

“MILK RUN”

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

"Splendor In The Skies" – Stories from the men of the 8th 12th and 15th Air Forces Bomber Crews.

Don Hays has been publishing stories in the B17 Association Newsletter since 1990 – now he has a coffee table sized book locally published in Walla Walla Washington called "Splendor in the Skies"; 250 pages with an 8 page photo section in the middle.

It is \$40 (plus \$3.50 sales tax if you live in Washington State) and you can get it by sending your money to: Don Hayes; PO Box 3398; Walla Walla, Washington 99362. Web site for the B17 Association is: www.airwarb17.net and his email is b17assndhayes@bmi.net if you have any questions. Not sure what the shipping costs are.

A Pen-Pal to a Soldier

Neville Higgison was organizing his mother's possessions when he discovered a batch of letters and photographs that she had. As a 14 year old girl she was a pen pal to Warrant Officer Charles Edwin Grainger of the New Zealand Divisional Cavalry Regiment who was fighting in North Africa against the Afrika Korps when she started writing him.

<http://www.starcanterbury.co.nz/news/soldiers-letters-wartime-penfriend-found/1479089/>

100 Year Anniversary of the War of 1812

At the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. is a year long show about the war in which Washington Was burned by the British; British naval ships were beaten by the US Navy; and a decisive win over the British Regulars at New Orleans occurred after the war was already over.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/02/uk-usa-idUSLNE86100U20120702>

Spanish American War veteran Joseph Rose Flag Honor

Joseph Rose enlisted to fight in the Spanish-American war of 1898 and then made a career of the military due to his multi-language ability of Portuguese, Spanish, French and English. He served in the 22nd Infantry, 21st Infantry and 2nd U.S. Cavalry. A flag was flown in his memory above some unknown town along "the south coast" (the newspaper has no info on what city / state / nation where it is located at on it's web site!)

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120812/NEWS/208120342/-1/rss01>

A Short History of the Spanish-American War

No one has conclusively answered how the USS Maine blew up -- still. Not until 2006 was the 3% long distance surtax on telephone calls, enacted in 1898 to finance the war (to pay back \$200 million borrowed money from what is now CitiBank), was rescinded. The tax is loosely estimated to have collected around \$260 billion dollars over the 108 years it was in force.

<http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/history/item/12338-trial-run-for-interventionism>

Exploring the HMS Hood

Paul Allens x yacht, Octopus, was given to the British Navy and will be used to research the HMS Hood in the North Atlantic. It was sunk by the German battleship Bismark. One goal of the trip is to retrieve the ship's bell which was located, by accident, in 2001.

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/08/15/world/europe/hms-hood-bell-octopus/index.html?imw=Y>

HMS Victory to get a Refit

After 200 years the British Navy is getting around to fully refurbishing the HMS Victory. Its undergone continuous routine maintenance since it was built in 1778. It was last overhauled after the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/12/05/world/europe/hms-victory/index.html>

110th Anniversary of the end of the Boer War

Another little known war occurred in Africa over a three year period when Dutch settlers, Boers, decided to fight the British Empire. A daughter, now 90, of Australian Light Horse Sergeant Ralph McCracken, was at the monument.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/boer-war-families-receive-anniversary-honour-20120701-21axp.html>

Maintaining Graves of War Heros

This is a problem found in all nations - the graves of local heros which are buried in private cemeteries are often never maintained - unless a trust fund has been set up to maintain them. The graves of three Victoria Cross holders have this problem in Burngreave, Wardsend, and All Saint's Church Cemetery in the UK.

<http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/local/respect-our-war-heroes-calls-to-restore-neglected-sheffield-graves-1-4765374>

Shooting "The Bull" and a Rifle at a Pub

Unlike in centuries past people rarely see or use (and thus understand) a firearm unless they have gone through the military. Training new recruits in the military on how to fire takes a lot longer than it used to since "on the farm" knowledge and common knowledge on firearms has mostly been wiped out in the general public. Gun clubs in high schools in the USA are gone, and the British Olympic Team is not even allowed to train in the UK due to gun laws, but there are a few places where you can still learn this skill - in a few select pubs in the UK.

http://www.thisiswiltshire.co.uk/sport/9827366.SHOOTING_Setting_their_sights/

Need a U-Boat?

This one is non-functioning and only sails around English canals - and is more of a prop but it is called U-8047 and was built out of a canal boat. The inside is fitted out like from by using the movie prop experts who worked on Star Wars and James Bond movies.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2176938/Homemade-U-Boat-sails-English-canal-goes-sale-30-000.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

A U-Boat to War on Your Wrist

To track your torpedo runs you can buy a luxury wristwatch brand called U-Boat from InfinityTimeGroup.com which makes the watches in Italy. Its depth rating is 330 feet (which was the depth rating of most US boats during the war. U-Boats were routinely rated to 600 feet.)

<http://www.justluxe.com/fine-living/jewelry/feature-1788870.php>

3D Hologram of the Royal Oak

As it exists now on the seabed after it was sunk in Scapa Flow by the U-47 under Captain Prien.

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/world/sonar-data-recreates-sunken-warship/story-fnd14032-1226429597915>

Chandler Mason Brown – 376th Heavy Bombardment Group in San Pancrazio, Italy

After graduating high school he flew for the U.S. Air Force, completing 50 missions while serving in the 15th Air Force, 376th Heavy Bombardment Group in San Pancrazio, Italy, during World War II. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak clusters and an ETO ribbon, six Bronze Stars and the American Defense Ribbon. He worked for American Airlines for 33 years. He became a full-time rancher when he bought a ranch in 1957 near Lake Whitney and was a breeder of Santa Gertrudis cattle.

He was buried with military honors.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09212/987716-84.stm>

Offered a free ride in a B-24 x-Waist Gunner Declines

"I flew enough," he said. "We had a lot of problems."

Demichei remembers crashing from about 50 feet above the ground during training, hitting a high tension wire during a night flight, and getting stuck in a high-speed dive after a daredevil pilot tested how high the plane could go.

"I shoulda got killed five times," he said.

On a B-24, ditching was particularly hazardous because the plane had to go in tail-first and would break as it entered the water, causing a high casualty rate.

Demichei said his last flight of the war was Feb. 19, 1945, when his squadron, the 38th Bomb Squadron, dropped bombs on the beach of Iwo Jima at the start of the famous battle there.

Life as an Internee in Switzerland donated to Library

Clare Hubbard served in the 713th Squadron, 448th Bombardment Group (H) based at Seething that flew missions in the 8th AF from 1943 to the war's end.

Hubbard and his crew took off from an air base at Seething on July 13, 1944, to bomb railroad yards at Saarbrucken in southwest Germany. The crew had joined the 713th Squadron just four days earlier, but it was already the crew's third mission aboard the B-24, named "Our Honey."

The plane was hit over the target, lost two engines, and fell out of formation. Pilot Dale Grubb and co-pilot Edwin Carnahan determined they could not make it back to England and, rather than bail out over Germany, diverted south to Switzerland.

Some 25 miles over the border, the crew had to bail out and the plane crashed near Baetterkinden, north of Berne. Hubbard broke his leg and spent a month in the hospital.

All 10 crew members survived and were placed in an internment camp at Wengen. The Swiss government had turned 14 hotels in the ski resort village into housing for American internees. It was one of seven such camps in Switzerland.

Some 1,500 American fliers crashed or landed battle-damaged planes in Switzerland during the war - including an ex 10th Mountain Division "muler" who went onto to pilot a B-17-- Lt Dick Pressy. He ditched in Switzerland in 1944 and plowed up a beet field in when he landed gear up in his B-17 after battle damage over Germany. He later escaped and went back to his unit. After the end of the war he was sent a bill for crop damage from Switzerland – the Army paid it for him.

MOH Winner B-24 pilot Lt. Col. Leon R. “Bob” Vance into Oklahoma Aviation Hall of Fame

The B-24s were hit by anti-aircraft artillery. The plane Vance was in was hit by flak, which damaged the engines and wounded members of the crew, including Vance.

Vance’s foot was caught behind the co-pilot’s seat.

He and the co-pilot guided the aircraft toward England. He ordered the crew to bail out while continuing to fly the plane, thinking there was one other wounded man aboard who could not be moved.

Vance flew the B-24 from the floor of the cockpit. He ditched it in the ocean but was pinned by the upper turret and by his foot, which still was caught behind the co-pilot’s seat. When the plane hit the ocean, an explosion blew him out of the aircraft. He could not find the other wounded man. Vance then swam toward the coast and was picked up by an air-sea rescue plane. Following surgery in England, he was put on a plane for evacuation to the United States. The plane disappeared between Iceland and Newfoundland and was never found.

Adam Cousins - led the Dive Bombing squadron off Lexington in Coral Sea Battle

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/20/AR2009082004051.html>

Tail Gunner gets Congressional Proclamation

<http://www.lancastereagle.com/article/20090825/NEWS01/908250323/-1/newsfront2>

Weyland Bale was able to get a Congressional proclamation for his service to the nation by getting the help from U.S. Rep. Steve Austria

http://www.enidnews.com/localnews/local_story_235234312.html

1st Lt. Alden Hershiser returned to US after 64 Years

Flying a B-24 Liberator bomber nicknamed "Trouble N Mind," and flying 10,000 feet over Havelberg, Germany his plane is set on fire by a Me-262. Bailing out his parachute also catches fire and he falls to his death and was hastily buried where he fell.

Of the crew navigator Charles Smith still has his piece of German flak and

Head in the Clouds due to a Zeppelin

Howard Claflin, 88, of Silver Lake in Summit County, went to visit the b-17 in townm, but he had already been one before -- flying B-17s with the 8th Air Force on 16 missions before being shot down on a flight over Hamm, Germany, and spending 53 weeks as a POW.

<http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/cuyahoga/1250411433174080.xml&coll=2>

When WW II ended - VJ Day - what some servicemen experienced

<http://www.bradenton.com/847/story/1639129-p2.html>

WW I Group Photograph – Identifying Those Pictured

A framing shop, restoring the family owned photograph, sought out help through an email list to try and ID all the people in the unit photograph they were restoring of Battery D 309th Field Artillery Regiment taken at Fort Dix, NJ in 1917.

<http://hyattsville.patch.com/articles/local-residents-help-restore-wwi-image#photo-11045708>

Mine laying U-Boats – In World War I

Tankers were the main target of U-Boats also in World War I. U-Boats laid mines in the shipping lanes off the East Coast and the tanker Herbert L. Pratt was one such victim.

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20120829/DCP08/208290378>

Operation Jubilee - The Dieppe Raid

The main effort, and losses, were led by the Canadians under British planning. 50 US soldiers were part of the ground operation. The 50 were the newly formed US Rangers who were attached to the raid and were to take out guns on the southern side of the town.

August 19th the the 70th anniversary of the day long battle in Northern France.

Delegates from Michigan attended the ceremeony in France.

The battle convinced the planners that at direct attack against any fortified port would not succeed.

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2012/08/bangor_township_supervisor_tra.html

The Dieppe Raid of August 19, 1942

Planned by the British, lead by a Canadian Division, it was a test of tactics – bad tactics as it turned out – but set the state for later successful amphibious assaults.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/20/world/europe/a-day-for-canadas-fallen-in-a-lesser-known-battle.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all

A short summary of the Dieppe battle including the politics behind “Operation Jubilee”. “If Jubilee was intended to silence the voices clamouring for the opening of a second front, it was indeed a great success. The Dieppe disaster silenced the popular demand

for a second front, and allowed Churchill and Roosevelt to continue to sit on the fence as the Nazis and the Soviets slaughtered each other in the East."

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=32403>

German question to POWs of Dieppe: "This is too big for a raid, but too small for an invasion — what on earth were you trying to do?"

Francis Stanley Parker was an American who joined in Canada and was captured during the Dieppe Raid.

<http://atwar.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/22/in-a-little-known-wwii-battle-a-fathers-experience-becomes-a-daughters-journey/>

Joan of Arc – 600 Years to Sainthood

Statues of her are scattered throughout France – and there is even a gleaming gold version of her in Portland Oregon. He was named a saint in 1940.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/news/article.cfm?c_id=7&objectid=10829831

Feeding his Nation during World War II – as a Schoolboy

The UK went to a total war footing quickly – and everyone worked in whatever capacity available. No matter how young you were if you could do some work, you did. This also was true of women.

<http://www.thiscornwall.co.uk/life-wonder-excitement/story-16789964-detail/story.html>

200th Anniversary of the Battle of Borodino

A panorama painting of the battle was created in 1912 and it survived both the First and Second World war and has been in its own building on Tverskaya street since 1961.

http://english.pravda.ru/history/30-08-2012/122025-battle_borodino-0/

Financing a War – The Indian Perspective on WW II Debt on India

An interesting perspective, from a communist view, of what caused a famine in Bengal in 1943-1944 was the monetary policies of Britain and not lack of food. (By monetizing debt, which we are doing in the USA currently in 2012, without regard to future problems that causes.)

In 1944/1945 there was ALSO a famine in Vietnam – which was under control of the Japanese, who shipped food out of Vietnam to Japan – while other food rotted on wharfs due to bad planning / transportation decisions.

http://pd.cpim.org/2012/0826_pd/08262012_7.html

Book: Riders of the Apocalypse: German Cavalry and Modern Warfare

A new book published by the Naval Institute Press explores the history of Germany Cavalry and their impact on armored warfare based on what the Germans through the main purpose of cavalry units ought to be from 1870s onwards; including divisional level units on the Eastern Front.

<http://www.strategypage.com/bookreviews/733.asp>

Seabees in Oregon

The three of them met during WW II while on Saipan and Tinian and now meet in Oregon every year.

http://www.oregonlive.com/gresham/index.ssf/2012/08/world_war_ii_veterans_keep_the.html

Last of the 29 Navajo Code Talkers in the 382nd Platoon

Chester Nez from Jones Ranch, New Mexico, is the last man left standing out of the original 29 Code Talkers of the 382nd Platoon. He was the Grand Marshall at the 66th Annual Navajo Nation Fair this year.

<http://www.nativetimes.com/life/entertainment/7652-navajo-nation-fair-to-highlight-navajo-treasures>

Pilot of P-40 Kittyhawk discovered in 2012 Found

The American made P-40 Kittyhawk found by oil workers in the spring of 2012 without the pilot Flt Sgt Copping on board has a new ending – Italian military historians have stated they found the pilot.

“The Italians searched the area around the crash fighter plane -- and came across human remains just five miles from the Curtiss.”

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/mystery-of-lost-war-hero-may-be-solved-70-years-on-3190391.html>

Pair of WW II Bombs Discovered

One bomb was discovered at Schiphol Airport in The Netherlands and the other in the Schwabing district in Munich, Germany. They blew up the one in Munich (lots of broken windows there) but the one at Schiphol they, of course, also blew up!

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-2195137/Schiphol-Airport-closed-WWII-bomb-workers.html>

Munich

http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/08/30/13571443-thousands-told-to-evacuate-after-more-wwii-bombs-found-in-germany?lite

Actually so far they are up to number 138 found this year in Germany.

Medal of Freedom Awarded to a Marine in Hawaii

Sgt. William S. Harris Jr. was not able to attend the ceremony in Washington DC in June 2012, so they gave him his medal in his own ceremony at the Marine Corps Base in Hawaii. Sgt Harris fought in World War II in the Pacific and was born and raised on Molakai.

http://www.dvidshub.net/news/93958/honored-service-montford-point-marine-receives-congressional-gold-medal#.UD_mUtYibRO

DFC Awarded – 70 Years Later

Second Lt. Samuel Smith, who flew in the 360th Bombardment Squadron out of RAF Molesworth, England during WW II, was awarded his DFC that he earned on March 1, 1945 in a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Rapdolph in Texas.

“We flew 24 combat missions together and I was fortunate in that I was able to bring the same crew back home after the war ended in Europe. I honor them also, because

us pilots without the support of your crew and ground personnel you can't do all the things that you do."

<http://www.avionics-intelligence.com/news/2012/08/30/world-war-ii-veteran-awarded-distinguished-flying-cross.html>

William “Bill” Laughlin – “Tidal Wave” Participant and Later a POW

Shot down in 1944 over Romania, Lt Laughlin, a bombardier in a Consolidated B-24 Liberator heavy bomber, he spent 6 months as a POW before being rescued. He went to visit the B-24 Memorial at Balboa Park’s Veterans Museum this past Memorial Day.

<http://www.delmartimes.net/2012/08/30/local-man-shares-story-of-being-a-pow-and-wwii-bombardier/>

A Desert Rat Turn 100

Jimmy Sinclair turned 100 over the August 18th weekend – he spent 3 years as part of the Australian 7th Division which got the nicknamed “Desert Rats” including the siege of Tobruk. There is a movie made in the 1950s about them.

<http://www.deadlinenews.co.uk/2012/08/16/oldest-desert-rat-to-celebrate-100th-birthday/>

Maj. Gen. Marion E. Carl Memorial

The city of Hubbard honored one of its favorite sons Saturday, May 19, when it unveiled the memorial.

<http://community.statesmanjournal.com/blogs/forwardthis/2012/05/14/veterans-memorial-to-be-unveiled-in-hubbard>

Navy veteran Donald E. Hughes

'Hughes served on the USS Maddox, reputedly the "most shot at" U.S. ship, surviving Japanese kamikaze attacks in WWII and more than 700 rounds from land-based gun batteries during the Korean War. "

http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2012/06/expert_river_pilot_and_navy_ve.html

Corporal Lyle S. Tate

Killed in one of opening battles at Keh Keshn

<http://oregoncatalyst.com/16876-corporal-lyle-tate-usmc-young.html>

French WW I Soldier Artists in Underground Quarries

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/french-soldiers-crafted-cave-murals-in-world-war-i-a-838414.html>

Last Known Polish Veteran of the Battle of Westerplatte dead at 97

Often cited as the very first combat of WW II, when the German ship in the harbor on a goodwill visit opened fire at the fort at Westerplatte and Maj. Ignacy Skowron was in the fort at the time. It held out for seven days before being captured. He became a POW till the middle of 1940 then was paroled by the Germans then worked on the Polish railways.

“A Splendid Little War”

History items from the Spanish-American war of 1898 at the [Rosenberg Library](#).

<http://blog.galveston.com/what-to-do/rosenberg-library-august-2012-treasure-of-the-month/>

Battle Ground (Washington) Memorial – still seeks funding

Conceived in 2008 they are still trying to get funding to create the memorial. It will honor those from the US Civil War of 1861 through current (and future) conflicts.

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2012/aug/05/bg-seeks-donations-to-honor-war-dead/>

August 7, 1942 – August 7, 2012 -- Guadalcanal

“On Guadalcanal the American War Memorial, built by American World War II veterans and maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission is located on a hill overlooking Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands. Its stark granite slabs are etched with descriptions of the major battles that took place during the campaign. This August 7th, the United States Embassy and the Solomon Island Government will hold a somber anniversary marking 70 years since our diverse cultures converged on the shores of Guadalcanal. American, Australian, New Zealand, Japanese, and Solomon Island dignitaries, military representatives, veterans, and ordinary citizens will assemble at this meticulously kept memorial overlooking Iron Bottom Sound in order to pay tribute to those who served and those who never came home.”

<http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2012/08/06/70-years-after-the-guadalcanal-campaign-the-solomon-islands-from-plantation-to-nation/>

A Marine on Guadalcanal

Al "Duke" Dellaera waded ashore just three months after basic training at Camp LeJune as part of the 1st Marine Division.

"During one nighttime patrol along the Ilu River, Dellaera saw a "shadow up ahead" in the grass, just shy of where heavy vegetation began.

"It turned out to be a Japanese soldier ... so there we were, face-to-face more or less, about 25 to 30 yards apart. He stopped and I stopped, and we just stayed there quietly. And he was probably thinking, 'Did I see something there or was it my imagination?' And I was thinking the same thing.' Eventually, the soldier crawled away without incident "

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/08/07/70-years-later-wwii-vet-recalls-guadalcanal-campaign/#ixzz255PEijmY>

Maiden Flight for a WW II Mossie

After a seven year rebuild – a WW II Mosquito will be taking to the air in September.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/7440401/War-Mosquitos-maiden-flight>

A Nurse in the Boer War

Miss Laura Russell Woollcombe gained her medical certificate in 1892 and went to #2 Hospital train in Pretoria with the first group of nurses to leave England in 1899 for South Africa.

"Soon after this Magersfontein was fought, so away we went once more, and this time to the Moder River Station, the nearest we could get, just as the Last Post was sounding. It was a dreadful time for the troops as their beloved General Wauchop had been killed, and 50 Gordon Highlanders had just been buried in a huge trench near the station."

A new book about this will be published in 2015 and this, and other stories, will be in it.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/features/7428492/A-life-of-service-in-war/>

Colditz Escapee Medals Bought for for War Memorial

Bill Fowler's medals were bought at auction so that they could be preserved for others to see in the Australian War Memorial. He was only one of a handful of POWs who were able to escape Colditz Castle during WW II.

http://afr.com/p/national/arts_saleroom/colditz_escapee_medals_for_war_memorial_a_py2TYIXg5FLIJrVZJv6RO

WW II Japanese Soldiers Remains in North Korea

All of Korea was owned by Japan before the war, and when the war ended there were hundreds of thousands of troops still in Korea / China and many died during the winter due to the effective submarine warfare employed the USA and Britain. The USSR took administrative control of the area north of the 38th Parallel and so none of the remains were ever returned. Around 34,000 remains are still thought to be within North Korea where they died during the war.

1st and 2nd Filipino Regiments of WW II

Basically unknown but to themselves, these two US Army regiments fought at New Guinea, Hollandia, and the Philippine Islands. A WW II regiment has around 1,200 front line infantry soldiers plus "rear area" and other support troops.

<http://alameda.patch.com/articles/untold-heroism-of-ww-ii-filipino-regiments>

In a related note a bill to recognize that after being drafted into the US Armed forces and fighting in WW II by order of President Roosevelt; but in 1946 Congress passed a law saying they cannot be considered US Veterans (since the Philippines was to be granted independence and thus it was responsible for them); a group turned in their US Medals and uniforms in protest of H.R. 210 which was not given a hearing which would grant them full veteran status.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/17/filipino-wwii-veterans-surrender-uniforms-medals_n_1798140.html

At 90 Selwyn Lurie starts to write his WW II Memoirs

Selwyn was both a Hurricane fighter pilot in North Africa and a P-47 Thunderbolt pilot in Burma – he lived through all five emergency landings that he was forced into making in friendly territory. He spent most of his time doing ground support strafing.

He still has his flying helmet, goggles, oxygen mask, and uniform.

<http://www.ranchosantafereview.com/2012/08/15/at-90-wwii-combat-fighter-pilot-working-on-memoir/>

George Hickman – Ground Crewman for Tuskegee Group

Trained as a pilot but grounded and eliminated from pilot school when he complained to white officers about the treatment of a fellow black soldier, he was retrained as a ground mechanic. He died at the age of 88 on August 20th, 2012.

<http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/Tuskegee-airman-G-Hickman-dies-in-Seattle-at-88-3801265.php>

Training for 20,000 feet bombing at 5,000 over Japan

D. Michael Cunningham had eyesight too poor for being a pilot – so they made him a Navigator on a B-29. He was in the 3rd or 4th B-29 to make a landing on Iwo Jima while the battle was raging.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city/veterans/salute/article988308.ece>

DOD Puts up a database of Service Medals Awarded

However it only covers awards since September 11, 2001 and only the top three medals that have been awarded: Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross (for the Air Force), Navy Cross, and Silver Stars.

No plans to make a database of awards of prior conflicts.

<http://valor.defense.gov/>

Got a Spare \$81 Million?

The USS Yorktown, docked in Charleston since 1975, needs a bit of repair work.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/cebd0690cc354610a61b57b8be2c2bc0/SC--Yorktown-Repairs>

Gold Diggers Clause

What did young women want to do in 1908? Marry an aging Boer War Veteran to get a pension of course! Section 31 in Canada is the "Gold Digger's Clause" which states that if anyone marries a veteran who is older than 60 they are never entitled to any veteran pension benefits.

<http://www.oshawaexpress.ca/viewposting.php?view=3365>

A "Milk Run" to Greece and Shot Down

Homer Jones was a radio operator on a B-24 when they were assigned to bomb Salonika in Greece – told it was an easy mission a "milk run" - but the Germans had mobile AA guns on railroad cars and their plane was hit forcing them to bail out.

He ended up being captured, then escaping from the POW camp and walking from Austria to Bulgaria where he was again "captured" by the Russians before being allowed to leave and sent back to Italy then home.

<http://lubbockonline.com/life-columnists/2012-08-19/westbrook-world-war-ii-flier-relishes-freedom-after-germans-capture-him>

Local Upcoming Oregon Based Events

Aviation Breakfast Club meets September 9

This takes place at the American Legion Post 105; 8329 Southeast 89th Avenue, Portland, OR 97266; it is right off of I-205 at the Johnson Creek Road (Exit 16); (503) 771-4293.

You actually go North on Fuller road off of Johnson Creek which then turns into 89th.

The speaker will be Terry Popravak Jr. LTC (Ret). Terry has published a few books about the Oregon Air National Guard with the latest one being "Images of America: Oregon Air National Guard".

Oregon Honor Flights

Mike Pungercar is the Oregon coordinator for *Honor Flights*, which raises money to pay for WW II Veterans to go back to Washington DC to visit the memorial. Currently there are 25 WW II veterans scheduled to go in October to DC from Oregon. Contact Mike to both apply / nominate someone and or to donate funds to help send these veterans to the Memorial. Mike's email is: pungercar2@msn.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 November 3, 2012

The August Speaker



P-51 Ace Clayton Kelly Groce was 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](#)

Membership Status

Currently the chapter continues to send to people meeting notifications and information to people who have NOT paid their dues for two years before they are officially dropped from the roster. The yearly dues statements (except for those life members) will be coming out after the November meeting. Please check with Sharon Campbell if you are unsure of your membership status at 503-632-7633.

When a member dies the chapter continues to send notifications for a year after being notified of their death.

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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The Oregon Chapter is a registered Non-Profit 503(c) with the IRS and within the State of Oregon.