

“MILK RUN”

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

Further info on P-40 of the RAF Found in Sahara

After the story broke about the P-40 all the photos were pulled from Picasa so he could make some money from them [I suspect] to news outlets. He had 50 or so photos before he pulled them down. The Daily Telegraph had a good write up on it.



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/aviation/9256879/WWII-fighter-plane-hailed-the-aviation-equivalent-of-Tutankhamuns-Tomb-found-preserved-in-the-Sahara.html>

A Short History of the Akutan Zero

A nearly intact Zero was found on Akutan island after it crashed on Akutan killing the pilot due to battle damage sustained while attacking Dutch Harbor, Alaska. And it changed the tactics that Americans used when fighting the Zero.

<http://www.history.com/news/2012/06/04/the-akutan-zero-how-a-captured-japanese-fighter-plane-helped-win-world-war-ii/>

Dutch Harbor Battle – and how it changed Alaska

Alaska went from being a backwater territory where people were bribed to go there with free land during the dust bowl (and most came back after two winters) the Japanese invasion of two Aleutian islands changed the Alaska into the front line and had its own 11th Air Force there for three years flying combat missions to Japan and was also a pipeline of aircraft to the USSR.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/06/04/4536039/how-wwiis-battle-of-dutch-harbor.html>

Official WW II Monument in Salem

Oregon is one of four states without an "official state sanctioned" WW II memorial. A 33 foot tall 5 sided obelisk has been designed, cut, but yet to be erected on the state capitol grounds. Around 152,000 Oregonians were in the service; 3,757 were killed. <http://oregonww2memorial.com> for information and how to donate.

[Editor's Note: There are some states that still have not erected monuments for the US CIVIL War!]

Bomber Command Gets a Monument in London

After the war the RAF Bomber Command members, and their leaders, were about the only people who never got a dedicated ribbon, award or monument. This was due to the utter destruction of some 55 German cities by Bomber Command – first widely understood and advertised by the destruction of Dresden in 1945 and by the photos sent home by American soldiers as they advanced into Germany of the damage seen in cities not caused by any ground combat.

During the war 55,573 member of Bomber command died, some 8,600 were wounded and made it back to England, and around 9,500 were captured. A total of 128,000 passed through the command. RAF bombers were built to bomb, and making it easy for the crew to escape from a damaged bomber was not designed into their aircraft so most often 5 out of 7 men in a RAF bomber were killed when it was shot down. There was one entry hatch into a Lancaster for the crew in front, and one separate entry for the tail gunner. The RAF lost some 9,000 bombers during the war. In contrast, on average 7.5 men per 10 man crew would survive when a B-17 or B-24 was shot down. There were 4 / 5 exits out of a B-17/B-24: side entry, bomb bay, tail gunner door, forward hatch, and in a B-24 also a top hatch and you could also climb out some windows at times.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18600871>

Navy Recruiting Drones - Aircraft Drones

At the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey California, one of the teachers is trying to figure out how to get RC - Remote Control - aircraft drones to attack other RC Drones.

None are likely to be as good as "Queen Bee" - which was the first RC Aircraft effectively used by the Navy - the British Navy - which took a Tiger Moth and made it an RC Aircraft for use as a gunnery target for the British Navy in the 1930s. It is unarmed - "stingless" - so the British called them "drones" - using the male bee analogy since male honeybees have no stingers and the word has since been adopted by other militaries.

http://news.cnet.com/8301-13576_3-57457501-315/drone-dogfights-by-2015-u.s-navy-preps-for-futuristic-combat/?tag=mncol;editorPicks

Oregon Aviation Historical Society

There actually is one and they have a web site at: <http://oregonaviation.org/>

The latest person to be inducted into the Hall of Fame was Henry "Hank Troh.

World War I book invites new look at German history

From 1880s thru the start of World War I there was a large increase in the size of standing armies in the world (except USA) and with it people of different religions were mixed together (except in the Balkans) in units. A new book examines the German Army of World War I and finds that Anti-Semitism was no greater in it than in other militaries.

http://www.jstandard.com/content/item/rabbis_world_war_i_book_invites_br_new_loo_k_at_german_history/23564

Re-Thinking the Legacy of the War Time Leader of Hungary Admiral Miklos Horthy

Miklos was the leader of Hungary from 1920 till 1944 when Hungary dropped out of the war and he was initially viewed as a failure due to becoming an ally of Germany before "Operation Barbarossa" on June 22, 1941 - the Axis invasion of The USSR. However time has started to shed a different light on his leadership during the depression in Europe and World War II and some think he actually did well in a bad situation.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2012/06/18/cult-springs-up-around-hungarys-wwii-leader>

New Mini-series about Gallipoli Campaign of World War I

A six part series is being made in Australia starting in 2013 about the invasion of Turkey by mainly Anzac troops in a effort to knock Turkey out of the war. Winston Churchill was one of the main proponents of the effort, he was in charge of the British Navy, and urged it on (much like during World War II and Italy). It was a bungled invasion mainly due to the commanders of the navy and land forces not understanding the terrain and never having conducted a modern naval invasion and the need for speed.

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/sam-worthington-gallipoli-rupert-murdoch-336676>

A new film biography about Otto Frank - Father of Anne Frank

This new 75 minute long film about tells more about him via rarely seen interviews and additional research about him. He was a German Officer during World War I and went to the Netherlands after the rise of the NAZI party in Germany and the ensuring laws that were passed against Jews.

<http://www.filmthreat.com/reviews/52055/>

Ukrainian Citizenship and Deported People of WW II

When the AXIS invaded the USSR, Stalin had whole groups of people in western USSR, that he thought were sympathetic to the AXIS cause rounded up and shipped out to camps and cities in the east. Now the Ukraine may allow the descendants of those who were deported to regain their citizenship based on those facts.

<http://un.ua/eng/article/396899.html>

Junkers 88 being recovered from the Baltic

Originally thought to be a Stuka buried in the mud, due to some parts of the Ju-88 and Ju-87 had in common like in the outer wings, they have recovered parts of the right side. Once they found out it was an Ju-88 they had to re-think the salvage operation due to the increased size of the aircraft.

<http://www.germanydefence.com/wreckage-of-ww2-era-ju88-aircraft-recovered-from-the-baltic-sea-99/>

New History Book on World War II by Antony Beevor

Trying to cover all aspects of WW II in a single readable book is difficult. A review of the book by The Guardian in the UK.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2012/jun/17/second-world-war-antony-beevor-review?newsfeed=true>

West Africa and the Supply Lines of World War II

Once North Africa and the Mediterranean supply line to Egypt was effectively cut the AXIS power, the fastest way to get supplies to the Middle East was by air.

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/08062012-how-west-africa-helped-win-world-war-ii-oped/>

Auction of an RAF Pilot's Flying Helmet and Medals

Group Captain Mike Stephens died in 2004 and his son is going to auction off all his items. He was credited with 22 victories during the war and starting before the war, fought in The Battle of Britain, and continued till the very end.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2159744/Memories-true-heroism-Medals-flying-helmet-WWII-flying-ace-downed-22-Nazi-fighters-expected-fetch-50-000-auction.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Air Raid Shelters of Rome - A video Tour

Closed off to people (the only bunker currently open to the public lies under Palazzo Valentini) this web site allows people to tour the shelters built against air raids via video that they he was allowed to take of them.

"Mussolini liked reinforced, underground bunkers and wanted to copy Hitler, so 12 anti-aircraft posts were built during World War II. They were shelters for the elite."

Journalist Lorenzo Grazzi, set up the website: www.bunkerdiroma.it

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iYmIoK2Oeg9wDy5AF1RPKUqCrNLg?docId=CNG.e986d57fa15d90516edd08e1aed8bd6f.301>

Flying in Fighters Was the Goal - Being in Bomber Command was usually the Outcome for Australian volunteers

When the war started 3179 airmen and 310 officers were in the Royal Australian Air Force. 450 of them were sent to Britain with short service commissions in the Royal Air Force. Most ended up in Bomber Command. Losing a leg in ground combat Roberts Dustan applied for, and got into, the RAF as a tail gunner - he used crutches to get to the aircraft during the war. He completed a full tour of 30 operations, the day before his 21st birthday.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/lifestyle/magnificent-men-in-their-flying-machines-20120601-1zlg4.html#ixzz1yNV1afpH>

In the 1930s Britain developed the radio controlled Queen Bee, a remotely controlled unmanned Tiger Moth aircraft for a fleet's gunnery firing practice.

Remembering the war on the Eastern Front War – But the Veterans are US Citizens

At least now they are, they emigrated from the USSR to the USA long after the war.

<http://www.jweekly.com/article/full/65240/the-column-forgotten-heroes-of-a-long-ago-war/>

Patriotic Salute July 4, 5, 6 at Volcanoes Stadium in Keizer

At I-5 Exit 260, Keizer Oregon, there will be a three day event to honor USA veterans of all wars.

Admission prices (which includes a baseball game!) is:

- Advance Price / Day of Game
- Outfield \$7 / \$8
- Reserved \$9 / \$10
- Upper Level Box \$11 / \$12
- Diamond Seats \$20 / \$20

Gates open 5:15, concert at 5:40, military ceremonies at 6:40; game at 7:15. Fireworks are set off / launched after each game.

Call or Email: Jerry Howard-503-779-4088; j.howard@volcanoesbaseball.com
www.volcanoesbaseball.com

Coins on Graves

By Doug Williams via Rob Morris

While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave. These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military, & these meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect.

Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited.

A nickel indicates that you & the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him in some capacity.

By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries & state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, & the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.

In the U.S., this practice became common during the Vietnam war, due to the political divide in the country over the war; leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the soldier's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war. Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men & women can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire.

In the Dogfight of his Life

On June 19, 1944, Fred 'Buck' Dungan of San Clemente sent his Navy Hellcat fighter plane into a steep dive to take on about 60 Japanese planes over Guam, destroying one and disabling another before surviving a wild one-on-one fight to the death against a Japanese pilot. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross that day, and two weeks later earned the Navy Cross and Purple Heart in a fight over another Japanese-held island.

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/dungan-359983-japanese-planes.html>

“Hell Hawks” Facebook Group

Facebook site devoted to the 365th Fighter Group of World War II. Robert F Dorr, author, who wrote the Book “Hell Hawks”, has created a Facebook group devoted to the men of the 365th who flew P-47s during World War Two.

Amazon Link: [Hell Hawks!: The Untold Story of the American Fliers Who Savaged Hitler's Wehrmacht](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hellhawks1/>

Lost Dog Tag Returned to a Marine of Carlton's Raiders

While stationed on Guadalcanal in 1942/1943 John Joseph Keker lost one of his two dog tags that they wore back then. An Australian on duty in 2011 was in a local's house when he saw a shoebox of Dog tags that have been found on the island - and set out to return them to the person who lost them, or their relative.

<http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2012/06/ap-marine-world-war-ii-vet-dog-tags-062512/>

Uniforms Reflect the times and the People

A complete Navy Nurses uniform was donated to the Fall River Mass. Historical Society. The World War I Navy Nurse uniform was donated by relatives of Mary Rebecca McIntyre who died in 1963. She was around 5'2" tall when she joined the nurse corps in 1917.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/b860fb9c810444c9b326d8e8cf216c41/MA-FEA--Historic-Nurse-Uniform>

June 28, 1919 - Versailles Peace Treaty Signed

A short history summary of the four main powers that created the treaty and the goals each had for what they did and what they wanted from it.

http://www.ldnews.com/announcements/ci_20930007/bruces-history-lessons-versaille-peace-conference

A Woman Soldier in the First World War

Unlike other women soldiers, this one carried a rifle, fought in battles, was wounded, won combat awards - and lived to tell about it. Flora Sandes, from Suffolk England, was also fighting in what is now Serbia in one of the forgotten corners of World War I - and as a regular Serbian Soldier.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/you/article-2161051/Front-line-Flora-Remarkable-story-Western-woman-enlist-fight-First-World-War.html>

Morning Patrol - 3 Kills and Shot down - while still in your Pajamas

World War I pilot Flight Lieutenant Alan Jerrard was sent off to attack an enemy airfield so fast he just put on his flying clothes over his pajamas and went off in his Sopwith Camel - and was shot down and captured. He escaped and his regiment gave him an

engraved 10 pound commemorative bowl which is now being auctioned off. He won the Victoria Cross during this exploit. It is being auctioned doff on July 18 in Salisbury.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2163128/Silver-bowl-given-World-War-I-pilot-awarded-VC-shooting-enemy-planes-pyjamas-sold-auction.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Touring the “Memphis Belle” Restoration

If you have the time on a Friday and are in Dayton, you can take a three hour tour to the B-17F “Memphis Belle”. Restoration will be completed sometime in 2014. The Belle was the first officially recognized bomber and crew to finish 25 combat missions over Europe and be sent home from the 8th Air Force. The 8th started flying combat missions on August 17, 1942 and it took 9 months before a crew, Lt Robert Morgan’s crew, successfully completed their missions some 10 months later. During this timeframe most crews were only able to complete around 15 missions before being shot down.

<http://www.foxnews.com/travel/2012/06/11/tour-offers-access-to-memphis-belle-restoration/>

Japanese Zero Takes to the Air over Everett Washington

[Flying Heritage Collection's](#) now has a Mitsubishi “Zero” in its collection of flying aircraft. It was discovered and recovered from Babo Airfield on New Guinea, restored to flying condition in Russia, and now on display during the summer months in Washington State.

<http://heraldnet.com/article/20120609/NEWS01/706099929/-1/News>

Memory Train - Moscow to the Brest Fortress and the Veterans of WW II

The Memorial Train was started in 200. The idea was to have Soviet Era veterans of the war in the east travel across Europe to pass along their stores to the newest generation and they visit battles and memorials along the way.

The Brest Fortress held out for almost a month against the Germans after the initial invasion on June 22, 1941.

http://rbth.ru/articles/2012/06/22/a_memory_train_has_travelled_from_moscow_to_brest_15955.html

Captured during War - Returned during Peace

A medical doctor of the German 129th Division found items in a damaged section of the Kalinin museum in 1941 and sent the items back to his wife. In her will it was stated that they should be returned to the museum. The city is now named Tver. The doctor was killed in the battle of Rzhev in September of 1942. [Sending them back likely saved them. The article does not state what happened to the items in the damaged museum that were left there.]

"The war against Russia is a road to hell." - French general and diplomat Caulaincourt

An interesting comparison of significant dates in the lives of Napoleon and Hitler.

http://english.pravda.ru/society/stories/22-06-2012/121456-russia_war-0/

Revised Soviet Losses during World War II

The USSR lost 27 million people during World War II aka The Great Patriotic War: 11.3 million soldiers on the frontlines, 4.5 million in guerilla warfare, about 6 million were captured – and 6.2 million civilians were killed by the combat around them and due to starvation, deportation/execution by the NAZI (and some Soviet) government actions.

http://english.ruvr.ru/2012_06_21/78858344/

Flying “FIFI” During World War II

Evertt Atkinson, 90, started out in fighters, thrown into the left seat of a B-17, then ended up flying B-29s against Japan. He totaled two aircraft during training.

“There are times when you can get an airplane in a situation where you're beyond the limitations of the envelope of performance. In that circumstance, you're not a pilot, you're a passenger. I found that out.”

<http://jefferson.kfvs12.com/news/community-spirit/55982-90-year-old-wwii-vet-describes-flying-b-29-bomber>

Decoding Bomb Group Orders on a Daily Basis

As a cryptographer in the 301st Bombardment Group (Heavy) which flew Boeing B-17 Flying Fortresses, Staff Sgt. Chester Bartram always knew where the group was going before anyone else – since he decoded the mission orders for the group.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/newsnow/x721955122/WW-II-Then-and-Now-Decoded-missions>

June - A Month Full of Historical Dates

In the world of warfare the summer months, June, July & August, is usually decisive in the annals of history. Here is a summary of 4 such events from Canada. [Editors' note: The Battle of Bladensburg, was fought on the hill where Bladensburg Junior High School is now at. The loss there allowed the British Forces to cross the Anacostia River, which was a deep water port back then, and get into Washington D.C. Ironically, you now drive into DC by driving through Peace Cross Circle which is dedicated to World War I and nothing is there talking about the battle during the War of 1812.]

<http://www.durhamregion.com/blog/post/1381394--lies-and-dammed-lies>

Gerald "Mike" Kight Buried in White Salmon – 68 years after being Killed

A member of the 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division he was killed during "Operation Market Garden" in the fall of 1944. History researches with metal detectors looking for WW II artifacts found his field grave.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2018249402_apwaworldwariiremain s1stldwritethru.html

George Vujnovich - Lead the Rescue Mission "Operation Halyard" in Yugoslavia in 1944 Dead at 91

During 1944 hundreds of Allied airmen were hidden within Yugoslavia to prevent their capture. In August of 1944 he parachuted into Serbia, built a landing strip, and then flew 512 airmen to safety – without losing a single airplane or airmen during the whole rescue operation. There was a book written about this whole operate called "[The Forgotten 500](#)" in 2007.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/30/nyregion/george-vujnovich-96-led-rescue-of-airmen-in-world-war-ii.html?_r=1

Modern Power for an Old Bird

The turrets of the B-17 were electrically powered (B-24s were hydraulic) so to see them in use the plane has to have an engine running - that is unless Chroma Systems Solutions donates their battery system to you. The B-17 "City of Savannah", which is undergoing restoration, will have these units installed so that the non-flying B-17 will be able to actually operate the turrets for people to see in the museum.

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/766970>

Searching for Aircraft and Servicemen who flew "The Hump"

There are around 90 aircraft are still missing which crashed flying supplies into and out of China from India during World war II - with around 400 missing crewmen. Over 600 aircraft were lost from 1942 till 1945 flying supplies to China.

http://www.nola.com/military/index.ssf/2012/06/us_india_agree_to_search_for_w.html

Fighting the War in a C-46

World War II saw the widespread use of dedicated transport aircraft by all sides – with the US building and providing the most. The C-46 is less widely known transport but there is still one still left out of the 3,181 built – and it is at Charlotte-Monroe airport and is called "Tinker Belle".

Jeb Stewart, now 91, flew one for two years. "It was nothing fancy, nothing heroic. It was a job -- like the Pony Express."

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2012/04/19/3186927/wwii-veteran-re-acquaints-himself.html>

Pieces of the B-17 “C Batt” Sent to Relatives from Italy

Kemp Martin's B-17, 20th Squadron, 2nd Bomb Group, was shot down near Salerno in 1943 and in 2009 Italian researchers found parts of the aircraft and sent pieces of it back to his relatives as a memento this year.

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/WWII-airman-s-family-receives-surprise-pieces-of-3453968.php>

Remains of P-51 Pilot 2nd Lt. Charles "Butch" Moritz buried in Illinois

Lt Moritz was killed while on a training flight in England in 1944 as a result of a mid-air collision with another P-51. Aircraft researchers were searching for the 2nd plane and found his instead – 18 feet below ground.

<http://www.therolladailynews.com/newsnow/x1942559526/WWII-pilots-remains-return-to-southern-Illinois>

Western Aeroplane and Automobile Museum

Going “Up the Gorge” and taking Exit 62 from the start of I-84 in Portland gets you to this museum. Open 7 days a week 9 Am till 5 PM except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years’ day.

<http://www.waaamuseum.org>

Northwest Antique Airplane Cub

<http://www.nwaac.com>

Virginia 8th AFHS

<http://www.8thaf-virginia.org>

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 is Clayton Kelly Groce

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](#)

Last month's speaker Jack Cramer was the navigator for the B-29 "Goin' Jessie"; and here is a web site dedicated to the whole crew.

http://www.duncanwebsiteservices.com/Goin_Jessie/Speaker.htm

If you live in Kansas you can meet the Pilot Charles Chauncey who gives presentations around there.

Oregon International Air Show

The Oregon 8th AFHS chapter will again be manning a booth at the air show this year which is on August 3, 4, and 5th.

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will be there this year.

<http://www.oregonairshow.com>

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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