

Oregon Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society  
*History News for December 2015*



**History News → Readers, where's your story?**

*Oregon 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Chapter News and how to share YOUR history with others through our 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS Chapter is on the last page.*

## **From North Africa to Saigon**

Doing laundry was not his idea of life in the Army. He took the opportunity to talk to the unit's intelligence officer stating that he was fluent in Italian and thus get was immediately was transferred to the Intelligence unit and sent for training.

<http://staugustine.com/douglas-jordan/2015-11-10/joseph-greco-italian-heritage-served-soldier-well-wwii#.VkJoTberTyE>

## **The Relationship of Turkey and Germany Between the Wars**

A new book explores the diplomatic and military relationship that existed on how Germany looked at Turkey as an example to people in Germany – often ignoring Turkey's real politics and government management style.

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/review/imagining-the-other>

## **The German War – Book review of a new work by Nicholas Stargardt**

Covering the all the years of combat in a single book as it was understood by the everyday German is a daunting task that seems to have been accomplished in this new book.

"When Goebbels orchestrated his radio simulcast for Christmas 1942, the strains of "Silent Night" could be heard echoing from Lillehammer and Lapland to North Africa and Crete. Stalingrad was the eastern point of a vast continental triangle. This violent and exhilarating deprovincialization was an essential part of the German war experience."

THE GERMAN WAR

A Nation Under Arms, 1939-1945

By Nicholas Stargardt

Illustrated. 704 pp. Basic Books. \$35.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/15/books/review/the-german-war-by-nicholas-stargardt.html>

## **WW I Memorial Allowed to Stay**

Built in 1925 as a tribute to the 49 men from Price Georges County who died in WW I, a bigoted atheist sued to have it destroyed since he did not like the memorial – since it was shaped like a cross but was totally non-denominational. And it happens to have the same proportions as the 50,000+ grave stones of those still buried in France from WW I and WW II – he has not sued to have them destroyed yet.

US Route 1 goes right by it in Bladensburg, Maryland.

<http://aclj.org/free-speech/world-war-i-memorial-cross-upheld-by-federal-court>

## **The Balkan Front – Often forgotten battle line of WW I**

Where WW I started, and where it lasted *till November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1918*, most people never hear about the battles fought there.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-v-micallef/this-week-in-world-war-i\\_b\\_8647602.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-v-micallef/this-week-in-world-war-i_b_8647602.html)

## **ANZAC Gravestone Vandalized in Harefield, England**

Wounded in the Western Front, they died while in hospital in England, and were buried in the local cemetery.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-24/anzac-graves-desecrated-in-west-london/6967474>

## **WW I French Memorial being planned for Wellington, New Zealand**

New Zealand is about as far from the Western Front as you can get, but the French remember the men, and women, who came from there to fight with them in World War I.

<http://gisborneherald.co.nz/localnews/2044049-135/dr-monty-soutar-involved-in-french>

## **WW I Czechoslovak Legionnaires Re-Buried in Japan**

Fighting under the command of Tsarist Russia against the Central Powers in WW I the Legion fought the Central Powers till the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ended the war with Russia. They then fought during the civil war with the White Russians against the Communists till they were forced eastward along the Trans-Siberian RR till they escaped to Japan where these five died. The rest of the Czechoslovak Legion returned to Europe.

<http://www.praguepost.com/czech-news/51013-czechoslovak-legionaries-have-new-memorial-in-japan>

## **Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds Honored by Israel as "Righteous Among the Nations"**

As the highest ranking soldier in a POW camp he refused, even with a pistol at his head, to allow fellow Jewish POWs to be singled out from the camp and sent away.

<http://abc13.com/news/late-wwii-us-veteran-is-1st-soldier-honored-for-saving-jews/1107896/>

## **Spanish "Blue" Division Veterans Receive their Pensions**

A treaty between Spain and Germany in the 1960s stipulated those veterans, since they fought under German control in WW II, were allowed to receive pensions – just like German soldiers get – and a few hundred still do.

Spain, on the other hand, stopped honoring their obligation to pay German Soldiers THEIR pensions to the Germans who fought for them during the Spanish Civil War.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/spain/11994794/Spains-Nazi-volunteers-defend-their-right-to-recognition-and-German-pensions.html>

## **WW II Era KV-1 - Kliment Voroshilov-1 - Heavy Tank pulled from Swamp**

The Soviet military strategy was based on aggressive attacks and they did so heavily during 1941 and 1942 – and almost every time they lost since the tactics and level of training of the troops was not equal to the assignment. This tank was recovered from one of the counter attacks in 1941.

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a18300/watch-this-abandoned-tank-get-pulled-out-of-the-swamp/>

## **Book Review – India at War**

At least 2.5 million Indians were under arms during WW II and some 90,000 died. Most people do not realize the magnitude of the effort of the former British Colony had in WW II, nor WW I, for that matter.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/29/books/review/india-at-war-by-yasmin-khan.html>

## **The 15 MOH Awardees From Pearl Harbor**

The last posthumous one was finally presented to a relative once they were located - in 2006!

“John Finn was the last surviving Medal of Honor winner from Pearl Harbor. He passed away in 2010, aged 100. In a 2009 interview, he responded dismissively when asked if he was a hero. He replied, in essence, that heroism is in everyone.

“You gotta understand that there’s all kinds of heroes, but they never get a chance to be in a hero’s position,” he told CNN.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/Decoder/2015/1207/Pearl-Harbor-heroes-the-Medal-of-Honor-15>

## **MOH Winner Tibor Rubin dies at 86**

Put in for the MOH three times, but blocked due to a person in his chain of command who hated Jewish people, was awarded the MOH only in 2005.

<http://www.chron.com/news/us/article/Tibor-Rubin-Medal-of-Honor-recipient-dies-in-6683853.php>

## **Proper “Laws” During the NAZI Era justified Everything**

How one person’s family business was taken, \*legally\*, as a result of other laws passed to force people out of Germany and how they finally got compensated for the taking.

<http://www.thelocal.de/20151207/my-family-the-nazis-and-our-factory-in-berlin>

# **Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS is February 13, 2016**

## **Meeting Topic is the Annual Salute to Women**

### ***Food for the Meeting***

The Nov food menu is tentatively 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](mailto: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” Vrilakas
- 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 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS***

If you wish to be removed from the e-mail list please let us know.

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