

# “MILK RUN”

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



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

### History News

*Readers, where's your story?*

### Idaho 8<sup>th</sup> AF Veterans Memorial

From Jack Wendling came an article and a photo of him at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery next to a memorial to just for the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force was dedicated on 27 June 2009. Idaho did not establish a cemetery just for veterans until 2004. Jack visited the facility and saw there was nothing there for the 8<sup>th</sup>.



He organized and led the fundraising that was needed which got the monument built by finding all veterans of the 8<sup>th</sup> still living in Idaho about the project and the need for donations along with help from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Association.

#### ***The plaque reads:***

United States Air Force  
Serving as an instrument of global power and prestige, in war and peace; created in January 1942 as a response to the German Declaration of War against the United States, and posted to England as the initial American offensive presence in the European Theatre of Operations, World War II, from meager

beginnings, the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force grew to a complement of over 350,000 persons, in a myriad of duty assignments and more than 4,500 aircraft, tasked with bringing the doctrine of air power from studied theory to grim reality on an unprecedented scale. The 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, extending a legacy of service, valor and merit.

*"Take these men as your example; remember that freedom is a sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it." Pericles, 431 B.C.*

Veterans and Friends of the U.S. 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 2009.

## Name This Carrier

While going through the archived photos at my work – I came across this photo. Name the carrier.

Answer will be in the next newsletter.

## WW II Recovery Teams Working Hard

In a farmer's field in Germany a US Recovery team was digging through the earth in search of the remains of the pilot of a B-26 shot down during the "Battle of the Bulge."



He was shot down when a group of German FW-190 fighters of I./JO 11 spotted the un-escorted B-26 Marauder group and shot down 35 of them in 20 minutes on 23 December 1944. [http://www.b-26mhs.org/archives/manuscripts/battleofthebulge\\_losses.html](http://www.b-26mhs.org/archives/manuscripts/battleofthebulge_losses.html)



"...the Pentagon devotes a sliver of its annual budget, \$55 million out of a half trillion dollars, toward the search. Although the teams identify more than 70 of the missing each year, at that rate it will take 500 years to find all of the 35,000 whom the Pentagon classifies as potentially "recoverable." Many thousands of the others were lost at sea."

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/06/world/europe/06search.html?\\_r=1&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/06/world/europe/06search.html?_r=1&hp)

## Operation Market Garden

On September 18, 1944 the entire Allied airborne command jumped into Holland to try and seize bridges leading into Germany with the final one being across the Rhine at Arnhem. The movie "A Bridge Too Far" (and the book it was based on) really put this operation on the public mind. This past September members of the British 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne division revisited the sites.

<http://www.thestar.co.uk/doncaster/World-War-II-vets-final.5644831.jp>

The oldest British veteran making the trip back was 93-year-old Eric Gill, from Conisbrough, a veteran from the Kings Own Light Infantry.

## **U-Boats' Sunken Victims Off The North Carolina Coast**

During the search for the USS Monitor back in 1970 the team discovered the trawler / anti-sub hunter YP-389 who lost a 90-minute surface battle with the German U-701 in 1942.

So far they have located around 40 WW II ships sunk off of North Carolina out of the 137 that were lost off the coastline.

[http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/state\\_regional/article/WREK14\\_20090913-201403/292610/](http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/state_regional/article/WREK14_20090913-201403/292610/)

## **Lt. William D. Lacey's P-51 Unearthed in France**



Lt Lacey, 21, was killed when his photo recon P-51 was hit by flak and though he bailed out he died as a result of his wounds. The US recovered his remains in 1947 and was buried but the plane was only discovered in May of 2009.

<http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090913/NEWS16/909130302/0/CLASSIFIED>

## **Japan to Invite Bataan Death March survivors in 2010 to Japan**

There are about 400 US survivors in the of this infamous 70 mile forced march by the Japanese military. After a nearly half year campaign US, British, Dutch, Philippine and many other nationalities were captured when Japan finally forced the surrender of the last organized Allied forces to surrender on Corregidor.

27,465 servicemen were captured and put into POW camps by the Japanese; at least 11,000 died while under Japanese control which is around a 40 percent death rate. As a contrast, of all US personnel captured by the Germans / Italians during WW II, only 1% died after capture (and that includes those wounded and died of wounds after being officially recorded as POWs.)

The vast majority of the POWs were later sent as slave laborers in Japan.

The treaty written with Japan in the 1950s has a clause in it that has been used by the US government to prevent any US soldier from suing Japan for the crimes they committed – vastly different than what has occurred in Europe and the way claims has been sought and won against the successor government of NAZI Germany.

The Japanese Government has never officially apologized for the way they treated any prisoner they captured during the Second World War. Though the Japanese Ambassador to the US only apologized to the 400 or so survivors still around.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/091309dnmetbataan.3616105.html>

## Republishing WW II News Articles

I have noticed that the Daily Telegraph, out of England, has been republishing their newspaper stories of WW II on the same day as during WW II – starting with 1939. This year, 2009, and 1939 the calendar days for the year are identical so what was written for that day of year matches up with the current day – September 1, 1939 was a Tuesday and September 1, 2009 is also a Tuesday.

This article is about an RAF flying boat landing on the open ocean to rescue survivors of a U-Boat attack.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/world-war-2/6207177/World-War-2-Captain-describes-RAF-ocean-rescues.html>

## Dorothy Dodd Eppstein, 91, Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP)



Dorothy Eppstein of Kalamazoo Michigan was on the way to Sweetwater, Texas in August of 1943 to begin training as a WASP.

After graduation they were assigned to many bases, with Dorothy being assigned to Turner Army Air Base.

“There they [WASPs] served under a commanding officer who didn’t think women should be pilots and limited their time at the controls to taxiing aircraft.

When one of the women complained, they were all transferred to Peterson Army Air Base in Colorado, where Eppstein was co-pilot of a B-17, and then Fort Sumner Army Air Field in New Mexico, where she was a test pilot and also co-piloted a large cargo plane.”

[http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2009/09/flying\\_planes\\_made\\_life\\_exciti.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2009/09/flying_planes_made_life_exciti.html)

Another article about two more WASP pilots in East Farmingdale, NY.

<http://www.newsday.com/long-island/nassau/female-pilots-who-served-in-world-war-ii-honored-1.1481190>

## 2nd Lt. Edward R. French Buried at Home after 66 Years

Lt French’s B-24 Liberator aircraft went down on the mountains of New Guinea on November 20, 1943. Finally positively identified by the US Military Identification teams working out of Hawaii, he was buried in his hometown near Lake Erie.

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090927/NEWS02/309279915/-1/NEWS>

## **Tuskegee Airmen Earned at Least 47 Purple Hearts**

The Post-Dispatched saw an anomaly in the number of Purple Hearts stated as being awarded to the unit in books, articles and references, and the number of people recorded as wounded or killed – and they did not match. After they newspaper did some research they discovered that at least 47 members of the unit were awarded the medal.

A researcher stated that bombers being escorted by the unit had indeed been shot down, and in 2007 the Air Force issued a report that identified at least 25 bombers shot down while escorted by the airmen. The report traced the initial claim of never having lost a bomber to enemy fighters to a March 24, 1945, article in the Chicago Defender newspaper.

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/7B27387E8553526D8625763D000B30AE?OpenDocument>

332nd Fighter Group was the parent unit of the three all black squadrons eventually fielded by the USA. The all black medium bomber group was still being trained when the war ended.

## **The Gathering Foundation**

The Gathering occurred a few years ago when almost every flyable P-51 all assembled at one airfield and the whole event was recorded. The finished recording, [Gathering of Mustangs & Legends DVD](#), has won a couple awards and is available for sale.

## **Local Chapter News and Groups**

### ***Old Bold Pilots Club***

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from around 11:45 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 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon. Meeting is from 11:30 till around 2 PM.

Contact LtCol 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**

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