in which you served to
TMCA@comcast.net.

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



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- WANTED -
30th Division items from WW1
Tim Ledford 931-619-0302
tledford22@yahoo.com

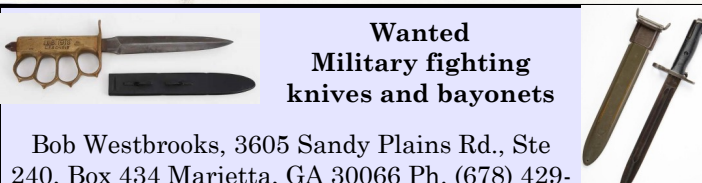



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tarbridge@earthlink.net
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www.purpleheartsnorthcarolina.com

Bruce Hohler
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Thompson's Station, TN 37179
615-585-0115
brubon2@bellsouth.net
Franklinrelics.com

Wanted
Military fighting knives and bayonets
Bob Westbrooks, 3605 Sandy Plains Rd., Ste 240, Box 434 Marietta, GA 30066 Ph. (678) 429-



HISTORY UNDER GLASS
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2023-MODEL CON
MURFREESBORO, TN • NOVEMBER 18, 2023
RUTHERFORD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER
315 John Rice Boulevard • Murfreesboro, TN 37129

IPMS Rules Model Show & Competition
9:00am - 4:00pm
Judging starts at 12:00 noon

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Well Hello Sailor!
Colt 1911 Navy Pistols Wanted
Contact Ronnie Townes
rrtownes@comcast.net



TENNESSEE MILITARY COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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Vice President: Rick Moody
Secretary: Emily Townes
Treasurer: David Hoagey
Sgt. at Arms: Roy Chilson
Sgt. at Arms: Bob Dulop
Communications: Woody McMillin
Show Director: Ronnie Townes

It's showtime
again !!

November 24-25, 2023



Rare Guard Badges : Manhattan Project. Oak Ridge, TN. Atomic Bomb.



The Manhattan Project was a research and development undertaking during World War II that produced the first nuclear weapons. It was led by the United States with the support of the United Kingdom and Canada. From 1942 to 1946, the project was under the direction of Major General Leslie Groves of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Nuclear physicist Robert Oppenheimer was the director of the Los Alamos Laboratory that designed the actual bombs. The Army component of the project was designated the Manhattan District; Manhattan gradually superseded the official codename, Development of Substitute Materials, for the entire project.

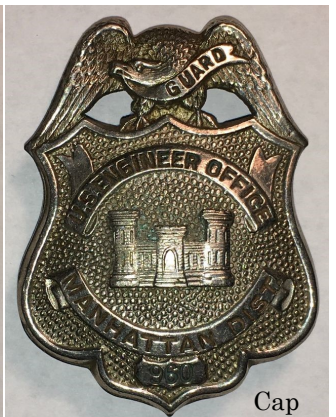


In 1944, a billboard outside of Oak Ridge, TN contained a warning from a grimacing Uncle Sam, "Loose Talk Helps Our Enemy. So, Let's Keep Our Trap Shut." As the principal site of the Manhattan Project, the American-led effort to develop an atomic bomb before the Nazis did, Oak Ridge could not afford careless chatter. Known as the "Secret City", Oak Ridge had armed guards posted at all entry points.

These two badges were recently found in a antique shop near Oak Ridge. A small handful of them were sold of by the Army as scrap metal several years ago.



Breast



Cap