

“MILK RUN”

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



August meeting is on **August 8**. 10 AM till 2 PM.

History News

Readers, where's your story?

Correction!

Clint Gruber is the VP of the Oregon Chapter of the 8th AFHS. Cutting and pasting without proofreading is a bad habit to get into when creating a newsletter. Sorry Clint!

Sherwin Goodman – Fighting in the Pacific with a rear view

People tend to forget that the SBD – Dauntless – TFB – Avenger – both had rear gunners like the B-17s, B-24s, B-25s and the other heavy iron of World War II. Unlike their larger brethren – most carrier a/c went he into action with very few other a/c around – no 500+ bombers in a single formation with a thousand escorting fighters.

Sherwin fought in a TBF off the Independence, in the Leyte Gulf action (his pilot got a torpedo hit on the cruiser flagship Noshiro) and other close calls.

<http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/cuyahoga/1247387530162290.xml&coll=2>

WASP Pilot June Brent

The WASP women were awarded a Congressional Gold Medal on 1 July 2009. Here is an interview with one of the oldest WASPs.

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x72245004/For-Westborough-WWII-pilot-a-long-awaited-award>

Arthur C. Storz Jr

B-17 pilot Arthur Storz Jr of Omaha died at the age of 89. His father was a World War I airman and helped bring the Strategic Air Command to Omaha in the 1950s. As a WW II B-17 pilot he buzzed the Blackstone Hotel from around 50 feet – scaring most everyone – and got a court marshal out of it . The hotel is next to his house.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20090713/NEWS01/707139948/-1/FRONTPAGE>

George Koehler – B-17 Pilot dead at 87

He was to be the Marshall in the 4th of July parade – and died the night before.

George flew 33 missions over a 7 month period in the European theatre of war as a B-17 pilot. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Unit Citation for his combat service with the Eighth.

http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2009/07/george_koehler_veteran_broadca.html

Russia & USA to look for MIA from WW II Onwards

The White House announced on July 6 that the USA and Russia two nations are establishing a new joint commission to try to account for missing service members of both countries dating back to World War II. Four working groups will look into missing military personnel from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War and Soviet military personnel still missing from Moscow's 10-year occupation of Afghanistan.

Tears in the Darkness

Is a heavily researched book about the Bataan Death March written by Michael and Elizabeth M. Norman.

They did 400+ interviews of American, Filipino, and Japanese soldiers over a 10 year period.

76,000+ troops surrendered to the Japanese, around 20,000 were left alive at the end of the war. The rest were systematically killed as part of the Japanese policy toward any prisoner captured.

<http://features.csmonitor.com/books/2009/07/08/tears-in-the-darkness/>

Sgt. Wendall G. Fugett Buried after 65+ years

Sgt. Fugett was shot down and killed in his B-24 Liberator on October 26, 1944 near Morotol Island while flying in the 307 BG (H). He was in his unit only 10 days before being killed. His body, and those of his fellow aircrew, was never found.

His family arranged to have a service with full military honors.

<http://www.middletownjournal.com/news/middletown-news/wwii-casualty-finally-gets-full-military-funeral-201327.html>

Glenn Morgan – USS Indianapolis

Here is a transcript of his experience during and after the sinking.

"...there was a flash cover, a flash funnel, on the end of this barrel, and that's the last thing I touched and I watched my home of two years sink beneath the surface."

<http://www.kbtx.com/home/headlines/50387972.html>

Babe Stefani – Ground Crewman at Kwajalien Atoll

One day a plane landed for refueling under the most security he had ever seen – and he still does not reveal what he saw since he was told then not to.

Enola Gay or Bock's Car are the aircraft what his relatives suspect he refueled. He was the only one allowed into the a/c.

He's 99 ½ as of July 2009.

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20090629/NEWS01/906290310>

Collings Foundation B-24 in Salt Lake Reunites with a 15th AF Pilot

Wilbur Drake joined the USAAF to become a fighter pilot: "They lined us up, and they put the tall ones in bombers and transports, while the short ones got fighter planes."

He flew in 20 missions in B-24s flying out of Italy before he had turned 21.

He and Robert Lewis, who flew as navigator in the PB4-Y1 – the Navy version of the B-24 – on anti-sub patrols in the Atlantic out of England, both flew in "Witchcraft" during the repositioning flight.

http://www.sltrib.com/slc/ci_12736384

American Wings Air Museum to close

This aviation museum near the Twin Cities in Anoka County will close due to less donations and a quadrupling of the monthly rent to \$4,500 a month. The L-19 Bird Dog, Mohawk, plus a unique one of a kind a 1911 Steco Aerohydroplane, will need new homes. The museum had been around for 12 years. <http://www.americanwings.org/>

http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_12772465

James Lee Hutchinson – Now a DVD on His Tour in the 8th

[Through These Eyes: A World War II Eighth Air Force Combat Diary](#) (Amazon book link) is the book he wrote about his 20 missions while in the 490 BG(H) and now he has released a new version on DVD that likely includes photos.

Ltc Jimmy Stewart in Aviation Hall of Fame

On 18 July 2009 Jimmy Stewart, movie actor and 8th AF B-24 pilot, was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame. Stewart flew 20 missions in the B-24 before he was ordered not to fly anymore – the chances of him getting killed and lowering the morale of the USA of a really well known movie star being killed out-weighted his pilot duties. He was in the 445 BG (H), 703 Sqd at Tibenham, England. In March of 1944 he was transferred to 453 BG (H) at Old Buckenham.

Jimmy Stewart Museum is at www.jimmy.org

French Honors WW II Veterans in Oregon

Local French consulate decorated four WW II Veterans who live in Oregon with the Leigon'd'Hommeur. Awarded were Dale Reynolds 94th Infantry Division infantryman; William Tankersley 90th Infantry Division (part of the Third Army under General Patton), who was wounded three times while fighting in the infantry in France; and B-24 pilot George R. Insley who lives in Medford. He flew 53 missions with the 44 BG (H) "Flying 8 Balls" as part of the 15th Air Force in Italy.

Don Malarkey, of 'Band of Brothers Fame', was also awarded the medal but he was unable to attend due to being out of the country when they were awarded July 9th.

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/07/france_honors_oregon_world_war.html

Local Chapter News and Groups

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

Antique Fly-in At Pearson Airfield 14 thru 16 August

[Pearson Airfield](#) in Vancouver Washington is hosting the annual fly-in this year on August 14, 15 & 16th. Pearson is the oldest continuously operating airfield in the US. (College Park Maryland may be the oldest site to host aircraft, but they were not *operating* for a number of years after demonstration flights for Washington Officials in the early 1900s. No regular operations.

They no longer have their own dedicated web site since they have been subsumed by the Fort Vancouver National Site organization. They are now just a tabbed entry on the Fortvan.org web site.

Pearson is also the host site for "[Dancing with the Local Stars](#)" this August 22 7 till 11 PM in the hanger.

Pearson is open Tue 12pm-5pm; Wed-Sat 10am-5pm.

Hillsboro Air Show August 28, 29 30th

[Hillsboro airport](#) will again host an airshow this year.

Our Chapter, like last year, is planning on having a booth at the show. As of this date nothing is confirmed. Last three members spent Saturday & Sunday manning the booth.



Manning the Oregon 8th AFHS Booth in 2008:
Allen Chapin 381 BG, 535 BS; Walter Groce,
56th FG, 63 Sqd; Bill Seitz 15th AF – he flew
66th missions in two tours in B-24s.

The US Thunderbirds will be flying at the show.

Advance ticket prices on sale thru Thursday August 27, 2009 5 PM. Base price is \$15, with various combination packages and discounts. Price at the gate is \$20 a person. There is a two for one special but you must purchase it in advance for Sunday attendance. There are also some discount coupons at the [Thriftway website](#) .

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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