

# “MILK RUN”

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



Next Meeting is on **August 7**. 10 AM till 2 PM

### History News

*Readers, where's your story? See the last page.*

### Local WW II Authors

In the Oregon / Washington 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Chapter area we have a number WW II book authors.

Clayton Kelly Gross wrote "Live Bait"; ISBN-10: 1592991866 ISBN-13: 9781592991860. He was in the 355<sup>th</sup> FG and ended the war with 6 victories. You can buy it from him directly. 2306 SE Spyglass Dr, Vancouver, Wa 98683-5102. 360-254-2829  
[www.wv2livebait.com](http://www.wv2livebait.com) \$29.95 plus Shipping/Handling \$4.50.



Al Gould wrote "Millions of Ghosts Plead . . . Don't Forget". Al flew in the 8<sup>th</sup> was shot down on 7 January 1944 and was POW # 2767 at Stalag Luft I. ISBN 0-9659081-8-6. Hartley Press, PO Box 2657, Gearhart, Oregon 97138. \$25 plus shipping.

C.M. Graham wrote "Under the Samurai Sword" about his POW experiences from the fall of Bataan till his liberation at the end of the war. He spoke at our 8<sup>th</sup> AF meeting a few years ago. Self published back in 1998. He was with the US Army, Field Artillery, Battery "G", 60th CA (AA) Ft. Mills - Corregidor, Camp Cabanatuan, Fukuoka camp #17 (Omuta). C. M. Graham; 1942 SW Canyon Drive, Unit 212; Redmond, Oregon 97756-7146 Phone: 503-789-3969. \$25.00, includes shipping.

### Col Millett lead the very the last US Bayonet Charges

Col Lewis L Millett died at the age of 88 last November 14, 2009. Having served in three wars, WW II, Korea, and Vietnam, he won a Congressional Medal of Honor for leading the very last known US bayonet charge during the Korean War with M1 Garand rifles. They charged up Hill 180 near Osan on February 7, 1951 and captured it and then held it. The battle is now known at Battle of Bayonet Hill. He had lead an earlier bayonet charge on February 5. He was a Captain at the time of Easy Company, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

Hill 180 is located near the distinguished visitor's quarters above the 51st Fighter Wing Headquarters, Bldg. 1097, 7<sup>th</sup> Air Force, Korea.

## National WASP Museum

There is now a WASP museum at Interstate 20 at 210 Loop 170, Avenger Field, Sweetwater Texas. The museum is there but their mailing address is P.O. Box 96679, Washington DC 20090-6679. WASP web site address is [www.waspmuseum.org](http://www.waspmuseum.org) .

Over 25,000 applied, 1,830 were accepted, 1,074 got wings. 12,650 planes were flown from one field to another by the WASP.

Speaking of WASPS, Amanda Brown Meachem went flying again in an AT-6 (SNJ) at the age of 93 down in Florida on April 23, 2010.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/04/23/1595641/surviving-wasp-93-fulfills-dream.html>

## End of WW II

Nothing reminds the people of Russia of the end of WW II like the May 9th parade in Moscow – which for the first time US, British, French troops were allowed to march in. 10,000+ Russian Federation soldiers marched in that parade. Over 102,000 soldiers marched in various parades throughout the country.

One of the best museums to visit in Russia is the Volgograd (Stalingrad) museum. No displays are in English, so find someone who reads Russian or find a good translator program if you go.

## Bud Mahurin, Fighter pilot, dead at 91

Flying in both WW II and Korea – where he was shot down strafing a truck in his F-86, he was one of the best fighter leaders during WW II. He had 20.5 confirmed victories in WW II in both the ETO and Pacific.

“I should never have gone after that truck,” Mr. Mahurin told the Gannett News Service in 2006. “You never want to trade a \$500,000 airplane for a \$50,000 truck. I figured, well, I’d go shoot that up and then I’ll have a good story to tell the boys at the officers’ club when I get back to base. And of course I never got back.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/16/us/16mahurin.html>



Signal Corps Photo

## Edward Uhl, Co-Inventor of Bazooka, Dies at 92

He was in the Ordnance Corps after he enlisted in 1941 and in 1942 came up with the idea of using a tube to hold the 60mm rocket that propelled the shaped charge grenade that would hit a tank. The name “Bazooka” came from the music instrument that comedian Bob Burns used in his act.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/17/business/17uhl.html?src=busln>

## **Pamela Murphy, Wife of Audie Murphy, Died April 8, aged 90**

She worked at the Sepulveda VA hospital for over 30 years.

An Audie Murphy web site: <http://www.warfoto.com/AudieMurphy.htm>

## **Seattle Flying Heritage Museum Rolls out their Tanks**

The Flying Heritage Museum <http://www.flyingheritage.com/> will roll out two of their AFVs – Armored Fighting Vehicles – a T-34/85 WW II Russian tank and a German tank destroyer. The museum is located at Paine Field at Everett. The Hetzer Jagdpanzer 38(t) Tank Destroyer is the other AFV that will drive out on display this memorial day weekend. The 38(t) was built on the Czech chassis tank type 38 – hence the name.



Jagdpanzer 38(t) "Hetzer" Tank Destroyer.  
Flying Heritage Collection photo.

If you are in Seattle on Memorial day you can see some special vehicle events. The Puget Sound Military Vehicle Collectors Club will be there, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Memorial Day. The planned schedule is to drive and fire the T-34 tank at noon, fire a Flak 88 artillery gun at 1 p.m. and drive and fire the Hetzer at 2 p.m.

[http://blog.seattlepi.com/aerospace/archives/206632.asp?from=blog\\_last3](http://blog.seattlepi.com/aerospace/archives/206632.asp?from=blog_last3)

## **If in England and at Duxford in 2010**

July 10-11 Flying Legends

August 20 American Air Day

September 4-5 The Battle of Britain Air Show

October 10 Autumn Air Show

[www.americanairmuseum.com](http://www.americanairmuseum.com)

## **New Memorial in UK for B-17 Crew of B-17G 42-31123 95th Bomb Group**

It was dedicated on May 15<sup>th</sup> by the local 95<sup>th</sup> BG members as well as US and UK military personnel. The crew were killed when the plane crashed after taking off from Horham. Kenneth B Rongstad; Warren M Strawn; Richard E Diete; Joseph F Spicer; Gail A Richmond Junior; Gordon V Sorensen; Charles E Phinney; Louis M Mirabel; Julius W Torok; and Kenneth Cosby were the crewmembers.

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If anyone has information about the crew, photos etc, contact Janet Norman-Phillips at [pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@redlingfield.suffolk.gov.uk)

A flyover of a DC-3 was done during the ceremony.

## Willow Run Documentary about the Women Workers

Betty Oelke was a bride at 18 and a war-worker building B-24s at 18 and

1/3. Spending 6 days a week, plus overtime, building as fast as possible B-24 Liberators at the Ford operated Willow Run plant.

A slide show about Willow Run plant can be found here. 291 images.

[http://public.fotki.com/Kos/members\\_photo\\_galle/wiillow\\_run\\_bomber/?cmd=fs\\_slideshow](http://public.fotki.com/Kos/members_photo_galle/wiillow_run_bomber/?cmd=fs_slideshow)

<http://www.annarbor.com/business-review/86-year-old-belleville-woman-recalls-days-working-in-willow-run-bomber-plant-to-help-war-effort/#comments>



B-24s – and a B-17 - at the Willow Run plant after the war awaiting their turn to be scrapped. AnnArbor.com file photo.

Over 8000 B24's were built at the Willow Run complex during WWII.

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the B-17 at Boeing Field

If you are around Seattle on June 17<sup>th</sup>, a Thursday, there will be an anniversary party and hanger dance at the Museum of flight for the B-17.

Boeing has a B-17F that has been restored.

### B-17E “Desert Rat”

If you are in the mid-west you can visit a B-17E that is being restored.  
Arrange via EAA Chapter 22 and

Contacts:

B17 project: Mike Kellner. Phone: 815-568-9464 Email: [B17man@t6b.com](mailto:B17man@t6b.com)

EAA 22: Elroy Hilbert. Phone: 815-543-473 Email: [elroye61102@yahoo.com](mailto:elroye61102@yahoo.com)

EAA 1414: Lee Hilbert Phone: 847-652-3526 Email: [leehilbert@comcast.net](mailto:leehilbert@comcast.net)

The story of the B-17E s/n 41-2595 “Desert Rat” can be read here:

<http://www.aerovintage.com/rat-4.htm>

Airport Info: Ferris RLA (62IL) on Chicago Sectional. 4 miles South of Marengo  
20805 E. Anthony Road; Marengo, IL 60152 Phone: 815-558-0581

Air Nav Link: <http://www.airnav.com/airport/62IL>

## Four Course Radio Range Navigation

Here is a video created and posted onto YouTube on how the 1940 era four course radio range worked – using a WORKING four point radio range system created at K43TN airport from Airlines Transport Communication corporate aircraft.

“The original four course ranges were very large because they operated in the very low frequency range, requiring 200 foot high towers with wide spacing. This model system operates in the high frequency 28 MHz band, so it is much smaller.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-VqtNY8vpw>

On my web site I have a verbal explanation of how it works along with other radio navigation aids of the WW II era.

Related news: the LORAN station in Alaska was demolished in April since the 1000' tall antenna was rusting out and they wanted a controlled destruction of it.

## Spiegel Online – Photos

Spiegel is a news magazine that has been around for a long time. Since the re-unification of the two Germanys archives from the East have been found and are now being reviewed and in some cases published. Here are some photos taken during the final days and soon after of what was left of Berlin in 1945.

Some very graphic images.

## **Local Chapter News**

### ***Archive Update***

<http://www.8thafhsoregon.com/archive/Oregon-Chapter/index.aspx#toc>

10 sets of WW II information has been placed onto the chapter's web site in May.

## **Local Aviation 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.

### ***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. 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.

## **Send Stories and documents to be Borrowed / Archived**

If you have items that you wish to share with others, they can be loaned to the Oregon Chapter, scanned and catalogued and then returned to you. You can always donate them permanently to the chapter if you wish. Send all items to Tom Philo.

## **Contact Information E-mail and Postal**

Secretary 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS of Oregon

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Beaverton, Oregon 97007-6877

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