

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for March 2013



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.

100th Bombardment Group (Heavy) "Bloody 100th" Reunion
[Official Site of the 100th Bomb Group Foundation](#)
www.100thbg.com

It occurs on October 17, 2013.

Their reunion will be in Pooler, South Carolina (right outside Savannah) and the Reunion hotel is [Embassy Suites Savannah Airport](#) 154 West Mulberry Blvd, Pooler, Georgia 31322.

St Louis WW I Soldier Remembered

"The First" and "The Last" are the ones who are usually remembered.

David Hickey was the first St Louis soldier killed in France in 1918 - and a city park Bears his name.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/look-back/a-look-back-first-st-louisian-killed-in-world-war/article_c0c6ef52-86f8-523e-90a2-ee69dc8c906e.html

WW I Debt during the Depression

War debts are nothing new – but modern nations and how they pay the debts back changed as a result of WW I and the Great Depression.

The “domino effect” of intertwined debts from 1933 is explained in this article.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-04/the-world-war-i-debts-that-wouldn-t-go-away-.html>

WW I “Kettering Bug” – The Cruise Missile of World War I

Invented in the USA by GM's George F. Kettering and Orville Wright, this cruiser missile was designed to destroy targets beyond artillery range with precision.

<http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/2013/02/unmanned-drones-have-been-around-since-world-war-i/>

4 Star General John “Blackjack” Pershing - *General of the Armies*

Pershing was the last US General who did it all: train, deploy, command and work with allies as a real Field General.

At the time of the Armistice: "He wanted to whip Germany, to go into the country. He figured that by beating up the Germans, we could have had an unconditional surrender. But Wilson just wanted peace, and Germany didn't surrender. We just had an armistice."

After the shooting died, Pershing said: "What I dread is that Germany doesn't know that she was licked. Had they given us another week, we'd have taught them."

<http://news.investors.com/management-leaders-in-success/021913-644873-john-pershing-winning-general-world-war-i.htm>

On February 2, 1942 the Germans left in Stalingrad Surrendered

The biggest single battle during World War II, it largely shifted the strategic initiative from the Germans to the Soviets – though the NAZI high command did not recognize it at the time but they did after July's 1943 Battle of Kursk.

It is estimated that some 400,000 Germans and their allies were killed or captured during the battle and around 1,200,000 Russians (including civilians) died during the battle – and some 400,000 wounded.

<http://travel.cnn.com/stalingrad-exhibition-dresden-370146>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-21293597>

“The White Rose” Resistance movement in Germany in WWII

When living inside a dictatorship any noticed resistance and actions against the dictator is quickly seen – and punished. Sophie Scholl was seen as anti-NAZI and tried, convicted and killed within four days of her arrest.

There have been two movies that I know of about this resistance movement in Munich during WW II. *“The White Rose”* and *“Sophie Scholl – The Final Days”*.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2013/02/26/sophie-scholl-executed-by-the-nazis-70-years-ago-shows-the-human-spirit-at-its-finest/>

One of the last 8th AF Veteran around

[Note: No idea where KAMR Fox TV 14 is at – no address is shown on their web site as to where they are located in the USA! Actually, this is quite common – most TV and newspapers NEVER state where they are located. They just state their name!]

A WW II B-17 Tail Gunner is likely the last 8th AF veteran left in his town – but he is a docent at the local air museum.

http://myhighplains.com/fulltext?nxd_id=335862

Harry Generaux – 35 Mission B-17 Pilot

Local Vancouver Washington resident Harry Generaux has written up accounts of his 35 missions from the UK to Germany – and back again. He flew with the 398th Bombardment Group (Heavy) out of Nuthampstead, England.

"We didn't take time for boot camp. They put us on the flight line."

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2013/feb/24/wwii-pilot-flies-into-family-history/>

17 MOH Awardees in the 8th

During World War II 17 members of the 8th Air Force were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. 220 received the Distinguished Service Cross and more than 7,000 earned the Purple Heart: 24,000+ were POWs.

The award to Lt. Edward Stanley Michael was on the April 11 mission to Germany was piloting a B-17 of the 305th Bomb Group, when it came under concentrated fire from a swarm of enemy fighters. Seriously wounded and with a fire raging in the plane's bomb bay, he ordered the crew to bail out. It was after seven had done so that it was discovered that the parachute of one crewman had been shot up by the gun fire and rendered useless.

Returning to the cockpit, Michael decided to try to get back to England. Bleeding badly and losing consciousness repeatedly, he and the co-pilot survived 45 minutes of sustained combat before entering the comparative protection of cloud cover. For much of the return journey, Michael was unconscious, but after they spotted a landing strip in England, Michael revived and insisted on making the crash landing. With both landing gear and flaps inoperative, the bomb bay doors stuck open and virtually all instrumentation, including the airspeed indicator, shot out, Michael made a successful controlled crash, bringing his remaining crew back home alive.

War on 1812 was really a Naval War

The land battles fought were a result of the NAVAL battles both fought and un-fought. The British pretty much ruled the waves and could pick and choose where to land their troops.

However, the Chesapeake Bay battles helped both make the nation (and burn Washington) and gave up the Star Spangled Banner.

The War of 1812 on the Chesapeake" opens Saturday, May 11 at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) in St. Michaels.

<http://maryland.newszap.com/crisfieldsomerset/119866-92/navigating-freedom-the-war-of-1812-on-the-chesapeake-exhibit-coming-in-may>

You can Dig up News – but not Spitfires

It seems that the hunt for rumored buried RAF Spitfires was just that – a rumor.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/burmamyanmar/9874667/Hunt-for-WWII-Spitfires-in-Burma-called-off.html>

Carl Hess – a Night on the USS Missouri

A 11 year old who lives near Seattle Washington will get his wish – sleeping aboard the USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor.

[Editor's note: took this photo when at Pearl in 2011.]



<http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Washington-boy-receives-WWII-survival-wish/IyuBiN5uqUqVtpjLWI403w.cspX>

UXBs in Japan

Two UXBs – Unexploded Bombs – Found in Hamamatsu & Kobe Japan.
One seems to have been a 16" shell and the other 500 pound GP bomb.

"Ohashi, who has disabled 12 bombs over the past decade, follows the same routine each time to settle his mind, including a precise placement of the tools in the order they will be needed. Last year, he and his team safely defused a 225-kg shell discovered in the Moto-Akasaka district of Tokyo, near the grounds of the Imperial Palace."

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/02/18/national/wwii-era-shells-readied-for-disposal/>

Capt “Hap” Chandler -- Naval Aviator

Turning down the Naval Academy in order to enlist in 1942 he flew fighters off the USS Yorktown & USS, Franklin and fought across the Pacific at Palau, Philippines, Guam, Okinawa and the Mariana Islands and other locations. He ended his naval career as CO of Miramar for two years.

He died at the age of 87.

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/feb/15/tp-ww-ii-pilot-miramar-commander-courageous/>

Remembering the USS Thresher

There were two, SS-200 and SSN 593. The first one survived 15 war patrols – the second was lost in a training exercise.

SS-200 was credited with sinking 17 enemy ships weighing more than 66,000 tons – and maybe a complete convoy.

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20130218-NEWS-302180315>

Front Line Nurse Mildred A. MacGregor - dead at 100

Assigned to the 298th General Hospital, composed of medical professionals from the University of Michigan Hospital, she served close behind the front lines. As part of the Third Auxiliary Surgical Group in WWII, it was stationed in England, North Africa, France and Germany. MacGregor was stationed in Africa during much of 1943. In 1944, 10 days after D-Day, she arrived on Omaha Beach, where she nursed wounded soldiers.

She published a book [World War II Front Line Nurse](#)

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/world-war-ii-front-line-nurse-mildred-macgregor-dies-at-age-100/>

Anchoring an Ad Campaign at 90 Years of Age

Staying at the Hotel Del Coronado while attending pilot training in WW II he had his photo taken with his date – and now it shows up in an ad campaign.

He survived being on the deck of the Bunker Hill when it was struck by a kamikaze.

<http://www.10news.com/news/90-year-old-wwii-veteran-finds-valentines-day-fame-021513>

Remember the Maine

The USS Maine, blown up in Havana harbor (and later raised and towed out to sea and sunk) has a memorial to it in Old Key West Cemetery.

It was blown up on February 15, 1898.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/explore/carroll/news/community/ph-ce-eagle-archive-2024-20130220,0,5592131.story>

“The Colour Corps” – of 1812

People know about the Tuskegee Airmen of WW II, the “Colored” troops of the Civil War (mainly due to the movie “Glory”) but before them there was the war of 1812 – and there was also an all colored unit. They just fought for Canada.

<http://blogs.windsorstar.com/2013/02/22/the-black-presence-in-the-war-of-1812/>

Aviation Engineers of WW II – Building Airfields around the World

WW II saw the emergence of aircraft as vital to combat – but there were very few airfields at the start of the war. By the time the war ended thousands had been built – and often built by specialized aviation battalions. Of the 157 separate aviation engineer battalions that saw duty during the war, 48 were segregated units designated as “Colored” and they mainly were sent to the Pacific and the CBI.

“For example, the 812th shipped out of Charleston in May 1942 to build bases in south-central Africa and help maintain the southern aircraft ferry route. After constructing airfields in Kenya, they found themselves on ships bound for Egypt, followed by a 900-mile truck ride across the desert to Benghazi, Libya. At this location, the unit established water points, constructed Nissen huts, devised camouflage and deception devices such as decoy fires, dummy runways and dummy aircraft. They continued to improve and stabilize the base for Ninth Air Force's B-24s that bombed the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania. In addition, they built a pipeline from the sea to keep the airfield sprinkled. The unit then moved to the islands of Sicily and Corsica where they built bases at more than a dozen sites until the end of the war.”

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123337782>

Capturing Tojo

John J. Wilpers Jr., the last surviving member of the U.S. Army intelligence unit that captured former Japanese Prime Minister Hideki Tojo after World War II, has died at 93.

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/article/246819/158/US-WWII-Veteran-Who-Captured-Japans-Tojo-Dies>

Getting the DFC Medal at 91

During WW II people could be awarded a medal – see the orders (and sometimes not even that) but never get the physical medal. This time a son hears the story then gets help to get the physical medal to his dad on his birthday.

SO the dad, now again back when it was a B-24 pilot LT. Kenneth Wilbur Keplar, talks about the mission of December 19, 1944 while flying with the 449th Bombardment Group in the 718th Bombardment Squadron on a mission to Rosenheim Germany out of Italy.

And after telling the story, he is presented with the DFC medal he earned over Germany.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/03/01/2718377/finally-raleigh-ww-ii-veteran.html>

Tom Griffin – Doolittle Raider dead at 96

He died on February 26, 2013 in Green Township, Ohio.

There are now just four raiders left alive: Dick Cole (a Dayton Ohio native and the copilot of Gen. Jimmy Doolittle), Robert Hite, Edward Saylor and David Thatcher. The Raider's 71st reunion is April 17-21 in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.



Left to Right, Capt Tom Griffin, 1st Lt. Charles S. Meyers and Sergeant Everett Hunt of the 'Hell's Cargo' crew.

"I'm no hero," he said one last time in November in his hospital room. "I just did my job as best I could."

<http://www.wltx.com/news/article/224298/2/Doolittle-Raider-WWII-Hero-Dies-at-Age-96>

POWs of the Japanese – Civilians held at Santo Tomas Internment Camp

Captured on New Year's Day 1942, Dorothy Davis Thompson was a nurse in Manila and was put into camps like all the other allied civilians. She wrote a book published in 1996 "[The Road Back: A Pacific POW's Liberation Story](#)".

456 Civilian died at the camp between 1942 and 1945 when it was liberated.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/military/article/Nurse-taken-prisoner-in-WWII-ensures-her-story-4325255.php>

POW Camps of Louisiana

As the war in Europe went in the Allied favor more and more POWs started to arrive in the US – and POW camps were set up everywhere there was room. And POWs worked the fields to replace those that had gone to war.

http://www.techetoday.com/view/full_story/21872370/article-The-true-story-of-Nazi-orgies-in-St--Martinville?instance=Lifestyle%20Home%20Page

Oregon Chapter News

Next General Membership meeting is May 11, 2013.

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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