

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for June 2016



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.

EAA B-17 Aluminum Overcast Comes to Aurora Airport June 3-5, 2016

Over the weekend the expected temps is the mid-90s on the tarmac at Aurora State Airport (UAO), enter via Stenbock Way NE, Aurora, OR 97002.

Ground tours are \$10, family rate \$20, veterans & active military free.

Flights can be booked via their web site.

<http://www.eaa.org/en/eaaf/flight-experiences/aluminum-overcast-aea-b-17-bomber-tour/b-17-aluminum-overcast-tour-stops>

After Oregon it is up to Seattle at Boeing field then Victoria British Columbia – maybe they will get the Canucks to give them a welcome escort with one of their fighters to practice intercepts of an American bomber <grin> - if they can fly that slow. Would be a great arrival photo at Victoria Airport.

Atomic Test Ship USS Independence CVL 22 Photographed

Sunk in 1951 as part of a way to dispose of atomic waste off the coast of Monterey California, it has been re-located and photographed.

<http://www.livescience.com/50523-wwii-uss-independence-photos.html>

Walter Warda , a POW for 6 Years in USSR

Captured in 1944, he spent the next 6 years as a POW going from 145 lbs when captured to 86 pounds when he was released in 1950.

Today, no nightmares plague him but did any good come from his POW experience that helped him later in his life?

"No, I tell you, I didn't learn anything — only to survive."

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-german-war-story-walter-warda-20160507-story.html>

The French Battlefield “Red Zone” for Civilians

After WW I the French government went about mapping areas along the various battlefields where civilians should not go due to unexploded munitions. It has gone from 1,200 square kilometers of area down to 168 – after 98 years.

<https://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htpeace/20160517.aspx>

Book Review: THE SECRET WAR: SPIES, CIPHERS AND GUERRILLAS

Max Hastings book from Harper, \$35, 640 pages, deals with signal intercepts, spies, and the value of Guerrillas in WW II.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/may/16/book-review-the-secret-war-spies-ciphers-and-guerr/?page=all>

Book: Codes, Ciphers and Spies: Tales of Military Intelligence in WWI

Written by John Matthews Manly about his deciphering enemy communications, but never published, this collection of articles is now in a first time published book.

<http://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwbooks/article/Springer-Publishes-New-John-F-Dooley-WWI-Memoir-20160513>

Aircraft Nose Art Makes a Modern Come-Back

Actively discouraged for a long time, aircraft nose art has started to make a come-back – but not anything revealing like they had in the South Pacific. (photo slide show).

<http://www.militarytimes.com/picture-gallery/military/2016/05/14/painted-planes-make-a-quiet-comeback/82983926/>

Night Witches Premier Set for June 5, 2016

The “Night Witches” – Nachthexen in German, so named by the German infantrymen who were their bombing targets along the Eastern Front at night during WW II, will have its premier in June.

<http://www.broadwayworld.com/los-angeles/article/World-Premiere-of-William-McMichaels-NIGHT-WITCHES-Set-for-Hollywood-Fringe-20160522>

Soviet tanks in WWII: The fatal cost of errors



Soviet troops following heavy KV-1 tanks. The Western Front. May 13, 1942. Source: Samariy Gurariy/RIA Novosti

The T-34 tank was a shock to German infantrymen and tankers. The only thing that saved the German army in 1941 was the tactics they employed which voided all their strength.

https://rbth.com/defence/armed_by_russia/2016/05/17/soviet-tanks-in-wwii-the-fatal-cost-of-errors_593733

The Russian T-34 Tank – still in use in some locations

Created before WW II this nimble front line tank of 1941 is still in use in some countries.

“The T-34 reportedly saw action in 2014 too, when pro-Russia fighters in eastern Ukraine removed at least one display example from its pedestal, and after a quick overhaul took it into combat once more.”

http://rbth.com/defence/2014/07/07/the_t-34_tank_80_years_old_and_still_spoiling_for_a_fight_37987.html

82nd Airborne Division Does a Friendly Airborne Invasion of Poland on June 6, 2016

Flying straight from Fort Bragg in the USA and jumping into the training area of Torun, Poland after 10 hours in the air, they bring the Dune Buggy combat vehicles so popular from the movies of the 1980s.

The view of the front of the vehicle looks like a cat. Time for a cool paint job.

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/05/23/82nd-airborne-division-tests-new-all-terrain-vehicles-in-poland.html>

RAF Air Tattoo July 17-19 at RAF Fairford

Hueys are not invited.

http://www.royston-crow.co.uk/news/its_your_chance_to_check_out_obamas_chopper_of_choice_at_du_xford_s_american_showcase_1_4538070

Japanese Personal Flag 20,000 mile round trip

As a Japanese soldier, Fujio Kawasaki's , lay dying he gave the marine who found him his personal flag to save it from being lost. In 1999 the daughter of the marine, Gil McCormack, tracked down the relatives of the soldier who was killed. In 2016 the American great granddaughter and the Japanese great niece met in New York City.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/05/22/ww-ii-battle-flag-unites-granddaughter-us-marine-and-great-niece-japanese-soldier.html>

B-29 Fleet Doubles to Two

“DOC” Gets an airworthy certificate from FAA.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/restored-vintage-world-war-ii-bomber-certified-fly-39279187>

Seaman Dale Pearce of the USS Oklahoma Identified

Killed on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor when the USS Oklahoma capsized after taking 9 torpedo hits, his remains were identified by DNA matching and will be buried in his home town.

<http://www.kansas.com/news/local/article78760107.html>

WW II Radio Operator Melvin Rector Dies on Tour in England

After finishing his combat tour in the 96th BG (H) out of Snetterton Heath in 1945 he never returned to England to visit till this year inb May. He spent 6 months planning his visit back to the UK. Exiting the Battle of Britain Bunker Uxbridge he died. At his local funeral in England many people shows up – including active duty RAF, USAF personnel and members of the British Army.

<http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/2016/05/24/wwii-vet-died-his-final-mission-london/84618100/>

History Movies Being Filmed

- Hacksaw Ridge – Okinawa (out in October, 2016)
- Dunkirk – 1940 recreation of how 338,00 British, French & Belgium Troops got out of Europe (note – there were in fact MANY little Dunkirk's along France in 1940. (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-3604876/PICTURED-Soldiers-cut-figures-warships-line-beach-film-Harry-Styles-new-World-War-Two-movie-Dunkirk.html>)
- The Catcher was a Spy – true story of Moe Berg
- The 12th Man - Norwegian resistance fighter Jan Baalsrud
- The Lost Wife – Drama of woman surviving WW II then finding her lost love
- Free State of Jones – True tale from US Civil War
- USS Indianapolis – After it was sunk

B-26 Pilot Laid to Rest

Shot down during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 1st Lt. William O. Pile was recovered and buried in his home state of Ohio. He flew the Martin B-26 Marauder named "Miss Kam" in the 59th Bombardment Squadron, 387th Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force.

<http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com/2016/05/20/wayfinder-escorts-fallen-pilot-to-final-resting-place/>

Go to South Africa to look at Artic Convoy Mission History

A new display at the SA Naval Museum shows some of the history of the 1942-1945 Artic convoys to the USSR during World War Two. After PQ-13 was almost wiped out the convoys had to be suspended due to the losses. The movie with Humphrey Bogart "Action in the North Atlantic" is about a convoy to Archangel and their survival. The last line in the movie sums it all up "No, I was thinking about the trip back."

http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=43563:arctic-convoys-display-opens-at-sa-naval-museum&catid=51:Sea&Itemid=106

You can Always Remember Admiral Beatty in Karori

"Beatty became the youngest Flag Officer since Horatio Nelson and led the 1st Battlecruiser Squadron at the battles of Heligoland Bight (1914), Dogger Bank (1915) and Jutland, and succeeded Jellicoe as commander of the Grand Fleet."

His most famous quote occurred during the Battle Of Jutland right after the battlecruisers Queen Mary and Indefatigable blew up: ""There seems to be something wrong with our bloody ships today".

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/80074231/beatty>

Want to see the latest US Destroyer the USS Zumwalt?

You can, during routine sea trials and in US waters they put special radar reflective flags outside the ship so it can be seen on radar by fishing ships, ship traffic control.

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense-news/2016/03/31/zumwalt-sea-trials-bath-iron-works-ddg1000-navy-navsea/82456618/>

Three Times You Survive

What happens when you fall asleep in the tail turret when landing? Peder Heller stated: "The right gear collapsed as the plane touched down, snapping off the tail turret with me in it." While he was rolling down the runway, the plane exploded, killing the rest of the crew.

He flew in the 93rd BG.

Read more here: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/photos-from-the-vault/article80444052.html#storylink=cpy>

P-47 Ditches in Hudson River – Pilot does not get out in Time

The P-47 was making a landing in the river due to unknown emergency but he could not get out of the plane before it sank and he drowned.

<http://abc7ny.com/news/what-caused-a-world-war-ii-era-plane-to-crash-into-the-hudson-river/1360310/>

Bailing out of burning plane into the Channel but was lost

After his bomber was hit by flak and caught on fire Robert Needham fought the fire, ran out of extinguishers and bailed out over the English Channel – but no one knew where so he was never found.

The pilot did not know about the fire and landed the plane.

http://www.dailyinterlake.com/members/ronan-ceremony-will-honor-missing-world-war-ii-soldier/article_723763b6-2534-11e6-8ca2-8f9eaa5932a3.html

Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8th AFHS is August 13, 2016

VENUE

Meeting is being held at the Eastmoreland Golf Course Restaurant

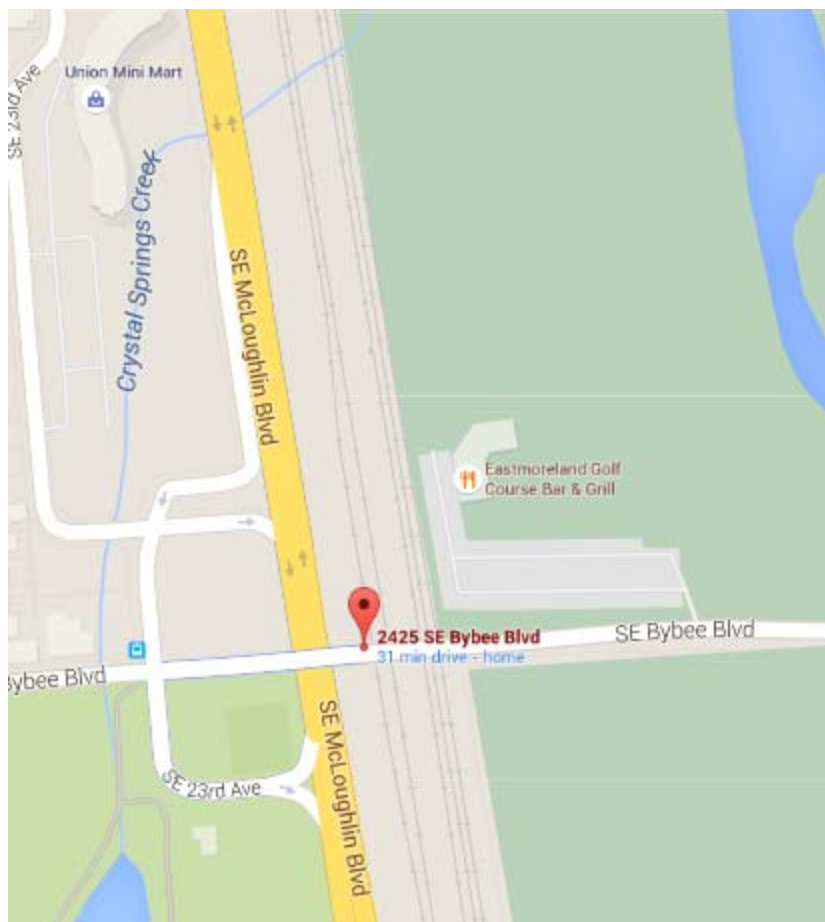
2425 SE Bybee Blvd

NOTE! THERE IS NO ROAD SIGN STATING BYBEE ROAD AND NO EXIT GOING NORTH!

Only going south can you exit. Going south the exit just says Eastmoreland or Westmorland and the exits are RIGHT AT THE OVERPASS. Take the exit south of the overpass – 10 feet past it – and turn right.

The MAX station platform is what you will in the middle right over the RR lines but that is the road.

If going north take the Tenino St exit, turn left, go ¼ mile till SE Milwaukie Ave (SE 17th) and turn right (North) till you get to Bybee then turn right onto it. Once you cross over 99E turn left into the parking lot.



Food for the Meeting

The food menu is off their menu selection and your cost is \$18, the organization is picking up the other \$2.00 which covers the room rent, gratuity etc for a total cost of \$20.

Contact Tom Philo by February 10 **ONLY** if you are planning to eat 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 2015, Panel discussion with 7 different WW II pilots & crew

- 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 Firefighting 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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