

May 2008 'Milk Run'

A News Update

8th Air Force Historical Society of Oregon



This e-mail was sent using the e-mail address: **«EMail»**

Hi **«FirstName» «LastName»**,

From Tom Philo, Chapter Secretary

History News

Breaking the Army Air Force Order Of Battle Codes

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2000/fall/top-secret-1.html>

Details how a group deciphered the punch cards that revealed the POW info for USAAF personnel in Germany and Japan.

A March 1997 research paper by the Major James J. Carroll at the Army Staff College in the UK on US bomber crews:

"Crew members had to contend with severe environmental factors while flying long bombing missions during WWII. The limits of human physiology must be the main concern of any battle plan involving flyers and fatality/mortality rates should be the primary focus in evaluating the success or failure of such a plan. The purpose of this research project is to determine if human factors were overlooked intentionally or by accident."

<http://www.uk-us.org/stinet/physiologicalbombercrews.pdf>

Moleworth Nissan Huts to Be Destroyed

Dear Sir, I am contacting you URGENTLY about intentions I have just learnt about to demolish the barrack nissan huts and buildings at Site 7, at Molesworth. The landowner, who is also the farmer intends to imminently demolish the site for purposes of development, and safety from uninvited 'visitors'. I met him on Friday while I was taking photographs of the site. I hope that something can be done to preserve, or rescue (perhaps relocate) these wonderful historical buildings. I sure hope you can exert some influence or rally some support or ideas as to how they can be saved. I have posted a video on Youtube to help this cause.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJBaUFODoS8>

Please do what you can. I can be of service here to aid any positive intentions.
Yours hopefully and with respect, Martin Jones, England gunner17470 @
hotmail.com

Sweden Or England?

Alton "Dick" Markley keeps a tiny sliver of metal in the same case that holds his Distinguished Flying Cross. Staff Sgt. Markley was a waist gunner. Markley, like all waist gunners, has that odd look to his face caused by frostbite around the edges of his oxygen mask. That piece of metal might have killed him.

That jagged piece of metal hit his B-17 during a mission over Germany in late 1943.

"We were lucky," he said of his crew. "We got through 25 missions without a loss." Other members of the 95th Bomb Group weren't so lucky.

"It makes you think twice when you see the plane on your left disappear in a ball of fire, or the plane on your right going down," he said.

Markley's crew flew two B-17s. One was dubbed "Ten Aces," and the other, "Lucky Strike." He isn't sure which he was aboard when German flak or fighters blew out a couple of engines. "We had a choice," he recalls. "We could fly to Sweden, which was neutral, or try to get back to our base in England. We voted." Markley voted for Sweden. "I knew we'd be interned there for the rest of the war, but I heard it was pretty nice," he said.

On base there were endless poker games, especially on the first and 15th of the month when the men were paid. "The 15th was best because that's when we got our extra flight pay."

<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080324/NEWS01/803240308>

The RUSSIAN AVG

While many of you no doubt are familiar with WWII American volunteer pilots made famous by the Flying Tigers in China and the Eagle Squadron in England, you may not know that there was also a group of Americans who volunteered to fly for the Soviets.

Web site: <http://777avg.com/unithistory/>

Warbirds over DC

On April 10 a P-40, P-51, and a B-17 did a memorial flight over the Air Force Memorial in DC – and got special permission to shut down the whole airspace to do so.

Blackburn Skua raised from 800 feet in Norway

An almost intact Royal Navy carrier Skua dive-bomber was raised from a Norway Fjord this past month. It ditched in a Norwegian fjord while attacking Nazi invasion forces in April 1940.

Klas Gjoelmesli, leader of the volunteer project, said he believes the plane will be the only complete example of the dive-bomber in the world after restoration, which will take several years, is completed.

"We can built it up again. The wings are there, and the cockpit is OK," Gjoelmesli said by mobile telephone from the central Norway city of Trondheim, where the wreck was brought by ship from the nearby fjord.

The Blackburn Skua, flown by British Wing Cmdr. John Casson, was leading a dive-bomber attack on the German battleship Scharnhorst that was moored in Trondheim during the opening days of the Nazi invasion of Norway, which began April 9, 1940.

Paint Weight of B-17

"58.7 pounds. The figures I used were from a weight and balance report and should be very accurate.

Interiors paint was also eliminated except for the dark green in the cockpit (to reduce glare) and zinc chromatic in areas where there was a high possibility of corrosion - such as around the toilet."

Michael Lombardi
Corporate Historian,
The Boeing Company
425-865-1781

Need a new A/C?

Govliquidation.com: Let's get this one out of the way first. 27 million pounds of garbage ferrous and nonferrous metals is going to be sold in what we believe must be the largest online scrap auction to date. If you have use for the material, you can get your hands on more than 4200 of "end-of-life" military planes, including C-141 Starlifters, A-4 Skyhawks, S-3 Vikings, T-34 trainers and even F-14 Tomcats currently located at the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The auction will begin on April 21.

Newsletter

Articles for the regular chapter magazine that is published by Jerry Ritters is always welcomed. Send short articles, humor, remembrances etc to him via e-mail at: ritters@nu-world.com

Upcoming NW Events

"Aluminum Overcast," back to Hillsboro Airport on May 16, 17 and 18th. Once again, Flight "missions" will be available on this spectacular aircraft in the mornings, and ground tours in the afternoons. As always, WW2 veterans can tour for free. If there are any of your members who might be interested in assisting at the Tour stop, I can always use the help. As an added bonus, all of the tour stop volunteers who have not flown between tour stops previously are eligible for a drawing to ride along as the plane moves on to the next stop! This year there will be at least 3 seats available for a ride to Boeing Field in Seattle. Have them contact me directly for more information. Dunstan Fandel, EAA Chapter 105, Volunteer Media Coordinator, Cell 503-313-7109

Seattle Museum of Flight Events

Aluminum Overcast: EAA B-17 Bomber Visit Wednesday-Sunday May 21-25, 2008

The Seattle-born B-17 played an important role in World War II and aviation history. For several days in May, the Museum will be proud host of the Experimental Aircraft Association's popular B-17, Aluminum Overcast. Museum visitors can tour or even fly aboard this historic aircraft! For flight reservations or more information please call the EAA at 800.359.6217, or visit www.b17.org.

Cascade Warbirds Fly-In Saturday, May 24, 2008 | 9am-4pm

Join the Museum on Armed Forces Day for the annual Cascade Warbirds Fly-in. Enjoy the chance to view a wide variety of beautifully restored vintage military aircraft representing several nations' armed forces from World War II through the Vietnam conflict. A mixture of planes such as a North American T-28 Trojan, DeHavilland DHC-1 Chipmunk, Cessna O-2 Skymaster and a Douglas AD-4 Skyraider will participate in the fly-in. In addition, the pilot-owners of these planes will be on-hand to answer questions and share their enthusiasm for these vintage warbirds.

Tuskegee Bomber Panel Saturday, May 24, 2008 | 2pm

Those who know of the Tuskegee Airmen are familiar with many of the tales of the brave "Redtail" fighter group, the 332nd, but many are surprised to learn that there was also a Tuskegee Bomber Group as well. World War II ended before this group

saw action, but some of them were involved in what many have come to see as the opening skirmish of the Civil Rights Movement. Meet and hear stories from some of the men who flew with the 477th Bombardment Group out of Freeman Field, Indiana, including Leslie Williams, Fitzroy Newsum, Roger "Bill" Terry and Robert Maxwell.

Collings Foundation B-17 & B-24 Tour

From John Wilberding

Collings Foundation has confirmed a bomber stop in Salem on June 11 - 13.

Chris Goldfinger of Albany/Corvallis will be helping me with details and promotion.

A recent newsletter e mail from CF showed its new P-51 C Mustang with a tandem cockpit and dual controls and instrumentation. This aircraft will be available for training and checkouts in the aft cockpit but the price was not announced. Also not confirmed was whether this fighter will be accompanying the bombers on the west coast portion of the 2008 tour (the CF's 19th year touring).

I would welcome more members of the 8thAFHS to visit the aircraft and maybe take a ride. All veterans now receive free admittance to ground tours of the planes.

I'll see if I can get a freebie for all Oregon 8thAFHS members as well.

Editor's note:

http://collingsfoundation.org/cf_schedule-wof.htm is the current posted tour schedule. March / April in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, then onto California in May.

Oregon Old Bold Pilots

Anyone interesting in talking aviation – pilot or not – welcome. Current pilots, ex-military, people learning to fly, RC Modelers – all welcome.

Wednesday May 14, 2008 12:00 NOON till you leave

Meetings occur on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Village Inn at Bridgeport Village Shopping Center
Right off I-5 at exit 290 (Lower Boones Ferry Road)

Association of Naval Aviators (ANA)

They meet on the last Thursday of each month – usually at the Gateway Elks Lodge from 11:30 till 2 PM.

711 NE 100th Avenue.

Contact Lt Commander George Bickford (Ret) (503) 789-8061 e-mail at bick@teleport.com

There is also a recruitment drive on for all ANA chapters. If you live outside the Portland / Vancouver metro area chapter then you can contact goldwings@verizon.net , phone 703-281-2324 (Bob Dunn) and they can connect you with a local squadron so you can join. ANA Web site: <http://www.anahq.org/>

American Fighter Aces Reunion 2008

This reunion (supported by the Seattle Museum of Flight) takes place in Austin Texas from June 26 thru June 29th.

LOCATION: Radisson Hotel & Suites

1 11 East Cesar Chavez Street

Austin, Texas

FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS, CALL: 1-512-478-961 1

Toll-free CALL: 1-800-333-3333

Special room rate: \$119.00 plus taxes

Fee is \$130 a person who attends.

Contact:

Col. Ward Boyce

12408 Deer Track

Austin, Texas 78727-5746

Friday Aviation Breakfast

They meet on the 1st Friday of each month at The Bomber Restaurant from 10 AM till Noon

Hard to miss the restaurant on Highway 99 E in Milwaukie: a noseless B-17 sits in front of it. They meet in the museum that is on the site. The B-17 is known as "The Lacy Bomber."

Oregon 8th AFHS

Next chapter meeting is on May 10, 2008.

The meeting topic is a panel discussion with WASP members of World War II.

8th AFHS Contact Information: E-Mail and Postal

Secretary 8th AFHS Oregon

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