

“MILK RUN”

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



History News → Readers, where's your story?

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

UK Air Shows for 2012

The four WW II related that are at Duxford:

The Jubilee Air Show Sunday May 27

Flying Legends weekend of June 30 & July 1

Duxford Air Show weekend of September 8 & 9

The Autumn Air Show on Sunday October 14

In the Marines at Tarawa and Iwo

Gene "Tim" Shawaryn, now 90, was 16 when he saw a newsreel about the Marines and decided to join them. He landed at Red Beach at Tarawa at 9:30 on November 20, 1943. "Amid a storm of machine gun fire and artillery shells, Shawaryn finally got out carrying an M-1 carbine, 12 half-pound blocks of TNT, two Bangalore torpedoes, two 1 lb. blocks of TNT and fuses and blasting caps." He followed Sgt. Marion Gaudet over the seawall but he and Sgt Gaudet were both wounded later on in the day – and both were wounded again at Iwo Jima.

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2012/mar/03/veterans-spotlight-palm-city-veteran-was-in-ww/>

National Eighth Air Force YouTube Page

The National 8th AFHS, through Pat Keeley, posts videos onto their channel from the reunions and other venues. Their YouTube page is:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/8thafhs?feature=g-all-f>

A short 5 Minute Dogfight during The “Battle of Britain”

A video fictionalized account of a dogfight using both live action and modern animation techniques between a Bf-109E vs. a Spitfire Mk I during the Battle of Britain. The account is fictionalized – but the ending was true for some pilots.

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/31202906?autoplay=1>

On the Ground at Hickham on December 7, 1941

Major James F. Walls USAF-Ret. passed away March 4, 2012 in Smyrna Tennessee. After graduating from high school Maj. Walls enlisted in the Army Air Corp and was trained as an aircraft mechanic. Assigned to the 4th Reconnaissance Squadron based at Hickam Airfield in Hawaii he was there when the Japanese attacked on December 7th 1941. Literally surviving with only the clothes on his back during that day in infamy, Maj. Walls went to flight school and ended up qualifying to fly gliders, fighters and transports. After retiring from the United States Air Force in 1959 he opened a restaurant named the Omni Hut which remains family owned and is still in business. He is survived by his wife Sally and 5 children.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/D4/20120306/NEWS01/303050035/Omni-Hut-founder-Walls-dies-92>

Liberty Ship Davy Crockett Removal / Salvage

It had been tied up along the Columbia River for 10+ years and was being salvaged for scrap – then they took too much from it and it broke in half. The Coast Guard stepped in and used money in paid into an account for just that and finished the salvage clean it up.

<http://www.pmmonlinenews.com/2011/12/best-practices-diving-and-salvage.html>

In a related shipping note Cunard Line of England registered Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary 2, and Queen Victoria cruise ships under the Flag of Bermuda. This was likely due to the regulatory requirement to pay ship's personnel the same wages as people working in the UK. The QM2 was also recently refurbished by the Blohm & Voss shipyard in Hamburg.

Unsinkable “Stoker” John Priest – Sailed on 6 ships – of which 4 sank including the Titanic

Serving on the Olympic (sister ship of the Titanic) which collision with a navy ship along with Captain Smith and was damaged, he went to Titanic – sunk (1912), Alcantara - sunk (1916), Britannic – sunk (1916), Donegal – sunk (1917).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-17543632>

How many “National” WW I memorials in the USA?

The first, and only “National” memorial to WW I is in Kansas City, Kansas, but Washington DC built a memorial to ITS’ veterans along the mall. Some are trying to get it designated as the “National” WW I but the DC Government says it was built to honor those what died who were from DC, and are listed on it, not the whole nation.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/05/usa-monument-war-idUSL2E8E5B2L20120305>

Born in the Trenches – A Donkey received the “Dickens Medal”

The medal is the highest award that can be given to an animal in the British Army. The donkey was born in 1916 and served throughout WW I in the front lines – being wounded three times.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2119338/The-donkey-born-First-World-War-trench-mascot-British-troops.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Germany & Greek twinned Towns

Germany is the economic powerhouse of Europe, and like many nations it has twinned towns to promote trade with other nation's towns, but the relationship with Greece is still complicated.

During WW II over 300,000 Greeks died as a result of combat, disease, and starvation while Germany occupied Greece.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/08/uk-germany-greece-partnership-idUSLNE82701H20120308>

WW I Artist Archive – Humorous drawings from a WW I German Artist

German artist Albert Heim drew lighthearted fare from the trenches of WW I due to a commission by Lt General Theodor von Wundt of the 26th Division. The collection of 80 drawings is being auctioned off.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2113408/Humorous-German-cartoons-life-frontline-World-War-I-unearthed-theyre-funny.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Why Germany fought on – a new book, The End, by Ian Kershaw examines this fact

During the last 10 months of the war 2.6 MILLION German soldiers died, (about 1/2 of all soldiers killed during the whole war) and around 900,000 civilians died – and this book he examines why the soldiers fought on when they knew the war was lost.

The End: Hitler's Germany, 1944-45

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/8697602/The-End-by-Ian-Kershaw-review.html>

Possible memorial to Children Killed in 1945

On March 5, 1945, a Do-24 aircraft evacuating children from Russian forces was shot down into Lake Resko – where it still remains. If enough money is raised they will raise the remains still in the aircraft for re-burial and monument.

Almost a million German soldiers and civilians remain unaccounted for from WW II.

<http://www.thelocal.de/national/20120306-41161.html>

In Dnipropetrovsk the organization there has discovered and reburied 130 Red Army soldiers, 18 German and 2 civilians they discovered.

The German government plans to have most large scale search activities completed by 2015. Some 400,000 Germans died in the Ukraine area of operations during World War II.

<http://www.day.kiev.ua/224782>

A Combat Nurse in North Africa

Dorothy Pacenta was on duty in North Africa five months after she joined the US Army in 1943 ending up in Marseilles at the end of the war.

"In summer we couldn't take temperatures in the afternoon because the thermometers would go up to the top."

Over 59,000 nurses were in the Army.

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/03/patriotism_and_a_yen_for_actio.html

Where's the Border? 2,500 years of disputes between Eritrea and Ethiopia

From when the area was known as "Punt" 2,500 years ago, the borders of Ethiopia has been altered by European and African powers ever since. And it still goes on.

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/27/war-over-a-one-horse-town/>

New WWII Memorial in Phoenix Arizona

To be finished by December 7, 2012 in time for the 71st Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Governor Jan Brewer signed the legislation recently.

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2012/03/14/20120314phoenix-wwii-memorial.html>

A Forward Artillery Assistant in the 88th Division

Cloyce Edmon was assigned that job after being in a Tank Destroyer Unit (disbanded), then kitchen duty in the 88th Division, and when fed-up with that - and he complained about it - he was assigned as a relay operator then re-assigned to a forward artillery controller for the rest of the war.

http://www.timesreporter.com/communities/x1612613722/Phila-World-War-II-veteran-defied-odds?zc_p=1

Ancient India and NAZI Germany

The writings of ancient Indians had an influence in Germany since the mid-1800s and directly affected the leaders of NAZI Germany.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/319400/20120326/heinrich-himmler-ss-nazi-germany-india-hindusim.htm>

Appeasement as a Policy prior to WW II

The meanings of words are often altered over time and their original meanings at their time of creation gets forgotten. Appeasement is one such word that had a different meaning back in the 1930s than it does not when people hear it.

How it was used by Britain and Australia to prevent WW II in context of the times it was used changes everything.

Australia and Appeasement: Imperial Foreign Policy and the Origins of World War II

By Christopher Waters

I.B. Tauris, 310pp, \$39.95 (HB)

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/arts/australian-appeasers-guilty-in-failure-to-stop-world-war-ii/story-e6frg8nf-1226299580019>

P-47 Pilot Donald E. Hillman dead at 93

He flew 145 combat missions in his 10 months of combat in the 8th and 9th Air Force over Europe before being captured. He was in Stalag Luft III, the "Great Escape" camp after the 1944 escape. He lived in Seattle and worked for Boeing.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2017834043_hillmanobit25m.html

C-47 Dakota from 1950 Malayan Emergency

The passengers and crew of a C-47 which went down in 1950 during the Malayan conflict with England were finally buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2115346/Malayan-Emergency-victims-laid-to-rest-60-years-RAF-plane-crashes-jungle.html>

A 250 Acre Combat Town

The French and British built a town in France, Jeoffrecourt, outside of Reims to train soldiers in urban combat.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/moslive/article-2118028/A-modern-invasion-France-The-extraordinary-purpose-built-80-million-theatre-war.html>

Wings of Freedom Tour

The annual "Wings of Freedom" aircraft tour around the USA has started again. The tour includes the B-17 Flying Fortress, B-24 Liberator and P-51 Mustang.

Another B-17, The Yankee Lady, is also out on tour.

This is the Collings Foundation annual tour.

http://www.collingsfoundation.org/cf_schedule-wof.htm

Was there a B-24 Named “Spirit of West Tech”?

During WW II Cleveland’s West Technical High School raised \$275,076 to purchase a B-24 Liberator in 1944 and have it named after them. The money was sent but no one knows if there was ever a bomber named for them or not. Now they want to find out.

According to the B-24 Nose Art Name Directory no aircraft was ever named for them.

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/03/post_1.html

Honeymoon at Attlebridge

A newlywed couple travels to Attlebridge, where the 466th Bomb Group was stationed, in order to visit where his grandfather flew from during WW II.

They were married under the wing of a DC-3.

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/newlyweds_remember_grandfather_who_was_a_member_of_usaaf_466th_bombardment_group_at_attlebridge_airfield_1_1332453

Operation Cornflakes

Battles were also fought by propaganda means during World War II against Germany. The British dropped lots of leaflets during the war, and many of their early raids over Germany in 1939 were JUST to drop propaganda leaflets. Once the US joined the war the OSS – Office of Strategic Service – started their propaganda efforts against Germany. The OSS, using units of the 8th AF, flew B-17s from England dropping leaflets in all of Europe to aid this effort, but in 1945 they got even more devious by getting the German mail service to deliver forged mail and propaganda for them using P-47s from the 15th Air Force.

Over the course of Operation Cornflakes, 320 bags of fake mail were dropped, containing more than 96,000 pieces of propaganda mail.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2111038/Operation-Cornflakes-How-Allies-delivered-propaganda-Nazi-Germany--just-time-breakfast.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

James Morehead, Ace, Dies at 95

Flying P-40s out of Darwin, Australia, in 1942 he achieved his first three victories against a Japanese bomber formation when leading his squadron. He achieved his last victory by shooting down a Bf-109 over Romania in 1944.

“Aerial gunnery is a matter of interception. You cannot look at the target, shoot at the target and ever hit the target. You’re going to hit eight feet behind if you point right at him.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/20/us/james-morehead-world-war-ii-flying-ace-dies-at-95.html>

Paul Crumb – Lived for Real what appears in Movie Scripts

Joining the Army when he was 18, he first saw combat as part of K Company of the 47th Regiment of the 9th Infantry, nicknamed "Raiders", during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. From that he then ended up at the Ludendorff Bridge, at Remagan Germany, and his unit was one of the ones that first went across the bridge to capture it.

<http://www.ocala.com/article/20120220/ARTICLES/120229988?p=2&tc=pg>

Another Scene from a Movie – also real

In the movie "12 O'Clock High" a B-17 tries to land with a non-pilot at the controls and explodes. In real life this did occur and two airmen earned the Medal of Honor for their actions. Staff Sgt. Archibald Mathies and Lt. Walter Truemper died while trying to land at Glatton air base in England.

<http://www.malmstrom.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123291033>

Glenn Miller Mystery – Another Clue

A plane spotter's logbook recording of a Norseman on December 15 while he worked at Woodley airfield adds another clue to the mystery.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-16517128>

Lake Pontchartrain and PBVs

New Orleans is home to the National WW II Museum but before that it was also home to where PBVs - "Catalina" - flying boats were built. The plant is still there.

http://www.nola.com/175years/index.ssf/2012/02/our_times_1943_aircraft_factor.html

Paul Allen's Ilyushin Il-2 Shturmovik

The plane was assembled from four different IL-2s with the primary being II-2M3 serial number 30540 built in 1943 and shot down in 1944.

"It has been decades since anyone has been able to get an Il-2 engine, the Mikulin AM-38F, to function. So, the FHC aircraft flies with a left-turning Allison V-1710-113 1,475-horsepower engine from a P-38 Lightning fighter."

<http://www.seattlepi.com/business/boeing/article/Unique-WWII-Soviet-fighter-reassembled-in-Everett-3312000.php>

Pieces form the Past

Gerald Smith gets in the mail pieces of his B-26 from Italy. Shot down and captured in November of 1944 an Italian who witnessed the crash collected pieces and sent them to the pilot's family who then sent it onto co-pilot Smith.

http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120226/GJNEWS_01/702269912/-1/FosNEWS

Hunting for Buried Airplanes

Freeman AAF , http://www.indianamilitary.org/FreemanAAF/Museum/FF_museum.html , was where hundreds of German aircraft were sent after the war for evaluation – and some of them may be buried on the airfield.

<http://www.wdrb.com/story/17041764/nazi-secrets-wwii-planes-buried-under-seymour-ind-airport>

Chadderton Factory - Birthplace of the Lancaster - Shuts Down

Opening in 1939 as Avro Headquarters, the factory built Bristol Blenheims, Manchesters, then Lancasters and others.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17234626>

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

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

Next Oregon Chapter Meeting May 12, 2012

The May speaker

Jack Cramer was the navigator on the "Goin Jessie", a B29 in the 5th Sq, 9th Bomb Group, 313th Wing, 20th AF flying out of North Field, Tinian, in the Marianas. He flew 35 combat missions with one of them to Iwo Jima and one to Truk and the other 33 missions were to the home islands of Japan. In his talk he plans to describe some of his experiences and how the missions he flew were the same in some ways and different in others than the missions of the 8th Air Force flew over Germany.

Oregon Chapter Executive Board Meetings

All members can attend any Executive board meeting. The Board meets at the Elks Lodge three Saturdays before the regular membership meeting. If you can spare up to 2 hours between 10 AM and Noon you can also join the board and help make our chapter a continuing success.

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.

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