

“MILK RUN”

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



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

History News

Readers, where's your story?

Name This Carrier

Answer: the USS Lexington. It is hull number CV-2; the Langley was the first CV-1, Saratoga was CV-3. Note the twin gunned turrets and the model T (I believe) on the deck of the carrier. This was taken sometime in the 1920s – but I have not been able to find the location or the date.

The Lexington was sunk by torpedoes from a US destroyer after the Battle of the Coral Sea due to damage inflicted upon it by Japanese naval aircraft in the first carrier only action of World War II.

Roar 'N Soar in Florida

The weekend of November 7 & 8 at Polk City Florida where the Weeks Air Museum is located is having a classic land, sea & air racing event. These are the pre-WWII type cars, seaplanes, and airplanes racers on hand in use again.



USS Lexington in the 1920s.

Web site is [Fantasy of Flight](http://www.fantasyofflight.com)

They have a nice museum, lots of stuff lying around in their restoration hangers (go on the tour) and it is an all-day trip normally just to see everything. The B-17 on display is painted up in the 95 BG(H) colors as it undergoes maintenance at Horham airbase in East Anglia. Their web site is: http://95thbg.org/95th_joomla/ .

The 95th BG was the first 8th AF unit to bomb Berlin Germany on March 4, 1944.

Navy SEAL Museum

The UDT-SEAL Museum – UDT is the WW II precursor which stands for Underwater Demolition Team – is located at Fort Pierce, Florida. This is on the East coast of Florida on North Hutchinson Island. It was dedicated in 1985. Address of the Navy SEAL Museum is 3300 N. Highway A1A, Fort Pierce, Florida 34949. 772-595-5845 is the phone number. Web site is: www.navysealmemorial.net
Open Tuesday – Saturday 10 till 4 PM, and Sunday Noon till 4 PM. Admission is \$6.

Remembering Capt Cochran

Flying part of the war in the CBI – China Burma India – it was a real forgotten section of the world conflict.

While in North Africa in 1942 / 1943:

“Although a bit unorthodox at times, Maj. Cochran accomplished the job. One time, for example, he skipped a bomb into the German headquarters in Tunisia. On another occasion, Maj. Cochran dangled a lead weight from his aircraft, which he used to take out enemy telephone lines by dragging the weight through the lines. He also helped train the 99th Fighter Squadron, which consisted of all African-American pilots, better known as the Tuskegee Airmen. An early advocate for the desegregation of the American military, Lt. Col. Cochran briefed the Air Force staff about the Tuskegee Airmen upon his return to the United States in early 1943.”

He flew in the 1st Air Commando in the CBI from December of 1943 till the end of the war supporting the Chindits in Burma flying in supplies and out wounded.

<http://www2.hurlburt.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123132095>

UXB Goes off on Okinawa

Last January 2009 a construction worker set off an unexploded bomb – UXB – while working. From the description it was a 250 lb bomb or equivalent.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htpeace/articles/20090118.aspx>

Market Garden after Action Map for the 501 PIR

Want to view a map of the 501 PIR combat operations during Market Garden in Holland during September of 1944?

Drawn right after the battle this details where units were and where they went.

<http://cgsc.cdmhost.com/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/p4013coll8&CISOPTR=1955&REC=2>

There are lots of good resources on this site.

Samuel Lum – Bailout over Bremen

Flying in his B-17 over Bremen, Germany, AA guns hit the plane and with an engine on fire the crew bails out on August 4, 1944, on his 18th mission. 8th AF mission number 514 when Peenemunde, Hamburg, Hemmingstedt/Heide oil refinery, and Rostock were the main targets were also attacked on that day within Germany.

A Hawaiian native, he enlisted right after literally watching the attack on Pearl Harbor.

<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2009/jul/26/pa-wwii-vet-enjoys-life/news-breaking/>

John Finn, 100 years old, MOH Winner

John had been enlisted in the navy long before WW II started, and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor
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on December 7, 1941. He is the last surviving MOH winner from that day at over 100 years old.

http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/2009/07/24/op_541892.shtml

French Nation Continue to Honor WW II Vets

"In an effort to recognize the outstanding deeds accomplished by American soldiers during WWII, the French Republic began awarding its highest distinction to American WWII Veterans in 2004. Created by Emperor Napoleon in 1802, the Legion of Honor Medal recognizes services of highest achievement rendered to France."

"Mr. Donald E. Casey, Chicago, IL: Enlisted in October 1943 as a second lieutenant in the 379th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force Division. He participated in the bombardments of many German installations at Dijon/Longvic, Sottevast Mesnil au Val, Metz-Frescaty, Marquise Mimoyecques, Creil et Coulommiers."

11 Illinois citizens were honored with this award in July.

<http://www.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=1&RecNum=7688>

Nogales International Newspaper WW II Stories

Stories of people from all branches of service is featured within the newspaper.

<http://www.nogalesinternational.com/articles/2009/07/06/news/doc4a5261be35f7d664631491.txt>

Robert Shoonmaker was a pilot with the 451st Bomb Squadron, 322nd Bomb Group, 9th Air Force flying in B-26 Martin Marauders when he got shot down during a night mission.

Last Member Left of his Tank Battalion

Russell Hoggard landed on June 6 around 9:30 AM that day and fought his way across Europe till the end of the war while in the 746th Tank Battalion.

"I got shelled. I lost two tanks, and our outfit lost 44 tanks in just one month," he said.

<http://www.arkansasleader.com/2009/07/top-story-memories-of-liberating-europe.html>

US Civil War Battlefields get some Money

Long neglected by Congress, in the bill reported out of committee October 27, \$9 million dollars was written into the Interior appropriations bill to be used to purchase more land to preserve Civil War Battlefields.

<http://www.civilwar.org/aboutus/news/news-releases/2009-news/congress-allocates-9-million.html>

Huntley Johnson, Teaching History at the Museum

Enlisting in the Marines right after Pearl Harbor, he flew TFBs and Corsairs, but he was shot down in his TFB and shot sharks with his 45 while awaiting rescue in the warm Pacific Ocean.

<http://www.pnj.com/article/20091025/NEWS01/910250317/1006/NEWS01>



Part of the WW II memorial on the National Mall. Each Pillar has the name of a state or US possession on it.

Elizabeth Dole Helps Fund Honor Flight

Honor Flight is where people help fund WW II veterans to go visit the WWII Memorial in Washington DC. Former Senator Elizabeth Dole donated money to the organization to help send 106 vets from North Carolina to DC.

<http://www.salisburypost.com/Area/102509-washington-vets-trip-anecdotes>

487 BG (H) Reunion Held in Arizona

This year Phoenix was the host city for the Lavenham based B-17 Flying Fortress unit

that flew from there to targets all over in Europe.

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2009/10/24/20091024ww2lue1024.html>

Lane Victory – WW II Victory Ship

Without the Merchant Marines – crews who brought the supplies needed by every unit – there would not have been a victory. The Lane Victory is a floating museum that shows what these non-combat combatants did during the war. Not till 40+ years after the end did they get awarded veteran status.

<http://www.the-signal.com/news/article/18916/>

Rusty Cannon and ammo found in the Philippines

After the latest tropical storm flowed across the area in September, erosion revealed the gun and ammo. Now it will be put on display in a museum.

<http://www.timesoftheinternet.com/116322.html>

France Honors WW I Aviators

Lt. Erwin Bleckley of Wichita and pilot Lt. Harold Goettler flew their De Havilland observation aircraft looking for the 700 soldiers of the "Lost Battalion" within the Argonne Forest trying to locate the unit which accomplished their orders and got to where they were supposed to be – while the other units on their flanks never did; and

so got surrounded. This happened during the Meuse-Argonne offensive in the summer of 1918.

<http://www.kansas.com/news/state/story/998369.html>

Looking for WASP Pilot Gertrude "Tommy" Tompkins

She crashed her P-51 into Santa Monica bay Oct. 26, 1944 and no one noticed that she was missing for 4 days. Divers are volunteering their skills in hopes of finding her. They already found a T-33 jet trainer that had been missing since Oct. 15, 1955.

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20091012/UPDATES01/91012015/Randolph+native+assists+Calif.+search+for+remains+of+NJ+WWII+pilot>

DC-3 Crashes in Las Pinas, Philippines

A WW II era DC-3 was on a test flight when engine problem forced it to turn back right after takeoff – four of the 7 people on board died. Aircraft was registered to Victoria Air and with tail number RPC 550.

<http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/225217/4-die-las-pi-plane-crash>

Shot Down while Flying in the 15th AF

Flying out of Italy in the 353 Sqd of the 301 BG(H) in B-24s Charles Sloca was shot down over southern Germany in August 1944.

http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci_13582095

Local Chapter News and Groups

Old Bold Pilots Club

Meets on the 2nd 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 100th 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 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.

Breakfast at Twin Oaks Airpark

EAA chapter 105 <http://www.eaa105.org/> holds a breakfast at Twin Oaks Airpark www.twinoaksairpark.com on the 1st Saturday of each month. Cost is \$5 and you get to eat in the hanger. Their next breakfast is at the same time as our 8th AFHS meeting on November 7th. It is a pancake breakfast so you could go there and then still get to the 8th AFHS meeting that starts at 10 AM.

Bomber Restaurant Breakfast

On the first Friday of each month people meet at The Bomber Restaurant (find the B-17 along McLaughlin – hard to miss) at 10 AM till noon.

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

“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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