

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

8th Air Force Birthday in January

The 8th Army Air Force was activated on January 28, 1942, at Chatham Armory in Savannah, Georgia.

Now it is called the 8th Air Force and is based in Barksdale, La.



Tail-gunning in the B-17 “Five Grand”

Like most airmen in the war you were assigned a regular plane to fly in all the time, and only flew in other aircraft when your primary plane was down for maintenance. Some planes became famous after a few missions, but Robert Bohyer's plane was a famous plane right from the start – the 5,000th B-17 Build by Boeing in Seattle since December 7, 1941 – signed by all the plant people.



http://www.limaohio.com/news/home_top-news/50978037/Lima-WWII-vet-shares-memories-of-Five-Grand

B-17 “Lacey Lady” at Salem Airport For Restoration

The B-17 Gas Guard that has been in Milwaukie since 1947 is now down at McNary Field in Salem, Or for restoration.

This is a photo of the tail section looking forward of the clipped wing bird before transport.



Monument to WW II Soviet Doctors To Be Built

One of the ironies about the Soviet Union in WW II that the Supreme Soviet (Stalin) would not consider the direct deaths or wounded soldiers that any offensive or defensive action caused – but if that soldier was lucky enough to be wounded they would give the maximum care to that soldier as long as it took to get him (or her) to become healthy again – to be sent back to the front.

<http://yekaterinburgnews.com/daily-news/sverdlovsk-to-build-monument-to-military-doctors/11860/>

Design History Comparison of the US Sherman (M4) and the Russian T-34 Medium tanks of WW II

The US tank had designed in faults, while the Soviet design took off the shelf parts and mated them together – along with the long known ability of sloped armor is better than vertical – into a tank.

Slab sided armored tanks are cheaper to produce than rounded or sloped armored tanks – but in the Soviet Union if you could sell your idea to the top man – Stalin – cost did not matter.

<http://www.turkishweekly.net/columnist/3924/-fury-rage-film-sherman-t-34-battle-tanks-in-ww-39-2.html>

P-38 Pilot Major Peyton Mathis Jr. Returns from Guadalcanal

Commanding Officer of the 44th Fighter Squadron on Guadalcanal his P-38 crashed into the jungle of Guadalcanal in June of 1944 for unknown reasons. The crash site was only discovered in 2013. Maj. Mathis still strapped into the cockpit.

<http://yellowhammernews.com/faithandculture/alabama-fighter-pilot-lost-70-years-ago-wwii-crash-finally-coming-home/>

Marching Through the Winter of 1944/45 as a POW

There is a book out called “The Longest March” about allied POWs who were marched from German prison camps in the East to the West front during the harsh winter of 1944/45. Robbie Clark, captured in Tobruk in 1942, was one of those POWs, He kept a diary of the march.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/history/549879/Gunner-Robbie-Clark-s-memories-of-being-a-British-POW-in-WWII>

Need a Ride? For 2,750 Pounds you can ride in a Spitfire

What makes this Spitfire Mk IX unique is that the Canadian pilot flying it in 1944 shot down an ME 109 near Arnhem. It is now a two seat Spitfire so you can go up as a passenger.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/history/549825/Spitfire-World-War-Two-fighter-plane-converted-two-seater>

Flying in a B-17 Over Germany – “Sometimes Things Go Wrong”

Sgt. Richard Ferguson was an Armorer/Gunner as part of Crew No. 7612 who also doubled as a “togger” of the B-17 once he got to England during WW II. Besides from flying in their own assigned plane he also flew in “5 Grand”.

<http://www.gadsdentimes.com/article/20141230/NEWS/141239981>

Memorial Honoring a B-17 Crew of the 388th BG (H)

On January 11, 1945, a B-17 of the 388th BG (Heavy) was shot down by the Luftwaffe. The pilot held the B-17 up enough to fly over Zolle’s town center then it crashed into the ground killing 5 of the 10 men aboard. (Article in Dutch.)

<https://www.weblogzwolle.nl/content/view/44347/55/>

No WW II Veterans in US Congress in 2015

Age has caught up with the WW II veterans. Here is a short history of Presidents of the USA who were in WW II.

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/veterans/2015/01/03/world-war-ii-congress-john-dingell-ralph-hall/21061197/>

A Normal Day in the South Pacific

B-24 Liberator crew comes through another “normal” day in the South Pacific in January 1945.

http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2015/01/07/3430583_slo-pilot-brings-damaged-bomber.html?rh=1

The Nazi war of annihilation against the Soviet Union

A Brief Summary of the Initial *War Aims* of Adolf Hitler against the U.S.S.R.

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2015/01/12/nazi-j12.html>

Last of the “Ghetto” Navy Ships to Be Retired

<http://foxtrotalpha.jalopnik.com/end-of-the-ghetto-navy-is-in-sight-as-last-usn-frigate-1678669074>

Loading of “Little Boy” and “Fat Man” on B-29s

Photos from the National Archives collected by this person while at the facility and posted for all to see now.

http://www.alternatewars.com/Bomb_Loading/Bomb_Guide.htm

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

February 7, 2015 Program

Alice Miller “Beauty and Duty”

Alice will be bringing a small part of her collection of uniforms and talk about the women who wore them. She has uniforms from World War I onwards to modern uniforms. Uniforms being brought include WASP, ATC, Flight Nurse – Korea and Vietnam and others.

February is also the meeting where we recognize all women, both in and out of uniform, of veterans. Corsages will be given to all women who attend as well as other special events at the meeting.

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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