

“MILK RUN”

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

Where you in the Army Air Corps or the U S Army Air Force – YES!

The US Army owned the land based aviation aircraft till the United States Air Force was created in 1947. Before that it started off as the Army Air Service and was renamed to the US Army Air Corps in 1927.

In March of 1941, it was again officially renamed to the **US ARMY Air Force** – of which the Air Corps was an administrative assignment within the US Army Air Corps.

A modern equivalent of it is like wearing the Signal Corp emblem on your collar while in the US Army and being assigned to a helicopter unit.

“The Air Corps ceased to have an administrative structure after 9 March 1942, but as “the permanent statutory organization of the air arm, and the principal component of the Army Air Forces,” the overwhelming majority of personnel assigned to the AAF were members of the Air Corps.”

The Army reorganization of 1941 created the new Army Air Forces. GHQ Air Force was renamed Air Force Combat Command and was assigned to the AAF. The AAF controlled both the Air Corps and Air Force Combat Command.

In March 1942, War Department Circular 59 divided the Army into three autonomous Zone of the Interior commands: Army Air Forces, Army Ground Forces, and Services of Supply (later, Army Service Forces). General Arnold's title changed to Commanding General, AAF.

The offices of the Chief of the Air Corps and Chief of Air Force Combat Command were abolished and their functions were taken over by the AAF. ***The Air Corps dropped off the organization chart.***

However, the Air Corps continued to exist, not as a subordinate element of the AAF, but as one of the combat branches of the Army to which both officers and enlisted members could be appointed, assigned, or detailed.

Large combat organizations in the field might have personnel from several different corps. Almost everybody in the AAF was in the Air Corps, although some AAF support personnel were from some other corps. In May 1945, 88 percent of the AAF officers and 82 percent of the enlisted members were in the Air Corps.

<http://www.airforce-magazine.com/MagazineArchive/Pages/2009/July%202009/0709AirCorps.aspx>

8th AF Museum Renames itself

Mighty 8th Air Force Museum is now the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. The museum is located in Pooler, Georgia, which is just west of Savannah off of I-16. It is going to expand to include what the 8th AF, which is still active, has also accomplished since WW II when it was initially activated.

<http://savannahnow.com/news/2013-03-20/mighty-eighth-museum-changes-name-reflect-national-mission>

BBC Orders a new WW I Drama Series “The Great War”

The 100th anniversary of the start of “The Great War”, now commonly referred to as World War I, comes in August of 1914. The British Broadcasting Company has ordered a 30 part series about the war. It will try and tell in five 30 minute episodes the four year long war.

<http://www.tvwise.co.uk/2013/04/bbc-one-orders-world-war-i-drama-series-the-great-war/>

Found by a Metal Detector

A French farmer, who was told never to plow a field because of buried soldiers in still there from WW I, instead used a metal detector to find items and discovered five British Soldiers in the field.

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/2013/04/09/merseyside-family-set-to-bury-their-world-war-i-hero-ancestor-96-years-after-his-death-100252-33139922/>

A new book out on the Romanian Front of WW I

World War I, like WW II, was spread throughout Europe. And just like WW II reporting, information from the Eastern front, Balkans, Greece, Middle East was often lacking due to governments preventing news reporters from going to where the action was. A new book about the Romanian front was published by University press of Kansas.

The Romanian Battlefront in World War I , by Glenn E. Torrey

Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2012. Pp. xvi, 426. Illus., maps, tables, notes, biblio, index. \$39.95. ISBN: 0700618392.

<http://www.strategypage.com/bookreviews/845.asp>

Restored A-26 “Invader” Gets an Award

The Lady Liberty group was awarded the 2012 Commemorative Air Force Distinguished Unit Citation at the Commemorative Air Force Winter Conference in Midland, Texas.

The aircraft owned by Enid CAF is the oldest flying Invader, Ediger said. It was the 130th one produced, and was accepted Aug. 18, 1944, at Long Beach, Calif. It was flown to Great Dunnow, England on Sept. 20, 1944, where it was assigned to the 9th Air Force.

The USAF Historical Squadron at Maxwell Air Force Base does not have specific unit history of the aircraft.

<http://enidnews.com/localnews/x1499304932/A-26-restoration-group-wins-award>

WW I Bereavement Scroll

World War I saw the British Government go to much more depth and effort to honor those killed and those who survived the War. Medals awarded were engraved along the edges with the name of the recipient, certificates were issued for all sorts of items. A Bereavement scroll, found in an office move, was returned to the heirs of a soldier killed on October of 1918.

<http://www.acadvertiser.co.uk/lanarkshire-news/local-news/monklands-news/2013/04/10/world-war-i-soldier-s-death-certificate-returned-to-family-65864-33145242/>

Middle Wallop Museum display on WW I Flying

Until September 27, 2013, if you are at the Middle Wallop museum, you can see a display about No 6 RFC squadron.

Middle Wallop was also a key base during the Battle of Britain in WW II.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-21899016>

O-47 Found after a wild fire

Over 12,000 military aircraft accidents occurred within the US during WW II. One of those was an O-47 reconnaissance plane based out of Burns, Oregon.

During a fire at the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in 2012 a fire-fighter, an x Air Force person, found the aircraft wreckage at 2 AM in the night while fighting the fire.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2013/mar/24/world-war-ii-crash-site-found-during-wildfire-tell/>

New Aviation Museum opens at Selfridge

Housed at the Air National Guard base it has a variety of aircraft arranged to view them from the oldest aircraft to the newest.

[Editor's note: The base is located somewhere in Michigan since the newspaper banner has NO information as to even what state the newspaper is even in!!]

<http://www.voicenews.com/articles/2013/04/12/life/doc516834aef1c19919383671.txt>

Armenian Legion Exhibit in Boston

A separate Armenian unit was formed by recruiting people from around the world of direct Armenian decent (unlike the International Brigade of the Spanish Civil war of 1930s which comprised of numerous nationalities) during WW I and was deployed to the Middle East (Lawrence of Arabia area) under the command of General Edmund Allenby.

It ends on May 1, 2013.

http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/150864/Boston_to_host_Armenian_Legion_in_World_War_I_exhibit

Hasty Construction – Early Demise: Explosion at Morgan: The World War I Middlesex Munitions Disaster

A book detailing the munition depot explosion in New Jersey during WW I, written by Randall Gabrielan, detail the quick build and massive explosive demise of a shell factory built to win World War I.

http://blog.nj.com/njv_guest_blog/2013/03/book_review_explosion_at_morgan.html

Final Payout to a US Civil War Widow was in 2003

The last payment to a US Civil War widow – which was fought from 1861 thru 1865 – was paid in 2003. This is due to laws which provide benefits to veteran's spouses and children. The beneficiaries of these benefits cannot be identified by the Government – due to privacy laws – so only whole numbers are reported – if you can find them.

Many nations have similar benefits for their veterans.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htmurph/articles/20130406.aspx>

Providing Entertainment to the troops during WW II

The longest front of the war – often known as “The Eastern Front” to those in the West - was a two sided front – the U.S.S.R. sent their entertainers to keep up the moral of their troops. Alexander Vasilyevich Alexandrov was a composer who took his music to the troops during the *Great Patriotic War* as it is known in Russia.

http://english.pravda.ru/russia/economics/11-04-2013/124252-aleksandr_aleksandrov-0/

Palm Trees at Fort Knox Kentucky

While looking at chimneys on Fort Know you may find etchings of a Palm Tree on them

<http://www.wkyt.com/news/headlines/Palm-trees-at-Fort-Knox-may-be-German-POW-drawings-201825991.html?ref=991>

May 9 Victory parade scheduled in Moscow

The annual parade remembering the end of World War 2 –aka Great Patriotic War - this year will include over 11,000 troops.

http://www.businessghana.com/portal/news/index.php?op=getNews&news_cat_id=1&id=181180

Bullets and Bacilli, a book on medicine in the Spanish American War

More troops died of disease in camps during the US Civil War than in combat (360,000 in camps, 300,000 in combat) and the Spanish-American War three times as many died of disease than in combat.

To acclimate the soldiers of Vermont to the Cuban in preparation of The Spanish-American war they were sent to the old battlefield of Chickamauga.

“For the northern boys of the First Vermont Infantry, the Civil War nickname for Chickamauga Creek, “River of Death,” became meaningful once again as the National Cemetery had to be reopened to accommodate the bodies ravaged by disease. By June 1, the first death of a Vermont soldier was recorded by the regiment.”

<http://www.timesargus.com/article/20130415/NEWS01/704159917>

Love at First Sight – of Airplanes

Jack Rude grew up around building models and flying gliders – he trained and B-24s and flew 32 combat missions in a B-17 as part of the 493 BG (H) – and his house is now full of models and artwork.

He soloed in a single-engine propeller-driven Fairchild PT-19 before he ever drove a car.

<http://amarillo.com/news/2013-03-07/wwii-airman-it-was-love-first-flight>

Last Flyable B-17 in Europe to be at airshow June 9

Flying Fortress G-BEDF, affectionately known as ‘Sally B’, will be at the RAF Cosford air show June 9 in the UK.

<http://www.shropshirelive.com/2013/04/12/last-airworthy-b-17-in-europe-lined-up-for-raf-cosford-air-show/>

“If these walls could talk . . .” – what about a Horse?

The state branch of the National Boer War Memorial Association wants to install the audio system in a bollard next to the equestrian memorial, which stands at the King William St intersection outside Government House.

No “Neigh sayers” allowed.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/plan-to-give-voice-to-horse-in-city-boer-war-memorial/story-e6frea83-1226591322862>

A Kreige in Stockton California

An Afrika Corps veteran captured in North Africa but held in a POW camp in Stockton passed the time making a little trinket.



Franz Winter returned to live in Austria after the war but the memento is in Florida.

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130415/A_NEWS0803/304150312

From Dropping Them to Finding Them RAF Photo Sleuths hunt UXBs

The failure rate of aerial bombs was around 5% for the US and British. The US had a lower rate since they routinely put two fuses on all bombs that were 500 lbs or more. That puts the likely total of unexploded bombs (UXBs) at around 250,000 for the war. Now old strike and recon photos are helping to track them down.

“They are American, because they’re made of high-alloyed aluminium compounds. British fuses are always made of brass and don’t rust.”

The British alone employed 98 different fuses and had 123 types of bombs.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/moslive/article-2300139/World-War-II-How-RAF-helping-destroy-unexploded-wartime-bombs--Germany.html>

April 6, 1917: US Declared War on Germany

1914 will be a year full of events in Europe and the Middle East AND Africa where the war was fought.

War of 1812 at the US Naval Academy

Tour the US Naval Academy and also see and learn about the artifacts that will be on display in Annapolis. Tour starts April 1, 2012 thru November 2014. No idea if they are going to re-create the bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore or not.

<http://www.eyeonannapolis.net/2013/03/11/war-of-1812-exhibit-to-open-at-naval-academy/>

Protecting Battlefields

US Civil War battlefields are much visible than the 1812 War or 1776 Revolutionary war, but they still need to be protected from development.

Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) introduced legislation to “authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program” (H.R. 1033). Holt introduced the measure on Thursday, March 7.

[It passed the US House twice before in each of the last two sessions of Congress, but the Senate never voted on it, nor most anything else, over the last 4 years.]

<http://www.examiner.com/article/still-trying-to-protect-revolutionary-war-war-of-1812-history>

Flying Un-Armed into Combat with the Troop Carrier Command

Charles C. English, Sr. died at the age of 97 served in the 9th and 12th AF in the troop carrier commands.

Charlie's military activities began with the 62nd Troop Carrier Squadron, 9th and 12th Air Force group as a non-commissioned officer during World War II. His C-47 Squadron dropped supplies and paratroopers in North Africa, Sicily, the Italian mainland and the Northern European Theater including the D-Day invasion of France and the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. English received 9 Battle Stars, Distinguished Unit citation, an Oak Leaf cluster and a belated commendation in 2000 from the French government for the liberation of France.

The German military showed the value of airlift during the Spanish Civil War when German JU-52s transported troops from Morocco to Spain to help General Franco, and again in France, North Africa and Russia. But the US produced many times more transports than Germany – and each one had a 4 man crew who flew into combat with only their 45s at their side.

<http://durham.patch.com/groups/obituaries/p/charles-c-english-longtime-durham-resident-and-world-6f2d96d2f1>

Tank-less “Desert Rats”

The British 4th and 7th Armored Brigades will now become foot sloggers. They were made famous during the battles in North Africa and acquired the name “Desert Rats”.

They now turn in the Challenger tanks for some heavy soled boots.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/desert-rats-lose-tanks-defence-1745342>

Mossie in Pungo

A fully restored DeHaviland Mosquito is now at its new home at the Military Aviation Museum in Pungo, near Virginia Beach, Va. Its first flight for the American public will be in May at the museum's annual Warbirds Over the Beach Air Show.

It took a worldwide search to find all the parts needed. The brakes were found in England, the prop spinners from a fence post in Canada, one of the seats came from Australia, via eBay.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2013/03/restored-wwii-mosquito-warplane-lands-pungo>

Producing Tanks – without ever having designed them

As German tanks rolled toward Paris in June 1940, Chrysler President Kaufman Keller received a call from the Office of War Production in Washington:

"Can you make us tanks?" asked the OWP chief.

"Sure," Keller replied, "when can I see one?"

By the end of the war Chrysler had produced over 25,000 tanks.

<http://news.investors.com/management-leaders-in-success/031813-648381-chryslers-kaufman-keller-armed-america-for-war.htm#ixzz2Qavr4XIO>

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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