

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for December 2014



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.

15th AF Pilots Gets His Jacket Restored

Bill Kinard of Hillsboro Oregon needed his original WW II jacket repaired. Bill went to LaHaie's where they normally do varsity jackets and such, and gave it to and Alessio who had never worked on an original WW II A2 flight jacket. After finding out what the list of original materials used to create the jacket, she went about restoring it to wear again.

http://www.oregonlive.com/hillsboro/index.ssf/2014/10/as_veterans_day_approaches_the.html#incart_river

American Air Museum Creates New Website

Starting in October the museum that is based in Duxford England has a new web site showing off their aircraft and other 8th AF items.

<http://www.americanairmuseum.com/>

They put online the 15,000 prints and slides that Roger Freeman had collected since World War II.

Free to use, must register in order to contribute into the archive.

AAM is part of the UK's Imperial War Museum.

45th Infantry Division "Thunderbirds"

"How did a young soldier from Pennsylvania end up in an Oklahoma National Guard Unit?" whose unit symbol was the traditional American Indian good luck symbol – a swastika?

<http://www.newtoncitizen.com/news/2014/oct/30/jack-simpson-the-45th-thunderbirds/>

Gino Bartali – Using Bicycle Handlebars To Smuggle People

This famous bicycle racer of Italy used his fame to move around Italy without worry after 1943 in order to deliver false papers to people.

"Good is something you do, not something you talk about. Some medals are pinned to your soul, not to your jacket."

And yet for a man who lived in his life in the full glare of the public, a new film, [My Italian Secret](#) reveals a very different side to Bartali's remarkable life.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/10/29/sport/gino-bartali-saved-italys-jews/>

Third Battle of Gaza – in 1917

Often overlooked in World War I is the fact that the Middle East, and Africa, was also a battleground. People remember the Turkey because of the Gallipoli battle, but the area of the eastern Mediterranean to the oil fields of Basra was also a battleground for the same four years. A battle at the Gaza-Beersheba in 1917 was the third one and was only won after the water supply at Beersheba was captured forcing Turkish forces to retreat north beyond Jerusalem.

<http://www.spyghana.com/1917-third-battle-of-gaza/>

England Still Paying off some WW I Debt – and Napoleonic

"After WWII, they decided to hang the leaders but not to punish the nation, but in WWI, it was the other way around." Mark Harrison, economics professor University of Warwick.

All nations have borrowed money to finance wars, both internally and externally, but England has been most creative in re-financing debt over hundreds of years – some dating back to 1711.

On Oct. 3, 2010, [Germany finally paid off all its debt from World War I](#). The total? About 269 billion Marks, or around 96,000 tons of gold.

<http://scroll.in/article/686420/In-2014,-countries-are-still-paying-off-debt-from-World-War-I>

Yankee Air Museum Opens up May 8, 2015 in Ford's old Willow Run Plant

After churning out B-24s for WW II (at peak 25 a day) it was converted into an auto manufacturing plant for decades. Closed down as surplus, Yankee Air Museum bought part of the plant to house aircraft.

The plant was built in an "L" shape due to its location – in order to avoid paying more in property taxes of the adjoining county if it had been built lengthwise; so, instead, it was built with the L shape to stay completely within the lower taxing county.

http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2014/11/the_legacy_of_willow_run_from.html

WW II in Color

Posting of various color images taken in WW II by various photographers.

<http://ww2colorfarbe.blogspot.com/>

390th BG Blog

<http://ww2images.blogspot.com/2012/11/390th-group-b-17-flying-fortresses.html>

Overlooked WW II Movies

<http://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2014/11/10-overlooked-classics-world-war-ii-films.html>

WW I Photos From The Trenches

George Hackney was on the Somme Battlefield, and survived the war, plus he was an amateur photographer. Using a folding camera he took candid photos of life - and death on the battlefields. No British soldier was allowed to have a camera, but he did anyway.

<http://www.aol.com/article/2014/11/17/newly-discovered-photos-of-wwi-put-on-display/20994908/?ncid=txtlnkusaolp00000058>

Trench Cartoons of the First World War

Making light of the conditions at the front, Bruce Bairnsfather, was a master cartoonist and a British soldier, who, through humor could show the front without getting in trouble with the censors.

<http://ww1.canada.com/battlefront/images-cartoonists-sketches-found-fun-amid-the-horror-of-the-first-world-war>

Hitler's Deputy Rudolf Hess Buried At Sea

Rudolf Hess was the last high ranking NAZI Official to be, and die, in Spandau prison – he was given a life term, blocked from being allowed out, nor able to write anything about his role in the NAZI government while in prison. No one knows why he was given such a harsh term. He flew to England in the spring of 1941 and thus out of the war

and even his reasons for flying to England has never been fully explained – only guessed at.

He was buried in Wunsiedel in 1987. Three years ago his remains were exhumed, cremated and scattered at sea. Neo – NAZIs would visit his grave on the anniversary of his birth so they got rid of his body and gravesite.

Einstein Letter on Jewish Refugees – in 1939

Writing a letter to a friend in New York City he tells how the Jewish people have helped each other in the past and how it is really needed now due to the NAZI party running Germany.

<http://www.inquisitr.com/1625933/wwii-era-letter-by-albert-einstein-up-for-auction/>

A Short history of the Families of the July 20th Plotters

A summary of a few of the participants and what the families of the men executed from the failed July 20, 1944 plot to kill Hitler went through during and after the war.

<http://www.newsweek.com/2014/08/15/look-behind-plot-kill-hitler-263200.html>

Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8th AFHS is February 7, 2014

Dates in 2015 are February 7, May 9, August 8 and November 14th (tentative)

February is normally a A hot type meal. Price TBD, will be available at the Beaverton Elks lodge. ONLY If you are planning to eat contact Tom Philo via email at secretary@8thafhsoregon.com or phone him at 503-591-3227 – again **ONLY** if you are planning to purchase a meal.

Prior Programs

- November 2014 - Salute to Veterans
- August – 2014 Dick Foy and Air Tanker Operations w/ WWII Aircraft
- May 2014 – Multiple presentations
- February 2014 - Beauty and Brains – Women in the Military
- November 2013 Bob Schuberg and revisiting the airfields of the 8th
- August 2013 - Frank LaSage – PTs in the Med
- May 2013 - Jack Kline and the Vanport Flood
- February 2013 - Ben “Flaps” Berry – Tuskegee Airman
- May 2013 – Jack Cramer B-29 Navigator of “Going Jesse” in the Pacific

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 8th AFHS

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

Secretary 8th AFHS of Oregon
Tom Philo
17502 SW Kimmel Ct
Beaverton, Oregon 97007-6877
secretary@8thafhsoregon.com
<http://www.8thafhsoregon.com>

The Oregon Chapter is a registered Non-Profit 503(c) with the IRS and within the State of Oregon.