

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society News Update April 2010



Next Meeting is on **May 8**. 10 AM till 2 PM.

History News

Readers, where's your story?

Talk about the 23rd Fighter Group at Seattle Museum of Flight

On April 3, at 2 PM “Chennault’s Sharks” lecture by book author Carl Molesworth will be giving a presentation about the 23rd Fighter Group. This unit was the successor to the AVG – American Volunteer Group - “Flying Tigers” after they were disbanded on 4 July 1942 in China. The author will sign books after the lecture.

Hops & Props takes place on the 24th of April, 7-10 PM.



Need to Practice some Aerial Gunnery?

In the March 20th issue of “Shotgun News” www.shotgunnews.com on page 42 is an article where people can try their hand at shooting down aircraft with WW II (or any era) type machine guns – model airplanes that is. “Actually, the ultimate challenge is shooting down a plane that’s shooting at you.”

It gives a brief history of WWII gunnery training and then talks about how they built RC model aircraft and then fly them along the range giving people a chance on trying to hit them.

In Tillamook Air Museum on the Oregon coast there is a real WW II RC model that was used by ships’ gunners for target practice. Scaled to fly and act like a real aircraft at 2 miles out, but only flying around 500 yards from a ship, one ship banned use of it since none of their gunners shot it down during practice.

“Pappy” Devine in Vietnam

In '67-'68 in RVN, I flew several artillery missions with Gerald "Pappy" Devine. After one such mission he was awarded the DFC, one of 12.

I got to know him well. He flew combat missions in three conflicts. I was told by a high ranking DA DCSOPS official at a Rotary club meeting that Pappy had enough wartime service that he retired as a W4 and was advanced to LTC at age 60. He told me that Pappy had died (I think (93 or so.)

Pappy told me he went to Canada as a 17 year old and joined the RCAF and flew in the battle of Britain in Hawker Hurricanes-then shipped over to the US Air Corps where he flew P-51s and later P-47s in Asia. He also flew combat in Korea in F-51s and F-80s. He was in the Air Force Reserve. When Viet Nam started, the Air Force wanted him to fly a desk so he went to Sen. Mike Munroney (sp) who got him an appointment as a Warrent Officer in the Army. He flew three tours in RVN in Birddogs and was later assigned as curator of the Army Aviation Museum at Ft Rucker. He had enough war time service plus the last tour to retire as a CW4. The DCSOPS guy I told you about told me that at age 60, Pappy was advanced to his USAFR rank of LTC.

I believe my info to be as accurate as 40 some years will allow.

Don Mohr, COL USAR RET

Tail Gunner S/SGT Robert Otto's Book

In a 2008 "Milk Run" an article about tail gunner SSGT Robert Otto, of Everett WA, talked about him going to Austria for the dedication of a painting called "LIBERATOR", honoring American airmen who helped liberate Austria.

He subsequently wrote a book of his experiences called "A WALK WITH GOD". It is available by contacting him at 425-355-1505 or via Amazon at http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=A+Walk+with+God+by+Robert+Otto&x=11&y=26

“The Pacific”

HBO is showing a 10 part series about the Pacific War, like what they did with the ETO ground combat series "A Band of Brothers". However, unlike a lot of WW II movies made during and through the 1970s, this series does not have WW II veterans playing WW II veterans.

From Phil Richart:

“A fair number of actors and athletes were involved in D-Day, the strangest story is the actor Richard Todd who played Major Howard at Pegasus Bridge in "The Longest Day", at one point he speaks to another actor playing . . . Richard Todd! He was a junior officer at the bridge! ”

Research Question

Please help me to identify an old pin that I recently inherited. It is silver with black enamel. The image appears to be a walking eagle, holding a torch in one talon.

I found that this image, carrying a torch was used on a patch for the Royal Air Force, flying training school. The motto below reads: "Proof by Trial". I cannot find any info on the net. Thank you, Frances Panczyk, RN.

The Dogs of War

World War II, just like WW I, trained and used dogs in combat, especially in the Pacific.

Dogs are not allowed to awarded medals – officially anyway.

http://ricks.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/02/19/rebecca_s_war_dog_of_the_week_chi_ps_the_brave

Three Brothers from North Dakota

Three went to war, one came home at the end of the war.

Raymond Check was part of the 306th BG.

http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/columnists/article_ec816ea0-d72f-11de-8d1d-001cc4c002e0.html

Maj. Arthur Chin follow-up

From Phil Richart:

I had the privilege of participating in two interviews with Arthur Chin several years ago, it was interesting to hear him describe flying Arados (likely Ar 65s) and the Heinkel "Ein-und-funzig" (German for 51), he also flew an aircraft from the school at Schleissheim to Berlin for the fly-over at the Olympics although he didn't participate in the actual event. All of his victories were in biplanes, Curtiss Hawk II and Gloster Chinese Gladiator Mk I. In the course of the second interview it was noted that he had dropped out of High School to learn to fly and never graduated. The Principal of Benson High School was contacted and a review of his student records (They still had them!) revealed he was short only one point towards graduation. The ground school portion of learning to fly alone satisfied that requirement. Being commissioned in the Chinese Air Force and achieving the rank of Major and his various accomplishments was over the top. As a sidelight, on arriving in China the Americans found difficulty in joining the Chinese Air Force (The Chinese INVENTED bureaucracy!) They discovered that

each Provincial War Lord had an Air Force so they joined the Canton Air Force! It was as a member of that organization that Chin went to Germany.

U.S. Library of Congress Organization of Library

If you are doing research this may help you.

D: History (general)

DA: Great Britain	DK: Former Soviet Union
DB: Austria	DL: Scandinavia
DC: France	DP: Iberian Peninsula
DD: Germany	DQ: Switzerland
DE: Mediterranean	DR: Balkan Peninsula
DF: Greece	DS: Asia
DG: Italy	DT: Africa
DH: Low Countries	DU: Oceania
DJ: Netherlands	DX: Gypsies

Aircraft Found along Oregon Coast

In 1945 this Curtiss SB2C "Helldiver" crashed on a ferry flight, and it seems to now been found again by loggers near Rockaway beach on March 18th.

The Helldiver, also known as "the Beast," but Christian Gurling, curator at the Tillamook Air Museum said it was also "plagued by problems."

"In the earlier planes, the pilots were told to not dive for fear the planes would fall apart," said Gurling. "Which wasn't good for a dive bomber."



Helldiver found again above Rockaway Beach. Oregon State Police photo.

Charlie Erickson – 483 BG Top Gunner

On July 18, 1944, his group was assigned to attack Memmingen, Germany where an aircraft plant was located for a total of 155 B-17s. Like those out groups flying out of England, bad weather forced many of the groups back, caused a missed rendezvous with the fighter escort – and thus 14 out of the 26 B-17s fell to enemy fighters.

Bailing out Charlie thought he did not have a parachute, but in the breakup of the B-17 as he fell through the nose he grabbed a chute lying in there and thus had it – but only after he had fell a few thousand feet and then realized he a chest chute on.

http://www.newsok.com/world-war-ii-bomber-crew-sole-survivor-remembers-close-calls/article/3439486?custom_click=masthead_topten

Youngest British World War II service casualty identified

Lying about his age so he could join, Reginald Earnshaw joined the merchant marine at 14 and was dead at 14 years and 152 days when he was killed on the SS North Devon on 6 July 1941 by attacking German bombers.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8498113.stm

LORAN-C Shutting Down

This Long Range Navigation system was developed during World War II so that better radio navigation over water was possible. The Coast Guard shut them down after President Obama called the system obsolete and that GPS has replaced this old system. There is no backup system for GPS.

19 of the 24 stations were shut down on February 8, 2010.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/02/08/loran.navigation.shutdown/>

Kermit Tyler – “Don’t worry about it.” Dead at 96

What makes that phrase so rememberable – at least to the people who have seen “Tora Tora Tora” movie, is that he is the man who told the radar operators that phrase on December 7, 1941 based upon the assumption that they were B-17s flying in from the mainland.

It was his 2nd day on the job, with no instructions and no training overseeing the new radar station on Oahu.

He died January 23, 2010.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/26/us/26tyler.html>

Peter Graves Dead at 83

Best known for his part in the “Mission Impossible” TV series, but his breakout role was in the movie “Stalag 17” where he was, actually, a German spy trying to stop breakouts out of the POW camp. William Holden was also in the movie as the main character which the story revolved around.

WASP Pilots Get Their Gold

A true gold medal, The Congressional Gold Medal, made in honor of the WW II WASP pilots will go on display somewhere in the Smithsonian Institution, while each of the remaining will get a bronze version.

38 pilots died during WW II, almost 2000 were recruited and trained, some 1100 or so are left alive. Only in 1977 were the women given veteran status.

<http://www.enterprisewspapers.com/article/20100314/NEWS01/703149878/0/ETPZoneLT>

Angry Puppy

At FedEx with have the MD-11 which of course we call the "Mad Dog" but the MD-10, being a DC-10 with an MD-11 cockpit, is called the "Angry Puppy"

Mustangs & Mustangs Features Fighter Aces in Florida April 17

Third in the [Living History Symposium Series, "Victory in the Sky"](#) will also take place Saturday, April 17, featuring American Fighter Aces of World War II. This elite strata of combat pilots shot down five or more hostile aircraft in air-to-air combat, becoming living examples of courage and service. Legendary P-51 Ace Col. Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson will be headlining the panel of heroes during the interactive symposium.

Don't miss this chance to meet several WWII Aces and see their glorious chariot of choice: the North American P-51 Mustang. This symposium is presented in conjunction with [Mustangs & Mustangs](#).

Local Chapter News

Archive Update

I now have both an 8 MM and 16 MM movie projector – thanks to Wally Groce (63rd and 61st Sqd 56th FG). Using these projectors, I am now able to project movies onto my movie screen then videotape the image with my DVD camera and thus digitize them. This makes them available within our archive on CD / DVD, and clips of them can be posted onto the web. Thus, they can be shared without having to loan out the original film.

This is how I transferred Wally's gun camera film. Digitizing the film allows me to edit the digital version and enhance the detail that was always in the original film but was too dark to see due to the incorrect exposure set on the gun camera or due to bad processing in the base lab.

Local Aviation 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.

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

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/](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. The Bomber Complex, Inc. 13515 S.E. McLoughlin Blvd.; Milwaukie, Oregon 97222; 503-659-9306

The B-17 restoration project has its own web site at:

<http://www.b17wingsoffreedom.org/>

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