

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society News Update
January, 2010



First 2010 meeting is on **February 13**. 10 AM till 2 PM.

History News

Readers, where's your story?

USS Missouri Out of Dry-Dock



The USS New Jersey (BB 62) and Missouri – BB 63 (behind) - at Bremerton Washington before BB 62 moved to Hawaii and BB 63 went to New Jersey. The anchor has all 4 BB IOWA class names on it.

After a three month refinish of the hull and other work in a Pearl Harbor dry-dock -- which the Japanese failed to destroy along with all the sub and fuel depot areas on December 7, 1941 -- the USS Missouri is back in water next to the USS Arizona. The USS Arizona was the only battleship that could not be returned to service after the Japanese sneak attack (a few other smaller ships also were un-repairable) and the USS Missouri was



the ship where the Empire of Japan signed the formal surrender documents in Tokyo Bay which ended armed resistance of the last enemy state of World War II on September 6, 1945.

There is a plaque on the deck marking the exact spot where General Douglas MacArthur accepted the surrender. General MacArthur was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on 1 April 1942.

Only Official Dual Atomic Bomb Survivor Dies at 93

Tsutomu Yamaguchi had the distinct (bad) luck of being in both Hiroshima and

Nagasaki when both were bombed using atomic weapons. He was burned by the Hiroshima bomb, spent the night in hospital, went back home to Nagasaki, and was there when Bock's Car dropped the 2nd atomic bomb (of a totally different design than the one dropped by the Enola Gay on August 6, 1945). He was certified by the Japanese Government as being the only person – though later



Enola Gay in the Smithsonian museum at Dulles International Airport.

on there have been confirmed cases of others who were in both cities but none certified by the Japanese Government.

Amelia Earhart Presentation Seattle Museum of Flight

The Seattle Museum of Flight on Saturday the 23rd of January at 2 PM will have Oregon-native Elgen M. Long, author and consultant on the recent movie about her becoming an aviatrix, give a presentation on the movie and the book. Cost is \$55 for Museum members, \$70 for general admission and \$30 for designated drivers.

Tiger Moth Found in Canadian Azure Lake

When looking to recover a plane that went through the ice last year in 500 feet of water, they discovered a Tiger Moth at the bottom of the lake also. Now they are trying to raise both of them back up.

http://www.bclocalnews.com/bc_thompson_nicola/clearwatertimes/news/79104622.html

Bill Overstreet Receives Legion of Honor from France

Ambassador Pierre Vimont told the crowd assembled in Roanoke Virginia December 9th : "Today we are honoring a true hero, a legend indeed . . .the sign of my country's exceptional recognition of Captain Overstreet's heroic contribution to the liberation of France." The Legion of Merit was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.

Bill flew P-51, nicknamed "Berlin Express" in the 357th FG when he chased a German Bf 109G aircraft over Paris and THROUGH the Eiffel Tower. The German was hoping the local German AA gunners would shoot the P-51 down but they did not and Overstreet shot down the German.

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/229101>

William Kalan, 91, awarded the French Legion of Honor

Bailing out of his flak damaged B-24 in the Loire Valley in the fall of 1944, this Liberator pilot evaded the Germans and joined the French Resistance fighting with them for three months before making his way back to Allied lines.

http://www.rossmoornews.com/articles/2010/01/06/news/community_news/11world%20war%20ii%20bomber.txt

SDB-5 Found off of Maui

A local diver seems to have discovered a nearly intact SDB-5 "Dauntless" dive bomber off the coast of Maui. Only 5 of these were ever reported as being lost off of Maui. A local fisherman complained to the tour operator about fish hiding under the wings and he could not catch them.

<http://www.starbulletin.com/news/breaking/81750822.html>

Need to Know about WW II Gooney Bird Units?

Osprey Combat Aircraft Series has two new books out about the C-47 / R4D twin engine transports of World War II ISBN:1841767506.

In these two detailed, well-illustrated works, veteran military and aviation historian David C. Isby gives up a concise overview of the operations of American C-47 and R4D "Skytrain" aircraft during the Second World War.

- [*C47/R4d Units of the ETO and MTO*](#). Osprey: Oxford, 2005. Pp. 96. Illus, diagr., append., notes, biblio., index. \$22.95. ISBN: 978-1-84176-750-5
- [*C47/R4d Skytrain Units of the Pacific and CBI*](#). Osprey: Oxford, 2007. Pp. 96. Illus, diagr., append., notes, biblio., index. \$22.95. ISBN: 978-1-84603-046-8.

<http://www.strategypage.com/bookreviews/430.asp>

Tuskegee Veteran Luther H. Smith Jr., dies at 89

Luther flew 133 missions out of North Africa and Italy before being forced to bail out of the P-51 Mustang when the engine caught fire while on a mission and was captured in Yugoslavia on 13 October of 1944. He died Wednesday December 9, 2009 at Bryn Mawr Hospital.

"Days after then-Lt. Smith was captured, an SS officer stood over his hospital bed and asked him, "You volunteer to fight for a country that lynched your people. Why?"

Before he was liberated in May 1945, he said, he was often asked by the Germans why, as a black man, he was fighting for the United States. "He would become indignant and respond that he was proud to serve his country," his son, Gordon, said."

<http://www.philly.com/philly/obituaries/79116537.html>

New Museum at John Wayne Airport

Lyon Air Museum is now open as of December for vintage aircraft.

A B-26K Leaves Montana

The only flying B-26K in the world left the Lynch family owned Billings Aviation flying off to a new home much further south than Billings Montana -- to investors in Texas. It will undergo restoration to WW II era status and then likely go onto the air show circuit.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article_ae82e25c-fdac-11de-90e8-001cc4c002e0.html

German Museum to Honor P-38 Pilot Lt. Donald Kuske

On June 13, 1944 Lt Kushe's P-38 was damaged in air combat with the Luftwaffe and he was flying it down the ground for a crash landing when his flight path put him into a possible collision with a house – and he instead turned the aircraft toward a different direction which resulted him being killed.

"During World War II, the local people did not speak about such events," Braun wrote in an e-mail. "It was too dangerous. ... At the end of World War II, the story did spread like wildfire among the few local people and was soon written down in the local history. But nothing more happened for many years."

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20100115/GPG0101/1150568/1207/GPG01/Story--photos--German-museum-to-honor-Green-Bay-World-War-II-pilot-Don-Kuske-as-hero>

Ace Rear Gunner Charles Gatto

U.S. Navy Machinist Mate First Class Charles Gatto was the gunner on TBF "Avenger" torpedo bomber and is credited with 6 confirmed victories. He flew 35 missions in the Pacific during World War II. He almost had to bail out when an ammo can caught fire during a fighter attack but he got the radio man to put out the fire. Good thing it worked since after they landed they found out the parachute was full of holes from the Zeros guns. In a TBF the radio operator and gunner stowed their parachute below the turret and they had to leave their position at the radio or turret, get the parachute, and then bail out from the bottom. The pilot would bail out from his cockpit after opening the canopy.

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100116/NEWS01/1160308/1144/news01/Gatto+battled+fighter+planes+during+WW+II>

Local Chapter News and Groups

Archive Update

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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