

Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society  
*History News for July 2014*



**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.*

**Flying in the C-46 “Tinker Belle”**

The last flying C-46 WW II cargo aircraft is on tour. Carl Constein flew over 100 missions in one over the “Hump” – aka Himalayas during WW II.

<http://www.wfmz.com/news/news-regional-berks/93yearold-world-war-ii-veteran-takes-special-flight/26352596>

**B-25 “Maid in the Shade” Turns 70**

Delivered to the USAAF on June 9, 1944 and sent to Corsicaw, this 15 combat tour veteran turned 70 this year. It was converted into a ground attack version with 4 .5 cal M2 machine guns.

"It does have some repaired bullet holes in it," Gilmore said. "It went on some pretty hairy missions. It went out as a flight of four and was the only one to come back."

<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=30246700>

**Replica P-40 To Be Installed in Honor of Lt. Col. Boyd “Buzz” Wagner**

Lt. Col. Boyd “Buzz” Wagner became the nation’s first WWII flying ace in the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk. A replica will be setup at the Johnstown-Cambria County Airport as a memorial later this summer. In 1941 Lt. Wagner is credited with shooting down eight Japanese planes in the Philippines, making him the US first ace of World War II.

<http://www.tribune-democrat.com/news/x998007678/Replica-plane-to-honor-WWII-ace>

**Navy Pilot Cecil Evans Honored with a Statue**

He served in the Navy from 1941 until the end of World War II, mostly with Fighting Squadron 18 on the Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Intrepid. A status of him was erected at North Dakota Northern State University's campus.

[http://www.kdlt.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=36568&Itemid=57](http://www.kdlt.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36568&Itemid=57)

## **“Operation Overload” Equipment Re-Created by PBS**

For this past anniversary of the US, British, & Canadian landing in Normandy during WW II PBS, along with Dassault Systems, recreated equipment used in the landing. They also build a full scale Waco Glider. They were part of the production team that helped NOVA recreate the D-Day landing for a documentary series.

“The first business of order was to build a virtual replica of the glider. Mehdi Tayoubi, Dassault’s VP of digital & experiential strategy, and his colleagues couldn’t easily extract meaningful volumes and measurements out of poorly preserved WWII blueprints of the gliders. Their best hope was to find a surviving aircraft. They found a match in the American heartland, 4,000 miles away from Normandy. At [the Fagen Fighters World War II Museum](#), Tayoubi and his team set out to capture the dimensions of a restored glider hanging in the museum using Faro Focus3D laser scanning equipment. ”

[http://www.deskeng.com/virtual\\_desktop/?p=8835&utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rs&utm\\_campaign=gliding-into-the-past-dassault-systemes-recreate-d-day-landing#sthash.YLML6ru5.dpuf](http://www.deskeng.com/virtual_desktop/?p=8835&utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rs&utm_campaign=gliding-into-the-past-dassault-systemes-recreate-d-day-landing#sthash.YLML6ru5.dpuf)

## **WW II Memorial Opened in Salem, Oregon**

According to the Historical Outreach Foundation, there are still some finishing touches that need to be done before the memorial is complete.

There will be an interactive kiosk that will provide the history of the war and the memorial.

[http://lebanon-express.com/news/local/wwii-memorial-opens-lebanon-resident-lays-ceremonial-wreath/article\\_5632af60-f0c8-11e3-b3c2-0019bb2963f4.html](http://lebanon-express.com/news/local/wwii-memorial-opens-lebanon-resident-lays-ceremonial-wreath/article_5632af60-f0c8-11e3-b3c2-0019bb2963f4.html)

## **Fly-Past in Aalten, Netherlands**

The Royal Netherlands Air Force will do a fly-past where Flight Officer Leslie Pulfrey died on June 17, 1944 after bailing out of his damaged RAF Bomber. They had attacked the German city of Oberhausen. 6 of the 7 man Lancaster crew were killed.

<http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/nostalgia/fly-past-for-hero-sheffield-wwii-airman-1-6672023>

## **Blown Overboard in a Kamikaze Attack**

Seth Irving was a commander of a 40 mm AA battery on the USS Newcomb on April 6 1945 when that Destroyer, acting as a picket ship, was hit by 5 Japanese Kamikaze planes. The first one hit on the port side – he was stationed on the starboard side and was flung into the water by the impact. His 10 man gun crew were all killed.

[http://www.rroserver.com/news/local/article\\_5cfb8844-f0eb-11e3-b8ea-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.rroserver.com/news/local/article_5cfb8844-f0eb-11e3-b8ea-0019bb2963f4.html)

## **Japanese to Scrap WWII AT-6 Trainer?**

The article states it went to the DLA for demilitarization – but nothing on the AT-6 is gunned or armed so unknown what they really meant – or did they cut it up for scrap?

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/132955/world-war-ii-t-6-texan-trainer-aircraft-ends-its-service-japan#.U8RNWfldV8E>

## **UXB Found in Sarajevo**

"The bomb is of a UK origin. Sappers will retrieve it and take it to a special bomb disposal site where it will be destroyed," according to the department.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13930408000781>

## **“Seat of the Pants” Flying at Night In A DC-3 – in 1953 – to Escape Soviet Czechoslovakia**

As a commercial airline pilot Mira Slovak flew DC-3s in Eastern Europe. But under a full moon he and his flight crew instead flew out of the East and landed in Frankfurt to escape.

After 10 months of debriefing by U.S. intelligence officers, Mr. Slovak found work as a pilot for crop duster aircraft in Yakima, Washington.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/daredevil-pilot-mira-slovak-who-escaped-iron-curtain-during-cold-war-dies-at-84/2014/06/28/e9b0c6ea-fc9f-11e3-932c-0a55b81f48ce\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/daredevil-pilot-mira-slovak-who-escaped-iron-curtain-during-cold-war-dies-at-84/2014/06/28/e9b0c6ea-fc9f-11e3-932c-0a55b81f48ce_story.html)

## **A 2<sup>nd</sup> “Wooden Wonder” – DeHaviland Mosquito - is Now Flying**

With Steve Hinton at the controls this WW II Fighter / Bomber took off from Victoria Airport in Canada for the first time in 48 years.

<http://www.flyingmag.com/aircraft/pistons/second-flying-mosquito-takes-sky>

## **Still Leak Free at 70 Years Afloat**

S.S. John W. Brown is one of two surviving fully operational Liberty ships preserved in the U.S. in Baltimore harbor. 2,710 Liberty Ships were built during WW II.

<http://www.marinelink.com/news/leakfree-liberty-after371809.aspx>

## **A “Test” Photo in Miami The key to Identifying Amelia Earhart’s A/C?**

While on the apron in Miami a photographer took a photo of the aircraft during the early light. It shows a new repair on part of the aircraft. Does it match the photo taken of an aircraft 58 years later on a Pacific island?

<http://www.aviationpros.com/news/11542379/piece-of-metal-may-offer-clue-to-disappearance-of-amelia-earharts-plane>

## **PBS “History Detectives” Investigates Glenn Miller**

Using additional new information they try and determine where and how band leader Glenn Miller Disappeared on December 16, 1944.

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/investigation/the-disappearance-of-glenn-miller/>

## **“Unbroken” Author Dead at 97**

Louis Zamperini, a member of the 1936 United States Olympic track team and World War II survivor, passed away at the age of 97.

<http://www.inquisitr.com/1335515/louis-zamperini-olympian-and-unbroken-war-hero-dies-at-97/#ucE1diwqhX8g0ZW7.99>

## **A Book on WWI Curiosities – All True**

“What was a trench rabbit, a suicide ditch, a donkey whalloper and just why did Kaiser Bill ban the production of sausages?”

Welsh fighter ace, James Ira Thomas ‘Taffy’ Jones, had a reputation for crashing aircraft on landing. He had 37 WWI kills. In World War II he was an acting wing commander at the RAF Porthcawl bombing and gunnery school and, flying an unarmed Hawker Henley, attacked a Junkers Ju 88 bomber with the only weapon he had, a flare pistol, which stopped the German plane attacking Swansea Docks.

Amazon link: [Breverton's First World War Curiosities](#) by Terry Breverton (Amberley Publishing).

## **Pond Yields M2 Browning MG at Rattlesden**

Michael Buckmaster while dredging his pond near the former 8<sup>th</sup> AF bomber base Rattlesden drug up a heavily rusted M2 barrel.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-27497149>

## Saving WW II Artwork in England

At the former Airbase at Wendling, now a car parts shop, a WWII painted mural adorns the back of the back of the shop.



<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/17/artwork-yanks-left-behind>

## “Masters of the Air” Mini-Series with Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg

“The new series, called Masters of the Air, would explore the aerial wars of the men known as the “Mighty Eighth,” using Donald L. Miller’s historical book Masters of the Air: America’s Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany as source material. Hit the jump for more on the project.”

Read more at <http://collider.com/tom-hanks-steven-spielberg-masters-of-the-air/#AJIK6CyeHt3jAyY0.99>

## Czech Fighter Pilot Miroslav Standerá Dead at 95

Trained as a fighter pilot Miroslav Standerá fled Czechoslovakia after it was given away in the Munich Agreement by PM Neville Chamberlain in 1938. He went to the French and then after France fell went to the UK and joined the British in No 312 Fighter Squadron along with 86 other Czech pilots during World War II.

<http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/2014/02/22/czech-pilot-who-fought-for-france-dies/TB8C1Kv4EvIeFfIOrGoKTP/story.html>

## **A Lancaster Surviving in New Brunswick – in the Open**

Only 17 full airframes exist out of the 3,300 Lancasters build – and this one is still sitting outside.

<http://www.canada.com/news/World+bomber+fighting+survival+Brunswick+woods/8695965/story.html>

## **A New book out about the Air Bombing Campaign in Europe**

*The Bombers and the Bombed: Allied Air War Over Europe 1940-1945*

by Richard Overy.

This book also covers the Italian bombing missions carried out by the RAF and the USAAF during the war.

Amazon Link: [The Bombers and the Bombed](#)

## **Local Oregon-Washington News & 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Meeting**

### **A 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway at Hillsboro Airport**

The Port Of Portland, which owns Hillsboro, & PDX, has started building a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Hillsboro.

<http://pamplinmedia.com/ht/117-hillsboro-tribune-news/224969-85899-construction-of-new-runway-to-start-soon>

***Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS is August 9, 2014***

***Program: •Richard “Dick” Foy – Co founder of Aero Union Corporation.***

A sandwich type meal, for \$10, will be available at the Beaverton Elks lodge. ONLY If you are planning to eat contact Tom Philo via email at [secretary@8thafhsoregon.com](mailto:secretary@8thafhsoregon.com) or phone him at 503-591-3227 – again **ONLY** if you are planning to purchase a meal.

## **Prior Programs**

- Beauty and Brains – Women in the Military
- Converting Military a/c to Firefighting Program: Previous PROGRAMs in 2013:
- Ben “Flaps” Berry – Tuskegee Airman
- Jack Kline and the Vanport Flood
- B-29 Navigator of “Going Jesse”
- Bob Schuberg and revisiting the airfields of the 8th

All programs are videotaped and transcribed and put into our archive. You can purchase each DVD of each presentation 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 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS***

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

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