

# “MILK RUN”

## Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society News Update February, 2010



Meeting is on **February 13**. 10 AM till 2 PM.

### History News

*Readers, where's your story?*

### Mission to Berlin of 3 February 1945 Participants Wanted

Author Robert Dorr, who has an article "B-17 to Berlin" in the February 2010 issue of *Combat Aircraft* magazine, is looking for anyone who participated in 8<sup>th</sup> AF Mission #817 that went to Berlin on February 3, 1945 (either side) and bombed the Tempelhof marshalling yard. He is doing research for his next book. You can contact him via e-mail at: [robert.f.dorr@cox.net](mailto:robert.f.dorr@cox.net) 3411 Valewood Drive, Oakton, Virginia 22124 (703) 264-8950

### PBS Show on the Bombing Campaign against Germany in WWII

Under the overall banner of "The American Experience" PBS Boston is putting on a 1 hour show on the Combined Allied bombing strategy during World War II on February 8 & 10<sup>th</sup> 2010.

This is the web site for the Boston PBS station <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/schedule.html> which produced it.



**The Bombing of Germany** TV show lasts for 1 hour. Locally in Portland it premieres on Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 PM and repeats on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.opb.org/television/programs/bombing-of-germany-american-experience/>

"In World War II British and American Allied forces carried out a bombing campaign of unprecedented might over Germany's cities . . ."

Verne Woods has a set of photos that he took while in the 91<sup>st</sup> BG (Heavy Bombardment) that is posted on the web site. He is featured in the episode.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/bombing/photoGallery/>

### High Definition DVD using converted WW II Color Film

Called *WW II in HD* this is a compilation of the History Channel TV series using WW II films that were filmed in color with 8 or 16 mm cameras (likely Afga & Kodak negative, maybe some Kodachrome) and then transferred into the High Definition format. Each

episode is centered on a persons' experience during the war and then they found color film to fit into that person's combat history.

Previews of what was in the series is at the History Channel:

<http://www.history.com/content/wwii-in-hd/videos>

MSRP start at \$29.95 and goes up with various DVD combination packages when bought online at the History Channel web site.

## **Daughter finds out about her Dad's death in France**

"On Dec. 20, island resident Eva Friotofson read a Daily News article about efforts of a French organization called The Normandy Association for Air Remembrance to find relatives of Graham, whose P-47D fighter plane crashed after being hit by German flak. Graham died Aug. 13, 1944, at the age of 20. His daughter was born Dec. 6 the same year."

Graham was a P-47 "Thunderbolt" pilot in the 350th Fighter Squadron of the 353rd Fighter Group in the Eighth Air Force.

From the Armarillo.com web site Galveston Texas:

[http://www.amarillo.com/stories/122709/new\\_news17.shtml](http://www.amarillo.com/stories/122709/new_news17.shtml)

France has awarded 1069 World War II veterans with France's *Legion of Honor* since 2004.

## **Need to Find out about a Relative who served in the British Military?**

The British archive system is different than the USA – with different release rules -- than the US archives. The BBC published this simple guide to get started in researching military service.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/get\\_started/archives\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/get_started/archives_01.shtml)

They reference the British archives web site: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

In addition there are LOTS of genealogy web sites out there. One site that lists lots of references (more than on my taphilo.com web site) specific to military research is at:

- <http://www.cyndislist.com/worldwar2.htm#Records> (USA)
- <http://www.cyndislist.com/miluk.htm> (UK)
- <http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwartwo/> (USA)

## **DFC Chapter in Oregon?**

Does anyone know if there is a DFC chapter in Oregon, or Washington? Web site, POC, meetings?

## **Aerial Gunner Claims**

Last issue an article about a TBF gunner who was credited with two kills in the Pacific was unusual in getting credit; in the ETO lots more gunner claims filed and in a book I

read where a B-17 gunner was credited with 7 – but is there any definitive list showing claims and credits to aerial gunners?

If people who put in claims could you send me the number you claimed and what you were awarded (or know where to find out this info) please send any information that you have to me. Chapter members are especially requested to send me this info so we can add that into your record.

There is a book for the US Navy claims by Frank Olynyk's which includes some gunner victories.

How did the British handle this – credit to the crew or to the person?

## **iPhone App for WW II Japanese Aircraft**

WORLD WAR II AIRPLANES / ZERO FIGHTER is an iPhone application developed and sold by Headway Inc. with the express permission of Zokeisha Publications Ltd., the owner of the copyright of the original book *The Great Book of World War II Airplanes*. Continuing on from the Zero fighter, Headway is planning to develop a series of iPhone applications for a number of the other great airplanes featured in *The Great Book of World War II Airplanes*, such as the P38 Lightning, the P-51 Mustang, etc. A Japanese edition of the present application is scheduled to be available within 2010.

[http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/permalink/?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20100120005688&newsLang=en](http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/permalink/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20100120005688&newsLang=en)

[Editor's note: I have the original books.]

## **Iwo Jima Spotter Pilot and Plane Reunited**

Tom Rozga flew an L-5 Stinson as an artillery spotter over Iwo Jima – and that plane is still around and flying.

Rozga plans to attend a reunion of the survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima in February in California. The aircraft owner, Polley plans to bring the plane to that reunion event.

<http://www.thevillagesdailysun.com/articles/2010/01/22/news/news02.txt>

## **Fly as in WW II Air Adventure at Pooler**

Down in Savanna you can become part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force for three days by paying \$1,941 and become an aircrew on a B-17.

The company that puts this on re-creates mission planning, dance etc as if it is 1943 and gets you into a flight simulator for you "mission" but afterwards a real B-17 – *The Liberty Belle* – you go flying for an hour and a half. WW II Adventure is the company and only mission planned so far is on January 29-31. Other dates announced at random – just like in the war. <http://www.wwiadventure.com/>

## **Snap! Crackle! Pop! – out without a chute**

In January of 1943, Magee was a ball turret gunner in a B-17 Flying Fortress on a bombing run on the Atlantic coast of Nazi-occupied France. During the raid, his plane, called the "Snap! Crackle! Pop!", took enemy fire and broke up over the U-boat yards of St. Nazaire. Acting quickly, Magee escaped his turret and jumped from the flaming bomber without a parachute. Because of the altitude, Magee lost consciousness mid-fall before smashing through the glass roof of St. Nazaire's train station. Hours later, he awoke to find German doctors putting him back together. His injuries included a broken right leg and ankle, a nearly severed right arm, and 28 shrapnel wounds from shards of glass.

Dr. Seth Izenberg, a trauma specialist at Legacy Emmanuel Hospital in Portland, Ore., says that while a fall from 20,000 feet sounds incredible, the extreme height makes little difference. "Anything above 10 or 12 stories and you've reached terminal velocity. So a fall from 20,000 feet sounds dramatic, but there's really no difference from a 500-foot fall."

[http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/air\\_space/4344037.html?nav=RSS20&src=syn&dom=yah\\_buzz&mag=pop](http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/air_space/4344037.html?nav=RSS20&src=syn&dom=yah_buzz&mag=pop)

In 1944 a tail turret gunner jumped from his aircraft in the middle of winter also without a parachute – falling through pine trees then into a large snow drift – he walked out, got captured and then was asked where his parachute was and stated he had none. Not believing him the guards make him go back to where he fell, discovered it was true – then he made the guards sign statements attesting that he did indeed land uninjured without a parachute – he knew no one would believe him.

## **Keeping In Touch – Radio ground crews**

U.S. Army Air Corps Sgt. Murray Dunst repaired the radios of P-40s in China during WW II. As part of the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force stationed at Chungking the unit he supported was formed from the disbanded AVG squadron on 4 July 1942.

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100129/NEWS01/1290309/Dunst+kept+P-40+fighter+planes+communicating>

## **Yogi Berra hits a home run on D-Day**

The Hall of Famer slugger manned a machine gun on one of the rocket ships that launched from the USS Bayfield. He was part of the Normandy assault force that used rockets against the German defenses before the men in the 1<sup>st</sup> wave Higgins boats when ashore. There is a book out about this very small group of specialized Navy men called "Rocket Men".

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100120/NEWS01/1200314>

## **Local Chapter News and Groups**

### ***Archive Update***

Tom is busy collecting and scanning in new documents to put into the physical storage as well as putting them onto the web site for others to access.

I now have both a 16 mm and an 8 mm projector so that I can transfer film into digital format by projecting it onto my movie screen and filming that with my mini-DV camera and then transferring that into digital format. This is how I got Wally Groce's original 16 mm gun camera film into digital format.

### ***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.

### ***Evergreen Museum***

*Member Appreciation Day on February 27, 2010*

8 am breakfast in the Aviation Museum followed by a members-only presentation by John Collins, the Paper Airplane Guy, at 8:45. RSVP required for breakfast. Call 503-434-4007 or email [membership@sprucegoose.org](mailto:membership@sprucegoose.org)

### ***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.

### ***Breakfast at Twin Oaks Airpark***

EAA chapter 105 <http://www.eaa105.org/> holds a breakfast at Twin Oaks Airpark [www.twinoaksairpark.com](http://www.twinoaksairpark.com) on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS meeting

on November 7<sup>th</sup>. It is a pancake breakfast so you could go there and then still get to the 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

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>

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