

“MILK RUN”

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

The Wooden Wonder

Text and video of the DeHaviland Mosquito and why this person thinks it actually is the best aircraft of all of them of WW II.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/10192280/Is-the-Mosquito-the-greatest-warplane-of-all.html>

New Zenith Press Book from Robert Dorr in October

[Fighting Hitler's Jets](#) will arrive in our warehouse October 15 and in stores November 15. While other books have looked at the air war in Europe, none has interwoven the Third Reich's development of jet aircraft with the experiences of the American who fought these jets. This narrative begins with the untold story of a display of technology held for an audience of one, Adolf Hitler, on November 26, 1943. [Fighting Hitler's Jets](#) takes us into the lives and experiences of men on both sides, beginning with Pearl Harbor and continuing to air battles fought in the cold high blue above Hitler's Germany.

[Editor's Note: Walter Groce, who died last year and was a member of our Oregon 8th AFHS, was the first pilot to get a good video of a 262 – he shot it down in an inverted head-on pass. He had his original gun camera film and was I able to borrow it and transfer all his footage to digital before he died. His whole 262 engagement was 1 ¼ seconds in length. He got it November 1, 1944. (PS: Some P-51 pilot also claimed it, though from that gun camera film you can tell he never was even close to it. The 8th HQ then split the credit between the two of them.)

Flying Tigers Museum in China?

A museum is being built in China for the “Flying Tigers”. Send your money to: Flying Tigers Historical Organization; P.O Box 1204, Merrifield, VA 22116-1204. No phone number provided by the charity, nor even the address of where they are building the museum within China. It seems to be a joint project between the Chinese Government and private US citizens.

The common Chinese, and even the Official Chinese, have always acknowledged the contributions of the US Men and women who went to China in 1941 to fight the Japanese.

[Editor's note: From the views of the museum drawings in the 503 (C) (3) flyer that was sent out, it looks to be a design concept similar to the American Air Museum in the UK – looks cool, but functionality does not meet the needs of the people visiting it.]

100th Bomb Group Foundation 2013 Reunion, October 17-20, 2013

Embassy Suites Savannah Airport in Pooler, Georgia

The WW2 100th Bomb Group reunion.

Save The Bomber! – The B17-G in Milwaukie, Oregon

On November 21st from 5 to 9 PM 20% of all food and beverages sold at Pietro's will be donated to help restore this B-17.

www.b17alliancegroup.org

Kalamazoo Air Zoo Restoring an FM-2

During WW II there were two aircraft carriers in the Great Lakes – used to train pilots. This one went over the side in 1944 and was found last year and recovered. Now it is in for a very long restoration.

The FM-2 is a modified F4F Wildcat – less guns, different landing gear design to save weight (manual up and down), and designed to be used on the "Jeep" carriers.

<http://www.wzzm13.com/news/article/263841/14/WWII-fighter-plane-found-in-Lake-Michigan-?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Cbc%7Clarge>

A British DC-3 Goes to Berlin

Instead of being used on a sight-seeing tour around the UK, or as part of the Berlin Airlift of 1948-49, where C-47s/DC-3s were used on the Northern Route by the British and Americans and kept away from the faster C-46 and heavier cargo a/c used by the Americans on the southern two routes after November of 1948) this one goes to Berlin and permanent flying status.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-23501797>

Need Your Own WW II London Based AA HQ Base?

Brampton Road Station was originally part of the Piccadilly Line – but was so underused it was closed and the MOD bought it in the 1930s and it then housed the HQ for the AA defense of London during WW II.

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/london-subway-station-of-world-war-ii-era-up-for-sale-403213>

New Japanese Carrier – Helicopters Only

The new carrier launched over the summer, Izumo, is diplomatically classified as a "helicopter destroyer" since a "carrier" is capable of attacking other nations on its own and "destroyers" can only attack other ships at sea – according to their rules of engagement and constitution.

<http://www.popsci.com/technology/article/2013-08/new-japanese-aircraft-carrier-carries-no-planes>

AA Gun at Fort Flagler goes back to the Military

Placed at Fort Flagler, which guarded the entrance to Puget Sound, for decades, the gun now returns to Camp Murray Military Museum. The 120 MM AA gun took two days to dismantle.

It is not known how easy it is to visit the museum where it was moved to.

<http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/yhr/thursday/1389455-8/national-guard-retrieves-wwii-gun-from-fort-flagler>

WW II Wreck in Klamath Marsh

Wrecked during a landing in the marsh during 1944, the pilot landed with his wheels down and the plane flipped, it has been partially buried in the mud since then.

http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130813/NEWS0107/308130346/1009/NEWS01&nav_category=NEWS01

Diving for Shark Teeth and find a P-47

While diving near Venice, Florida, the couple came across a P-47 instead. They found out the pilot crashed this plane, survived, and also crashed again in the Pacific – and again survived. The pilot died at the age of 92 only a few years ago.

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Teachers-on-Dive-for-Megalodon-Teeth-Also-Find-WWII-Plane-Wreck-219354761.html>

Flying with the 317th Troop Carrier Group in the Pacific

Fred Charles was a flying corpsman and after training when to the South Pacific and fought his way to Japan – ending with flying the communication gear to the USS Missouri for their surrender.

<http://mynorthwest.com/76/2342871/Essay-contest-gives-WWII-vet-a-ride-in-his-old-plane-68-years-later>

Hunting for Lost aircraft in Northern India

Over 300 aircraft were lost flying “The Hump” from India to China during the war. A crash in 1946, but only recently discovered, has sent JPAC to the scene.

“During World War II, the Agartala airport was used by the United States Air Force. In 1942-43, the 10th Air Force and the 4th Combat Cargo Group (CCG) flew C-46 Commando transport aircraft over Burma, now Myanmar,” an official document of the Tripura government says.”

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/us-officials-in-tripura-to-trace-world-war-ii-remains-113090500520_1.html

St Athan MTU – Still Operational After All These Years

When it first opened the “Tiger Moth” was a front line fighter at the base – and when it celebrated its 75th anniversary the first plane to on that day was a Tiger Moth.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-23937660>

609 Squadron Spitfire Dug up on the Salisbury Plain

Pilot Officer Baillon was shot down on 27 October 1940 but was able to bail out. The Mk I Spitfire then buried itself in the plain. Baillon was later shot down off the coast of France and killed. He is buried at Bayeux, France.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-23942610>

A Gold Ring Bartered for Food Comes Home

While in Stalag Luft III, a German Run POW camp, Co-Pilot David C. Cox Jr bartered away his gold ring for some candy bars from a fellow Italian POW. It was sent back to his son in his home in North Carolina.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/08/19/american-world-war-ii-pow-prized-gold-ring-comes-home-after-70-year-journey/>

Book two about the Army Air Forces in WW II Published

The Army Air Forces in World War II. Volume Two. Europe: Torch to Pointblank, August 1942 to December 1943 is now published. The books are written by Wesley Frank Craven and James Lea Cate.

Oregon Chapter News

Local Area News

Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8th AFHS is November 2, 2013

Previous PROGRAM: Frank LaSage “Save The PT Boat”

http://www.warboats.org/pt_658.htm

For those who missed the program you can watch it on DVD. All programs are videotaped and transcribed and put into our archive. You can purchase the DVD for \$10.00.

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 8th AFHS

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

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