

# The TMCA News

Volume 43 Issue I

March 2019

Editor: David Hoagey



## 2019 Spring Show

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

**When:** Friday, **April 19th** - Dealer Set up & Members Only 8 am - 12pm  
Public Admitted 12pm - 6 pm  
Saturday, **April 20th**- 8 am - 3 pm

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

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

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

**Room Reservations at Hotel:** Call 615-261-6100 or 1-888-403-6772, and ask to receive the **TMCA discount rate of \$109**, plus tax (normal rate is \$209). **Deadline for this Special Rate is April 4, 2019**

## Club News



### 75th Anniversary of D-Day

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day which is coming up on June 6, 2019.

The TMCA will be giving out an award for the Best D-Day display during of April 2019 show.

Dig into you collections and bring out you best D-Day items for display.

The winner will receive a plaque and \$100 cash.



For the Fall 2019 TMCA Show, we will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

# Internet Sources

By Jeff Schrader (Advance Guard Militaria)

The TMCA show has long been home to a number of wise collectors who value the history of the individual who served as much as they do the artifact itself. Sometimes it is easy; particularly well-documented artifacts might have a chain of custody leading like vintage bread-crumbs all the way back to the man or woman in uniform. More often, when there is hope of researching an item or individual, it is based on very incomplete information – a little clue here and there which in the right hands and with enough legwork, just might reveal more of the story... but just as likely not.

The degree to which individual service record information was preserved varies quite a bit among the nations who are regular contenders in the favorite pastime of our species. Unfortunately, obtaining details on US personnel has been tough – primarily due to a catastrophic fire suffered by the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis on July 12, 1973. Among other damage, NPRC reports an 80% loss of records for US Army personnel discharged between 1 November 1912 to 1 January 1960, and 75% loss for USAF personnel serving between 1947 and 1964 after a certain point in the alphabetical files. The NPRC has been working to piece together bits of the lost service records through other sources ever since; a task which continues to this day.

As a collector and seller myself, I have longed for the day when AEF artifacts in particular were easier to research. At one time or another, most of us have owned a good item that would have been even more interesting had the little clues like initials or even a service number been easily researched. Toward that end, I have embarked on a project to enter as many AEF unit rosters as possible into a giant relational database. Using this system, if we have completed the roster work on an individual's unit, even just the presence of initials should allow a researcher to narrow possibilities down to just a few; closer still with more information such as rank. Of the approximately 2 million doughboys who served overseas in WWI, we have about 250,000 online, another 200,000 or so entries completed and waiting to be integrated with the online database. So, we are about 1/4 of the way there, with lots of work to go and many, many more WWI unit histories to purchase! I had made bold statements about having this completed by 2017... but as a labor of love, it takes a back seat to things that will actually pay the bills.

However, while we have been plodding along on our project, companies like Ancestry and Fold3 (now owned by Ancestry – the benevolent BORG of online genealogy), many wonderful resources have been discovered and digitized. Many of us have benefited from the Marine Corps Muster Rolls, Missing Aircrew Reports, Unit War Diaries, and a steadily growing array of research tools that these sites continue to add. They are certainly not resting on their laurels, and within the last two years one of the single most useful additions (for AEF collectors) imaginable was added: the individual **ship passenger lists for the Army Transport Service.**

We dare not ever expect any of these records to be 100% complete, but the treasure trove of information available through these is staggering. They are scanned, so unlike our labor-intensive hand entering process on the relational database, mere initials alone will not be enough to return a useful result.

As you become more familiar with the

idiosyncrasies of the material, you will learn to anticipate typical variances in how the folks back in 1917 and 1918 were recording the data, and how that will in turn be reflected by today's computer search results. With more of those tools in hand, even formerly dead-end data like service numbers can become the gateway to the next great discovery.



Class <b>SRD</b>		PASSENGER LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS			
INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS FORM					
1st Class: Officers arranged according to rank, Army Field Clerks, Field Clerks Q. M. C., Nurses and Civilian Employees. Names to be numbered consecutively, beginning with No. 1.					
2d Class: Non-commissioned Officers down to and including Color Sergeant (see A. R., Par. 9).					
3d Class: All Enlisted men below Color Sergeant (Par. 9, A. R.), arranged according to usual formation of the Company, that is, BY SQUAD					
To be filled in by:	Organization	Give full name of organization, including company and regimental designation	SRD UNIT BATTERY "D" 54TH ARTILLERY COAST ARTILLERY CORPS	Item Number	Phase
					126
To be filled in by:		Name of Port of Embarkation	Date of Sailing	Port	
Adjutant		BOSTON	MARCH 7 1919	MASS	
No.	NAME AND SERIAL	INITIALS	Rank & Army	Company	ADDRESS
	HENDERSON, H	45	PVT	54th	(Number, Street, City and State, Do not abbreviate.)
	2795899	BALBONI, ANTHONY	PVT	54th	
		2795899	CAC	ARTY CAC	
25	DOW, DERRY	580484	PVT	54th	5-6TH STREET LOWELL, MASS SCHUBERTS
26	CROSS, SIMO	454926	PVT	54th	RED #6, LYBEE VILLE, TENNESSEE
27	MORGAN, MURDER	827817	CAC	ARTY CAC	CHISHOLM WASHINGTON
		No P.C.			



For example; if your doughboy has a service number that returns -0- results, try it with separator characters; i.e. "1,205,991" instead of "1205991."

Even when you hit, you are usually getting only unit, name, service number (sometimes), rank, and next-of-kin or emergency contact name and address. However, this is often a fine basis from which you can build other more detailed searches in Ancestry. We regularly discover details for the doughboys who went overseas with one of the replacement drafts or depot divisions, learning more about where they ended up and how they served once they reached the continent. Every once in a while you find a gem, as well; I recently researched a fellow who was wounded and returned under the organizational umbrella of one of the ad-hoc units or casual companies. In this case, the nature of the patient's wound and their ability to get around and care for themselves (or lack thereof) was specifically noted within the manifest.

One artifact that nicely illustrates what can be accomplished with these records is an artist-signed Coast Artillery Corps elaborate painted helmet that we had last year. The helmet was signed by the artist, whose name "Balboni" appears at the base of a shield on the helmet's front. The client soldier's name is in white paint on the underside of the brim "M.F. WHEELER".

Finding the correct "M.F. Wheeler" in the AEF is maybe not quite like looking for "John Smith" but was still a bit daunting in an unlikely sort of way. Fortunately, though, in all of the Army Transport Service embarkation records there were but three soldiers with the surname "Balboni": Fred H. Balboni from Amherst, Mass, serving in the 104th Infantry; Umberto Balboni from Somerville, Mass, serving in the 328th Infantry, and Anthony P. Balboni from Springfield, Mass, serving in 54th Artillery CAC. We then searched for soldiers with the surname "Wheeler" serving in those units, and found a few hits in the 104th Infantry, but none were a match for even the first initial. In the 54th CAC, however, Merton F. Wheeler of Gilson, New Hampshire and Anthony Balboni were both Privates serving in Battery D. A nice helmet is now placed in the context of the soldier's unit, with plenty of additional starting points from which additional research can be accomplished. "VICTORY", indeed!



many times over. Don't worry - a personal compulsion or even basic appreciation for hobby of genealogy is not required to use and benefit from these tools, either! Candidly, I would rather watch a half hour of shaky, out-of-focus cell phone video from the back row of your eight-year-old's tragically botched piano recital than spend two minutes politely pretending to be interested as you verbally diagram the twists and turns of your personal DNA flow chart. Apply that same OCD attention to an interesting artifact, though, and you have contributed to the preservation of our cultural heritage!



Fold3 site subscriptions are \$79.95 per year, or \$49.95 per year if you have one of the Ancestry subscriptions that doesn't also include it. Ancestry starts at \$19.99 per month / \$99 per year for the tease of US only (with the Fold3 discount) and goes up to \$44.99 per month / \$199 per year for the international all-access pass with backstage credentials and groupie privileges. This includes Fold3, most of newspapers.com (but annoyingly not all), and access to many international resources such as the British Royal Archives and Commonwealth medal rolls.

As a militaria dealer or collector, these very versatile sites are well-worth the price of admission, and can easily pay you back





## The TMCA Donates to Williamson County, TN JROTC Units.

During our Fall 2018 TMCA show, the TMCA donated \$250 to each of the following High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs.

- Independence High School JROTC**
- Page High School JROTC**
- Ravenwood High School JROTC**
- Centennial High School JROTC**
- Franklin High School JROTC**

These JROTC Cadets are the future of our country and many of them will become veterans themselves.

The TMCA has always been very supportive of local JROTC units. We respect the patriotism to our country, and the interest in our military heritage that these JROTC cadets display.

Representative Sam Whitson (Tennessee General Assembly, representing Franklin's 65th House district) and TMCA Secretary Emily Townes presented each school with a \$250 check.





## HOW THE ALLIES CHANGED GERMAN WW II COINS

By: Bob Jaques

Even prior to the start of WW II, the German Government or the Third Reich, began minting small denomination coins featuring the eagle and the swastika. The denominations were the 1, 2, 5, 10 and 50 Reichspfennig.

The obverse had the words "Deutsches Reich"; an eagle with outstretched wings; and a swastika within a wreath beneath the eagle's talons. These coins were minted in bronze, zinc, and aluminum.

The reverse of the coins had the denomination in big letters along the top and a large number in the center. Beneath the number was a mintmark between two oak leaves.

The mintmarks were from seven different mints throughout Germany and Austria. They were as follows:

- A — Berlin
- B — Vienna 1938-1944
- D — Munich
- E — Muldenhütten
- F — Stuttgart
- G — Karlsruhe
- J — Hamburg

Soon after the war ended on May 8, 1945, the Allies changed the dies at the mints and continued to mint coins for circulation. What did they change? They removed the swastika from beneath the eagle's talons to show "de-nazification". And they made the new coins in denominations of only 1, 5, and 10 Reichspfennig.

These Allied Occupation coins as they are called were made from 1944 thru 1948.

Not all the mints struck these coins. The mints that were still operating were A, D, E, F, and G.

Midway thru 1948 new Federal Republic coins were minted with a new design with 5 oak leaves on the obverse. These were a sign of peace.

The Allied Occupation coins are not very common and prices can vary from \$20 to over \$100 depending on condition. The Allied coins were all minted in zinc.

In my own collection I only have three different Allied Occupation coins. When I visit coin shows I keep searching through German coins hoping to find more of these historic reminders of WW II.



**Obverse design of WW2  
German Coins**



**Obverse Design of Allied  
Occupation German Coins**

### FALL SHOW 2018 AWARDS



**BEST OF SHOW**

**DAVID HOAGEY**

**PVT. WILLIAM J NIXON, MEDIC WW1**

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS - PURPLE HEART**



**Member of the Year  
Emily Townes**



**\$100 Cash  
Saturday 3:pm  
Dealer Setup  
Drawing  
Steve Stickland**



**Dealer of the Year  
Wally Jones and Family**



**Dr. Sam Barnes and son stand proudly displaying the sculpture of Sergeant Alvin York created by Dr. Barnes. Thanks for letting us use the bust for the TMCA Show!**



**TMCA April 19th & 20th  
AMCA April 26th & 27th  
TMCA members are Invited to attend the  
AMCA 26<sup>th</sup> Military Show @ 11:00AM Friday  
FREE! Wear you Up-to-Date TMCA Badge.  
Please enter through and sign-in at the regis-  
tration table on the East end of the building.  
Alabama Military Collection Association Show  
<http://www.almilitarycollectors.org>**



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

**Wanted to Buy: European Enameled**

Orders of Decoration and Medals. 1880 to 1920

Any Period

Any Nation.

David Yawn

(901) 827-2587

[ysanctus@aol.com](mailto:ysanctus@aol.com)



**\*\* Wanted \*\***

Army Air Force Technician  
Badges/Bars  
I am looking for the following:  
in STERLING.



AP Hydraulic SP  
AP Machinist  
AP Power Plant SP  
AP Propeller SP  
A.C.S. Radio SP  
Radio V-I Mech.  
Jet Mechanic  
R.C.T. Mech. Gunner

R.C. Turret Rep.  
Robert W. Wesbrooks  
PO Box 671372  
Marietta, GA 30066  
(678) 429-2490

**GERMAN HUNTING ASSOCIATION  
ITEMS WANTED**



Contact: **Ronnie Townes**  
(615) 832-2321 / [rrtownes@comcast.net](mailto:rrtownes@comcast.net)

**OVMS**

**"THE CORN FIELD SHOW"**

**JUNE 14-15, 2019**

**AT THE ROBERTS CENTER**

**WILMINGTON, OH.**

<http://www.sosovms.com/>



**LARGE AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION  
BEING SOLD**

**Aces - Military - Political- Medal of Honor -  
Astronauts**

**Bring your want list to TMCA Show.**

**Bob Jaques (256) 303-5583**

**WANTED: U.S. Medals**

All Time Periods, Singles, Groups, Collections  
PURPLE HEARTS, SILVER STARS,  
VALOR AWARDS, CAMPAIGN MEDALS, ETC.

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Antique Arms & Militaria

&

Home of the AEF Unit Roster Database

[www.advanceguardmilitaria.com](http://www.advanceguardmilitaria.com)

**RUSSIAN KOBRA Military red dot sight. Ex. con. For AK rifles that have factory side receiver scope mount. Model (KN-1c-03 in Cami case \$325.**

**HIGH STANDARD HD MILITARY .22 CAL. semi auto pistol. Ex con. 6.5" bbl. These pistols were manufactured from 1946-1951. \$525.**

**COLT M1903 POCKET HAMMER, semi auto pistol, Patina grey finish. Good mechanical condition. Very nice original hard rubber grips. Non original 8 rd. mag. Fair bore. Caliber .38 Automatic Pistol, One box of period Kynoch cartridges included. Mfg. 1911. \$895.**

**RUSSIAN SKS ,Ex.con. Mfg. 1951. Tula arsenal. Great Bore, wood, sling and ammo pouch. \$575.**

**RUSSIAN M91/30 rifle Hex receiver. Mfg. 1936, Tula arsenal. Matching bolt and receiver. \$325.**

**PORTUGUESE M1904 SHORT RIFLE. This rifle was converted in 1939 from the original 6.5mm cal. Bolt and receiver S/N match, good wood, bore and metal. Period leather sling. \$425.**

**SWISS VETTERLI M78 RIFLE .Vg con. 80% original blue .41 rimfire cal. nice metal, wood, period sling. 1 original ex. cond .41 Swiss rimfire round included. \$425.**

**ROMANIAN 1970'S 8mm steel cased ammo.760 rds. in two spam chanson a wood crate. \$165.**

**RUSSIAN 7.62 X 54R mil-sure ammo 440 rds in a spam can ,148 gr. FMJ \$100.**

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

**All items from my personal collection**



## 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  
Treasurer: David Hoagey  
Sgt. at Arms: Woody McMillin  
Show Director: Ronnie Townes

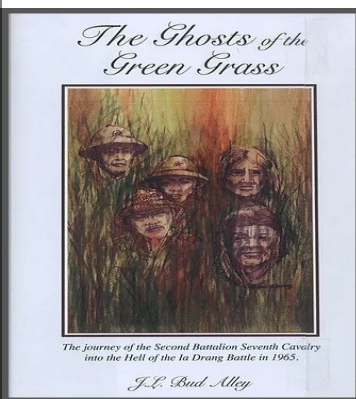


## J. L. Bud Alley

Bud commission into the US Army as a Second Lieutenant. He entered active duty that Aug. under a trial program called the U2 whereby he had no additional military officer training and assumed command of a mechanized infantry platoon in the Second Infantry Division at Ft Benning. After five months he was selected as Communication Officer and sent to Combat Arms Communication School at Ft Sill Oklahoma. In July



1965 he was selected as Communication Officer for the Second Battalion of the Seventh Cavalry and subsequently served a complete one year tour of duty in South Vietnam with them. He was a participant in the bloodiest one day battle of the entire war on 17 November 1965 and again in the 4th worst battles in January of 1966 and the 13th worst in May of 1966. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Man's Badge, the Silver Star for Gallantry, the Bronze Star for Heroism, the Purple Heart for wounds in



action, the Air Medal for over 25 first wave Air assaults in hostile territory, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Presidential Unit Citation among others.

Bud will be at the Spring/Summer Show sharing his experiences. He will be selling/signing his books and promoting the new Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

