

# “MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society  
*History News for August 2013*



**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.*

## **August 1, 1943 – Operation Tidal Wave the 8<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force Strike Ploesti, Romania**



COLOMBIA-AQUILA, During: In the shimmering heat of the fires set by the first planes, more B-24s come in. Some are so high that they can easily be "tracked" by AA gunners. This photograph can be oriented with the vertical at the right by locating the cooling tower at (A) in both pictures and looking west. At the left are fires burning in the storage tanks at (4) in the second picture and in the center the cracking plant, stills and boiler house, shown destroyed at (1) and (2) in the "after" picture, are beginning to smoke. Damage was so intense that it will be necessary to rebuild the entire plant.

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Two B-24 Liberator Groups, the 44<sup>th</sup> and the 93<sup>rd</sup>, were loaned to the then 12<sup>th</sup> AF, who only had three B-24 groups, and the five groups flew to multiple Ploesti oil refineries and bombed them on August 1, 1943. The Ploesti oil fields had been bombed before by a few B-24s in 1942 flying out of Egypt. The B-24s that flew the 1942 mission were re-assigned to Egypt instead of India. This test mission caused the Germans to upgrade all the defenses of the oil fields. This resulted in heavy losses in "Operation Tidalwave".

## **Only Aircraft Carrier Sunk by a U-Boat the USS Block Island**

The USS Block Island became an aircraft carrier after starting out as a T-2 tanker. It was one of the "Jeep" carriers hastily created to fill the air gap in the Atlantic. Built in 1943 it was sunk on May 29, 1944 in the North Atlantic.

"The Block Island was special in a sort of pugnacious way to Moller. "Her flight deck was small, about 60 feet wide," compared to carriers such as the Lexington where the takeoff and landing area was 105 feet wide. "Our Avengers' wing spans were 54 feet, so we only had three feet on either side where the wings didn't lap over the deck.""

The remaining crew members had a reunion in Pensacola Florida.

[http://www.pnj.com/article/20130707/NEWS01/307070010?odyssey=mod%7Cmostcom&nclick\\_check=1](http://www.pnj.com/article/20130707/NEWS01/307070010?odyssey=mod%7Cmostcom&nclick_check=1)

## **A Boatswain's mate on the San Jacinto**

In charge of the Captain's boat, Arnold Benford served on the aircraft carrier San Jacinto in the Pacific – the same carrier that President George Bush served on.

After Lt Bush was shot down, and was returned to the San Jacinto, he took Lt. Bush to another ship to get another plane, so that he could stay in the Pacific and not return to the states.

People scrounged up planes all the time in the war so they could stay in their unit – this scrounging of planes occurred within the Allied and Axis sides.

<http://www.dailyamerican.com/da-ot-somerset-man-served-in-navy-with-george-hw-bush-20130701,0,2159119.story>

## **Ukraine Air Show – of Planes between WW I and WW II**

There were 27 different types of a/c being showcased.

Prince Michael of Kent lead the UK contingent.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-23164908>

## **A Spitfire in Palm Springs**

There is an air museum there, Palm Springs Air Museum, and in it is the darling of the Battle of Britain: A Spitfire.

[http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci\\_23609808/spitfire-hero-world-war-ii-display](http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci_23609808/spitfire-hero-world-war-ii-display)

## **Blueprint of the Successor to the ZERO Discovered**

While creating an new Japanese animated movie, these were accidentally re-discovered.

"The blueprints for the Reppu-kai (the "strong gale" improved edition) warplane were found among documents left by Jiro Horikoshi, the late chief designer of the Zero carrier-based fighter aircraft deployed by the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War II. I had no idea they were documents of great value," said Kimiichiro Horikoshi, 75, Horikoshi's nephew who had stored the blueprints. "I'm glad they had been kept there."

[http://ajw.asahi.com/article/cool\\_japan/culture/AJ201307020038](http://ajw.asahi.com/article/cool_japan/culture/AJ201307020038)

## **Building Cargo Planes in Kentucky**

Seattle, Kansas, Long Island, Long Beach all had famous building locations – but WW II aircraft were built everywhere – and one C-46 plant was in Kentucky.

<http://richmondregister.com/lifestylescommunity/x1538942859/Kentucky-s-contributed-to-World-War-II-aircraft-production>

## **Rebuilding the *Memphis Belle***

The complete restoration of the B-17F "Memphis Belle" is ongoing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. It will take another two to three years before it is back in one piece.

"Originally, the "B-17F" designation was a decal, Hassler said. In order to make that right, the restoration shop will source up a decal from a specialty company that uses the same font Boeing used when making the plane. But the swastikas and the name of the navigator and bombardier -- all added during the war bond tour -- have to go. The painting of the pilot's girlfriend and a single swastika that was on the plane when it was in combat will stay. "

[http://news.cnet.com/8301-13576\\_3-57593678-315/restoration-of-famed-wwii-bomber-memphis-belle-flies-high/](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13576_3-57593678-315/restoration-of-famed-wwii-bomber-memphis-belle-flies-high/)

## **Locating Japanese a/c in WW II**

In the Battle of Britain Museum there is now a display showing how female "plotters" helped locate Japanese a/c in the CBI theatre.

<http://www.thisiscornwall.co.uk/Camborne-grandmother-s-secret-aircraft-plotter/story-19508893-detail/story.html#axzz2b1eoWHB1>

## **Do-17z Raised in June**

From the depths of The Channel (50') the Do-17z is starting to undergo the long restoration effort.

"After a few false starts, the plane was successfully salvaged in June, and officials from the RAF Museum began a painstaking restoration process. In order to keep the plane from corroding, it was covered in a special citric-acid based gel, and it is currently being stored in a special hydration tunnels until it can be stabilized."

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/11/dornier-17-restoration\\_n\\_3580037.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=world](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/11/dornier-17-restoration_n_3580037.html?utm_hp_ref=world)

## **Ewa Airfield on Hawaii Under Attack Again**

This time the WW II era airfield is being attacked by developers who want the land.

"Hickam Field, Wheeler Army Airfield, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay and Ford Island were long ago officially designated National Historic Landmarks. Only Ewa Field was left off the list," said John Bond, who has spearheaded a years-long campaign to bring the battlefield the respect and protection he and others believe it deserves."

"It was the Marine station's misfortune that it served as a rendezvous point for squadrons of Japanese aircraft that had completed their sorties over other parts of Oahu. As the Japanese pilots circled awaiting the link up, they took the opportunity to unload their unused ammo on the Marines and villagers below. They would rotate out here and kept shooting up the place," said Bond, a military buff who has extensively researched the airfield's history. "It was the only town in Oahu that was attacked by the Japanese. After two hours they all returned to the ships."

<http://www.menafn.com/e1285b2e-30d3-48f5-93ae-34521d08e8ab/Developers-have-WWII-airfield-their-sights?src=main>

## **Rebuilding Aircraft in Hillsboro**

At the Hillsboro airport in a few small hangers larger than life aircraft are being restored. It has been around since 1998.

<http://www.pamplinmedia.com/wsp/117-hillsboro-tribune-news/156541-take-off-in-hillsboro->

## **Flying in "Flak Bait"**

In the Smithsonian Museum is the nose section of the B-26 "Flak Bait" which completed over 200 combat missions in WW II. Russell Lynn Clanin flew this a/c in WW II – as did his brother.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/top-stories/ci\\_23633595/concord-resident-recalls-days-world-war-ii-bomber](http://www.mercurynews.com/top-stories/ci_23633595/concord-resident-recalls-days-world-war-ii-bomber)

**On August 6, 1945 the first combat use of an Atomic weapon was dropped on Hiroshima.**

**On August 12, 1898 the Spanish American War Ended**

## Roman Quotes

After 2,000 some odd years, we invent quotes from dead Romans about life!

*"What we do in life echoes in eternity." --Russell Crowe as Maximus in Gladiator*

## Sally B Flies on in the UK

The only flyable B-17 outside the US still flies on in the UK. The other B-17, in France, is no longer flyable.

They did an overfly of Madingley Cemetery with an escort of P-47, Spitfire, and P-51s this year.



## Oregon Chapter News

### *Local Area News*

### **Pearson Air Museum – Open Cockpit Day**

On August 31 they will have an "Open Cockpit" event. It is at 101 NE Reserve St. Vancouver, WA. [Editor: Don't go to the "old museum" it no longer exists as far as I know.]

**Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS is August 10, 2013**

## **PROGRAM: Frank LaSage “Save The PT Boat”**

Portland Oregon is home to one of the few original WW II PT boats still afloat. Frank LaSage served on a PT boat in the MTO – Mediterranean Theater of Operations - during WW II for over a year and a half. Both his operational experiences and about the efforts to keep PT-658 operational will be in his presentation. If you want to know how PT boats and aircraft go together remember: they used three inline aircraft engines converted to marine use to power them! So they are really just airplanes on water . . .

[http://www.warboats.org/pt\\_658.htm](http://www.warboats.org/pt_658.htm)

***There is no cost to attend the meeting and it is open to the public.***

### ***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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