

“MILK RUN”

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



History News

Readers, where's your story?

8th AFHS Oregon Chapter News and how to share history with others on the last page.

New Book Out by NW Writer Mike Pungercar: "THE PROMISE KEPT"

Mike Pungercar has completed work on his book, "THE PROMISE KEPT". Mike's father, Frank Pungercar, served as a radio operator with the 91st Bomb Group and was stationed in Bassingbourn from October 1944 until March of 1945, completing 30 combat missions, fifteen as a lead radio operator.

"THE PROMISE KEPT" looks at the history of World War II and the Eighth Air Force's role in the war against Germany. The book follows Mike's father's time in the Eighth Air Force, and includes the experiences of other Eighth Air Force veterans from across the country. The book is illustrated with over 200 black and white photos, many taken from the collections of World War II veterans that have not been published prior to this book.

"THE PROMISE KEPT" will be released by Outskirts Press, Inc. before this coming Veteran's Day. Mike will have the book available at our November meeting. For more information, contact Mike at pungercar2@msn.com.

“Mission To Berlin” – Signed Copies by author Robert F Dorr

HOW TO GET IT: For a first-edition signed copy directly from me, the author, send me a check for \$35.00 to cover book, signature, packaging and shipping. And remember that I'll need your ADDRESS. If you'd like to get a signed copy from me, send a message confirming (1) whom to sign the book for, and (2) the address to which to send it. You do not need to wait for your check to reach me in the mail. For purchasers in Europe, the price is \$45.00.

Robert F. Dorr

3411 Valewood Drive

Oakton VA 22124

robert.f.dorr@cox.net

(703) 264-8950

Amazon Link:

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



Seattle Museum of Flight Dance & Celebration

From 10 AM till 5 PM is the 95th Anniversary party of the Boeing Corporation. The "Boeing Bee" B-17F will be out (with drawings to tour it) plus B-25 and P-51s flying in and other WW II artifacts on display as well as re-enactors followed by the Hanger Dance.
<http://www.museumofflight.org/>
and for tickets:

<http://www.museumofflightstore.org/heofhohada.html>

B-17G Liberty Belle Destroyed by Fire

The "Liberty Belle" came to Hillsboro in May (See my photo above; I was there along with Charlie Gallagher, Top Turret Gunner 95th BG (H)) and they went on back to the Midwest after their stops here in the Pacific NW.

They stopped at Aurora III Municipal Airport for rides but they had a maintenance issue and did not fly the weekend as planned as they had done in past visits but instead had it fixed then on Sunday lifted off to go to the next tour stop when they reported smoke in the plane but from unknown origin. The AT-6 chase plane told them a fire was in the #2 ENGINE (they were only 5 miles from the a/p right after liftoff) but the pilot decided to put it down in a corn field straight ahead with the wheels down expecting the fire trucks to get there – being only 5 miles away and they radioed them in flight. Turning around and landing would be more of a danger once the fire was reported since it would take at least 5 minutes to get back and getting down faster was much safer as it only would take a minute to land.

They successfully landed wheels down and came to a stop, got out of the plane but the corn field was too soggy for the fire trucks to drive onto to get next to the aircraft so the fire crew stood back and everyone watched it burn out.



(Photo by Dan McHale / June 11, 2011)

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chibrknews-crews-responding-to-incident-involving-wwii-bomber-20110613,0,5852034.story>

Dave Petty B-17 Pilot

Before it was destroyed in June, the Belle stopped off at Felts Field in Spokane and Dave Petty, x B-17 pilot, got to fly in a Fortress once again. He flew in them for three years – but was never sent overseas into combat.

<http://www.nwcn.com/home/?fId=123068418&fPath=/news/local&fDomain=10222>

John R Alison – Fighter Ace Dead at 98

Instead of a fighter command in the 8th, then Ltc Alison was assigned to the China Burma India (CBI) to help save / recapture Burma from the Japanese. Along with Col Cochran, they pioneered the long distance air assault and supply system used to support the British forces operating behind Japanese front lines.

He had 7 aerial victories.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/10/us/10alison.html?_r=1

Fighter Pilot Richard S. Ryrholm Jr.'s Identified

On September 4, 1943 while on routine patrol out of Lae, he went missing but only in 2005 was a P-38 "Lightning" crash site found and the long task of identifying the remains was started.

According to the military report finalized last August, Ryrholm was engaging enemy aircraft before he crashed, but his death was not attributed to incoming fire.

Instead, the report said, investigators believe that one of Ryrholm's squad mates — following protocol at the time — dropped an empty external fuel tank that struck Ryrholm's plane.

"After this they changed procedures," said Richard S. Ryrholm, of Sioux Falls, S.D., another nephew and the pilot's namesake. "So this may have saved future lives."

http://articles.boston.com/2011-06-19/yourtown/29677309_1_crash-site-fighter-plane-pilot

Al Schwimmer and Founder of Israel Aircraft Industries

A veteran of air combat over Europe in WW II, he was a lead figure in smuggling complete aircraft & parts into Israel during their founding war in 1948. The US had embargoed all military gear to Israel – as well as the nations they were fighting – but he was able to form companies and via Czechoslovakia get the planes into Israel.

(There is a famous picture of an Israeli B-17 Flying Fortress being escorted by Israeli Bf-109Ks during the 1948 war – the 109Ks came from Czechoslovakia. After the war they continued to build 109Ks.) He mainly got transport aircraft to Israel.

He was convicted of violating the Neutrality Act in 1950. In 1951 he moved to Israel.

In 2001 he was pardoned by President Clinton for his role in smuggling these planes to Israel. The request had been made by Brian Greenspun, a Clinton supporter. His father, Hank had been was pardoned in 1961 by President Kennedy.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/middleeast/la-me-al-schwimmer-20110615,0,3816037.story>

Too Tall For Fighters – Never too Tall for Bombers

John O'Shaughnessy was over 6 feet tall and thus after pilot school was assigned to the 432 Bomb Squadron (Medium) which was assigned the Martin B-26 Marauder bomber.

Flying in Italy was different than flying out of England. "In Italy, if we didn't find our target, we brought our bombs back. In Germany, we never brought them back."

"He volunteered and flew practice flights over Hitler's in-ground hideout, where they had planned to drop drums containing flammable gel on Hitler's' Eagles Nest."

[Editor's note: this was Napalm and was used in at least 1 heavy bombing mission in France in late 1944 against bypassed German troops; and a few time by fighters in Normandy– both times photographs of it in combat use was suppressed at the time.]

<http://www.news-register.net/page/content.detail/id/556560/WWII-Bomber-Pilot-Honored-With-Legion-of-Honor-Medal.html?nav=515>

Five MIAs from Palawan Field Philippines Identified and Buried

A B-25 took off on a mission and crashed after takeoff killing all five crewman. Since 1947 they have been buried, moved, re-buried and then the remains were again moved to Hawaii for DNA identification in 2008.

Capt. Leonard E. Orcutt, Alameda, Calif., was buried on May 5 in Oakland, Calif; Tech. Sgt. Louis H. Miller, Philadelphia, was buried on June 17 in Arlington National Cemetery; Staff Sgt. George L. Winkler, Huntington, W.Va., was buried May 5 in Arlington National Cemetery; 2nd Lt. Harry L. Bedard, Minneapolis, will be buried on June 25 in Dayton, Minn.; and 2nd Lt. Robert S. Emerson, Norway, Maine, will be buried July 9 in his hometown.

<http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=14595>

British Pilot Escapes from a POW Camp – He is Returned to the POW Camp by the British

Roland "Bud" Wolfe, of No 133 Squadron (one of the Eagle Squadrons) lands in Ireland by mistake after bailing out of his Spitfire due to mechanical problems and is promptly interned by the Irish in a camp with other British and German internees.

He escapes but the British, not wanting to upset the Irish, send him back. He escapes again in 1943 but this time is caught by the Irish. Finally, in 1943, the Irish close the camp and return all American and British troops to the UK, but the Germans are sent??

They are going to try and dig up the Spitfire from the peat bog that it crashed into.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-13924720>

Flying the Hump in WWII

Vincent J. Jordan flew transports from India to China during the Second World War - one of the most dangerous air routes flown (over 500 aircraft were lost doing this) and then fighter jets during the Korean War.

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20110702/NEWS01/107020328>

A Gun Captain on the USS Ellet

Harry Beeman was on the destroyer USS Ellet at the Battle of Midway, was there when General Doolittle flew off the Hornet to attack Japan; "When I first came aboard my little ship, somebody said, 'Guess where we're going.' I said, 'Where?' He said, 'Tokyo.' I said, 'Oh shit, my first run is going to be my last.'"; in the Solomon Islands where he was wounded "A Jap plane blew up in my face and killed my two loaders," Beeman said. "An ensign came up and asked, 'Is the gun still firing?' And I said, 'Yes, sir.' He said, 'What do you need?' I said, 'Get me two more damn loaders.'" and he fought on till the end of the war.

<http://www.news-press.com/article/20110604/NEWS0101/110603058/History-has-followed-Cape-WWII-vet?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

A Glider Pilot in WW II – Normandy to Germany

Edward Pugliesi was part of the CPTP – Civilian Pilot Training Program – but instead of going into fighters, bombers, or other powered flight – he was assigned to the Glider Corps.

Around 6,000 men were trained as Glider Pilots during the war. Unlike other pilots, once a glider landed the pilots then became infantrymen – and fought just like the troops they carried into combat.

He was 19 when he glided into combat on June 6, 1944.

<http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20110605/NEWS10/106050465/D-Day-brings-back-memories-for-World-War-II-veteran?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CLivonia%7Cs>

Harrison Road – B-17 Gunner and POW

Flying in the 384th Bomb Group (Heavy) with the rank of Staff Sergeant he went to England soon after D-Day. Completing 25 missions in early December they were all set to go home when it was announced the mission limit had been changed to 35 – since losses were now lower, the 8th Air Force commander needed to get more use out of the trained crews so it was upped to 35 missions per General Doolittle. They were shot down on their 28th mission on December 12, 1944.

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/top_three/on-d-day-anniversary-world-war-ii-veteran-from-middle/article_8c2451d4-8f99-11e0-b087-001cc4c002e0.html

“It’s The Kid” P-51 Pilot in the 77th Fighter Squadron

Fred Alexander July 4 1944 mission with the 77th Fighter Squadron. Instead of relying on machine guns, their Mustangs were armed with bombs that conveniently replaced reserve gas tanks. They made their own fireworks over Tours, France, in the heart of wine country. Their target was a stone bridge near a big cathedral.

"The guy up in front of us was a bombardier, so we all stayed in formation and dropped bombs on that bridge," he said.

He was credited with 8 air to air victories.

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20110702/NEWS01/107020328>

200 Missions and 13 Kills in WW II

Clyde East wanted to fly and in 1940 the only way to become a pilot was have two years of college – so he went and joined the RCAF and flew combat missions out of England till he transferred to the US Army Air Force in 1944. On D-Day he was in a Mustang over the Beaches of Normandy – but he was mainly a recon pilot with fighter escort missions thrown in.

His 42 Oak Leaf clusters to his Air Medal gained him into the Guinness Book of records as the most medals awarded to a US Serviceman (in total numbers).

He also flew 150 missions during the Korean War.

<http://www2.godanriver.com/news/2011/jul/03/pittsylvania-native-decorated-wwii-korean-war-hero-ar-1149955/>

Vincent A. DeLiso Gets to Fly in a B-17 Again

The last time Vincent was in a B-17 he was forced to bail out of it over Germany, this time he knows he gets to go up and back down in it again in Pasco Washington. He was shot down on November 6, 1944 while flying in the 303 Bomb Group (Heavy) when they attacked Osnabruck.

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2011/06/28/1547051/pasco-man-plans-to-fly-in-b-17.html>

A Typical American Pilot – buried at Cambridge

An email from Larry Kszanznak living in the USA gets a local UK friend to visit the gravesite his brother Lt Thomas Kszanznak of the 355th fighter group at the US cemetery in Cambridge, England.

“The 30-acre site was donated by nearby University of Cambridge at the end of World War II. The only cemetery of its kind in the UK, it's set on a vast green slope bordered by pristine woods. The burial ground contains the remains of 3,812 U.S. military dead; 5,127 names are recorded on the Tablets of the Missing. Rosettes mark the names of those subsequently recovered and identified.”

The site is managed by the [American Battle Monuments Commission](#) whose mission is to oversee all gravesites of the US outside the territories of the USA.

<http://standardspeaker.com/in-england-local-pilot-recalled-66-years-after-his-death-1.1152806#ixzz1RTjshEsi>

Edward Self – 520th Service Squadron

Being part of the 82nd Airborne Division in WW II did not always means you were a infantry regiment – you could also be part of the air landing unit that flew the planes into combat or other support units. Edward died in May of 2011 in Altoona Alabama. He was part of the Army Air Force which in turn was assigned to the airborne division.

The 82nd was the first division sized airborne unit that jumped into combat by going into Sicily, Italy before leaving the Med and jumping into Normandy, Holland, driving into battle in the Ardennes, and the final jumping into Germany across the Rhine.

<http://www.pbcommercial.com/obits/more/Edward-Self-06-01-11>

A Sergeant in the Air Transport Command

Edmund Mather "Ted" Deeter Jr was in the 8th Air Force flying around in unarmed transports planes from North Africa to Europe from 1943 till the end of the war. He also died in May of 2011.

Many of the people who dropped the paratroopers in their combat jumps were ALSO on their first combat mission. The crews of the transports never really practiced mass drops at nights – too dangerous – so they all learned how to do it during combat. This is why every night drop done by the US in WW II the planes scattered the paratroopers all over the drop zones – the pilots never did and mass formation night practice jumps flying.

Ground Support in Norwich England

After building airbases in the US for a year, Carl Robbins was drafted and sent to the 8th Air Force base at Norwich England supporting B-17s in the Tech Supply Department.

"It was my job to furnish planes, get uniforms for pilots and even get parts for planes that returned from combat damaged," he said. "Sometimes that could be a big problem."

<http://www.dailystatesman.com/story/1741151.html>

Captured – He Got His Captors to Surrender to Him

Howard Irving Price was forced to bail out of his P-47 Thunderbolt on April 11, 1945 and was promptly captured by the Germans. On April 22 he and 8 other "POWS" then marched the 282 German troops to the American lines where they turned them over to the 8th Infantry Division.

<http://www.bradenton.com/2011/06/23/3295945/he-lived-enough-experiences-for.html>

Died of Wounds when "Mary Alice" was hit on July 13, 1944

A July 4th gathering in Bangor Maine featured stories from the Civil War to present. One of the stories was about Edward Lewis Page who was a tail-gunner on the B-17 "Mary Alice" which was part of the 615th Squadron 401 BG based at Deenethorpe written by him and his Lt to his mother after the mission.

<http://bangordailynews.com/2011/07/03/living/patriots-program-featured-letter-by-mother-of-wwii-gunner-killed-in-action/>

Catch-22 – Get out of Combat but spend 6 more months in Service

Charles William "Charlie" Borders Sr. joined the Army on August 19, 1942 and went through the normal testing. During the interviews he never committed to anything and said about as much – except that he could drive a truck.

During the 2nd interview he was sent to a Lt – who happened to know where he came from and knew that he already knew how to fly – off to the 8th Air Force to fly B-17s out of England.

After flying 26 missions he was offered the chance to go home – but knowing that if he took the offer he would have to stay in for another 6 months he decided to stay in combat. His fellow pilot Charles Miller took the offer and went home.

In May of 1945 Charles was discharged from the service and went home – his friend had 6 more months to serve before he could be discharged.

http://www.richlands-news-press.com/living/article/world_war_ii_veterans_turns_90/10496/

1st Combat Mission – Berlin – Deputy Group Lead

Robert H. Johnson died at the age of 94. Before WW II he was in the 115th Calvary before transferring into the Army Air Force and becoming a Pilot in a B-24 with the 466th Bomb Group (Heavy) operating out of Attlebridge.

He completed 30 combat missions.

http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2011/06/19/obituaries/02obit_06-19-11.txt

Otto Von Habsburg – From the WW I Austria-Hungary Empire Dead at 98

The eldest son of the last Austrian Emperor died in southern Germany on July 4, 2011.

He finally gave up the claim to the throne in 1961.

<http://www.thelocal.de/national/20110704-36065.html>

WW I British Lieutenant Benzecry Honored in Gibraltar

In November of 1917 this Lieutenant stayed with the rear guard to give time for the rest of the unit to escape. No one survived from the rear guard.

http://www.chronicle.gi/headlines_details.php?id=22160

Canadian Afghanistan War Memorial in Renton, Ontario

Created overseas at a training base for the Canadians, it has been moved to its permanent home CFB Trenton.

<http://www.globaltvbc.com/Afghanistan+memorial+returns+Canada/5060154/story.html>

Tunnels of the Somme

On July 1, 1916 the British opened up the 9 month long Battle of the Somme with mine explosions. Now, some 95 years later, mapping of all the mine shafts have mainly been completed.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/8569052/Western-Front-battlefield-sees-most-detailed-ever-study.html>

Did Stalin Know of the German Attack on 22 June 1941?

New declassified material released by the Russians covering the period 1938-1941 tell of repeated warnings that Germany planned to attack the USSR – but did Stalin believe the warnings?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/russianow/features/8607980/Joseph-Stalin-knew-Germany-WW2-plan.html>

Russia and Romania Still Fighting Over WW II – at least in Words

Romanian President Traian Basescu made a statement that because parts of Romania had been given to the USSR as part of the deal that partitioned Poland and allowed the USSR to annex other eastern areas of Europe, they fought to get back their rightful land and as a legal ally of Germany.

Land gained after WW I and during WW II, was then lost after WW II.

Interesting read from Pravda.

http://english.pravda.ru/world/europe/04-07-2011/118383-russia_romania-0/

Taken To USSR in 1934 from Alabama

His father Willard thought Communism was the wave of the future and took the whole family there – including eldest son Kenneth Edwards - and then insisted that he give up US Citizenship.

After two years his father found out the real dream was a nightmare and most made it back to the US – but not him.

“Willard himself fled as early as 1935 realizing his hopes of teaching in 'progressive' schools under Stalin was fantasy. The commissar who recruited him was shot as an enemy of the people.”

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2003114/American-man-trapped-Russia-77-years-suddenly-speaks-English-stroke.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Night Witches of the USSR

Unlike the western Allies, the USSR started recruiting women for all branches of the Soviet Army from the first day of combat. They had complete sniper units, artillery units, and air units composed of women. Women also participated in infantry type ground combat in partisan units.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/russianow/features/8610709/Russian-women-pilots-the-Nazis-feared.html>

Yelena Georgiyevna Bonner – wife of Andrei Sakharov Dead at 88

During the Great Patriotic War she was a nurse and was wounded in action. She died in Boston.

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/afp/soviet-dissident-yelena-bonner-dies-in-us/447900>

A German WW II Photo Album

Photographed by Franz Krieger and likely created by him, it covers the period from 1941 thru 1942.

<http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/06/21/mysteries-of-a-nazi-photo-album/>

Getting an Education While on Vacation

Julie Mack did a 10 day vacation in Europe and likely learned more than all the history classes she sat in during high school.

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/06/column_lessons_from_the_easter.html

A Russian Monument to Servicemen of the First World War – in Paris

The Russian First Expedition Corps served in France during the First World War and on 21 June 2011 Vladimir Putin will be on hand to unveil it.

Over 8,000 servicemen of the Russian Expedition Corps died in the battlefields of France.

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2011/06/20/52147681.html>

Hitler's Bunker in Vinnitsa Causes a Problem

When Adolf Hitler visited the Eastern Front he stayed in a bunker complex in Vinnitsa which was mostly destroyed when the German retreated – but three of them and a swimming pool survived. Now the problem is how to turn it into a historical tourist stop.

<http://news.travel.aol.com/2011/07/01/wehrwolf-hitlers-ukrainian-bunker-becomes-controversial-attra/>

650 Bells Ring for Villages That No Longer Exist



When Operation Barbarossa started on 22 June 1941 neither side knew the future – though the German High Command thought it would be over by the Winter. By 1944 when the last German units had been forced out of all Russian Territory, in Belarus alone 650 towns had been wiped off the map – never to return.

During those three years in some parts of the USSR the NAZIs were treated as liberators by some people – and after the USSR took back the land those same people were subsequently killed by the

NKVD.

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/253509/The-most-brutal-battle-in-history>

The Storm of War

A new book out from Andrew Roberts covers the history of World War II in 600 pages and has statistics within it on all the facets of the war.

Book Review:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304070104576399862101639604.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Amazon Link:

[The Storm of War: A New History of the Second World War](#)

Riding a Harley in WWII

Gene Stephens was an MP in the 281st MP Company – and got to ride the motorcycles around London, North Africa – all while escorting Eisenhower, Patton and Marshall.

"When Eisenhower wanted to go somewhere, he'd whistle for us and we'd lead him wherever he wanted to go. We were his personal company," said Stephens, a sergeant in the company's traffic section. "There were 150 men, five officers. And, the best we can understand, I'm the only living member of that company."

In London they rode Model 74 Harleys, "the big one."

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/july-4th-memories-military-policeman-proud-grateful-for-getting-drafted-124959634.html?ref=634>

Italy Sentences 9 Germans for Crimes Committed during WW II

Originally there were 12, but 3 died of old age during the trial. The youngest are in their late 80s.

They all live in Germany and unless they consent, they will not be extradited to Italy.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-14057055>

Visiting The Anzio Cemetery near Nettuno

The Anzio operation, an end run invasion around the German defense line at Monte Casino, did not work as planned due to numerous reasons, and the beachhead was itself only rescued after 5 months.

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20110703/GPG0204/107030598/Pat-Durkin-column-Visit-WWII-cemetery-brings-reflection>

A Ranger in the 88th Blue Devil Division

Sammy Bradford joined in 1942 and fought in Italy throughout the war.

<http://www.c-dh.net/articles/2011/07/02/lifestyles/01lstyle.txt>

Flying B-17s Out of Italy

The 15th Air Force had mainly B-24s, but around 1/3 of their whole fleet were B-17s. Lewis Waters attended the funeral of a fellow B-17 veteran in June.

Waters and crew were forced down in Hungary in March of 1945 and it took a month to repair the B-17 and get back to Italy.

Waters and his crew returned into action on April 10, targeting a target only known as "Charlie."

<http://www.vintoniowa.org/articles/News/article103886.html>

Two Women OSS Agents

Betty McIntosh, 96 and Doris Bohrer trade stories about being OSS spies during World War II. Both started out in "Q" building in DC and then went on to overseas careers in spying.

One stapled package of papers is titled "Operation Wowser: The participation of heavy bombers in final victory in Italy."

McIntosh wrote a memoir in 1947 called "Undercover Girl". In 2009 the book called "Sisterhood of Spies" came out about the women of the OSS.

Amazon Links: [Sisterhood of Spies](#) [Undercover Girl](#)

She also found out later why she gave a lump of coal to a Chinese OSS agent.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/decades-after-duty-in-the-oss-and-cia-spy-girls-find-each-other-in-retirement/2011/05/28/AG2xvZmH_story_1.html

Mapping Missions Flown over Europe

Earl B. Douglass Jr. was a Lt in the 303 Bomb Group (Heavy) "Hells Angels" out of Molesworth used a map to track his missions over Germany. When he finished his tour he left it behind in the rush to get back home – and someone tracked him down to return it.



Featured on "History Detectives" show.

<http://www.thepostsearchlight.com/2011/07/07/lost-wwii-map-reunited-with-vet/>

Changing the Weather by Bombing Germany

During WW II 1944 / 1945 it was reported that it was colder than normal by all who served in the ETO – now there is a study about a single mission of May 11, 1944 showing that the weather under a bomber stream on the way to France lowered the temperature under the raid by an average of 2 degrees as compared to stations outside the cloud cover generated by the 363 B-24s and 536 fighters on this single mission.

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/07/08/did-colossal-wwii-bombing-raids-alter-weather/>

“Fifi” on Tour

If you happen to be in Kansas on July 14-17 you can see a Boeing B-29 Superfortress.

<http://pressreleases.kcstar.com/?q=node/63187>

A B-17 Gunner in the 15th Air Force

One of the odd jobs a gunner, like Henry Yekel, would have during a bomb run was throwing “window” – bundles of radar jamming paper bonded to a thin film of aluminum – to jam the flak guns below.

http://www.reporterherald.com/ci_18364086

National WW II Memorial Registry

As part of the memorial in DC they have an electronic registry where you can add the names of people who served in WW II – and where you can also search for people within the registry.

The WWII Registry combines four distinct databases.

Three are official U.S. Government databases maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) or the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These official databases include names of Americans who are:

“The Registry combines four distinct databases that can be searched for names of those whose service and sacrifice helped win the Second World War. The Registry includes the names of Americans who are:”

- Buried in ABMC [American Battle Monuments Commission] overseas military cemeteries.
- Memorialized on ABMC Tablets of the Missing.
- Listed on War and Navy Department Killed in Service rosters held by NARA.

Being Born During an Air Raid in Hungary

Bela Schellenberg was born during an air raid against Lendava oil refinery. After the war he, and the rest of the family, emigrated to the USA and ever since he has been asking air veterans if they bombed his town the day he was born.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/north/124928279.html>

Staff Sgt. Marvin J. "Steiney" Steinfeld To Be Reburied after 65 Years

His B-17 was shot down by flak on 24 March 1945 when the 2nd Bomb Group of the 15th Air Force attacked the Daimler-Benz plant in Berlin.

Most of the crewman were captured by the Germans, and the other two were known to be killed, however, unknown to anyone, of the two killed Sgt Steinfeld he ended up being buried in a graveyard with Russian troops in Zirc Hungary and only in November of 2004 did the USA find out where he was buried.

This was the longest mission flown by the 15th Air Force during the war.

<http://www.vintoniowa.org/articles/News/article103834.html>

Want to see the only complete Vickers Wellington?

To see a complete Wellington medium bomber you will have to get to RAF Cosford in the UK. They are in the process of restoring it.

75 years ago on June 15, 1936 the prototype first flew. It was designed by Barnes Wallis – the same man who came up with the idea to destroy the Ruhr dams made famous in the movie “The Dam Busters”.

<http://www.shropshirelive.com/2011/06/15/75th-anniversary-of-the-first-wellington-flight/>

A Fully Restored WACO CG-4A Glider

After some 4,600 hours over 4 PLUS years – a restored assault glider will be unveiled on July 16 in Wausau, Wisconsin.

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20110708/WDH04/107080435/Uhlig-column-WWII-glider-restoration-project-will-end-dedication-ceremony>

HMS Invincible – Becoming scrap in a Turkish Scrapyard

Used to haul Harrier aircraft – lead ship in the Falklands war – was sold off for scrap and is fast becoming just a memory in Turkey.

The replacement aircraft carriers will be ready sometime after 2020.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2003673/HMS-Invincible-goes-knackers-yard-No-wonder-topple-Gaddafi.html>

B-26B Marauder Flown to NY after Restoration

After being restored over 12 years in Ohio, the plane is flown to its new home in New York.

<http://www.lancastereagle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011107060301>

Oregon Chapter News, Archive Donation, and Contact Information

Next Oregon Chapter Meeting August 13, 2011

Dick Klein and radar operations in the 8th. Dick was a former radar instructor/operator for the 388th Bomb Group.

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.

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@8thafhsoregon.com if you do not have the phone numbers for the people listed above.

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS

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

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