

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

The Russian Steamroller – Myth or Fact?

What is mostly known about the East Front in WW II is that the Germans always stated that there was an endless supply of Russians to replace their losses and they were almost always outnumbered. In sheer numbers that does not seem to be the case, but the German system was different in the number of men on the front line vs the whole number of people in the campaign. This article does not differentiate that. US forces usually had a 7:1 ratio of support troops vs combat troops, British 6:1, as did the Germans. I have never read of seen the ratio of Russian, but from inference it was around 3:1 – they had a higher ratio of people in the front line compared to the other nations per unit size.

<http://warontherocks.com/2016/07/was-the-russian-military-a-steamroller-from-world-war-ii-to-today/>

WW I Poet Alan Seeger Died at Battle of the Somme in 1916

Fighting in the French Foreign Legion he died in July in a charge to the village of Belloy-En-Santerre on the right flank of the battle. His nephew is Pete Seeger, who wrote songs again the Vietnam War.

<http://www.wral.com/100-years-later-alan-seeger-s-global-commitment-lingers/15825264/>

The Soviet Equivalent of the The Boy Scouts – Young Pioneers

Their goal was more direct – teach everyone how to be a Correct Communist. The photographer was a committed communist – he was executed by the Soviet NKVD secret police in 1938 or 1939 - no one knows.

A War Memorial for the Liberation of Latvia

A Latvian MP proposed that a memorial be erected in Riga to note the liberation of Latvia by the Germans in 1941 - from the Soviets.

http://axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/Article_74525.shtml

The 4 Battles of Kharkov in Photos

In the front line for over 2 years, Kharkov was a key city in the limited rail transportation network that existed in the USSR.

Title: The Battle for Kharkov, 1941-1943; Author: Anthony Tucker-Jones ; Publisher: Pen and Sword Books ISBN: 978-1-47382-747-9

<http://www.militarymodelling.com/news/article/the-battle-for-kharkov-1941-43/23707>

A French Historical View of the Battle of The Somme on July 1

The French forces and the one British division on the right flank actually did very well – but were forced to halt their attack due to the center and left flank failure to advance. The exploitation reserves were stationed in the center and left, including the Calvary divisions, and it would have taken days for them to get to the right flank even if General Haig had ordered them there once the success on the right had been received.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20160629-france-world-war-one-forgotten-french-soldiers-battle-somme>

A “Buffalo Soldier”, George Edwards, Dies at 96

He was part of the all Black 92nd Infantry Division that fought from North Africa to the Italian Alps. It was thought that it was more acceptable to have them in the “backwater” area than in the UK before Normandy. Blacks served as service troops in the UK and in northern Europe during WW II.

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/2016/06/25/george-edwards-world-war-ii-buffalo-soldier-dies/86357682/>

A Transport Pilot in the Middle East During WW II

Vertigo kept Leo Walton from becoming a fighter pilot – but a transport pilot only needs to bank a little.

http://harrisondaily.com/news/telling-the-plane-truth-world-war-ii-pilot-recalls-service/article_20df4082-3fb6-11e6-b1db-6f4f6a1ab991.html

The Sand Dunes of Mars and the Long Range Desert Group

What do they have in common? A name.

Bagnold Dunes within Gales Crater on Mars was named in honor of British Commander Brigadier Ralph Alger Bagnold FRS OBE (1896 -1990) who had traveled the whole Libyan Desert East to West before the war and wrote the first definitive study on how sand dunes form.

http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news_30-6-2016-16-7-46

Best Known Commando Raids since 1780

There may have been others, but these 10 are well documented.

<http://www.scout.com/military/warrior/story/1681529-the-10-most-daring-commando-raids-in-history>

Killed in Training – or in Transit

Over 12,000 people were killed in the Army while flying in planes during training, the number killed due to accidents during WW II is mostly elusive. A train wreck on July 6, 1944 was just one such incident.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/news/20160705/wwii-troop-train-wreck-cut-short-lives-impact-felt-in-stark-county/?Start=1>

4 Sparks of Light

On a clear day you could see the flak battery firing at you.

http://poststar.com/news/local/world-war-ii-navigator-recalls-making-it-through-red-and/article_6faec576-a81b-551d-a118-e2a54b525ebd.html

Tuskegee Airman, Capt. Roscoe C. Brown, Dies at 94

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/07/05/tuskegee-airman-capt-roscoe-c-brown-dies-94.html>

Salvaged from the Deep – A Japanese Ki-54 Advanced Trainer

Only three Ki-54s are known to exist, and one example is on display at the Misawa Aviation and Science Museum in Japan.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201606300001.html>

Soviet Subs in WW II

While most of the Soviet Fleet never went to sea – their subs did and were remarkably effective in the closed water of the Baltic and Black sea.

https://rbth.com/defence/2016/07/26/underwater-duels-how-soviet-submarines-held-their-own-in-wwii_615117

Bombs from Below – Oranienburg Germany still has them Coming Up

When a city was a major rail, armaments, and aircraft manufacturing center it got bombed – and Oranienburg was bombed many times due to that fact. They estimate at least three hundred 500 pound bombs remain armed and un-exploded under the ground.

<http://www.citylab.com/politics/2016/07/germanys-search-for-the-leftover-wwii-bombs-lurking-in-its-cities/492287/>

WW I was a VERY International World War

Here are some little known facts (especially for USA readers since real history is not often taught in government run schools anymore, not politically correct) about people and World War I on how it came about and how it changed the world.

The photograph is the worth keeping.

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/5-Little-Known-Facts-About-World-War-I-and-Non-White-Peoples-20160727-0050.html>

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

VENUE

Meeting is being held at the Eastmoreland Golf Course Restaurant

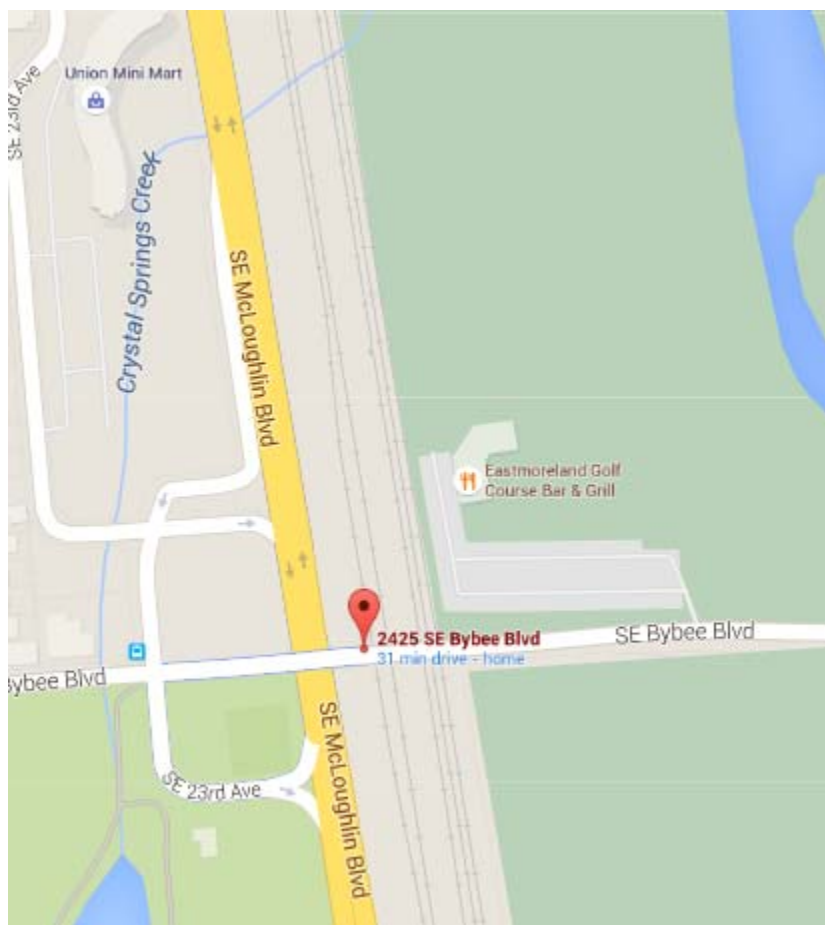
2425 SE Bybee Blvd

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.



Presenter

Fly High, Fly Low, Fly Middle of the Sky with The Oregon Air National Guard

The actual fighter pilot who is speaking is unknown so we are going to give him the call sign: Anonymous

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 Oregon Air National Guard Fighter Pilot
- May 2016 P-38 & P-51 Pilot Tom Moore
- February 2016 – April Miller and Women’s Uniforms
- 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 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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