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From: Talan Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 12:54 PM
To: Committee, PJCIS (REPS)
Subject: Opposed to proposed ban on sale of WW2 German Militaria

Categories: [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern,

I write regarding concerns over what I and many others would consider to be an unfair potential ban upon the lawful trade in legitimate WW2 military antique and militaria items including WW2 German artefacts.

To treat legitimate collectors and dealers in WW2 militaria in the same way as violent extremists and criminals is an overreach and grossly unfair.

The pursuit and limitation of modern extremist groups is to be applauded, and should be supported, whether they be religious or political in nature, but banning the sale and trade of WW2 artefacts will serve only to harm a great deal of genuine militaria collectors and dealers. Such items are quite harmless in the hands of legitimate collectors, historians and dealers.

Perhaps license and regulate this trade by all means, but to ban it outright seems quite excessive and harmful only to legitimate businesses and collectors.

Banning modern manufactured banners, replicas, T Shirts, hate websites etc used by these groups does makes sense, but harmless collectors do collect and study period German WW2 militaria for many genuine reasons, and also need to add to or occasionally thin out or reduce a collection as does any other collector of historical artefacts or antiques. Hence genuine dealers exist to facilitate this process.

Amongst the reasons people collect are:

Many WW2 German items are legitimate veteran bring backs by Allied troops (both of my Grandfathers brought back items such as this from WW2 that I possess in my own collection).

As part of a general collection of WW2 Militaria collectors and museums wish to feature items of those we fought and defeated, hence Imperial Japan, Fascist Italy and WW2 Germany. Occasionally people need to facilitate the sale or circulation of such items.

The collecting and study of actual artefacts, books and items of that era make it impossible to deny that it occurred, and the dangers of the ideology arising again, and so help to preserve the history of the era. Dangerous revisionists can't deny it occurred when the artefacts, books and badges physically exist.

Legitimate militaria dealers help collectors to circulate items as would dealers in any other medium for historic artefacts. Like myself, such dealers are often ex-military having actually served to protect the nation from extremism should it arise. My wife and many friends are also of Jewish heritage, and so I take the rise of extremist groups quite seriously indeed, but do not see a ban on legitimate businesses for collectors as useful as per the above reasons.

I would respectfully request and suggest careful consideration for treating actual historical artefacts and those who act as legitimate dealers in them differently to harmful extremists who of course need to be pursued. Perhaps license and regulate, but not ban.

Thanks and regards,

Talan Miller



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