

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News Update for February 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.

Another WW I Memorial Plaque Stolen in Britain

This time a plaque of a Victoria Cross in honor of William Johnson, who was awarded it after assaulting a machine gun nest in WW I, was stolen from the memorial in Worksop Memorial Park.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-16715062>

National WW I Memorial

US Congress is to look at a creating a National WW I Memorial within the Capital Mall by designating the DC War Memorial that currently exists there (which is in pretty bad shape). I took this photo of it in 2010.

<http://www.wjla.com/articles/2012/01/world-war-one-memorial-should-belong-to-d-c-district-residents-say--71750.html>

War Horse Nominated for some Academy Awards

The Steven Spielberg movie about a boy and his horse that both fight through WW I on the western front was nominated in six categories. The movie is based on the Devon author Michael Morpurgo's 1982 novel about farm horse Joey's journey on both sides of the trenches during World War One was turned into a play by the National in 2007 then into the current movie.

Between August 1914 and November 1, 1917, 215,300 were brought to a depot in Lathom with 210,800 being sent for active service. There were other depots in the UK performing the same function.

<http://www.thisplymouth.co.uk/Saddling-War-Horse-maybe/story-15038181-detail/story.html>

The Tunneler's Of WW I

There were lots of fights above the ground and in the air of WW I, but there was also a very dangerous battle fought underground as each side dug tunnels under each other trenches to place tonnes of explosives in order to blow up the other sides' trench at the start of an assault.

"At the Battle of Messines in 1917, British tunnellers placed 455 tons of explosive in 21 tunnels that had taken more than a year to prepare. The giant blast killed 10,000 Germans."

For more information on the tunneling war of WW I go to www.tunnellersmemorial.com or www.laboisselleproject.com .

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2012/01/21/the-real-hero-tunnellers-of-world-war-one-115875-23709739/>

New Museum about WW I opened in November 2011 in Meaux

This new museum, along with many others that have opened since the 50th Anniversary of D-Day and the upcoming 100th anniversary of the start of World War I has led to an explosion of war tours throughout Europe.

The museum was built out of a private collection created over a 40 year period of time by Jean-Pierre Verney. Originally no one in France wanted to buy his collection and it was about to be sold to either a firm in the USA or Germany, but the mayor of Meaux got the citizens to buy it.

<http://www.english.rfi.fr/culture/20120116-war-tourism>

SMERSH – A real Russian Organization to hunt and kill Spies

It was created in 1943 to ensure that the Red Army had no spies in it, and as the USSR took back their own land and captured enemy land it was to ensure no spies were in those new areas either. A new book about SMERSH is being published this year by Dr. Vadim J. Birstein.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/holly-cara-price/smersh-stalin_b_1200086.html

A New Memorial to the Soviet Ear Prison Camps

Perm was a closed city where political and others were sent to prison – and often die. “There were 170 camps in the Perm region towards the end of the Stalinist period, outnumbering villages, and holding some 150,000 prisoners. While many in the West are aware of the Stalinist labour camps, of which there were at least 95,200 and where some 20 million died, few realise that the camps kept working well into Gorbachev’s period of glasnost and perestroika. Among these, the ‘Perm Triangle’, comprising the three most notorious camps, Perm-35, -36 and -37, held many famous dissidents from 1972 to 1988, including Natan Sharansky, Sergei Kovalyov, Balys Gajauskas, Vladimir Bukovsky, Vasyl Osvienko, Vasyl Stus and Yuri Orlov. Lesser-known dissidents were freed only in 1992.”

Russian satirist Mikhail Zadornov’s has an apt description of Russia since the Revolution fo 1917: a ‘great country with an unpredictable past’.

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/susanne-sterthal/let-history-be-judged-lesson-of-perm-36>

Green Politics, EU Policies, & Lebensraum from the NAZI Era

An interesting essay on how the NAZI era Lebensraum ideas still live on in the EU under another name – and somewhat being applied to the USA.

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/01/green_lebensraum_the_nazi_roots_of_sustainable_development.html

A WW II German Plan to Unite Europe under a common economic System

Cecil von Renthe-Fink, a German diplomat, came up with a memo and submitted it to the system which looks remarkable like the current EU.

"He proposed a customs-free economic union with a single central bank and eventually a common currency. There was to be a common transport plan to build an integrated system of railroads, river and air transport and autobahns, and a special plan for agriculture.

Today there are fewer than 7 million little Germans below the age of 10. There are 8 million little Brits of that age and 8.2 million little French boys and girls.

That is the ultimate refutation of the dream of Cecil von Renthe-Fink and the irony of modern Europe. They have created a Europe that rests and depends on a strong and vibrant German economy but we are running out of Germans."

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Analysis/Walker/2012/01/23/Walkers-World-A-Fourth-Reich/UPI-24631327318020/#ixzz1kqeM2lrJ

Three Book Reviews about the war on the Eastern Front

- [Ostkrieg: Hitler's War of Extermination in the East](#), by Stephen G. Fritz (Univ. of Kentucky, \$39.95)
- [Leningrad: The Epic Siege of World War II, 1941-1944](#) by Anna Reid (Walker, \$30)
- [The Battle of the Tanks: Kursk, 1943](#)
(Above Link are to Amazon)

Book reviews at:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/3-books-on-the-eastern-front-of-world-war-ii/2011/12/06/gIQA9dhffP_story.html

Another book about the battle of Kursk is [BLOOD, STEEL, AND MYTH: The II.SS-Panzer-Korps and the Road to Prochorowka](#) which deals with the 2nd SS Panzer Corps attack from the south.

The Wannsee Conference – 70 Years Later

On 20 January 1942 a group of NAZI high ranking administrators gathered at Wannsee and came up with an administrative plan concerning all the Jewish people under NAZI control that still reverberates today.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/europe/news/article_1686092.php/Germany-marks-70th-anniversary-of-Wannsee-Conference

Estonian Soldiers in the NAZI Army during WW II



As part of the official German Army the Estonians who served in WW II are a unique group of soldiers even within Estonia. This has led the current government to honor yet not honor them officially since that would appear to support NAZI Germany whereas others point out that they were fighting for Estonia against the Soviets and not really for NAZI ideals itself and WW II was a method to free Estonia from USSR after the

Soviet Union had annexed Estonia in 1940 (illegally).

<http://www.worldcrunch.com/world-war-ii-push-honor-estonian-ss-nazi-unit-sparks-outrage/4497>

Checking to see if he qualified for a Purple Heart he instead gets A Bronze Star

As a refugee from Germany in 1939 he had to go through extra checks before he was allowed to join the Army. He fought from North Africa to Northern Europe. After asking his Congressman Bob Turner to help him find out if he was qualified for a Purple Heart the staff found out he was supposed to have been awarded a Bronze Star.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/queens/world-war-ii-veteran-receive-bronze-star-68-years-service-article-1.1011731?localLinksEnabled=false>

Clearing Minefields in Italy with Borrowed Equipment

Before the war industries caught up with the demand of goods units were forced to scrounge for gear. Getting other units to loan equipment to a unit assigned to clear minefields was likely difficult – since the equipment may not come back!

“The battalion was ordered to convert about six miles of the main railroad from Mignano to Cassino to a two-way road in six days. At the time, about four miles were still in German hands.”

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20120127/ARTICLE/120129562>

Alberta Aviation Museum

Aviation capital of Canada during the 1930s, which saw over 8,000 aircraft move through it on the way to the Soviet Union under lend-lease and 20,000 aviation related personnel were trained there during the war. The aviation museum attracts visitors year round.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Blatchford+Field+bliss+flying+buffs/5966082/story.html>

Last Man Club – 5 Still Left

A & D Last Man's Club gathered for their 65th annual reunion on Saturday at the Stillwater VFW. Club was formed in 1946 by members of the 135th Infantry Minnesota National Guard.

<http://news.google.com/news/section?pz=1&cf=all&ned=us&hl=en&csid=e40bb77d6a23344f&ict=ln>

B-17 Pilot Alvin S. Rothstien – Dead at 90

Shot down 4 times – once ditching his B-17 in the North Sea and another time within Soviet territory - he was awarded the DFC and three Air Medals during his tour in the 8th Air Force.

http://www.timesleader.com/news/Friends_recall_a_true_‘Buddy’_01-27-2012.html

April 1942 – Desert Training with George Patton



A re-publication of April 21, 1942 LA Times article showing Tank Destroyers – M3 Halftracks with a 75 MM gun mounted on them – during training at the Desert Training Center at Indio. This was when General Patton had on two stars on his helmet. He is also one of the few soldiers in the photos wearing the new style helmet while others are wearing the WW I version.

<http://framework.latimes.com/2012/01/27/desert-training-with-gen-george-patton/#/0>

Land Still Open for Development in Berlin

As a result of the British “Battle of Berlin” night bomber campaign of 1943/1944 which wiped out at least 600,000 rooms where people lived, the Russian battle to take Berlin in 1945, the cold war no-man’s land between the two cities, there is still a lot of open land to build on within Berlin.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-01-26/berlin-s-new-waldorf-to-open-as-city-s-hotel-boom-cuts-rates.html>

Brothers Meet on Captured Airfield

2nd Lt. Harold Coutts a co-pilot, of a B-17 Flying Fortress, was forced by damage to bail out and was captured. A POW for only 7 days before being liberated he was just deposited onto a just captured Luftwaffe Air base and was there to greet his brother as he landed as the pilot of a C-47 bringing supplies to the front line. He recognized the nose art on his brothers’ plane.

“... the cargo doors opened and someone yelled, ‘Hey Lieutenant, how about a ride to France?’

“Lt. [Bud] Coutts, without turning, replied with a question, ‘Any orders?’

“‘No,’ came the retort.

“The C-47 pilot asked, ‘What’s your name?’

“‘Lt. Coutts,’ the answer came.

“‘Not Harold Coutts!’

“‘Yes, why?’”

“‘Bud, how did you get here?’”

<http://www.neagle.com/topstories/x842385954/LOCAL-HISTORY-Paupack-brothers-meet-in-WWII-Germany>

Mussolini Villa proposed to house Holocaust Museum

A proposal, if the money can be raised, is to use part of the grounds that was once owned by Benito Mussolini and put a museum there.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2012/01/27/Mussolini-villa-to-have-Holocaust-museum/UPI-70631327680631/

War Crime Trials in the Pacific

The issue of who should be held responsible for causing deaths, or just plain beatings of POWs under Japanese control, is still being argued under the general premise "of just following orders" and or "common practice" of killing POWs within the Japanese military of WW II.

Over 5,700 were classified as war criminals in the Pacific – including Koreans, Taiwanese and others who were inducted into the Japanese military and thus treated as Japanese soldiers.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2012/01/137_103587.html

With the 45th Infantry Division in WW II

The 45th Division fought in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy during World War II . It fought in some of the biggest WW I style trench warfare battles that occurred in the war. With them was Edward Colucci as a member of the 157th Infantry Battalion. The division was nicknamed "The Thunderbird Division".

"Colucci remembered a lone Italian soldier that he and his comrades spied in a trench "when we first landed in Sicily." A member of his unit, who spoke Italian, called out to this soldier to surrender, but the unexpected response was the lobbing of a grenade that hit and killed the Italian-speaking G.I. The men in the unit immediately retaliated: "We each put a bullet in him," Colucci said.

"After that day, everyone was really careful," he added. "A lot of Italian soldiers were killed unnecessarily because no one wanted to take a chance."

http://www.silive.com/eastshore/index.ssf/2012/01/seasoned_veteran_edward_colucc.html

Banking and Government - A short Synopsis

This long article talks about state finances, World War I debt (and the problems it created), and how different banking systems and purposes affects governments in both times of peace and war.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2012/01/27/banks-werent-meant-to-be-like-this/>

Thomas Edward Linzee, survives the B-17 "My Honey" blowing up after bailing out

He, however, could not outlive life and died at 89.

On his last mission on December 24th, his B-17 "MY HONEY" was hit simultaneously over Germany by three anti-aircraft blasts, one of which struck directly below his radio room in the plane. Wounded and stunned, he still assisted in trying to put out fires and to radio critical target information back to headquarters while his pilot somehow turned the crippled plane around and headed them back to the front lines.

After flying the burning aircraft for twenty minutes, the call for all to bail out was given when they had crossed into Belgium. As the last crewmember to bail out of the Flying Fortress, Sergeant Linzee felt the shock wave when the plane exploded a few seconds later. He and his crew landed in a frozen field in the middle of the Battle of the Bulge where they were fortunately picked up under enemy fire by an American armored vehicle.

After surgery to remove shrapnel from his knee, he and his crew returned to England in another damaged B-17 that barely made it over the cliffs of Dover and collapsed after landing at an emergency air field. Back in America, it was reported that Linzee was "missing in action" until his wife Elizabeth eventually received a letter from him that he was still alive.

<http://sippican.villagesoup.com/people/announcement/obituaries/thomas-edward-linzee-89-world-war-ii-army-air-corps-veteran/198422>

Bill Martin, Lead Navigator 398 BG (H)

A prewar officer, he graduated in 1941 and was eventually assigned to the 398 Bombardment Group (Heavy) as part of the 8th Air Force based in England. Bill received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters and a European-African Eastern Campaign Medal with 5 Bronze Stars. He also received two Personal Combat Commendations.

<http://www.advertiser-tribune.com/page/content.detail/id/543799/William-Winfield--Bill--Martin.html?nav=5011>

Digital Combat Simulation (DCS) moving to bring a P-51D to the simulation

Flight Simulators have been around a LONG time (one is even built into Google Earth) , Even Lucas Arts made combat flight simulators in the 1980s and 1990s (before dropping them to build the Star Wars games; they learned how do a flight sim program on WW II games and then dropped them all).

This company has plans to model the P-51 to be followed by the B-17.

<http://www.digitalcombatsimulator.com/>

“When we heard we were going to Lincoln, we knew we were going to Europe”

Gene Slough was trained as an Weather Observer but was retrained as a gunner and went off to fly in the 15th Air Force out of Italy. He was eventually assigned to the 454th Bomb group which flew B-24s.

<http://enidnews.com/localnews/x205475423/-We-knew-we-were-going-to-Europe>

From Pitching Baseballs to Pitching Props

William “Win” J. Oliverio played Shortstop for the Chicago Cubs before joining the Army and became a B-17 pilot flying with the 92 BG (H) 325th Bombardment Squadron in the 8th Air Force. He was one of the early pilots since he finished his tour at 25 missions. General Jimmy Doolittle, after he was assigned as head of the 8th Air Force in January of 1944, raised the number of missions to 30, then later on to 35.

Mr Oliverio died at the age of 93.

http://strausnews.com/articles/2011/12/19/new_jersey/milestones/passings/4.txt

Cooking His Way across Europe

During the Second World War there were people you always wanted to be “in” with good – the supply Sergeant and the unit’s cooks. Both can make your life easier. Olvis O. Osbourn was a good in the 9th Armored Division within General Patton’s Third Army. From Normandy to VE day he had to provide meals for the troops under all conditions. During the Battle of the Bulge his kitchen was inspected by General Patton himself.

“We were about a mile from the front lines during the Battle of the Bulge. Our cook unit had a self-contained mess truck/trailer with gas to cook the food, water for cooking and to wash and sanitize to sanitize the soldier’s mess kits. We would back our trucks up against a rock wall or barn for protection. We cooked regular food—pork butts, hamburgers, etc. Our stoves had 20-gallon cans in which to heat the water. The boiling water was on the bottom with the potatoes cooking in the middle, and the meat cooking on the top section. We had 5-gallon insulated cans to take out to the men at the front lines (small groups, 5-6 men). We used regular gasoline in the stoves to cook with.”

(NOTE: It angered Patton for people to refer to his pistols as “pearl-handled.” According to Patton, “Only a pimp in a New Orleans w-xxxxhouse or a tin-horn gambler would carry a pearl-handled pistol.” The pistol in his right holster was a Colt .45 Peacemaker, but the one in the left holster was a Smith & Wesson .357. The handles were made out of Ivory.)

<http://www.llanonews.com/news/article/48498>

Essay Winner going to Pearl Harbor

Dakota J. Fritz, a 15 year old home school student, won the Pearl Harbor day essay on December 7, 2011 in a countywide contest in North Carolina.

Part of his essay:

“Many Americans would rather occupy Wall Street and complain that they don’t have jobs, than to go out and try to get a job on their own. People used to have the “Pull Yourself up by Your Own Bootstraps” mentality. They understood that having a job was a privilege, whereas people today consider it a right.”

Fritz and his father will receive an all-expense paid trip to Pearl Harbor in 2012.

<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20111207/ARTICLES/111209846/1151?Title=Essay-winner-calls-for-unity-at-Pearl-Harbor-ceremony->

Bad Eyesight for a Pilot – perfect for Photographic Analyst School

Hugh Bingham wanted to be a pilot but the eye exam disqualified him, then the Navigator school requirements changed and he could no longer go to that, so he appealed to the top – Army Adjutant General in DC – and was assigned to be trained as an officer in that field.

However, for two years they did not know what to do with him till he finally got assigned to the 398 BG (H) which was being sent to England to be part of the 8th Air Force and was eventually based at Nuthamsted.

"The main thing we did as intelligence officers was we'd take the maps and the photographs and try to show the crews where the flak and the fighters would be heaviest," Bingham said. "We had pictures from all over Europe, and whenever they were preparing to hit a target, we would pull the pictures so we could brief the crews before their bomb runs. We'd try to fix it so they could get to the target safely, but so many of those guys still got hit on the way to the target."

<http://insurancenewsnet.com/article.aspx?id=306479&type=newswires>

Captain Robert G. Reeder – 1 1/3 tours in the 8th AF

After completing 25 missions in 1944, a leave home, he returned and started a second tour till he was shot down in March of 1945 and captured.

<http://www.glendalenewspress.com/news/opinion/tn-gnp-1026-ww-pilot-survived-crash-in-germany,0,1291488.story>

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.

Folded Wings

Eldon Bevens, 390 BG (H) 570th BS
Hal Hagerty 388 BG (H) 560 BS
Vernon Dicke 447 BG (H) 711 BS (POW)
Harold Fritzer 491 BG (H) 852 BS
Floyd Rye 379 BG (H) 535 BS
David Marshall 381 BG (H) 535 BS
Marvin Rasmussen 381 BG (H) 533 BS
Max Pyles 20 FG 79 FS
Dolph Boyer 91 BG 323 BS

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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