

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

Ship's Bell from the HMS Hood Recovered by Paul Allen

This was the second try to recover the bell – the first one failed due to weather and technical problems from trying to bring it up from over 9,000 feet below the sea surface.



http://www.theregister.co.uk/2015/08/10/hms_hood_bell_recovered_paul_allen/

Paul Allen Shoots to New Heights in His Military Collection

Paul Allen bought a fully restored V-2 this year to keep with his aircraft collection outside of Seattle.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/05/24/allen_v2/

New WW I Memorial to be built in Pershing Park

The current park, which is full of blind spots and functionally useless space – was a design of modernist architect M. Paul Friedberg. Most people see this type of “new” modernist buildings and spaces as artfully useless and without meaning. Most everything the new “modernist” movement creates have to be explained to be

understood to people which of course defeats the whole purpose of the whole thing. If someone cannot figure it out by looking and it has to be explained then it is a failure.

This competition was open to EVERYONE for entries – not clique of modernist professionals with who all know each other.

It is to be completed on November 11, 2018.

<http://archrecord.construction.com/news/2015/08/150807-World-War-I-Memorial-Proposals-Please-Classicists-and-Anger-Preservationists.asp>

Joseph A. Blinebury Sr Ball Turret Gunner in the 303rd BG “Hell’s Angles”

Having flown 35 missions in a B-17 over Europe without being wounded, killed or becoming a POW – he fell to old age at 96.

http://www.philly.com/philly/obituaries/20150810_Joseph_A_Blinebury_Sr_96_flew_B-17_bombers_in_World_War_II.html

Finding a Purple Heart at a Dump – and then tracking down the Relatives

Tami’s Heart mother found a box of clothing one day in a dump and upon opening it found a case with a WW II era purple heart in it. On the back of it was a name engraved: Wiljo Matalamaki.

After 15 years of Tami having it she finally tracked down the family of the man who was awarded it.

<http://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/2015/08/purple-heart-to-be-returned-to-servicemans-family/>

A German/Polish/Russian Cemetery

While on vacation Frank McNally came across a cemetery – with Cyrillic script on the headstones – in Poland. Then he finds out why.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/an-irishman-s-diary-about-war-and-peace-in-poland-1.2314896>

A Wing of the B-17 Flying Fortress “Chow Hound” Comes to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

Shot down over France on August 8, 1944 by German Anti-Aircraft battery and crashing at Lonlay L’Abbaye, most of the aircraft was still in France. A reservist field team recovered the wing and other parts from the field and brought it back in 2011.

Shot down and killed in the B-17 Chow-Hound: 1st. Lt. Jack Thompson; 2nd Lt. Charles Bacigulupa; Sgt. Richard Collins; Sgt. Gerald Gillies; Sgt. Warren Godsey; Tech

Sgt. Henry Kortebein; 2nd Lt. David J. Nelson; 2nd Lt. Charles Sherrill; and Tech Sgt. Blake Treece Jr.

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/south-jersey/2015/08/13/chow-hound-bomber-lonlay-labbaye-joint-base-mcguire-dix-lakehurst-th-air-mobility-wing-blake-treece-virginia-dimon-tl-jerald-newquist/31669863/>

Brandenburg Battalion – a German Combat Experten Unit

With unique problems to solve you create a unique unit – and this was one that was created within WW II Germany and used expertly – till the last desperate months of WW II when their unique skills were wasted.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/hitlers-brandenburgers-secret-multilingual-warrior-spies-of-nazi-germany-2015-8>

5 Finalists Picked for National WW I Memorial

Out of the 350 proposals submitted, they narrowed it down to 5.

Like most public competitions, you had to “be in the know” to even know to submit a design since it was never really advertised outside a small select list of publications where you could read about it.

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/stage-ii-finalists.html>

312 Missions not 311

Tuskegee airman states the official record needs to be adjusted – since he flew on the last official mission before VE Day.

<http://www.modbee.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/jeff-jardine/article32478117.html>

Reporting in WW II

Derrick Holden applied for, and got, a job as a reporting during WW II when he was just 15 years old.

Reporting from the “Bedford Triangle” where OSS missions were flown from, though he never knew about them, he met movie stars, music stars, and regular military men starting on June 5, 1944.

“During the war the presses in nearby Howard Street were used as standby machines for the Daily Mirror, in case their offices in Fleet Street were bombed.”

<http://www.bedfordtoday.co.uk/news/community-news/memories-of-the-r101-wartime-and-joining-the-bedfordshire-times-aged-15-1-6912657>

New Book on The Soviet Team Under Stalin

It took a team of people to kill 10 Million Soviet Citizens between 1922 and 1953 - and they did it willingly.

On Stalin's Team, The Years of Living Dangerously in Soviet Politics, by Sheila Fitzpatrick. Published by Melbourne University Press, \$59.99

<http://www.afr.com/news/policy/foreign-affairs/sheila-fitzpatricks-portrait-of-stalin-helps-decipher-putin-20150824-gj6500>

“Great Escape” Participant Paul Royle Dead at 101

Royle's death leaves only one survivor of the 76 men who escaped from Stalag Luft III, near Sagan 100 miles (160 kilometers) southeast of Berlin in March of 1944. The only officer left is 94-year-old British Squadron Leader Dick Churchill.

Paul was captured on May 17, 1940.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/article32598153.html>

Harold Trautman 1st Across the Po River in 1945

Drafted in 1944, trained in Sunny Florida, he got to spend the winter of 1944/45 in the snow, rain and mud of Italy's Apennine Mountains in the 85th Infantry Division.

"You probably heard that Company L and the Third Battalion were selected to lead the attack. We have been looking over our roster of men and everyone involved selected you to lead your company into the Po Valley."

Trautman asked the officer why he was chosen. "You are the most qualified individual, your training and combat records prove it," said the officer.

"It was like winning the lottery, but in reverse," Trautman said.

http://www.ldnews.com/local/ci_28729905/harold-trautman-recalls-ww-ii-italys-apennine-mountains

German General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck – WW I African General

Never defeated in battle by the British in WW I, he kept over 300,000 allied troops in Africa after him for four years trying to defeat his peak strength "army" of 13,800.

"Following his death in 1964, the West German Bundestag voted to give back-dated pay to all of the surviving Askaris who had fought with German military forces in East Africa. Only a few of the 350 odd soldiers still alive could present the discharge certificates that Lettow-Vorbeck had given them in 1918. The German official

supervising the payments instead handed each of the Askaris a broom and asked them to perform the "manual of arms". Every man passed the test."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-v-micallef/this-week-in-world-war-ia_b_7996112.html

Six Times to Madgeburg in a B-24

As a navigator in a B-24 Liberator heavy as part of the 489 BG (H) F.C. "Hap" Chandler Jr. always knew where he was going. But like other crewmen on a mission, you never knew if you were coming back.

"Thank God for the atomic bomb because had we had to invade Japan, it would have made Normandy look like a Sunday school picnic. The Japanese were prepared to fight to the bitter end, every man, woman and child. The atomic bomb ended that."

He completed the war with 35 missions in the 8th Air Force then was recalled to active duty and did another 50 combat missions during the Korean War.

<http://www.myajc.com/news/news/fc-hap-chandler-georgia-boys-faith-helps-him-compl/nnRrp/>

New Book About the 303rd BG (H) Hell's Angles

Jay A. Stout delved into the groups records and interviewed members to give to give a better feel of the groups' mission and record.

Their first mission was on November 17, 1942.

"The 303rd lost 210 B-17's, had 841 crewmen killed in action and about 1,000 others wounded. Prisoner of war camps housed 764. By early May 1943, six of the 10 original pilots of the 303rd were dead."

http://www.roanoke.com/arts_and_entertainment/books/stout-s-account-of-bomb-group-is-thorough/article_db93093d-f62c-54c6-9786-72b986e35551.html

In Action from Midway to Tokyo Bay

On board the cruiser Atlanta during the battle of Salvo Sound when it, and 6 other ships were sunk by the Japanese Naval forces. Stepping ashore onto Guadalcanal itself he spent nights in a foxhole before going to Tulagi where he was retrained on the spot to become a radio operator. Nobody got a 30 day survivor leave in the South Pacific during the early part of the war.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2015/09/02/wwii-vet-transmitted-news-japanese-surrender-70-years-ago/>

Hungary at War

For such a small country, and one that was coerced into war, it suffered proportionally more casualties, both civilian and military, than some of its larger neighbors.

<http://hungarytoday.hu/news/day-1939-hungary-drifted-towards-apocalypse-ww2-broke-europe-gallery-52534>

Japan has a Kamikaze Museum

..."the Chiran Peace Museum is dedicated to Japan's kamikaze pilots — the thousands of young men, most of them in their late teens or early 20s, who accepted certain death by flying their explosive-laden planes into approaching American warships, in the name of national honor."

The first organized kamikaze attack was performed, without formal approval but on the initiative of the commander on the spot, during the US invasion of the Philippines in the summer of 1944.

<http://time.com/4021062/japan-kamikaze-ww2-museum/>

A new Ship for Japan's Fleet – the Kaga

It has the same name of The IJN carrier that was sunk by die bombers during WW II at the Battle of Midway.

China, as expected, objected to the ship's name due to its WW II heritage. However, as with most nations, ship's names are often recycled as new ships replace a previous ship. Very few ships' name that were decommissioned or lost in battle with famous histories have ever been passed over in favor of a new name.

<https://www.rt.com/news/313758-japan-new-helicopter-carrier/>

Free History Lecture Series at ASU For the Next Year

This is in San Angelo, wherever that is. Nothing on the newspaper site states what state, city or even what country it is in.

http://www.gosanangelo.com/news/local-news/my-san-angelo/asu-learning_08487178

Military Innovations – Created by the Soldiers Themselves

"It's not always the think tanks and military scientists who invent new military equipment."

Some of the items created by the soldiers doing the fighting are still used – some items are banned (at least in the US) - like issuing a daily liquor ration to the troops fight scurvy.

<http://taskandpurpose.com/5-battlefield-innovations-that-came-from-the-rank-and-file-troops/>

A Man of Many Talents - Edgar Wallace, the Man Who Created King Kong

A War Correspondence during the Boer War he was able to get stories by the Military Censors – and thus was banned as an official reporter – even through WW I.

<http://gulfnews.com/culture/books/the-man-who-gave-the-world-king-kong-1.1573331>

B-17 at Salem, Oregon, Airfield in September

This coming September from Wednesday the 10th thru Saturday the 12th, 2015, the B-17 Flying Fortress *Aluminum Overcast* will be making a rare West Coast visit to Salem's McNary airfield.

Take a trip back in time with a flight aboard the EAA's beautifully restored B-17G Flying Fortress "Aluminum Overcast". Tour inside the aircraft or just mingle around its perimeters and glorify its structure.

Sept. 10th -13 Flights available: 10:00 am -1:00

Ground Tours 2:00 to 5:00 pm daily

- Enter at the main terminal of the airport. No Charge.
- \$10.00 to tour inside the Aluminum Overcast
- Donations are encouraged to B-17 Alliance Group.org
- Souvenir items will be available from both groups.

Book a flight at B17.org or call 800-359-6217

- Early Bird Special:
 - \$409. For EAA Member Flight
 - \$449 non-member
- All proceeds from flights & ground tours support EAA operations.



<http://www.B17AllianceGroup.org>

503-654-6491 Headquarters office

501 C3 ID # 20-3507294

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

Remaining Date in 2015 is November 7th

Food for the Meeting

The August food menu is a sandwich type meal will be available at the Beaverton Elks lodge for \$10. **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

-
- August 2015 P-38 pilot of the 94th Fighter Group Robert “Bob” Vrillakas
- 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.

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.