"MILK RUN"

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society News Update April 2011

History News

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

National 8th Air Force Historical Society "You Tube" Page

The national 8th AFHS organization now has a "You Tube" page where it will post videos. Joseph P. Keeley, who is on the board of directors of the 8th, posted the first video introducing the web page.

In order to be automatically notified of new posts you have to create an account on you tube and then subscribe to the channel.

http://www.youtube.com/user/8thafhs#p/f\

"Liberty Belle" Coming to Hillsboro Airport April 23-24

It will be stationed at Aero Air FBO at Hillsboro; 2050 NE 25th Ave. If you, or someone else you know, want to go flying in this Flying Fortress call 918-340-0243 to schedule a ride. Their web site is: http://libertyfoundation.org/index.html

The escort for this trip is a newly restored Curtiss P-40E "Warhawk" painted up in Flying Tiger colors of Col. Scott.

They do not publish the cost on the web site for flying in either the B-17 or P-40 – so you have to call to find out the price.

EAA's B-17G "Aluminum Overcast" Comes In May

We are hosting the Salute to Veterans' tour of EAA's flying B-17, Aluminum Overcast. This B-17 is one of only 14 B-17s still flying. The event is to honor, educate, and preserve aviation history. The B-17 will arrive about noon on May 19th at the Hillsboro Airport and be available for flights and tours thru the weekend.

We are looking for WWII Aircorp Veterans that would like to participate in a media event promoting the event and cause. The objective is to have a small group of WWII veterans present to greet the plane's arrival with local press, answer some questions and take also take a complementary flight on the B-17.

Contact Web sites: http://eaa.org/ http://eaa.org/ http://eaa.org/ http://eaa.org/ http://eaa.org/ http://eaa.org/

Local POC:

Bruce and Katie Eicher

Wilsonville Diamond 8249 SW Wilsonville Rd. Suite A Wilsonville, OR 97070 Phone 503-682-1100 Fax 503-682-1140 www.WilsonvilleDiamond.com

Lt Col Clint Gruber Dead at Age of 90

As a young 2nd Lt co-piloting "Iron Ass" on the way to Solingen, Germany, on 1 November 1943 he was shot down while co-piloting his B-24 "Liberator" by a Bf-109 and became a POW. Before that, as part of "Ted's Traveling Circus", the nickname of the 93rd Bomb Group (Heavy); he flew missions out of North Africa to Italy and France before the unit rejoined the 8th Air Force in England.

He was not on the Ploesti raid (another person was assigned in his place) but went down to his unit after that mission when the 93rd was not immediately returned to the UK after the "Tidal Wave" mission.

Clint was a long time member of the local 8th Air Force Historical Society chapter in Oregon.

After the war he stayed in the Air Force and retired in the mid-1960s. After he retired he became a long time talk show host on the radio in Portland, Oregon.

http://obits.oregonlive.com/obituaries/oregon/obituary.aspx?n=clinton-a-gruber&pid=149499187&fhid=11522

In our May 2005 meeting Clint recited a poem that was created while he was at Stalag Luft 1 – the "Rest Haven on the Baltic":

He stated that this had been "written by a kriegie, POW, who had been in the bag a long time, so long that he started talking like a German."

Now I've traveled this Deutschland wide over And I've stopped at all the Gefängnislager Lufts Some were good, some were bad, some were different And others were the best that they had

Now this last one I stopped at was a lulu So pretty and fine and neat But all of us got rotes Kreuz parcels But wait till you hear what we had to eat

On Montag we had borscht and gravy
On Dienstag was gravy and borscht
On Mittwoch and Donnerstag with gravy on toast

Which is nothing but gravy and borscht

On Freitag I went to the Gauleiter

And asked him for something instead So on Samstag and Sonntag by via the change We had gravy without any bread!

A website to learn more about Clint's POW experience is at: http://www.merkki.com/gruberclint.htm

"Mission To Berlin"

Robert F Dorr's latest book, "Mission to Berlin", is being published on April 15, 2011. "This is a general-interest World War II history that focuses on the B-17 Flying Fortress crews who attacked Berlin on February 3, 1945 in the largest mission ever flown against a single target. The book also includes a new look at the entire bombing campaign in Europe." "If you would like to get a first-edition signed copy directly from me, the author, send me a check for \$ 35.00 to cover book, signature, packaging and shipping. Very important: be sure that any communication includes your ADDRESS. If I hear from you before the book is available, I'll cash your check and send you the book when it appears -- expected to be between April 15 and May 2." Robert F. Dorr 3411 Valewood Drive Oakton VA 22124 robert.f.dorr@cox.net

His previous book, "Hell Hawks" was about a P-47 group in the 9th AF.

Price is \$17.78 plus shipping from Amazon.

<u>Mission to Berlin: The American Airmen Who Struck the Heart of Hitler's Reich</u>

"Flying For Her Country"

An article by Amy Strebe, who wrote the book "Flying for her Country", was just published in the "WW II Quarterly" magazine about the American and Soviet military pilots of WW II.

She does have a Facebook page.

http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Flying-for-Her-Country-Book/111122345569355

Gen Marcel Bigeard

During WW II he escaped from a German POW camp and became part of the Free French Forces. After the war he was in charge of the French Campaign to hold onto Indochina – and was captured again at Dien Bien Phu in May of 1954. He then led the paratroopers in Algeria during that uprising. He died in June of 2010 at the age of 94 in Toul.

http://www.france24.com/en/20100618-marcel-bigeard-veteran-french-wars-algeria-indonesia-obituary-france

Ralph McDonald KIA 29 April 1944 Buried 25 March 2011

Shot down on a mission to the Berlin rail yards near Hannover with the rest of the crew, his remains were only recently positively identified by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Central Identification Laboratory.

http://www.therandolphleader.com/features/article_69b4bc24-4fe3-11e0-a961-001cc4c03286.html?photo=2

Highest Ranking US Officer from WW II still MIA

General Charles "Bull" Keerans was shot down by friendly naval fire – no one told the navy that C-47s carrying the 2nd wave of airborne troops of the 504 PIR into Sicily during the night of July 11/12 into battle were to overfly the fleet. 23 planes were shot down. Keerans plane ditched offshore but after being seen on the beach – he headed inland and was never seen again.

http://www.thedailyobserver.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3003385&auth=SEAN%20CHASE%20SCHASE@THEDAILYOBSERVER.CA

Harold R. "Red" Timm Tail Gunner 360 Sqd 303 BG(H)

He died on March 9, 2011.

Harold was a B-17 tail gunner in the 360th Squadron of the 303rd Bomb Group, Army Air Corps (8th Air Force), during World War II. Based in Molesworth, England, he flew 10 missions, including the Schweinfurt Raid over Nazi Germany, before being grounded due to a ruptured eardrum. On a mission to Kassel, Germany, Harold's plane, the Upstairs Maid, ditched in the North Sea, making him a member of the Goldfish Club; the crew was picked up by the UK Air-Sea Rescue and all survived. http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20110311/OBIT/703119963/1042/RSS&parent

http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20110311/OBIT/703119963/1042/RSS&parent profile=

Medals due to A Nephew - 66 years later

Samuel D. Banz fought as part of E Company, 242nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division across France into Germany then was discharged – never asking for any of his medals he was due – since he was in a hurry to get out and asking for the medals would have delayed his separation.

Like others before him, service records were destroyed by the St Louis warehouse fire. They VA did not install sprinklers into the building since it would increase the cost AND some other government archive stated that water damage was worse for THEIR records than a fire. So 16 to 18 million records were burned up. An estimated 80 percent of Army personnel discharge records from November 1, 1912 to January 1, 1960 were destroyed in the 1973 fire. There's a 75 percent loss to records of U.S. Air Force personnel discharged between Sept. 25, 1947 and Jan. 1, 1964, with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.

Swapping Stories at the Primrose Pub

A real mix of different veterans – WAVES, SeeBees, Army Air Force, Artillery, Medics from all over the globe gather every Wednesday to talk.

http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/article/20110110/NEWS01/101100306/1002/rss01

Last WW I US Veteran Dead at 110

Frank Buckles lied about his age and joined at 16 and made it overseas. He enlisted Aug. 14, 1917 and was assigned serial number 15577. He was also overseas in the Philippines during WW II and was interned by the Japanese as a civilian. He died February 28, 2011. He was buried near "Blackjack" Pershing in Arlington National Cemetery who the commanding officer of all US forces in Europe World War I. http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2011/feb/28/8/last-us-wwi-veteran-dies-ar-871984/

18 Spits Left in the UK

Included in that group are just two two-seater versions including one owned an flown by Carolyn Grace. She flew it as part of the re-enactment of the very first Spitfire test flight performed in Southampton in 1936.

Over 22,500 Spitfires of various makes were built. http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-12632311

Malta Aviation Museum's Spitfire Mk IX

It has in the museum a Spitfire Mk IX coded EN199 – in its Air Battle of Malta memorial hangar.

http://www.timesofmalta.com/life/view/20110308/features/the-fighter-aircraft-s-malta-connection

If in Ashland Nebraska April 14-17 you can meet some of the Doolittle Raiders

Five survivors from the famed Doolittle raid on Tokyo during World War II will be feted during events at the Strategic Air & Space Museum near Ashland in eastern Nebraska. More information is available by calling 402-944-3100 or online at http://www.SASMuseum.com

The "Blitz" in Northern Ireland

The German He-111 bomber had a very good range for its type and could, along with the Ju-88, reach the full length of the British Isles. On April 15, 1941 the Luftwaffe

visited Belfast's targeted the harbor and aircraft factories in the night bombing campaign known as "The Blitz".

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-12804633

FAA Bans the issuance of new operating WW II era a/c for Hire

"The agency this week banned the issuance of new exemptions that allow vintage warbirds such as World War II aircraft to carry passengers." What this means if someone restores a multi-passenger aircraft and wants to take it on tour, selling rides to offset the cost, they cannot. The FAA is on a safety push to cut General Aviation accidents and they think banning the issuance of operating certificates it will cut the GA accident rate.

http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2011/03/26/20110326mesa-falcon-field-FAA-ruling.html#ixzz1JA965000

Sharing Stories with Students

Kenneth Goodwin, Philip Lawrence, Norman Phillips – Army Infantry, Marine Infantry and P-47 Pilot, talked and brought to school items from their WW II experiences. Norman is writing a book about his flying experiences.

http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110328/NEWS/1032803 26/-1/NEWSMAP

C-124 A/C 49-0244 still missing since 23 March, 1951

Brig. Gen. Paul Thomas Cullen, along with some 50+ others, were on that plane flying to the British Isles when it ditched in the Atlantic.

http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20110323/NEWS01/103230325/1060/60-years-later-mystery-lingers-over-general-s-loss

Fate of Aviation Museum up in the Air

The South St. Paul museum has been told that to meet fire and safety codes – mandated by the City / State / Federal– in the hanger they have rented from the city—may force the Minnesota Wing of the Commemorative Air Force to close up the only WW II museum in the State.

http://www.twincities.com/ci_17729549?nclick_check=1

Wanna Buy an Aircraft Carrier?

For sale – 1 used British Aircraft carrier – HMS Ark Royal – good for Harrier Jump Jets or other STOL aircraft. Bids must be in by April 27.

http://blog.seattlepi.com/aerospace/2011/03/29/wanna-buy-an-aircraft-carrier/

This leaves 1 aircraft carrier in service till it retires in 2014. Then the British will have to depend on US carriers for all ship borne aircraft needs.

B-29 Engine Plant Location will be converted into Apartment Buildings

The Curtiss-Wright engine plant location will be converted into an upscale apartment / business complex. Unlike the Boeing plant which had to be torn down due to it being over a river, this plant shell will be converted and the building itself will be left intact. http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/03/realestate/03njzo.html?_r=1

Military Drones, GPS Mortar Rounds and other new Military Devices

CNET.Com has a "Military Tech Blog" where it reports on interesting new military items.

http://news.cnet.com/military-tech/?tag=mncol

Also, they are now fielding individual personnel gunshot detectors for soldiers. http://www.smartplanet.com/technology/blog/thinking-tech/us-armys-gunshot-detector-may-save-lives/6564/

95 BG(H) Reunion in Seattle

The 95th Bomb Group (Heavy) who flew B-17s out of Horham in the UK as part of the 8th Air Force are having their reunion in Seattle this year. You can get more information at: http://95thbg.org/95th_joomla/

The 95th had the distinction, among many others, to be the first B-17 unit to fly into the city limits of Berlin.

They also have a trip to Horham planned for May 16 this year.

Pennsylvania Chapter 8th AFHS Annual Reunion

This information came from their *Keystone Tail Winds* newsletter; PA Chapter 8th AFHS; PO Box 102, Warminster, PA 18974-0511.

The Pennsylvania chapter will be holding their 20th annual reunion from the 18 thru 21 of June 2011 at the Days Inn State College. Reunion cost is \$135.

To make reservations at the hotel call 800-258-3297 or via email at <u>sales@centralhotel.com</u> booking code is CGAIFO.

They also have a fund raising raffle of three tickets for \$5 and the top award is a \$500 savings bond *or* \$250 in cash; plus three other prizes.

Combat Mission of the 448th

From Carroll Wikander: " my father was a pilot in the 8th AF during WWII 448th BG 713th SQ. I am current trying to track down information on his combat missions with the 448th."

Does anyone know of a mission list, or web site, for the 448th BG?

If so, please send any info to Tom Philo.

Finding WW II Production Information

From an e-mail I received:

A good source for US ac production (both AAF and Navy) is *Problems of Accelerating Aircraft Production During World War II* by Tom Lilley dated January 30, 1946: it should be fairly easy to get a copy at any decent college library (in my case, U of Oregon). *German Tanks Of World War II* by Dr. S. Hart and Dr. R. Hart has a wealth of information with quarterly production of tanks and assault guns with tables showing losses and AFV strengths at selected dates on the Eastern and Western Fronts. Of course, the best overall source has to be *World War II*: *The Encyclopedia of Facts and Figures* by John Ellis (2nd edition published 1995).

VJ Day in Hawaii

Video of the celebration that occurred on Oahu when VJ day occurred. http://vimeo.com/5645171

Modern Warfare Understanding in Modern Russia

The article states that there are some 11,200 Officers from the rank of General on down studying WW II within the military – and that the lessons that could be learned from combat in WW II cannot be applied to the current modern battlefield. http://georgiandaily.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21304&Itemid=132

Desert Rats of Tobruk - and Fresh Baked Bread

On April 11, 1941, German forces cut off Tobruk from the rest of the British 8th Army and started a siege. Rommel expected it to be over quickly – however the Australians (and others) held out till the siege was broken 242 days later.

http://www.theage.com.au/national/aroma-of-fresh-bread-revives-memory-of-grim-tobruk-siege-20110410-1d9ew.html

Soviet Police Chief Lavrenthi Beria

In the movie "Enemy At The Gates" there is a scene where wounded Russian soldiers are moving back to their lines after they attacked the Germans in Stalingrad and they are shot by NKVD – the Soviet secret police unit - as they come back – it was this man's idea to treat their own soldiers this way regardless of the situation both during and after the war. It is also been rumored that Beria killed Stalin in order to avoid being killed himself.

http://www.lankaweb.com/news/items/2011/03/24/the-infamous-lavrenthi-beria/

Drinking Rum during Gallipoli

They may have loved beer, but it seems that the Australian troops at Gallipoli were only given rum – and the Turkish soldiers had the beer.

http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/diggers-sipped-rum-not-beer-at-gallipoli-20110411-1d9jl.html

Experiencing D-Day – over 5 Times

If you were in the Pacific you may have had gone through 3 D-Days as an infantryman, however the crews of many ships went through multiple D-Day assaults and David M. Stavely who lived aboard the USS Arcturus (AKA-1) for three years went through five of them.

http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20110409/NEWS01/104090344

Political Judgments of The Soviets Before June 22, 1941

In 1939 the Soviets attacked Poland from the East after Germany had already been in Poland for a few weeks – then the two nations divided up Poland into their own control. This was after the two nations had signed a 10 year non-aggression treaty known as the Moscow Pack. Then in 1941 NAZI Germany attacked the USSR in a deliberate betrayal of the treaty. This article talks about how the political mindset of the USSR ignored reality.

http://www.jewishpress.com/pageroute.do/47808/

The Balkans – 1941

Germany infantry and armored units went into the Balkans in the spring of 1941 to help Italy avoid defeat at the hands of the British. The late spring, and the 6 week diversion of infantry and armored units that were to be used in "Operation Barbarossa" pushed the invasion of the USSR back to 22 June, 1941. http://original.antiwar.com/malic/2011/04/08/1941/

Nisei World War II veteran Genro Kashiwa to get Legion of Honor from France

Kashiwa will be the second member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team to be honored by France with the medal and rank of chevalier (knight). Previous awardee was Medal Of Honor awardee Barney Hajiro. He is one of 21 members of the 442d who were awarded the MOH during World War II. Kashiwa earned two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart during his time in combat in Italy, France and Germany.

http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/hawaiinews/20110330_Nisei_World_War_II_veteran_will_receive_Legion_of_Honor.html

Fighting The War with the 38th EVAC Hospital

Nurse Pauline Bell White joined the Army in 1942 and took part in "Operation Torch" when the allies invaded North Africa – climbing down ropes just like combat troops and equipped almost like them on D-Day. Then for the next three years, she followed the invasions and troops into Italy.

"Nearly eight years ago, she put together an account of her service in World War II, calling it "Angels Watching Over Me" and her unit was detailed in a documentary called "If They Could See Us Now: The Story of Charlotte's 38th Evacuation Hospital," which aired on WTVI in 2007. She attended the premiere of the documentary on Sept. 16, 2007."

http://www2.statesville.com/news/2011/apr/04/retired-nurse-dodged-enemy-fire-world-war-ii-ar-918632/

Reneau Breard – 82nd Airborne

Salerno, Anzio, Market Garden, Battle of the Bulge and Huertgen Forest he fought in all these battles winning the Silver Star. He wrote the foreword to *Brothers in Arms, the history of A Company, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment.*

http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20110328/LIFESTYLE/103250336

amazon link:

All American, All the Way: The Combat History of the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II

From Building Them to Finally Flying in a B-17

Billie Piercy was one of thousands of "Rosie the Riveter" who worked for Boeing in Seattle during WW II. Now retired, she finally got a ride in one in Arizona.

"The boss kept telling us every day, 'X number of planes were shot down yesterday. We have to replace them."

She worked on a variety of projects on the tail, but mainly as a rivet bucker. Rivet buckers were women who worked on the inside of the plane. They held a metal tool against the skin of the plane to flatten the rivets as they were shot through the skin of the plane from the other side.

"You didn't talk, there was so much noise you couldn't, you just waved your hands at someone to get their attention."

http://www.kingmandailyminer.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubsectionID=1&ArticleID=43838

"Texas Raider" Flying again

After almost a half million dollar overhaul, the B-17 *Texas Raider* is on tour for this year after getting an airworthy certificate in 2009. http://www.ennisdailynews.com/?p=9072

C.S. Needham – B-17 Pilot of the 388 BG(H)

He died in March at the age of 91. When the required number of missions was only 25 he volunteered to fly 10 more and finished his tour at 35.

http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2011/mar/24/decorated-air-force-pilot-needham-wwii/

A Yank in the RAF – Who Stayed in the RAF after US Entry

John T. Bradshaw was assigned to No 41 Squadron of the RAF and was in action with the RAF from the fall of 1941 till August of 1944.

"I went into the RAF as a sergeant pilot making 60 bucks a month, and when I left, I was a warrant officer making 98 bucks a month. I transferred into the Army Air Corps as a first lieutenant making about 375 a month. My wife was real happy." He then flew P-47s in the 63 Fighter Squadron.

http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/04/09/2988339/former-pilot-saw-world-warii.html?video=true#ixzz1JBB8biIv

Radio Operator on the Longest B-24 Mission of the War

John G. Shine died at the age of 89. As a radio operator on a B-24 in the South Pacific he flew on the longer recognized bomber mission by B-24s in World War II: From Northern Australia to Balikpapan, Borneo on a mission that lasted over 16 hours. http://westford.patch.com/articles/westford-loses-john-shine-flew-on-longest-b-24-mission-in-wwii

Submarine Memorial in Olathe Kansas

65 US submarines have been lost since the first modern type of submarine was launched in the 20th century. Over 4,000 died on those 65 different submarines (both war and in peace). The first was the USS Skate that sank off the coast of Honolulu in 1915. The 65th was the USS Scorpion which sank in 1968.

Read more: http://www.kansascity.com/2011/04/09/2789067/memorial-held-for-submariners.html#ixzz1JBDB2PnZ

http://www.kansascity.com/2011/04/09/2789067/memorial-held-for-submariners.html

Oregon Chapter News and Contact Information

Oregon Chapter meeting is on May 7, 2011. 10 AM till 2 PM

All meetings are free and open to the public – there is no cost to attend any 8th Air Force Historical Society meeting.

Need a Ride to the Meeting?

There are many members who can no longer drive due to age so we are trying to find out those who are in need of transportation so that we can find other members who live nearby who can pick you up and then take you home afterwards.

If you would like to come to the meeting and need a ride please contact any chapter officer or board member and let them know.

Tom Davis, Bob Dean, Tom Philo, Sharon Campbell, Charlie Gallagher, Wally Groce, Bob Schuberg, Jerry Ritter, Joani Hamilton, Bert Campbell, Warren Caldwell, or Don Bourgeois. Via e-mail you can send the request to secretary@8thafhsorgeon.com if you do not have the phone numbers for the people listed above.

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.

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS

If you wish to be removed from the e-mail list please let us know.

Secretary 8th AFHS of Oregon Tom Philo 17502 SW Kimmel Ct Beaverton, Oregon 97007-6877 <u>secretary@8thafhsoregon.com</u> <u>http://www.8thafhsoregon.com</u>

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