

“MILK RUN”

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

P-40 of the RAF Found in Sahara

Found “intact” after it ditched in the Sahara. Most paint still on it, ammo still there and all the parts. Only the fabric on the various control surfaces have disappeared. Photos by Jakub Perka.



https://picasaweb.google.com/114682566226043469349/Zdj_samolot?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCKjxkt6rkNTFKg&feat=directlink#5734885807496197538

A Short History of the War of 1812

Another of the “forgotten” wars of the USA is the War of 1812. It is also another case where the war was officially over and a battle was still fought. This also occurred during the US Civil War where battles were fought in the Pacific long after the war was over.

<http://www.thenewamerican.com/history/american/item/11566-june-1-1812-prelude-to-the-war-of-1812>

Colorizing WW II Newsreels

Ever since TNT Network started colorizing old movies to update them to people who grew up with color TVs as their norm, there has been a rush to take old WW I and newer newsreels and colorize them. Sometimes colorization works, often you can see that it has been dubbed onto the B&W images with less than pleasing results. The French firm Clarke, Costelle & Co. out of Paris has been doing this since 2009, and sometimes the new version even looks correct – most often not. But they are getting better. They are now doing their third & fourth colorization of historical eras: Apocalypse: World War One and Apocalypse: Cold War.

The WW I colorization will air in August of 2014 – 100 years after the start of that war. [Editor's Note: Colorization may re-trigger a new copyright so none of the color clips can be used for the next 95 years unless paid for. Fair use exempted of course.]

<http://realscreen.com/2012/05/28/exclusive-france-television-preps-apocalypse-stalin/#ixzz1wT82pKXi>

In the Ambulance Service in WW I

Bad eyesight did not get you out of WW I – they put you to work somewhere and for Richard Bryner it was driving an ambulance from the front lines to the rear. The front line did not end at the trench line, it often went back a two to three miles behind there since shelling often occurred to block men and supplies from reaching the front line and you were always a target.

http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_20727283/sid-galley-scrapbook-yields-ales-pasadena-gallantry-wwi

NAVY POW Camps in Germany

Germany, like the allies, grouped POWs according to rank and service. British Merchant sailors had their own camp for them and passed their time racing horses.

A scrapbook of the years of the men is up for auction.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2147651/World-War-Two-How-Merchant-Navy-PoWs-passed-time-playing-amazing-horse-race-dice-game-36ft-indoor-track.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

WW I Pilot May Have been Found

A wreck discovered on mountain peak on Thasos may lead to the solving of what happened to Flight Lt Warner Hutchins Peberdy when he failed to return from a recon mission to Macedonia.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/05/16/newfound-plane-wreck-may-solve-mystery-of-missing-canadian-first-world-war-pilot/>

A WW I Monument Damaged in Car Accident Rebuilt

A monument erected to honor a Victoria Cross holder John Bernard Croak who died in WW I in France has been rebuilt and restored in Glace Bay Nova Scotia.

All soldiers who died under British Command in all wars (prior to now) remain buried where they were killed; they were not shipped back to their home areas to be re-buried where relatives can visit their graves.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/story/2012/05/20/ns-monument-restored.html>

A Site where the Soviet Veterans can talk about their experiences

After the 2nd World War, aka The Great Patriotic War as it was (and still is) known in Russia, many stories could not be told – especially if anything critical of the USSR handling of the war was in it. Now, before those still left alive die, their stories are being recorded and presented.

<http://victory1945.rt.com/>

May 9 in Russia – Still A Victory Day

Over 20 million Soviet citizens (including military) died during WW II. It is an astounding number, but the Eastern Front was a massive battlefield from June 22, 1941 till May 9, 1945. Germany had 10 million soldiers counted as casualties in the

East (including those who died after being captured, around 3 ½ million) out of the total 13.4 million killed, wounded or captured during the war.

http://indrus.in/articles/2012/05/08/why_we_remember_the_victory_15583.html

Outdoor Museum near Moscow

30 Kilometers north of Moscow (around 21 miles) on the site where the first winter T-34 lead counter-offensive started in 1941, there exists an outdoor museum showing the military equipment used in WW II.

<http://www.rt.com/news/prime-time/t-34-tank-museum-moscow-939/>

PRAVDA 100 years old

Started by Lenin, as a legally recognized newspaper by the Tsarist state on May 5, 1912, PRAVDA means "The Truth" in Russian.

The other main newspaper during the Soviet era was Izvestia which means 'delivered messages' (usually translated as 'news').

Old Soviet saying: There is no truth in "News" and no news in "Truth".

From Singing to Horses to Singing on Stage

Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau was a soldier on the Eastern Front in the winter of 1943 caring for horses, often singing to them as he kept care of them. After being released as a POW in 1948 he took to singing on stage in Germany, England – Coventry Cathedral - and other locations in the world. He died at the age of 86 on May 18th.

In 1945 40% of all German units still had horses as their main transportation method. Germany started the war with 70% of all units using horses as their main transportation equipment. 10 Tons of fodder a day was needed to keep a German infantry division's horses fed.

<http://www.economist.com/node/21555877>

Secret Missions: Dangerous Before You Even Start

During WW II going on a secret mission meant that danger started once you accepted it – you could be killed before actually going into enemy territory. FBI Special Agent Harold Haberfeld out of New York was killed when the plane he was in crashed taking him on the mission to North Africa.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/05/17/ny-fbi-agent-killed-in-wwii-secret-mission-honored/>

Getting Trench Foot at the Battle of Cassino

As a replacement infantryman in WWII 'Bing' Crosby W. Powell was assigned to L company in the 168th Regiment of the 34th Division just before the heavy winter fighting at Cassino. Wounded he was recovered enough to land at Anzio. "At Anzio, you were safer at the front (lines) than at the back."

<http://cjonline.com/news/2012-05-27/wwii-veteran-recalls-fighting-cassino-anzio>

With the 79th Fighter Group in Italy

When the Americans invaded Italy in 1943 at Salerno, after capturing Sicily in July/August, the invasion went badly due to the defensive line the Germans had set up

around all likely invasion sites. Air power made the difference when the 79th (flying Curtiss P-40s) was called in to attack enemy gun positions around the beachhead – with a warning to stay above 1,500 feet since Navy Gunners on assault ships were known to shoot at any airplane near them with their .50 caliber or 20 mm and 40 mm anti-aircraft guns. (During the invasion of Sicily 23 C-47s carrying paratroopers were shot down by Navy ships and another 37 damaged.) "We didn't dare go down on the deck, like we wanted to, and come in at them. We were told to stay at 1,500 feet, which meant we were sitting ducks for the German gunners."

http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/657014_World-War-II-pilot-recalls-battles-with-German-gunners.html#ixzz1wUPfObCE

Joining the Woman's Army Corps

With her brothers in the Army, one a pilot flying B-25s in the South Pacific, Aylett Griffin Irving refused a commission so she could get into the war faster. She ended up meeting the son of the last Calvary General in the Army on a ship to the South Pacific and marrying him. Her other brother was awarded a medal for liberating nurses in 1944 that had been captured by the Japanese in 1942 outside of Manila before the Japanese could kill them.

<http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20120528/NEWS/305280012/Finding-love-midst-war?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7Cfrontpage>

Going Up Mount Cassino and seeing your Cousin Coming Down

As part of the 3rd Infantry division Jack Zicarelli landed at Salerno and fought his up the Italian boot. While crossing the Volturno River he was lightly wounded in the left arm and leg, but not enough to have him sent to a hospital right then so he stayed with his unit. Going up St. Nick's hill later on he saw his cousin who was in another unit coming down. Both ended up severely wounded but alive.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city/communities/southern-erie/article876584.ece>

Italy Supreme Court agrees with The International Court on War Crimes Compensation

The International Court at The Hague had ruled that Italians cannot sue Germany for compensation since a nation is immune from being sued by individuals.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2012/05/31/Nazi-war-crime-compensation-ruling-upheld/UPI-18771338478888/

From Ball Turret to Bombardier

After flying 30 missions as a ball turret gunner Sgt. Ray Fairman was promoted to being a "togglor" – dropping the bombs when he saw the lead plane drop theirs from the bombardier position. He flew in the 40th Bomb Wing, 92 Bomb Group 325th Bomber squadron in the 8th Air Force – and he always carried a camera.

The Germans knew his number:

" Then there was the time the plane was hit by shrapnel. One piece ripped through the side of the plane and lodged in Fairman's parachute pack. When the jagged metal was removed upon landing, he saw that it had a number stamped on it by the ever-efficient German war machine. The number was exactly the same as his service number: 36876493."

He flew 42 ½ missions – being shot down on April 13, 1945.

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2012/05/memorial_day_tribute_sgt_roy_f.html

389th Bomber Group Museum at Hethel

If you are in Norfolk, England, on June 10 you can visit the museum between 10 AM and 2 PM. Parking charge of 2 pounds.

The 389th Bomb Group (Heavy) flew Consolidated B-24 Liberators out of the airbase. Like many former airbases it is not easy to get to.

"To get to the museum from the A11 Wymondham bypass, take the exit signed Mulbarton and Lotus Cars. Follow the signs for Lotus Cars and turn left into Potash Lane. Go past the Lotus Car factory gates to where the road is closed. A farm entrance is on the right and go through it, following the signs to the exhibition."

Now imagine trying to get to a base during WW II when ALL road signs had been taken down in the summer of 1940!

http://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/bomb_group_museum_at_hethel_to_host_open_day_1_1393444

With Very Little Training a Replacement Rifleman during the "Bulge"

Told he had bad eyes when he tried to join at 18, Russell Pollitt went to work instead then got drafted in July and was given two sets of eyeglasses. After a short time of basic training was shipped out in November for Europe. He ended up in Company C, 58th Armored Infantry, 8th Armored Division.

When wounded and pinned down during combat he had to wait it out and saw someone crawling toward him.

"But when he got within, oh, about six to eight feet, he turned his head around sideways. At that time the German made a helmet that went down this way, and down that way. Our helmets didn't do that, they went around the other way. So that told me he was the enemy. And I don't know what he detected about me, but just before I shot him he detected who I was too and he was trying to get his gun up to shoot me but I beat him."

http://www.maysville-online.com/news/local/manchester-man-fought-germans-across-europe-in-wwii/article_8b7681d7-c478-5190-90b9-2794bc558fd3.html#ixzz1wUcKGytC

Added to the Black Watch Honor Roll

Serving throughout the war from 1914 until he was wounded in 1918, Lieutenant Patrick Wright Anderson started in the infantry in the Black Watch but was wounded while flying as an Observer in the Royal Flying Corps in 18 Squadron on 27 June, 1918. He died in 1921 of his wounds.

Rescued by a Sub in the Pacific

His B-24 Liberator plane forced to ditch in the lonely Pacific Ocean after a mission to Guam, Howard Mann and his other 8 crew-members floated in the Pacific for 9 days till a sub rescued them.

<http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/local/world-war-II-veteran-takes-final-flight-on-b-24-bomber-2012-05-12>

Flying B-29 missions out of China

Before the capture of the Marianas, where Saipan and Tinian are at, B-29s flew missions out of China – and it was not easy. Capt. Oliver B. Eisan was a lead navigator of these B-29s during this China time but was shot down on the January 6, 1945 mission to Omura, which is near Nagasaki when a Japanese fighter shot out their #2 and #3 engines which later caused a fire on the starboard side and the plane went into a vertical dive into a bank of clouds never to be seen again.

http://napavalleyregister.com/star/news/local/capt-oliver-b-eisan-u-s-army-air-forces/article_7bbdf3ae-aac3-11e1-abf3-001a4bcf887a.html

Flying Escort Missions over Germany

“It was a lot of fun until they started shooting at us.” John Huff was a P-51 pilot from February 1944 till October 1944 flying out of England in the 339th Fighter Group 503rd Squadron. He was at the Seattle Museum of Flight during the visit of EAA’s Aluminum Overcast was there in May.



Alfred Soo was also at the museum, but he did not finish his combat tour, he was shot down by flak over the target in November of 1944.

<http://b-townblog.com/2012/05/28/world-war-ii-fighter-pilot-recalls-dangers-escorting-allied-bombers/>

B-24 Ball Turret Gunner out of Spinazzola, Italy

The 15th Air Force had the same strategic mission as the 8th – they just did it out of the mud of Italy instead of the fog of England. Larry Hilte started flying his missions on Valentine’s day in 1945 and his first mission was a visit to Vienna.

They took a brand new B-24 to Italy called “Pleasure Bent” but like any brand new a/c it was taken away and given to another crew so they inherited “Yugo Kid”. On March 1, 1945 “Pleasure Bent” was hit and went down and all the crew in it were killed.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/towson/ph-tt-tail-gunner-0530-20120530,0,2073734.story>

Shot Down in “Our Baby” over France

Flying a B-24 out of Lavenham, where the 389th Bomb Group, was based, it was the lead a/c of the group when shot up by flak the crew had to bail out. On board that day

was Col Beirne Lay Jr – who wrote “12 O’Clock High”. John Watson was a ball turret gunner and though he evaded for a few weeks, he was eventually captured and became a POW – but not before he and some 200 other POWs were sent to Buchenwald Concentration camp before being sent to Stalag Luft III – “The Great Escape” camp.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/captured-by-the-nazis-a-downed-american-b-24-turret-gunner-fights-for-his/1232213>

“Diamond Lil” Nose Gear Fails

The only other airworthy B-24, Diamond Lil, nose gear collapsed at Charlotte Douglass International Airport on May 26th.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2012/05/26/3269896/world-war-ii-planes-landing-gear.html>

The B-24 “Witchcraft” is touring the west Coast and will be at Salem Oregon on June 6 thru the 8th at McNary Field. The P-51 and B-17 will also be there. After that they move on to Pasco Washington. http://www.collingsfoundation.org/cf_schedule-wof.htm

Wendover Tower Restored

The Control Tower at Wendover Air Base, which saw lots of action training B-29 crews near the end of the war, has been fully restored and was re-dedicated on May 31, 2012 as a museum. There maybe only one or two other control towers left in the US of that type.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865556760/Historic-World-War-II-tower-restored-to-its-original-glory.html>

Witness to the Attack on Sydney Harbor on May 31, 1942

During WW II a Japanese submarine shelled and torpedoed the harbor at Sydney. Don Roberts was awake and heard the shells coming in. The USS Chicago was in the harbor at the time. One ship was sunk, the converted ferry HMAS Kuttabul, killing 21 sailors.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/remembering-the-night-war-came-to-the-harbour-20120530-1zjil.html>

Mapping the attack on Japan

At the start of WW II every nation had a real lack of detailed maps in the area they were fighting in – even in 1944 maps of Normandy were based on Michelin maps (Editor: and state so on the one I have.) so the Map Davison of the OSS created over 8,000 separate maps as they were needed – from high altitude 1:150,000 to detailed 1:10,000 scale maps.

As the war progressed the level of detail in the maps would change leaving out civilian items and leaving only military ones –even if next to a pure civilian area.

Two researches, David Fedman of Stanford and Cary Karacas, did a study of how the maps changed during the war against Japan and track the destruction of the core of 65 cities in Japan.

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/politics/2012/05/mapping-urbicide-world-war-ii/2121/>

Missing Corsair Pilot Finally Located

During a mission to Rabaul Papua New Guinea Lt Moszek Murray Zanger collided with his wingman over New Guinea and bailed out. He made it out to sea but was picked up by a Japanese patrol boat and held captive for 6 months before he was deliberately killed by the Japanese and then buried next to an airfield. They finally located his aircraft crash site.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2151581/Mystery-missing-U-S-World-War-2-pilot-downed-South-Pacific-island-jungle-solved-31-years.html>

New Monument Dedicated in Vancouver, Washington

Over 9,000 merchant seamen died during WW II, and very few monuments exist for them. Tauno Alanko was a crewman on the Liberty ship star of Oregon in the Caribbean when it was sunk by the U-162 on August 30, 1942. One of the crewmen was killed during the attack.

The new memorial is the Merchant Seaman Memorial on Vancouver's Veterans Affairs campus.

If you can locate the Star of Oregon under the ocean – it still has its' 1,600 pounds of gold dust on board.

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2012/may/30/marines-memories-merchant-seamen-dedicate-vancouv/>

Shooting Down a Japanese Pilot – then saving him

During an attack against his ship, where he was assigned to the medical unit, he was on deck tending to the wounded when a plane came at his ship so he jumped to a gun and shot down the aircraft. Then the captain came to him and told him to help out a Japanese pilot who they just captured on the other side – and it was the pilot of the plane he had just shot down.

<http://rimcountrygazette.blogspot.in/2012/05/world-war-ii-foes-become-friends.html>

B-17 “Lacey Lady” BBQ & Event July 28th



From 10 Am till 3 PM there will be an all family style celebration for the 65th year of the B-17 Flying Fortress being on Milwaukie Blvd. Free to attend. A Family style BBQ food offering is available during this time.

From 6 to 10 PM there is an adult only event. Tickets required. \$35.00 each or 2 for \$60.00 advance purchase price.

Contact Terry@thebomber.com or call 503-654-6491 RSVP, sponsor, or to volunteer. www.b17wingsoffreedom.org

Fantasy of Flight Events (Florida)

If you are around central Florida on June 8 & 9 they have an “open cockpit” day – but for only those with annual passes. Don’t know if you can buy an annual pass on the spot then get into a cockpit.

Some of their future restoration projects:

- B-29 Fertile Myrtle
- P-38
- Hellcat
- Panther F9F
- Me 108 Taifun

www.fantasyofFlight.com

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 August 11, 2012

The August Speaker



P-51 Ace Clayton Kelly Groce will be the speaker at the August meeting. Clayton started flying out of Portland Air Base flying in 1942 in Bell P-39 Aircobras and was the first pilot to land at Aurora airport. He wrote an autobiography of his adventures in WW II called “Live Bait”. Amazon link: [Live Bait](#)

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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