

“MILK RUN”

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



Chapter meeting is on **February 12, 2011**. 10 AM till 2 PM

History News

Readers, where's your story? See the last page on how to share history with others.

A radio Station just for Military War Birds

Welcome to the radio station devoted to military aviation. It's our goal to preserve the stories and history of the brave men and women who flew and fly military aircraft.

WarbirdRadio.com

Dantes Daughter

Martin Swift's grandfather Thomas Raeburn (WO) flew in Avro Lancasters during WW II and he is trying to locate the artwork that adorned his grandfathers' a/c "Dantes Daughter". Thomas was a tail gunner and survived the war earning a DFO from Bomber Command.

The tail gunner was often the person who determined if the bomber would survive a Luftwaffe night fighter attack – if a tail gunner saw the German fighter they often survived.

If you have a photo, or know how to obtain a photo contact me, Tom Philo.

Col Robert L Howard – MOH

On 23 December 2009 70 year old Robert Howard died at the age of 70. He was the most highly decorated soldier of the Vietnam War. He was nominated for three MOH citations and was awarded one. He also had two awards of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, four awards of the Legion of Merit, four Bronze Star Medals and ***eight Purple Hearts***.

He did five tours of duty as a Green Beret.

After he retired from the military, and the Veterans Administration, he went on tour to Iraq and Afghanistan talking to the troops there.

On the USS Belleau Wood During WW II

Joe Pajestka was a machinist mate on the this aircraft carrier during WW II including the only time it took damage during the war from a kamikaze aircraft which killed 92 fellow sailors.

There were roughly 1600 total men on a fleet type aircraft carrier at any one time.

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/10/memories_of_kamikaze_hit_still.html

Flying as part of Squadron 222 of MAG-14 in the South Pacific

Hugh Winnell flew the Chance-Vought F4U Corsair during WW II. However, he spent most of his time dive-bombing in the Philippines and on Okinawa – not in air to air combat.

<http://www.petoskeynews.com/news/null-world-war-ii-dive-bomb-pilot-i-111210,0,6186926.story>

Twice Sunk Always Afloat

The only good thing about being sunk during WW II was that you got 30 days leave afterwards – if you survived. Joseph W. "Bill" Connolly Jr was on the USS Lexington when it was sunk by our own ships after being damaged by the Japanese aircraft and could not be safely towed back to Australia so it then was sunk by US Destroyers; and then the ship he was on, USS Block Island, was sunk in the Atlantic. He could not outswim life and died at the age of 88.

http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/top_stories/x1414148025/Natick-man-who-survived-two-sinkings-in-World-War-II-dies

431st Fighter Squadron History

As and Intelligence Specialist with the 431st P-38 Squadron in the Pacific Sgt Hyman Furra was in a special position to record an accurate history of the squadron in their fight from from new Guinea to the Philippines.

Maj. Richard Bong and Maj. Thomas McGuire were in the unit and Charles Lindberg also came through the unit training pilots on fuel management.

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20101027/NEWS13/10260361/Intel-sergeant-kept-history-of-squadron>

817th Air Engineer Squadron

Anyone know what fighter (or other) squadron this unit supported? The base(s) and locations they were at or any other information on the 817th Air Engineers Squadron? Contact: Gary Davis at garyd@sturgillcpa.com

MSgt Michael Benic

All this person knows is that his uncle was in the 8th AF – anyone have any information on him contact: Dave Cortese dacortese@bellsouth.net

I did an enlistment search at the NARA site at <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/fielded-search.jsp?dt=893&tf=F&cat=WR26&bc=,sl> and found no info on him, so he could have been a prewar (pre-1938) Army and thus would not be in those records.

Liberators over Norwich now for sale

This is book about the 458 BG (H). List price is \$69.99 From of Amazon it sells for \$51.09

Amazon Link: [Liberators over Norwich: The 458th Bomb Group \(H\), 8th USAAF at Horsham St. Faith 1944-1945](#)

Michael Pungercar still working on his book

Technical formatting problems prevented Mike from publishing his book as desired in November –seems that some publishers have specific formats that the book has to be in and so he had to re-layout the book in the publishers format – which would take a few months.

More British Foreign Officer Archives Released

New documents released detailed some of the fears that the Germans had been stockpiling goods and combat troops in the Alps region to prolong the war. It also alludes to the deception campaign that the Germans did to promote that to change the attack strategy against Germany itself from a Blitzkrieg type attack into the one that actually occurred – a broad front push everywhere.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gypfSHLdAfJiCmQTAglBmSFX6BgQ?docId=CNG.d207688a31f4264e0add8f6d733c82e6.d1>

“Birdcage” Corsair recovered from Lake Michigan

After 60+ years an early model Chance-Vought F4UA Corsair was raised from the depths of Lake Michigan in order to be restored.

The great lakes hosted stationary freighters converted into aircraft carriers as a way to ensure that pilots could train without having to in a combat zone.

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=155259&catid=81>

AT-6 Crash Drowns Pilot – Passenger Escapes

After reporting engine trouble Melville Dill, 73, was returning to the airport at Fritchburg PA when he came up short and landed in the water and the plane flipped onto it back.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1327673/World-War-Two-plane-crash-kills-pilot-73-attempts-emergency-landing.html>

“Sinking the Rising Sun”

William E. "Bill" Davis published a book about his combat experience during WW II including dropping a bomb on the Japanese carrier Zuikaku with his F6F Grumman “Hellcat”.

Davis ended the war with 7 confirmed kills and the Navy Cross for hitting the Zuikaku.

Amazon Link:

[Sinking The Rising Sun: Dog Fighting & Dive Bombing in World War II](#)

Joseph Armanini -- a Member of the “Bloody 100th”

As a lead bombardier he had clean air and was the first to see both the Luftwaffe fighter planes coming in and the flak they got to fly through during his 25 missions over Europe. Considering he was one of the original members of the group and one of the very few to make it to that 25 mission number – 95% of the members who originally were part of the group with him did not finish a tour – most finished as a POW.

Armanini's first mission was to Bremen, Germany, on June 25, 1943, aboard a plane named El Pisstofo. The Bloody 100th lost seven planes that day.

"It was just a matter of luck that you finished," Armanini said. "If you ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time You had to be lucky."

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_16509428?IADID=Search-www.santacruzsentinel.com-www.santacruzsentinel.com

A PBY gets it wings back

“Gerral’s Girl” is a PBY-5A Catalina flying boat at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station -- now has its wings back on. The PBY is now an educational display after 10 years of restoration work.

The PBY did search and rescue, U-Boat hunting, anti-shipping at night in the Pacific, medical evacuation, cargo hauling – about anything someone could think of they make the PBY do it.

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/whidbey-pi/archives/227663.asp>

1941 Historical Aircraft Group Museum

If you drive along Route 63 and see the Geneseo NY campus on one side of the road look the other side and you will see a dirt road leading to a very unique museum. They have a C-47 that dropped men of the 82nd Airborne division into Normandy.

They have the 1990 stand-in movie version of the “Memphis Belle” in the proper B-17F configuration.

<http://media.www.thelamron.com/media/storage/paper1150/news/2010/11/04/KnightLife/1941-Historical.Aircraft.Group.Museum.Preserves.Gems.Of.World.War.Ii-3954528.shtml>

<http://www.1941hag.org/>

Virtual Airplane Museum

Want to find out the specs and view images of every possible aircraft from every country in the world starting with the very first aircraft? Check out The Virtual Airplane Museum.

<http://www.aviastar.org/index2.html>

What is this part and why type of Aircraft?

A request from Howard Mariteragi SUPVR Wreckage Analysis JPAC at a WW II crash site in Poland from has pieces of an aircraft and are trying to figure out if it is a B-24 or B-17 or some other a/c.



There are a total of 7 images. If you have any idea how to ID these two and the other photos please contact me. These are posted onto the Oregon 8th AFHS Web site for viewing.

Go to:

<http://www.8thafhsoregon.com/misc/index.aspx> to view high resolution images of all 7 images. Contact me and or Howard with info. Howard's e-mail: Howard.Mariterag@JPAC.PACOM.MIL

If anyone has a detailed parts manual for B-17 or B-24 that would be most helpful!

Master Sargent Gerald W. Hansen 449 BG(H)

At the age 91 Mr Hansen died in Wisconsin, but he had served and will live on as part of the legacy of the 15th Air Force during the Second World War when it was in Italy.

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<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/article/20101130/OSH010301/11300352/Gerald-W-Hansen>

Number of B-24s Flyable Doubles – now 2 fly

The CAF B-24A is also now flying. It is doubtful if it will make it out of Texas for the full airshow circuit, but now there are two out of 18,000 that can fly: Collings Foundation and the Texas CAF Liberator are in the air.

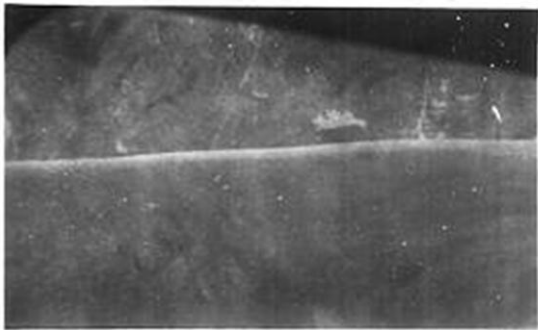
Flying Over D-Day Shores in France

Technical Sgt. Bob Schmidt of Kendallville was a radio operator who flew in both B-24s and B-17s including a flight over the D-Day invasion beaches on 6 June 1944.

He flew 31 combat missions in bombers and then flew in cargo planes in the South Pacific.

http://www.fwdailynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9420:Remembering-the-air-war-over-Europe&catid=87:dennis-nartker

Vaughn Erickson of Vancouver Washington flew in his B-17 in the Utah Beach landing area on D-Day and took this picture of his group's target.



Taken from the Bomb bay of a B-17 near UTAH beach by Vaughn Erickson.

8th Air Force Medals

The Eighth's personnel earned 17 Medals of Honor; 220 Distinguished Service Crosses; 850 Silver Stars; 7,000 Purple Hearts (wounds) and 46,000 Air Medals. An Air Medal was awarded to a person after flying 5 combat missions; then a pin was awarded and added to the air medal for every 5 missions thereafter.

261 fighter aces and 305 gunner aces are recognized from the Eighth in World War Two.

Col John B Parker – B-17 Navigator

Assigned to the 467 BG(H) on 22 July as a replacement crew. He started combat in August of 1944 and finished his tour in February of 1944 after logging 240 hours in combat.

Twice his B-17 had both port engines shot out and made it home. His formation was also attacked by the German Me-262 jet fighter twice during his tour.

<http://www2.hickoryrecord.com/news/2010/nov/11/wwi-aviator-tells-surviving-air-war-over-europe-ar-529005/>

Searching in Germany for Lt Roy Steadman

A family goes to Germany in search of their relative killed in the war. Lt Steadman was a bombardier in the 44th BG(H) flying in B-24 Liberators when his plane was shot down on April 8th 1944.

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Earning a Silver Star while wounded

On a "Milk Run" to an airfield target in France before D-Day Bombardier Lt Michael Connery figured it was going to be a easy since it was reported only 4 guns were around the airfield target – then his plane takes 4 hits as he makes the bomb run.

8th Air Force; 2nd Air Division; 392nd Bomb Group; 577th, 578th and 579th bomb squadrons.



<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20101113/NEWS13/11130301/Bombardier-s-bravery-earns-him-Silver-Star>

Mission To Berlin – Robert F Dorr’s book on pre-order

Robert Dorr’s book about the February 3, 1945 mission to Berlin Germany is scheduled to be published in march of 2011 but it can be pre-ordered on Amazon.com.

[Mission to Berlin: The American Airmen Who Struck the Heart of Hitler's Reich](#)

Dorr’s previous book last year was [Hell Hawks!](#) About P-47 pilots of the 9th Air Force in their air escort and ground attack missions in Europe.

A book about the March 6, 1944 mission:

[Target Berlin: Mission 250: 6 March 1944 \(Greenhill Military Paperbacks\)](#)

Looking for the Crew of A/C 42-31979 – MACR 2767

This crew was part of the 306th BG(H) 368th Squadron flying out of Station 111 (Thurleigh) and was shot down on February 25, 1944 at 1255 PM on the way to bomb Augsburg by Bf-109s.

If anyone knows if any of the crew is alive:

Bayless, Charles M 0-685944

Crowl, Clarence J 0-686252

Kalish, Michael 0-685635

Laughlin, James H. Jr 0-741191

Vought, William C 139822791

EHudson, Carl E 18166196

Willey, Kenneth E 15332706

Christian, William C 17080591

Please contact Martin Karcher at m.karcher@gmx.net

He is doing research on this aircraft in Germany.

A Dog Tag Comes Home

Hank Sarnow was in one of the planes that were shot down on Aug 17, 1943 as part of the Schweinfurt ball bearing plant bombing phase of the "Double Strike" raid that also targeted the Regensburg aircraft factory whose crews flew onto North Africa as the first "shuttle" mission and landed there after the bombing. Flying in the B-17 named "Our Bay Bee" they were shot down over Belgium and he spent the next few months evading the Germans before he made it to Spain.

Hank died in 1999.

Last month a package arrived from Europe with his dog tag in it.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/11/11/3176486/wwii-airmans-dog-tags-show-up.html>

Doris Elkington Hamaker – WASP

Assigned to Stockton Airfield in 1944 they could not figure what to do with her – she was the first one to be assigned there. She ended up as being the test pilot of repaired aircraft (which could be dangerous depending on what was repaired) and being a check pilot for other pilots needing to log time.

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101111/A_NEWS/11110337/-1/NEWSMAP

William T. Follis Jr. – Shot down over Madgeburg

Up in Bellingham Washington William T Follis Jr lives now but at one time he lived in the nose of a Boeing B-17s as a bombardier – till he went to Madgeburg, which is about 75 miles west of Berlin on May 12, 1944; where he was shot down. He ended up in Stalag Luft 1.

"The German interrogation officer was a one-legged major who had lost his leg at the Russian Front. He had a rather complete file on me, including knowledge of my family, my father's business, when and where I was married, along with articles from The Bellingham Herald with respect to my military training and when I was sent overseas."

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/11/06/1698419/bombardier-bill-follis-jr-shot.html>

Celebrating Christmas with Colored Flak Bursts

As a waist gunner flying in B-17s with the 15th Air Force 97 BG(H) 340th Squadron Henry Yekel was aloft on Christmas day when instead of the normal black puffs of flak greeting them on the way into the target the Germans put up flak shells that burst with red and green colors.

http://www.reporterherald.com/news_story.asp?ID=30255

VWF Post 603

Audio recordings and written the transcripts of veteran stories of World War II by Jewish veterans.

Fighting against NAZIS while being Jewish was a special enhanced risk unique to these veterans. If captured it sometimes mattered which branch of the German military captured them and where. Toward the end of the war some NAZIS did try and single out Jewish POWs out the those captured but were usually rebuffed by those just captured to single out their Jewish members.

http://www.jewishjournal.com/veterans_day/article/the_jewish_war_veterans_of_post_603_20101109/

A Nose Gunner in the 460 BG(H) 15th AF

Leon Brady went from a ranch in Vernal Utah to being a gunner out of Spinazzola Italy flying 35 missions in B-24s. Included in that group of missions is one where they ran out of fuel and ditched their aircraft behind enemy lines, and they were able to get air-sea rescue to come land by them and bring them back to Spinazzola.

Their planes' unofficial nickname "Seldom Available" – because there was almost always something wrong with it they always went flying in some other aircraft.

<http://www.gillette-newsrecord.com/articles/2010/11/11/news/today/news00.txt>

Chinese Americans in the War

At the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center there is a small exhibit about the men who went to war from the Chinese community there. Like Leon Brady above, Edward Chan joined the military, however he became a bombardier, and like Brady, was assigned to the same 460th BG(H) in Italy and was there at the same time as Leon Brady.

Sgt Haryy Lim parachuted into Normandy as part of the 101st Airborne.

Harold Don, Wing Gee Lee, brothers Johnny and Loy Low, Harold Lim, Ray Lim, Paul Tom, Al Yee, Ray Tom. Also Jimmy Wong, Frank Lee, Chuck Gin, William Gin, Fung Wong, George Wong, Ray Quen and Don Wing all were in the military during WW II.

http://azstarnet.com/news/local/article_79446ed6-ae65-57d3-bcc0-7bcd0d30d9f8.html

A Museum Just for the B-24 Liberator

The Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum is home to the International B-24 Memorial Museum. They do not have a B-24, but they have 30 other aircraft on display.

They have as their mission a to tell the history of the design, planning, production and use of the Consolidate B-24 "Liberator".

18,479 Liberators were built (by various firms) and only two are flyable.

www.pawam.org

Zamperini's War

After their plane broke up in air in May of 1943 in the Pacific, Louis Zamperini and his pilot spent 7 weeks on a raft before finding land – and capture under the Japanese.

Thereafter two years of purposeful torture by the Japanese were experienced by both before the end of the war. This book tells of his experiences.

Pasquale "Patsy" Gerron – B-24 Gunner in China

Flying combat missions out of China, literally the end of the supply road for anything, to Hing Kong, Canton, Hanoi he fought Zeros, a nighttime jump out of the airplane when they ran out of fuel and other adventures in the Far East.

<http://www.morningjournal.com/articles/2010/11/11/news/mj3548024.txt?viewmode=default>

Lucky Bastard Club – Certificate earned February 3, 1945

Herb Taylor was the combat pilot of a B-24 at 20, and finished his 35th mission on February 3, 1945 at the age of 21.

His co-pilot Joseph Mulhern, kept a diary of their missions as part of the 389th BG(H) 566th Squadron flying B-24 Liberators out of England as part of the 8th Air Force.

“Mission No. 4 - Sept. 8, 1944, 7:45 a.m. Target: Karlsruhe, just east of Rhine, marshalling yard for Siegfried Line. Took off on instruments, bad weather, broke out about 15,000 feet. Wild scramble to form.

Had short circuit and wire fire. Thought we might join the Caterpillar Club. (Those who bail out using parachutes of silk, hence the name Caterpillar Club.)

Had to go to 24,000 feet to bomb. Accurate flak. About five holes in ship. Too close for comfort.”

<http://www.themountainmail.com/main.asp?SectionID=4&SubSectionID=4&ArticleID=20794>

Flying Brothers in the Same B-24 Squadron

Courtney and Earl Shanken were brothers with different jobs in the same B-24 unit flying out of England.

There were a number of brothers flying combat in the same unit, some even in the same aircraft.

Howard Hass and Courtney were both recently awarded the French Legion of Merit.

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/wilmette/news/2869614,highland-park-vets-111110-s1.article>

Kassel Germany – September 1944

John R. Lemons was a waist gunner as part of the 445th BG(H) operating B-24s out of Tibenham England, Sussex, when on a supposed “milk run” to Kassel Germany the unit was attacked by swarms of German fighters – only 4 aircraft out of the 35 landed back at the base.

In 1990 a memorial was erected at the site of the aerial battle and 45 Americans, and 14 German fighter pilots, attended the banquet and unveiling of the monument.

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/fea/travel/unitedstates/stories/DN-vetsreturn_1107tra.ART.State.Edition1.4f72c8b.html

“City of Savannah” Gets a Paint Job

The B-17 now housed at the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum nose art was painted on by Skip Shelton – himself a veteran of the 448th BG(H) – as a B-24 pilot.

“After he painted a sexy woman on his own plane, “Frisco Frisky,” his commanding officer took notice. After that, Shelton was often grounded so he could paint nose art on other planes.”

<http://savannahnow.com/west-chatham/2010-11-17/world-war-ii-veteran-paints-city-savannah-b-17-nose-art>

What Would You Do?

Fred Millard was in the first wave of American soldiers to jump off a landing craft into battle at Omaha Beach on D-Day.

"We were the first ones in. They dropped us in nine feet of water. The first thing I did was throw my gun away. Who was I going to shoot underwater?"

<http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20101111/NEWS10/11110580/1027/%E2%80%98+Incredible+individuals+++Members+of+%E2%80%98+Greatest+Generation++tr+eated+to+Famie+film>

Still Waiting for the Purple Heart Paperwork

John Welterlen was part of a PB4Y (The naval single tail version of the B-24) crew hunting U-Boats in the Gulf of Mexico to bombing raids in the South China Sea, Okinawa and Japan itself he spent the war in the air over the ocean – but was wounded while on land inside his PB4Y.

However, his records – like hundreds of thousands of others – were lost in the warehouse fire in St. Louis and it takes two people to confirm that he was indeed wounded while inside his airplane.

So trying to go through the proper channels he is running out of ways to prove he should be awarded it.

On July 12, 1973 the National Personnel Records Center in St Louis has a huge fire and 80% of all Army records from 1912 thru 1960 was destroyed and Air Force records from 1947 thru 1964 (starting with those names after Hubbard, James E.) 75% were destroyed. The building was designed without a sprinkler system due to fears of water damage to all the paper stored there.

Gunner Sgt. Michael Chiodo Buried 65 years after MIA Report

His B-24 bomber was shot down, along with 62 other aircraft, over Germany in April of 1944 and his remains were never found till 2007. On Oct 20, 2010 he was buried with full military honors with 1 of his surviving relatives in attendance.

http://blog.cleveland.com/sunmessenger/2010/11/mayfield_heights_womans_brothe.html

Tuskegee Memorial Re-Dedicated

An Urban renewal project long ago wiped out the plaque honoring William Armstrong who was killed in aerial combat on April 1, 1945.

A new plaque was made and set up at the intersection of Cranston and Dodge streets in Providence, Rhode Island.

http://www.projo.com/news/content/TUSKEGEE_AIRMAN_REMEMBERED_11-11-10_APKSNKS_v12.36d8bf5.html

New Exhibit on Pearl Harbor

Bill Barr, 91 offered to donate his old cameras to the Royal Oak Historical Society, but he also had taken pictures of Pearl Harbor on the 7th as the carrier he was on, the USS Enterprise, steamed into port – most of these pictures had never been seen before.

<http://www.dailytribune.com/articles/2010/12/02/news/doc4cf876d141f7e317181260.txt?viewmode=fullstory>
www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.org

Guam Still Fighting – Over Reparations *caused* by the Japanese Occupation but want the money from the US Government

Guam has been locked in a struggle with the US Government for over 30 years over reparations to the people who lived through (and for the many who did not) the occupation by Japanese when they invaded the island till the US took it back in 1944. 14,000+ natives were under Japanese occupation from 1941 thru 1944 when the US took it by after 1,438 servicemen died retaking the island. All US citizens were evacuated from the island at the start of the war since the war plans stated it could not be defended and thus was abandoned without a fight.

The claims process in the 1940s was word of mouth and short timed and thus most of the natives never even knew about it. Current claims amounts to \$126 million dollars. Senator McCain opposed the appropriation payment saying that it would set a precedent that US citizens could file claims against the US Government for actions done by other nations.

This is due to the hasty treaty made with Japan, seen by few, and approved of by Congress without anyone really reading it, after the war by the Government due to the Red Scare era and thus signed away the rights of the US citizens to seek compensation from Japan for slave labor, torture, purposeful killing, and starvation diets of POWs and Internees – unlike the postwar treaty with Germany.

<http://www.stripes.com/guam-seeks-closure-to-its-nearly-30-year-quest-for-wartime-reparations-1.126894>

George Reiner – At the Receiving End of a Kamikaze

Doing your job while an airplane is diving “right at you” is what George Reiner did on April 24, 1945 when his destroyer USS Haggard was the target of a Japanese Kamikaze – which hit just 60 feet away.

This Portland Oregon native was on destroyer picket line duty – a prime target of the first waves of Kamikazes in order to take out the radar – in the Okinawa campaign.

http://www.thebeenews.com/news/story.php?story_id=129032199258295300

Last Man Club

This is where people form a club to honor those that served with them, and have died and the last man left gets a great bottle of booze.

In the TV Series “M.A.S.H.” Col. Potter is the “Last Man” of his club of 6 that formed in a bombed out house in France in 1918.

<http://www.lemarssentinel.com/story/1682032.html>

On Board the USS CHUB

Ed Morrison was a machinist mate on the submarine USS Chub SS-329 catching a nap when a Japanese aircraft attacked the submarine one day in 1945.

The aircraft’s bomb missed the sub by some 40 feet which woke him up.

The US lost 52 submarines during the war – a 20% casualty rate.

http://wiltontribune.com/news/article_f94ccac2-ec27-11df-9c33-001cc4c03286.html

The “Forgotten War” is Remembered

Sgt. Richard Frank Abbott, 24 was part of the 31st Infantry Regiment fighting their way north toward the Yalu river on November 15, 1950 at the Chosin Reservoir expecting

the war to be over in a few weeks as did Marine Cpl. Dave Erkson only a few miles away on that same November night.

Only one came back to tell their complete story of the Chinese intervention into Korea.

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20101128/NEWS02/11280301/The-Frozen-Chosin-Vermonters-remember-costly-Korean-battle>

A Routine Day on Iwo Jima

Richard Leslie was a machine gunner on Iwo Jima – but due to the terrain and even though he was in the front line he could do very little with his weapon. He unit went ashore as a replacement platoon.

“One Jap grenade did hit me in the nose and laid me back in my foxhole, but it didn't explode.”

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/11/06/1698423/marine-thanks-lucky-stars-he-survived.html>

From Machinist Mate to Flamethrower on Iwo Jima

Joe String was running the engines on landing craft at Iwo Jima when he, and 20% of the rest of the crew, were re-assigned to combat positions to replace the men already killed.

In a 4 man team setup: himself with the flamethrower, a man to operate the valves of the tanks on his back, and two riflemen as escorts, he would lead the group into caves, dugouts, and other fortified positions and kill any Japanese soldiers in there.

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20101110/NEWS/11105021/1410?Title=Veteran-Ending-Longtime-Policy-of-Saying-Little>

Moving Households as a job and Finds Diaries thrown away

Bev Gregory daytime job was “removals” – in the UK that means house movers -- and in the process has found diaries that were being thrown away as trash when the people moved. So far he has saved a diary of Aircraftsman Roy Hilderley and Gunner William Gee.

He has already transcribed them and now is trying to figure out how to get them published.

<http://www.southportvisiter.co.uk/southport-news/southport-southport-news/2010/12/03/southport-man-transcribes-second-world-war-heroes-diaries-101022-27759542/>

"South Carolinians in World War II: A Time to Fight"

Is a three part series about the 184,000 South Carolina men and women who fought in WWII.

The "South Carolinians in World War II" series is part of a larger effort by ETV and The State newspaper to collect the stories of South Carolina veterans. The second and third episodes will air in 2011.

More information about the project can be found at

<http://www.facebook.com/scworldwarII>

Richard McGlinn – 38 Days in Siberia

Bailing out of his damaged B-29 Superfortress after a mission to Japan, he and his crew were forced to bail out over the USSR – then still neutral – but he had to find people first in order to be interned.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/11/08/1408706/bellingham-pilot-endured-ww-ii.html>

Findable on Amazon the book "[Home From Siberia](#)," published in 1990 book by Otis Hays Jr. details the experience of McGlinn's crew and other U.S. fliers interned by the Russians during WW II.

Lance Bombardier Manley Greets a soldier from the 2nd Byelorussian Front in Wismar

Is a key photo in a new exhibit in Barnsley, Yorkshire that also has photos of the Brest Fortress that it took the Germans over a month to capture when they first invaded the USSR.

However, the exhibit ended on November 18 and thus the photos are no where to be seen . . .

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/Yorkshire-soldier39s-historic-handshake-recalled.6620529.jp>

A Communist View of the “Great Patriotic War”

The war on the Eastern Front did decide WW II since from 78% to 60 % of the total German effort was in the East. But as to why the Soviets won of due to their better government or if the German lost to their real lack of planning is still being debated.

<http://www.cpa.org.au/guardian/2010/1482/09-stalin.html>

Serving on Cargo Ships Throughout the War

Shipping won the war for the Allies – without the massive ship building program to move the goods needed to fight the war it could not have been won. Jack Hillier joined in 1941 – before the war – and served throughout the war – including time on a tanker which was always a high priority target to sink.

<http://www.citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101111/GJNEWS02/711119690/-1/CITNEWS>

The AK-47 – Created as a result of WW II and Soviet Practicality

During the “Great Patriotic War” the USSR greatly relied on automatic weapons en masse to counter the skilled rifle marksmanship of the Germans and their allies. Mass of fire overcame skilled individual fire on the Eastern Front and the combat experiences drove the Soviets to design a better rifle to meet the needs of the battle field – and it resulted in the AK-47.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2010/12/01/2488721/how-ak-47s-changed-killing.html>

Local Oregon 8th AFHS Chapter News

8th AFHS Oregon Archive Update

Scanning the items already donated to the organization and arranging them to be posted onto the web site is the plan for December and January.

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. Contact Tom Philo to make arrangements for the documents.

Items in the archive are usually be posted onto the web site (see release form on web site) so that everyone can learn from what others have experienced.