

“MILK RUN”

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



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

History News

Readers, where's your story?

Bill introduced to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)

Senate Bill S.614 which was introduced in Congress on March 17th to award the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) with the Congressional Gold Medal.

WASP women were trained under the same programs as men, and were used within the USA to ferry planes every type of plane produced around the USA so that the men could be released for combat duty during World War II. They have never been officially recognized for their wartime contributions.

They are asking people to write to their Senators to get them to co-sponsor the bill.

In 2008 our local chapter had three WASPs in a panel discussion at our May meeting.

Spitfire sold for \$2.5 million in the UK

A two seat TR Mark IX version was sold at auction at the Hendon museum outside of London and purchased by Steve Brooks. This a/c was originally built by for the RAF by Vickers-Armstrong in 1944. The Spitfire entered service with the South African Air Force in 1948 and was found in the 1970s in a Cape Town scrap yard.

Locally, Paul Allen owns 15 airplanes which are stored in hangers north of Seattle. Tom "Top Gun" Cruise owns a P-51.

Disney Artists in the War



During the 2nd World War the Walt Disney Studios did lots of work for the government: making training films, movie cartoons supporting the war, and creating new icons. Their cartoon characters were found on many aircraft. On the Army Heritage Web site, <http://www.army.mil/-news/2009/04/19/19340-walt-disney-goes-to-war/> there is an article about Disney accomplishments during the war including the creation this service patch for the Womens Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron.

This is "Fifienlla", a female gremlin whose mission was to seek and destroy male gremlins before they cause problems.

A-26 Invader about to fly again in Oklahoma

From <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9928927> is a story about a Tusla built A-26 Invader being restored to flying status by the Sierra Hotel Group of the Commemorative Air Force at Wiley Post airport.

DFC Medal Awarded after Paperwork Found

Wally Blutworth got his Distinuished Flying Cross April 18, 2009, after he wrote Texas Veterans Commission asking whether he qualified for the award. He found out he was recommended for the award after his 34 missions over Europe in B-24 Liberators on December 1, 1945, but the paperwork was never processed.

<http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/local/03/09/0309cross.html>

Purple Heart Awarded to 86 Year Old

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09066/953972-100.stm>

David Rohm was presented with a Purple Heart for injuries he sustained during his bailout from his B-17 on the mission to Berlin on March 8, 1944. He had a broken pelvis and it healed, without medical attention, during his 14 months of captivity. Since it was not immediately documented by a German doctor upon capture, it took a while to find the medical records documenting his injuries.

Armstrong Whitworth Whitley being Re-built in England

From lots of parts found at various crash sites in Scotland a team is going to rebuilt, along with newly made parts, a complete Whitley to as a static display for a museum.

In the UK, like most other nations, you have to get permission in advance to take away any parts from crash sites to save them.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7941898.stm

American Civilians Liberated in Italy by Army Units in 1944

Tullio Bertini and his parents traveled from Boston in July 1939 to visit his parent's village but were trapped there by the outbreak of war. In 1944 he and his parents were liberated by the "Buffalo Soldiers". He wrote a book about being interned and gave a presentation to the Library of Congress in DC this past March.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_11972641

Walter Palmer, Tuskegee Airmen, dead in Indianapolis at the age of 87

Flying a P-51 Mustang dubbed "the Duchess", he flew in the 99th Fighter Group out of Italy during World War II. He flew a total of 158 combat missions.

1st Naval Officer KIA in Philippines buried at Arlington

U.S. Navy Ensign Robert G. Tills' body was not recovered when his PBY-4 Catalina was sunk with him in it by a Japanese fighter plane when docked in Malalag Bay on December 8, 1941.

Vicki Quandt Lee was engaged to him at the time and last year she received a call stating that while trenching was being done in Malalag Bay the flying boat was discovered in 60 feet of water and within it and Lt Till's remains. He was identified through dental records.

Tills had a Navy destroyer escort, DE 748, named after him in June 1943. The USS Tills was sunk as a training exercise in 1969 off the East Coast.

<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20090329/TOPSTORIES/903289911/1042/NEWS?Title=WWII-pilot-missing-for-67-years-laid-to-rest>

USS Colhoun, DD801, Reunion in Lakeland FL

USS Colhoun DD801 Survivor Association met at the Jameson Inn in Lakeland for its annual convention. Out of the 270 man crew, 35 were killed when it took 4 hits due to Kamikazes and was sunk on April 6 off of Okinawa right after the fellow destroyer USS Bush was sunk by Japanese Kamikazes the same day.

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20090328/NEWS/903285046?Title=WWII-Destroyer-Vets-Gather>

Pilot Robert Baranaskas killed in his P-40N

On April 5 Robert Baranaskas, 61, of Northport crashed into the Atlantic Ocean after taking off from Brookhaven Calabro Airport. He had been flying for around 20 minutes performing his airshow routine when the plane was seen to go down into the water.

Recovery efforts recovered Robert's body on April 6. Divers reported they only could feel small pieces of the plane and stated they think it disintegrated upon impact with the water. Once better weather arrives divers will try and recover more of the aircraft.

Japanese Launch Aircraft Carrier Hyuga

Not a true aircraft carrier, but a helicopter carrier, the Huyga is classified as a destroyer but looks like a carrier and is named after hybrid WWI battleship converted to an aircraft carrier 1943 and later sunk by planes of Air Group 87 with Helldivers on July 24, 1945 flying from the USS Ticonderoga (CV-14).

<http://www.strategypage.com/dls/articles/Japanese-Aircraft-Carriers-Back-In-Business-4-5-2009.asp>

Nine Doolittle Raiders met April 16, in Columbia, SC, for Reunion

Out of the 12 Doolittle Raiders left alive, 9 were able to travel to SC for their annual reunion.

William Bower, pilot, Plane No. 12; Richard Cole, co-pilot, Plane No. 1; Thomas Griffin, navigator, gunner, Plane No. 9; Robert Hite, co-pilot, Plane No. 16; Edward Saylor, engineer, Plane No. 15, Saylor lives in Puyallup, Wash; David Thatcher, engineer, gunner, Plane No. 7. Thatcher lives in Missoula, Mt.
Frank Kappeler, James Macia and Charles Ozuk could not travel to the reunion.

<http://www.thestate.com/news-extras/story/746888.html>

Lt Jack Manch returned home in 1943 to Stoughton, Virginia to a homecoming parade and photos have been found documenting his homecoming.

<http://www.newsleader.com/article/20090411/LIFESTYLE22/904110326/1024/LIFESTYLE>

DFC Awarded for B-26 Action over Sicily in 1943



The Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor was awarded posthumously to World War II veteran Capt. William S. Norred at a Monday ceremony in Greenville, Alabama. He died in August of 2008 and in December the US Air Force finished their review of records and determined that he was due the award.

He was leading a flight of unescorted B-26 Marauders against Rizzo Airdrome on Sicily when his aircraft was damaged by heavy flak, then attacked by enemy aircraft on June 15, 1943.

B-26s usually attacked between 12 and 16,000 feet and were more venerable to flak due to their lower bombing altitude.

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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