

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

Shoes of the Luftwaffe?

In a bizarre twist, a batch of women's sandals was recently seized from a shop in the city of Voronezh after activists complained the pattern on them resembled the Luftwaffe chevron.



<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32590494>

Prayer Book Flies Home

At 24,000 feet somewhere between Italy and Germany Larry Hilde's prayer book fell out of his pocket and into NZAI occupied Europe in 1945 from his B-24J Liberator (late model J versions could rarely fly above 24,000 feet with a full load, the D version could get to 30,000 since it had less armor, less guns, and less crew).

A person visiting Bastogne found it in an antique shop and returned it to Larry in the USA.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/towson/ph-tt-wwii-prayer-book-0520-20150518-story.html>

Rails and WW I – The Great War Would Not Been Possible Without the Railroads

The amount of troops mobilized – AND MOVED – during the first month of war in August 1914 is truly staggering.

<https://medium.com/war-is-boring/massive-rail-networks-made-world-war-i-possible-50580fe5994>

Germany Agrees to pay former Soviet POWS

There are only around 4,000 left alive today – out of the roughly 5 million USSR soldiers who arrived at POWs camps during WW II. Each one will be given approximately \$2,700 US.

Soviet POWs who survived were sent to Soviet camps afterwards – all captured soldiers Stalin considered traitors thus they were punished again and around 20% died in Soviet camps after the war.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/germany-to-pay-compensation-to-soviet-prisoners-from-world-war-ii-1432148797>

A Hard Drinking Womanizing Spy in Japan Help Save THE USSR

In a bookstore in Japan a letter addressed to Richard Sorge was discovered signed by Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop. Just another part of deception that this Soviet Agent had built around himself to hide his real goal of providing military intelligence to the USSR.

Note: in 1943 before he was hanged there was an offer to trade him for Japanese that the Soviet Union had in prison – Stalin – who had a photographic memory for details and people – lied that he did not know him and let him be hung – even though he was given detailed reports citing his estimates by name from 1937 onwards. Mainly because he told Stalin that Germany would attack, and what date (he was off by 2 weeks days due to Germany not being ready as originally planned) and if he came by it would be known that Stalin was warned of the attack and did nothing – Stalin could never be shown to be wrong if you wanted to stay alive.

<http://www.registercitizen.com/general-news/20150520/alcoholic-womanizing-german-double-agent-helped-turn-tide-of-world-war-ii>

Chessboard Battle: USSR vs NAZI Germany

Discovered in a hotel shop Simon Wiesenthal Center wrote to the Russian Prosecutor to complain both about "Nesting" dolls painted with typical 1930s style Jewish stereotype drawings as often seen in Germany in that era but also about a chess set where the pieces are of Joseph Stalin and Adolf Hitler as the main pieces.

<http://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Holiday-Inn-Hilton-hotels-allegedly-caught-selling-anti-Semitic-Nazi-items-in-Moscow-403515>

US Army Air Corps General Frank Andrews – A General Few Knew About

Killed in May of 1943 in Greenland while flying back to the USA, he set the interwar framework of the Army Air Forces and was in charge of the 8th Air Force in WW II. This article is a concise biography of this Army Aviation General.

<http://news.investors.com/052115-753743-frank-andrews-developed-ww2-bombers.htm?ven=yahoocp&src=aurll&ven=yahoo>

Shadow War - Night fighters and Electronic Warfare in WWII

War pushes both men and creativity to higher levels – and war – regardless of era – created the requirement to come up with either better or new ways to defeat the enemy. During WW II the art of Electronic warfare went from nothing to extremely effective. It went from using eyes to see an airplane to radar in a plane spotting enemy aircraft up to 20 miles away the sky at night to creating a whole invasion fleet on enemy radar screens.

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2015/05/14/1381380/-Shadow-War-Night-fighters-and-electronic-warfare-in-WWII?detail=hide#>

Two from WW I to get MOH

There are actually 3 current different designs for the MOH: Army, Navy, & Air Force each have their own unique version.

<http://www.kcci.com/politics/two-from-world-war-i-to-get-medal-of-honor/33045252>

Pershing Park in Washington D.C. is a "World War I Memorial"

Congress passed a law in December of 2014 making it a memorial. Now the Park Service is accepting public comments on what to do.

<http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2015/05/national-park-service-considering-national-world-war-i-memorial-national-mall26636>

WW I Eastern Front: Mobile Warfare (along the railroad lines anyway)

Unlike the western or Italian front, the Eastern Front was never really static for more than a few months at a time. Hundreds of miles were won and lost during the fighting. Germany at one point nearly got to Minsk.

<https://www.stratfor.com/analysis/world-war-i-retrospective-challenges-eastern-front>

Six Weeks of Technology that Changed Combat in WW I

There were lots of technical innovations, and the emergence of dedicated staff officers, that affected how the war was fought.

During one 6 week period in 1915 saw the rise of three major innovations that dramatically affected combat around the whole world.

<http://www.npr.org/2015/05/07/404994238/six-weeks-in-world-war-i-transformed-how-wars-are-fought>

US Industry and WW II – Production Won the War

Two items win wars: people and equipment – you need both. The USA supplied enormous amount of equipment to the Allies during the peak of the war. Some Allies, such as England, actually were running out of people in late 1944 (they disbanded some divisions due to lack of infantry) while the Soviet Union did not run out since as they re-conquered territory they forcibly drafted the people still there into the Red Army. However, the Red Army mainly moved on USA army vehicles– specifically - Studebaker – due to US sending wartime production via lend lease to them via Iran. Almost all Soviet factories had been converted to tank production – and forgot about an armored infantry needs trucks in order to become mobile.

The US contribution to the Soviet war effort was critical from late 1942 to late 1943 due to Soviet factories still being re-built and re-organized after their 1942 relocation. There even is a Soviet film that shows off US made Soviet uniforms and LOTS of US food rations in 1943.

From 1944 onwards increased production within the USSR shifted percentages (which is what statistics is so dangers to quote) so that US contribution shrunk from around 40% of all items to less than 10% of total production in 1944/45.

One advantage that the US had was that total industrial capacity was only around 60% before the war. Idle or low utilization factories could be put back into full use in a very short time – and new ones quickly built (mainly ammunition). Willow Run only took two years to build -including a 4 lane highway to it before the first B-24 came out.

We have no idle or even spare capacity factories anymore.

<http://www.bendbulletin.com/opinion/3155876-151/column-world-war-ii-would-have-been-lost#>

Sabre vs. Mig – What was the real Ratio – It Depends

Jet vs. jet combat over Korea was new for both sides. The speed differences and the different styles of planes placed challenges for both sides. A new book out from osprey is about this conflict.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/cold-war-battle-the-sky-f-86-saber-vs-mig-15-12909>

Military Animals of WW I – Dogs, Cats, Birds, Monkeys & More

There are some famous animals of WW I – the best one known in the US (when they taught history anyway in US schools) is the pigeon Cher Ami that saved the “Lost battalion” of the 77th Division in WW I from being destroyed by US artillery.

However, there are many other famous animals that served throughout the war – and were given actual military rank – with pensions – at the end.

ANZACs had thbir own hero from Gallipoli: Simpson and his donkey.

<http://www.news.com.au/national/anzac-day/john-simpson-kirkpatrick-the-donkey-leading-pom-with-a-possum-who-became-our-national-hero/story-fnmewwpe-1227356165128>

<http://www.news.com.au/national/anzac-day/sergeant-stubby-the-spycatcher-and-the-hero-animals-of-world-war-i/story-fnmewwpe-1227358897998>

P-38 Pilot Roane Sias – Shot Down and 2 time POW Escapee

As a Lt flying in P-38 Lightnings over Italy in the 94th “Hat in the Ring” squadron in WW II he was jumped by 109s and shot down on August 20th 1943. During the next 7 months he was captured, escaped, captured and escaped again before gaining allied lines.

He died recently at the age of 92.

<http://www.marini.com/obituaries/20150518/marin-war-hero-roane-sias-who-escaped-nazi-captors-twice-dies-at-92>

3D Printing and Bailing of a B-25

Not many tail gunners in a B-25 actually rode on the outside of their plane on the elevator – but Russell Scott did just that over Italy in 1944.

<http://3dprint.com/66083/ww-ii-veterans-3d-print/>

A Hero's Walk: The World War II Journey of Lt. B.B. Darnell

Is a new book published via Amazon about Lt B.B. Darnell and his combat in Italy during WW II.

http://www.oanow.com/news/lee_county/article_444848be-fd15-11e4-9123-8f0959708609.html

Sally B – Leads VE Day Show at Duxford

Over the May 23-24 weekend you will see this B-17 lead a mass formation flyover at Duxford, England.

“IWM Duxford's VE Day Anniversary Air Show will be the only opportunity to see the VE Day salute led by B-17 Sally B and the first time in 21 years that Sally B has led a mass formation of aircraft. This moving spectacle will be presented in honour of the 70th anniversary of VE Day, Sally B's own 70th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of the aircraft's long association with IWM Duxford.”

<http://www.hertsandessexobserver.co.uk/B-17-Flying-Fortress-Sally-B-leads-poignant/story-26478811-detail/story.html>

Graveyard of Plane on the Ocean Floor – Lend Lease Style

A scuba diver found over 150 planes on the ocean floor 150 feet down off of Roi-Namur.

At the end of the war the Lend Lease agreement the USA had with foreign governments was that countries had to pay for the planes they kept, return the planes (and they had to pay shipping back to the USA), or get rid of them. Almost every country just blew them up or in the case when in The Pacific – threw them overboard.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3073254/Stunning-pictures-reveal-hundreds-World-War-Two-aircraft-lost-70-YEARS-Pacific-Ocean-seabed.html>

New Movie about the USS Indianapolis to be Filmed

The World War II battleship disaster flick "USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage," directed by Mario Van Peebles and starring Nicolas Cage, will start filming in Mobile, Alabama, in June.

http://www.al.com/entertainment/index.ssf/2015/05/extras_casting.html

New Documentary about the Doolittle Raid

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Richard Cole, original B-25 co-pilot for General "Jimmy" Doolittle during the mission to Japan, was at the premier of a new documentary called: "Doolittle's Raiders: A Final Toast".

The only other living survivor of the mission is Staff Sgt. David Thatcher.

<http://www.airforcetimes.com/story/entertainment/2015/05/19/doolittle-raid-documentary-world-war-two-richard-cole/27589483/>

Bad Eyes, Good Shot – VF-2 Pilot Mike Wolf with 7 Victories in the Pacific

Another way to pass the initial flight exam in 1942 – go when it is busy.

"Wolf was about to get his eyes tested when the doctor was called away. When he came back, he said, 'Didn't I already examine your eyes?' I said, 'Yes, sir,' "

And into the Navy pilot school he went.

http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/wwii-ace-pilot-to-be-honored-in-dc_40919696

Two more Tuskegee Airmen Gone

On January 5, 2015 two airmen, both living in LA, died on the same day. Clarence E. Huntley and Joseph Shambrey, both were 91 years old. They enlisted in 1942 and eventually saw combat in WW II in the MTO – Mediterranean Theatre of Operations. They were in the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group as mechanics.

Oregon Military Museum

Oregon Military Museum Foundation, www.ormilmuseum.org, is outside of Portland in Clackamas County off of highway 212 – 234 at Camp Wihycombe. It has a lot of unique items, including running Japanese, & American tanks, and lots of Oregon military related historical equipment of Oregon National Guard and regular military personnel from Oregon.

Fir-Sat 9 to 5 PM only. Other times by appointment.

They have slowly been getting a new, museum standard, building instead of the WW I building they have been housed in.

Olympic Air Museum

At the Olympic Regional Airport this houses not only WW II era but modern era aircraft. And you can book rides on some of them.

\$5 admission. 11 to 5 daily.

www.olympicflightmuseum.com

American Air Museum Re-building their main Building

If you go to Duxford and visit that excellent operating airfield / museum you will see the AAM there. It is an "artsy" building that is mainly un-functional for viewing airplanes – each plane gets in the way of others - even though it was designed for being an aircraft museum. You really cannot really see aircraft due to the way it was designed. So they are taking all the aircraft out and redoing the building.

www.americanairmuseum.com

Antietam Battle Map for you Smart Phone

www.civilwar.org has created an interactive battlefield map for the Battle of Antietam which occurred in 1862. So far they have 5 interactive maps to download: Antietam, Bull Run, Brandy Station, Gettysburg, & Petersburg. www.civilwar.org/battleapps

Wooden Boats and Iron Men – PT-658

This is the only fully operational PT boat in the USA. It is here in Portland, Oregon. They have had it going 43 knots along the Willamette during Coast Guard tests. On one engine, at idle, it goes 8 knots.

"Give me a fast ship for I intend to go in harm's way" – John Paul Jones.

www.pt658heritage.org

B-17 Lacey Lady to Salem

The B-17, which for 67 years sat above the fuel tanks at The Bomber gas station in Milwaukie Oregon, has now been moved to Salem for a full restoration at McNary Airfield.

Warbirds Over The West on June 13, 2015 will be held at the airfield as a fundraiser. See www.b17alliancegroup.com for details.

Local Oregon News

Guns and Guacamole July 18, 2015

Want to help out a local museum AND get to fire the main gun of an M3 Stuart WW II Tank – among other weapons? Go to the Oregon Military Museum Fundraiser on July 18 from 10 AM to 1:30. Purchase your firing slot and weapons of choice (some fully automatic like the BAR, Thompson) at:

https://www.tickettomato.com/event_group/109/guns-and-guacamole/

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

Remaining Dates in 2015 are August 8 and November 7th

Food for the Meeting

The August food menu is a sandwich type meal 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

- May 2015 – Henry Bendinelli Navigator in C-46s in WWII & Photo Recon pilot of B-26s over Korea.
- 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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