

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

War Reporting of D-Day in WW II

Unlike today's reporting methods where you can do a live video feed from pretty much anywhere using a satellite phone, in WW II you wrote it, and sent it back on a plane if lucky or a ship to a central location, then it went through censors, then transmitted back to the states and then distributed via the wire services, which sent it to the newspapers which may or may not print it.

Herb Caen at Normandy, 1944

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/entertainment/article/Herb-Caen-at-Normandy-1944-7957913.php>

Battlefield 1 Out from Electronic Arts (EA) in October 2016

One of the concerns of the company is that since History is not taught in US schools like it used to be, no one would know anything about the era that the game covers why it was designed the way it is. Most under 20s have no idea about start & stop dates of the most recent wars or reasons for any of the US wars of the past 150 years (most people have no idea the US also fought a Civil War or when it occurred).

<http://www.hardcoregamer.com/2016/06/02/ea-was-concerned-younger-consumers-wouldnt-know-world-war-i-happened/209801/>

1st Battle of Verdun February 21 thru July 2016

Organized as a way to attrition the French into a defeat (almost worked, there was a Mutiny later that was suppressed and most of the leaders shot by firing squad) the Germans wanted to kill as many French soldiers by forcing them to defend areas that were especially un-defendable.

<http://www.dw.com/en/verdun-the-world-war-i-war-within-a-war-in-france/a-19290829>

Football (Soccer) Star Jean-Marie Caujolle Went To War

A great footballer he had to have both legs amputated after being wounded on the battlefield – but he volunteered to go back as a typist after recovering from his wounds.

<http://www.healio.com/orthotics-prosthetics/prosthetics/news/print/o-and-p-news/%7B68b97cfb-e34b-4f3b-8f63-7401448d4395%7D/french-soldier-sought-athletic-stardom-not-the-title-he-earned-in-world-war-i>

Women in Combat in The USSR

Unlike other countries, due to the severity of losses in the first year women in the USSR served in all branches of the military in the front lines (except their naval combat

units, never read of any in them). Bella Kaganovich was sent to the front in the spring of 1942.

<http://www.juf.org/news/local.aspx?id=439098>

DVD Release: Battle for Sevastopol

The film is based on the real life story of sniper Lyudmila Pavlichenko who fought there until wounded in June of 1942.

The "Battle for Sevastopol stands out not so much for any special effects grandeur as for its concentration of smaller-scale combat, particularly the world of the sniper with its elements of psychological obsession."

<http://www.theartsdesk.com/film/dvd-battle-sevastopol>

Upgraded Israeli M60 Tank captured in 1982 War to Be Returned

The US started selling M48/M60 tanks to Israel in the 1950s and the IDF upgraded them from the start with diesel engines, guns, reactive armor and other improvements. This one was captured and is now being returned.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4809936,00.html>

2nd Polish Army Corps – From Soviet POWS Camps to Italian battles

Taken captive by the USSR when they invaded Poland in September of 1939 in conjunction with NAZI Germany, they were sent to camps then after 1941 to central Asia. In a schrew plot to get rid of them so that they would not help re-constitute Poland as it was before the war, they were then shipped to the Middle East where they were trained and equipped by the British before being used in the Italian Campaign.

<http://www.eurasianet.org/node/79056>

From WAAC to WACs Over 8,000 Served Overseas

Like the WASP flyers that came after them, the WAAC was organized to free up men for combat while they filled in behind the lines in support roles. Over 150,000 were eventually added into the Army roles.

<http://www.nuggetnews.com/main.asp?SectionID=5&SubSectionID=5&ArticleID=24888>

WW II B-17 Pilot towing plane at 90

Dick Padgett soloed in 1940 and is still flying in Wurtsboro towing sailplanes behind an L-19 Bird Dog.

"When you stop learning, you better get out of the airplane, because you're gonna hurt somebody." -- Dick Padgett

<http://www.recordonline.com/article/20160529/NEWS/160529378>

35 Missions in a B-17 as a Co-Pilot

Chet Bowers flew the right seat of a B-17 out of England during WW II – including the D-Day missions.

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/robert-ehlert/article80318032.html>

Top Deck Crewman Harry Fuglie on the USS Harris Transport Ship

Carriers, Destroyers, & Submarines all got the headlines – but the transport ships got the job done.

<http://www.dl-online.com/news/4037489-navy-vet-survived-bombings-suicide-air-attacks-wwii>

After D-Day Came Operation Cobra

Using the 8th Air Force as a large blunt sledge hammer to drive a finishing nail into a piece of wood. The operation purposely, against the wished of the Army Air Corps commanders, had them attack perpendicular to the German lines instead of along them; it caused the largest friendly fire incident during WW II.

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/world/article82168947.html>

The D-Day Dodgers of Italy in WW II

If you did not land in Normandy and became part of the Campaign in Brittany, then you “dodged” the war in a water filled foxhole in Italy.

<http://www.midnorthmonitor.com/2016/06/08/the-d-day-dodgers-heroes-in-their-own-right>

WW II Quick Facts

The total (military and civilian) in WW2 was easily 50 million killed (could be higher, China's real losses will never be known). USSR losses (estimated) at around 25 million. The losses of people killed are approximately: Britain 270,000 military and 60,000 civilians, Australia 17,501, Canada 42,000 USA 405,000, Holocaust 7 million, Germany 5 million military and 2 million civilians killed by Allied bombing. France, which had surrendered, had 567,600 dead (including around 17,000 Railroad workers), while Japan had 2 million military and one million civilian, including atom bomb, deaths. The below list is not really all inclusive since Mexico had an Aviation unit fighting in the Pacific and they do not include their combat losses.

<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/ww2-by-the-numbers/world-wide-deaths.html>

The USA gave Russia 19 million tons of aid including 6430 planes, 3734 tanks, 5 million boots, plus uniforms (there is a WW II movie were a Russian is thanking an American for the fine uniform he is wearing) among other things. The British also shipped 5,800 planes and 4292 tanks (not all of which arrived due to being sunk). One Valentine tank captured by the Germans outside of Leningrad in 1942 had 40 kilometers total driving time on the tank when captured.

A US Battlefield's Surgeon Diary in WW II

Pre-cursor of a full “MASH” unit this independent unit moved whenever the front line moved. Sometimes it was right behind the main line within mortar distance, sometimes at the end of the artillery range. The Second Auxiliary Surgical Group with Doctor Paul Kennedy worked from North Africa to Germany. His son published a book based on his diary and photos called Battlefield Surgeon.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/06/06/wwii-through-an-army-surgeon-s-eyes.html>

A Short History of Trench Warfare – Why it was Created in WW I

Siege lines, trench warfare, had been around for over two millenniums (Caesar at Alesia) – but had not been seen before the scale of use as during WW I.

<http://www.gizmodo.com.au/2016/06/trench-warfare-in-world-war-i-was-a-smarter-strategy-than-you-realize/>

A Night in the Trenches – on the Yucaipa High School Football Field

How to show students life in the trenches was like in WW I? – Recreate a battle on the football field.

http://www.newsmirror.net/news/yhs-students-re-enact-night-in-trenches-during-world-war/article_addb1b2a-2e61-11e6-b60a-ab45331ed55d.html

How to Fight WW I in a VR Headset – but only if you get to Ottawa Canadian War Museum

A VERY interactive experience awaits those who make it there – they get to storm Vimy Ridge in France in 1917.

Here is a photo that I took of it in 1997.

<http://www.zdnet.com/article/simwaves-bespoke-plugin-and-play-vr-makes-war-and-trains-come-alive/>

Reinhold Hanning, 94, Convicted for being at Auschwitz

Just being a guard at a camp where people are killed, not directly involved but assigned there, now will get you life in prison if you live in Germany. He was tried under a new German novel crime model– just being part of anything where a crime occurred makes you as guilty as someone pulling a trigger or giving the order – even if you just folded clothes. Railroad workers, food suppliers, anyone connected to the scene even in-directly, makes them guilty since they supported the crime, now can be convicted.

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/523670/Murder-Germany-Auschwitz-guard-nazi>

Oil Painting Mystery

Donated to the 8th AF Museum in Savannah, no one knows who the man in the portrait is.

<http://savannahnow.com/news/2016-06-11/do-you-know-him-world-war-ii-mystery-man-lands-pooler-s-mighty-eighth-museum>

Ponar Escape Tunnel Found in Lithuania

Before the NAZIs were driven out of Lithuania and Poland in 1944 they started to destroy any evidence of executions by digging up all the mass graves created between 1941 and 1944 then burning the corpses. The prisoners who were doing this task dug a tunnel and of the 80 or so that managed to escape 11 of them survived the war.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/06/29/israel-tunnel/86502006/>

The Ups and Downs of Female Pilots in Germany

Excluded, included, then excluded, women pilots in Germany had a yo-yo experience from the 1920s to the 1950s.

<http://daily.jstor.org/the-role-of-female-pilots-in-nazi-germany/>

Road Trip – 1919 Style

Military Convoys were a modern staple at one time – but in 1919 it was anything but routine or modern.

<http://www.history.com/news/the-epic-road-trip-that-inspired-the-interstate-highway-system>

Master USSR Spy Yan Chemyak

His spy network within NAZI Europe was never exposed – nor any of his agents ever caught.

http://rbth.com/arts/history/2016/05/09/the-man-who-handed-the-ussr-the-nazi-plans-for-barbarossa-and-kursk_591323

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

VENUE

Meeting is being held at the Eastmoreland Golf Course Restaurant

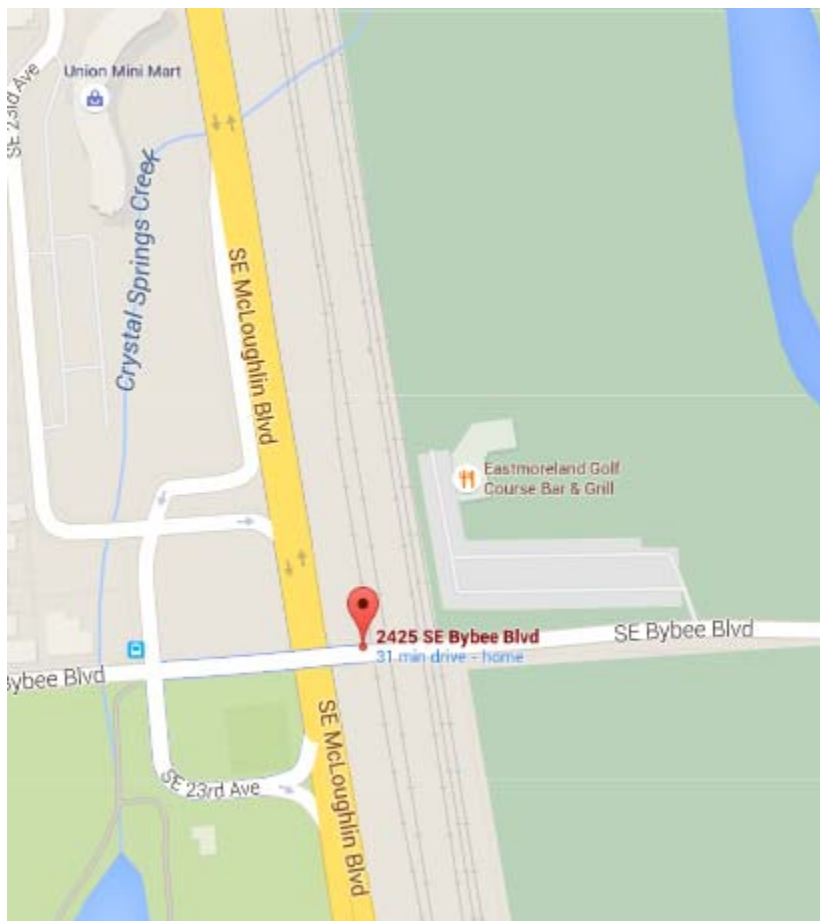
2425 SE Bybee Blvd

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.

Secretary 8th AFHS of Oregon

Tom Philo

17502 SW Kimmel Ct

Beaverton, Oregon 97007-6877

secretary@8thafhsoregon.com

<http://www.8thafhsoregon.com>

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