

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

Recuing POWs from the USSR Side of the Eastern Front

Captain Robert Trimble, was assigned to Poltava, Russia, to ensure that Western powers POWs liberated by USSR forces were in fact liberated and brought back to their native countries.

“Soviet leader Joseph Stalin considered all POWs, no matter what county they had come from, traitors and cowards.”

http://www.centraljersey.com/articles/2015/02/12/hillsborough_beacon/featured/doc54dbad4b95567525636389.txt

German Refugee to Combat Solider Fighting Germany

As a Jewish boy in Germany his parents foresaw what was coming and sent him to the USA on a refugee ship. His family moved around Europe before each of them got on a ship to the USA. Coming of age in Chicago he was drafted in and ended up in a combat engineer battalion initially stationed in England in 1944 then fought on the continent till the end of the war.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_27509514/alameda-u-s-wwii-vet-from-germany-who

Finding the Musashi

Paul Allen's foundation announced that they have found the Japanese Battleship Musashi. It was easily confirmed by the Chrysanthemum design on the bow of the ship - only 3 ships had that design on the bow.

http://edition.cnn.com/2015/03/03/intl_world/paul-allen-japanese-battleship-musashi/

Hawaiian Internee Camp Now a National Monument

President Roosevelt signed an Executive Order mandating that all Japanese on the west coast be interned during WW II. On Hawaii they created a camp and moved them all there. A recent Hawaii 5-0 episode featured the remains of the camp.

Now it is a National Monument.

<http://www.nichibe.org/2015/03/president-obama-designates-former-hawaii-wartime-camp-a-national-monument/>

Informational Sign image now a Tattoo of Men Marching off to Gallipoli

New Zealander Bruce Neal showed off a tattoo inspired by a memorial sign and it is now recognized around the world.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2977118/The-tattooist-got-call-Russia-asking-stencil-Kiwi-war-veteran-s-ANZAC-tattoo-social-media-hit-globe.html>

The Gallipoli Battle – The View from Turkish Soldiers

Historian Harvey Broadbent translated over 2000 pages of documents to understand how the Ottoman Empire, and common soldiers, viewed the battle in 1915.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-04/harvey-broadbent-tells-turkish-side-of-gallipoli-story/6279772>

The White Rose Resistance Group in Munich

NAZI Germany, i.e. Hitler himself, was always worried about internal resistance and thus any group found to be anti-Nazi was quickly destroyed. One reason Germany did not go onto a full war-footing and stopped making consumer goods till mid-1943 was to foster onto the

German Public that the war was not causing any problems at all in Germany.

<http://townhall.com/columnists/pauljacob/2015/02/22/resistance-in-munich-n1960557/page/full>

Snipers – Celebrated and Condemned at Same Time

Snipers, skilled marksman since the beginning of gunpowder firearms in the west, are celebrated by one's own army and condemned by the other side.

British commanders complained in their letters home and in reports of Americans specifically killing their officers during the Revolutionary War. And ever since then snipers are often purposely killed when captured – especially during WW I and WW II.

US Soldier Christopher Kyle killed 150 enemies.

German Soldier Matthaus Hetzenauer killed 345 enemies.

Soviet Soldier Ivan Sidorenko killed over 500.

The German and Soviet system required a second person witness the shot to confirm the enemy being killed.

The movie "Enemy at the Gates", a fictionalized account of the Soviet sniper Vasily Zaytsev at Stalingrad – he was in combat only four months – is estimated to have killed 400.

He died in Kiev and in 2006 was reburied at Volgograd (Stalingrad).

Colonel Donald Paquette of the U.S. Sniper School was present and laid a wreath as a sign of respect to a legendary sniper saying: "Vasily Zaytsev is a legend and every American sniper must memorize his tactics and methods. He is a legend amongst snipers. May he rest in peace."

Excerpts from a British POW Diary

Captured at the Fall of Tobruk, George Castel spent the rest of the war as a POW of the Italians then the Germans.

http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/tahistory/featuresnostalgiapasttimes/11833814.World_War_Two_diary_We_were_let_down_in_the_desert_and_then_forced_to_surrender/

Dortmund Football (Soccer) Stadium Vacated due to UXB at Stadium Complex

A 550 pound (British) bomb was found during construction and had to be defused.

British bombs are safer to defuse due to the use of brass and other non-oxidizing fuses that they used in their trigger mechanisms as compared to US bombs.

A Short History of the Real Von Trapps

The Hollywoodized version as compared to the actual true story.

<http://www.history.com/news/the-real-history-behind-the-sound-of-music>

Runs in the Family – Award of the Victoria Cross to Para Lance Corporal Joshua Leakey

While in a battle in Afghanistan he went down and up a hill under direct machine gun fire to evacuate a wounded US Marine Corp Officer and to pick up and reposition two machine guns so as to fire back at the enemy.

During WW II Sergeant Nigel Gray Leakey was awarded the VC in November 1945 after fighting in Africa with the King's African Rifles during the Second World War.

http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/11819829.How_hero_Hampshire_soldier_Lance_Corporal_Josh_Leakey_won_his_Victoria_Cross/?ref=mac

Soldier James W. Wallace Lost His “Dog tag” behind Utah Beach in July of 1944 and it was returned to his Window

Coming ashore weeks after the invasion he somehow lost his military identification tag while bivouacked in Normandy. Found with a metal detector it took a long route of a few years to be returned.

<http://www.indystar.com/story/life/2015/03/05/world-war-ii-dog-tag-lost-france-makes-way-gis-widow-decades-later/24461841/>

Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8th AFHS is May 9, 2015

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

February 7, 2015 Program

to all women who attend as well as other special events at the meeting.

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

- February 2015 – Alice Miller Women Flight Uniforms
- 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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