

# **“MILK RUN”**

Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society  
*History News Update for October 2012*



**History News → Readers, where's your story?**

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

## **No National WW I Memorial in Washington DC – Yet**

There is a “National” memorial in Kansas – but people just don't visit it much. Since the USA did not join the war till 1917, there is still time to get one built before then.  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/districts-world-war-i-memorial-will-not-be-national-memorial/2012/09/12/60ecc088-fce8-11e1-8adc-499661afe377\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/districts-world-war-i-memorial-will-not-be-national-memorial/2012/09/12/60ecc088-fce8-11e1-8adc-499661afe377_story.html)

## **Battle of the Memorial Plaque**

Memorial plaques placed years ago, and then moved when an organization/company goes away, create problems as to who “owns” the plaque and where it will reside. This is the problem in Bittersville, Pa. (Portland Oregon has this problem with the Memorial Coliseum where the memorial is located on a lower level, which no one can easily find, get to, or see. Is the COLISEUM there to honor veterans and the memorial attached to it, or is the memorial there and the coliseum attached to the memorial? The distinction makes a difference if you want to tear down the coliseum. )

[http://www.yorkdispatch.com/ci\\_21533638/battle-over-veterans-plaque-boils-over-bittersville](http://www.yorkdispatch.com/ci_21533638/battle-over-veterans-plaque-boils-over-bittersville)

## **A Motorcycle MP in WW II – Guarding Eisenhower, POWs, and USO Tours**

Gene Stephens was in the military before the war – and rode a motorcycle with duties including London m, North Africa to Rome during WW II. He is the guest of honor at Fort Leonard Wood in September.

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2012/09/ap-army-leonard-wood-world-war-ii-mp-94-honored-091012/>

## **Fort Devens Musuem**

Camp, later Fort Devens, main function was training soldiers during WW I. Since then it had other assignments, including housing POWs during WW II, till it was closed in 1996.

INFO: 978-772-1286; [www.fortdevensmuseum.org](http://www.fortdevensmuseum.org)

[http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x1526497703/Local-Gem-Fort-Devens-Museum-packs-in-history?zc\\_p=1](http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x1526497703/Local-Gem-Fort-Devens-Museum-packs-in-history?zc_p=1)

## **WW II Soviet Era Veterans Living in the Ukraine Get Benefits**

A bill to change their status, so that they qualify for Social Benefits, takes effect on January 1, 2013.

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/08/22/154452.html>

## **National Archives releases documents about Katyn Forrest Massacre**

After the Soviet Union joined with NAZI Germany in dividing Poland between the two of them Stalin had a lot of the captured Polish leaders and most of the Polish officers they had captured killed. The Germans discovered this in 1943 and advertised it to the world – which the US and Soviet Governments stated was pure propaganda – but it wasn't. Over 22,000 Polish were killed by the Soviets in 1940.

<http://io9.com/5942180/released-documents-show-us-helped-hush-soviet-massacre-of-thousands>

## **Landmines of WW II still abound in Egypt**

When the mobile battles in the desert stopped – each side planted thousands of mines in front of their own units to augment their defensive positions – and they are still being found. The problem in the desert is of course that landmarks are few and even though the minefields were well documented – sand can cover and obscure everything. Since the end of the war in the El Alamein area over 2.9 MILLION mines and unexploded ordnance items have been removed.

<http://www.warhistoryonline.com/featured-article/nazi-landmines-block-egypts-access-to-oil-and-gas.html>

## **Railroading through North Africa, Italy and France**

Pfc George Rodak wanted to be in the Army Air Corps – but his pre-war locomotive talents sent him to the Army Railroad units in Europe instead.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/carousel/x1107514678/WORLD-WAR-II-Then-and-Now-Pfc-George-Rodak>

## **Last Pilot Standing – Captain Ken Cochran**

He thinks he is the last pilot alive from his B-24 group from the south Pacific. He flew 30 combat missions.

<http://www.ktbs.com/news/Ken-Cochran-World-War-II-B-24-Pilot/-/144844/16599280/-/115sbt7/-/index.html>

## **A B-24 – Surviving Europe - Destroyed in Reading**

There were over 12,000 flying accidents in the USA during the War – including this one when a B-24 was being ferried to storage at Reading Airport.

<http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=414299>

## **Three Stories: Driving Trucks, Driving Wire, and Digging up Mines**

A person who was in the South Pacific; the 44<sup>th</sup> Division, and the 28<sup>th</sup> Division.

<http://www.mariettatimes.com/page/content.detail/id/546531/World-War-II-.html?nav=5002>

## **With the 81<sup>st</sup> “Wildcat” Division in the Pacific**

Cpl. Charles Sidener was with an anti-tank unit, and the Japanese did not field many tanks on the islands, and spent most of his time doing direct support fire support into pillboxes, hills and other front line combat needs. A WW II Army movie, “Action At Angaur”, documents the battle of the 81<sup>st</sup> Division in the Peleliu Campaign. (Oregon's EAA Chapter 105 has an original 16mm version of the movie which I have digitized.)

[http://www.limaohio.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_5f0fd49e-f559-11e1-bfa1-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.limaohio.com/news/local_news/article_5f0fd49e-f559-11e1-bfa1-0019bb30f31a.html)

## **New Book about a Murder during WWI**

Set in a hospital during 1918 of World War I, "An Unmarked Grave" , has Nurse Bess Crawford investigating a murder while in the front lines of World War I. Written by Charles Todd, & William Morrow, 262 pages, \$24.99.

[http://journalstar.com/entertainment/arts-and-culture/books/book-review-murder-mystery-is-set-against-bloody-wwi-in/article\\_933297df-7e29-5365-b02f-3a82dee0613f.html](http://journalstar.com/entertainment/arts-and-culture/books/book-review-murder-mystery-is-set-against-bloody-wwi-in/article_933297df-7e29-5365-b02f-3a82dee0613f.html)

## **Book: Battleground Prussia**

When the summer of 1944 ended Soviet Armies were at the German Border – and for the next 9 months the Eastern Front saw some of the heaviest fighting of the war – on par with Stalingrad and Karkov , but this time within Germany itself.

[http://www.monstersandcritics.com/books/reviews/article\\_1703720.php/Battleground-Prussia-The-Assault-on-Germany-s-Eastern-Front-1944-45-%E2%80%93-Book-Review](http://www.monstersandcritics.com/books/reviews/article_1703720.php/Battleground-Prussia-The-Assault-on-Germany-s-Eastern-Front-1944-45-%E2%80%93-Book-Review)

## **The PBJ-1 of Esspriuto-Santo (now called Vanuatu)**

In 1944 the bomber was reported lost at sea – but actually crashed into a mountain on Esprito Santo and was discovered via by a SN being seen on a PBJ-1 being restored. By Ned Wernick, who flew 20 missions in PBJ-1s in the South Pacific in the 423 Bomb Squadron – and the SN was from a plane reported lost. (This is a follow-up of a previous reported Milk Run article).

[http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20120916/NEWS/120916007?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20120916/NEWS/120916007?nclick_check=1)

## **70 Years ago the Yanks Arrived in Australia**

John Wells, 18<sup>th</sup> Recon Squadron / 408<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron and part of the 22 Bomb Group goes to Australia as the representative of that unit of their arrival in Australia during WW II. He has a brand new replica uniform of what he wore back then for the event. He flew B-26 Martin Marauders.

An illustrated World War II history of the 22nd Bombardment Group "Revenge of the Red Raiders" is available in the Pasadena Public Library system.

[http://www.presstelegram.com/breakingnews/ci\\_21559047/93-year-old-wwii-pilot-flies-back-australia](http://www.presstelegram.com/breakingnews/ci_21559047/93-year-old-wwii-pilot-flies-back-australia)

## **Lunch with Spitfire Pilots**

August 1940 thru August 1942 was a tough time to be a Spitfire Pilot – but this August it was a lot easier for these WW II pilots who gathered at Goodwood for lunch. The ceremony coincided with the launch of a new book, *To War in a Spitfire*, about Lt Col Strawn.

<http://www.chichester.co.uk/news/spitfire-heroes-get-together-for-launch-1-4201710>

## Spitfire Special Air Delivery

This could be one reason why Spitfire pilots always loved their airplane. A Spit IX carrying beer kegs to the pilots in Normandy.



You had to fly at 15,000 for at least 15 minutes to cool the beer – and you better make a smooth landing.

In his book "Dancing in the Skies", Tony Jonsson, the only Icelander pilot in the RAF, recalled beer runs while he was flying with 65 Squadron. Every week a pilot was sent back to the UK to fill some cleaned-up drop tanks with beer and return to the squadron. Jonsson hated the beer runs as every man on the squadron would be watching you upon arrival. Anyone who made a rough landing and dropped the tanks would be the most hated man on the squadron for an entire week.

## The Malta Invasion of 1942 – That never Occurred

The defense of Malta from 1940 onwards affected the outcome of the North Africa Campaign. Germany and Italy had prepared plans to invade – but the invasion never occurred due to a variety of operational and personality quirks of the Fascist leaders.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20120819/life-features/Axis-plan-for-invasion-of-Malta.433565>

## The Tunnels of Ramsgate

Almost forgotten, the tunnels were used as shelters – and by a few hundred people living quarters – during 1940/1941 during the Luftwaffe attacks.

<http://www.thisiskent.co.uk/Tunnels-saved-lives-bombs-rained/story-16760668-detail/story.html>

## The “Oregon Boys” 2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteer infantry in the Philippines

I found this stereo view in an antique shop in Aurora a few weeks ago.



Pvt. Marcus William Robertson won the Congressional Medal of Honor while serving in the Philippines in 1899.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus\\_William\\_Robertson#cite\\_note-AMOHW-1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_William_Robertson#cite_note-AMOHW-1)

## **Flying with the 371<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron**

Terrance Popravak Jr has set up a Wordpress blog to talk about the history of the 371<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group – which was renumbered in 1946 and became the 142 Fighter Wing which is based at Portland, Oregon.

<http://371stfightergroup.wordpress.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](#)

## **Using a WW II Theme for Modern Uses**

This website uses WW II video and phrases to show what they can do in creating websites for businesses and organizations. Hover over the top menu for a pretty cool cursor.

Some people do appreciate history.

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

## **A Victoria Cross for John Simpson Kirkpatrick (aka John Simpson)?**

A petition has been started to grant a VC to this ANZAC stretcher bearer who, during a 25 day period in the Gallipoli campaign before being killed, rescued some 300 soldiers from the front line. He originally was from South Shields in England.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/world/british-push-for-victoria-cross-for-gallipoli-hero-john-simpson-kirkpatrick/story-fnd134gw-1226481466368>

## **Annual POW Ceremony at Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital**

Four former POWs at the hospital recounted their experiences at this annual event.

<http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/2012/sep/22/prisoners-of-war-share-stories-during-annual/>

## **Germany Artillery Discovered in the Mountains of Russia**

Moved to the tops of a mountain in 1942, before the Soviet Stalingrad counteroffensive, they had to be abandoned when the Wehrmacht forces withdrew to avoid being captured in the winter of 1942/1943.

They were at the Donguz-Orun pass at an elevation of 9,184 feet.

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/german-world-war-ii-artillery-found-in-russian-mountains-268088>

## **Oldest WW II era Soviet Marshall Dead at 101**

Marshal Sergey Sokolov, who fought at Lake Hasan during WW II, died in Moscow at 101.

<http://vestnikkavkaza.net/news/society/30852.html>



## **Book Reviews: “When Hitler Took Austria” and “Road to Valor”**

One is the story of Kurt Von Schuschnigg, the son of the Austrian chancellor when it was incorporated into the Reich in 1938, and the Italian cyclist Gino Bartali.

<http://www.catholicsentinel.org/Main.asp?SectionID=6&SubSectionID=31&ArticleID=19334>

## **An interview with British historian Antony Beevor**

Antony Beevor is the author of the book “Stalingrad”.

“Beevor: The point about the Battle of Stalingrad was that it was the psychological turning point of the war. It became quite clear both to the Red Army and also to the German Army that from now on there would now be a movement toward the West and eventually Berlin would suffer the same fate as Stalingrad.

I think that it’s highly significant that even today on the Reichstag you can see the graffiti of Russian soldiers with the words “Stalingrad-Berlin.” The two cities were very much linked in their mind.”

<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/141072/a-victory-of-courage-and-coercion-british-historian-on-stalingrad-39-s-legacy.html>

## **“The Big Red One”**

Samuel Fuller made the movie made in 1980 was actually in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division throughout the war. This article gives some background information on why he made it. Be sure to watch/get the full 162 minute version.

<http://www.thejewishweek.com/arts/film/grunts-eye-view-modern-combat>

## **New “Wake Island” flag raised over Boise**

At the start of WW II in the Pacific Wake Island held out against the Japanese for 15 days before being taken – they even sunk two destroyers and other smaller ships.

250 Idahoans were on the island when it was attacked – and 98 civilians were later executed by the Japanese.

(Originally the Japanese Admiral in charge was going to execute everyone on Wake Island after it was captured but a Japanese Army General talked him out of it.)

<http://www.ktvb.com/news/local/New-Wake-Island-flag-dedicated--169921626.html>

## **Korean Government purchases – again – building that was the Korean Embassy in 1891**

Sold off by Japan in 1910 after Korea was annexed into the Japanese Empire, the building was recently purchased by the Korean Government to once again may become an official residence.

<http://www.wrex.com/story/19542236/skorea-regains-old-embassy-in-us-snipes-at-japan>

## **China Officially Launches their first Aircraft Carrier**

Rebuild from a hull purchased from the Ukraine, it is mainly a training carrier before the Chinese custom built carrier is launched in a few years.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/china-commissions-first-aircraft-carrier/1514342.html>

## **Gallup out of the History Books for the War of 1812**

If you can ride, and want to participate in a 1812 style calvary charge – get to Maidstone Conservation Area at 1213 Sideroad in the town of Lakeshore in Ontario and become part of the US Forces sacking towns and villages in Ontario – and be filmed for it.

<http://1812.visualheritage.ca>

<http://www.windsorstar.com/entertainment/Casting+call+mounted+extras+1812+documentary/7283614/story.html>

## **The Naval War in 1812-1814**

The US Army, asides from a few minor battles, pretty much lost every engagement. The Navy, on the other hand, won outright or came to a draw – which against the British was a victory – during the war.

## **Malta Re-Enactment Groups**

Re-enactors exist around the world – one group in Malta has the main focus of the Medieval period in Central Europe, from the arrival of Count Roger to the end of the Feudal Era on the island. They also have WW II era re-enactors.

<http://www.di-ve.com/news/reproducing-200-year-old-uniforms>

## **Sgt James Firth, VC, needs a new Headstone**

During the Boer War he won the VC rescuing wounded men, even though he himself was wounded through the nose and eye. His headstone, due to weathering effects on the marble, has lost lots of the wording on the stone.

<http://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/3-000-appeal-to-restore-war-hero-s-grave-1-4951465>

## **Don Smith of the Doolittle Raiders inducted into the S.D. Aviation Hall of Fame**

Pilot of B-25 #15 he crashed into the South China Sea, evaded the Japanese, and was back home in the states by July 4, 1942.



He then went to the ETO and died in a plane accident outside of London in November of 1942.

[http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/communities/belle\\_fourche/belle-fourche-s-wwii-doolittle-raid-pilot-to-be-honored/article\\_20efbd80-8ad4-52b9-b4c6-0261da7fc8df.html](http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/communities/belle_fourche/belle-fourche-s-wwii-doolittle-raid-pilot-to-be-honored/article_20efbd80-8ad4-52b9-b4c6-0261da7fc8df.html)

## **Korean War Vet gets his Bronze Star**

Puerto Rico based 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment fought during the Korean war – and Luis Ramos, along with a few others from his regiment, were able to attend when he Col. David J Clark pinned the medal onto him on September 7, 2012 in Florida where he now lives.

<http://www.boston.com/news/world/caribbean/2012/09/07/korean-war-vet-gets-belated-honors-puerto-rico/wxWv9mYR7rTn6G0hF7ofsL/story.html>

## **Lt. Col Woodrow W Crockett, Tuskegee Airman, dead at 93**

He died August 16 at Knollwood retirement community in Washington State. They were based out of Ramitelli Italy during the war. He lead the group by the end of the war.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/decorated-tuskegee-airman-and-retired-air-force-lt-col-woodrow-w-crockett-dies/2012/09/09/01ac7574-fa94-11e1-875c-4c21cd68f653\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/decorated-tuskegee-airman-and-retired-air-force-lt-col-woodrow-w-crockett-dies/2012/09/09/01ac7574-fa94-11e1-875c-4c21cd68f653_story.html)

## **A B-25 Accident during the War**

Over 7,100 US aircraft were destroyed during WW II in training, transportation or other causes. This B-25 crashed during bad weather – into a town.

[http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20120909/NEWS01/209090303?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20120909/NEWS01/209090303?nclick_check=1)

## **Woman Marine Gets Hospital Visit by Two Generals**

90 Year old Corporal Nell Martin Campbell, who served in WW II, was in the hospital with 7 broken ribs and punctured lung after falling down was visited by her grandson - Lt. Col. James R. Martin, but other Generals also came to visit her. Over 18,000 women joined the Marines during WWII (WW II did not OFICIALLY end till December 31, 1946 for computing service era awards).

During the WWII era, Army women soldiers had a nickname of "WACS", the Navy had "WAVES," which are both acronyms for women in the Army and Navy respectively.

But, when asked what women Marines would be nicknamed, Gen. Thomas Holcomb said in the March 27, 1944, issue of Life magazine: "They are Marines. They don't have a nickname and they don't need one. They got their basic training in a Marine atmosphere at a Marine post. They inherit the traditions of Marines. They are Marines."

<http://richmondregister.com/localnews/x2056639545/WWII-era-female-Marine-honored-by-top-brass-military>

## **Silver Star Awarded to Senior Airman Bradley R. Smith**

Killed in action on January 3, 2010, the award was formally presented to his widow in September.

The Silver Star is one level below the Congressional Medal of Honor.

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123317250>

## **Me-323 Wreck Found off Sardinia**

Damaged by a British Beaufighter, it was able to dock before it sunk but only a few of the people on board were able to get out. Around 200 Me-323 "Giants" were produced during the war – and none survived.

<http://news.discovery.com/history/german-plane-wreck-found-120914.html>

## **German Dig at a Lancaster Crash Site of aircraft ED 427**

The Lancaster bomber crashed in April of 1943 – blowing up as it the ground. They started the dig and quickly found bone fragments.

The British military will bury the remains found during the excavation together, and that they'll mark the grave with the names of all seven airmen who were aboard: Alexander Bone, Norman Foster, Cyril Yelland, Raymond White, Raymond Rooney, Ronald Cope and Bruce Watt, who was a Canadian.

<http://www.stripes.com/news/dig-unearths-british-wwii-bomber-crash-remains-1.189451>

## **A Foot locker Returned – 10 years after being left behind in a Move**

WW II fighter pilot Bruce Latter had all his WW II fighter items in his foot locker, including helmet, gun camera film and other flying gear, but when he moved the locker in the attic was forgotten about – and it shows up on his door 10 years later.

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2012/sep/15/wwii-trunk-delivered-to-vero-beach-veteran-pilot/>

## **Flying and Fighting in Two Wars**

Brig. Gen. Victor Herbert Strahm flew in WW I and during WW II he also participated as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force – when "Tidal Wave" - the Ploesti raid – occurred. He was interviewed during the Army Hour radio program.

## **Oregon Chapter News**

### ***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 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS***

If you wish to be removed from the e-mail list please let us know.

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