

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society News Update
April, 2009



May meeting is on **May 9**. 10 AM till 2 PM.

History News

Readers, where's your story?

Now on DVD "Desert Victory" and "The True Glory"

Two new two-disc sets from the Imperial War Museum's Official Collection combine incredible war footage and patriotic fervor. Featured are two Oscar winners. "Desert Victory" follows the British 8th Army into the Battle of El Alamein against Nazi General Rommel's Afrika Korps. Much of the footage is grainy and scratchy, and the shots of artillery cannons firing become repetitive, but some of the combat scenes are extraordinary. The 1943 film, a joint effort by the British Army Film & Photographic Unit and the R.A.F. Film Production Unit, won the Oscar for best documentary. 60 minutes.

Disc 1 also has "Land and Live in the Desert," which shows survival techniques for air crews shot down in the desert, a subject that still is relevant. The 1942 film was made by the U.S. Army Air Force. 32 minutes.

Disc 2 has three productions. The longest is "Wavell's 30,000", made by the Crown Film Unit in 1942. It documents British General Sir Archibald Wavell's successful campaign against Italian forces in Libya. 49 minutes.

"The True Glory" was produced by the Allied military in 1944 and 1945 as a visual record of the campaign in Europe, from D-Day to the fall of Berlin. The 1945 film, shot by 1,400 cameramen, won the Oscar for best documentary. Paddy Chayefsky wrote some of the voiceover narration. DVD extras: the original alternate ending and four bonus documentaries. Total time: 268 minutes.

From E1 Entertainment.

A Found Wallet Found in 1979 Leads to New Information

As a boy Douglas Ward saw a P-47 crash to the ground in England. In 1979 on he went back to the crash site and started digging and found a wallet – which is now on display at the American Air Museum at Duxford, England outside Cambridge.

In 2002 the Duxford newsletter article prompted a person in North Dakota to finish the tale about how Roy Wendell was shot down by his Flight Leader during a training mission.

McMurray Crew #801 492nd Bombardment Group

No Longer is this B-24 crew MIA.



World War II MIAs recovered in Germany

Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Williams places a rosette next to Tech. Sgt. Leonard J. Ray's engraved name signifying he is no longer missing in action Feb. 20 at the Henri-Chapelle Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium.

Sergeant Ray was part of the McMurray Crew in the Army Air Corps, which flew a B-24 bomber during World War II. Chief Williams is the U.S. Air Force senior enlisted leader for Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. (U.S. Air Force photo/2nd Lt. Kathleen Polesnak)

At the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium the 9 members of the McMurray crew who were listed as missing in action at the memorial – have been updated with rosette signifying they are no longer mission.

Their remains were recovered in a field southwest of Berlin in 2002.

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123136871>

1966-67 Chief Master Sergeant of Air Force Dead at 86

The very first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, retired Chief Master Sgt.

Paul Wesley Airey, died in Panama City, Florida March 11, 2009.

He started his career as a gunner in B-24 – interrupted by becoming a POW after getting shot down. He was shot down on July 8, 1944 while flying in the 485th BG (H).

He stayed at Stalag Luft 4 in Hungary until being liberated.

<http://www.maxwell.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123139438>

303 BG (H) Crew Photos

On the 303 web site they have photos of over 1200 men who served within the group – and still locating more all the time.

<http://www.303rdbg.com/photo-gallery.html>

Good time to check those drawers and scrapbooks for photos if yours is not already on the web site.

303 member TAPS:

Joe B. Arwood (360th BS Pilot) 12 Mar 2009

Jackson H. Hunt (358th BS Navigator) 02 Mar 2009

Rex Chambers Jr. (358th BS Bombardier) 28 Feb 2009

Reunion for Stalag XVIIB POWS

Their reunion is coming up from April 30th till May 3rd in Kansas City.

<http://members.cox.net/stalag17/index.shtml>

The above web site has the details and forms to fill out.

SENATE BILL TO HONOR WASP OF WORLD WAR II

From Amy Goodpaster Strebe

On March 17, 2009 Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski and Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison introduced Senate Bill S.614 to honor the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) of World War II with the Congressional Gold Medal!

Every female Senator in the U.S. Senate is now a co-sponsor of this bill. The Congressional Gold Medal is awarded by Congress and, along with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, is the highest and most distinguished honor a civilian may receive. The award is bestowed for exceptional acts of service to the United States or for lifetime achievement.

We currently have 33 Senators as co-sponsors and we need 34 more! I urge you to please contact your senators and representatives too and ask them to co-sponsor Senate Bill S.614 to honor the WASP. Please forward this e-mail on to friends, family and business associates! THANK YOU.

Amy wrote, [Flying for Her Country: The American and Soviet Women Military Pilots of World War II](#)

www.AmyGoodpasterStrebe.com

Amy did a presentation of the WASP WW II history at our chapter meeting before she moved out of Oregon.

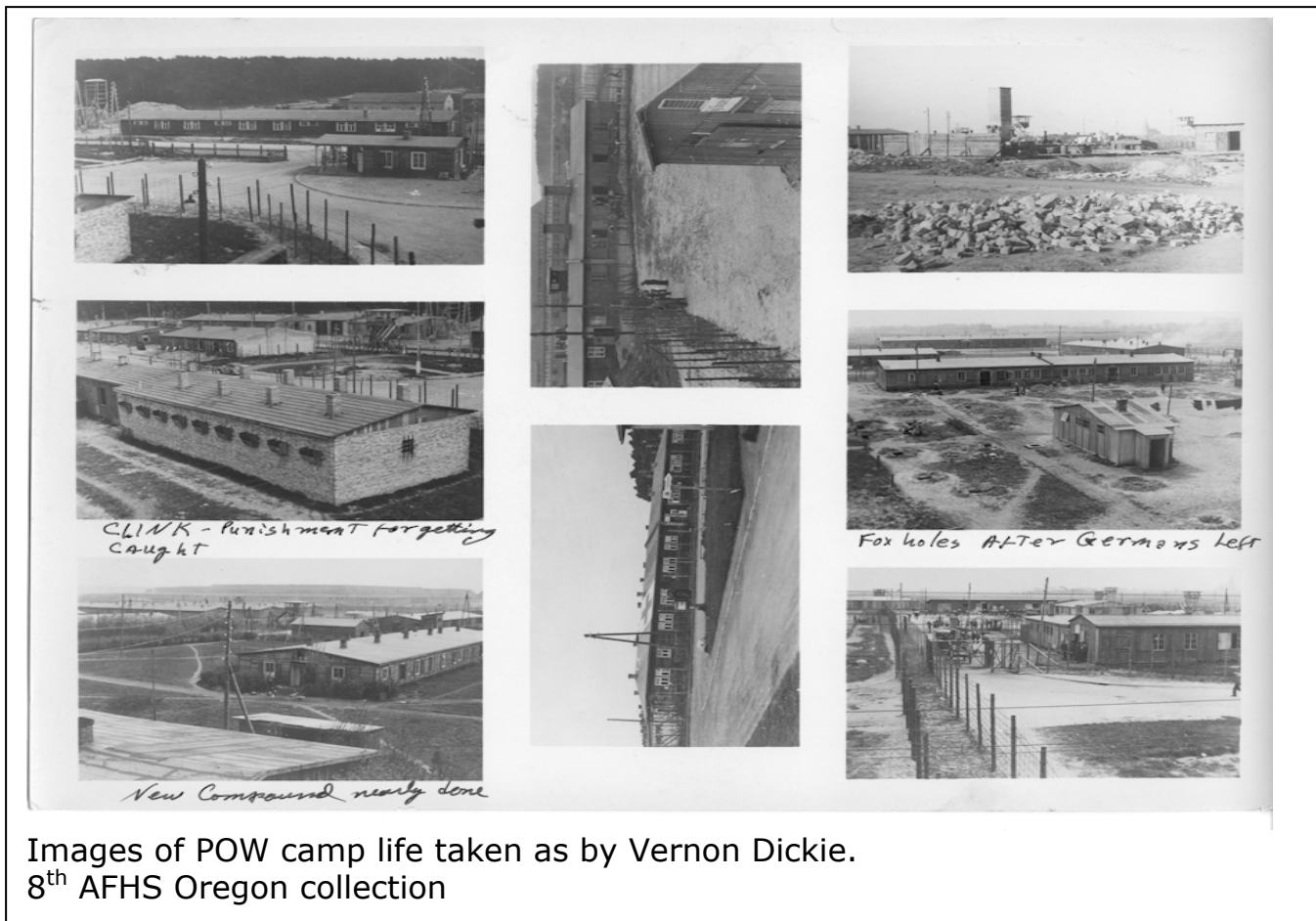
2nd Lt Charles B Kenning to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery March 25

Lt Kenning was a B-24 Liberator pilot in the 8th Air Force who was shot down on his 24th mission to Magdeburg, Germany which is along the Elbe River on March 3, 1945.

He died on November 2, 2008 in Pittsford New York, and only this month were the arrangements complete for a full military funeral at Arlington.

Charles Groghan, 450th BG, 15th AF, Manduria, Italy

The 15th Air Force members had to fly more missions before finishing a tour.



Images of POW camp life taken as by Vernon Dickie.
8th AFHS Oregon collection

Charles finished 50 combat missions aboard "Satan's Gal", a B-24 Liberator, before he was released from combat.

"You're back there all alone in a very confined space, but he was able to handle it," said Dr. Walter J. Kmen. Kmen piloted Satan's Gal on 18 missions.

Charles died March 20, 2009 in Baltimore, Maryland.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/obituaries/bal-md.ob.croghan20mar20,0,1820340.story>

Strategic Bombing Still Debated around the World

In an article that appeared in the Asia-Pacific Journal, <http://japanfocus.org/-Yuki-TANAKA/1582>, Yuki TANAKA writes a lengthy article about the firebombing of both Germany and Japan compared against the Atomic bombing of the two Japanese cities in August 1945.

He gives a background of how aerial bombing of cities actually started during the First World War by Germany and then by England against German targets along with some statistics.

One statistic to note is that 131 German cities and towns had been bombed by the combined British and American bomber forces by the end of the war. This count is the Page 4 of 8 Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society, 'Milk Run' April 2009

planned actual specific targets in cities and not the opportunity targets that some planes attacked as a result of clouds, hung bombs, etc.

The article also lists reference sources used in preparing the article.

Valiant Air Command Shows off P-47 Thunderbolt

Standing next to it you easily see the rivets all over the "Jug" as this WW II fighter-bomber was referred to by pilots. People easily tower over it to look into the cockpit, that's because this is a 1/6 scale Remote Control (RC) museum quality flying airplane and is painted and detailed as it flown by Lt. Philip Kuhn during World War II.

Valiant Air Command is located in Titusville Florida. <http://www.vacwarbirds.org/>

WW II battlefield tour DVDS for the U.S. Market

Labyrinth Media & Publishing Ltd. of Dublin, Ireland who specializes in WW II battlefield tour DVDS is holding a premier of the "The Americans on D-Day" at the American Legion Post #43 in Hollywood, California, on April 27th.

Veterans who would like to attend must RSVP to 323-851-3030 and leave your name, your city and phone number.

<http://www.emediawire.com/releases/2009/3/prweb2240714.htm>

Hilliard American Legion Memorial Post 614 Commemorates POWs Every Spring

"The legion commemorates members of Ohio Chapter No. 1 of the American Ex-Prisoners of War every spring. The event is timed to remember the Bataan Death March that began with the April 9, 1942, surrender of the largest number of American soldiers in World War II. About 16,000 American and Filipino prisoners died or were killed after Japan conquered the Philippines."

The national POW/MIA day is observed in September.

http://www.columbusdispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2009/03/30/pow_d ay.ART_ART_03-30-09_B3_F5DD48M.html?sid=101

Nisei Women in Japan after the War

Unlike the 442 Regimental Combat Team which had no trouble getting Nisei men to volunteer for combat, getting women to join was a cultural problem and not till after the war had enough women been graduated from intelligence schools to be sent to Japan.



<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/story.aspx?877a3d17-beea-4e3c-8e1d-08f92f5af150>

Air Force Association Looking For Aircrew History

The Air Force Association is looking to create "Air Force Album: We Who Served" containing recollections from living and stories from the families of those airmen who are deceased. This is going to be a hardcover book with color photos etc is set to be released in September.

This is being prepared by the staff of Air Force Magazine.

Call 1-800-473-8177 in order to participate.

Local Chapter News and Groups

EAA B-17 at Hillsboro Airport on May 15-17

The Experimental Aircraft Association's Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress will be visiting Hillsboro Airport from May 15 thru May 17th.

Like last year, a few veterans will be allowed to fly during the Media Flight on Thursday. Contact Dustan Fandal at 503-313-7109 for details on the host duties during the flight.

Golden Era of Racing Meet May 3, 2009 – R/C Aircraft that is

Mulligans, Mystery Ships, Macchis & Monocoups with Gee Bees, Folkerts and Wedell-Williams too!

Celebrate Golden Age of Aviation with a glimpse of what the National Air Races looked like in the '30's. While we don't have a real Bendix Cup, Thompson Trophy, Schneider Cup or Pulitzer Trophy, we do have these awards:

Coyote Speed Nut Cup: fastest airplane of the day

Fern Prairie Cup: airplane that best demonstrates the era

Golden Wings Cup: best all around scale model.

Come participate in an event that should capture the glory of the National Air Races on Sunday, May 3rd at the Fern Prairie Modelers Field in Washougal, WA.

<http://www.fpmc.org>

Jim Riggle, CD jim @ jimriggle.com or 503-655-3243

Note that Saturday, May 2nd is the 18th annual FPM "Celebration of Silent Flight" all-electric-power event

Wheels & Wings August 1

Wings & Wheels will once again be held at Troutdale Airport (TTD) on August 1, 2009. The event will start at 9:00am and end at 3:00pm. Rotary International will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser to help eradicate Polio.

Brad Fudge 503-807-5226 (cell phone)

Website: www.gorgewheelsandwings.com

Western Antique Aircraft & Car Museum

If you are at Hood River you can check out this museum. It is styled like the Shuttleworth Museum in England where antique aircraft and vehicles co-exist.

Open 7 days a week. Museum is located on Ken Jernstedt Airfield. 541-308-1600.

<http://www.waaamuseum.org/>

Old Bold Pilots Club

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 12 Noon till when people leave. Meetings are at The Village Inn Restaurant; 17070 SW 72nd Tigard right at Lower Boons Ferry Road and I-5 on the west side of I-5 at Exit 290.

ANA – Association of Naval Aviators

Meetings are the last Thursday of each month at the Elks Lodge next to Gateway Transit Center. 711 NE 100th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. Meeting is from 11:30 till around 2 PM.

Contact LtC George Bickford (Ret) at 503-789-8061. e-mail: bick @ teleport.com
Mailing address: Flying Beaver Squadron; PO Box 432; Clackamas, Oregon 97015-0432

Southern Oregon Warbirds Association

If you live in southern Oregon you can meet x-aviation personnel at the Southern Oregon Warbirds Association (SOWA) <http://www.southernoregonwarbirds.org>. Meeting location: New Life Christian Center, 1723 NE Vine Street. Roseburg, OR and they meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon. The July / August dinner meeting is on the fourth Tuesday of those months at the American Legion Hall 406 SE Oak Street. 6:30 pm Elmer L Giles, Sec.. POC: Elmer L Giles, 102 Shadow Ranch Lane, Roseburg OR 97470 Cell phone 541 430 4165. Dues \$10 a year.

Aviation Breakfast Club

This is the Walt Bohrer Chapter and they meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month (except Easter and Mother's Day) from 10 AM till 12 Noon at various places now that their long time meeting place shut down. Call for details: 503-254-5555; e-mail: aviationclub @ aol.com

Need to do Photo or Video research?

You are free to go over to and talk, learn, and do photo, movie, and audio research at:
The National Combat History Archive
5801 NW Cornelius Pass Road
Hillsboro, OR. 97124
TEL: +(1) (503) 597-7030
FAX: +(1) (503) 597-7037
EMAIL: Gary Mortensen grmortensen@militarylibrary.net

“Milk Run” Definition

Milk Run: noun; uneventful, routine. Slang for an “easy mission”. A combat mission where you attack the enemy and get credit for a mission toward your tour total but no enemy fighters, nor any effective anti-aircraft guns, are expected to be firing at you. Word origin based upon the routine nature of delivering milk every morning to people in the US in the 1920s. First referenced in print 1925. See “cake walk”. Antonym of Schweinfurt.

Contact Information E-mail and Postal

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