

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News Update for January 2012



History News → Readers, where's your story?
Oregon 8th AFHS Chapter News and how to share YOUR history with others on the last page.

Statistics of Battle

During World War II EAMs ruled – Electrical Accounting Machines – of which IBM made the most and were used extensively during the war. Here is a story of how a statistician flew combat missions out of Italy to help win the war.

<http://www.zdnet.com/blog/perlow/my-grandfather-business-analytics-in-wartime-1942/19396?tag=nl.e539>

The EURO, Bankers, Germany and a Unified Europe

An interesting article that ties in all of the above to the current economic problems in the Euro Zone of countries back to the goals – twice failed – that Germany would had created if it had won in WW I or II – of having a single united Europe.

<http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2011/grossman131211.html>

Then There Were 9 - Americans in the Battle of Britain

The son of Canadian Hugh Reilley, who has been reported as being American in every reference since the war, emailed me about this case of mistaken nationality - he is Canadian. A web site talking about his role in the Battle of Britain and how it was initially stated he was an American since he father was is at:

<http://hughwreilley.blogspot.com/>

WW I Memorial Plaque Stolen for Scrap

A bronze pried off the memorial at Christ Church, Willaston, Wirral in the UK, has not been recovered – but the thief was.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2074547/Despicable-thief-tried-sell-World-War-One-memorial-plaque-scrap-jailed.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Twice Sunk – But Lucky only Once

Richard Simpson was a seaman on the ship that was heading to Russia during WW I but was sunk by a mine – and out of the 650 aboard he and 10 others survived. The ship was also carrying Lord Kitchener.

He continued on to serve during the war but was again sunk in 1917 – and this time did not survive.

http://www.newsguardian.co.uk/seaman_one_of_only_11_survivors_from_650_on_board_as_ship_sinks_1_4074881

Touring a Battlefield and finding a Relative's Grave

The Cambuslang Volunteers Flute Band was on tour in Belgium when Billy Wilson found out a relative of his was buried in one of the cemeteries he was able to visit.

<http://www.rutherglenreformer.co.uk/rutherglen-news/rutherglen-local-news/2011/12/07/cambuslang-man-s-emotional-tribute-to-great-uncle-who-died-in-world-war-one-63227-29906447/>

Honoring the USS West Virginia on Pearl Harbor Day

The ship's mast is on the West Virginia campus. Winning the Navy Cross that was, while on the West Virginia, was "Dorie" Miller – later killed in action in 1943.

<http://www.wvpubcast.org/newsarticle.aspx?id=23108>

Hitler Curios – made in the USA DURING the war – causes confusion

People have seen (or heard of) the anti-Hilter movies made during the war (seldom seen now) but not many people know that the US firms also made anti-Hitler items and sold them during the war. Thomas Wittmann has some of them and when people on a tour of homes saw them in a display case they did not know what they were looking at.

He buys and sells military collectables at his web site.

<http://www.wwiidaggers.com/welcome.htm>

Story at:

<http://moorestown.patch.com/articles/anti-hitler-antiques-spark-controversy-following-holiday-home-tour>

School of Fish Leads to SB2C Helldiver

While on a technical dive – going deeper than 130 feet – Randy Jordan saw a school of fish swim 90 degrees to the current – rare and they usually only do that when going to some protected place. He followed them and found a WW II Helldiver on the sand.

However, the rules for Navy a/c are different than other a/c wrecks:

"Any disturbance to a sunken Navy ship or aircraft wreck requires a permit under the Sunken Military Craft Act of 2004," per Robert S. Neyland, head of the underwater archaeology branch for the Naval History.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2011/12/fish-lead-florida-diver-to-rare-world-war-ii-aircraft/>

Related story with a photo is at:

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/mystery-of-downed-ww-ii-era-plane-partially-2071629.html>

C-47 Found in China

Lost on 17 November 1942, one of the first transport aircraft lost shipping supplies into China, as part of the China National Aviation Corp (CNA). Cousin Bob Willett, a retired banker, was able to get into there and find his a/c. Crew was pilot John J. Dean, co-pilot , Jimmy Browne, and Chinese radioman K.L. Yang.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2081198/69-years-hero-American-pilot-died-family-lost-plane-13-000ft-Himalayan-mountain.html>

FAA Allows WW II a/c to Fly to Sitka for Alaska Day

FAA issued the permit for the a/c to get to Alaska on December 16, 2011 -- however the event was held two months ago in October 2011. It seems people need to plan at least two years ahead to get proper permits now.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2017113201_apaklateapproval1stldwritethru.html

Son Finds Photo of Dad's B-17 – as it was Shot Down

One of the most famous B-17 photos snapped, the pilot's son only discovered that it was his father's plane in 2002.

Other stories on the site also.

“Well, we had our mortar behind some houses and the Germans had their mortar across the street. We were lobbing shells at each other until they stopped lobbing them at us.”

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/12/world_war_ii_veterans_leave_le.html

Tonopah Air Field and Aircraft Training Accidents

Almost as many aircraft were lost / damaged in training in the US as there were lost in combat during World War II. This Nevada training base lost crew of both fighters and bombers during and after the war in accidents.

On the early Bell Aircroba P-39s: “the machine guns would vibrate loose causing bullet to ricochet into the propeller gear-boxes causing some of the planes to shoot themselves down.”

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20111226/NEWS07/111226005/Tonopah-Air-Field-had-its-share-tragedy-during-WWII>

A Crewmate of President Bush

Joseph Daniel Scarpello died at the age of 95 in December 2011 was on the USS San Jacinto at the same time President Bush was on the carrier. He was awarded a Bronze Star. He also was qualified to fly blimps.

http://articles.philly.com/2011-12-25/news/30556818_1_uss-san-jacinto-aviator-piano

Kilmark's Chapel – at 25,000 feet over Germany

As a pilot in the 772 Squadron of the 463rd Heavy Bombardment Group -- the "Swoose" Group – in the 15th Air Force flying out of Italy he had the distinction of being involved in five crash landings – including a ditching in the Adriatic. Out of a total of 43 missions.

<http://www.ocala.com/article/20111217/ARTICLES/111219734?p=1&tc=pg>

A Mechanic with the “Grey Goose Island Hoppers” 11th Bombardment Group

Tillman Jurgens joined up as a mechanic in the Army Air Forces after Pearl Harbor and was assigned to the 11th Bombardment Group (H) in the Pacific. The groups' original a/c – B-17s – were all destroyed at Pearl Harbor. In 1943 the group turned in B-17s for B-24s which were better suited for long overwater flights than the B-17s.

http://fremonttribune.com/news/local/article_61f1a872-20f7-11e1-b540-001871e3ce6c.html

On Duty in Hawaii on December 7, 1941

However, being on the north end of Oahu, with mountains in-between them and Pearl Harbor – when the attack started no one knew why training was happening on Sunday near the harbor.

"It was commonplace to hear loud explosions every day of the week," explained Rossi, an artillery gunnery corporal for the 11th Field Artillery Battery A of the 25th Infantry Regiment. "We shot shells into the ocean, infantry or engineers were usually doing something. Seven days a week, everyone was practicing their jobs."

<http://www.tallmadgeexpress.com/news/article/5133650>

WW II Memorabilia needs a Home

Amos Nicholson was a B-24 mechanic in the 343rd Bomb Squadron and has accumulated a lot of items from his time working and painting nose art on B-24s.

His first assignment as an artist had him paint the noses of the squadron's B-24s; which had been named Snow White with the other seven a/c the Seven Dwarfs when they were at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. And so, working with camel hair brushes and quick-drying paint that gave him little room for error, the would-be artist

transformed these bombers — starting with Dopey — into a Disney parade of colorful characters.

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/9247975-418/treasure-of-wwii-mementoes-needs-a-home.html>

Never Throw Away Documentation

Wounded over Japan while flying out the Aleutians, Jack Olson did not get his medals during the war since he knew it would upset his mom that he was wounded. He kept all his military records though, and even with the fire that destroyed 40% of the WW II service records, he had enough records of his own, along with some research, to prove he was entitled to the Purple Heart and other medals earned during the war.

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20111203/WDH0101/312030096/66-years-later-WWII-veteran-receives-Purple-Heart>

Two Georgians and Pearl Harbor

Bob Kerr & Bob Schmutzler are two of maybe 24 Georgians still living who were at Pearl Harbor in 1941.

In 1992 he met with some of the pilots who attacked Pearl Harbor. He asked them about their perspective on the attack. "They were surprised at seeing people run in so many directions. They expected to see more opposition. They never believed it would be so easy."

<http://www.ajc.com/news/two-georgia-men-recall-1250159.html>

Where Roads Names Meet there stands a Tank

Bangalore is a device that was created to clear barbed wire entanglements – but it is also a city in India that has a rich military history – noted by the names of its older roads. At the junction of two stands a Sherman.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/216223/a-walk-down-bangalores-roads.html>

Emergency Notes

Not calling out for help on a bugle, but monetary notes used to pay locals and by use of service personnel during WW II both in some US possessions and overseas.

<http://www.numismaster.com/ta/numis/Article.jsp?ad=article&ArticleId=24532>

Camp Laguna – Training for Combat in WW II

When the US started setting up camps it had at its disposal a vast variety of training areas – mountains, swamps, plains, rain forests and deserts. And it set up training camps in all of these areas (some places had all 5 into one place). Camp Laguna had the perfect setup to train people for North Africa.

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/hardrath-75320-soldiers-desert.html>

Wounded While Photographing at 23,000 Feet

Sometimes you take a shot and get a shot - Air Force Flight Engineer Paul L. Tuck Jr. ; 767th Bombardment Squadron of the 461st; was shooting a picture of Augsburg with a camera when the Germans shot back with a piece of flak. Both were successful in hitting their target.

<http://www.thedailyjournal.com/article/20111229/NEWS01/312290020>

Honoring Americans in Belgium

Belgium citizens "adopt" the graves of US Servicemen who are buried in their country. They know that relatives cannot visit so they adopt a grave and put flowers on them. In the Henri-Chapelle cemetery two brothers from Durant – one killed during the Battle of the Bulge and the other while flying a B-17 over Germany get flags and flowers every year.

http://www.durantdemocrat.com/view/full_story/16745581/article-Family-of-fallen-Durant-soldiers-buried-overseas-is-honored-they-are-not-forgotten-?instance=home_news_lead

Looking for a Lost C-109

The C-109 was the purpose built cargo version of the B-24. For 10 years a C-109 was at the Gaston Ohio before it was sold. Now Paul Quinn is trying to find out what happened to that aircraft.

<http://www.gastongazette.com/articles/world-65223-old-year.html>

Getting back "The Lady Be Good"

Now that Libya is somewhat free, maybe we can get back our B-24 that crashed in 1943 that has been stored in a Tobruk police station for years. This article from the Salem Oregon newspaper provides a good chronicle of the aircraft.

<http://www.salem-news.com/articles/december132011/lady-b-good-tk.php>

Millie Dalrymple -- WASP Pilot

She was assigned to class 44-4 and became one of the few WASP pilots during the war. Her husband was KIA flying B-17s over Germany.

The WASP unit was formed so that women could take over the routine ferry duties of moving aircraft around the US so that the men could be assigned to combat duties. By mid-1944 there were so many male pilots being trained, and coming back from combat, there was no longer a need to have the WASP perform this function. The WASP program was disbanded on December 20, 1944.

<http://themoderatevoice.com/132050/those-intrepid-women-airforce-service-pilots-wasp/>

Maria Dolores Hernandez – Nurse

When the Second World War started there were not enough nurses in the military and so many civilian nurses were commissioned and inducted into the services. Maria was a Red Cross nurse who was so commissioned into the military in 1940.

<http://blogs.ocmetro.com/2011/12/08/world-war-ii-nurse-maria-dolores-hernandez/>

Ground Crews – In for the Duration

Unlike flight crews who flew a certain number of missions and then could go home, ground crews stayed until the war was won. Gaylord L. Whiting was such a ground crew who from July of 1942 till the end served was assigned to the 15th Air Force, 5th Wing, 49th Squadron, 2nd Bomb Group, 352 Bomb Squad, 301 G.R. earning 12 Battle Stars and 4 Presidential Citations in the process. He died on December 18, 2011.

<http://www.messengernews.net/page/content.detail/id/544657/GAYLORD-L--WHITING.html?nav=5011>

Oregon Chapter News, Archive Loan / Donation, and Contact Information

2012 Meeting dates: February 11; May 12; August 11; November 3

Next Oregon Chapter Meeting February 11, 2012

PROGRAM: Angelica Pilato who wrote and was "Angels Truck Stop". This is the nickname of the Officer's Club at Udorn airbase in Thailand at the height of the Vietnam War. Angelica was the Captain assigned to manager the Officer's Club during this time.

Meal price will be \$13 and it is a hot meal.

Oregon Chapter Annual Dues

The February meeting is the annual meeting where we honor women.

Any money ABOVE the annual chapter dues of \$15 is tax deductible.

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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