

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for January 2015



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.

Excavating Stalag 327 at Przemysl-Pikulice

This POW camp held Russian and Italian soldiers throughout the war – where many died. The Italians were there due to the Italian switch in 1943 to the Allied side – and the Italians fighting on the Eastern front where therefore sent to one of hundreds of POW camps in the East.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/remains-of-the-camps-poland-unearths-dark-secrets-from-wwii/story-e6frg6so-1227146446065?nk=36045c5947291af52b07d06674e2e19c>

The Crimea Campaigns of WW II

A look at the German attempts to capture the Crimea in 1942 and the Russians attempts from 1942 through 1944. A chapter updates the successful Russian bloodless campaign of their re-capture of the Crimea Peninsula again in 2014.

<http://warontherocks.com/2014/12/a-look-back-at-the-wwii-crimean-campaign/2/>
Francis Clark – Aerial Photographer 15th AF

<http://www.theridgefieldpress.com/38887/francis-clark-veteran-and-grandfather-died-at-96/>

Contact me at PO Box 1142

Special German POWs were sent to this POW camp outside Washington DC to be interrogated – via psychological means.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/secret-wwii-camp-interrogators-say-torture-wasnt-needed/>

Dean Lanphere - Piloting and bombing in the South Pacific in B-26s, B-25s and then B-24s – all in the same Squadron.

“During one mission I could not even see my wing tips for 3 1/2 hours. And we had equatorial storms every damn day.”

http://www.bnd.com/2014/12/10/3556483_highland-man-proudlyserved-his.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Remembering the *Battle Of The Bulge* – December 16, 1944

Photos and an article by the Executive Director First Division Museum Paul H. Herbert.

<https://www.dailyherald.com/article/20141216/news/141219035/>

World War II panel of veterans who fought during the battle were at in the symposium hosted by the Detroit Arsenal of Democracy Museum in St. Clair Shores on Dec. 13.

<http://www.candgnews.com/news/witnesses-remember-battle-bulge-80013>

B-17 Hangers at Madras Airport

The airport was constructed to train B-17 crews during WW II and there are two hangers – north side and south side of the runway. The northern hanger is practically un-altered since its 1943 construction.

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Madras-hopes-to-protect-WWII-training-hangars-5963623.php>

Book review: 'The Deluge, the post-World War I global order, by Adam Tooze

Adam Tooze's magnificent 2007 book, "The Wages of Destruction," provided a thorough reevaluation of the economic life and death of Nazi Germany. ... The United States and President Woodrow Wilson (and to a lesser extent his Republican successors Warren .

http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/book-review-the-deluge-the-post-world-war-i-global-order-by-adam-tooze/2014/12/19/181b9cfe-70ee-11e4-ad12-3734c461eab6_story.html

Russian War Movie – “*White Tiger*”

Russia, and the old Soviet Union, turned out hundreds of WW II films – most never seen in the west at all. Most of them are truly propaganda films and with heavy emphasis on Soviet Communism indoctrination. With the collapse of the USSR and back to Russia as a standalone country, they still make war movies – but now are more often on a personal soldier level and not Communist overview. A movie that came out in 2012 called White Tiger comes to the US direct to DVD.

<http://www.avclub.com/article/there-god-tanks-and-if-so-whos-side-he-213225>

WW I Will Have an Official Monument in DC

Buried in the latest yearly budget is an approval to build an official WW I monument in Pershing Park. There is on the National Mall a building for WW I, but it was privately built and not an Official Monument.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/united-states/story/obama-approves-us-world-war-i-memorial-washington-20141221>

Keeping Paperwork – WW I Veteran Gets a Silver Star

During the Battle of Soissons Corporal Jeremiah L. Roberts was awarded a Silver Star as authorized by General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing. Due to the war itself, it was never formally presented to him. After he died his family found a copy of the WW I order and indeed he was never given the Star. Senator Orin Hatch was contacted and worked to get the award fulfilled.

http://www.kcsg.com/view/full_story/26272219/article-Hatch-awards-Silver-Star-to-family-of-Utah-World-War-I-veteran?instance=more_local_news1

US Spending Bill Authorizes Review of Military Awards back to WW I

Due to numerous built-in discrimination bias in the 1898 thru Korean war various soldiers were often downgraded in military awards due to period discrimination bias. The USA funding bill for 2014/2015 allows review of past awards to see if they deserve to be upgraded. A Jewish soldier, Sgt. William Shemin who served in combat in WW I, is one of these.

During WW I various units like the 93rd Division (consisting of 369th, 370th, 371st, and 372nd Infantry Regiments – of black men lead by white officers – and the 92nd Division (365th, 367th, 368th Infantry (Inf.), 349th, 350th, 351st Artillery (Art.), 349th, 350th, 351st Machine Gun (M. G.)) were given to the French. They used French weapons, but issued American uniforms. This avoided US troops, and assigned reporters to the AEF, having to see black troops in combat in the US Army, and being reported on.

The 27th Division & 30th Division, all white, were given to the British. They used all British combat gear but American uniforms.

In both cases using respective French or British gear eased the logistical problems of weapons.

<http://www.jta.org/2014/12/17/news-opinion/united-states/jewish-world-war-i-hero-eligible-for-medal-of-honor>

A Scottish “Desert Rat”

At 102 years old Jimmy Sinclair is already a unique person having lived past 100 – and

having lived through the 4 and ½ years of combat of battles in North Afrika as part of the 7th Armored Division in battles of Tobruk, El Alamein and in Italy at Cassino – is even more unique – and then there is being Scottish.

<http://www.fifetoday.co.uk/news/local-headlines/desert-rat-jimmy-visits-glenrothes-heritage-centre-1-3642245>

Wartime Memoirs of Jim Mulhall – Including Escaping From German POW Camps 7 Times

Jim was part of the British 7th Armored Division till he was captured December 29, 1943 at Cassino. From there he went to various POW camps, 6 times escaping and being re-captured, before the 7th final and successful escape in 1945.

Book is available from Durham Light Infantry Museum and British Red Cross shops, priced £4.

http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/features/leader/11684456.The_Great_Escaper/

Robert F. Door's New Novel: "Hitler's Time Machine"

After decades of writing non-fiction, he has written an alternate history novel called "HITLER'S TIME MACHINE" – and it has just been published. The book is available for Kindle and in a traditional print edition.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00R08P4UQ>

A signed copy of the new novel can be purchased directly from Robert.

Robert F. Dorr
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Oakton VA 22124
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PB4Y-2 Privateer — best long-range patrol aircraft of WW II?

The Privateer is a single tail version of the B-24 and was used extensively by the Navy in the Pacific.

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/travelforaircraft/2014/09/07/pb4y-2-privateer-best-long-range-patrol-aircraft-of-ww-ii/>

18 Months aboard the USS Hornet

Stewart Robinson boarded the Hornet on its initial deployment to the Pacific (2nd Hornet, 1st was sunk in 1942 before the Battle of Midway) and then spent the rest of the war, including three typhoons, aboard the ship.

http://www.ldnews.com/local/ci_26482341/north-londonderry-ww-ii-remembers-life-aboard-uss

A-20 Havoc in Siberia Discovered Again

One part of the US Lend Lease program supplied aircraft to the USSR via the Montana, Canada, Alaska ferry route to Ft Wainwright. There the aircraft were serviced, painted with Red Stars over the US Star and Bar, towed across the runway, and given to Soviet aircrews to fly to the USSR and the Eastern front.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2743648/U-S-bomber-loaned-Stalin-lost-Siberia-en-route-Alaska-Second-World-War-70-years.html>

Soviet Solider Celebrates 100th Birthday – In Pinehurst, North Carolina

At 26 he was about to get out of the 2 year mandatory service in 1941 when Germany invade on June 22, 1941.

Iliia Starodubsky was twice reported as being killed in combat to his wife - including while fighting at the Battle of Stalingrad.

http://www.fayobserver.com/news/local/year-old-soviet-soldier-fought-nazis-in-world-war-ii/article_81df6fd3-73da-598e-9eeb-14cce91502de.html

Factories – Logistics – Wins Wars – Eglin was a Fuse Factory Mega Producer

The various factories in Eglin, Illinois, proceed specialty items that were required to win WW II – fuses, timepieces, altimeter parts, and so on.

Almost all the factories that existed during WW II, which allowed the Allies to out-manufacture the AXIS powers and win WW II, are now gone.

<http://couriernews.chicagotribune.com/2014/09/02/remembering-elgins-role-wwii-manufacturing/>

Winston Churchill – Writing To Avoid Depression?

Winston Churchill was a very prolific writer throughout his life. And one reason put forth was that he wrote to avoid having too much time and get depressed about the state of his nation and his role in it – he was out of Government for years and a few times for decades. He also painted.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/11153898/Boris-Johnson-Churchill-wrote-to-keep-the-black-dog-of-depression-at-bay.html>

Preserving a Textile Mill and a Crane

Why does a textile mill and a crane deserve to be preserved? The mill created the dye that most British soldiers encountered over years – the khaki color of uniforms initially developed during the Boer war – and a crane that helped build warships.

Preserving them is easy, maintaining them forever and getting people to pay to maintain them is the tough part.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/architecture/khaki-factory-and-ww1-crane-on-list-of-10-most-at-risk-buildings-9780789.html>

Saving the USS Olympia from the Scrap Yard

The USS Olympia is the older steel hulled warship still afloat in the USA. It was in the Asiatic Fleet under Admiral Dewey when he steamed into the Manila Bay during the Spanish American War, then later in the Atlantic in WW I and WW II pretty much everywhere. It's been a museum ever since.

The neglect though has taken its toll and if not saved soon it will be like the USS Ranger – sent to the scrap yard.

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20141008/OPINION03/141009132>

Texas “Aggies” Honor those in WW II – in Bastogne Belgium

A new exhibit opened December 12, 2014 *Texas Aggie Go to War Exhibit*, created to honor those who graduated from that university who fought in the “Battle of the Bulge”.

<http://tamutimes.tamu.edu/2014/10/13/texas-aggies-honored-in-bastogne-james-francis-hollingsworth-40/#.VKWlyCvF98E>

Got Any Aircraft Parts Lying around?

The RAAF museum at Point Cook in Victoria was looking for parts to help in restoring a Beaufighter and put out ads asking for aircraft parts people may have. One person responded and it was discovered they were Beaufighter fuel tanks.

<http://www.parkeschampionpost.com.au/story/2632755/war-plane-relics-discovered-at-goonumbla-property/?cs=1244>

Remember the Idaho! That is, the USS Idaho, BB-24, of the Greek Navy

IT was the only (ex) US battleship sunk by German Luftwaffe in WW II.

http://www.cdapress.com/columns/syd_albright/article_8c6d992a-f558-5e0b-ab1a-ff90e336b4f5.html

The Sword of Bladensburg

During the War of 1812 a battle fought at Bladensburg, Maryland in 1814, where there is a crossing over the Anacostia river leading into Washington DC, was lost and the Naval Commander at the battle was captured. His sword was returned by the decedent of the British officer who captured him and 600 other Americans.

On the hill within Bladensburg where the battle was fought is now a school.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/oct/21/sword-taken-in-war-of-1812-returns-to-us-navy/>

How Germany Was Married into England in the 18th Century

A quick tour of how marriage and succession to the throne of England changed history and the Battle of Waterloo. In the battle under Wellington it was a unit composed of all German speaking people but were part of the Regular British Army. *"The greatest feat that day was the defence of the farmhouse of La Haye Sainte, in the centre of the allied line. For a whole afternoon, fewer than 400 riflemen of the 2nd Light Battalion under Major George Baring, together with their reinforcements, held off a vastly superior French force."*

<http://www.newstatesman.com/uk-politics/2014/10/what-battle-waterloo-teaches-us-about-europe-today>

Civil War Trust Starts Campaign to save 182 and Revolutionary Wars sites in the USA

For decades it has been working to preserve Civil War sites around the USA, now it has expanded back two more wars.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/historians-and-preservation-groups-announce-landmark-national-campaign-to-save-revolutionary-war-battlefields-282292911.html>

Chinese Archivists Scan Photos of WW II – of Americans and Chinese in the CBI

Often forgotten about, even with General Stillwell in charge, the CBI due to its location, and where the battles were fought, and lacking ease of access, was often overlooked by everyone. There was 1 movie that I know of, *Objective Burma!* with Errol Flynn, but otherwise it was never really mentioned all that much in the war even in the US. A group of Chinese researches wanted to find out more and went to the National Archives in DC to find photos.

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/us/2014-11/07/content_18885761.htm

The M4 Sherman – America’s “Best Worse Tank”

Equipment is always a compromise of design, production supply, ability and logistics – including how easy it is to ship. The US M4 Sherman grew out of short learning curve, production necessity, prior designs – and rail logistics.

“For its part, the M-4 was good in 1942, adequate in 1943 and totally outclassed by 1944. Unfortunately for American tankers, the war lasted until 1945.”

<https://medium.com/war-is-boring/the-sherman-was-americas-best-worst-tank-4631b6388008>

Flying the Martin B-26 – till a POW

Barney Wasowicz dreamed of flying – and got the chance as one of the few people classified as a Flight Officer – not a regular Army Officer flying – but sort of an in-between state. (They eventually eliminated that position in the Army, as well as Sgt Pilots.) But he was shot down before he was converted to a regular Army Pilot Officer.

<http://www.prescottnews.com/index.php/education/guidance-aviation/item/24492-wwii-veteran-bomber-pilot-pow-flies-again-over-arizona>

Pearl Harbor P-40 Parts to be on Display

In 1977 people spearfishing found an aircraft in the water – and nobody cared about it. They salvaged what they could, contacted everyone, and no one wanted any parts. From what they know now it is the P40-C from what is known it is likely 1st Lt. Samuel W. Bishop, the third of three P-40 fliers to get off the ground at Bellows Field during the attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/dec/28/parts-from-mystery-plane-go-on-display/#ixzz3NdyNvfYK>

USS Ranger – CV-61 - to be Broken up for Scrap

After the failed attempt to be made into a floating museum in Portland Oregon (the city did not want anything to do with a military memorial) it is going to be towed to the Gulf of Mexico to Brownsville Texas’s International Shipbreaking, Ltd. to be dismantled and sold for scrap.

<http://www.warbirdsnews.com/warbirds-news/fun-facts/uss-ranger-dismantled.html>

Chinese Veteran Honored

WW II Zhao Zhenying fought in the 6th New Army – part of the Nationalist Chinese Army in WW II – but this 98 year old veteran who lives in West Beijing (Peking) was invited back to the Marco Polo Bridge to honor the Chinese – US cooperation during

WW II. He was there in 1945 as part of the unit providing security when the Japanese surrendered to the Chinese.

<http://www.ecns.cn/2014/12-23/147722.shtml>

Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8th AFHS is February 7, 2015

Dates in 2015 are February 7, May 9, August 8 and November 7th

February is normally a hot type meal. Price \$13.00, 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.

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