



FEATURE STORY

Tennessee Maneuvers

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In 1940, Tennessee was the first state to establish a defense organization – the Advisory Committee on Preparedness. In June 1941, Middle Tennessee was chosen as the location of the first of a series of military maneuvers that featured the combined forces of tanks and infantry, largely because its geography was similar to that of Western Europe.

More than 800,000 men and women participated in the Tennessee Maneuvers. Over twenty counties in Middle Tennessee were utilized for the Tennessee Maneuvers, which were headquartered at Cumberland University in Lebanon and officially referred to as “somewhere in Tennessee.” Middle Tennessee was chosen for these war games because of its proximity to railroads and federal highways and the similarity between its terrain and that of Western Europe. Red and Blue “armies” faced each other in training exercises. More than 800,000 men and women participated in the Tennessee Maneuvers, which produced over \$4 million in claims by individuals and municipalities for destruction of property by the opposing armies.

Source: <https://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/world-war-ii/>



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