

“MILK RUN”

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



History News

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

Operational WW II PT Boat in Portland, Oregon

Restored to full operation condition (except for the torpedoes and operating machine guns) PT 658 cruises up and down the Willamette River in search of ?

[PT Boat 658 - The only functional, restored, PT boat left in the world! Operating out of Portland, Oregon.](#)

MIA Status after WW II

The 1946 War Department casualty records classify all people with a "FOD" Finding of Death. The procedure after WW2 was that unless an active search was being pursued ALL Missing in Action were declared dead one year after the end of hostilities.

Restoring a DC-3

In North Carolina a DC-3 – built during WW II – and once owned by Piedmont Airlines is slowly being restored. At the current project rate it will be 5 to 7 years before it is finished.

<http://www2.journalnow.com/news/2011/apr/11/wsmain01-labor-of-love-affection-for-aviation-pied-ar-936962/>

No Casino at Gettysburg

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board rejected for the second time a proposal to allow a casino gambling complex to be built within ½ mile of the north edge of the Gettysburg National Park.

The Mason-Dixon Gaming Resort is again outmaneuvered by 150 year old Generals of both the North and South – this time fighting together.

www.civilwar.org



Violet Cowden Dies at 94 -- WASP Aviator

Violet was a pre-war civilian pilot who joined the WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots)

organization after the start of WW II. She was qualified to fly at least 19 different types of military aircraft during the war.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/obituaries/la-me-violet-cowden-20110417,0,3646004.story>

Former POW Capt. Merlin R. Kehrer Awarded POW Medal

Capt Kehrer died in 1951 in a plane accident but a historian during research asked his family about his POW medal – and they stated he never had one. He was shot down in February over Germany 1944. Prior to 1943 he has flown in the RCAF in North Africa.

<http://www.dnj.com/article/B2/20110416/NEWS01/304160070/0/SPORTS03/Former-prisoner-war-receives-medal-more-than-70-years-later?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Bob Dole Gets a Plaque in DC

On April 13 Former Sen. Bob Dole (R., Kan.) was honored with a bronze plaque to be placed on the entrance path to the World War II Memorial. Former Senate colleagues, including Vice President Biden, gathered to dedicate the plaque. Dole, 87, was gravely wounded while fighting in Italy in 1945.

An FW 190 Flies in Seattle

The Flying heritage Foundation has reassembled the only original flying Focke-Wulf 190 A-5 aircraft in the world. It was restored in Arizona and trucked up to Seattle and reassembled. They started restoring it in 1999 after pulling it out of a forest outside Leningrad.

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/aerospace/2011/04/21/unique-wwii-german-fighter/>

Town of Bridgend, England Remembers HMS Urge

In 1942 this British submarine was sunk with all hands in the Mediterranean in 1942. The HMS Urge damaged an Italian battleship, sunk a cruiser and sunk the largest Italian tanker they had.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-13211296>

ANZAC Day 25 April

ANZAC stands for Australian New Zealand Army Corps – and “down under” they remember the men from all the wars at their memorial.

<http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/569926.html>

Korean War POW Remains Come Home

Captured by the Koreans, his picture appeared on the cover of Newsweek in 1951 when North Korea gave out photos of US prisoners – he subsequently died due to the

brutal treatment all UN prisoners were subject as a matter of policy of the North Korean state. He was finally identified by DNA last year.

<http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/0b9c988c752d458f9920bd97017ddde7/UT--Korean-War-POW-Remains/>

Clarence Dart – Tuskegee Airman – honored at Saratoga County NY

He flew 95 combat missions in WW II and retired as a Lt Col.

<http://wnyt.com/article/stories/S2074714.shtml?cat=300>

Historical Fiction Novel “Field Gray”

Amazon Link: [Field Gray](#)

Part of a series of 7 books covering a German from 1933 till after the war. This seventh book by Scottish author Phillip Kerr covers the Eastern Front where the main character is fighting Partisans.

<http://www.guelphmercury.com/whatson/books/article/517670--books-field-gray-by-philip-kerr>

Cliches Of War

Cliches are like rules of thumb – sometimes they really are true.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-13141495>

Stories of Combat in North Africa and Italy

Ray Wittich was a tank driver and Remo Spagnoli was a combat engineer from 1942 till the end of the war. Ray commented that only 31 guys of the original 135 in his outfit were left to celebrate when the war ended.

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/04/lessons_of_war_learned_in_nort.html

Four Myths about the Crusades

What is taught in schools and told by politicians who tell and pass along stories all tend to skip the centuries of history before the Crusades begin – they just start at the 1st Crusade.

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/column.php?n=1562>

With the 10th Mountain Division in Italy

Bill Osgood was in Italy with the 10th Mountain Division and took part in the night assault against mount Belvedere. “We were finding our way by feel. The only light was German flares. The mountain was covered with minefields and barbed wire. The only way to find the minefields was to step on one.” In four months, 992 mountaineers were dead, more than 4,000 wounded. Six of the 12 men in Osgood’s squad were killed or wounded by the end of the war.

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20070921/NEWS01/309210001/1009/RSS01/Coming-Sunday-World-War-II-Memories?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Artillery Observer Alan Pantall

Leaving Hereford England for the 8th Army in 1939 he spent his whole time in the front lines spotting and plotting artillery missions – including Monte Cassino.

<http://www.odt.co.nz/your-town/balclutha/157562/war-mates-helped-draw-veteran-nz>

Restoring Military Vehicles in Bakersfield California

The “Olive Drab Drivers” find and restore military vehicles back to factory new condition. They will be at the Minter Field Air Museum on May 14th.

<http://www.bakersfield.com/entertainment/local/x592175976/WWII-buffs-restore-old-vehicles-preserve-memories>

Women Journalists in World War II

There were 127 accredited women journalists from the USA at the end of WW II.

MI5 – Secrets from WW II and Coffee

As the NAZI state lost control of land to the Allies wild plots came about to spread alarm and kill rear area troops by NAZI agents using poisoned coffee, chocolate and cigarettes.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/world-war-2/8424754/MI5-files-Nazis-plotted-to-kill-Allied-troops-with-coffee.html>

Photo of Reading Glasses Returned From Crash Site

“Miss Cheyenne” was a B-17 Flying Fortress that took off from Bury St. Edmunds and was shot down on April 22, 1944 near Werl, Germany. A 13 year old boy went through the crash site collecting items from the aircraft and only recently wrote to the tail-gunner’s wife that he found his glasses.

http://blog.syracuse.com/opinion/2011/04/surprise_package_rekindles_mem.html

After 20 Missions – Stalag Luft I

Robert T. Peterson, 91, of Sinclairville, died Thursday, April 14, 2011, at the V.A. Medical Center, Erie, Pa. He flew in the 829 Squadron of the 485th Bomb Group (H) in B-24s as part of the 15th Air Force flying out of Italy. On July 8, 1944 he was shot down during the mission to Vienna, Austria and spent the rest of the war in Stalag Luft I on the Baltic Coast.

<http://post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/582921/Robert-T--Peterson.html?nav=5009>

The Mail Got Through – Just a Really long Delivery Time

Baltimore had a two digit zip code of 21 before the 5 digit zip code system was instituted in 1963 and code 21 was on the package – but since it came from Farragut Naval Training Station in Idaho – and the only time someone they knew was there was in 1944 – it was being delivered at least 67 years after it was mailed.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ac/20110428/lf_ac/8373597_dying_woman_receives_a_picture_from_her_dead_husband

Henry M. Bailey 467th BG

Mr Baily died April 15, 2011 in Roseburg Oregon. He was part of the 467th bombardment group, flying aboard the B-24 "Pappy Yokum" as the tail gunner out of Station 145, Rackheath, England during WW II. This unit has the distinction of having the highest bombing accuracy rate of a group for the mission on April 15, 45.

<http://www.nrtoday.com/article/20110429/OBITS/110429768/1036&parentprofile=>

Crewman of a C-87 Identified

Flying over "The Hump" on April 24, 1943 this C-87 - the cargo version of the B-24 "Liberator" never made it from Yangkai China to Chabua, India. The crash site was discovered in 2003. Thus Army Air Forces PFC. Mervyn E. Sims, 23, of Petaluma, Calif finally comes home. It was also used as a flight engineer trainer aircraft called the AT-22.

287 C-87s were built by Consolidated in Fort Worth Texas during the war. It was based on a crashed / rebuilt B-24D SN 42-40355.

http://avstop.com/April_2011/wwii_c87_liberator_express_airman_identified.htm

Flying B-26s as Pilot at the Age of 19

Don Block flew his first combat mission in a B-26 "Marauder" on June 20, 1944 with the 558th Squadron of the 387 Bomb Group (Medium) into France. Two days later he turned 20 and flew 2 more missions on his birthday.

"Normally we flew in formations of 36 B-26's, six to a section, and bombed from an altitude of 9,000-11,000 feet. Occasionally we flew at 8,000 feet but we didn't like that altitude as the Germans could throw everything but the kitchen sink at us. We always flew level bombing missions and dropped our bomb loads in flights of six."

<http://www.thesuburbanite.com/lifestyle/celebrations/x528723154/Youngest-B-26-Marauder-pilot-at-Maps-Pancake-Day>

B-29 with A Watermelon Special Delivery

In 1949 herb Billington read a story about a dying boy's wish for some watermelon in California while he was stationed at MacDill AFB in Florida - and then arranged for and flew a B-29 training mission to deliver the watermelons.

He also was in a B-17 that flew under the Golden Gate bridge in 1943.

<http://beta2.tbo.com/news/breaking-news/2011/apr/21/of-watermelons-history-and-a-dying-boys-wish-ar-201437/>

Josephine Hinman - US Army Nurse

Forgoing a full college scholarship, she enlisted as a Nurse and after training the unit was assigned to the Philippines. "Our first night there, a monsoon hit off Manila Bay and everything was soaked – mattresses were dripping wet, lizards and snakes were swimming through the barracks."

<http://canton-ct.patch.com/articles/vet-stories-josephine-bonesio-hinman>

American Indians in the Military

Did you know that "Pappy" Boyington was part of the Coeur d'Alene Indian tribe? 28 American Indians have been awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH) by Congress and have served in every war since the Revolutionary War - even though they were not recognized as US Citizens till 1923!

Wilfred Billey was a Navajo who served in World War II. "With much pride and satisfaction, in the prime of my life, I served my country in the United States Marine Corps."

http://www.nativetimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5298:a-round-the-campfire-indians-in-the-military&catid=46&Itemid=22

An upcoming book from [Praeger Publishers](#) by author Dean Chavers (CTD4DeanChavers@aol.com) will be called: "*American Indians and Popular Culture*".

113 Combat Missions in a B-24

"Taffy" Hill died in Ipswich Mass in April. During WW II he flew as a crew chief in B-24s completing 113 combat missions and was awarded a Bronze Star.

<http://www.salemnews.com/local/x300771158/He-was-the-kind-of-guy-who-would-help-anyone>

Flying Missions off the USS Langley

In order to get the DFC - Distinguished Flying Cross - you had to fly 20 combat missions. Walter Lemiska flew 21 missions but he was told that two of his missions did not count since they were considered "hazardous."

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20110426/NJNEWS/104260333/Scotch-Plains-resident-recognized-for-WWII-bravery-66-years-later>

An Aeronautical Engineer View of WW II Aircraft

Retired Aeronautical Engineer Tom Brinkman wrote a book about the 2nd Generation fighters of WW II comparing them from an engineer's point of view.

An Aeronautical Engineers View: The F4U Corsair and its Contemporaries

Five "Black Sheep" Still Alive

Jim Hill, Ed Harper and Harry Johnson traveled to to Yuma Arizona where Marine Attack Squadron 214 is stationed April 14. Greg Boyington, son of "Pappy" also attended. In two 6 week combat tours VMF 214 was officially credited with destroying 97 enemy aircraft, 35 probable, 50 damaged, 27 enemy ships (various types) and nine pilots obtain "Ace" status.

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/mcasyuma/Pages/20110421BlackSheep.aspx>

A Woman Coast Watcher

Ruby Boyce stayed on Vanikoro, taught herself Morse code and was known by name by the Japanese - who never could catch her. To avoid being executed as a spy if captured, she was commissioned into the WRANS.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/aussie-mum-who-reported-japanese-air-and-sea-movements-from-solomon-islands-honoured/story-e6frg6nf-1226044203978>

How Many Horses Died in World War I?

A movie about World War One, "War Horse", which will be a Steven Spielberg film, is about a boy who joins the British Army to find and get back his horse that his father sold off at the beginning of the war. Out of the 1,000,000+ horses sent to fight in the British Army in WW I, only 100,000 were left at the end of the war. The counts for French, Italian, Turkish, Russian, Austria-Hungary are likely similar.

<http://hnn.us/articles/138668.html>

WWII Nurse Coaralie Wilks Worked in Hospital Named for WW I Nurse

During WW II Mrs. Wilks worked in the Edith Cavell Hospital tending the wounded. The hospital was named after a WW I nurse who helped British escape to the Netherlands (Holland) during the First World War. She was executed by the Germans in 1915 due her helping over 2000 capture.

GPS At Gallipoli

Using the GPS system, the battlefield at Gallipoli Turkey is now undergoing detailed mapping. ANZAC day exists since that is the day Gallipoli was invaded using ANZAC units under British command.

<http://www.gadling.com/2011/04/24/gallipoli-battlefield-being-mapped-by-gps/>

DNA Helps ID WW I Soldiers

At the Battle of Fromelles many soldiers "disappeared". However, as development occurs remains of those killed are found. The UK Defense Department recently ID'd 14 more sets of remains from that battle.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/04/09/3186763.htm?site=newcastle>

Bailing Out Over The Pacific

With his hydraulics shot out and unable to land due to a stuck drop tank - the only thing to do was bail out offshore. "It's perfectly simple if you know what you're doing."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/4924190/Veteran-pilot-revisits-his-flying-days>

RNZFC - Numbers 14 to 26

Flight sergeant Norman Ryder flew Tiger Moths in training then P-40s "Kittyhawks" and F4Us "Corsairs" later on.

http://www.times.co.nz/cms/front_page_feature/2011/04/stormin_norman_reflects_on_war.php?page=1

President Roosevelt's Foreign Policy in the 1930s

A short recap by a panel of three on the basic principals and actions taken by the US President in the 1930s. Both MP3 and transcripts.

<http://www.voanews.com/learningenglish/home/us-history/American-Foreign-Policy-in-the-1930s-120817734.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
secretary@8thafhsoregon.com
<http://www.8thafhsoregon.com>

The Oregon Chapter is a registered Non-Profit 503(c) with the IRS and within the State of Oregon.