

# “MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society News Update  
September, 2009



November meeting is on **November 7**. 10 AM till 2 PM.

## History News

*Readers, where's your story?*

### **A German Junkers 88 in a Lake?**

Some people believe due to high a resolution image from Google Earth they found out why a Junkers 88 shot down over Greenock was never found – it went into the lake behind the dam.

In May of 1941 over a two day period German bombers flew against the shipyards but mainly missed them and hit the town instead.

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/07/20/shot-down-german-bomber-spotted-in-resevoir-thanks-to-google-earth-86908-21534523/>

### **Statue of Charles B. Hall Erected in Brazil, Indiana**

Charles B Hall was the first member of the 99<sup>th</sup> FG – The Tuskegee Airmen - to be credited with shooting down an enemy aircraft in combat in 1943.

A marble monument now stands outside city hall of Brazil, Indiana.

The 99<sup>th</sup> was ordered NOT to engage in air to air combat when initially deployed to North Africa – since their mission was ground support and they were not specifically trained in air to air combat.

A movie being produced by George Lucas called “Red Tails” is in production and is supposed to be released later on this year.

### **WW I Veteran Henry Allingham Dead at 113**

Allingham, World War I British veteran, died on July 18, 2009. He served in the RFC – Royal Flying Corps, as a mechanic and as an observer, with an Enfield 303 rifle in the beginning to fight off enemy aircraft. Later on he used a machine gun in his observer role. He was wounded on a strategic attack against an aircraft depot by shrapnel. He even fought in the battle of Jutland.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2009/07/20/death-of-world-s-oldest-man-ww1-veteran-henry-allingham-a-hero-we-should-all-tell-our-children-about-115875-21534052/>

## **“Putt Putt” Lights Up USS Chicago – and Japanese Naval Planes finish her off**

Joe Tuscan on the USS Chicago on 27 January 1943 on the way to Guadalcanal when in the middle of the night they were attacked by torpedo planes.

"I was on the port side and headed for my gun station when this (Japanese) pilot came over flying so low that he just missed hitting the top of the ship. For a split second, the pilot and I eyeballed each other. I saw his eyes in my dreams for a long time after," Tuscan said.



Photo ©Joe Tuscan

<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/article/20090727/NEWS01/907270310>

## **MIA from 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf War Found**

Captain Speicher was shot down during the first Gulf war in 1991 and his remains were not found until a tip from two Bedouins who had found his body and buried him lead US recovery team to his gravesite.

He was buried in Florida in early August 2009.

## **Gunner’s Diary Discovered in His Home**

Harry Elmer Gates of West Virginia kept a diary of his combat missions from his first mission in February of 1944 through mission 21 – then on #22 he became a POW.

Gates described mission No. 7 as a “milk run” because they encountered no opposition from fighter planes. “When we got ready to drop our bombs, the doors didn’t open so we dropped the bombs through the doors.”

Gates was flying in B-24s.

T/Sgt Gates died in October of 1988.

[http://www.bdtonline.com/local/local\\_story\\_214174255.html](http://www.bdtonline.com/local/local_story_214174255.html)

## **Mildred "Duke" Caldwell – WASP Pilot**

Flying B-26s every for her day job during the war – as a tow target aircraft down in Texas.

There is a WASP museum Avenger Field in Sweetwater which opened in 2005.

Life magazine published a story about the WASPs in 1943. One of the photos used in the spread showed a young woman in an open-cockpit Fairchild PT-19 airplane flying alone and staring intently ahead while her hair streams behind her in the wind.

Caldwell tapped the photo with an index finger: "Moi".

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/x1894904692/Her-story-is-WWII-history>

## **Joe Schiffino, B-29 Pilot**

Assigned to the 73<sup>rd</sup> BG (H) he flew 5 missions to Japan in 10 days before being wounded on the mission to Kobe. He said they knew "was not going to be milk run."

<http://www.enctoday.com/articles/recalls-47048-nbsj-bombers-superfortress.html>

## **Did Piedmont Triad International airport have a weapons range?**

It seems that the COE (Corps of Engineers) put out a newspaper ad to find out. It did not but it was a training base during the war. It was then known as Lindley Field.

The big Army Air Corps training base -- Overseas Replacement Depot – was off Summit Avenue near downtown Greensboro had more than 900 tar-paper buildings and many drill fields. Over 90,000 soldiers served there from 1943-46

1944 Army report says Lindley Field soldiers serviced 13,200 planes and repaired 8,830.

[http://www.news-record.com/content/2009/08/09/article/pti\\_site\\_reminder\\_of\\_war\\_fought\\_behind\\_the\\_front\\_during\\_world\\_war\\_ii](http://www.news-record.com/content/2009/08/09/article/pti_site_reminder_of_war_fought_behind_the_front_during_world_war_ii)

## **Ed Jeziorski WW II Paratrooper buried in Arlington**

On August 7, 2009 Ed Jeziorski, who served in Company C, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, was buried with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Going into D-Day the 507<sup>th</sup> regiment had 3,200 officers and men. Six weeks later there were only 700 still standing.

[http://www2.dailyprogress.com/cdp/lifestyles/columnists/yesteryears/article/happy\\_landings\\_old\\_friend/43838/](http://www2.dailyprogress.com/cdp/lifestyles/columnists/yesteryears/article/happy_landings_old_friend/43838/)

## **USS Lexington at Corpus Christi**

The 1943 Version – the original was sunk during the Battle of the Coral Sea in 1942 – is now a museum and they have added in video game attractions on the ship – both aircraft landing and AA aircraft defense.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/life/travel/52834997.html>

## **Pilot Officers making a Comeback?**

It seems that instead of having an officer fly UAV – those remote controlled “Unmanned Aerial Vehicles” they are going to have NCOs fly them but – are they to be considered officers while flying?

“As the Army Air Corps changed into the mighty Army Air Force (2.4 million troops and 80,000 aircraft at its peak), its capable and persuasive commander (General Hap Arnold), insisted that all pilots be officers. Actually, he wanted them all to be college graduates as well, until it was pointed out that the pool of college graduates was too small to provide the 200,000 pilots the Army Air Force eventually trained. But Arnold forced the issue on officers being pilots, and the navy had to go along to remain competitive in recruiting.”

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htlead/articles/20090817.aspx>

## **Three Brothers In Arms**

Each one was in a different branch of the service – Army, Navy, Marines – but all fought in the same theatre at the same time. Harold Laesch, 86, Carl, 90, and Robert, 83.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/world-war-ii-still-bonds-this-band-of-brothers/1027932>

## **Jack Zimmerman – First into LaGuardia Airport – May have been found**

Jack Zimmerman was flying a PBY on an inspection tour of airfields in Canada in 1942 when heavy winds sunk his PBY and he could not get out before it went under.

<http://www.portclintonnewsherald.com/article/20090815/NEWS01/90814013>

## **Clare Hollingworth – War Correspondent**

This war reporter was the first to report to the world about the September 1, 1939 invasion of Poland by Germany which set off World War II.

She was in Katowice Poland working for the London Daily Telegraph – her first week as a reporter – when she borrowed a diplomatic car drove into Germany and saw all the troops and tanks along the border – bought goods in Germany to prove she had gotten into it – then dictated what she saw to the British consul-general and then to a colleague in Warsaw.

"If there is a war, and if the world wants, I would like to cover it."

Her autobiography is called: "Captain if Captured".

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gRXObrJksCozQuJkEV121yr-eOJA>

## **Want To Dance to the Glenn Miller Band?**

On September 12, 2009 on the USS Hornet – docked at Alameda, California, the Glenn Miller Band will be playing from 8 PM till Midnight.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-2623-Swing-and-Big-Band-Examiner~y2009m8d29-Glenn-Miller-band-to-play-on-an-aircraft-carrier>

## **Maj. Arthur Chin to get award from Taiwan**

John Gong is the grandson of Major Chin who was born in Portland Oregon joined the Chinese Air Force in 1932 to fight against the Japanese during the Sino-Japanese war – one of 15 US citizens to do so.

Chin was then sent to Germany to be trained by the Luftwaffe! Maj. Chin actually became the very first US born ace during World War II!

He was shot down three times and the third time he was burned which ended his fighter pilot career – but he recovered and flew "The Hump" supply flights after the US entered WW II.

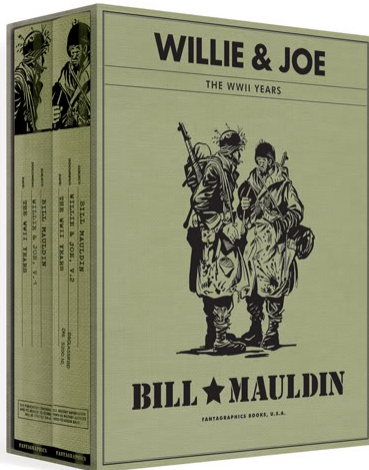
<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20090829/LIFESTYLE/90829001/1024/Visalia-man-s-grandfather-was-a-World-War-II-flying-ace>

## Air Force Col William Henry Wheeler Buried August 28, 2009

Col Wheeler who flew B-17s with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force during WW II died at the age of 93. He flew only a short time in the ETO before being shot down over Germany and spent 21 months as a POW (which means he was likely shot down in November of 1943.)

<http://www.lohud.com/article/2009908290346>

## Remember Willie & Joe?



This was recently published and is likely in many bookstores.

## “Tidalwave” – Ploesti a Summary

Here is a web page that gives a good summary of the August 1, 1943 B-24 low level raid on the Rumanian oil fields centered around Ploesti.

<http://www.redstate.com/skanderbeg/2009/08/01/august-1st-1943-the-ploesti-raid/>

## Local Chapter News and Groups

Hillsboro Air Show

Our 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Chapter manned an information booth promoting the Oregon Chapter of the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS during both days of the Hillsboro International Air Show through the sponsorship of Dignity Memorial:

<http://www.dignitymemorial.com> .

They also have a local Portland chapter web site at:

<http://www.portlandveterans.com> .

This year the airshow had Sean Tucker, The Blue Angles, Patty



Wally Groce, 56<sup>th</sup> FG, shows his gun camera film and explains how he shot down a Me-262 on 1 November 1944 in a head-on pass to visitors to the booth – though another pilot also claimed it and so he only got ½ credit.



Wagstaff and other top notch airshow acts performing at the airport west of Portland, Oregon.

Tom Davis was again the lead in coordinating with Dignity Memorial and the airshow staff in arranging for our chapter to get a booth there. A B-25 "Mitchell", and a pair of A-26 "Invaders" were the only two military WW II era aircraft on display.

## History Detectives

On August 31 broadcast "History Detectives" did a story about George Silva who had a portrait created for him by Harold Rhoden while both were POWs in Stalag 17B in Austria in 1944. Back in May our local PBS affiliate person Carol Sherman contacted me and I did research in finding out about both of these men as to

when both of them were shot down including what date, units they flew, a/c they were in, their US service numbers etc and provided references of the two men in books about their units: "Missing Planes of the 452<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group" and "Attlebridge Arsenal" which is about the 466<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group.

After they passed this info onto the lead person detective in the HD show, they donated the books to our Oregon 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter and they are now part of our research archives.

[www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives](http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives)

## Old Bold Pilots Club

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



Bob Dean, Tom Davis, & Bill Seitz (Pilot, B-24s 15<sup>th</sup> AF) at the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Booth. Bill flew 85 combat missions. Wally's information poster (behind Tom), an information poster of the 8<sup>th</sup> using images from our chapter archive, and Bill Seitz's poster with his photos and mission list drew in lots of people.



The name below the co-pilot window is: "Other Guy"

## **ANA – Association of Naval Aviators**

Meetings are the last Thursday of each month at the Elks Lodge next to Gateway Transit Center. 711 NE 100<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 weekdays 9 till 5 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](mailto: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**

Secretary 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS of Oregon

Tom Philo

17502 SW Kimmel Ct

Beaverton, Oregon 97007-6877

[secretary@8thafhsoregon.com](mailto:secretary@8thafhsoregon.com)

<http://www.8thafhsoregon.com>

Page 8 of 9 Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society, ‘Milk Run’ Sept 2009



The Oregon Chapter is a registered Non-Profit with the IRS and within the State of Oregon.